

Transcript of the Will of Eduarda Rita Garduño, 1785, Santa Fe

Know all who see this document that I, Eduarda Rita Garduño, am sick from an accident, but in my sound mind I wish to order my will before I die.

First, I believe and confess in the ineffable mystery of the Holy Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, three distinct persons, but one true God. I believe that the second person, Our Lord Jesus Christ, was born from the pure womb of Our Lady the Virgin Mary. I believe that he was born from her, and she was a virgin before the birth, after the birth, and always is a virgin and the true mother of God. I believe that Jesus Christ died to save and redeem us. I believe that he rose to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. I believe that he will come again to judge the living and the dead and to render judgement and punishment. Last, I believe and confess in all of the beliefs and ideas of Our Holy Mother the Catholic, Roman, and Apostolic Church in whose faith I live and die.

I order my soul to God who created it and redeemed it with his precious blood.

And I declare that my body should be shrouded in the habit of my father Saint Francis and buried in the military chapel in the middle of the church.

Also, I order a novena of masses for my soul.

I order that one peso de la tierra be paid to each of the mandatory bequests.

And I declare that I was married, according to the rites of Our Holy Mother the Church, to the Commander José Mares for forty years in which marriage we had one son, who died.

I declare that I have in this town next to my house 266 varas of land that I inherited from my parents. Since my husband uses the land, he has returned me an equal amount of land. It is my wish to divide this land between the three orphans whom I have raised. Sixteen varas goes to Francisco Antonio. One hundred thirteen varas of land goes to José María. Ninety-five varas of land goes to Juan Antonio. Forty-two varas goes to my husband.

And I declare that I have a piece of land with a house and a fruit tree. It is my wish that this land and house remain with Juan Gregorio Garduño, and the fruit tree be donated to the Blessed Souls of Purgatory.

And I declare as my property that I brought into my marriage a male mule (or goat), a horse, a cow, a medium-sized copper pot, and coral bracelets. All this I leave to my husband.

I declare that 1,100 varas of land belongs to me as property acquired during my marriage. It is located next to the Rad de los Carros in the Cañada del Pino. It is my

wish that my husband enjoy this land during his life, and when he dies it should go to the Blessed Souls of Purgatory.

Also I declare as my executors and caretakers of my estate in the first place my husband, and in the second place my nephew Manuel Mares so that they may order and guard my last testament and so that the orphans my enjoy my estate with the blessing of God and myself. So that this testament should be validated I ask the Second Lieutenant to grant his authority, and I revoke any other will or codicil that I might have made. I, the previously named Lieutenant as is my conferred power by the Colonel and Governor Don Juan Bautista de Anza, certify this will with two witnesses present but lacking a notary public because there is not one in this governance. The testator did not sign because she does not know how to sign. I give faith to all of this.

May 5, 1785 José Maldonado

Witness: Diego Antonio de la Peña

Witness: Juan Miguel Trujillo

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