**Bexar Archives, Microfilm Roll 130, frames 842 to 849**

**Transcription (Spanish) and Translation (English)**

**by Chris Kneupper, 12-Dec-2020**

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* *italics added by transcribers*

**Letters from Manuel de Mier y Terán to Erasmo Seguin, 1-Jun-1830**

*Letter 1 (frames 842 to 843)*

*Letterhead (stamped in ink):* Comand. Gral. & Insp. De los Estados Internos de Oriente

Al C. (*Ciudadano*) Comand.te (*Comandante*) pral (*principal*) de Coahuiltejas Coronel Antonio Elozua digo hoy lo siguiente.

“En la Balandra Grãl. (*General*) Bustamante se han á la vela en este puerto dentro de dos días un destacamento de tropa de los Batallones 11 y 12 de Infantería con destino a situarse en la embocadura ó fondeadero del rio de la Vaca siendo si Comand.te (*Comandante*) el C. (*Ciudadano*) Cap.n (*Capitán*) Aniseto Arteaga cuyo mando será in depend.te (*dependente*) del de la Plaza y Presidio de la Bahia; pero se pondrán los dos ….

*// p. 2*

…. Comand.te (*Comandante*) en un todo de acuerdo p.a (*para*) la pronta ejecución del importante establecim.to (*establecimiento*) de la Vaca al q. (*que*) espero se servirá V.d. (*Usted*) auxiliar de toda preferencia en el consepto (*concepto*) de q. (*que*) la I.a (*Infantería*) Comp.a (*Compañía*) activa q. (*que*) marcha p.r (*por*) tierra tiene primer objeto sustener dho. (*dicho*) establecimiento.”

Lo q. (*que*) transcribo á V. (*Usted*) añadiendo q. (*que*) el citada destacam.to (*destacamento*) va 10 corrido p.r (*por*) todo Junio p.o (*próximo*) en Julio ya será del mediante la recrita q. (*que*) pasara el C. (*Ciudadano*) Rafael Chovel ….

*// p.3*

…. á q.e (*que*) esta fha. (*fecha*) sus orn. (*ordenes*) p.a (*para*) q. (*que*) se encargue de aquella Sub (*Subalterna*) Comisaria de la Vaca comunicándose inmediatam.te (*inmediatamente*) con V. (*Usted*) p.r (*por*) lo relativo á los documentos de hacienda y todas aquellos otros q. (*que*) tengan conexión con serv.o (*servicio*) de comisarias.

Dios y Libertad

Matamoros Junio 1.0 de 1830

Manuel de Mier y Terán

C. (*Ciudadano*) Comisario de Bejar

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From: Manuel de Mier y Terán

To the Principal Commander of Coahuila y Texas, Colonel Antonio Elosúa, I say (wrote) the following today.

"In the sloop ‘General Bustamante’ a detachment of troops from the 11th and 12th Infantry Battalions will set sail in this port within two days, destined to be located at the mouth or anchorage of the river de la Vaca, the Commander being the Citizen Captain Aniseto Arteaga, whose command will be in dependence of the Plaza and Presidio de la Bahia; but the two Commanders will be in agreement for the prompt execution of the important establishment of La Vaca, which I hope you will use as a helper of all preference in the concept that the active Infantry Company that marches by land has the first objective of supporting said establishment."

What I am transcribing to you, adding that the aforementioned detachment has been running throughout June into July, it will already be by means of the recitation that Citizen Rafael Chovel will pass on this date his orders to take charge of that Subaltern Commissioner of La Vaca communicating immediately with you regarding civil documents and all those others that have connection with commissary service.

God and Liberty

Matamoros June 1, 1830

Manuel de Mier y Terán

Citizen Commissioner of Béxar

*To: Erasmo Seguin*

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*Letter 2 (frames 844 to 845)*

*Letterhead (stamped in ink):* Comand. Gral. & Insp. De los Estados Internos de Oriente

Con el destino construís sobre el rio de la Vaca con inmediación al fondeadero una casa fuerte p.a (*para*) álojam.to (*alojamiento*) do tropa, he comisionado al Mineralogista Ciud.o (*Ciudadano*) Rafael Chovell á quien auxiliara V. (Usted) con dinero de toda preferencia, satisfaciendo las relaciones de gastos q. (*que*) presente con el visto bueno del Com.te (*Comandante*) Arteaga Nevando cuenta separada por ser este gasto de los determinados en art.o (*articulo*) 14. de la ley de Colonización de ….

*// p. 2*

…. 6. De Abril p.o.p.o (*proximo pasado*).

Dios y Libertad

Matamoros

Junio 1.0 de 1830

Manuel de Mier y Terán

Ciud.no (*Ciudadano*) Comisario de Bejar

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*From: Manuel de Mier y Terán*

With the destination you build on the river of La Vaca near the anchorage a strong house for accomodating the troop, I have commissioned the Citizen Mineralogist Rafael Chovell who you will help with money of any preference, satisfying the expense ratios that you present With the approval of Commander Arteaga Nevando, a separate account as this expense is one of those determined in Article 14 of the Colonization Law of April 6th last.

God and Liberty

Matamoros

June 1, 1830

Manuel de Mier y Terán

Citizen Commissioner of Béxar

*To: Erasmo Seguin*

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*Letter 3 (frames 846 to 847)*

Al Mineralogistsa D. (*Don*) Rafael Chowell digo con esta fhã. (*fecha*) lo siguiente =

Que la falta de oficiales facultativos me precisa á darle comisioner q.e (*que*) no son absolutamente de su ramo pero q.e (*que*) tienen alguna analogía, y son propias de los varios conocim.etos (*conocimientos*) con q.e (*que*) se halla; q.e (*que*) en tal concepto se sirva embarcarse en la Goleta gen.l (*General*) Bustamante q.e (*que*) hace á la vela con tropa p.a (*para*) el fondeadero de la Baca en la Bahía de San Bernardo ó del Espíritu Santo, y practicar los encargos siguientes. =

1.0- Filar en tierra la latitud con cuanta exactitud sea posible p.a (*para*) q.e (*que*) puede marcada en la Carta de navegar procurando q.e (*que*) ese dato se refiera costa variación despreciable al fondeadero. =

2.0- Construir una casa ó alojamiento p.a (*para*) cien hombres de tropa en sitio libre de inundaciones lo mas mediato al fondeadero q.e (que) sea posible con procsin\_dad (*proximidad*) á este villa del rio de la Baca p.o (*próximo*) evitan si es practicable q.e (*que*) el agua de beber se tome de\_\_o (*deseo*) y si, de otros fuentes ó corrientes pequeños p.r (*por*) los inconvenientes de Salubridad que ya se saben: la casa ha de tener defesiza (*defensiva*) militar; esto es habrá flancos y estará atronerada. =

3.0- Para la Construcción se resolverán antes las siguientes cuestiones? Hay Cal? Es de piedra productiva ó mezclada con arcilla? Será mejor sacarla de conchas de ostiones q.e (*que*) se sabe forman bancos en esas lagunas? Que diferencia habrá en el costo de construir edificios á la manera norte americana, de madera espuestos (*expuestos*) al incendio comparado con el mejicano de piedra ó ladrillo y cal, considerable recurso p.a (*para*) usos militares.? Hay arcilla útil p.a (*para*) ladrílle= .…

*// p. 2*

…. la? Se pueden labrar allí mismo las vigas, ó toda la madera del (*es?*) edificio? A que costo? Será más barato traerla de la inmediata Colonia de Austin en la que hay máquinas de Sierra? Que recursos de Albañiles, Carpinteros, Cerrajeros se hallaran en la Colonia de Guadalupe? Se ocurrirá como es probable por todo esto á la Colonia que está al frente en Austin? =

4.0- La propiedad de la tierra es de la Colonia de Guad.e (*Guadalupe*) tendrá disposición su empresario C.o (*Ciudadano*) Martin de Leon p.a (*para*) ceder como es probable, ó vender ó cambiar el terreno p.a (*para*) siembras, p.a (*para*) pastos que necesitará el establecim.to (establecimiento) haciéndole presente los inmensos beneficios que se resultan en su seguridad, en el aumento de su Colonia, siendo muy probable q.e (que) se le darán muchas familias mejicanos, y norte americanos mediante una contrata q.e (que) se hará con el á sus devido (debido) tpo. (*tiempo*)? =

5.0- Ponerse en relación con el C.o (Ciudadano) Comisario de Bejar mediante el aviso q.e (*que*) se le des en el oficio adjunto p.a (*para*) que ministre las Cantidades Convenientes p.r (*por*) la relación q.e (*que*) formar á el Sor. (*Señor*) Chowell y con visto bueno del Capitan Comand.te (*Comandante*) Aniceto Arteaga, expresando en las relaciones que son espenzas (*expensas*) de la facultad q.e (que) tiene el Supremo Gobierno por el articulo 14 de la ley de 6es Abril de este año. =

6.0- El Comand.te (Comandante) principal Coronel Antonio Elozua tendrá conocimiento de esta comisión por copia que le re= ….

*// p. 3*

…. mito. =

Espero del selo y eficacia de V. (*Usted*) desempeñara esta Comisión con toda exactitud. =

Cuartel general en Matamoros Junio 1.0 de 1830 =

Terán

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To the Mineralogist Don Rafael Chowell I say with this date the following =

That the lack of optional officers requires me to give him commissioners who are not absolutely of his field but who have some analogy, and are proper to the various knowledge with which he is; that in such a concept it is useful to embark on the schooner “General Bustamante” that sails with troops for the anchorage of La Vaca in the Bay of San Bernardo or Espiritu Santo, and carry out the following tasks. =

1.0- Fill in the latitude on land as accurately as possible so that it can be marked on the Navigational Chart, ensuring that this data refers to a negligible variation at the anchorage. =

2.0- Build a house or accommodation for one hundred men of the troop in a flood-free site as close to the anchorage as possible with proximity to this town of the nearby La Vaca river, avoid if it is practicable that drinking water is desired and if , from other sources or small streams due to the health problems that are already known: the house must have a military defense; that is, there will be flanks and it will be pocketed. =

3.0- For Construction, will the following questions be resolved before? Is there lime? Is stone productive or mixed with clay? Would it be better to extract it from oyster shells that are known to form banks in those lagoons? What difference will there be in the cost of constructing buildings in the North American manner, of wood exposed to fire, compared to the Mexican of stone or brick and lime, a considerable resource for military uses? Is there useful clay to bark? Can the beams be carved there, or all the wood of the building? At what cost? Will it be cheaper to bring it from the immediate Colony of Austin where there are Sierra machines? What resources of Masons, Carpenters, Locksmiths will be found in Colonia de Guadalupe? How is it likely to occur to the Colony in charge of Austin? =

4.0- The property of the land belongs to the Colonia de Guadalupe, its entrepreneur, Citizen Martin de Leon, will be available to assign as is probable, or sell or change the land for sowing, for pastures that the establishment will need, making him aware of the immense benefits that result in his security, in the increase of his colony, being very probable that many Mexican families and North Americans will be given to him through a contract that will be made with him in due time? =

5.0- Get in contact with the Citizen Commissioner of Béxar by means of the notice that is given to him in the attached letter so that he may minister the Convenient Amounts for the relationship to form Mr. Chowell and with the approval of Captain Commander Aniceto Arteaga, expressing in the relations that are at the expense of the power of the Supreme Government by article 14 of the law of April 6 of this year. =

6.0- The principal Commander Colonel Antonio Elozua will have knowledge of this commission by copy that I send you. =

I hope the use and effectiveness of you will carry out this Commission with all accuracy. =

General Headquarters in Matamoros June 1, 1830 =

Terán

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*Letter 4 (frames 848 to 849)*

Establecimiento Militar del Arroyo de la Baca

Instrucción p.a (*para*) el Cap.n (*Capitán*) Ciud.no (*Ciudadano*) Aniceto Arteaga en la comisión q.e (*que*) lleva al arroyo de la Baca =

Al piquete del 12.0 Batallón q.e (*que*) se haya en esta Plaza, remira otro del 11.0 con el fin de reforzarlo hasta 40. hombres y contada esta partida que estará aun ordenes, se envarar en la Balandra nacional Grãl. (*General*) Bustam.te (*Bustamante*) Prosed.te (*Procedente*) de la Colonia de Austin, y conductivo al fondeadero de la Baca, en la Bahía de San Bernardo. ==

Tomará en la orilla derecha del arroyo de la Baca, en terreno de la Colonia de guadap.e (*Guadalupe*), nu establecimiento militar. =

Ciendo (*Siendo*) el objeto de esto establecimiento cubrir la esperada Colonia Mejicana y Tener ala vista la Norte Americanos de Austin, que Eminará al otro todo del arroyo de la Baca, dispensara á ambas toda la protección y seguridad q.e (*que*) necesitan, respecto de las agresiones de los Salvages (*salvajes*), reduidas (*reducidas*) hoy casi a la solo tribus, muy teros de los Carancahuaces, p.r (*por*) q.e (*que*) las Tancahues, Cuponos, Saranames, & están muy divisitud.e (*divisitud???*). =

Sera independiente del Cmd.te (*Comandante*) de la Bahía p.o (próximo) servoadinado p.a (*para*) el servicio comeos al Cmd.te (*Comandante*) Prãl. (*Principal*) q.e (*que*) reside en Bejar y, lo es ahora el Ciud.no (*Ciudadano*) Cõrn.l (*Coronel*) Ant.o (*Antonio*) Elozua, a quien dará parte de su arrivo (*arribo*); p.r (*por*) p.a (*para*) todo lo relativo al establecimiento se dirijira (*dirigirá*) y entenderá directam.te (*directamente*) con el Cmnd.te (*Comandante*) Grãl. (*General*) comisionado p.r (*por*) el supremo govierno (*gobierno*) p.a (*para*) la Colonización. =

Olervara, grandes miramientos con los Colonos Norte Americanos hablándoles cunp.le (¿??) como persuadido de que en sus sentimientos con Mejicanos y se pondrá en relación con el empresario D. (*Don*) Estevan Austin sujeto de probidad é ilustrad. =

Procurara litesarse cuanto antes en su alojamiento de defensa q.e (*que*) deve (*debe*) Constancia D. (*Don*) Rafael Chovell, y entretanto podrá álogarse (*alojarse*) en las havitaciones (*habitaciones*) de la Colonia Guadp.e (*Guadalupe*) más inmediatas a la Baca. =

Hará que la tropa observes lama esacta (*exacta*) disiplina (*disciplina*), y Procurara se haga estimare, pudiendo serlo muy funat lo Contrario. =

Podrá hacer situar en la Bahía o en Guadp.e (*Guadalupe*), segun lo Suego conveniente; ala Comp.a (*Compañía*) de Cavalleria (*Caballeria*) de San Fernando destinada a contener el establecimiento. =

Se pudra Calero de los conocimientos que tiene en el pais D. (*Don*) Rafael Chovell, destinado al propi--- (¿?????) establecimiento con objetos militares y politico, y a quien tratara y hará tratar p.r (*por*) los militares, con la fenorvidad y delicadesa (*delicadeza*) agustino derecho p.r (*por*) sen cualidades y conocimientos. Podrá imponerse de las instrucciones que lleva dho (*dicho*) D. (*Don*) Rafael Chovell á quien ser tendrá y ausiliara (*auxiliara*) con cuantos medios estén am alearse. Para los haveres (*haberes*) de la tropa ocurrirá al comisario de Bejar á quien se manda les losvrra según he presupuesto menial de decido de las Revista que pasara D. (*Don*) Rafael Chovell, á quien autorizo al efecto como Sub Comisario en ese establecimiento. =

Pudiendo haver (*haber*) fusil la manntencion (*mantención*) diaria de la tropa, p.r (*por*) las cauces de biveres (*viveres*) consiguiente ala para población; Podrá hacer en Pleaze Parte del haver (*haber*) de dha (*dicha*) tropa en Pequeños acopios p.a (*para*) que nemea la falte su rancho, y se Proporcionara molinos de mano en Pleados entre los Norte Americanos Como medio espedito (*expedito*) de reducir el mais en arina p.a (*para*) la Conpacion de el Pan del este. =

Cuartel grãl. (General) en Matamoros Junio 1.0 de 1830 =

Teran.

Es copia Guadap.e (*Guadalupe*) 1.0 de Julio en 1830

Aniceto Arteaga

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Military Establishment of Arroyo de La Vaca

Instruction for Citizen Captain Aniceto Arteaga in the commission that leads to the valley of La Vaca =

At the picket of the 12th Battalion that is in this Plaza, another one of the 11th in order to reinforce it up to 40 men and after this game that will still be ordered, it will be posted in the national sloop “General Bustamante” for the Austin Colony, and conducted to the anchorage of La Vaca, in the Bahia of San Bernardo (*now Matagorda Bay*). ==

You will take in the right bank of the valley of La Vaca, on the land of the Colony of Guadalupe (Victoria), a military establishment. =

The purpose of this establishment being to cover the long-awaited Mexican Colony and to keep an eye on the North Americans of Austin, which will eminate to the other all of the valley of La Vaca, will provide both all the protection and security they need, with respect to the aggressions of the savages, today reduced almost to only tribes, very different from the Carancahuaces, because the Tancahues, Coupons, Saranames, & are very divisive. =

He will be independent of the Commander of La Bahia next to be served for service as the Principal Commander who resides in Bejar and, now, the Citizen Colonel Antonio Elozua, to whom he will report his arrival; For everything related to the establishment, he will address and understand directly with the General Commander commissioned by the supreme government for Colonization (*Terán*). =

Olervara, great respects with the North American Colonists speaking to them as persuaded that in his feelings with Mexicans and he will get in touch with the emprasario Don Stephen Austin subject of honesty and enlightenment. =

You will try to get settled as soon as possible in your defense accommodation that Constancia Don Rafael Chovell owes, and in the meantime you will be able to stay in the rooms of the Guadalupe (*Victoria*) Colony closest to La Vaca. =

He will make the troop observe the exact discipline, and he will endeavor to be esteemed, the contrary may be very useful. =

You can have it located in La Bahia or in Guadalupe (*Victoria*), according to what is convenient; Wing Company of Cavalry of San Fernando destined to contain the establishment. =

It will be possible to use lime from the knowledge that Don Rafael Chovell has in the country, destined for his own --- (?????) establishment with military and political objects, and who he will treat and will have to treat by the military, with the fenorvity and Augustinian delicacy right for sen qualities and knowledge. The instructions given by Don Rafael Chovell may be imposed on whom he will have and will help with whatever means they may be amused. For the assets of the troop, it will happen to the commissary of Bejar to whom losvrra is sent according to the monthly budget of the decision of the Magazines that Don Rafael Chovell will pass, whom I authorize to that effect as Deputy Commissioner in that establishment. =

Being able to have daily rifle maintenance of the troops, by the channels of food consequent wing for population; He will be able to make in Pleaze Part of the assets of said troop in Small stores so that his ranch needs to be lacking, and hand mills will be provided in Pleados among North Americans as an expeditious means of reducing the mais in arina for the Conpacion of the bread of the place . =

General Headquarters in Matamoros June 1, 1830 =

Teran.

It is a copy, Guadalupe, July 1, 1830

Aniceto Arteaga

***Note:*** *This series of four letters appear to be copies of letters by Manuel de Mier y Terán intended for others, but copied and the copies sent to Erasmo Seguin for his information, thus ending up in the Bexar Archives. The main topic of each section is listed below:*

1. *copy of letter to Antonio Elosúa, with some comments to Erasmo Seguin*
2. *note to Erasmo Seguin, asking him to cover expenses*
3. *copy of instructions to Rafael Chowell*
4. *copy of instructions for Aniceto Arteaga, copied by him at Guadalupe Victoria one month later. The presence of this last letter (translated in Texas on 1-Jul-1830) indicates that Arteaga had arrived in Guadalupe Victoria (modern Victoria, Texas), and it is tempting to conclude that he had carried the other three letters with him from Matamoros, which were all dispatched to Béxar in one package soon after 1-Jul-1830.*

***Note:*** *If readers have suggestions for improvement of the transcription or translation, please feel free to contact the first-listed transcriber above.*