

Transcription of Letter from memorialist Mariana Day to Congress requesting a resolution to the disputed land claim (1870):

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled—

Your memorialist Mariana Day respectfully represents—

That she is a native of California born of Mexican parents, in the city of Monterey, State of California where she now resides—

That in the year 1857, she intermarried with an American citizen, Thomas W Day who died in 1863 and left three children.

That on the 20th April 1841 Govenor [*sic*] Alvarado granted under the Mexican laws to Luis Mesa one and one half leagues of land called “Coral [*sic*] de Tierra” situated in Monterey County California.

That said Luis Mesa died before the time mentioned in the law to present his claim to the Hon Board of Land Commissioners passed [*sic*] March 30 1851—

That said Luis Mesa died in the year 1846 leaving a widow and two children and that the title papers to said Rancho were not found by them until after said commission had closed its labors—

That Thomas W Day acquired by purchase from the heirs of Luis Mesa the one undivided half of said Rancho, and occupied the same peaceably [*sic*] until the time of his death—

That the Expediente and original papers relating to said Rancho are found in the Mexican Archives now in charge of the U S Surveyor General for California, copies of which duly certified and translated are herein exhibited—

Wherefore the premises considered your memorialist asks the claim of Luis Mesa and his heirs and grantees may be presented to the U.S. District Court, and the merits of the same adjudicated and such further relief may be granted to remove the disability which now exists in the title to said Rancho.

And your memorialists further show, by reference to Volume 12 Statues at Large page 902, that a similar petition to the one now presented was acted upon by the Congress of the United States and an Act passed for the relief of Pedro Chaboya claiming the Rancho of “La Rosa San Juan Bantesta”—

Luis Mesa’s heirs and representatives by their atty

And your petitioner will ever pray,

M.T. Lowry