

National Archives and Records Administration

Pacific Region

Resources for Teaching Fourth Grade History in California

Land Ownership and the Transition to a New Government: Primary Source Documents

Documents created by the General Land Office

Diseño Citation: Reproduced from Microfilm Publication T-910, California Private Land Claims Dockets (1-359), Roll 44. Held by the National Archives & Records Administration – Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel).

Survey Plat Map Citation: Record Group 49, Records of the Bureau of Land Management, Los Angeles Land Office. Survey Plats – San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, Township 1 North, Range 10 West. Held by the National Archives & Records Administration – Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel).

Extract of Treaty/Table of Land Measures Citation: Record Group 49, Records of the Bureau of Land Management, Los Angeles Land Office. Letters Received, 1853-1919. Box 2. Folder “Correspondence – 1853.” Held by the National Archives & Records Administration – Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel).



*Diseño de las tuberas
de las Cañadas de Arica*

Extract of a ~~report~~ made with the Mexican government, which accompan~~y~~ a report dated November 14, 1851, from the United States surveyor general of California, respecting the ratio of land measures between those employed under the Mexican government and those in use in the United States.

[From the Mexican ordinance for land and sea.]

Article 20~~th~~ of the agreement entered into between the minister plenipotentiary of the Mexican republic and her agents in London, the 15th of September, 1837, with the holders of Mexican bonds.

20th. In compliance of what is ordered by the seventh article of the preceding law, and in order to carry into effect the stipulation in the preceding agreement, in regard to the holders of bonds deferred, it is declared that the act of which mention is made in said agreement answers to 4,840 English yards (squared, equivalent to 5,762,403.

Mexican varas square; inasmuch that the sitio de ganado mayor contains 4,338,964 acres, the Mexican vara having been found, by exact measures, equal, to 837 French millimetres, and consequently to $\frac{916469}{1000000}$ of the English imperial yard.

Reducing the ratio of 4,840 square yards and 5,762,403 square varas, the vara

will be

32.99312

Reducing the 4,338,464 acres

32.99311

Reducing the fraction $\frac{916469}{1000000}$

32.992884

(The fraction mentioned in note $\frac{915755}{1000000}$ 32.96718.)

Translation of a note at the foot of the page. Without doubt in this fraction there is an error of the press, since considering the English yard 914 millimetres, and the Mexican vara 837 millimetres, the vara will be $\frac{915755}{1000000}$ of a yard, the first figure 6 being the inverted 9.

Table of land measures adopted in the republic of Mexico.

Names of the measures.	Figures of the measures.	Length of the figures expressed in varas.	Breadth in varas.	Areas in square varas.	Areas in caballerias.
Sitio de ganado mayor	Square.	5,000	5,000	25,000,000	41.023.
Criadero de ganado mayor	Square.	2,500	2,500	6,250,000	10.255.
Sitio de ganado menor	Square.	3.333 $\frac{1}{3}$	3.333 $\frac{1}{3}$	11,111.111.19	18.232.
Criadero de ganado menor	Square.	1.666 $\frac{2}{3}$	1.666 $\frac{2}{3}$	2,777.777.39	4.558.
Caballeria de tierra.	Right angled parallelogram.	1,104	552	609,408	1
Medio caballeria	Square	552	552	304,704	$\frac{1}{2}$
Cuarto caballeria o buento de tierra.	Right angled parallelogram.	552	276	152,352	$\frac{1}{4}$
Finca de sembradura de mar.	Right angled parallelogram	376	184	56,784	1.12
Bala para casa	Square	50	50	2,500	0.004
Fuente legal para piales.	Square	1,200	1,200	1,440,000	2.036.

The Mexican vara is the unit of all the measures of length, the pattern and size of which are taken from the Castilian vara of the mark of Burgos, and is the legal vara used in the Mexican republic. Fifty Mexican varas make a measure which is called cordel, which instrument is used in measuring lands.

The legal league contains 100 cordels, or 5,000 varas, which is found by multiplying by 100 the 50 varas contained in a cordel. The league is divided into two halves and four quarters, this being the only division made of it. Half a league contains 2,500 varas, and a quarter of a league 1,250 varas. Anciently the Mexican league was divided into three miles, the mile into a thousand paces of Solomon, and one of these paces into five thirds of a Mexican vara; consequently the league had 3,000 paces of Solomon. This division