

COSO MINING CAMP DOCUMENTS

TRANSLATOR'S COMMENTS

Several comments and issues appear as endnotes to this translation. In general, each typed page of the translation will correspond to one page in the documents. However, in some cases, text – or more often, signatures – will spill into the following page in the notebook; in these cases, I have kept these “overflows” together on one page for clarity (especially pertinent to the opening Articles, which are in the first two pages plus three lines on the third page in the original). I have kept accented words as they appear in the documents. Most often, they are not accented. The most common accents missing are: José, Bernabé/Bernavé, Beltrán, Sepúlveda, Ramón, Córdoba, Tomás, Epólito/Hipólito, Resurrección, Jesús, Gonzáles, María, Joaquín.

Two matters of interest include spelling of names and forms of address:

- Regarding spelling of names, throughout the document miners' names appear with different spellings. These would have sounded the same in the spoken Spanish of the Americas (e.g., Cilalla, Cilaya, Selaya) and would most likely be the same person as indicated by the same first name and the fact that they “signed” with a + mark, as they depended on the Recorder to write their names as best he could.
- A most interesting social strata indicator is the form of address used in some of the entries. While most often the entries state merely First Name/Last Name, occasionally they will reference *Don* (a formal and respectful form of address, with “Doña” being the feminine form) or *Sr./Señor/Sres./Señores* (equivalent to Mr./Messrs). Entries reference miners by First Name/Last Name, or First Name/Last Name and *Don* for another miner, or First Name/Last Name plus *Don* plus *Señor* in the same entry. This language usage might be an indicator of social standing within the group.

This translation was prepared on a volunteer basis for the Eastern California Museum, Independence, California by Manuela Cerruti, Certified Translator (Retired), January 2021

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Original Translation

The original translation was prepared in 1931. While the original translation was very competent, it was also very literal, which makes it more difficult to follow. In addition, the original translation did not include several pages in the current translation; these additional pages clarify some of the original translator's word choices and questions. The current translation has been prepared with the intent of making the meaning of the documents more clear. Information on the original translation is as follows, and a copy of the original translation (handwritten and typed) is available at the Eastern California Museum.

<http://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8z60qj4>

No online items

Finding Aid to the Record of the Corso (Coso) Mining District: County of Inyo, State of California from 1868-1872 MS.720

Finding aid prepared by Holly Rose Larson

Autry National Center, Braun Research Library

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2012 November 14

MS.720

Title: Record of the Corso (Coso) Mining District: County of Inyo, State of California from 1868-1872

Identifier/Call Number: MS.720

Contributing Institution: Autry National Center, Braun Research Library

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 0.1 linear feet(1 folder)

Date: 1931

Abstract: This manuscript collection contains translations of mining claims made in the Coso Mining District of Inyo County from 1868-1872. Names of mines and their locations are listed here, as well as the names of the claim holders. Translated by Emilyn Clause at the Southwest Museum, Highland Park, Los Angeles, California, July 29, 1931.

Creator: Clause, Emilyn

Scope and Contents

This manuscript collection contains translations of mining claims made in the Coso Mining District of Inyo County from 1868-1872. Names of mines and their locations are listed here, as well as the names of the claim holders. A note on the front page reads: 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, 1931.

Preferred citation

Record of the Corso (Coso) Mining District: County of Inyo, State of California from 1868-1872, 1931, Braun Research Library Collection, Autry National Center, Los Angeles; MS.720.

Processing history

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List of names

Jose Miguel Rojas; Juan R. Merino; Bernabe Fuentes; Jose Salazar; Juan Soto; Pedro Felis; Jose Araisa; Meregildo, Beltran; Gerbasio Seleya; Delores Valencia; Seriuo Sepulveda; Ramon Molina; Domingo Morales; Pedro J. Rojas; Jose Forquera; Fene, Luis Fene; Jose L. Romero; Rosario Acuna; Bernabe Fuentes; Rafael Ocho; Santos Salazar; Ygnacio Cordova; Ramon Satelo; Tomas Portillo; Tibursio Flores; Ramon Mendibil; Domingo Aliviso; Jose Chaeon; Jose Maria Cana; Tiodoso Selaya; Gervasio Selaya; Visiderio Selaya; Jose Uribes; Epolito Servante; Ramon Satelo; Jose Chacon; Antonio Salgado; Ysidrio Cilalla; Teodocio Cilalla; Felix Cilalla; Jose Lobo; Francisco Chacon; Lusiano Martinez; Jose Reducindobeles; Pedro Alvare; Ygnacio Tarasona; José Armando Lopez;

Access

Collection is open for research. Appointments to view materials are required. To make an appointment please visit <http://theautry.org/research/research-rules-and-application> or contact library staff at rroom@theautry.org.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Chalfant, William A.

Eastern California Museum Association.

Coso Mining District (Inyo County)

Inyo County (Calif.)

Miners -- California

Mines and mineral resources -- California -- Inyo County

Mining claims

Translations

MS.720

CONTEMPORANEOUS NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

The Coso Mines, A Collection of Newspaper Articles Concerning the early Coso Mines. Compiler: Mark Davis, 1/1/2011

This document is available at the Eastern California Museum. Pertinent selections from this collection are as follows.

P. 12

September 05, 1870 (p?, c?) (excerpt: last pp.)

The Industrial Condition of the State.

A party of Mexicans, who settled in 1868 on some abandoned mines at Coso, fifty-five miles from Lone Pine, Inyo County, have taken out since April some \$30,000.

P. 18 1860

The Coso Mining District

The region embraces about eighty or ninety miles. It has, for natural boundaries, the Sierra Nevada on the west, the lofty peaks of Owen's Mountains on the north, an extensive dry lagoon on the east, which extends around to Darwin's Canon, and thence south to Owen's Little Lake. In many parts of this district - as far as where our informant explored, the party found evidences of rich silver and gold mines. There are indications of copper and iron in the lower part, where volcanic agency is noticeable; but, higher up, where the country has been left undisturbed by such action, they found gold, silver, and lead outcropping as at Washoe-the leads varying from three to twenty inches in width. These were oftenest found sulphurets, though virgin silver was repeatedly discovered. One vein paid at the rate of eighty per cent. They also found placer gold diggings, where they got fifty cents to the pan, but the lack of water must, nearly all the year, prove a serious drawback to working them. Water can only be obtained from springs, which are ten or fifteen miles apart. The gold is fine. The party took up ninety claims, not leads, as erroneously stated yesterday: These claims are upon seven different leads, all of which prospect rich enough to set any capitalist on the que vive to get them.

The party examined, if fact, but a comparatively small part of this extensive mining district, though they kept on the move here and there for about three months. On their return they found that their movements had been generally commented upon in and about Visalia, and many parties are now on their way, and others already on the ground, marching for and staking out claims. There is room for thousands. No one can tell how extensive the mines may be, but some of those already found are considered to be equally valuable with the best at Washoe. It is believed that there are now five hundred

men on the ground, and parties were every day forming at Visalia. Silby had been elected Recorder at Silver Mountain by the settlers. When Farley left Visalia, the excitement was on the increase. Every effort was made at that time to ascertain the exact locality of the companies mines, and to this end a series of letters, which Farley had written for publication, at the request of the editor of an interior paper, were extracted from his coat pocket. It was not at that time decided to make the whole matter public. That policy, however, has since been changed. It is believed that here, within the boundaries of California, there exists a country not excelled by Washoe itself in abundance and richness of its silver mines. Tulare county borders upon New Mexico, and the party pursued their investigations into that Territory some distance. The same character of country was presented as far as their explorations extended, and the silver region probably goes many miles to the eastward of the boundary which we have mentioned as defining it.

P. 36

January 01, 1861

Mining Corporations Formed in 1860

Eighty-three new mining companies have been incorporated during 1860, and certificates of half a dozen others received at the Secretary of State's office, but not filed on account of the failure of the parties to comply with the law in sending of the fees of recording along with the certificate.

P. 76

October 31, 1867 (p?, c?) D

Matters In The Owens River Country -

The Virginia Enterprise of October 29th says:

Through a letter received from Charley Duval, now in Cerro Gordo District, we learn some particulars in regard to that and the neighboring camps. The Mexicans having made a treaty or having come to some sort of understanding with the Indians, they are now allowed to resume work in Coso District, which is some miles south of Cerro Gordo, and it is understood that the miners at work in that district are doing well. Until lately there has been no mining there since the last raid of the Indians, when the mill was burned and most of the inhabitants murdered. The old works, abandoned during the Indian troubles, are about to be reopened, when the miners expect to do still better than at present. The quartz veins of the district are principally gold bearing. Owens Valley, from Bishop Creek down to Owens Lake, is being settled by families, and during the last Summer many fine substantial farm houses were built. An excellent flouring mill has been erected in Bishop Creek Valley, which is a great accommodation to the farmers of that region, as formerly they were obliged to take their grain to Fort Independence, forty miles distant, to have it ground. The Mexicans have located a town on the north side of Owens Lake, and at present are busily engaged in erecting houses, building arastras and constructing furnaces. The town is eight miles south of the Cerro Gordo mines. A number of furnaces are in full blast in Cerro Gordo, and a considerable amount of silver is being taken out. The Mexicans have made many improvements in their furnaces and in their smelting processes, and the bullion now turned out by them sells rapidly at \$1 per ounce at the mines. The St. Lucas mine, two miles from Cerro Gordo, is being worked by Ochoa & Almada, who are taking out about a ton and a half of ore per twelve hours, working two men. This ore yields, by mill process, \$300 per ton. It is being worked at the Silver Sprout mill. Duval, in speaking of a visit to Kearsarge District, dwells at considerable length upon the management of the Kearsarge mine and mill by J. B. Low, and thinks that he will soon bring Kearsarge out with flying colors. The people of Cerro Gordo, Generally speaking, are not very well prepared for winter, about half the shanties in the district being without roof, and many of the miners being short of provisions. Some are already leaving for California with the intention of returning next Spring, and others will follow within a fortnight.

Articlesⁱ of the Corso Mining Districtⁱⁱ, County of Inyo, State of California

We the undersigned gather today in this Corso Mining District, County of Inyo, State of California to establish the laws to be obeyed in our district under the laws of the United States of North America.

Article 1: Anyone who discovers or has a stake in any mineral vein may record it in this Corso Mining District, County of Inyo, State of California, paying the necessary feesⁱⁱⁱ required by the regulations issued by the Council of this group.

Article 2: If a person who discovers or has a stake in a vein does not begin work within thirty days, that person will lose all rights and will not have a right to future claims.

Article 3: The Recorder elected by the Council of the aforementioned group shall hold the fees in order to convey them to the head of the County whenever necessary and required by the County of Inyo.

Article 4: Anyone discovering a virgin vein shall have a right to a stake of 400 (four hundred) feet by right and the remaining members who may form the company will receive 200 (two hundred) feet. These remaining members may not exceed 8 (eight) people and are required to pay a sum of 50¢ (fifty cents).

Article 5: Should an independent vein be found within the area of a previously recorded vein, the owners of the original vein shall have the right to work it for fifty feet. The remainder will accrue to whomever wishes to take possession.

Article 6: In conclusion, the Council by common consent elects as Recorder of this mining district José Miguel Rojas, who is authorized by the Council to enforce these Articles as written.

We sign these legal Articles on this 23rd of March 1868 and agree to be subject to them.

Recorder José Miguel Rojas
 Juan R. Merino
 Bernabé Fuentes
 José Salazar
 Juan Soto
 Pedro Felis
 José Araisa
 Meregildo Beltran
 José Maria Xeasha
 Teodoso Seleya
 Gerbasio Seleya
 Dolores Valencia
 Seriulo Sepulveda
 Ramon Molina
 Domingo Morales
 Pedro J. Rojas
 José Ferquera
 Luis Fene

Articles of the Coso Mining District, County of Inyo, State of California
Signed and legally approved by the miners this 3rd of August, 1869

No. 3, Section One: Coso Mining District, August 3, 1869. The Santa Rita Company records and claims [*chompeo*] a gold vein named Santa (Rita) located one and a quarter miles from the Coso Camp, on the west side of the road to Lone Pine. The vein runs from east to west, the main entrance is at its center point. The company is composed of Ysidoro Silaya – 200 feet, Teodoro Silaya – 200 feet, José Maria Cañas – 200 feet, Hipolito Servantes – 200 feet, for a total of 800 feet from stake to stake. These measurements were taken legally by those who compose this Article under oath according to the law of the United States of North America, measurements taken with a measuring tape, beginning from the main entrance. On the west, there are 11 *cordels* and 15 feet, each *cordel* measuring 35 feet, for a total on the west of 400 feet. The second measurement on the east is 11 *cordels* and 15 feet, for a total of 400 feet on the east. These are the legal measurements taken by the people who form this legal Article in Coso this 3rd of August 1869.

Recorder José Miguel Rojas

Secretary José L. Romero

Names of members comprising this Article:

Joaquín Almada
Rosario Acuña
Bernabé Fuentes
Rafael Ochoa
Santos Salazar
Ygnacio Cordoba
Ramon Sotelo
Tomas Portillo
Tibursio Flores
Ramon Mendibil
Domingo Alviso
José Chacon

Approved under oath

[Side notation, next to list of names:]

Sale of Santa Rita and distribution of the claims and property of each of the members in turn is found in this Number, pages 18 and 19 of the Recorder's book. Coso. November 8, 1870.

F.L. Romero (Recorder)

Notice

No. 2 Claim: This gold vein, called Sirena, is claimed by Jose Forquera. Said vein is located one and one-half miles north of this camp. It runs from east to west, and the work leading to the discovery was on the west side [deleted in the text: with the entrance], 100 feet inside the boundary, with 50 feet on each side in its favor.

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 feet

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas

Notice

No. 3 Claim: This gold vein, called Resurrecion, is claimed by J. Miguel Rojas. It is located one and one quarter miles north of this camp. It runs from east to west, with the entrance in the center of its measurements, leaving 50 feet on each side in its favor.

August 7, 1869 Inyo County, Coso Mining District, State of California

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

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas

No. (Illegible – 4?) Claim: This continuation of the vein called Sirena is claimed by Jose Maria Caña to the east of said vein, of which he takes possession. The measurements to the east are 50 feet on each side in its favor.

August 7, 1869 Inyo County, Coso Mining District, State of California

Members	Jose Maria Caña	200 feet
	Teodoro Selaya	200 feet
	Gervasio Selaya	200 feet
	Desiderio Selaya	200 feet
	Total	800 feet

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas

[No. 5 is crossed out in the original, translation here included between {}]

{No. 5 Claim: This continuation of the Santa Rita vein is claimed by J. Miguel Rojas. Said continuation is located west of the aforementioned vein, with 50 feet on each side in its favor.

August 7, 1869, Inyo County, Coso Mining District, State of California

Members	J. Miguel Rojas	200 feet
	Pedro J. Rojas	200 feet
	Maria A. Rojas	200 feet
	Jose Uribes	200 feet
	Jose Lopes	200 feet
	Total	1000 feet

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas }

[The following section is not crossed out on this page in the original]

This mine is claimed by the company appearing in No. 18, the Buena Ventura Company.
Coso, August 19, 1870. F.L. Romero, Recorder

[No. 6 is crossed out in the original, translation here included between {}]

{No. 6 Claim: This gold vein, named Santa Gertrudis, is claimed by Epolito Servante. Said vein is located one mile east side of this camp. It runs from south to north, with 50 feet on each side in its favor.

August 7 1869, Inyo County, Coso Mining District, State of California

Members	Epolito Servante	400
	Ramon Sotelo	200
	Jose Chacon	200
	Ignasio Cordova	200
	Antonio Salgado	200
	Total	1200

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas}

[Note on the side, outside the crossed-out section:] Void

No. 6 Claim: The Santa Gertrudis mine is claimed^{iv} [*chompeada*] by the company noted below. Said vein is one mile east of this camp, running from north to south, with 50 feet on each side in its favor. December 15, 1870, Coso Mining, Inyo County, State of California

Members		Feet
	Ysidirio Cilalla	200
	Teodoro Cilalla	200
	Gervacio Cilalla	200
	Felix Cilalla	200
	Jose Lobo	200
	Total feet	1000

Recorder

F. L. Romero

[Note appended:]

This notice is annulled due to abandonment. In accordance with the Articles of this mining district and claimed [*chompeada*] for the 3rd time, it will appear on page No. 16 of this book. Coso April 14, 1871

No. 7 Claim: This continuation of Santa Rita, located on the west side, is claimed by Francisco Chacon. It is located on the west of said aforementioned vein, with 50 feet on each side in its favor. August 7, 1869, Inyo County, Coso Mining District, State of California

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

Recorder
J. Miguel Rojas

Sale: By José Chacon to Don Hipolito Cervantes the property measuring 200 feet in the claim that is the No. 7 continuation to the west of the Santa Rita for the sum of \$200 in U.S. stamped gold, to his total satisfaction. Today, 5th of June, 1871, Coso, County of Inyo, State of California.

José Chacon My Mark +

Recorder
F.L. Romero

No. 8 Claim: This vein is claimed by claiming [*chompeada*] by Mr. Rosario Acuña. Said property borders the Resurreccion vein on the north. Said gentleman takes possession because of its being abandoned by the Americans. It runs from east to west, with the entrance in the center, leaving 50 feet in its favor on each side.

August 7, 1869, Inyo County, Coso Mining District, State of California

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

Recorder
J. Miguel Rojas

[END OF THIS NOTEBOOK]

No. 9 Claim: This area between [word erased] the Santa Rita vein and its continuation to the east is claimed by Pedro Alvares. The 200 foot holding has been granted by the Council on August 3, 1869, Coso District, County of Inyo, State of California.

Member	Pedro Alvares	200 feet
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Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas

[Notebook Page 1]

No. 10 Claim: This second continuation is claimed by Mr. Ignacio Tarasona. Said continuation borders the first continuation to the west.

August 7, 1869

Coso Mining District, Inyo County, State of California

Members	Ygnasio Tarasona	200
	Bernave Fuente	200
	Francisco Cordova	200
	Juan Lagos	200
	Total	800 feet

Recorder

J. Manuel Rojas

[Notebook Page 3]

No. 11 Claim: This vein, named [Illegible: Arriba del Denso?] is claimed on this date by John William. It runs from east to west. The property is granted by the statutes of the Coso Mining District, Inyo County, State of California. 1000 feet

Discovered by	Tchon [sic] William	400 feet
	Ypolito Cerva	200 feet
	[Illegible – Jon?] Rede	200 feet
	[Illegible - Jim] Red (Rede?)	200 feet
	One thousand feet	1000

Coso Mining District, December 29, 1869, Inyo County, State of California

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas

[Notebook Page 5^v]

No. 12 Claim: This mine, named Cristal Pique [Peak], is claimed on this date by Jon William. It runs from east to west along the property granted by the statutes of this district, measuring 1000 feet as follows.

Jon William	300
[Illegible: Jim Crub?]	300
Jon Rede	220
Jim Rid (Rede?)	200
One thousand feet	1000

Coso Mineral District, December 29, 1869, State of California

Recorder

J. Miguel Rojas

[Notebook Page 6]

[The following is deleted in the original]

{Coso, April 1, 1870

Claim: This location, named Mina Grande, is claimed on this date by Juan Rojas. It is located west of the [illegible: camp?].

We [illegible] this mine under the conditions and [Illegible: rights granted by] the laws of the United States of North America

	Feet
Juan Rojas	200
Eugenio [Illegible]	200
Rafael Ochoa	200
[Illegible] Leyba	200
Tiburcio Taynor	200

J.M. Rojas }

Notice

No. 14 Claim: This vein, named San Silverio, is recorded and claimed on the date below. This vein is located west of this mining district, running east to west, with the entrance in the middle. There are a total of 1800 feet from the center and 100 on the sides. Approved in Coso, July 29, 1870.

Discovered by	Jesus Gonzales	400 feet, and the others 200 feet
Members	Anastacio Gonzales	
	Francisco Gonzales	
	Francisco 2 nd Gonzales	
	Francisco Gonzales Moreno	
	Antonio Salgado	
	Antonio Monroy	
	Ramon Mendivil	

Recorder
Francisco L. Romero

Notice

This spring is claimed and recorded under the laws that protect U.S. citizens. Said spring is located 4-1/2 miles from this mining district, on the left side of the road that goes toward Lone Pine on the Sierra foothill, in the same direction of the west side of this Coso Mining District, County of Inyo, State of California. August 3, 1870.

Juan Lagos

(Void)

Recorder
Francisco L. Romero

This notice of the claim to the above-mentioned spring by Don Juan Lagos is annulled and voided by the Town of Coso on this date, August 6, 1870.

Recorder
Francisco L. Romero

Notice

No. 15 Claim: This vein is claimed [*chompeada*] by the Mina Grande Company and has been measured legally in accordance with the laws of the State of California, County of Inyo, precinct of Coso. The measurements were taken from the main entrance on the north, positioned and located as follows: 1st measurement on the north is 20 *cordeles*, each *cordel* measuring 25 feet, for a total to the north being 500 feet; 2nd measurement on the south is 20 *cordeles*, 500 feet, to the south. These are legal measurements, approved on this date, April 1, 1870, Coso Mines, County of Inyo, State of California.

Members	Juan Rojas My Mark +	200 feet
	Tiburcio Jaime {crossed out, no mark}	200 feet
	Rafael Ochoa My Mark +	200 feet
	Eugenio Salsedo My Mark +	200 feet
	Yrinco Geiva My Mark + {crossed out}	200 feet
	Total	1000 feet

Recorder
Francisco L. Romero

[Additional Note]

Purchase by Juan Rojas from the Mina Grande Company, from T. Jaime, Y. Geiva, and 100 feet from E. Salsedo, with Salsedo retaining 100 feet and R. Ochoa retaining 200 feet. May 15, 1871

F. L. Romero (Recorder) No. 10

Notice

No. 16 Claim: This vein, named Abenturera^{vi}, is claimed [*chompeada*] by the company named below. It is contiguous to the Mina Grande on the east. It runs from east to west, with the main entrance in its center and 50 feet on each side. The rest is free. Coso, August 5, 1870.

Members		Feet
	Luz Sierres	200 feet
	Hipolito Cervantes	200
	Francisco L. Romero	200
	Luciano Martines	200
	Antonio Salgado	200
	Antonio Reyes	200
	Teodoso Silaya	200
	Lavaa Velasques	200
	Total	1600

Recorder
Francisco L. Romero

Notice by the Town

This spring is worked and held by the Coso Mining Town, County of Inyo, State of California. There will be no interruption of use of water by any beast or large animal herd^{vii}, except small animal herds shall have no right to use the water, neither for drinking nor for any benefit of said smaller animals. The Coso Mining Town began work on July 20, 1870, took possession on August 6 of the same year, and fenced and possessed on August 8, 1870.

Town Representatives

Tiburcio Jayme
Rafael Ochoa
Eugenio Salsedo
José María Cañas
Juan Rojas

Secretary and Recorder
Francisco L. Romero

Town Judges
Joaquín Almada
A. Rigands

[Notebook Page 14]

[Claim No. 17 is crossed out in the original]

{No. 17 Claim: The continuation of the Santa Rita Mine is claimed by the company mentioned below, which states that said continuation is west of the Santa Rita and is called Buena Ventura, with 50 feet on each side of the vein in its favor. Coso Mining District, County of Inyo, State of California, November 19, 1870.

Members	F.L. Romero	200 feet
	Rosalio Verdusco	200 feet [name crossed out before the general cross-out]
	Manuel Peña	200 feet
	Miguel Morales	200 feet
	Fernando Salazar	200 feet
	Total	1000 feet

Recorder

F.L. Romero }

[Notebook Page 15]

No. 18 Claim: The continuation of the Santa Rita Mine that is on the west of said mine is claimed [*chompeada*]. It is 1000 feet long. The people signing below, who are given the right to work the mine by the Company, [deleted: said] take possession of 50 feet on each side. The remainder may accrue to the benefit of whoever wishes to take possession. Said continuation is called Buena Ventura. It is located to the west of Santa Rita, one mile from this camp on the west side. Coso Mining, County of Inyo, State of California, November 16, 1870.

Members		Feet
	Manuel Grosé	200
	F.L. Romero	200
	Ramon Mendibil	200
	Lorenzo Bufanda	200
	Juan Ballesteros	200
	Total Feet	1000

Recorder
F.L. Romero

Notice

The Santa Gertrudis Mine is claimed [*chompeada*] for the third time by F.L. Romero. Said vein is west of this camp and is approximately one mile away. It runs from east to west, with 50 feet on each side in favor of said mine. Mining District of Inyo County, April 14, 1871.

Members	Feet
Francisco L. Romero	200
Carmen C. Romero	200
Lorenzo Bufanda	200

Recorder
F.L. Romero

No. 19

Claim

This gold vein, named Dicierto^{viii}, is recorded by Ysiderio Cilaya and Company. Said vein is five miles south of this Mining District. It runs from north to south. Granted in accordance with the statutes of Coso Mining, Inyo County, State of California. April 26, 1871.

Members	Feet
Ysiderio Cilaya	400
Rafael Rodriguez	200
Teodocio Cilaya	200
Jose Lobo	200
Gervacio Cilaya	200
Felix Cilaya	200
Ramon Lobo	200
Joaquin Lobo	200
Total	1800

Recorder
F.L. Romero

(Grant)

I cede^{ix}, from my ownership in the Dicierto Mine, a claim of 200 feet to Francisco L. Romero. I retain 200 feet. By my own free will. Coso. April 26, 1871.

Ysiderio Cilaya My Mark +

Sale No. 1

I hereby affirm that I have sold a claim I own in the Santa Rita Mine. Said property consists of 200 feet, and I have sold it to Don Ramon Mendivil for \$400 in cast gold to my full satisfaction. In witness hereto [crossed out word], I hereby sign in the Recorder's book, page 18, Coso Mining, County of Inyo, State of California, November 25, 1869.

F. L. Romero (Recorder)

Teodocio Cillalla My Mark [no cross attached to the signature]

Sale No. 2

I hereby affirm that I have sold one half of a claim in the Santa Rita Mine. Said claim consists of 200 feet, of which I have sold 100 feet to Don Hipolito Cervantes for the sum of \$200 in cast gold to my full satisfaction. In witness hereto, I hereby sign the Recorder's book, page 18. Coso Mining, County of Inyo, State of California, November 26, 1869.

Francisco L. Romero (Recorder)

Ysiderio Cilalla My Mark +

Sale No. 3

I hereby affirm that I have sold 100 feet that I bought from Don Ysiderio Cilalla. I have sold said 100 feet to Don Fernando Salazar for \$200 in cast gold to my full satisfaction. In witness hereto, I hereby sign the Recorder's book, page 18. Coso Mining, County of Inyo, State of California, November 25, 1869.

Francisco L. Romero (Recorder)

Hipolito Cervantes My Mark +

[Notebook Page 19]

The Santa Rita Mine affirms that it is extended, marked by stakes running from east to west, by 800 feet, of which 700 feet are divided among the existing members: Jose Maria Cañas – 175 [originally 275, written over to state 175] feet; Don Ramon Mendivil – 175 feet; Don Ysiderio Cilalla 87½ feet; Don Fernando Salazar – 87½ feet; Don Santos Salazar – 87½ feet; Don Hipolito Cervantes – 87.5 feet, for a total of 700 feet. There remain 100 feet without distribution to the west due to their having no stakes; this accrues to the benefit of the company. Should any of the members wish to work these 100 feet and they bear fruit, and then another of the members wishes to take part, that person shall be required to pay costs to the first person, and should that second person not pay the costs, he shall not be allowed to take part. Coso Mining, November 8, 1870.

Francisco L. Romero (Recorder)

Santa Rita Members

Ramon Mendivil My Mark +
Jose Maria Cañas My Mark +
Ysiderio Cilalla My Mark +
Hipolito Cervantes My Mark +
Santos Salazar My Mark +
Fernando Salazar My Mark +

The distribution of the Santa Rita Mine in accordance with its claims follows on pages 20 and 21.

Number 4 (Santa Rita Mine)

The claims of Santos Salazar and Don Joaquin Almada are independent of the Company, to our satisfaction. Said claims measure 175 feet in total.^x They are located in the middle of Don Hipolito Cervantes' claim, which is located to the west, and of Don Ramon Mendivil and Silaya's to the east, said gentlemen being neighbors in both directions. In addition, we agree to not tear down the stake that separates us on the east from Mendivil and Silaya through the last day of August 1871. If, before this date, anyone wishes to remove the stake, that person will have to pay costs and damages related to said stake. Half of all its length belongs to Don J. Almada and F. Salazar on the west and the other half, on the east, to Messrs. Mendivil and Silaya. Signed at Coso Mineral, County of Inyo, State of California, January 15, 1871.

Joaquin Almada

Santos Salazar

Ramon Mendibil

Ysiderio Cilaya My Mark +

Recorder

F.L. Romero

Number 5 (Santa Rita Mine)

The claims of R. Mendivil and Y. Cilaya remain independent in their totality. Said claims represent 140 feet in total, bordering on the west with Messrs. Almada and Salazar and on the east with an area without stakes, totaling 100 feet. By the Santa Rita Company, Coso Mining, County of Inyo, State of California, January 18, 1871.

Recorder

F. L. Romero

I hereby affirm that I, Facundo Salazar, have sold to Don Desiderio Selalla all my shares and (Illegible: claims?) in the Santa Rita Mine and its continuation, as well as those of my brother Santos, with my mining [Illegible] and tools, totaling one hundred and fifty pesos which I have received to my satisfaction. My uncle Don Mariano P. Serrano is my witness. Coso, May 2, 1872.

Facundo Salazar

Witness

M.P. Serrano

[Notebook Page 23 and top of Notebook Page 24]

In the Coso Mining District, County of Inyo, State of California on the 7th day of November, Eighteen Seventy-Two, we the undersigned partners in the Santa Rita Mine and its continuation, gather for the purpose of naming a recorder. We have not had one since Francisco [Illegible], who held this position, left this Mining District. Understanding that it is necessary to name someone to replace him to record the transfers that frequently take place, as well as also attest to and determine any [Illegible] in conformity with its regulations and the laws of the United States of the North, to which we remain subject and which we will respect in all aspects and dispositions, and being aware of the virtues of Don Ramon Mendibil, and his ability to read and write, we have named him Recorder of this Mineral District. We also authorize him to determine to judge any differences that may arise [Illegible] among other neighbors due to damages, debts, and offenses of any type, attempting always to establish peace and harmony. Thus we agree and sign [Illegible].

Mariano P. Serrano
Ramon Mendibil

Ypolito Servantes +
Deciderio Selaya +
Felix Selaya +

[Notebook Page 24]

In Coso Mining, County of Inyo, State of California, before me, appointed Recorder Ramon Mendibil, appeared Don Mariano P. Serrano attesting that he bought from Don Joaquin Lopez one hundred feet of mine [Illegible: designated?] the prior continuation, and he requested a determination [Illegible] of the transfer that, in due form, Don Serrano presented, in Cerro Gordo. On this 14th day of August 1872, and in the presence of the other members who agreed that this is sufficient and legal, I sign as witness.

Ramon Mendibil

[Notebook Page 210]

I hereby transfer my property in the Coso Mining District to Don Hipolito Cervantes. Said property consists of one house and one fenced plot planted as an orchard and a garden, and one half of the water from the spring that I hold with Don Ramon Mendivil. This is the entire agreement. Coso, September 12, 1871.

Francisco L. Romero (Recorder)

(Permission) Granted said property by Teodocio Cilaya to Don Felix Cilaya, under oath in accordance with the laws of the U.S., State of California, County of Inyo, Coso precinct. There is no heir to my possessions in the camp and the brand drawn on the margin [drawn on the original] other than said Mr. Felix Cilaya. Before the witness and the Recorder of this Coso precinct, today April 29, 1871.

Teodocio Cilaya My Mark +

Witnesses

F. L. Romero, Recorder and provisional judge

Jesus Gonzales My Mark +

Rafael Rodriguez My Mark +

Antonio Salgado

Juan Jose Salgado

Ramon Mendibil

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- i An *acta* can be an article, record, certificate, etc. Based on language in a local newspaper article from the period that references incorporation of mines, I have chosen “articles” as the closest reflection of the document.
 - ii Corso Mining District: Sic. The correct name is the Coso Mining District, as seen in the subsequent documents.
 - iii An *impuesto* can be a tax, a fee, a duty, etc. Based on language in a local newspaper article from the period that references fees due upon incorporation of mines, and another that references that County officers collect property/poll/license taxes, I have chosen “fee” as the closest reflection of the document.
 - iv There is a distinction in these documents between *clemar/clemada* and *chompear/chompeada*. *Clema* in its various forms is the English word “claim,” written as it might be pronounced in Spanish. Similarly, *chompear* in its various forms sounds like “jump” as in “jumping a claim.” However, in light of the veins that are “jumped” and also registered, and the fact that in one of the documents a mine is both *clemada* and *chompeada* by virtue of the original *cleme* having been abandoned, and in another, a mine is subject to the third claim, it seems that *chompear*/jump means in this context to register a claim subsequent to the original claim’s being abandoned by the original owner. Since *clema* is most often used in these documents, I have used the same word *claimed* in both circumstances but have placed *chompear* in parentheses so the reader can get a more nuanced idea of the transaction.
 - v Here we find an unanswerable question: Until this entry, Juan Miguel Rojas has exquisite handwriting. In this entry and the next, the text is almost undecipherable, especially the names. Subsequently, other persons served as Recorder, although he still appears in the claims. One must wonder what happened!
 - vi *Abenturera*: Sic. Most likely Aventurera.
 - vii *Ganado mayor* can be large animals such as cattle, horses, and mules. *Ganado menor* can be smaller animals such as sheep, pigs, and goats.
 - viii *Dicierto* is possibly *Desierto* (“Desert”)
 - ix Illegible *Exedo* or *Escedo* might be from the English *to cede*. Regardless, the meaning is clear that the owner is ceding or granting the right to the property.
 - x There is a word in this page that is spelled *maza*, which implies “marked,” but could be a misspelling of *masa*, which implies “in its totality.” On the following page, the same word and implication is spelled *masa*. I have selected *masa* as the same word in both, but should it be *maza*, the sentence would read *Said claims are marked and measure 175 feet*.