

Spring 2008

## Don Francisco Yturria: Beginnings of a South Texas Entrepreneur

Lilia M. Garcia

*The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.utrgv.edu/hist\\_fac](https://scholarworks.utrgv.edu/hist_fac)



Part of the [History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Garcia, L. M. (2008). Don Francisco Yturria: Beginnings of a South Texas Entrepreneur. *Journal of South Texas*, 21(1), 10–21.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Liberal Arts at ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. It has been accepted for inclusion in History Faculty Publications and Presentations by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. For more information, please contact [justin.white@utrgv.edu](mailto:justin.white@utrgv.edu), [william.flores01@utrgv.edu](mailto:william.flores01@utrgv.edu).

# Don Francisco Yturria: Beginnings of a South Texas Entrepreneur

*Lilia M. Garcia*

---

*The life and legacy of South Texas pioneer Francisco Yturria remains a fascinating study of a remarkable individual who made powerful and lasting contributions to the region's history. Lilia M. Garcia, a descendent of Don Francisco, consulted family papers and a variety of other primary sources to chronicle his story while pursuing a graduate degree at Southern Methodist University. The following article is the first installment of what will be a four part history of Don Francisco Yturria—South Texas Entrepreneur.*

Who was Don Francisco Yturria? A simple answer would be historic figure, pioneer and leading nineteenth century entrepreneur in South Texas. Another answer could be South Texas banker/merchant, land magnate and economic leader of the Rio Grande Valley in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Still other responses might include political and cultural leader of early Brownsville, Texas. Yturria was a name synonymous with ingenuity, drive, power and history in South Texas.

Francisco Yturria spent most of his life in the Rio Grande Delta, living through political upheavals, economic depressions, wars, bandit raids, smuggling antics and the like. His life intertwined with the area's history in a multitude of ways, and he was a principal actor in the history of the region. Reared in the Rio Grande Valley, Yturria moved to its northern bank in 1848, and invested in various businesses that profited handsomely. During the Civil War, he was actively involved in the Confederate clandestine cotton trade, using his Matamoros connections as a cover. He invested in land and cattle during the heyday years of the cattle bonanza. Yturria, however, was primarily a banker and merchant in Brownsville, Texas, with a sister firm in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico,

Brownsville's sister border town across the Rio Grande. In this capacity, Yturria was truly one of the few individuals who controlled the flow of capital in the region, aggrandizing not only his economic power but also his influence in other important aspects of Rio Grande Valley life.

The son of an officer in the Spanish (and later Mexican) Army, Francisco Yturria found his niche in the capitalist society of the United States. His father, Colonel Manuel Maria Yturria, a career soldier, played an important influence on the young Francisco's life, but it was an Anglo American merchant in Matamoros, Charles Stillman, who would truly transform his life. Following his professional mentor, Francisco moved to the new Brownsville site in 1848 and all would change for him. Having grown up in a truly international port city, Matamoros, Yturria learned the merchant trade firsthand and understood the cultural nuances of the unique region. He learned to "play the game" and quickly became successful at it. His influence in the region, financial empire and vast property holdings came from his persistency, flexibility and astute decision-making. To this day, his descendants profit from his business acumen.

Powerful and influential, Yturria's life is a microcosm of the region's history. Unfortunately, many who study the borderlands have overlooked his prominent historical role in the region. Sometimes mentioned in passing by writers of South Texas history (for example, in Tom Lea's survey of the legendary King Ranch, *The King Ranch*, Lea mentions Yturria briefly). Most denote Yturria to one sentence or a footnote, repeating the same facts – that he was a prominent citizen or the first private banker of South Texas. They go into no detail or analysis. Others misspell his name or give incorrect information. T. Harry Gattton, in *The Texas Bankers Association: The First Century 1885-1985*, refers to Yturria as D. Yturri.<sup>1</sup> Gattton most probably confused "Don" Francisco Yturria, a title of honor in Spanish, with his actual name. Gattton also points out that the Yturria bank opened in 1848<sup>2</sup>, although evidence points to the bank's establishment in the mid 1850s. In 1848, Yturria was eighteen and had just relocated to Brownsville from Matamoros. The United States Census Report of 1850 listed Yturria as a clerk in the household of Jules Beauchery, a French merchant in Brownsville.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, Gattton's book is not the only published material reporting erroneous facts about Yturria. Articles on Yturria are few and often state the same things without analyzing him and truly examining his life in detail. Some repeat the same incorrect facts, citing the same old sources.

In many ways, Yturria does not fit the stereotypical model of Hispanics in the post U.S.-Mexican War era. He did not lose his lands, power, or money during the time that many Hispanics did. As Anglo-Americans increased their holdings over traditionally held Hispanic lands, Yturria was an *empresario* and an example of the Gilded Age financial barons. Yturria was a Hispanic businessman who seemed to possess an Anglo-American outlook and business mentality—focused on efficiency, maximizing profits, and keeping down costs. Attracted and

adept at the fine business of true capitalism, his enterprises were tied to capital-intensive ventures like banking and trading. He wanted what was best for his business and this coincided with the “Yankee way” of doing things rather than the old government regulated mercantilist policies of the Spanish.<sup>4</sup> Though the area remained predominantly Hispanic in cultural outlook and demographics, after the Mexican War, Anglo-Americans were the power holders. Yturria adapted to the new environment, however, and engaged in a successful commerce with them, was accepted by them, and assimilated their culture—but he never became subservient to them. Yturria possessed the rare talent of knowing how to interact and do business with both the Mexican-Texans (*Tejanos*) and Mexican nationals.<sup>5</sup> Not everyone agreed with him, nor with his aggressive business tactics. Hispanics in the region, for example, had their problems with Yturria’s beliefs and practices. His enemies were many; some even attempted to assassinate him in 1860.<sup>6</sup>

Who was Yturria? Some might say an accommodationist to the Anglo-American world, yet Yturria never truly accommodated to anything save those practices that advanced his various business interests. He was a born capitalist, merchant and financier. Growing up in a region completely different from others in Mexico and the United States, he quickly learned to work within the bicultural world of the US-Mexico border. His friends included legendary names in South Texas history, such as Charles Stillman, famed merchant and founder of Brownsville, Captain Richard King, founder of the King Ranch, and Captain Mifflin Kennedy—founder of the Kenedy Ranch. He maintained merchant houses in Mexico and utilized the advantages of being fluent in Spanish and English, understanding the government and markets in two countries to his advantage.

To label Yturria a Mexican accommodationist, therefore, would be both inaccurate and dismissive of his many accomplishments. Historians often associate Mexican accommodationists with the landed Mexican elite who tried to save their holdings and power when Anglo-Americans assumed control.<sup>7</sup> In actuality, Yturria was more than this. His family was not a member of the landed gentry, nor did the Yturrias possess great wealth or assets. His father, a highly respected military officer, brought home a decidedly modest income. Thus, Francisco Yturria’s rise to economic and social prominence merits attention. While not the only South Texas Hispanic to prosper, he was one of the few.

Yturria’s success stemmed from two contributing factors: his upbringing in the unique multicultural environment of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, and his acute business sense. Like most successful entrepreneurs, he was persistent, determined, hard working, and possessed a unique ability to know how to deal with individuals of different backgrounds without alienating them. He was a merchant, the first private banker in the region, and the only banker south of San Antonio between the years of 1858 till 1870. Thus, as a banker and merchant, Yturria exercised considerable control over the capital flow in the region.

Yturria maintained homes in both Matamoros and Brownsville at various points in his life, but considered himself an American after 1848.<sup>8</sup> His move to Brownsville, during the city's initial founding, was important to his success. As one of the city's founders, he laid the groundwork for his merchant business. He created a base that kept him an important fixture in the area's economy and society. It was through his Brownsville base and Matamoros connections that during the era of *Los Algodones*, Yturria acquired an immense amount of revenue that strengthened his social and business connections.

Yturria was an unusual man. During the Civil War, he supported the Confederacy and smuggled Confederate cotton. At the same time, on the Mexican side, Yturria supported the French in Mexico and gave his allegiance to Emperor Maximilian during the Mexican-Imperialist War. Although the Confederacy lost its shortlived independence and Mexican President Benito Juarez succeeded in driving the French out of Mexico in 1866, Yturria emerged from this era of conflict and instability with virtually all his possessions intact. Uncertain of how the new Reconstruction government in Texas would view his pro-Confederate sympathies and Mexican authorities his pro-French leanings, he went into a self-imposed exile in Europe for a time, but upon his return to south Texas, he actually increased his landholding and became one of the leading land magnates of the area.

Merchant, banker, land magnate, capitalist, again one asks – Who was Don Francisco Yturria? What was it about him that made him different from many other Hispanics of the time? Perhaps, it is best to examine his beginnings.

Don Francisco Yturria was born on October 4, 1830, probably, in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Unfortunately, official birth records have not been found. In the U.S. Census of 1900, Yturria gave his birth year as 1830,<sup>9</sup> and Francisco's death certificate lists his birthday as October 4, 1830.<sup>10</sup> October 4th is also the feast day of Saint Francis, and it is a Hispanic custom and Catholic tradition to name children for the saint on whose feast day corresponds to their birth date. Francisco's parents were Colonel Manuel Maria Yturria and Paula Navarro. Some secondary sources state that Francisco was born in Palofax, Mexico, a small village north of Laredo, but this is difficult to prove since marauding Indians destroyed the town's records around 1820. Various secondary sources also suggest that Paula Navarro may have originally been from Palofax.<sup>11</sup>

Manuel Maria Yturria was a colonel in the Mexican Army and had previously served in the Royal Spanish Army. The union between Manuel Maria and Paula Navarro produced four children: Francisco, Santiago, Bernardo and Maria del Refugio. Francisco remained close to his siblings throughout his life, and he included his brothers in many of his business transactions. He apparently had a falling out with his brother Bernardo in the 1860s relating to business concerns, and a decade earlier lost contact with father. According to Dr. Frank Yturria, great grandson of Francisco, Francisco had a falling out with his father around

1848—around the time, coincidentally, that Francisco moved to the northern bank of the Rio Grande. Col. Yturria proved to be an important and influential figure in young Francisco's life, despite their eventual estrangement. Manuel Maria was appointed the head of the Custom House in Matamoros, a post he held on and off until the Mexican-American War.<sup>12</sup> Here, Francisco was able to view the merchant trade closely from a young age. It was also through his father that Francisco established a relationship with Charles Stillman, his future mentor, and other Matamoros merchants. Stillman, an American merchant doing business in Matamoros, was one of the most successful in the region.

Francisco lived through tumultuous times in northern Mexico. Periods of stability were few as liberals and conservatives battled for control of the young country. Only six years old when Mexico lost Texas by a rebellion many Mexicans believed to have been inspired by the influx of Anglo-Americans in Texas, young Francisco saw the influence of Yankee trade and how commerce prospered in times of stability.

Exposed at a young age to the merchant trade, Yturria also recognized what social and political instability produced in business. Francisco saw Anglo-Americans, like Charles Stillman, doing business in Matamoros, and observed how their country's stability fostered economic growth and progress. His father, loyal to Mexico, never saw the hope in the United States that young Francisco saw. Francisco eventually clerked at Stillman's merchant business and began to look to the United States rather than to his native Mexico for future prosperity in business. Matamoros was a region where foreign merchants dominated trade and exuded economic influence and power. Francisco understood firsthand what Mexico's instability meant to commerce; it brought legitimate trade to a standstill.<sup>13</sup>

Though their views on the US would differ, Francisco probably did acquire from his father an elitist euro-centric view. Later in life, Francisco became an ardent monarchist, believing only a foreign country could govern Mexico adequately and produce economic stability. Economic motives influenced Francisco's support of the French in Mexico, but the fact that his father was of Spanish ancestry shouldn't be overlooked. Francisco, like most other *criollos* (children of pure Spanish blood born in Mexico), may have viewed himself above Mexican *mestizos*—the most numerous demographic group in the country. Colonial Mexico's social system had placed considerable importance on "Spanish blood," elevating those who were born in Spain (*peninsulares*) or their Mexican-born descendants to prominent positions in government or the clergy. While Francisco was not a Spanish nobleman, his father was a *criollo* and a highly respected military officer. Given these prevailing cultural strictures, Manuel Maria more than likely considered himself "better" than most of the population around him. It makes sense, therefore, that Francisco took considerable pride in his lineage and viewed his position in society as both an inherent right and as a mechanism by

which he could advance both socially and economically.

Francisco Yturria grew up at a time when Matamoros experienced physical and economic growth, thanks in part to new legalizations of trade by the Mexican government. In 1820, Matamoros had a population of 2,320, but by 1837 boasted 16,372 residents. The city's foreign merchant community, which dominated trade, consisted primarily of Yankee northeasterners, French-Americans from Louisiana, and Europeans, giving Matamoros an international and cosmopolitan air.<sup>14</sup> French and German languages intermingled with Spanish and English. However, the Anglo-American presence was the most influential due to the obvious proximity of the United States. By the 1830s, then, Matamoros was a vital gateway into northern Mexico and Texas, with a small, but thriving foreign merchant community. "The merchants of Matamoros," historian Tom Lea writes, "were on the make. To stay in business, they stayed sharp; if they managed to stay, they managed to get rich. The merchants of Matamoros were merchants of Venice, Rio Grande style."<sup>15</sup>

Due to Matamoros' strategic location, Mexican government officials set up a customs house there in the 1820s with *Boca del Rio*, the river's mouth, its official port. Ships used the Brazos de Santiago Pass more frequently, however, because of its greater depth (the mouth of the Rio Grande was only six feet deep). The Brazos de Santiago Pass was north of the Rio Grand and opened into a sheltered harbor. Goods landed at Santiago Island, located just beyond the pass, went south by oxcart to the river and crossed the Rio Grande by flatboat ferry at Matamoros or other crossing points.<sup>16</sup> New Orleans quickly dominated the Matamoros trade. The short journey between the two cities, a mere three days through the Gulf of Mexico, allowed for the use of light draft ships that could also float over the sandbar. "Matamoros rapidly became the main port for all of northeastern Mexico," Milo Kearney and Anthony Knopp have observed, "which was suffering from a scarcity of manufactured products . . . American and European goods were eagerly bought and the ships returned to New Orleans with . . . cow hides, mules, wool and silver and gold coins."<sup>17</sup>

In 1829, Manuel Maria Yturria assumed command of the customs house in Matamoros where he dealt with the merchants in regards to their export and import commerce. Through his father, Francisco was exposed to this section of the population. Merchants were among his father's friends, and they probably augmented the senior Yturria's income from time to time. Noted historian of the Borderlands, David Weber, explains that "underpaid customs officials often accepted bribes as a necessary supplement to their meager income."<sup>18</sup> Mexico relied on customs duties for revenue, but because of inefficiency and inadequate resources at its port cities, the needed cash was often unobtainable. Consequently, Mexico attempted to raise tariffs to increase cash flow. But high tariffs, in turn, encouraged smuggling. According to one young observer, "the savings from evading increased taxes allow merchants to offer bribes of such magnitude

that few men have the honor to refuse them.”<sup>19</sup>

The non-Mexican merchant community dominated the Matamoros trade and the leaders were Anglo-American expatriates like Charles Stillman. Francisco observed the *Norteamericanos* conduct business and probably reasoned that Mexico’s incapacity to run itself brought instability, and consequently hurt commerce—but foreign merchants brought in revenue and merchandise to what otherwise had been a stagnant economy. As Yturria grew older, his belief that Mexico was unable to provide the adequate environment for lucrative business only intensified, and he observed how each shift in the national government rearranged rules of commerce. Later in his life, he favored conservative governments and big business interests because he felt they fostered stability. Following this train of thought, it is understandable why Francisco eventually followed his Anglo-American merchant friends and contacts to the northern bank of the Rio Grande.

Tradition holds that French Oblates educated Yturria and evidence suggests he spoke Spanish, English and French. Dr. Frank Yturria, says that his great grandfather was perfectly literate in Spanish and English and spoke fluent French.<sup>20</sup> He had interacted with different international groups of Matamoros businessmen since childhood. The environment he had grown up in, consequently, prepared him for future transactions with people from different backgrounds.

Yturria was a sharp boy, with a talent for business, a gift Charles Stillman soon noticed upon making him his clerk. Connecticut-born Stillman came to the Rio Grande Delta with his father, Francis, in 1828. Francis Stillman had been a business partner of Daniel Smith, United States Consul in Matamoros, and had engaged in a steady trade between New York City and Matamoros. Supposedly arriving on his father’s loaded merchant ship, Charles settles in Matamoros after selling his father’s goods at great profit. He then decided to manage the Matamoros end of his father’s business transactions.<sup>21</sup> By the beginning of the Mexican-American War, Charles Stillman’s commercial enterprises had made him one of the wealthiest American merchants in Matamoros. Not surprisingly, Stillman had become friends with the head of the Mexican Custom House, Col. Manuel Maria Yturria. In 1842, Stillman gave twelve-year-old Francisco a clerkship in his merchant house. There is evidence to suggest that Stillman also hired Santiago, Francisco’s younger brother, but Francisco being the oldest of the Yturria boys, clerked with Stillman first.<sup>22</sup>

It is difficult to measure the influence Charles Stillman had over the young Yturria. Francisco was old enough to recognize Stillman’s craftiness and young enough to idolize him and his business acumen. Many secondary sources describe Francisco as Stillman’s protégé.<sup>23</sup> Much of Francisco’s business knowledge, therefore, probably came from apprenticing under Stillman. Yturria later set up business relationships with New York and New Orleans merchant firms



based on Stillman connections. . Mexicans and Americans in the city respected Stillman, and since they associated Yturria with him, may have transferred some of their high regard to his protégé. For young Francisco, Charles Stillman was probably the object of hero-worship. Later in Yturria's life, Stillman remained a close friend, confidante and business partner.

The relationship between Yturria and Stillman solidified during the Mexican-American War. When Manuel Maria Yturria received orders to leave Matamoros, he left his family in Stillman's care. Perhaps believing the area would be overrun by American troops, Manuel Maria figured it would be best to entrust his family to an American friend. There is some evidence that suggests that Manuel Maria never returned to Matamoros and his family.<sup>24</sup> After 1848, no record of Francisco's father appears in the Yturria personal archives. Dr. Yturria has found evidence of Manuel Maria remarrying and having a daughter in Tampico, Mexico, during the 1850s. Interestingly, this raises questions on the stability of the marriage between Paula Navarro and Manuel Maria Yturria. Such considerations aside, as the oldest son, sixteen-year-old Francisco became the head of the Yturria family and it seems likely that Stillman became even more of a father figure, especially with Manuel Maria's departure from the Rio Grande Delta.

The Mexican-American War, 1846-1848, brought many changes to the people residing along the Rio Grande Delta. Yturria had watched the roller coaster effects of ever-changing policies of rival regimes in Mexico and seen their repercussions on trade. He concluded that the best environment for a successful merchant trade lay with the United States. He was not the only Hispanic in the region to believe this. Andres Pacheco, for example, a Mexican businessman in Matamoros, named his future building in Brownsville, Texas, established in 1848, *La Nueva Libertad*, the New Freedom.<sup>25</sup> Like some elite Mexican Texans before them during the Texas revolution, various Mexicans in the Rio Grande Delta felt and hoped that Anglo-American control would further their business interests. Mexico, after all, had ignored their concerns and her intrusive economic policies had hurt trade.

After the war, the Rio Grande Delta remained an isolated region surrounded by semi-arid deserts, and its people were unaccustomed to an international border separating the southern and northern banks of the Rio Grande. All major population centers existed on the southern bank of the Rio Grande, but the area's main port, the Brazos de Santiago, was north of the river. Matamoros' communal lands or *ejidos* were north of the river as well, and families held land on both sides of the river. The Anglo-Americans and other foreigners had adapted to the Mexican culture because they had been the minorities, yet they had given Matamoros and the surrounding area an international air. The region had a predominantly agriculture-based economy; the landed Mexican gentry held power and their control of land and money had been practically absolute. The foreign

merchants had helped reform the economic structure, bringing about a change in the flow of capital. Although the expatriate community usually remained in their own social enclaves, keeping to themselves,<sup>26</sup> ethnic tensions had not run high in Matamoros. What was important for social acceptance was essentially the family name. American merchants with money did not threaten the Mexicans in Matamoros because they were few in number and they had adapted to the local lifestyle. Of course, their business was very welcome. Francisco Yturria understood the people of his environment and had developed connections in many different areas of the community. He bridged cultural gaps. This talent was to be extremely important in his future endeavors.

The Mexican-American War brought many new people to the Rio Grande Valley, many of whom decided to stay. Two of these individuals were Mifflin Kenedy and Richard King. Both men eventually became Yturria's business partners and friends. Both also became Texas legends, Kenedy, founder of the Kenedy Ranch and King, founder of the King Ranch.

Kenedy arrived in the delta to help General Zachary Taylor move troops and supplies up and down the Rio Grande. The river had never experienced continued traffic prior to the war, but this changed as commerce and communication lines connected people along the southern Rio Grande.<sup>27</sup> Kenedy helped chose the boats for the Rio Grande, a shallow river with unpredictable currents. Kenedy eventually wrote to a young friend—Richard King—and invited him down to the delta. King, originally from New York, had met Kenedy in Florida. He answered Kenedy and came down to the region.<sup>28</sup> Both of them quickly became the most successful and best known of the Rio Grande steamboat captains.

Historians are not certain when Yturria met Kenedy and King. As steamboat operators, they regularly encountered area merchants sending goods up and down the river. Stillman came to know King and Kenedy, and perhaps introduced Yturria to them. After the war, both Kenedy and King stayed in the region as steamboat captains. Yturria started a business association with them soon afterwards and remained very close to both of them, helping King secure funds to establish the famous King Ranch.

In 1848, American and Mexican officials signed the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo ending the war. Mexico lost its northern provinces and recognized the Rio Grande as its international border with the United States and Texas. The treaty's ramifications were profound. There was now a division in the midst of what was once a cultural unit. Historian Gilberto M. Hinojosa writes, "the boundary line cut through what previously had been a geographical, economic, and political unit, and save for the international demarcation, it remained so for decades."<sup>29</sup> However, this international line changed the lives of many, depending on what side of the Rio Grande they lived.

For Francisco Yturria, the Mexican-American War had provided an opportunity to see how merchants profited in war. Kearney and Knopp observe, "As

American armies cut . . . deeper into . . . Mexico, Matamoros merchants began to profit from selling provisions in the interior both to the American military and to native Mexicans, free from . . . customs duties as the Mexico Customs house had been closed down in occupied territories.”<sup>30</sup> However, the Walker Tariff of 1847 ended the commercial free-for-all by taxing all commodities going into occupied Mexico. In response, American merchant firms relocated to the northern bank of the Rio Grande.<sup>31</sup>

Yturria entertained similar ideas and his mentor, Charles Stillman, further influenced him. Diane Slather Smith notes that “Stillman foresaw the new potential. This resourceful gentleman quickly bought up all the available land in the area from Spanish and Mexican owners to become the leading land developer” in the area.<sup>32</sup> In 1848, Yturria, along with several Anglo-Americans and other Matamoros residents, moved to the Stillman’s new Brownsville, Texas community. It was directly across from Matamoros on the northern bank of the Rio Grande. His move to the United States caused tensions with his father, who remained loyal to Mexico. Considering Mexico’s recent loss to the United States, it is understandable that Francisco’s decision to relocate to the victor’s side caused Manuel Maria considerable discomfort. Francisco never heard from his father again. However, he was only eighteen years old, and boundless confidence directed his vision to the future and the possibilities that his new country could provide him.

To Be Continued . . .

## Notes

1 T. Harry Gattton, The Texas Bankers Association: The First Century, 1885-1985 (Austin: Texas bankers Association, 1984), 43.

2 Ibid.

3 United States Census Report, 1900, Cameron County, Brownsville, Texas, Arnulfo Oliveira Library, Brownsville, and Dr. Frank Yturria, interview by author, Brownsville, November 1990 and December 1991.

4 Dr. Frank Yturria, interview by author, tape Recording, Brownsville, Texas, 30 June 1993.

5 Fausto Yturria, Jr., interview by author, Brownsville, Texas, December

1991.

6 P. Nickels, Edinburgh, Texas, to Francisco Yturria, Brownsville, Texas, speaks of assassination attempt on Yturria, 22 December 1860, Yturria Family Archives, Brownsville, and Dr. Frank Yturria, interview by author, Brownsville, November 1990, and December 1991.

7 Manuel G. Gonzales, The Hispanic Elite of the Southwest (El Paso: Texas Western Press, University of Texas at El Paso, 1989), 28.

8 Dr. Gilberto M. Hinojosa, interview by author, Brownsville, Texas, December 1991, (Hinojosa is curator of the Yturria Family Archives and done extensive work on these documents cataloguing them).

9 United States Census Report, Cameron County, Brownsville, Texas, 1900, Arnulfo Oliveira Library, Brownsville, Texas.

10 Standard Certificate of Death for Francisco Yturria issued by the Texas State Board of Health, No. 827, 15 June 1912, Cameron County Courthouse, Brownsville, Texas.

11 Nola Martin Harding and Dorothy Abbott McCoy, "Francisco Yturria and Heirs," Roots by the River (Mission, Texas: Border Kingdom Press, 1978), 91, and Betty Bay, Historic Brownsville: Original Town Site Guide (Brownsville, Texas: Brownsville Historical Association, 1980), 131.

12 Dr. Frank Yturria, interview by author, 30 June 1993.

13 Milo Kearney and Anthony Knopp, Boom and Bust: The Historical Cycles of Matamoros and Brownsville (Austin, Texas: Eakin Press, 1991), 32.

14 Ibid., 31-33.

15 Tom Lea, The King Ranch (Boston and Toronto: Little, Brown and Company, 1957), 49.

16 Kearney and Knopp, Boom and Bust, 30.

17 Ibid., 31.

18 Weber, Abbreviated title here 149.

19 Anonymous, Dennis E. Berge, ed., and trans., *Consideration on the Political and Social Situation of the Mexican republic 1847* (El Paso, 1975), 15, quoted in Weber, 149.

20 Dr. Yturria, Memo to Hidalgo Country Historical Museum.

21 Lea, Abbreviated title here 53.

22 Dr. Frank Yturria, interview, 17 June 1993.

23 One example is Chancey Stillman, Charles Stillman, 1818-1875 (New York: Privately Published, 1956), 21.

24 Dr. Yturria, interview, 30 June 1993.

25 Dr. Yturria, interview, 30 June 1993.

26 Kearney and Knopp, 32.

27 Pat Kelley, River of Lost Dreams (Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press), 31-32.

28 Lea, 10.

29 Gilberto M. Hinojosa, "Don Francisco Yturria: Dear Sir," (unpublished manuscript, copy, 1993), 10.

30 Kearney and Knopp, 65-66.

31 Ibid., 66-67.

32 Diane Solether Smith, The Armstrong Chronicle: A Ranching History (San Antonio: 1986), 41.

Copyright of Journal of South Texas is the property of Journal of South Texas and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.