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*Land Struggles and Money Troubles:
Letters of California's Peralta Family to Diego A. Forbes (1854–1855)*

Shelfmark

California State University, Fullerton (CSUF).
University Archives and Special Collections (UA&SC).
Local History Collection LH-28-4.
Rancho San Antonio/Peralta Letters.
Mostly dated, November 5, 1854, to July 21, 1855.
Six letters (numbered 5 to 10 below).

Introduction

The six Spanish nineteenth-century letters edited and translated below are held in the University Archives and Special Collections at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), where they are part of the Local History Collection (Early California Letters, Rancho San Antonio/Peralta Letters). Four letters from the same collection were edited and translated in *The Welebaethan: A Journal of History* 46 (2019): 341–49, [online](#), which is why the letters presented here are numbered 5 to 10. All correspondences are written on paper in black ink, they range from one to two pages in length, and their individual formats and other external characteristics are described in the edition below. They are overall in fair condition with some discoloration and stains, as well as minor tears and some fraying.

Letters 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 are authored by Antonio Maria Peralta (1809–1879) of Rancho San Antonio, an 1820 land-grant property in today's Alameda County, California; letter 9 is authored by Peralta's second wife, Maria Dolores Archuleta de Peralta (1828–1868). The correspondences' addressee is *Don* Diego A. Forbes—which is how the British diplomat James Alexander Forbes (1804–1881) was known by the locals in Mexican and U.S. California; see Russell M. Posner, "A British Consular Agent in California: The Reports of James A. Forbes, 1843–1846," *Southern California Quarterly* 53, no. 2 (1971): 101–12, [online](#). As Forbes was married to Marta Ana Maria Galindo (1815–1884), and Peralta—in his first marriage—had been married to Maria Antonia Galindo (1809–1850), the two were not just business associates but, by virtue of their Galindo marriages, also distant relatives.

The letters shed light on Peralta's sons running into trouble with a bill of sale (letter 5); they mention various property sales and land transactions (letters 5 and 10); they document the delivery of his sister's cattle (letter 6); they indicate his second wife's need for loans (letter 9); and they, above all, highlight the family's ongoing issues with his late father's will (letters 6, 7, and 8). Thus, these correspondences detail the life of landholding Californians of Mexican descent in the mid-nineteenth century, including health concerns, familial conflicts, and interpersonal exchanges. Throughout the letters, it is clear that the Peraltas trust Forbes's legal judgment and financial acumen. These documents should be of particular interest to

scholars of U.S. history, California genealogy and geography, nineteenth-century economics, sociology and anthropology, as well as historical linguistics.

The Spanish editions presented here preserve the original spelling, punctuation, and epistolary paragraph structure. The following symbols are used: [/] to indicate words/letters that would be separated in modern Spanish, and [-] to indicate words/letters that would be connected in modern Spanish. Modern accents over vowels have been added; however, letter 9 also features some original accents. All editorial additions appear in square brackets. The English translations offered below attempt to reflect the style of nineteenth-century California Spanish and therefore stay as close to the wording and syntax of the original letters as possible. Identifiable individuals, locations, and technical terms have been referenced in the footnotes of the translations, usually when they first appear.

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The primary-source edition published below originated in the "History and Editing" course offered by CSUF's Department of History.

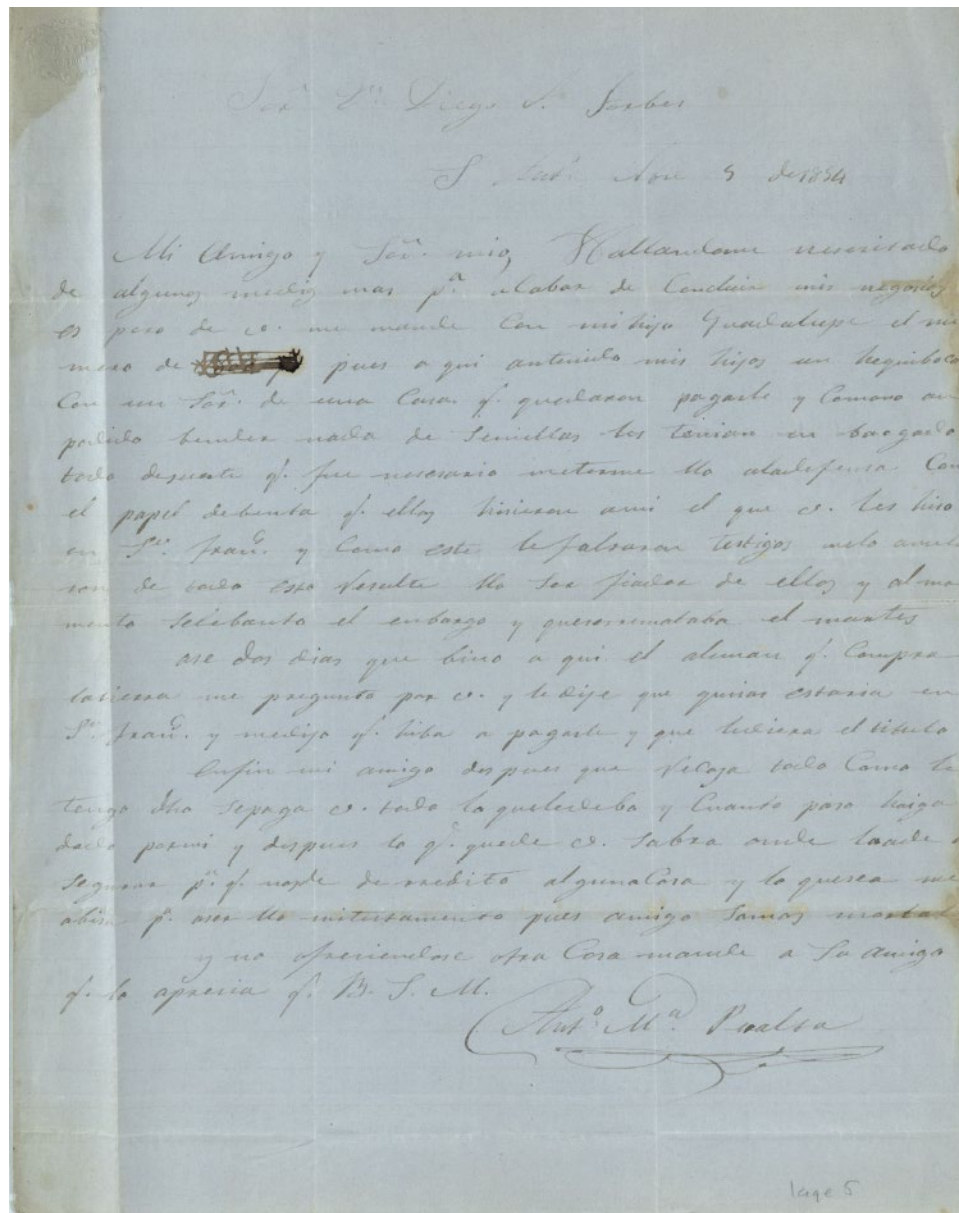


Figure 1: Manuscript letter, Antonio Maria Peralta to Diego A. Forbes,
[Rancho] San Antonio, November 5, 1854, page 1.
UA&SC, CSUF. See Edition No. 5.

Edition No. 05: Antonio Maria Peralta to Diego A. Forbes,
[Rancho] San Antonio, November 5, 1854.

[light blue paper, 15 by 10.75 inches, blind stamp [SUPERFINE / BATH / LONDON], folded, hand/black ink. Overleaf: sender, different historical hand/ink: A[ntonio]. M[aria]. Peralta Nov[ember]. 5/[18]54 / asking for money. Additional text, modern hand/pencil: laqe 5]

Se[ñor]. D[o]n. Diego A. Forbes

[Rancho] S[an] Ant[oni]o. N[oviem]bre 5 de/[]1854

Mi Amigo y Se[ño]r. mio, Hallándome nesesitado [= necesitado] de algunos medios más p[ar]a. acabar de concluir mis negocios [= negocios] es[-]pero de U[sted]. me mande con mi hijo Guadalupe el nu[-]mero de *[deletion]* [des]pués a[-]quí [h]an[/]tenido mis hijos un hequiboco [= equívoco] con un S[eñ]or. de una cosa q[ue]. quedaron pagarle y como[/]no [h]an podido bender[= vender] nada de semillas les tenían en[-]bargado [= embargado] todo de[/]suerte q[ue]. fue nesesario [= necesario] meterme llo [= yo] a[/]la[/]defensa con el papel de benta [= venta] q[ue]. ellos hisieron [= hicieron] a[/]mi el que U[sted]. les hiso [= hizo] en S[a]n. Franc[isco]. y como este le[/]falraran [= faltaron] testigos melo anula[-]ron de todo esto resulte llo[=yo] ser fiador de ellos y al mo[-]mento se[/]lebanto [= levantó] el embargo [= embargo] y que[/]se[/]rremataba [= remataba] el martes

ase [= hace] dos días que bino [= vino] a[-]quí el alemán q[ue]. compra la[/]sierra me pregunto por U[sted]. y le dije que quisas [= quizás] estaría en S[a]n. Franc[isco]. y me[/]dijo q[ue]. hiba [= iba] a pagarle y que le[/]diera el título

En[/]fin mi amigo des[-]pués que recoja todo como le tengo d[ic]ho se[/]paga U[sted]. todo lo que[/]le[/]debo y cuanto paso haiga [= haya] dado por[/]mi y después lo q[ue]. quede U[sted]. sabrá [d]onde lo[/]a[/]de a[-]segurar p[ar]a. q[ue]. nos[/]de rredito [= rédito] alguna[/]cosa y lo que[/]sea me abisa [= avisa] p[ar]a. aser [= hacer] llo [= yo] mi testamento pues amigo somos mortales

y no ofresiendose [= ofreciéndose] otra cosa mande a Su Amigo q[ue]. lo apresia [= aprecia] q[ue]. B[esa]. S[u]. M[ano].
Ant[oni]o. M[ari]a. Peralta
[paraph]

*Translation No. 05: Antonio Maria Peralta to Diego A. Forbes,
[Rancho] San Antonio, November 5, 1854.*

Mister *Don*¹ Diego A. Forbes²

[Rancho] San Antonio,³ November 5, 1854⁴

My friend and my lord, finding myself in need of some additional means to finish concluding my business, I hope you will send to me hereafter—by way of my son Guadalupe⁵—the following number *[deletion]*. My children⁶ had a misunderstanding with a gentleman about

¹ *Don*: Spanish title for a gentleman.

² Diego A. Forbes (Forbez), a.k.a. James Alexander Forbes (1804–1881), a British diplomat in Mexican and U.S. California. In 1834, Forbes married Marta Ana Maria Galindo (1815–1884).

³ Land grant rancho in Alameda County, California, located at 2465 34th Avenue, Oakland, California 94601. The current structure was not built until 1870.

⁴ Sunday, November 5, 1854.

⁵ José Guadalupe de Gracia Peralta (1832–1892).

⁶ Antonio Maria Peralta (1801–1879) had 14 children: 11 from his first marriage (1828) to Maria Antonia Galindo (1809–1850) and 3 from his second marriage (1852) to Maria Dolores Archuleta (1828–1868). Fewer than half of these 14 children reached adulthood. The incident described above presumably refers to several of his older sons from his first marriage.

something they had agreed to pay him, and since they were unable to sell any seeds, they had everything embargoed.⁷ So, it was necessary for me to come to their defense with the bill of sale, which they made for me—the one that you had made for them in San Francisco.⁸ And since that one lacked witnesses, they annulled it for me. All this resulted in me being their guarantor, and at that moment the embargo was lifted, and it was to be auctioned off on Tuesday.⁹

Two days ago,¹⁰ the German came here, the one who bought the mountain range. He asked me about you, and I told him that you might be in San Francisco. And he told me that he was going to pay and that I should give him the title deed.

Finally, my friend, after I collect everything as I have told you, pay yourself everything that I owe you and for everything you have done for me, and whatever remains, you know where to secure it so that it gives us some return, and whatever it is, let me know, so I can make my will because, my friend, we are mortal.

And not offering anything else, be commended to your friend, who appreciates you [and] who kisses your hand,
Antonio Maria Peralta¹¹
[paraph]

*Edition No. 06: Antonio Maria Peralta to Diego A. Forbes,
[no location], [April 1855].*

[blue paper, 15 by 9.5 inches, folded, hand/black ink, traces of red wax seal. Overleaf: sender, different historical hand/ink: A[ntonio]. M[aria]. Peralta; addressee, original hand/ink: S[eñ]or. D[o]n. / Diego Forbes / S[an] Jose. Additional text, modern hand/pencil: 3 [circled], April 1855]

Lista de las personas q[ue]. asistieron a la entrega de Ganado a mi [h]ermana Josefa peralta q[ue]. son las siguientes

Rafael Galindo
Jose Galindo q[ue]. entonses [= entonces] se quebró la pierna
Crisanto peralta mi hijo
Fernando peralta
Guadalupe peralta
Ant[oni]o peralta hijo
Miguel Peralta

⁷ Officially, albeit temporarily, banned from trading.

⁸ City in San Francisco County, California, named after the 1776 eponymous mission there.

⁹ Tuesday, November 7, 1854 (if it refers to the Tuesday after this letter's date).

¹⁰ Friday, November 3, 1854.

¹¹ Antonio Maria Peralta (1801–1879), son of the original grantee of Rancho San Antonio, Luis Maria Peralta (1759–1851).

todas estas personas q[ue]. sito [= cito] se[/][h]allan en el pueblo y Mateo Juarez y otras q[ue]. se [h]allan ausentes

Mi q[ue].rido Compadre

la q[ue]. le mandé con Jose Galindo fue mui [= muy] a[-]purada quien[/]sabe si U[sted]. no la entendería y por[/]eso mando a mi hijo Ant[oni]o. q[ue].[-]dándome llo [= yo] Solo en la casa y medio enfermo y tener que dar testimonio el lunes en Clinton como lo he echo en S[a]n. Franc[isco]. he hido [= ido] tres beses [= veces] a darlo en la corte y por[/]eso no he podido hir [= ir]

por lo q[ue]. me[/]dise [= dice] en Su anterior con respe[c]to a los chilenos digo, una bes [= vez] fuimos llo [= yo] y Ygn[acio]. a[/]ber [= ver] a mi padre y mi padre nos enseñó el testamento q[ue]. tenia echo lo bimos [= vimos] y le dijimos q[ue]. no estaba bueno q[ue]. no estaba bien es[-]crito y q[ue]. le faltaban los testigos y entonses [= entonces] mi padre [next page] nos dijo llebenlo [= llévenlo] y busquen quien sepa aserlo [= hacerlo] y me[/]llo[/][illegible]¹² p[ar]a. firmar[/]lo en ese tiempo tarde[-]sia estaba a[-]quí en mi casa y el se[/]ofresio [= ofreció] trai [= traer] una persona q[ue]. sabia las[/]rojo [= arrojó] y hiso [= hizo] un papel se[/]lo llebamos [= llevamos] a mi padre la bio [= vio] y no le gusto por [illegible]¹³ q[ue]. no [h]abía puesto dijo mi padre por lo mesmo [= mismo] nunca [h]e debido ni debo a[/]nadien por[/]no dejarles q[ue]. pagar el lo rrompio [= rompió] y quedó el biejo [= viejo] el q[ue]. sirbio [= sirvió] de borrador

Compadre [h]e tenido ganas de hir [= ir] allá pero no he podido, si la cuestión se[/]deja p[ar]a. el martes [h]abrá lugar p[ar]a. juntar los testigos quienes por ella digo chepa [h]an resibido [= recibido] el ganado p[ar]a. cuidarlo, el ultimo quien[/]tiene el ganado de chepa q[ue]. creo es la más o[-]puesta ni[-]colas Berrellesa el biejo [= viejo], Compadre dispénseme cuanta ta[-]cha en[-]cuentre en las cartas que le [deletion] escrito y tonteras

el Ganado de Guadalupe lla [= ya] me rresebi [= recibí] del y después le rrecibio [= recibió] del ganado Ramon hijo de Guillermo Castro piensa en poder de el estará si la corte espera [h]asta el martes [h]abrá tiempo p[ar]a. llebar [= llevar] las personas q[ue]. tubieron [h] el Ganado de chepa, Compadre tenga pasiensia [= paciencia]

Su affmo [= afectísimo] compadre q[ue]. desea berlo [= verlo]

Ant[oni]o. M[ari]a. Peralta

[paraph]

¹² tienen?

¹³ pensarien?

*Translation No. 06: Antonio Maria Peralta to Diego A. Forbes,
[no location], [April 1855].*

List of persons who assisted with the delivery of cattle to my sister Joséfa Peralta,¹⁴ who are the following:

Rafael Galindo¹⁵
 José Galindo,¹⁶ who then broke his leg
 Crisanto Peralta,¹⁷ my son
 Fernando Peralta¹⁸
 Guadalupe Peralta
 Antonio Peralta,¹⁹ son
 Miguel Peralta²⁰

All these people who I mentioned are in the town²¹ and Mateo Juares²² and others who are absent.

My dear *compadre*,²³

the one [i.e., the letter] I sent with José Galindo was very rushed—Who knows whether you understood it?—and that is why I sent my son Antonio, leaving me alone at home and half sick and having to give testimony on Monday²⁴ in Clinton,²⁵ as I did in San Francisco. I went three times to give it in court, and that is why I have not been able to go.

Pertaining to what you said in your previous [letter] with regard to the Chileans, I say [this]: once we went, myself and Ygnacio,²⁶ to see my father,²⁷ and my father showed us the will he had made. We saw it and told him that it was not good, that it was not well written, and that it was missing witnesses. And so, my father [*next page*] told us to take it and search for someone who knew how to do it and [*illegible*] to sign it. At that time it was getting late, [and he, presumably Ygnacio] was here at my house, and he offered to bring a person who knew [how to do it], reassuring [me]. And he made a document, which we took to my father. He saw it, and he did not like it because [*illegible*] that he had not put [in], my father said. For the same [reason], I have never owed, nor do I owe anyone, so that they did not have to pay.

¹⁴ Maria Joséfa Peralta (1793–1862), also known as “Chepa” or “Chepita.”

¹⁵ Rafael Antonio Galindo (1831–?).

¹⁶ Presumably José Victor Galindo (1835–?) or José Domingo de la Resurreccion Galindo (1837–1877).

¹⁷ Crisanto Antonio Peralta (1838–1896).

¹⁸ Lorenzo Fernando Antonio Peralta (1833–1891).

¹⁹ Antonio Maria Severo Peralta (1829–1879).

²⁰ Presumably Miguel Antonio Peralta (1824–1869).

²¹ Presumably the Pueblo de San José in Santa Clara County, California, founded in 1777.

²² Presumably Mateo Juares (1813–1901).

²³ *Compadre*: Spanish title for a close (male) friend, in this case Forbes, or a godfather in the Catholic Church.

²⁴ Since this letter is only tentatively datable to “[April 1855],” the exact Monday is unclear.

²⁵ 1850s mining community in Amador County, California.

²⁶ Hermenegildo Ignacio (Ygnacio) Peralta (1791–1874), Antonio Maria Peralta’s older brother.

²⁷ Luis Maria Peralta (1759–1851), the first grantee of Rancho San Antonio.

He ripped it up, and the old one [i.e., the old will] remained—the one that had served as a draft.

Compadre, I have yearned to go there, but I have not been able to [do so]. If the matter is left for Tuesday,²⁸ there will be room to gather the witnesses. The one I call Chepa²⁹ has received the cattle to take care of them. The last one to have Chepa's cattle [i.e., before the delivery recorded earlier in this letter]—who is, I think, the most opposed—is Nicolas Berrellesa, Senior.³⁰ *Compadre*, forgive me for all the mistakes found in the letters that I have [deletion] written to you and [for the] nonsense.

The cattle of Guadalupe I already received from [him], and then he received the cattle from Ramón,³¹ the son of Guillermo Castro,³² [who] thinks it will be in his possession. If the court waits until Tuesday, there will be time to take the people who had Chepa's cattle. *Compadre*, have patience.

Your very affectionate *compadre*, who wishes to see you,
Antonio Maria Peralta
[paraph]

*Edition No. 07: Antonio Maria Peralta to Diego A. Forbes,
[Rancho] San Antonio, April 19, 1855.*

[grey paper, 15 by 9.5 inches, folded, hand/black ink, traces of red wax seal. Overleaf: sender, different historical hand/ink: A[ntonio]. M[aria]. Peralta / April 19th. 1855; addressee, original hand/ink: S[eñ]or. D[o]n. / Diego Forbes / S[anta]. Clara]

[Rancho] S[a]n. Ant[oni]o. Abril 19 de[/]1855.

Mi Apreciado Comp[adr]e.

Aprobecho [= aprovecho] la ocasión de q[ue]. ba [= va] Domingo a berse [= verse] con U[sted]. p[ar]a. desirle [= decirle] q[ue]. se[/]me olvido [= olvido] desirle [= decirle] a U[sted]. Nicolas Berrellesa el biejo [= viejo] tambien pue[-]de serbir [= servir] de testigo el bisitaba [= visitaba] también a mi padre, meses pasados bino [= vino] por[/]a[-]quí ni[-]colas y bernarda lo solisitaba [= solicitaba] p[ar]a. rebocar [= revocar] el testamento disiendo [= diciendo] q[ue]. mi padre estaba fuera de sentidos y el se[/]le rrecuso [= recuso] el mes[-]mo [= mismo] nos[/]lo comunico a[/]mi y a Ygn[acio].

es cuanto se[/]me ofrese por a[-][h]ora saludame a mi Comadre y familia y U[sted]. mande a Su affmo [= afectísimo] q[ue]. B[esa]. S[u]. M[ano].

²⁸ Since this letter is only tentatively datable to "[April 1855]," the exact Tuesday is unclear.

²⁹ Maria Joséfa Peralta (1793–1862), also known as "Chepa."

³⁰ Presumably Nicolas Tolentino Antonio Berrellesa (Berreyesa) (1789–1873).

³¹ José Ramón Castro (1833–?), Antonio Maria Peralta's nephew.

³² Guillermo Castro (1809–1866), prominent California *ranchero*, married to Maria Luisa Peralta (1810–1873), Antonio Maria Peralta's younger sister.

Ant[oni]o M[ari]a Peralta
[*paraph*]

*Translation No. 07: Antonio Maria Peralta to Diego A. Forbes,
[Rancho] San Antonio, April 19, 1855.*

[Rancho] San Antonio, April 19, 1855³³

My appreciated *compadre*,

I am taking advantage of the occasion that Domingo³⁴ is coming to see you, to tell you that I forgot to mention to you, that Nicolas Berrellesa, Senior, can additionally serve as witness. He also visited my father: a few months ago, Nicolas and Bernarda³⁵ came here and solicited him to revoke the will, saying that my father was out of his senses, and as he declined to do so, he notified Ygnacio and myself.

This is all I can offer for now. Give my greetings to my *comadre*³⁶ and family, and you, be commended to your very affectionate [*compadre*], who kisses your hand,
Antonio Maria Peralta
[*paraph*]

*Edition No. 08: Antonio Maria Peralta to Diego A. Forbes,
[Rancho] San Antonio, May 16, 1855.*

[grey paper, 16.5 by 8.25 inches, blind stamp [S. BAURIE FILS / {image of a ship} / BORDEAUX], folded, hand/black ink. Overleaf: sender, different historical hand/ink: A[ntonio]. M[ari]a. Peralta / May 16th. 1855]

[Rancho] S[a]n. Ant[oni]o. Mayo 16 de[/]1855.

Mi Apreciado Comp[adr]e.

Si se nesesitya [= necesita] q[ue]. nosotros los cuatro nos presen[-]temos reclamando el testamento biejo [= viejo] el q[ue]. sirbio [= sirvió] de borrador al nuebo [= nuevo] p[ar]a. q[ue]. por el se[/]funge la causa pues como[/]disen [= dicen] q[ue]. el nuebo [= nuevo] es nulo y q[ue]. fue fir[-]mado sin saber lo q[ue]. firmó mi padre y que U[sted]. y el padre nobili hicieron lo q[ue]. les paresio [= pareció] pienso será[/]bueno aser [= hacer] reclamo del biejo [= viejo] q[ue]. lo entriga [= entrega] quien lo resibio [= recibió] por[/]mi y si[/]no se[/]le puede desir [= decir] q[ue]. si[/]no lo entriga [= entrega] se[/]dara el fallo en contra de ellos sin aberiguasion [= averiguación] al[-]guna, en fin U[sted]. sabe lo q[ue]. hase [= hace] pero si combiene [= conviene] U[sted]. nos dirá al[-]go sobre

³³ Thursday, April 19, 1855.

³⁴ José Domingo Peralta (1795–1865), Antonio Maria Peralta's older brother.

³⁵ Possibly Bernarda Ruiz de Rodriguez (c.1804–1880).

³⁶ *Comadre*: Spanish title for a close friend or for the spouse of a close friend, in this case Forbes's wife, Marta Ana Maria Galindo (1815–1884), or for a godmother in the Catholic Church.

eso saludame a mi Comadre y U[sted]. mande como guste
 a su affmo [= afectísimo] comp[adr]e. B[esa] S[u] M[ano].
 Ant[oni]o. M[ari]a. Peralta
 [paraph]

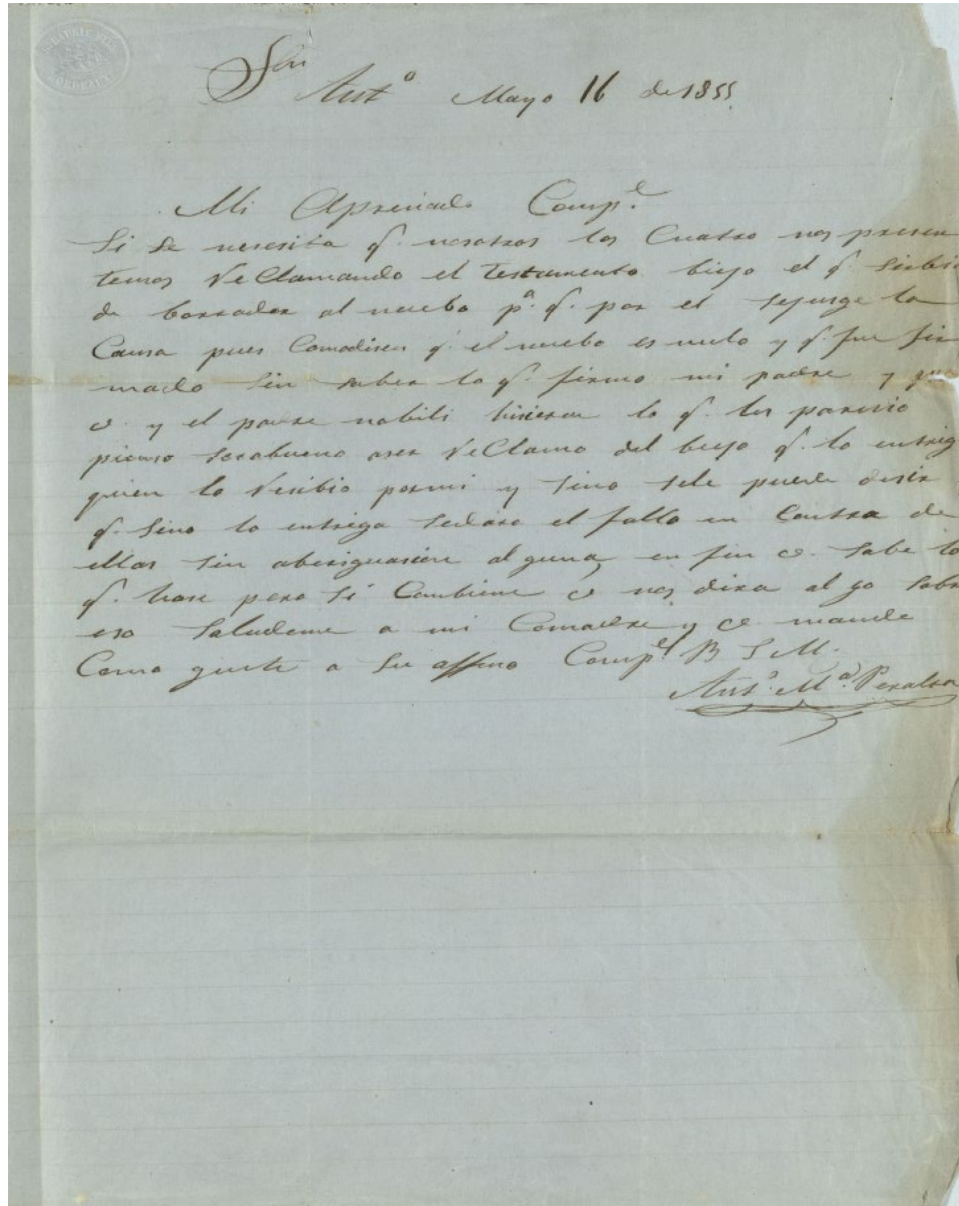


Figure 2: Manuscript letter, Antonio Maria Peralta to Diego A. Forbes,
 [Rancho] San Antonio, May 16, 1855, page 1.
 UA&SC, CSUF. See Edition No. 8.

*Translation No. 08: Antonio Maria Peralta to Diego A. Forbes,
[Rancho] San Antonio, May 16, 1855.*

[Rancho] San Antonio, May 16, 1855³⁷

My appreciated *compadre*,

If it is necessary for the four of us³⁸ to present ourselves to reclaim the old will, which was used as a draft for the new one, so that by it the cause can be acted upon, then—since they state that the new one is nullified, that it was signed without knowledge what my father had signed, and that you and Father Nobili³⁹ did what seemed right to you—I think it would be good to make a claim of the old one [i.e., the old will] that was delivered, who received it on my behalf, and whether it is not possible to tell them that, if it is not delivered, there will be a judgment against them without any inquiry. In the end, you know what you are doing, but—if it is convenient—do let us know something about it.

Give my greetings to my *comadre*, and you, be commended, as you wish, to your very affectionate *compadre*, [who] kisses your hand,

Antonio Maria Peralta

[*paraph*]

*Edition No. 09: Maria Dolores Archuleta de Peralta to Diego A. Forbes,
[Rancho] San Antonio, July 21, 1855.*

[cream colored paper, 12.5 by 8.5 inches, folded, hand/black ink, traces of red wax seal. Overleaf: sender, different historical hand/ink: Maria Dolores Archuleta / de Peralta July 21st / [18]55; addressee, original hand/ink: S[eñ]or. D[o]n / Diego Forbez / En. / {Santa Clara. Additional text, modern hand/pencil: laqe 17]

S[eño]r. D[o]n Diego Forbez

[Rancho] San Antonio Julio 21 de[/]1855

Estimádo Compadre.

Me halegrare [= alegraré] que al[/]rresibo [= recibo] de Esta se[/]hálle sin nobedad [= novedad] en compania de la demás familia.

Compadre. no puedo á U[sted]. figurarle la berguensa [= vergüenza] que [h]e[/]tenido en Este momento que me [h]e[/]puesto aserle [= hacerle] estas cuatro letras mal Dirigidass. y al[/]mismo tiempo suplicarle que me háge [= haga] el fabor [= favor] de fasilitarme [= facilitarme] cincuenta [= cincuenta] pesos en Plata y entregarselos [= entregárselos] a mi Primo Fernando, que en la primera Vez que U[sted]. benga [= venga] al Rancho se[/]le

³⁷ Wednesday, May 16, 1855.

³⁸ Presumably Hermenegildo Ignacio (Ygnacio) Peralta (1791–1874), José Domingo Peralta (1795–1865), Antonio Maria Peralta (1801–1879), and José Vicente Peralta (1812–1871), the four sons of Luis Maria Peralta to reach adulthood.

³⁹ John (Giovanni Pietro Antonio) Nobili, SJ (1812–1856), founder of Santa Clara College.

debolvera [= devolvera] todo Junto que son los Dosientos [= doscientos] pesos que me presto en la bes [= vez] pa-sada. y espero nó dejará U[sted]. de fasilitarme [= facilitarme] Este Dinero que le suplico. a U[sted]. me preste para que el mismo portador los entregue [= entregue][/]en el Pueblo. [next page]

me háse [= hace] fabor [= favor] de Saludarme a[/]mi Comadre y de[-]más familia y U[sted]. rresibalas [= recibalas] de mi[/]parte sú af[ectísi]ma serbidora [= servidora] Q[ue]. S[u]. M[ano]. B[esa].
Maria Dolores Archuleta de
Peralta
[paraph]

*Translation No. 09: Maria Dolores Archuleta de Peralta to Diego A. Forbes,
[Rancho] San Antonio, July 21, 1855.*

Mister *Don* Diego Forbez

[Rancho] San Antonio, July 21, 1855⁴⁰

Esteemed *compadre*,

I⁴¹ will be glad if, upon receiving this [letter], you are as usual in the company of the rest of the family

Compadre, you cannot imagine the shame that I felt at this moment when I had to write you these four poorly addressed letters. And at the same time, I beg you to do me the favor of lending me fifty *pesos* in silver and to give them to my relative Fernando⁴² who, the first time [i.e., the next time] you come to the Ranch, will return [i.e., repay] everything together, namely, the two hundred *pesos* you lent me the last time. And I hope you will not fail to assist me with this money that I beg you to lend me, so that the same bearer can deliver it to the town. [next page]

Please do me the favor of giving my greetings to my *comadre* and the rest of the family, and you, receive them on my behalf. Your very affectionate servant, who kisses your hand,
Maria Dolores Archuleta de
Peralta
[paraph]

⁴⁰ Saturday, July 21, 1855.

⁴¹ Maria Dolores Archuleta de Peralta (1828–1868), Antonio Maria Peralta's second wife, married 1852.

⁴² Presumably Lorenzo Fernando Antonio Peralta (1833–1891), Antonio Maria Peralta's son and Maria Dolores Archuleta de Peralta's stepson.

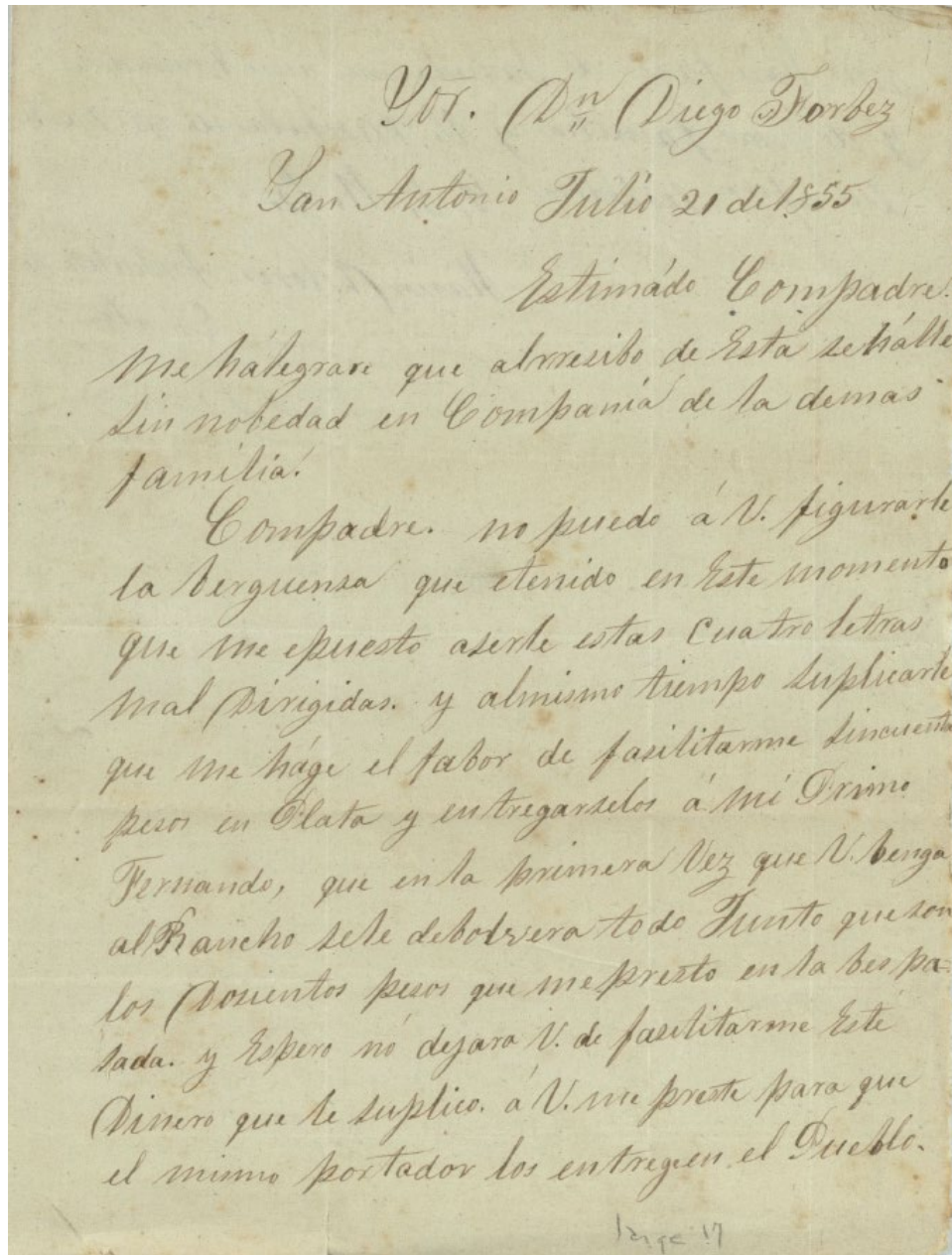


Figure 3: Manuscript letter, Maria Dolores Archuleta de Peralta to Diego A. Forbes,
[Rancho] San Antonio, July 21, 1855, page1.
UA&SC, CSUF. See Edition No. 9.

Edition No. 10: Antonio Maria Peralta to Diego A. Forbes,
[no location], [undated].

[blue paper, 15 by 9.5 inches, folded, hand/black ink, traces of red wax seal. Overleaf: sender, different historical hand/ink: A[ntonio]. M[aria]. Peralta; addressee, original hand/ink: S[eñ]or. D[o]n. / Diego Forbes / S[an] Jose. Additional text, original hand/ink: Louis]

S[eñ]or. D[o]n. Diego Forbes

Mi a[-]preciable Compadre

D[o]n. Aniseto [= Aniceto] Buelna no lleba [= lleva] más fin q[ue]. llebarle [= llevarle] una escritura de benta [= venta] de un pedaso [= pedazo] de tierra q[ue]. he bendido [= vendido] por el arrollito [= arroyito] del liar en la suma de cuatro[/]mil sientos [= ciento] ochenta y siete pesos cuatro reales por lo q[ue]. le meresere [= mereceré] me la[/]firma en el acto[/]mismo y sertificar [= certificar] su[/]firma ante un notario p[ar]a. q[ue]. se[/]forme rason [= razon] de esta benta [= venta] en este condado

No[/]soi [= soy] más largo porq[ue]. en este asunto lla [= ya] le[/]dira el S[eñ]or. Buelna pues les hiba [= iba] de otros negocios con toñita que también pasa a ese punto

Su affmo [= afectísimo] compadre q[ue]. lo aprecia
Ant[oni]o M[ari]a Peralta
[paraph]

*Translation No. 10: Antonio Maria Peralta to Diego A. Forbes,
[no location], [undated].*

Mister *Don* Diego Forbes

My appreciable compadre,

Don Aniceto Buelna⁴³ has no other purpose than to bring you a deed of sale for a piece of land that I have sold by the little creek of Liar⁴⁴ for the sum of four thousand one hundred eighty-seven *pesos cuatro reales*,⁴⁵ for which I will have you sign and, at the same time, certify your signature before a notary, so that a record of this sale may be made in this county.

I will not elaborate any further because Mister Buelna will tell you about this matter, as he was engaged in other business with Toñita⁴⁶ that also touches upon this point.

Your very affectionate *compadre*, who appreciates you,
Antonio Maria Peralta
[paraph]

⁴³ Unidentified.

⁴⁴ Unidentified.

⁴⁵ Presumably the Spanish "4 reales" silver coin still circulating in California at this time.

⁴⁶ At least four of Antonio Maria Peralta's daughters had the name "Antonia" ("Toñita") among their first names, but the only one old enough to be engaged in business dealings at this time would have been Maria Rosa Antonia Peralta Mendizabal (1836–1911). "Toñita" may be referring to her.