

THE STATE OF TEXAS VS. ABRAHAM ORTIZ
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	0.23 cubic feet
Geographic Locations	Hidalgo County, Texas
Inclusive Dates	1912-1917
Bulk Dates	1912
Languages	English
Summary	Court documents from the Hidalgo County District Court pertaining to Case #913 The State of Texas vs. Abraham Ortiz are found in the collection.
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	
Citation	The State of Texas vs. Abraham Ortiz. 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 40, E:31

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

In March 1912 Abraham Ortiz was arrested and indicted for the murder of Martin Martinez and the rape of Florencia Martinez. The crimes were committed on February 18, 1912 near the town of Hidalgo, Texas. Domingo Gonzalez was also accused of the crimes, but he was never brought to trial as he escaped to Mexico.

On April 2 a special venire of 110 jurors was issued. Twelve men were chosen from the list and sworn in that same day. William J. Dougherty had been appointed to represent Ortiz. The jury reached a verdict of guilty the next day.

Dougherty appealed the case to the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas. The appeal was heard on December 11, 1912 when the Court handed down the opinion that there was no error in the judgement.

In April, 1913 Ortiz was sentenced to hang on Friday, May 2, 1913. The court also ordered that he be confined to jail until that time.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Court documents from the Hidalgo County District Court pertaining to Case #913 The State of Texas vs. Abraham Ortiz are found in the collection. Some of the documents in the collection are the Indictment, Special Venire, Sheriff's Returns, Charge of the Court, Death Warrant, Defendant's motion for new trial, Assignment of Errors, Defendant's Bill of Exception, and Mandate Criminal Court of Appeals.

INDEX TERMS

Ortiz, Abraham
Martinez, Florencia
Martinez, Martin

Hidalgo County (Tex.)

Court decisions and opinions
Court rulings
Hangings (Executions)--Texas--Edinburg--1910-1920.
Homicide
Judgments
Judicial decisions
Killing (Murder)
Murder
Rulings, Court
Trials
Trials (Rape)

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
E:31	RGDOC 40	1	Defendant's Bill of Exception, 1912
		2	Defendant's motion for new trial, 1912
		3	Special Venire, 1912
		4	Indictment, Mandate Criminal Court of Appeals, application for extension of time to file, application for continuance, the jury's verdict, 1912, undated
		5	Domingo Gonzalez – Motion to dismiss, 1917
		6	Charge of the Court, 1912
		7	Assignment of Errors, 1912
		8	Sheriff's returns, 1912
		9	Death Warrant, April 25, 1913
		10	Amended Application for New Trial, 1912
		11	Photocopies of the legal documents
		12	Photocopies of <i>Texas Decisions Reported in the Southwestern Reporter</i> (pages 1056-1061), 1913