

TITLE: Mariano G. Samaniego Family papers

DATE RANGE: 1871 - 1960

CALL NUMBER: MS 0706

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3 linear feet (6 boxes)

PROVENANCE: Unknown.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Mariano G. Samaniego, pioneer Tucson freighter, rancher and legislator, was born in Bapiste, Sonora, Mexico on July 26, 1844. He was descended from a prominent Sonoran family with mercantile, ranching, and mining interests. After his father Bartolo died in 1850, his mother Ysabel (d. 1902) moved the family to La Mesilla, New Mexico, where Mariano became a naturalized United States citizen under the treaty terms of the Gadsden Purchase (1853).

Samaniego graduated from St. Louis University in 1862. For several months during the Civil War, he was an interpreter for the Confederates and the Texas Rangers. In 1864, he began a freighting business which supplied army posts as far east as the Missouri River.

Samaniego married Dolores Aguirre (1851-1921) in March, 1868. Her father, Don Pedro Juan Aguirre (1810-1865) was descended from wealthy landowners in northern Mexico, and her half-brothers, Epifano (1834-1870), Pedro (1835-1907), Conrad (1836-1889) and Yjinio (1840-1907), became prominent freighters and ranchers in New Mexico and Arizona.

Indian raids were frequent in Samaniego's early career, earning him a reputation as a fearless Indian-fighter. Two of his freight trains were attacked by Apache Indians near Las Cruces, New Mexico in April, 1868 and September, 1868. His losses in stock, wagons and supplies totaled nearly \$11,000, for which he filed Indian Depredation Claims against the United States government in 1891.

Samaniego moved to Tucson in 1869 where he continued the freighting business, going as far west as Yuma in 1876. He also operated the stage line between Tucson and Oro Blanco, and he held the mail delivery contract to Oro Blanco, Mammoth, La Osa, Arivaca, and Oldglory.

In 1881, his brother Bartolo was killed by Indians in Cedar Springs, Arizona, while freighting for Samaniego. Shortly thereafter, Samaniego sold his contract to carry army supplies and devoted more time to raising cattle, placer mining, investing in land, and operating the stage line. His property holdings included the Canada del Oro Ranch and the Rillito Ranch near Tucson, placer mining claims in Pinal and Pima counties, and over fifty acres of property in and around Tucson.

Samaniego had a keen interest in developing Tucson and Arizona. He owned the land that furnished Tucson's first water supply, and he invested in the Rillito and Santa Cruz Valley Canal & Irrigation Company. A strong advocate of higher education, he was appointed a University of Arizona regent in 1886.

In politics, Samaniego represented Pima County in the 9th, 11th, 16th, and 18th Territorial Legislatures (1877, 1881, 1891, 1895). He became Pima County's first assessor in 1886, and was elected to the Tucson City Council in 1891. He was also a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from 1890 to 1901, serving as Board Chairman in 1901.

Samaniego belonged to several organizations. He was an elected officer of the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society in the 1890's, serving two terms as President. He chaired the Territorial Miners' Convention in Phoenix in 1898 and was a charter member of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association in 1904. He also helped to organize the Spanish-American Alliance, becoming president of the organization in 1901.

Samaniego died on August 8, 1907 in Tucson. He had no children but raised three nieces, Guadalupe (1899?-1959), Estefania, and Narcissa Patton, and a nephew, Jose Patton (1883-1954).

Dolores Aguirre de Samaniego was ill for several years prior to her death on January 23, 1921. As one of her legal guardians, her brother Mariano Aguirre (1865-1921) handled her business affairs. Born in Las Cruces, New Mexico on July 11, 1865, Mariano Aguirre came to Arizona in 1866. Before 1908, he ran a saloon in Tucson, but had to quit to manage the family's business affairs after Samaneigo died. Aguirre was killed at age 55 in a Tucson automobile accident.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

This collection of the papers of Mariano G. Samaniego Family consists of 5 boxes of manuscript materials arranged in eight series: (1) Correspondence, 1886-1935; (2) Financial Documents, 1869-1925; (3) Ledgers, 1899-1910; (4) Legal Documents, 1871-1910; (5) Printed Materials, 1887-1960; (6) Manuscripts, 1874-1959; (7) Miscellany, 1908-1931; (8) Certificates (oversize), 1877-1909

The bulk of the collections consists of legal and financial documents relating to the family's property holdings, mining claims, and business accounts, predominantly in Southern Arizona. Several items of correspondence and legal documents refer to Mariano Samaniego's Indian Depredation Claims filed in 1891, which remained unsettled for many years. The certificates document Samaniego's various political and honorary appointments. The collection also contains court briefs and receipts pertaining to the estate of Mariano Samaniego; detailed personal expenses for Dolores Aguirre de Samaniego; personal correspondence (addressed primarily to Samaniego's niece,

Guadalupe Patton); and a small amount of genealogical and biographical documentation of the Aguirre and Samaniego family histories.

Series One, Correspondence, 1886-1935, consists of business and legal correspondence which document some of the family's business enterprises, including Samaniego's Indian Depredation Claims, the status of Samaniego's mail delivery contracts and mining claims following his death (folder 7), and some financial and property settlements involving various family members (folders 2,9). This series also contains an 1886 letter to George James Roskrige from the United States Surveyor General outlining instructions for conducting three proposed township surveys in Southern Arizona. Much of the personal correspondence is written in Spanish and concerns family matters. Guadalupe Patton's personal correspondence relates largely to her early friendships, her travels in Mexico and California, and medical prescriptions for her health.

Series Two, Financial Documents, 1869-1925, documents much of the family's financial records, consisting of business and personal receipts, tax receipts, loan notes, stock certificates, and cancelled checks. The series is arranged in subseries by individual in order to maintain the integrity of each person's financial records. Subseries One contains the financial records of Mariano Samaniego, 1869-1908. These include stock certificates for copper, water, and utilities investments; receipts for the stage line business; credit vouchers he made on behalf of Yjino Aguirre; property tax receipts (1895-1907); and four ledger sheets which document accounts with Yjino Aguirre & Sons and with Ysmael Figueroa. Subseries Two contains the financial documents of Dolores Aguirre de Samaniego, 1903-1920, including receipts for business claims filed against Samaniego's estate (folder 25). Most of this subseries is comprised of her personal expense records, consisting of bills and receipts, compiled monthly; a California checkbook; and cancelled checks from 1910 to 1913. Subseries Three contains the financial records of Mariano Samaniego's brother-in-law, Mariano Aguirre, 1899-1921. These consist of dues receipts from the Spanish-American Alliance; rent receipts; notebook of rents collected (1918-1919); business and property tax receipts from 1908; and cancelled checks and bank statements. Subseries Four contains a small amount of financial records for Guadalupe Patton, 1913-1929, consisting of property tax receipts (1914 only), and miscellaneous medical statements, deed receipt, and rent collection receipts.

Series Three, Ledgers, 1899-1910, consists of four account ledgers and two cash books which record Samaniego's business expenses and accounts with individuals. Most of the notations are in Spanish. Among the entries are rents collected, stage and mail routes, and accounts for his holdings in the Catalina Mining Company, Canyon del Oro Ranch, and Tucson Street Railway Company.

Series Four, Legal Documents, 1871-1910, consists mainly of surveys, deeds and titles for the family's land and mine properties. The series also contains copies of the 1891 Indian Depredation Claims petitions filed by Samaniego's lawyers with related testimonies and Congressional hearings on the matter. Court briefs for the Samaniego estate document the inventory and distribution of the estate, along with attorneys; fees and estate accounts. Other legal documents relate to various cattle agreements, a

delinquent property tax court case, and Samaniego's guardianship papers for Francesca Perez.

Series Five, Printed Materials, 2887-1960, consists of a variety of materials which further document the family's business and social life and includes obituary notices for Dolores Aguirre de Samaniego and for Mariano Aguirre (folder 91). The series consists of newspaper clippings documenting several family trips; legal notices for suits brought against Dolores Aguirre de Samaniego in her later years; business cards received by the family; Dolores Aguirre de Samaniego's cemetery plot assignment; and death announcements for friends and relatives of the family. The series also contains church mission pamphlets (some in Spanish); and agricultural pamphlet on the use of sorghum as a forage crop; a shorthand booklet; a poem and an oath concerning the Ku Klux Klan; and a November 1916 copy of The Indian Leader, an Indian education newsletter.

Series Six, Manuscripts, 1874-1959, contains genealogical records of the Aguirre family and biographical manuscripts about Mariano Samaniego transcribed from newspaper articles and from McClintock's Arizona: The Youngest State, v. III, c.1916. Also included are miscellaneous handwritten poetry, recipes, articles, and card trick instructions belonging to Guadalupe Patton; a leather-bound notebook of Spanish songs and poetry kept by Guadalupe Patton, and a religious poem typed on "W.W. Pace" stationery.

Series Seven, Miscellany, consists of miscellaneous horoscope materials and medical records for Guadalupe Patton, memorabilia belonging to Guadalupe Patton, and a memo book provenance unknown.

Series Eight, Certificates, 1877-1909, consists of thirteen oversize certificates awarded to Samaniego for his participation on the Tucson City Council, Pima County Board of Supervisors, Pima County Legislative Assembly, University Board of Regents, Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society Board of Directors, Arizona Volunteers, Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, and his election as Pima County Assessor. There is also a memorial resolution from the Twenty-fifth Territorial Assembly which collectively honors the contributions of Samaniego and other deceased members of the Arizona legislature.

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