

RECORD OF THE CORSO (COSO) MINING DISTRICT COUNTY
OF INYO STATE OF CALIFORNIA

by

Jose Miguel Rojas, Recorder (1868-70)

Francisco L. Romero, Recorder (1870-71)

and others.

A document owned by William A. Chalfant of Bishop, California, and
loaned by him to the Eastern California Museum Association, Independence,
California.

TRANSLATED BY EMILYN CLAUSE AT THE SOUTHWEST MUSEUM, HIGHLAND PARK,
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, JULY 29, 1951.

page A

Record of the Corso Mining District of the County of Inyo State of California.

We the undersigned gather together today in this Corso Mining district County of Inyo State of California today we form our laws so that they may be respected in the district under the law of the United States of North America.

Oct. 1st Any person discoverer of any mineral vein or who may have a location on it will be able to record it in this Corso Mining District County of Inyo State of California paying the necessary taxes which are applied by the law of the Council of the above mentioned.

Oct. 2nd Any discoverer who being on location does not begin work in the period of thirty days will lose his right and without reclamation action.

Oct. 3rd The person who may be named recorder elected by the Council of the above mentioned will have to keep together the taxes in order to pay them to the capital of the County when it may be necessary and demanded of him by the County of Inyo.

Oct. 4th Any person who may discover a virgin mineral vein will be conceded the position of 400, four hundred feet by right and the members who may form the company 200, two hundred these not exceeding 8 eight persons and being subject to pay the sum of 50¢ fifty cents.

Oct. 5th If within the claims of said recorded vein there should appear another different one the original owners, will enjoy the right to work it fifty feet the rest of the land remaining by legal right to the one whom it may please to take possession.

Oct. 6th In conclusion: the Council by common consent elected for recorder of this mining district Jose Miguel Rojas which person is authorized by the same Council to make respected the law of the records according to how it is established.

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page A

Today the 23rd of March 1868 we sign this Act of Law remaining
subject to that established.

Recorder Jose Miguel Rojas

Juan R. Merino

Bernabe Fuentes

Jose Salazar

Juan Soto

Pedro Felis

Jose Araisa

Meregildo Beltran

Jose Maria Xeasha

Teodoso Seleya

Gerbasio Seleya

Delores Valencia

Seriulo Sepulveda

Ramon Molina

Domingo Morales

Pedro J. Rojas

Jose Ferquera

Luis Fene

Record of the Coso Mining district County of Inyo State of California
signed by the miners today the third of August 1869 and we approve legally:

No. 3. Section One: Coso Mining district August 3, 1869, there is
recorded the gold vein with the name Santa (Rita) a mile and a quarter
from the Coso camp situated at the west side of the road which goes to
Lone Pine the direction of the vein is from east to west the main opening
being in the center of its measurements the Company Santa Rita is recorded

and registered as owner the names of the Company being Ysidoro Silaya 200 feet, Teodoro Silaya 200 feet, Jose Maria Canas 200 feet, Hipalito Servantes 200 feet:- the total being 800 feet of distance from post to post the measurements were taken legally by those who compose the Act under oath of the law of the United States of North America the first measurement commencing with a measuring tape, the measurement commences from the principal opening on the west are 11 ^{*} cordeles 15 feet each cordel contains 35 feet total on the west 400 feet. Second measurement on the east 11 cordeles 15 feet total 400 feet on the east. Its measurements being already legally proved by those who formed the Act of Law in Coso today the 3rd of August 1869.

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page E --

Sale of Santa Rita and
distribution of the claims and
property of each member each one
in his turn. This division is
found in this number, pages 18
and 19 of the Recorder's book
Coso November 8, 1870
F. L. Romero (Recorder)

Recorder	Jose Miguel Rojas
Secretary	Jose L. Romero
Names	who formed the Act
	Rosario Acuna
	Bernabe Fuentes
	Rafael Ocho
	Santos Salazar
	Ygnacio Cardoba
	Ramon Satelo
	Tomas Portillo
	Tibursio Flores
	Ramon Mendibil
	Domingo Alviso
	Jose Chaeon

Approved under oath.

* Translators Note -A cordel in this manuscript varies. On this page it is a measurement of 35 feet; whereas on page 9 it contains only 25 feet.

Notice

Page I

Number 2

Claim this gold vein which is called Sirena is claimed by Jose Forquera said vein is located north of this camp a mile and a half away; Its directions are from east to west the discovering works being on the west (100) feet inside of its boundary leaving a balance of (50) feet on each side.

August 7, 1869, Inyo County

Coso Mining District state of California

Members	Jose Forquera	400 feet
	Pedro J. Rojas	200 feet
	J. Miguel Rojas	200 feet
	Maria A. Rojas	200 feet
	Total	1000

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas

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page I

Number 3

Notice

Claim this gold vein which is called Resurreccion is claimed by J. Miguel Rojas Located a mile and quarter north of this camp Its directions are from east to west the discovering opening being in the the center of its measurements leaving a balance of (50) feet on each side.

August 7, 1869 Inyo County

Coso Mining District State of California

Members	J. Miguel Rojas	400 feet
	Pedro J. Rojas	200
	Jose Forquera	200
	Maria A. Rojas	200
	Total	1000

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas

Page N

Number 4

Claim this continuation of the vein named Sirena is claimed by Jose Maria Cana on the east of said vein upon his taking possession of it its measurements are taken on the east leaving a balance of 50 feet on each side.

August 7, 1869 Inyo County

Coso Mining District State of California

Members	Jose Maria Cana	200 feet
	Tiodoso Selaya	200
	Gervasio Selaya	200
	Visiderio Selaya	200
	<hr/>	
	Total	800

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas

(back of page N)

Number 5

Claim this continuation of the vein called Santa Rita is claimed by J. Miguel Rojas said continuation is located on the west of the afore mentioned vein leaving a balance of (50) feet on each side.

August 7 1869 Inyo County

Coso Mining District State of California

This mine is claimed by the company which appears in number 18 by the Buena Ventura Company. Coso August 19 - 1870 F. L. Romero (Recorder)

Members	J. Miguel Rojas	200 feet
	Pedro J. Rojas	200
	Maria A. Rojas	200
	Jose Uribes	200
	Jose Lopez	200
	<hr/>	
	Total	1000

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas

Translator's note--This page appears crossed out in the original manuscript.

Page R)

Number 6

Claim this gold vein called Santa Getrudes is claimed by Epolito Servante said vein is located a mile to the east of this camp; its directions from south to north, leaving a balance of (50) feet on each side.

August 7, 1869 Inyo County

Coso Mining District State of California

Void	Members	Epolito Servante	400
		Ramon Satelo	200
		Jose Chacon	200
		Antonio Salgado	200
		Total	1200

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas

Tr. Note--This page also is crossed out in original manuscript.

Number 6

Claim

The Santa Gertrudis Mine is claimed (chompeada) by the Company stated below said vein is a mile to the east of this camp its directions are north and south there being 50 feet on each side December 15 1870 Coso mining District Inyo County State of Cal.

Recorder	Members	Ysidrio Cilalla	200 feet
F. L. Romero		Teodocio Cilalla	200
		Felix Cilalla	200
		Jose Lobo	200
		Total	1000

This notice is annulled for abandonment according to the law of this mining district y claimed(chompeada) for the third time which will appear on page number 16 of this book Coso April 14 1871.

Tr. Note--The word "chompeada" appears several times in the manuscript. It is not used today and does not appear in the old dictionaries - It has been translated here as "claimed" However, in sound it resembles the English word "jumped" and may have been adapted from that word.

(Back of page R)

Number 7

Claim the continuation of Santa Rita is claimed situated on the east by Francisco Chacon its measurements are on the east of said mentioned vein there being (50) feet on each side.

August 7 1869 Inyo County

Coso Mining District State of California

Members	Francisco Chacon	200 feet
	Ignacio Cordova	200
	Epolito Servante	200
	Lusiano Martines	200
	Antonio Salgado	200
	Total	1200

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas

Sale by Jose Chacon the ownership of (200) feet in the claim of the east continuation of Santa Rita number 7 to Hipolito Cervantes for the sum of (\$200) stamped gold of the U. S. to his entire satisfaction today the 5 of June 1871 Coso Inyo County State of California

my
Jose + Chacon
mark

(Recorder)

F. L. Romero

(Page V)

Number 8

Claim this vein is claimed by owner by Mr. Rosario Acuña said possession being contiguous with the vein Resurreccion on the north said gentleman takes possession of it for being abandoned by the Americans its directions are from east to west the discovering opening being in the center; there being fifty feet on each end.

August 7, 1869 Inyo County

Coso Mining District State of California

Members	Rosario Acuna	200 feet
	Jose Reducindobeleles	200
	Bernave Fuente	200
	Total	600

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas

(Back of page V)

Number 9 Claim this possession is claimed by Pedro Alvares which is betwe n
the vein Santa Rita and the continuation on the east; the possession
of (200) feet is conceded by the council the 3 of August 1869 in Coso
District Inyo County State of California

Member Pedro Alvare 200 feet

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas

(Page I)

Number 10 Claim this second continuation is claimed by Mr. Ignacio Tarazona
said continuation is contiguous with the first continuation on the west.

August 7 1869

Coso Mining District Inyo County

State of California

Members	Ignacio Tarazona	200 feet
	Bernave Fuente	200
	Francisco Cordova	200
	Juan Lagos	200
	Total	800 feet

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas

(Page 3 - No. 11 claim this vein is claimed on this date by John William with the above
name of Jchon* it runs from east to west with the ownership granted by the

* Tr. note- This name is so illegibly written that it is hard to say whether
it most resembles Jchon or Danso.

statutes of the Coso Mining District Inyo County State of California
1000 feet .

Discoverer	feet
Jchon William	400
Ypolito Cerva	200
Jed Red	200
Gen Red	200

one thousand feet	1000

Coso Mining District D. C. 29 1869 Inyo County
State of California

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas

Page 5

Number 12 Claim this mine is claimed by Jon William on this date with the name Cristal
Pique it runs from east to west with the ownership the statutes of this
district grant him 1000 feet as follows.

	(names abbreviated & illegible)
Coso Mining	Jon Wllian 300
	J
District D C 29 1869	Jin Cint 300
State of California	Jon Rede 200
	Jin Rid 200

	one thousand feet 1000

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas

(Page 6)

(This page scratched out and blotted-difficult
to read.)

Coso April 1 1870

Claim this possession is claimed on this date with the name of Mina
Grande by Juan Rojas it is on the west of this mineral district.

We apply to this mine the	Juan Rojas 200
conditions and-----that the	Eugenio Salasdo 200
laws of the United States	Rafael Ochoa 200

OF the North Concede us

Tiburcio Tayanu

200
200

J. M. Rojas

(Page 7)

Notice

Number 14 claim this vein is recorded and claimed with the date expressed below and with the name San Silverio this vein being on the west of this Mineral district its direction as are from east to west the discovering opening in the center of its location the total being 1800 feet of center and 100 on the sides approved in the Coso District 29th of July 1870.

400 feet and the
rest 200

Discoverer, Jesus Gonzales

Fran.^{co} Gonzales

Fran.^{co} 2^o Gonzales

Members

Fran.^{co} E. G. les Moreno

Recorder

Antonio Mouroy

Fran.^{co} L. Romero

Ramon Mendiul

Page 8

Notice

This esprim* is claimed and recorded under the laws which protect the citizens of the U. S. said esprim is (4) miles and $\frac{1}{2}$ from this mining district it is on the left side of the road that goes to Lone Pine on the slope of the Sierra in the same western direction from this mining district of Coso Inyo County State of California . August 3 1870

Recorder

(Void)

Juan Lagos

Fran.^{co} L. Romero

This notice of the claim of the above mentioned esprim by Mr. Juan Lagos is annulled and without right by the Town of Coso today 6 of August 1870
Recorder

Fran.^{co} L. Romero

Tr. Note*-- The word esprim seems to be an invented word. It is unknown today

Tr. Note* (cont.)

It is the opinion of the translator that it was derived from the word expresar and means an outcropping of ore. However, it may have been the Spanish version of the time for the English word "spring".

Page 9

Number 15 Claim this vein is claimed (chompeada) by the Mina Grande Company and measured legally according to the laws of the State of California, County of Inyo precinct of Coso its measurements are taken from the main opening on the north this being its position and location 1st measurement N. are 20 cordeles each cordel is 25 feet total distance N. (500) feet second measurement on the South 20 cordeles (500) feet south direction its measurements being legal and approved today 1st of April 1870 Coso Mines Inyo County State of California.

Recorder

Fran. ^{CO} L. Romero

Purchase by Juan Rojas of the Mina Grande Co. of T. Jaime & Y Geiva's interests and (100) feet from E. Salsedo. Salsedo keeping (100) feet and R. Ocho having (200) feet
May 15, 1871

Members	my Juan + Rojas	200 feet
	mark	
	Tiburcio - Jaime	200
	my	
	Rafael + Ocho	200
	mark	
	my	
	Eugenio + Salsedo	200
	mark	
	my	
	Yrinesa - Geiva	200
	mark	
	Total	1000

E. L. Romero (Recorder) Number (10)

Page 11

Number 16 Claim this vein is claimed (chompeada) by the Co. stated below it carries the name of the (Abenturera) contiguous with the Mina Grande on the east its direction and location is from east to west the principal opening being in the center and (50) feet on the sides and the rest free. Coso

5 of August 1870

Recorder

Fran. ^{CO} L. Romero

(Members) Luz Sierres

Feet
200

Hipolito Cervantes 200

Fran ^{CO} L. Romero	200
Luciano Martinez	200
Antonio Salgado	200
Antonio Reyes	200
Teodoso Silaya	200
Layaa Velasquez	200

Total	1600

Page 13

Notice by the Town

This esprim is worked and owned by the Mining Town of Coso Inyo County State of California not cutting off the use of the water to any beast or cattle except the sheep who will have no right to the use of the water to drink nor for the benefit of said sheep the Mining Town of Coso having done the first work the 20th of July 1870 and taken possession the 6th of August of the same year and inclosed and taken possession the 6th of August 1870.

Secretary and Recorder

Fran^{CO} L. Romero

Town Judges

Joaquin Almada

A. Rigands

Representatives of the Town

Tiburcio Jayme

Rafael Ochoa

Ruhenio Salsedo

Jose ~~LA~~ Canas

Juan Rojas

P. 14

~~Number 17~~

Claim the continuation of the mine Santa Rita is claimed by the Co. below stated said continuation is on the west of Santa Rita and carries the name (Buena Ventura) there being (50) feet on each side of the vein Mining District of Coso County of Inyo State of California November 19 1870.

Recorder

F. L. Romero

Members

F. L. Romero 200 feet

Rosalio Verduasco	200
Manuel Pena	200
Miguel Morales	200
Fernando Salzar	200
Total	1000 feet

Er. Note- This page is crossed out thus in the manuscript

Page 15

Number 18

Claim

The continuation of Mine Santa Rita which is on the west of said mine is claimed (chompenda) its length is 1000 feet the same who support the Co. signed below being in possession of 50 feet on each side and the rest for the benefit of him who should like it said continuation carries the name Buena Ventura situated on the west of Santa Rita one mile from this camp on the west Cose Mining District County of Inyo, State of California November 16 1870.

Recorder	(Members)	(Feet)
F. L. Romero	Manuel Grosi	200
	F. L. Romero	200
	Ramon Mendibil	200
	Lorenzo Bufanda	200
	Juan Salilesteros	200
	Total feet	1000

Page 16

Notice

The mine Santa Getrudes is claimed (chompenda) for the third time by F. L. Romero said veing is on the east of this camp and a mile more or less distant its direccions are from east to west there being (50) feet on each side in favor of said mine Mining District of Inyo County

April 14 1871

Recorder	(Members)	feet
F. L. Romero	Fran ^{CO} L. Romero	200
	Carmen C. Romero	200
	Lorenzo Bufanda	200

Page 17

Number 19

Calim

This gold vein is recorded by Ysidorio Cilaya and Co. with the name (Dicierto) said vein is on the south of this mining district and is five miles distant. Its directions are from north to south with the concession of the statutes of the mining district of Coso, Inyo County State of California April 26 1871

Recorder	(Members)	feet
F. L. Romero	Ysidorio Cilaya	400
	Rafael Rodriguez	200
	Teodocio Cilaya	200
	Jose Lobo	200
	Gervaci Cilaya	2
	Felix Cilaya	2
	Samon Lobo	2
	Joaquin Lobo	2
	Total	1800

Grant

I give from my ownership that I have in the Dicierto Mine a claim of 200 feet to Fran^{CO} L. Romero there remaining in my favor 200 feet--by my own free will--Coso 26 of April 1871 .

by
Ysidorio Cilaya
mark

Page 18

Sale Number 1

By the present be it known that I have sold a claim of the ownership that I have in the Santa Rita mine said ownership consists of 200 feet and I have sold it to Don Ramon Mendivil for the sum of \$400 in gold bullion to my entire satisfaction and so that it may be registered I sign in the book of the Recorder page 18 Coso Mining District County of Inyo State of California November 25 1869
F. L. Romero (Recorder)

mi
Teodoro / Cilalla
marca

Sale Number 2

By the present be it known that I have sold half of a claim in the Santa Rita Mine said claim consists of 200 feet 100 feet being sold to Don Hipolito Cervantes for the sum of \$200 in gold bullion to my entire satisfaction and so that it may be registered I sign in the book of the Recorder page 18 Coso Mining District County of Inyo State of California. November 25 1869
Fran^{CO} L. Romero (Recorder)

my
Ysiderio / Cilalla
mark

Sale Number 3

By the present be it known that I have sold 100 feet that I bought from Don Ysiderio Cilalla said 100 feet I have sold to Don Fernando Salazar for the sum of \$200 in gold bullion to my entire satisfaction and so that it may be registered I sign in the book of the Recorder page 18 Coso Mining District County of Inyo State of California November 25

Fran^{CO} L. Romero
(Recorder)

my
Hipolito / Cervantes
mark

Page 19

The Santa Rita Mine records its extension marked by large stakes from east to west, its length being 800 feet of which 700 feet are divided among the existing members who are Jose ^{LA} Canas 175 feet to Don Ramon Bendivil 175 feet to Don Ysidorio Cilalla 87½ feet to Don Fernando Salazar 87½ feet to Don Santos Salazar 87½ feet to Don Hipolito Cervantes 87½ feet total 700 feet there remaining 100 feet undivided on the east because of the pillars of the ore-bearing rock being taken away and it is for the benefit of the Co. and if one of the members should put work on these 100 feet and it should be provitable and another one should wish to take possession he will have to pay the expenses to the first one and if he doesn't pay him the expenses he will not be able to take possession.

Coso Mining District

November 8 1870

F. L. Romero (Recorder)

(Members of Santa Rita)

my	
Ramon	+ Bendivil
mark	
my	
Jose	^{LA} Canas
mark	
my	
Ysidorio	+ Cilalla
mark	
my	
Hipolito	+ Cervantes
mark	
my	
Santos	+ Salazar
mark	
my	
Fernando	+ Salazar
mark	

The division of Santa Rita according to its claims continues on page 20 and 21.

Page 20

Number 4 (Santa Rita Mine)

The claims of Santos Salzar and of Don Joaquin Almada are inde-
 dent said claims independent of all the Co. to our satisfaction said
 claims consist of 175 feet being adjacent and they are situated in the
 middle of that of Don Hipolito Cervantes which is on the west and that
 of Don Ramon Mendivil and Y Silaya on the east side gentlemen being
 neighbors in both directions. Besides this we are subject not to pull
 down the support which divides us on the east with Mendivil and Silaya
 until the last of August 1871 and if before the agreed time someone
 should wish to pull down the support he will have to make up the ex-
 penses and the damages of said support half of all its length belongs
 to Don J. Almada and S. Salzar on the west and the other half on the
 east to Messrs. Mendivil and Silaya we sign in Coso Mining District,
 County of Inyo, State of California January 18, 1871.

Joaquin Almada

Recorder

F. L. Romero

Santos Salzar

Ramon Mendivil

Y
 Ysidorio Gilaya
 mark

Page 21

Number 5 (Santa Rita Mine)

The claims of R. Mendivil and Y Gilaya are independent and together
 said claims consist of 140½ feet in union contiguous on the west with
 Messrs. Almada and Salazar and on the west with the unpillared part
 which consists of 100 feet by the Company Santa Rita Coso Mining District
 County of Inyo State of California January 18, 1871.

Recorder F. L. Romero

Be it known by the present that I Facundo Salzar have sold to
 Don Teodosio (?) Salalla all my shares and interests that I have in the

Santa Rita Mine and in the continuation also those of my brother Santos with all the and tools of the mine for the amount of one hundred fifty dollars which I received to my satisfaction, my uncle D. Mariano P. Tessano being witness

Coso May 2, 1872

Facundo Salazar

Page 23

In the Coso Mining District, County of Inyo, State of California, the seventh day of the month of November one thousand eight hundred and seventy two We who sign below, members in the mines Santa Rita and Continuation, are gathered together with the object of naming a Recorder there being none since Don Francisco L. Rogers, left this mining district, who had this office, and being aware of the fact that is necessary to appoint a person who will be capable of recording the transfers that frequently occur, also of making sales and determining whatever other distinction relating to the examination of boundaries and in accordance with the rules and laws of the United States of the North, to which laws we remain subject and offer to respect in all their parts and aspects and being aware of the various virtues which characterize Don Ramon Mendibil and of the qualities of knowing how to read and write, we have seen well to name him Recorder of this mining district authorizing him moreover to judge and give decision in the differences that there may be among the members of other neighboring districts for reason of damages, debts, or offences of any nature trying to establish always among all the miners peace and good feeling thus is it agreed and we sign for witness

Page 24

Ypolito Servantes

M^o. P. Serrano

Decidererio Selaya

Ramon Mendibil

Felix Selaya

In the Coso Mining District County of Inyo State of California before me Ramon Mendibil elected Recorder there appeared D. Mariano P. Serrano declaring that having bought from D. Joaquin Lopes one hundred feet of mine in the ----- Continuation he asked that a decision should be rendered which in effect I do in view of the which in correct form said D. Serrano presented to me dated in Cerro Gordo the 14th day of August 1872 and in the presence of the other members who agreed that it was sufficient and legal which to witness I sign.

Recorder

Ramon Mendibil.