

CASIMIRO PÉREZ-ÁLVAREZ COLLECTION
Finding Aid

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

2015



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SUMMARY

Size	0.59 cubic feet, seven artifacts and two framed photographs
Geographic Locations	Lower Rio Grande Valley; Rio Grande City, Texas; Laredo, Texas; Brownsville, Texas
Inclusive Dates	1853-2003
Bulk Dates	1902-1922
Languages	English and Spanish
Summary	The collection contains materials pertaining to Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez, a rancher and citizen of Starr County, Texas in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and his father Enemecio Pérez. Pérez-Álvarez was also a newspaper owner, a census enumerator, a Deputy U.S. Marshal, a scout attached to military forces at Fort Ringgold, a County Food Administrator, and a postmaster. The family ranch was Rancho San Juan de la Mulada located in Porcion 74, the land grant given to Pedro Lugo in 1767 by the King of Spain.
Access Restrictions	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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Related Collections	
Related Collections in other institutions	Hernan Contreras collection, 1852-1993 at Cushing Library, University Libraries, Texas A&M University. Alonso S. Perales papers, 1898-1991 at University of

	Houston Libraries, University of Houston. Casimiro Pérez Álvarez Papers, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.
Citation	Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez collection. Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX.
Display Credit Line	Courtesy of Museum of South Texas History.
Stack Location(s)	RGDOC 637 and 660, H:19; RGDOC 693, L:21; RGPFO 325, S:9

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez was born on March 4, 1869 on Los Pérez Ranch near Rio Grande City, Texas. His parents were Enemecio Pérez and Marta Álvarez Pérez; his siblings were Timotea, Juan Diego, and Susana. They were descendants of a family in a group of settlers who accompanied Don José de Escandon to the province of Nuevo Santander, in New Spain, an area that later became northern Mexico. The pioneer family helped found La Villa de Santa Ana in Nuevo Santander in 1749.

The family ranch was Rancho San Juan de la Mulada and was located in Porcion 74, the land grant given to Pedro Lugo in 1767 by the King of Spain. In 1787 Lugo sold his land to his nephew Pedro Jose Pérez, the great-great grandfather of Casimiro.

Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez was educated in American schools and two private colleges in Mexico. During his lifetime, he was an owner of two Spanish-language newspapers` (1890-1894), a rancher (1895-1900, 1914-1915, 1918-1921, 1933-1936), a census enumerator in Starr County Justice Precinct Number 4 (1900), a general store manager (1900-1902), a Field Deputy U.S. Marshal (1902-1914), a scout attached to U.S. military forces at Fort Ringgold (1915-1918), a County Food Administrator (1917-1918), an Office Deputy U.S. Marshal (1921-1923), and Postmaster at Rio Grande City (1924-1933). He served his Field Deputy U.S. Marshal duties in Edinburg, Brownsville, Laredo, and Rio Grande City.

The two newspapers he owned were *El Voluntario* and *El Bien Público*. He used them to present his political views and relate his concerns pertaining to the political rights of Tejanos in Rio Grande City.

He married Silvestre Peña on November 23, 1895 at the San Isidro Ranch in Starr County, Texas. They had ten children: Hilda Pérez Saldivar (1899), Marta Pérez Perales (1901), Fulgencio Manuel Pérez (1904), Francisca Pérez Lozano (1905), Librada Pérez Hinojosa (1906), Estela Pérez Contreras (1910), Maria Celia Pérez (1910), Toraldo Casimiro Pérez (1913), and two children who died in infancy, Martin Nemesio Pérez and Raymunda Lulia Pérez. Pérez-Álvarez died in 1936 and was buried in the Rio Grande City Downtown Historic Cemetery in Rio Grande City, Texas.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection contains materials pertaining to Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez, a rancher and citizen of Starr County, Texas in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and his father Enemecio Pérez. The materials were collected by Casimiro's daughter-in-law Josefa H. Pérez, wife of Toraldo Caimiro Pérez. She and her daughter Araceli Pérez-Davis donated the collection to the museum.

Formats found in the collection include ranch and law enforcement artifacts, a ledger from La Mulada Ranch, day books or diaries kept by Pérez-Álvarez, financial documents, correspondence, certificates, family papers, and photographs. Many of the items are photocopies of originals, and some original documents were laminated by the donor.

Pérez-Davis stored the materials in four, three-ring binders. Archival staff removed the materials from the binders and housed them in archival folders and boxes. They retained original order by using accession numbers (see the List of Sub-groups and Series on the next page).

LIST OF SUB-GROUPS AND SERIES

I. Artifacts

II. Photographs

III. La Mulada Ranch ledger, 1894-1908

IV. Binders

- A. Binder I (2006.010.018)**
- B. Binder II (2006.022.001)**
- C. Binder III (2006.022.002)**
- D. Binder IV (2006.022.003)**

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I. Artifacts

The artifacts in the collection are a Home Guard badge, saddle, Winchester rifle, Colt revolver, a pair of leather leggings, a leather saddle bag, a pair of horse hames, a horseshoe, a horse bit, a spur, and a carpentry plane. The leggings and saddle bag belonged to Enemecio Pérez, father of Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez. The other items are from the La Mulada Ranch. The hames, horseshoe, and bit were painted bronze by the donors. For more information about the artifacts in the collection, contact Lisa Adam, Curator of Collections and Registrar, by calling 956-383-6911.

II. Photographs

Three photographs are included in the collection. The first is a black and white photograph (9.25"x6.25") of Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez with hat, quirt, gun belt, and boots,

on horseback, circa 1930. Next is a rectangular presentation of nine, black and white oval photographs of U.S. Marshals, circa 1902-1906. The photograph of Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez is at the bottom center of the grouping. Last is a framed oval portrait of Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez, circa 1900-1910.

III. La Mulada Ranch ledger, 1894-1908

The ledger was created by Enemecio Pérez, father of Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez, who recorded contracts with his employees. Data recorded included employee names, dates of hire, wages, and duties.

IV. Binders

A. Binder I: Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez and La Mulada Ranch – compiled by Araceli Pérez Davis (2006.010.018), 1853-1932

Two small diaries kept by Álvarez were in the binder. Their inclusive dates are 1905-1922. Pérez-Álvarez used them to record his activities as Deputy U.S. Marshal as well as some random ranch related data. Topics consist of US court cases, an acre count, rooms rented, cotton weights, prisoner transfer, interrogation questions, trip expenses, water prices, payment notes, check deposits, 1908 taxes, cash in hand, arrests and releases, and subpoenas. Several hand drawn maps illustrating scenes of investigation are included. Most of the information in the diaries relate to Starr County, especially Rio Grande City and Laredo.

Other documents in the binder consist of letters of commission, appointments to office, certificates, a list of government property, nomination to Postmaster, oaths of office, letters of recommendation, authorization to carry firearms, and a request for leave of absence. The documents were created in relation to his positions as Deputy US Marshal, Postmaster, County Food Administrator, and Chief Scout in the Fort Ringgold Sector.

The La Mulada Ranch documents consist of a hard copy of a scan of a photograph of Enemecio Pérez, handwritten copies of deeds to Porcion 74, short handwritten messages, photocopies of news articles, bills and receipts, a handwritten contract of rent, promissory notes, and tax receipts.

B. Binder II: Memoirs of Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez: His Life, Family, Politics and Career, March 4, 1869-Jan. 16, 1936 – compiled by Araceli Pérez Davis (2006.022.001), 1895-2005.

Most of the items in the binder are letters and envelopes. Two of the letters are love letters written by Pérez-Álvarez to Silvestre Peña. The other letters contain information about ranching business, food administration business, Postmasters Association of Texas dues, a Republican Party campaign, the census, a family letter, and a sheriff campaign. Most of the letters are in Spanish.

Also found here is a birth certificate for Silvestre Peña, a photocopy of the marriage record for Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez and Silvestre Peña, some promissory notes, a document relating to Pérez-Álvarez's estate after his death, the *esquela* (traditional funeral announcement) for Pérez-Álvarez, a requiem mass

announcement for Pérez-Álvarez, and a photocopy of the affidavit of of heirship of Pérez-Álvarez.

C. Binder III: Pérez/Enemecio/1840-1908 – compiled by Araceli Pérez Davis (2006.022.002), 1891-1907.

Many of the items from Binder III are photocopies of the originals. The types of material found here includes an image of the family crest, a copy of the scanned portrait of Enemecio Pérez, photocopies of property tax records, photocopies of citizenship papers and deeds, financial papers, a photocopy of a property line plat, and an original letter from Sofia Pérez to her mother Paula P. de Pérez.

D. Binder IV: Original Republican Documents from 1902 thru 1936, Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez – compiled by Araceli Pérez Davis (2006.022.003), 1894-2003.

Articles written by family members about Pérez-Álvarez's involvement in politics and the Republican Party were included in the binder. Photographs of U.S. Marshals, Pérez-Álvarez, and U.S. Marshal artifacts were also found here. Other documents include appointments to office, business cards, and correspondence concerning Pérez-Álvarez's appointments to Deputy U.S. Marshal, County Food Administrator, and Postmaster of Rio Grande City.

INDEX TERMS

Pérez, Enemecio, 1840-?
Pérez-Álvarez, Casimiro, 1869-1936

Diaries

La Mulada Ranch

Porcion 74

Republican Party (Tex.)

U.S. Marshals

United States Marshals

United States. Department of Justice. Office of the Inspector General

United States. Marshals Service

Brownsville (Tex.).

Fort Ringgold (Tex.)

Laredo (Tex.)

Rio Grande City (Tex.)

Starr County (Tex.)

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
H:19	637	1	La Mulada Ranch ledger, 1897-1904
			Binder I (2006.010.018)
		2	Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez diaries, 1905-1922
		3	Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez documents, 1902-1932
		4	La Mulada Ranch documents, 1853-1908, undated
			Binder II (2006.022.001)
		5	Family, Politics, Career, 1895-2005
	660	1	Family, Politics, Career, 1895-2005
		2	Binder III (2006.022.002)
			Enemecio Pérez Documents, 1891-1907, undated
			Binder IV (2006.022.003)
		3-5	Republican Party documents, 1894-2003, undated
L:21	752	1	Oversize materials: Account sheet, notification of election of Republican County Chairman signed by Pérez-Álvarez, and two certificates.
S:9	RGPHO 325	3	Photograph of Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez on horseback, circa 1930
Collections			Framed photograph of nine U.S. Marshals including Pérez-Álvarez, circa 1902-1906
Collections			Framed portrait of Casimiro Pérez-Álvarez, circa 1900-1910