DATE: April 18, 1986                DONOR: Earl Elam

FILE ENTRY: Elam, Earl

TITLE: LA JUNTA CHURCH RECORDS [1775-1857]

SPECIAL NOTES:

DESCRIPTION:

QUANTITY:

ITEMS      LEAVES:  TOTAL

bound      unbound          leaves  836  single  836  836
leaves     leaves

CONTENT:

ARRANGEMENT:

RECORDS, [1775-1857] (836 leaves)

Inventoried By
Michelle Rogers

Approved By:
Kenneth Perry

FORM B  Typed By: Michelle Rogers
COLLECTION SUMMARY

of the

LA JUNTA CHURCH RECORDS,[1775-1857]

The La Junta Church Records consist of photographic copies of records in the Roman Catholic Church in Ojinaga, El Templo de Nuestro Padre Jesus Nazoreno. The copies were secured by Colonel Russell Gardinier in 1973 while working with Professor Earl Elam of Sul Ross State University. Professor Elam donated them to the Archives of the Big Bend on December 9, 1981.

The records deal with the small communities surrounding the Concho River and the Rio Grande, particularly the area which is Ojinaga today. In 1714, their land having been visited by Spaniards several times in former years, the natives of that area asked for missionaries. The following year the Franciscan priests, Gregorio Osorio and Juan Antonio Garcia went to the region to begin the work of conversion. Five friars soon joined them, and they founded six missions, including eleven pueblos or towns. The largest of the towns was first called Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe. In 1716, it reputedly had a church, a priest, an Indian governor, a large plaza, and approximately 550 people. With time the name Guadalupe passed from existence, and the town was known by variants of the name Presidio del Norte. As such it retained its identity through a further change of name to Ojinaga, today the largest town in the vicinity. For about ten years, all went well until the Indians became dissatisfied at the government's neglect to accede to their petitions regarding irrigation works. Finally, they revolted, causing the friars to retire in 1725. For the most part the Spaniards abandoned the area until twenty-five years later when serious attention was given to the establishment of a presidio.

The records of this collection begin two years after the final establishment of that presidio in the Ojinaga area. If there were records of the earlier mission period, they have not survived. Evidently, the large influx of Spanish soldiers prompted church authorities to keep better vital statistics. Although the latest document was produced in 1857, the bulk of the documentation ends in 1844.

The records themselves are mainly baptismal records and requests by soldiers to marry local women. Most of the documents deal with persons who were somehow connected with the presidio. Many of the soldiers were blacks or pardos who married local Indian women. Officers often brought their Spanish wives with them and likewise sired criollo children. These documents should prove to be valuable resources for the demographic history of the region, especially as regards miscegenation.

by: Michael F. Fry
Archivist
April 3, 1986
LA JUNTA CHURCH RECORDS, [1775-1857] (836 leaves)

Box #1

RECORDS [1775-1857] (836 leaves)

The documents that are contained in the La Junta Church Records are mainly baptismal records and marriage records. The records involve most of the people in the surrounding towns of the Ojinaga, Mexico area. A majority of the marriage requests were done by soldiers who wanted to marry the local women.

Folder #1 Baptismal Records, [1775-1779] (81 leaves)

Folder #2 Marriage Documentation, [1785-1794] (41 leaves)

Folder #3 Baptismal Records, [1792-1853] (33 leaves)
(fold has an English translation and extraction)

Of the three folders above, those of the colonial period pertain to the chapel of the presidio, and those of the national period to the parish itself.

Folder #4 Baptismal Records, [1792-1853] (80 leaves)

Folder #5 Baptismal Records, [1792-1853] (74 leaves)
(Folder has an English translation and extraction)

Folder #6 Inventory of the Parish, [1857] (3 leaves)

Folder #7 Baptismal Records, [1780] (2 leaves)
(This folder has an English translation and extraction)

In the four folders above, some Baptismal Records mention ethnicity, i.e., mulato, mestizo, espanol, etc.

Folder #8 Marriage Documentation, [1842-1854] (94 leaves)

Box #2

Folder #9 Marriage Documentation, [1798-1854] (101 leaves)

Folder #10 Marriage Documentation, [1795-1825] (108 leaves)

Folder #11 Baptismal Records, [1807-1841] (68 leaves)

Folder #12 Baptismal Records, [1812-1831] (96 leaves)

Folder #13 Baptismal Records, [1812-1831] (55 leaves)
Analysis Sheet

La Junta Church Records
[1775-1857]

Donor Earl Elam

Donation Date December 9, 1981

Reference File:
Biographical Data Sheet No
Summary Sheet Yes
Microfilmed No

Oral History Interviews:
None

Type of Material:

Records [1775-1857]

Identification: See Collection Summary

Related Material: La Junta Presidio Collection [1757-1789]

Principal Subjects:
Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico
Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe
Blacks
Indians
Presidio del Norte
Marriage
Baptismal Records

Number linear feet 1.5
Number of items 836 leaves

Catalogued:
Date April 2, 1986
By Michelle Rogers

Evaluation:
The papers contained in the La Junta Church Records concern the area around Ojinaga, Mexico, and they are mainly baptismal records and requests by soldiers to marry the local women.

By Michelle Rogers
Date April 2, 1986