

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Pablo de la Portilla Journal

Accession Number: T575-2-3483

Collection Number: MS-11

Creator: Portilla, Pablo de la

Size of Collection: 1 folder ; 8 leaves bound

Abstract: Handwritten pages dated June 27, 1824 from a journal created by Captain Don Pablo de la Portilla, describing an expedition that left the Santa Barbara Presidio on June 4, 1824 to find and return neophyte Indians who had left Mission Santa Barbara earlier that year.

Location: For information regarding the use of these materials, please contact the librarian.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition Information: Purchase at auction, 5/14/1987

Access Restrictions: Collection is open to qualified researchers

Use Restrictions: All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Director of Historic Resources. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation Research Center as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the reader.

Preferred Citation: Pablo de la Portilla Journal, Presidio Research Center, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.

Related Material: Transcript and translation of the document by Sasha Honig (copy in Richard Whitehead Papers).

Processing Information: Arrangement and description by Research Center and Trust staff. Finding aid written by Laurie Hannah.

HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Pablo de la Portilla was captain of the Mazatlan cavalry from 1819 to 1838 and was stationed for most of those years in San Diego, becoming *comandante* of the San Diego presidio in 1831. In May 1824, Portilla was ordered by Governor Luis Antonio Argüello to lead a group of soldiers from the Matzatlan squadron along with soldiers from both presidios from Santa Barbara to the Tulares. In 1833 he was appointed administrator of Mission San Luis Rey after it became secularized. After serving briefly under Carlos Carrillo in his attempt to take the governorship from Governor Alvarado in 1837, Portilla returned to Sonora where he became captain of the post at Guaymas in 1846. He returned to California once more in 1849 with a group of gold seekers.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The journal entries, dated June 4 - June 22, 1824, describe the expedition led by Captain Pablo de la Portilla. The expedition left the Santa Barbara Presidio on June 4, 1824 for the Central Valley in the Tulare region to find and return neophyte Indians who had left Mission Santa Barbara earlier that year. The reason for their running away was the February 21 Chumash revolt at Mission La Purisima Concepcion after one of the neophytes was flogged by a soldier. (The Chumash revolt has been documented in many other sources. For an excellent account, see bibliography.)

Accompanying Portilla were Fathers Vicente de Sarria and Antonio Ripoll and 63 soldiers. On June 10, the Indians were found at a place called Mitochea. After several days of discussions and pardon by the government, the Indians agreed to go back home. The document is signed by Pablo de la Portilla and dated June 27, 1824.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cook, S.F. "Expeditions to the Interior of California, Central Valley, 1820-1840," *Anthropological Records* 20(5), 1962. Additional translation of the journal.

Geiger, Maynard. *Fray Antonio Ripoll's Description of the Chumash Revolt at Santa Barbara in 1824*. Santa Barbara: Santa Barbara Mission Archive Library.