



# PrimarySource

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## Life in Spanish Texas

### Will of Captain Francisco Amangual

*Captain Francisco Amangual was a soldier born in Mallorca, a Spanish island near the Canary Islands. He served as head of troops at La Bahía and then at San Antonio. He helped defeat the Philip Nolan expedition of 1800.*

Béxar, April 15, 1812

I, Francisco Amangual, retired Captain of the Company which is stationed at La Bahía del Espíritu Santo, declare that I am of sound mind, memory and understanding.

2. I direct that my body be buried in the earth from which it was formed . . . near the gate of . . . Camposanto [the cemetery], . . . so that every living person who enters the gate may walk and trample upon my body.

4. I declare that I own a stone house in this capital, which I use as my residence; it has four rooms facing the street . . . and six rooms to the rear, running in depth to the river which flows by the property described. Of the . . . total of ten rooms of my residence, Jaime Garza, skilled surgeon of this city, with his family occupies five; I have agreed of my own free will that he is not obliged to pay rent so long as he occupies the house during my lifetime but at my death I leave it to the discretion<sup>1</sup> of my heir.<sup>2</sup>

6. I declare that I own the following: two horses, one black and the other bay and one gray mule; the three are broken and are now in the camp occupied by the troops of the Alamo [company] and branded with my brand; for each of these I own full arms and saddle equipment. I also have in my home complete household furniture and kitchen utensils.

11. I also declare that I have been married twice; Maria Trinidad Castelo was my first wife, by whom I had one son and two daughters, all of whom are dead, including my said wife. My second wife has borne me no children; she is still living and with me.

13. . . . As to the residue<sup>3</sup> of my estate, I name my wife Maria Trinidad Garcia my sole and only heir . . . because she has been a faithful and loving companion and if I did not provide for her, she would be left destitute.<sup>4</sup>

Codicil<sup>5</sup>

. . . I executed a sealed will April 15, 1812, but I fear that after my death, disputes and lawsuits may arise over certain clauses in said will. In order to prevent such disputes, I declare as follows:

2. I provided well for the three children borne me by my first wife and I supported them in comfort until their deaths. . . . Although my son, Jose Maria, received a salary from the King, I nevertheless paid for whatever he needed; when he left me to go to Coahuila, I completely equipped him with clothing, arms, munitions and horses. . . . Later I sent him various necessities valued at 45 pesos, none of which was ever returned to me after his death, because all his effects<sup>6</sup> were sold to cover the shortage in his accounts for army equipment of which he was in charge.

Francisco Amangual

### Review Questions

1. What belongings were important enough to list in the will?
2. Who owned the equipment of soldiers?

### Critical Thinking

3. **Making Inferences** What hardships of this period are shown in this will?
4. **Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think military officers were often from Spain rather than New Spain (Mexico)?

1 **discretion** judgment

2 **heir** person who inherits

3 **residue** remainder

4 **destitute** poor

5 **codicil** add-on to a will

6 **effects** belongings