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HISTORY OF EL CAPOTE RANCH

by Duncan Glenn Muckelroy

The history of El Capote Ranch is rich in source materials. This paper utilizes only several of the numerous research documents that contain the recorded history of El Capote Ranch. It is not probable that the Ranch Headquarters of The Museum of Texas Tech University at Lubbock, Texas, could have selected a log cabin with more historical significance and more available research materials that the headquarters of El Capote Ranch.

Jose de la Baume acquired the first concession to the land of El Capote Ranch from the Mexican government on November 4, 1828.¹ This special grant was practically a gift from the Mexican government. The only official explanation for giving this six leagues of land to de la Baume was that ". . . de la Baume had lived in Bejar since 1806 and had been promised land." This six leagues of land laid within the limits of the empresario grant that originally had been made to Green C. DeWitt on April 25, 1825.²

Jose de la Baume was born in 1731 in the Seignory of Baume, Province of Avignon in Montpellier, France.³ He inherited the title of "Count" from his father Joseph, along with an estate of land and property.⁴ De la Baume immigrated to America at some time prior to the acquisition of independence by the United States. It is known that he fought in the American Revolution, because in his will he states, "I have filed a claim against the Supreme Government of the United States of America asking for the pension awarded to those who fought in the War for Independence, since I was captain of a company which fought for the cause of America in the glorious struggle against Britannia power."⁵ After his first wife died, de la Baume married Luisa Cutrie at Nacogdoches, Texas. De la Baume reared as his own son, a child named Valerio. This child previously had been born out of wedlock to his second wife and a third party. His second marriage produced four children named Victoria, Joseph, Gertrudis and Sancir Pedro.⁶

At the time of his death in 1834,⁷ de la Baume listed his residence to be in the Alameda of San Antonio, Texas.⁸ His homestead in San Antonio, known as "La Baume Place," was a "double stone house." It was situated on the present-day grounds of city park property, south of East Commerce Street and across the street from present-day St. Joseph's Church. During the life of de la Baume, this area was called "Cotton Wood Grove."⁹

In his will of 1834, de la Baume declared that the lands of El Capote were to be divided among the five children. He stressed that Valerio was to inherit a share equal to that of the remainder of his children, without prejudice to a preferred share of one sitio of land partitioned to Sancir Pedro. De la Baume also stated that the inheritance of the lands at El Capote should not be divided and distributed until after all his debts and funeral expenses were paid and settled.¹⁰ The signatures of the witnesses of this will included John W. Smith and Erasmo Seguin.¹¹ This is important because John W. Smith was the first anglo mayor of San Antonio in 1837,¹² and the town of Seguin was named after Erasmo Seguin who also was distinguished since he was one of the most influential people during the pre-revolutionary period of Texas.¹³

Victoria inherited one league of El Capote land from her father, and she purchased a second league, the preferred share, from her brother Sancir Pedro as recorded in a deed

Duncan Glenn Muckelroy, formerly research historial at the Museum of Texas Tech University when this article was written, is presently serving as the Historic Preservation Coordinator for the Texas State Historical Survey Committee in Austin.

dated June 4, 1835. In a deed dated January 24, 1850, Victoria conveyed her ownership of these two leagues and Gertrudis conveyed her ownership of the one league that she had inherited to Michael Erskine.¹⁴ In a deed dated June 1, 1844, Joseph conveyed his ownership of the one league that he had inherited to Michael Erskine.¹⁵ Thus, Valerio inherited two leagues of the six leagues of El Capote.

In the document dated June 25, 1832, that deeded the six leagues from the Government of the State of Coahuila and Texas to Jose de la Baume, Jose obligated himself to pay \$206.00 to the state of Coahuila and Texas in accordance with article 22 of the law of colonization. This obligation passed to the Republic of Texas after the Texas Revolution. Although Jose apparently paid the taxes, if any, that were levied on the six leagues of El Capote, he did not pay any part of the \$206.00.¹⁶ After Jose's death, Valerio did not pay the taxes levied on his two sections, nor did he pay his part of the \$206.00.¹⁷ While Victoria, Joseph, Gertrudis, and Sancier Pedro paid the taxes levied on their respective parts of the other four leagues, none of them paid their part of the \$206.00. Since this obligation was not fulfilled by Jose or his children, the Republic of Texas sold the land at auction in 1844 to the highest bidder who also would pay the \$206.00¹⁸ plus the accumulated taxes on the two leagues owned by Valerio which totaled to be \$25.86.¹⁹

John P. Erskine was the highest bidder when the six leagues of land was sold at auction.²⁰ John P. was the son of Michael Erskine. In fact, John P. was acting under the instructions of his father who financed the purchase. Michael paid Joseph \$400.00 for his league of El Capote.²¹ Victoria and Gertrudis were paid a total of \$750.00 for their respective holdings of three leagues at El Capote, and, in addition, Michael deeded to them the "Cotton Wood Grove" property of twelve acres and the house on the property.²² For the two leagues of Valerio, Michael paid \$800.00.²³

In a deed of release dated February 8, 1845, Michael Erskine also acquired all of the improvements that French Smith had made at El Capote. This document is very important because it indicates that French Smith built the log cabin which is presently at the Ranch Headquarters in Lubbock. The deed reads in part, "put him [Michael Erskine] into full and free possession of all my [French Smith] improvements made upon the same [El Capote] in every manner whatsoever together with the houses, out houses, cribs, stables, cow pens . . ."²⁴

French Smith is one of the many colorful and significant characters in the history of El Capote. In 1840, he was one of the volunteers who attempted to rescue three ladies held captive by raiding Comanche Indians. About 500 Comanches had made a raid through Texas and had burned the town of Linnville, Texas, a trading point on the coast of Lavaca Bay. Mrs. Crosby, Mrs. Watts, and a black girl were captured. Men rallied from the surrounding areas to fight the marauding Comanches, and a battle was fought at Plum Creek, now in Caldwell County. At the outbreak of the fight, the Indians attempted to kill their three lady prisoners. Although Mrs. Crosby was shot with an arrow in the breast and soon expired, her husband was able to comfort her in her dying moments. Nearby laid the body of the black lady who also had been killed. Mrs. Watts also was shot with an arrow in the breast, but ironically the arrow was deflected by a steel corset that she was wearing. The inflicted wound proved to be extremely painful, but not fatal.²⁵

Along with John P. Erskine and Andrew Erskine (a brother of John P.), French Smith participated in the Battle of Salado. On September 11, 1842, the Mexicans under General Adrian Woll captured San Antonio in a surprise attack. This news traveled swiftly from settlement to settlement, and once again Texans were called to arms to repel a Mexican invasion. Seguin became one of the principal points of rendezvous. On the

following morning, the volunteers rode toward victory, and defeated the Mexican forces when they encountered them on the Salado Creek six miles east of San Antonio on September 18, 1842.²⁶

One aspect of French Smith's personality was revealed in an incident which occurred in September, 1846. At that time, the first term of the District Court was held in Seguin. French Smith was among the members of the first grand jury. The first bill was the *State v. William Baker*. Baker was found guilty of the theft of a hair brush, as charged. His sentence was to be whipped publicly in the county square. This sentence was only partly carried out, however, because French Smith picked up a rock and told the man who was administering the whipping to desist after about five licks were delivered.²⁷

A substantial portion of the history of El Capote Ranch is connected with the history of the family of Michael Erskine. Michael's grandfather, Henry, and grandmother, Jean Thompson, immigrated to America from Scotland in 1740. A son named Michael was born in 1752 in Maryland. It was this son that married Margaret Pauline, the widow of Captain John Paulee, and fathered the Michael Erskine who owned El Capote Ranch. Michael's mother, Margaret, was captured by the Shawnee Indians and held captive nearly four years before the Indians would accept a ransom for her. At the time of her capture in September, 1779, Captain John Paulee was murdered by the Shawnee. Not long after Margaret was freed, she married Michael's father.²⁸ Michael was born near Union, in present West Virginia, on January 9, 1794,²⁹ the last of the five children born of that marriage. He had three brothers and one sister.

In 1817, Michael married Agnes D. Haynes in Monroe County, Virginia.³⁰ Five sons and five daughters were born during that marriage. Catherine Haynes was born in 1817; John Paulee, 1819; William Haynes, 1822; Margaret Jane, 1824; Andrew Nelson, 1826; Elen Powel, 1828; Malinda Mary, 1829; Alexander Mahism, 1831; Michael Henry, 1834; Agness Ann, 1839.³¹ Michael's wife was born on April 2, 1797, and died at El Capote on September 5, 1856.

In 1830, Michael and his family moved to Huntsville, Alabama where he engaged in farming for the next four years. Then, the Erskine family farmed at Bolivar and Clinton, Mississippi for an additional four years. The Erskine family, with the exception of the three older daughters, settled on Arenosa Creek in Texas about ten miles west of Port Lavaca in 1839. Catherine, Margaret, and Elen were left at Huntsville, Alabama, with Michael's brother, Dr. Alexander Erskine, to continue their education.

While living next to Arenosa Creek, an alarm was sounded on August 6, 1840, that resulted in the gathering of five black men and a number of the Erskine's neighbors at the Erskine place for protection against a Comanche raiding party. During that period, Comanches numbering as many as 1,000 frequently raided in that area. The Comanches usually raided as far to the southeast as Linnville, Texas, which they sacked and burned on this raid on August 9. The Erskine house was surrounded by a scouting party of twenty-seven Comanches. While the Indians were attacking the Erskine house, a young doctor named Bell rode into view of the battle. In Bell's desire to assist the besieged, he tried to reach the house by running the gauntlet through the savages. To the horror of those watching inside, he was surrounded, killed and scalped. After the scalping of Dr. Bell the Indians seemed satisfied, and left to join the main body on their way to Linnville.

In the fall of 1840, the Erskine family moved from Arenosa Creek in Jackson County to El Capote Ranch in Gonzales County.³² Approximately one-half of El Capote Ranch became located in Guadalupe County when this county was created in March of 1846.³³ The bottom lands of the Guadalupe on El Capote Ranch were usually from two to four

miles wide. These bottom lands were less subject to overflow than those of any other large river in Texas. Timber was abundant in the river bottom. Most of the timber was large and very valuable, especially in many of the nearby areas where timber of any kind was scarce. In February of 1852, Frederick Law Olmstead wrote that the principal species were pecan, hickory, cypress, cotton wood, box-alder, white oak, and walnut.³⁴ The axe hewn logs of the one room log cabin now at the Ranch Headquarters in Lubbock were shaped from elm trees.³⁵ Although El Capote was a ranch, a portion of its best bottom land was cultivated. The land farmed was located in the flat bottom prairie just beyond the heavy growth of timber near the river. The rich, black clay soil was difficult to work, but it produced high yields.³⁶ Where the bottom prairie ended, the land rose abruptly and a variety of soil and scenery emerged. For the most part, the land became rolling prairie, with some chapparal and groves of live-oaks near the terrace. In elevated tracks, sandy hills were located further away from the river. This rolling sandy soil was comparatively poor and covered by a thin growth of post-oaks and black-jacks.³⁷ El Capote Ranch derived its name from El Capote Spring and El Capote Peak that were near El Capote Ranch Headquarters.

Invaluable descriptions of the area of El Capote in 1843 and 1846 are provided by William Bollaert and Dr. Ferdinand Roemer. William Bollaert was a historian, world traveler, geographer, ethnologist, antiquarian, and scientist. At the age of thirty-three, Bollaert came to Texas in 1840 to examine the interior and coastline of the Republic of Texas for the British Admiralty. In addition to his admiralty reports he wrote 1,274 personal pages of *Texana*.³⁸ Dr. Ferdinand von Roemer received his Ph.D. degree in Paleontology at Berlin, and came to Texas at the age of thirty-four. From November, 1845, until May, 1847, Roemer explored East and Central Texas. His resulting journal concentrated on his studies of the fauna and flora, and the geology of his travels. Being German, Roemer also wrote extensively of the German immigrants he encountered.³⁹

The following section of quoted descriptions was taken from the writings of William Bollaert.

"September 15th, 1843: Ten miles travelling brought us to Gonzales. It is situated on the eastern bank of the Guadalupe River and an excellent position it is for a town. This part of the country formerly formed part of De Witt's Colony. Mr. De Witt is dead, but his family resides in the vicinity.

In 1835, 2nd of October, there was a flight here under Captain [John H.] Moore, who commanded the Texans—the Mexicans were under General Castonada [Francisco Castaneda] the Mexicans had to retreat. Previous to the commencement of the war, the Mexicans had furnished frontier, towns, in particular, with artillery. But afterwards they wished to take such arms from the settlers. Ugartechea, the Mexican General, who had his headquarters at San Antonio, sent 200 men to Gonzales to return the artillery. They encamped on the western bank of the river and sent orders to Captain Moore, who had only some twenty men, to deliver up the cannon. His reply was "Come and take it." For a week or more General Castonada diplomatized, but receiving a few rounds of grape and cannister from the Texans, returned to San Antonio, reporting to his superiors "that it was utterly impossible to carry his orders into effect."

Gonzales was burnt by order of General Houston on his retreat in 1836, with a view to prevent Santana [sic] taking up quarters or finding refuge there; it has been partially re-built and only awaits peace to rise like the Phoenix from its ashes. Situated on so beautiful a stream, probably navigable to this place by small steamboats, surrounded by so inviting a country and on the main road to

the West and Rio Grande, with such advantages, Gonzales will become an important point.

On the map Seguin is placed too near Gonzales and ought to be placed as if at the apex of a triangle, the distance of Seguin from Gonzales being 35 miles and from San Antonio, 34. Gonzales was founded in 1827 [1825] and named after a Mexican General [Rafael Gonzales], was incorporated under the Mexican regime and consists of four leagues, laid off as town land, divided in blocks etc. and contained some 4 to 500 inhabitants. The corporation, I am informed, are willing to make donation of a certain quantity of town land to merchants, artizans, mechanics, and enterprising people who might choose to settle here. Or town lots may be purchased for the corporation payable at the convenience of the purchaser. In many other places in the Republic, the same, I have no doubt, would be done.

September 16th, 1843: We started, rather a large party, from Gonzales for San Antonio, for still some fear is entertained of Comanches lurking about, particularly in the vicinity of San Antonio. Our party was composed of Old Texas warriors, hunters, traders, etc. Three miles from Gonzales, came to the San Marcos. This river and the lands on the upper part of the river are spoken of by those who have visited that part of the country with raptures. The road up the bank at the point where we forded without much difficulty was at a gradient of about 80°. Many of us had not seen a clear stream for some time, and we enjoyed copious draughts of it. We rode liesurely along. The weather was fine. Many plants in flower and the pastures improving.

I may mention here that capsicum or Red Pepper grows abundantly in Texas, particularly an indigenous sort called Chiltipin and is found in great quantities. It is about the size of a pea, of colours red and green. When dried it makes a very hot cayenne pepper, and when put into vinegar, gives it a fine flavour; there is a river named after this plant on the coast.

It was after the sun set before we crossed the Guadalupe at the part known as the Capote, the settlement of Major E._____ [Erskine]; we found many travellers going to and from the West already "camped down," their fires gently blazing, the coffee pot on, and venison roasting. Mr. L._____, myself and some of our party were accomodated by Major E._____ for the night.

September 17th, 1843: Strolled about the banks of the "Murmuring Guadalupe," its stream clear, the flowers and vegetation new to me and the gaudy "Cardinal" flitting about. The Capote Mountain is a conspicuous object, being isolated and elevated above the prairie 350 feet, and said to be composed of indurated silicious matter; it is covered with small timbers. Traveling some 10 miles up the Guadalupe we re-crossed it, it being nearer to do so than continue on its western bank owing to a bend in the river; and a short distance below Seguin "non'd" and had dinner under the shade of some trees that surrounded a farm. They supplied plentifully with milk, buttermilk, and on our asking if they could bake us some cornbread, a very pretty lass undertook to supply our wants. Caught cat-fish, trout, and buffalo fish in Guadalupe. One mile from our resting place crossed the river again at "The falls."

Now we fell in with fine pastures, particularly the musquit and gama grasses, and tree of same name (a species of acacia or mimosa), a plant looking like clover, moreover a cactus-the opuntia, I think.⁴⁰

The next section of quoted observations was selected from the journal of Dr. Ferdinand von Roemer.

We did not reach Gonzales in the evening, but camped a few miles this side [east] of it in an oak grove. Before reaching this grove, we had to ford Peach Creek which contained scarcely enough water to wet our feet, but which like most streams of Texas, sometimes rises twenty to thirty feet and disrupts communication for several days. On the following morning we reached Gonzales which resembles other so-called cities of West Texas. About thirty to forty poor, dilapidated frame houses and log cabins were scattered about on the level plain. Not far distant, a seam of forest extended along the rim of the Guadalupe bottom. The resources of the place seemed to be in keeping with its cheerless aspect. No sugar, coffee, or other necessities could be bought in the entire place—nothing but bad whiskey.

Spring, by the way, had already made its appearance. The peach trees were in full bloom on the day of our arrival, February 2, 1846. In the bottom of the creek we found a suffrutescent variety of chestnut in bloom.

After leaving Gonzales, we followed the course of the Guadalupe until we reached our destination, New Braunfels, the road leading us in agreeable changes through fertile valleys or over low hills composed of gravel and sand. The country was more settled here, as we came upon farms every few miles.

We were ferried across the San Marcos a few miles beyond Gonzales, which is here a narrow, sluggish, muddy stream, scarcely twenty paces wide. Later we learned to know it again in its upper course as a beautiful, rapidly flowing stream of incomparable clearness.

We now came to the farm of Mr. King, an old gentleman with a huge paunch (by the way, in Texas a rather rare attribute). He had come here as one of the first settlers and in the course of years had developed his place into a thriving farm. When immigration into Western Texas had increased rapidly, especially among the Germans, he had found further profitable income by maintaining an inn, which does not require a great outlay of money. All that is needed are a few beds for the guests. Almost any farmhouse could serve as an inn. When the guest arrives in the evening, usually on horseback, his horse is immediately unsaddled by negroes, or, in the absence of them, by the traveler himself with the aid of the host. Thereupon he enters the hall where a bucket of water, a gourd used as a dipper, and tin basin are found. After washing face and hands, the traveler seats himself on a rather uncomfortable chair, with a seat made of calfskin stretched tight across it, and chats with the host about politics or the crops. In the meantime supper is being served in the living room. In some houses, the host asks his guests in a sly manner to follow him into an adjoining room, and here offers them a drink of whiskey or cognac diluted with water and with sugar added, in order to stimulate the appetite.

Supper consists of tea or coffee, warm cornbread and fried bacon. These articles of food are always found, but in the better inns bisquits are served hot in addition to eggs, butter, honey, and canned fruits. The hostess, or at least some feminine member of the family sits at one end of the table and serves the tea. This is done in the most dignified and solemn manner. The cups are passed in silence, and later repassed in the same manner to be refilled. No sound is uttered by her except the necessary question, asked in a quiet, indifferent tone of voice: "You take tea or coffee, sir?" "Do you take milk or sugar in your coffee?" In the explanation of the latter question, I wish to remark that the milk and sugar are added to the tea or coffee by the hostess serving it.

The host urges his guests now and then to partake of this or that food, but a

conversation on his part does not take place during the meal. In eight to ten minutes the whole "operation" of eating is finished and the guests assemble on the porch for an hour, in order to enjoy the cool breezes and to chat before retiring. The sleeping quarters are usually confined to one room where two or three beds are found. Each guest selects his bed and if there is not a sufficient number to go around, the guests must share beds. On the following morning breakfast is served. It is a duplication of supper in every detail, as far as the food is concerned. The journey is then resumed immediately after breakfast.

A lodging of this kind, including corn and fodder for the horses, can be had for \$1.00 to \$1.25.

Considering that everything eaten by man and beast is raised on the farm, with the exception of sugar and coffee, it is apparent that such a business is profitable. All cities and hamlets also have hotels which offer more conveniences at a higher cost.

Mr. King's farm was situated conveniently as well as pleasantly. The house, with its many small outhouses, stood on a hill. Lying in front of it was a small cornfield, forty acres in area, enclosed by a strong fence extending to the bottom of the Guadalupe. Another fence enclosed a thirty-acre pasture, also extending to the forested bank of the river.

His farm contained, in addition to this, eight acres of untilled, unfenced land. His chief source of income was his corn crop; but the raising of hogs, sheep and cattle added to his revenue.

Mr. King did not own slaves, but cultivated his farm with the help of his sons and hired white laborers or slaves. He was trying to sell his farm for \$3,000 in order to buy several slaves and establish a new farm elsewhere. The wish to possess slaves is inherent in all Texas farmers who do their own work, since the profitable cultivation of cotton and sugar cane can be carried on only with slave labor. The social standing of a slave-owning planter is also quite different from that of the farmer who has to till his own soil by the sweat of his brow.

It rained very hard the entire night. When, in the morning we had traveled a mile, a little insignificant creek kept us from proceeding farther, as it was swollen so badly that we could not ford it with the wagons. We were obliged to return to Mr. King's house to wait until the water had receded.

During our extended stay, the young people in the home of Mr. King made us all manner of offers for bartering. One wanted to trade or sell a horse; the other who was soon to be married, wanted to trade a good cow and calf for a black frock coat; a third wanted my saddle with which he had fallen in love, and offered me a much better one in trade, according to his opinion. Boys from eight to ten years participated in the bartering with articles of small value and showed a shrewdness seldom found in boys of the same age in Germany. Trading and bartering are more common in Texas than in any other part of the United States. A Texan is ready at any moment, even while traveling, to trade or sell anything he wears, whether it be his coat or shirt, if he can make an advantageous trade. He expects this from anyone else. He had no conception of becoming attached to an article through constant use and is greatly surprised when a German does not care to part with an article, even if offered a price greater than its worth.

At noon on the following day the water of this brook had fallen sufficiently to allow us to continue our journey. The road led us in pleasant changes through small prairies and forests, with the valley, bordered by a chain of hills, to the

right of us and the bottom of the Guadalupe to the left.

The following day brought us safely to our destination. By getting an early start, we arrived at the hamlet Seguin in the afternoon. The houses of this place were half ridden beneath the live oaks, scattered about. Only about a dozen could be seen from the road and they resembled the houses we had seen in other places mentioned.⁴¹

This writer has not been able to determine much of the history of Michael and his wife, Agnes, while they lived at El Capote. In a letter written by Alexander M. Erskine from Lewisburg, Virginia, dated April, 1826, to his brother Andrew Nelson Erskine at El Capote, Alexander asked, "I want you to tell me whether father is making any sugar or not; and I want to know whether father has moved into that new house which was nearly done when sister Elen wrote?"⁴² On June 6, 1845, Michael Erskine wrote a letter at El Capote to his brother Doctor Alexander Erskine in Huntsville, Alabama. This is the only letter written by Michael that his researcher has been able to locate. In part, Michael said, "on the 31st Mr. Miller and Margaret left for home—John went with him, intending to go as far as Houston, but today he returned and informs me that he left them at La Grange where they would take the stage . . . I move along here as well as I can—work hard, live poor and am respected by the poor chaps. There are but few rich people in this part of the country. And no claims to be superior to another on account of his wealth . . . Andrew talks of going to Austin to study surveying with a friend of his who has given him an invitation—My advice is for him to remain at Seguin, at school, for a little while. He will leave here in a few days for Austin to see his friend Mr. Hector who has lately taken to himself a help mate. As I have but little time to spare—I will come to the point where you ask about Blood stock. How to advise you I know not. If I had have had Blood stock here a few years ago, I could have traded them well for land, and might been now do pretty well with them. But would not advise you to involve yourself in sending them here as they might turn out badly, or not to your expectation—choice lands in this part of Texas is not a drug and they are really worth more than is generally supposed. If you can send your stock, or a part of them to me we, I mean, John, Andrew and myself will make a trade for you. It may turn out to be a bad one—at all events you cannot lose much, because you can not sell Blood stock when you deal for cash."⁴³

In another letter written by Alexander M. Erskine from Lewisburg, Virginia, dated August, 1846, to his brother Andrews N. Erskine at El Capote, Alexander wrote, "I was glad to hear that you were all well and that you and brother John did not join the army. I was very glad to hear that mother's health was as good as usual and I hope the trip to Sewilow (or Cibolo as you call it) will improve it. I was very glad to hear that all the crops were promising but I was sorry to hear that you would not be able to save the oats." An additional comment of interest in this letter reads, "and tell him [Michael] also that Mr. Samuel Paris was here the other day and told me the next time I wrote home to tell Father I saw him and that he sent his best respects to him. He said he will be out there pretty soon to look at the country and if he likes it he will go there to live and if he don't [sic] he will do like many others do; that is stay away."⁴⁴ The reference Alexander made to his mother's health proved to be ironic, because when his letter was received at El Capote on October 1, 1846, his mother had been dead since September 5, 1846.⁴⁵

From the time of the death of Michael's wife, this writer has not been able to learn much of the history of Michael, until he left on a cattle drive from El Capote to California. Much of the information pertaining to Michael during this period between 1846 and 1854 was found in an agreement of partnership entered into by Michael and his son John P. This agreement of partnership was dated October 28, 1847. Since most of the information in this document is extremely valuable, the following quotations were taken from this document.

Both of the county of Guadalupe and State of Texas and living at the Capote farm . . . agree that this stock of cattle (all except work oxen which was to be the separate property of the said Michael) should be put into partnership . . . share and share alike. The said John to superintend the management of the farm. The said Michael to have the use of any cows he may wish for milk and butter . . . The partnership to continue for five years from the 1st day of January, 1847. At the expiration of which time all stock then on hand to be equally divided between the said Michael and John. The said Michael has an equal right with the said John to sell or otherwise dispose of any portion of said stock of cattle and purchase sheep with the funds the sheep are to be held in the same way as the cattle . . . John shall take the management of . . . his present stock of horses and mules. Also the farming tools, wagons, etc. Also all of said Michael's stock of hogs. The said Michael agrees with the said John that he the said John shall have the one third part of all the crops raised on said farm. And also the one third part of all the stock of hogs after a support of the said Michael's family, both white and black. And a support of the stock of the premises. . . this partnership shall continue for four years from the 1st day of January next (1848) at the end of which time a division is to take place of the stock of hogs and the crop on hand . . .

Should the Negroes belonging to Doctor Alexander Erskine be taken out of the possession of the said Michael Erskine, then the said John has the right to terminate and put a stop to this partnership or to continue it with the Negroes which the said Michael now owner . . .

Should the said Michael Erskine be disposed of the Capote place by the La Baume's who are now contending for it; the said John has a right to put an end to the partnership or continue it. . .

John D. Anderson and his family is to live at the Capote with the said Michael and John for the next year 1848, free of expenses (except clothing) and the said Anderson is to have at least thirty acres of ground to cultivate for which he is not to pay any rent.

The said John P. Erskine is to give his undivided attention to the management of said farm stock. And the said Michael Erskine is not bound to do anything unless he may think appropriate to do so.

For the true performance of the foregoing we and each of us, bind ourselves to each other in the penalty of Ten thousand dollars . . . this 28th day of Oct. 1847. . .

Memorandum of the Negroes which are upon the Capote place agreeable to the foregoing agreement. Bill, Anthony, Peter, and Cato, Negroes belonging to Michael Erskine. Dinah and Sarah, Johnson, Vina, Fean, Mose, Louisiana, Mary, and Lise. Dinah's children, Jose and Frances, Sarah's children. Making twelve of Doctor Erskine's and four of M Erskine's.

Michael was considering leaving El Capote to travel to California in 1849. Although this writer has not been able to determine the purpose for his contemplations, it is known that Andrew was considering leaving El Capote to participate in the gold rush of '49. In a letter written by Alexander from Lewisburg, Virginia, dated March 13, 1849, to his brother Andrew at El Capote, Alexander pleads, "Brother have you really any intention of going to California in search of gold? Are you willing to hazard your life for the gain of a little shining dust? . . . already in your fancy you are a rich man, you have gold in abundance, more than you can make use of. But go to California and your glorious dream, your golden visions will dissipate like mist before the coming of the bright king of

day. But admit there is gold in abundance. You have a wife. What will you do with her? Certainly not take her with you. . . . Remain at home. . . ."46 From the information in a letter written by Alexander from Lewisburg, Virginia, dated June 16, 1849, to his brother Andrew at El Capote, it appears that Michael also was considering leaving El Capote to join the gold rush of '49. Alexander wrote, "use all your endeavors to persuade father from going to California. He is to [sic] old to undertake such a wild adventure." In this letter Alexander also wrote of a cholera epidemic in the area of El Capote. He expressed concern by writing, "I am also alarmed, because father wrote me, the cholera was at home. Anthony [presumably the Negro belonging to Michael] had it and was not expected to live. I heard that it was raging fearfully in San Antonio. Tis a dreadful disease. Its march is constantly onward, nothing can check its mad course."⁴⁷

Significant news of El Capote also is contained in a letter written by Alexander from Lewisburg, Virginia, dated November 1, 1849, to his brother Andrew at El Capote. Alexander said, "I am surprised to learn that the Indians have begun to make depredations again. I hope they will not molest you or father. It is probable they came down for the purpose of horse stealing, and having fallen upon the German colony, the inhabitants being much frightened, not accustomed to see [sic] Indians, have left their dwellings and fled precipitely, leaving the Indians a rich booty of horses and etc. I do not suppose they meditate any such invasion as the one, they attempted some seven or eight years ago since, when they burnt Linnville and pillaged other towns. They cannot muster a sufficient force now, to strike the Texans with awe. A handful of Texans would scatter them as they would a swarm of flies. The gallant Hays with his Rangers would. I am sure."⁴⁸

More news is found and questions are raised in a letter from Alexander in Lewisburg, Virginia, dated February 8, 1850, to Andrew at El Capote. Alexander wrote, "I suppose you are so much engaged with your agricultural and domestic duties that you have not much time to devote to letter writing. I am glad to hear that you have removed to the Capote, since you will be nearer to father, and will enjoy the society of our family more. You say you intend turning your attention to stock raising. Do you think it will be profitable? Where will your market be, not New Orleans? Does father still continue to raise sheep and does he experience and profit therefrom. There are many questions concerning Texas, her institutions, natural resources, productions, and principal markets, which I wish to ask but I shall leave them unasked now, and it will suffice me to know something of the Capote Farm, how many acres it contains, what improvements have been made since I was there, and what are the principal productions that are raised. I am very anxious to learn more about my home, and since you have again settled there, you are the one who can best answer my inquiries."⁴⁹

On May 6, 1850, Alexander wrote the following in a letter mailed at Buchanan, Virginia, to his brother Andrew at El Capote, "You say that father has raised not sheep? I really thought that he had; that the Capote was running with herds of sheep; and had almost thought that father's flocks were 'upon a hundred hills.' Tis a great pity he cannot engage in a business, which he thinks will be so profitable. But perhaps this imagination has drawn the juncture in too bright glowing colors. I hope your scheme will not be so much the work of imagination, but will in sober reality prove to be as lucrative as you suppose it ever to be. May it prove to be as advantageous as your fond imagination has pictured it. . . . Malinda wrote me some weeks ago that father had sold 12,000 bushels of corn at 45¢ per bushel, was it a cash sale? and when was his corn to be delivered?"⁵⁰

Evidence of agricultural experiments being conducted at El Capote is noted in a letter from Alexander in Lewisburg, Virginia, dated June 17, 1850, to Andrew at El Capote. Alexander stated, "when I arrived here I found the strawberries had not opened, and since I wished to send some seed in my letter I again deferred writing until

now. Enclosed are the seed of two large strawberries, all of which measured three and a half inches in circumference, and one of them nearly four. Aunt thinks you had better plant these seed as soon as you get them in a place which is not too warm. You might plant a part of them at any rate and make the experiment. I will send you the potatoes in the fall as soon as they become matured sufficiently to dig. We have some now, but they are not good being last year's potatoes, and if I could send them to you safe and sound, you would have to keep them through the winter as you cannot plant until next spring, by which time they would become so old they would not sprout. I have not ascertained what would be the cost of transportation on them but will do so and inform you in my next letter." This letter was badly stained, apparently with strawberry juice.⁵¹

A commentary on the wildlife at El Capote is evident in the following quotation taken from a letter written by Alexander at Lewisburg, Virginia, on November 28, 1850, to Andrew at El Capote. It reads, "ask Mike if he has slain the bear yet, which he boasted he would do so soon as he went home. But I suppose he is more profitable, though perhaps to him not so agreeably engaged, than killing bears."⁵²

From information contained in a mortgage deed, it appears that Michael mortgaged El Capote lands in order to acquire the funds needed for his cattle drive to California in 1854. In this deed, dated October 14, 1853, he mortgaged the entire 26,000 acre tract, except for 568 acres that he had mortgaged previously. The mortgage was held by Oliver Burne of Monroe County, Virginia. The mortgage was for the sum of \$18,000. Repayment of the loan was to be on a semi-annual bases from January 1, 1854, until the balance was due on January 1, 1856. Michael was obligated to make the payments to a counting house in New Orleans, Louisiana.⁵³

Fortunately, Michael meticulously kept a diary with daily entries during the cattle drive from El Capote to Los Angeles, California. The entries average about 75 to 100 words per day. The drive began in April, 1854, and ended in November, 1854. Remarkably, Michael reached California with about 1000 head of cattle, approximately the same number with which he started, as a result of "picking up" strays along the trail. While Indians posed a serious threat to the cattle throughout the drive, he did not lose as many head of cattle or men to them as did most others, because he hired for \$1,500 the protection of an armed escort under the command of Captain James J. Callahan. This escort usually numbered about twenty men. Michael relied heavily on Captain Callahan for scouting reports on water and grazing locations, as well as for armed protection. A memorandum by Michael before the daily entries begin reads as follows. "Left Sanders with the herd on Sunday the 23rd or 24th [April, 1854] first night stampeded [sic] on the Cibilo—Lost some cattle—Stampeded next night, think we lost but few—camped next night on the Silado (Seguin Crossing)—Cattle quiet—Next passed around the head of the Spring and camped 2½ miles west of San Antonio. Stayed there several days finishing our outfit, and left on Monday, the 1st of May—Traveled for three days without difficulty to Quihe—10 miles west of Casterville where on the night of the 3rd we had a tremendous storm which stampeded our cattle and all scattered. Next day, the 4th we gathered together between 7 and 8 hundred. On the night of the 4th they stampeded again—We remained at that place a week, and got all but about 60 head—37 of them were found and delivered at San Antonio and sold by Andrew. We think we will get others—entire loss in all the stamped is not more than 60 head. Some of them was lost at the Pen—Sent Mr. Callahan back to Seguin for more money, men and horses."

Michael's herd was following the herd of James G. Bell, and others, as is evident by the reference to the carcasses in the following entry. "Friday July 7th. Took our herd to water in lots of 100, 150 and 200 at a time. Watered all well and lost none. One swam across the River [Rio Grande], but we think we will get him again lost no cattle, either in the drive or by watering. Hundreds of dead carcasses are lying on the road, between the

river and Eagle Springs. We left 7 weak cattle at the springs, in charge of Lieutenant Higgins, who kindly proposed to take care of them until Mr. Jett got up the Ox Waggon—If Mr. Jett gets up with his train safe. (He has with those left of Eagle Springs 55 head) we will have accomplished what no other has done. Traveled 100 miles in 3 days with a drove of cattle of 875 head and not loose one [sic] either in driving or watering at the River. All other drovers have lost some."

One of the more interesting references of Michael that pertains to the Indian problem is as follows. "Callahan and men returned tonight—Had a fight on the 5 in the evening with a party of Indians, say near 40 killed all but nine—Took from them sixty five or six Animals most of them Cattle—It turned out to be a party that had been to the settlement in Mexico and was on their return to the Gila River—One Mexican killed—Shepperd (one of our men) slight wounded in the shoulder—four Mexicans wounded slightly Thursday 7th September."

The diary of Michael never mentions the exact number that were participating in the cattle drive, but there were probably about 20 in addition to the military escort of about 20. The names of most of the hands were listed at some time in the text of the diary. Two of Michael's sons, John and Michael Henry, traveled with him. Although Michael relied heavily on both of these sons, he probably relied most on John. John was thirty-five at the time, and Michael was twenty years old.⁵⁴

While Michael and his sons, John and Michael Henry, were away from El Capote, during the cattle drive to California, Andrew Nelson had the responsibility of operating the farm and ranch. When the Erskine family moved to El Capote in 1840, Andrew was fourteen years of age. Although there were many attractions at El Capote for Andrew, he had inherited a wanderlust from his father which constantly tempted him to seek adventures in new fields of action. At the age of seventeen Andrew joined the Texas Rangers, and while he was serving under the command of Captain Jack (J.C.) Hays, he was wounded at the Battle of Bandera Pass, Bandera County.⁵⁵ As mentioned earlier, his brother, John, was also fighting in Captain Hays' company by the time of the Battle of Salado on September 18, 1842,⁵⁶ although John did not become a Texas Ranger until 1843. During the Battle of Salado, Andrew was wounded by a ball that was never extracted from his right forearm. This wound caused him discomfort for the remainder of his life.

In the latter part of 1844, Captain Hays relinquished his command in the Rangers and resumed his profession as a land surveyor. Andrew also left the Rangers in order to serve as an assistant surveyor in the employment of Captain Hays. Andrew soon realized that his limited knowledge of math would prevent him from becoming a qualified surveyor, if he did not return to school. Consequently, Andrew returned to El Capote in the early part of 1845, and soon was enrolled in school at Seguin. Within two years, Andrew was a much sought after surveyor.

On December 27, 1847, Andrew married Ann Theresa Johnson. Her family had moved to Texas in 1836, and operated a plantation on the Brazos River near Richmond. Her father, Joseph F. Johnson served in General Sam Houston's army and fought at the Battle of San Jacinto. At the time of his marriage, John was operating El Capote because Michael was in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. At the invitation of John, Andrew and his new bride moved to El Capote and shared the responsibility with John of operating El Capote.

El Capote was a very successful operation under John's and Andrew's guidance as evident by their bumper crop of 1848. That year, their corn crop was over 12,000 bushels. This was a record crop in Southeast Texas for a farm of the size of El Capote, and it remained as the record crop for a number of years.

After the bumper corn crop of 1848, Andrew increasingly began to devote his time to surveying. With the assistance of John and the blacks, he built a house for himself on a pleasant site within half a mile of the large headquarters house at El Capote which was situated on a high bluff. It was a comfortable two-story log house and a number of out buildings were also constructed at this location. On August 10, 1849, Andrew's first child, a son named Blucher Haynes Erskine, was born. In the fall of 1849, Andrew wrote of his contentment at El Capote. He commented that the Guadalupe provided fine fishing and swimming opportunities and that there were immense groves of pecan trees and other nut bearing trees, in addition to various fruit trees and berry bushes, which provided a pleasing variety in their diet. By the fall of 1850 Andrew had moved his family to a house in Seguin that had been given to him by his father-in-law. At that time his sister, Margaret Jane, moved into the two story log house formerly occupied by Andrew's family at El Capote. Margaret's husband, James Miller, assisted Michael in operating El Capote as well as operating a tract of land he owned that adjoined El Capote on the west.

After moving to Seguin in 1850, Andrew began operating the first mill built on the Guadalupe River. The largest falls on the river, Eight-Foot Falls, were situated very close down river from the mill at a location referred to as Mill Point. Andrew also operated "Erskine's Ferry" on the San Antonio stage road. In 1852 Andrew completed a large, comfortable, two-story concrete house, which served as his family home for many years.

As mentioned earlier, Andrew was left with the complete responsibility of El Capote when Michael, John, and Michael Henry departed on the cattle drive to California. Michael did not return to El Capote until 1859, and even after this five year absence, Michael continued to leave the management of El Capote in the hands of Andrew. After Michael's return to El Capote most of his time was devoted to planning, arranging and driving cattle from El Capote to New Orleans. Although the cattle drive to California had been very prosperous for Michael, this money was invested in mining ventures that were economic failures. Trying to regain his losses in the mining ventures he drove a herd of cattle from Seguin to New Orleans in 1860, and again in 1861. While he was returning from New Orleans, after the second drive, he died at New Iberia, Louisiana, on May 15, 1862.

As the ominous threat of the outbreak of the Civil War increased, Andrew's inclination of being a participant grew proportionally. It should also be remembered that the vast majority of the friends and associates of Captain Jack Hays were ardent secessionists. When Governor Clark's proclamation was issued calling for Texas volunteers, men from Seguin and Guadalupe Counties organized Company D as a part of the Fourth Texas Regiment. Company D was destined to become one of the most distinguished in the Confederate cause. On April 30, 1862, Andrew and Alexander left with this company to fight in the Civil War. On the bloody battlefield of Sharpsburg (Antietam), Maryland, a minie ball passing through Andrew's temple brought him instant death. During this battle, Alexander was wounded, having been shot through the left arm and shot twice in the side.⁵⁷

El Capote remained the home of many of the Erskines until the property was divided and sold in the 1870's. The 26, 568 acre El Capote was inventoried and appraised in 1862. The tract in Guadalupe County was valued at \$28,780.00, and the part in Gonzales County was valued at \$9,965.00.⁵⁸ In 1872, 17,623 acres of El Capote situated in Guadalupe and Gonzales Counties was appraised at \$35,246.00.⁵⁹

After a number of complicated legal transactions between the Erskine heirs and creditors, 19,136 acres of El Capote was sold to Thomas W. Pierce, George F. Stone,

and Daniel Tyler. Those three purchasers formed an "investment syndicate" when acquiring ownership of this land in 1878. Pierce and Stone became co-owners of the 19,136 acres in January, 1878. Since Stone obligated himself to make payments within a shorter period of time than Pierce, Stone became required to pay a total of \$26,000,⁶⁰ while Pierce became obligated to pay a total of \$29,000.⁶¹ Tyler became involved in the transaction on August 23, 1878, when Stone conveyed one-third of his undivided one-half interest in the 19,136 acres to Tyler for the cash payment of \$10,000.⁶² In the following years the Erskine family eventually sold all of their El Capote lands. In December 1879, Michael Henry sold approximately 476 acres in the original El Capote tract to W. E. Goodrich for \$904.00 cash.⁶³ Alexander sold his interest in 756½ acres of El Capote property to George F. Stone in May 1882 for his share of the \$2,100.00 cash paid by Stone.⁶⁴

At the death of Daniel Tyler, his part of El Capote was divided through his will between Mary L. Moore and her sister, Edith Kermit Carow, among others.⁶⁵ On December 2, 1886, Edith Kermit Carow became the bride of Theodore Roosevelt.⁶⁶ In June of 1887, Edith K. Roosevelt conveyed all of her rights to 756½ acres of El Capote to Mary L. Moore. Theodore Roosevelt did not join his wife in this deed of conveyance.⁶⁷ However, on April 19, 1897, Edith K. Roosevelt was joined by Theodore Roosevelt in jointly conveying "all the rights, title and interest" of the 756½ acres at El Capote to Mary L. Moore.⁶⁸

It is interesting to note that the quit claim deed through which Theodore Roosevelt and his wife transferred their interest in El Capote to Mary L. Moore must have pleased Mary's husband Alexander. This assumption is made because Theodore Roosevelt was presented as a present from Alexander Moore the charger that he rode during the Spanish-American War in 1898. Appropriately this charger was named "Seguin." Alexander Moore tended to a large number of fine horses at El Capote. A number of those horses, and others from Guadalupe County were used by the "Rough Riders" in Cuba.⁶⁹ In fact, one might say that Theodore Roosevelt rode a horse from El Capote to the Presidency.

After a number of complicated legal transactions, 1,388.09 acres of the property at El Capote formerly owned by Alexander and his wife, Mary L., passed into the ownership of Judge Leroy Gilbert Denman and his wife, Sue E. (Carpenter), in 1897. The land involved in these transfers to Judge Denman was the land on which the log cabin, now at the Ranch Headquarters,⁷⁰ was located. Judge Denman paid \$17,525.00 in cash for a block of 876¼ acres in this transaction,⁷¹ and he paid \$16,000 in cash for a block of 503¼ acres.⁷² The approximately 9½ acres remaining were acquired through various land trades.⁷³

Judge Denman was born about five miles north of El Capote in Guadalupe County on October 31, 1855.⁷⁴ He was born on his parents ranch and entered a nearby rural school at the age of four. In addition to his classroom education, he was extensively tutored by his father. After graduating from the rural school system, he spent the winters studying in Seguin. During these winters he stayed with a friend of the family, John Ireland, who was later governor of Texas from 1883 to 1887. Judge Denman also read the books in Ireland's home library.⁷⁵ After teaching school for about four years, he entered the law school of the University of Virginia from which he graduated in 1880. He practiced law in New Braunfels and San Antonio until 1894, when he was appointed by Governor James S. Hogg as associate justice of the Texas Supreme Court. Judge Denman remained on the Texas Supreme Court until he resigned and returned to private practice at San Antonio in May of 1899.⁷⁶

As soon as Judge Denman purchased the land at El Capote in 1897, his half-brother, Dan I. Denman, moved onto the property to manage it. Judge Denman was able to

spend only the summers at El Capote due to his obligations on the Texas Supreme Court. He, his wife, and their seven children resided in a house at El Capote that Judge Denman built almost entirely by himself. After his return to law practice in San Antonio in 1899, Judge Denman could not find enough time to spend his summers at El Capote. Consequently, he became a "week-end" rancher until his death in 1916.

At the time Judge Denman acquired the cabin at El Capote it was lived in by a black named Oliver Collins and his rather large family. All of Oliver's children were born in the cabin, including a son named Noble Collins who currently works for the city at Seguin. After the death of Oliver Collins in the 1930's, the cabin was used for storage of feed until it was completely abandoned because of the lack of maintenance.

The widow of Judge Denman continued the operation of the ranching and farming activities at El Capote from the time of her husband's death in 1916, until her own death in 1948. In 1933, she terminated all farming operations at El Capote, because she refused to engage in activities requiring governmental permits. Since this decision, the property has been used exclusively for cattle raising and the gathering of wild pecans.

The cabin remained in the ownership of the heirs of Judge Denman until they donated it to the Ranch Headquarters of The Museum of Texas Tech University at Lubbock, Texas in 1970, in memory of Judge Denman.⁷⁷

NOTES

¹Ethel Zivley Rafter, "De Witt's Colony," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, VIII (October, 1904), 167.

²*Ibid.*, 118.

³Jose de la Baume's Will, 1834, Bexar County Archives, San Antonio, Texas, 1-2.

⁴*Ibid.*, 6.

⁵Jose de la Baume's Will, 4.

⁶*Ibid.*, 2-3.

⁷Frederick C. Chabot, *With the Makers of San Antonio* (San Antonio, 1937), 260.

⁸Jose de la Baume's Will, 3.

⁹Chabot, *With the Makers of San Antonio*, 260.

¹⁰Jose de la Baume's Will, 5-6.

¹¹*Ibid.*, 9-12.

¹²Chabot, *With the Makers of San Antonio*, 274.

¹³*Ibid.*, 118-122.

¹⁴Victoria de la Baume and Gertrudis de la Baume to Michael Erskine, Deed, January 24, 1850, Personal Papers of Mrs. Charles E. Baer, Seguin, Texas.

¹⁵Joseph de la Baume to Michael Erskine, Deed, June 1, 1844, Personal Papers of Mrs. Charles E. Baer, Seguin, Texas.

¹⁶Record of Deeds, Gonzales County Courthouse, Gonzales, Texas, LXXXVIII, 82.

¹⁷Records of Deeds, Gonzales County Courthouse, Gonzales, Texas, G, 427.

¹⁸Records of Deeds, Gonzales County Courthouse, Gonzales, Texas, D, 81; LXXXVIII, 82; G, 427.

¹⁹County of Gonzales and State of Texas to John P. Erskine, Conveyance of Deed, June 26, 1848, Personal Papers of Mrs. Charles E. Baer, Seguin, Texas.

²⁰Records of Deeds, Gonzales, LXXXVIII, 82.

²¹Joseph de la Baume to Michael Erskine, Deed, June 1, 1844.

²²Victoria de la Baume and Gertrudis de la Baume to Michael Erskine, Deed, January 24, 1850.

²³Records of Deeds, Gonzales, D, 294.

²⁴Records of Deeds, Gonzales, D, 81.

²⁵A. J. Sowell, *Early Settlers and Indian Fighters of Southwest Texas* (Austin, 1900), 418-419.

²⁶Blucher Haynes Erskine, Sr., (ed.) "Biography of Andrew Nelson Erskine," *Frontier Times* (April, 1928), 301.

²⁷Sowell, *Early Settlers*, 427.

²⁸Blucher Haynes Erskine, Sr. (ed.), "Biography of Andrew Nelson Erskine," 300-301.

²⁹Walter Prescott Webb (ed.), *Handbook of Texas*, I (Austin, 1952), 570.

³⁰Blucher Haynes Erskine, Sr., (ed.), "Biography of Andrew Nelson Erskine," 300-301.

³¹Genealogical Record, Personal Papers of Mrs. Charles E. Baer, Seguin, Texas.

³²Blucher Haynes Erskine, Sr. (ed.), "Biography of Andrew Nelson Erskine," 300-301.

³³Webb (ed.), *Handbook of Texas*, I, 742-743.

³⁴Frederick Law Olmstead, *A Journey Through Texas* (New York, 1969), 231-237.

³⁵Dr. Philip R. Morey, Correspondence from Dr. Philip R. Morey, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Texas Tech University, to Jerry L. Rogers, Director, Ranch Headquarters of the Museum of Texas Tech University, December 5, 1971.

³⁶Olmstead, *A Journey Through Texas*, 231-237.

³⁷Byrd Lockhart's Field Notes of 6 Leagues of Capote tract, Finished on June 14, 1830, Personal Papers of Mrs. Charles E. Baer, Seguin, Texas.

³⁸Webb (ed.), *Handbook of Texas*, I, 184.

³⁹*Ibid.*, II, 498.

⁴⁰Eugene W. Hollon and Ruth Lamphan Butler (eds.), *William Bollaerts' Texas* (Norman, 1956), 211-214.

⁴¹Dr. Ferdinand Roemer, *Texas: Described Through Personal Observations* (San Antonio, 1935), 86-90.

⁴²Alexander M. Erskine to Andrew M. Erskine, Personal Letter, Written in April, 1846, Personal Papers of Mrs. Charles E. Baer, Seguin, Texas.

⁴³Michael Erskine to Dr. Alexander Erskine, Personal Letter, Written on June 6, 1845, Personal Papers of Mrs. Charles E. Baer, Seguin, Texas.

⁴⁴Alexander M. Erskine to Andrew N. Erskine, Personal Letter, Written on August 17, 1846, Personal Papers of Mrs. Charles E. Baer, Seguin, Texas.

⁴⁵Blucher Haynes Erskine, Sr. (ed.), "Biography of Andrew Nelson Erskine," 300.

⁴⁶Alexander M. Erskine to Andrew N. Erskine, Personal Letter, Written on March 13, 1849, Personal Papers of Mrs. Charles E. Baer, Seguin, Texas.

⁴⁷Alexander M. Erskine to Andrew N. Erskine, Personal Letter, Written on June 16, 1849, Personal Papers of Mrs. Charles E. Baer, Seguin, Texas.

⁴⁸Alexander M. Erskine to Andrew N. Erskine, Personal Letter, Written on November 1, 1849, Personal Papers of Mrs. Charles E. Baer, Seguin, Texas.

⁴⁹Alexander M. Erskine to Andrew N. Erskine, Personal Letter, Written on February 8, 1850, Personal Papers of Mrs. Charles E. Baer, Seguin, Texas.

⁵⁰Alexander M. Erskine to Andrew N. Erskine, Personal Letter, Written on May 6, 1850, Personal Papers of Mrs. Charles E. Baer, Seguin, Texas.

⁵¹Alexander M. Erskine to Andrew N. Erskine, Personal Letter, Written on June 17, 1850, Personal Papers of Mrs. Charles E. Baer, Seguin, Texas.

⁵²Alexander M. Erskine to Andrew N. Erskine, Personal Letter, Written on November 28, 1850, Personal Papers of Mrs. Charles E. Baer, Seguin, Texas.

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⁵⁴Michael Erskine, *California 1854: Journal and Other Memoranda*, Typed copy from original, Personal Papers of Mrs. Charles E. Baer, Seguin, Texas.

⁵⁵Blucher Haynes Erskine, Sr. (ed.), "Biography of Andrew Nelson Erskine," 300.

⁵⁶Sowell, *Early Settlers*, 420.

⁵⁷Blucher Haynes Erskine, Sr. (ed.), "Biography of Andrew Nelson Erskine," 301-310.

⁵⁸Michael Erskine, deceased, Inventory and Appraisalment of Community Property, August 21, 1862, Abstract of Title, compiled by Dibrell and Mosheim Abstract Co., Seguin, Texas, September 25, 1897.

⁵⁹John P. Erskine, deceased, Inventory and Appraisalment of Estate, December 7, 1872, Abstract of Title, compiled by Dibrell and Mosheim Abstract Co., Seguin, Texas, September 25, 1897.

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⁶¹John O. Dewees to Thomas W. Pierce, Warranty Deed, January 14, 1878, Abstract of Title, compiled by Dibrell and Mosheim Abstract Co., Seguin, Texas, September 25, 1897.

⁶²George F. Stone to Daniel Tyler, Special Warranty Deed, August 23, 1898, Abstract of Title, compiled by Dibrell and Mosheim Abstract Co., Seguin, Texas, September 25, 1897.

⁶³M. H. Erskine to W. E. Goodrich, Warranty Deed, December 20, 1879, Abstract of Title, compiled by Dibrell and Mosheim Abstract Co., Seguin, Texas, September 25, 1897.

⁶⁴W. E. Goodrich and A. M. Erskine to George F. Stone, Warranty Deed, May 18, 1881, Abstract of Title, compiled by Dibrell and Mosheim Abstract Co., Seguin, Texas, September 25, 1897.

⁶⁵Daniel Tyler's Will, April 22, 1886, Abstract of Title, compiled by Dibrell and Mosheim Abstract Co., Seguin, Texas, September 25, 1897.

⁶⁶Edward Wagenknecht, "Roosevelt, Theodore," *Encyclopedia Americana*, international ed., XXIII, 684-685.

⁶⁷Alfred L. Tyler, Edward L. Tyler, Augustus C. Tyler, Gertrude E. Carow, Edith K. Roosevelt, and Emily L. Carow to Mary L. Moore, Deed, June 1, 1887, Abstract of Title, compiled by Dibrell and Mosheim Abstract Co., Seguin, Texas, September 25, 1897.

⁶⁸Edith K. Roosevelt and Theodore Roosevelt to Mary L. Moore, Quit Claim Deed, April 19, 1897, Abstract of Title, compiled by Dibrell and Mosheim Abstract Co., Seguin, Texas, September 25, 1897.

⁶⁹Arwerd Max Moellering, "A History of Guadalupe County, Texas," (Unpublished Master's Thesis, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin, 1938), 156.

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⁷²Julia A. Miller to Leroy G. Denman, Deed, December 19, 1907, Abstract of Title, compiled by Donegan Abstract Co., Inc., Seguin, Texas, August 23, 1929.

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⁷⁴Webb (ed.), I, 490-491.

⁷⁵Gilbert M. Denman, Jr., correspondence from Gilbert M. Denman, Jr., Attorney at Law, San Antonio, Texas, to author, Written on December 22, 1972, Filed at the Ranch Headquarters of The Museum of Texas Tech University.

⁷⁶Webb (ed.), *Handbook of Texas*, I, 490-491.

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