

**MARISELLA ESPINOZA PAPER: “THE CASE OF ABRAHAM ORTIZ”**  
Finding Aid

Compiled by  
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Museum of South Texas History  
Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives  
Edinburg, Texas

2014



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## SUMMARY

<b>Size</b>	1 folder
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Hidalgo County, Texas
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	November 8, 1991
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Summary</b>	A course paper completed as a requirement for a criminal justice class taught by Dr. Dearth at the University of Texas-Pan American is the only item in this collection.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	The collection is open for research. If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please contact the Archivist at 956-383-6911 to make an appointment to visit the Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives (MHMMA) reading room.
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<b>Related Collections</b>	Armando Alonzo manuscript: "The Trial, Capture, and Hanging of Abraham Ortiz," 1968, SMC 35, RGDOC 2, B:1. W. Montgomery typescript: Trial of Abraham Ortiz, with court transcripts and personal memoirs of execution by Donor, c. 1913 (1970.064), RGDOC 10, B:3. Legal documents: Texas vs. A. Ortiz, FIMC DD, B:13.
<b>Citation</b>	Marisella Espinoza paper: "The Case of Abraham Ortiz." Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX.
<b>Stack Location(s)</b>	SMC 52, RGDOC 41, B:1

## BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

On May 2, 1913 Abraham Ortiz was hung at the newly constructed Hidalgo County Jail in Edinburg, Texas. He had been convicted of rape and murder and was in his early 20s at that time. He is the only person hung in that jail.

“Controversy still surrounds the Ortiz trial and execution. The 12 names selected as jury were all Anglos, leading some to believe that racism played a role. The two victims were themselves Hispanic, and it was Florencia Martinez’ own testimony that tipped the scales against Ortiz. But W. L. Lipscomb, foreman of the San Juan Plantation where Ortiz and Gonzalez worked, knew both men; he believed that Gonzalez was the real killer. If so, he didn’t evade justice for long. Several years later, Domingo Gonzalez — a.k.a. Concepcion Bueno — was arrested in Cameron County for an earlier murder. His death sentence later was commuted to life in prison.”

Fort, Tom A. “MOSTHistory Series, Part 2 continued: The Ortiz Hanging II,” *The Monitor*, May 11, 2013. [http://m.themonitor.com/life/valley\\_life/mosthistory-series-part-continued-the-ortiz-hanging-ii/article\\_770dd456-6407-11e3-8d34-0019bb30f31a.html?mode=jqm](http://m.themonitor.com/life/valley_life/mosthistory-series-part-continued-the-ortiz-hanging-ii/article_770dd456-6407-11e3-8d34-0019bb30f31a.html?mode=jqm) (accessed October 22, 2014).

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

A course paper completed as a requirement for a criminal justice class taught by Dr. Dearth at the University of Texas-Pan American is the only item in this collection. The paper was written by Marisella Espinoza and Esmeralda Rodriguez in 1991. A list of works cited and twelve photocopied pages of the Texas Criminal Law are included.