

BANC MSS C-A 41 — Dep. State Papers, Benicia (Custom House), Tomos I–VIII

Finding aid · 102 records · 1816–1846 · Archives of California: A Documentary Calendar of the Savage Transcripts

Provenance. Thomas Savage's 1876–77 copies (for H.H. Bancroft) of the Spanish- and Mexican-era government records of Alta California, made at the U.S. Surveyor-General's office; the originals burned in the 1906 San Francisco fire, leaving these transcripts the sole record. Manuscripts: Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley (BANC MSS C-A 41); digitized microfilm on the Internet Archive (168036069_81_3). This calendar is an independent, AI-assisted index with published error rates — verify any record against the manuscript scan before citing (searchable, with scan links: archivesofcalifornia.com). **Coverage:** complete

Date	Doc	Record	Orig. p.	Scan
1816-01-16	1	Arrival & detention of the Am. schooner *Lydia*, Capt. Henry Gyzelaar, from Sitka (45-day voyage); capt. came ashore 'muy confiado'; Luis Ortega sent overland; crew seiz...	1–2 (orig. 5–6)	n1
1816-02-03	2	Roster of 'Prisioneros americanos' from the Am. frigate *Albatross* (Capt. William Smith) and schooner *Lydia*. *Albatross*: incl. Thomas Doak, Nathaniel Davis (deserter...	3	n3
1816-02-19	3	Went aboard the *Lydia* per orders, made inventory of ship & cargo, left a corporal + 4 soldiers after arresting Capt. Gyzelaar; sends inventory signed by himself, Gyzel...	4 (orig. 8–9)	n4
1816-02-22	4	Took declarations of the two sailors from the ship that entered Refugio, and the captain's; sends all.	4 (orig. 10–11)	n4
1816-01-17	5	impossible to proceed after a 'boisterous passage of 45 days' without provisions & water; broadside 'stove in'; came to anchor at first houses sighted after two days coa...	5 (orig. 12)	n5
1816-01-22	6	Inventory of the *Lydia* — sails, rigging, anchors, instruments &c — and of her cargo for the Marquesas Islands.	6 (orig. 13–14, 43–4)	n6
1816-01-22	6	English. On motives for anchoring at Refugio: necessity forced a Cal. port for wood & to repair gale damage; 'found no provisions at Norfolk [Sound = Sitka]'; vessel 'le...	6 (orig. 15 & 18)	n6
1816-01	7	English. Object of voyage & capture: sailed from New Archangel [Sitka], 'possession of Russia... Alex Baranoff Gov. & Comm.d in chief,' 1 Dec 1815, bound for the Sandwic...	7–8 (orig. 16–17)	n8
1816-02-03	8	*Lydia* left for Monterey with cargo under Capt. Gyzelaar's custody/responsibility because Fr. Luis Martínez interested himself in it but refused all responsibility; gra...	8	n9
1816-01-22	9	Long explanatory report acknowledging the 18th's order approving the *Lydia*'s capture. Confesses his own 'poquísima inteligencia en asuntos navales'; on Fr. Luis Martín...	9–14 (orig. 25–40)	n10
1816-03-05	10	English. Demands the *Lydia* be sent to San Blas to claim justice; protests the 'excesos' aboard & the poor boat given him; cargo taken ashore though hatches were not se...	14–15 (orig. 41, 45–6)	n15
1816-02-03	11	Supplies furnished to the *Lydia*, valued ~\$110.	15 (orig. 43)	n16
1826-11-02	12	Vessels entered in October [1826]: Eng. brig *Olive Branch* (Capt. Wm Henderson, from Callao, 13 men, sobrecargo Diego Scott, 204 t); then a fleet of Nantucket whalers '...	16 (orig. 134–5)	n17
1826-08-19	13	Import-duty calc. on Eng. frigate *Thomas Nowlan* (201 t): 25% derechos (\$909) + 15% internación + 2½% avería + tonnage; total \$2,185.5 less 3% comisión = \$2,120.5 líqui...	17 (orig. 136–8)	n18
1822-01-31	14	Register of duties owed by ships anchored at SF, Sept 1820–Jan 1822 — incl. the Russian brig *Buldacoff* (5 Sep 1820, \$2,143.5), *Señoriano*, *San Fran.co Xavier*, *Euro...	17–18 (orig. 139)	n18

Date	Doc	Record	Orig. p.	Scan
1826-08-01	15	✓ FULLY VERIFIED vs scans n19–n22 (2026-07-06): date/parties, the '9 Nov 1824' Monterey contract, \$14,000 round-trip freight, the \$10,000 'libre de cámara' clause, and —...	18–21 (orig. 141–7)	n19
1826-08-01	16	Brief (single-line) item.	21 (orig. 147)	n22
1826-11-01	17	Movement of ships (Oct 1826). Entradas: *Courier*, *Washington*, *Solitude*, *Rover*, Eng. *Inca*, whalers *Illeri* (?)/*Washington*/*Mercury* (348 t), Eng. *Young Tarta...	21–22 (orig. 149–51)	n22
1826-10-31	18	Eng. frig. *Thos. Nowlan* (201 t) entered Oct 23.	22 (orig. 162)	n23
1826-09-30	19	Sept entries: brigs from the Sandwich Islands (*Waverley* 112 t, *Timonelan* (?), *Inca*) — several sailing to Islas Guadalupe 'á pescar lobos marinos' (fur-sealing).	23 (orig. 163–4)	n24
1826-12-31	20	Dec: Mex. brig *Gen. Bravo* (Acapulco), Eng. *Oliver* (?) (Callao, watering); departures *Waverley* (Monterey), *Gen. Bravo* (Acapulco).	23 (orig. 165–6)	n24
1826-12-01	21	The Eng. scientific frigate HMS *Blossom* anchored 7 Nov: 450 t, 16 guns (12-pdr), from London, Capt. Frederick Beechey, 112 crew (3 lieuts, 2 surgeons, 1 naturalist, pu...	24 (orig. 167)	n25
1826-12-22	22	Ship movements: Russian brig *Baikal* from Sitka (Capt. Egor Chernov), sailed to San Diego; the *Rover* (Cooper) re-entered under Am. flag w/ 'cargamento de Canton y de ...	24–25 (orig. 167–8, 172)	n25
1826-12-01	23	Nov movements: Eng. *Olive Branch*, *Washington*, Mex. *Gen. Bravo*; departures *Young Tartar*, *Inca*, and the 3 whalers that entered Oct 30–31.	25 (orig. 172–3, 169)	n26
1826-11-30	24	Nov movements: *Young Tartar*; Eng. *Inca* (Callao via S. Pedro, sailed for London); Russian brig *Baikal* from Sitka via Santa Catalina I.; Am. *Astingei* (?) (Guaymas);...	26 (orig. 169–71)	n27
1829-06-18	25	Am. brig *Tamaahmaah* (186 t, Capt. John Meek, from San Lucas) entered w/ assorted cargo. [Hawaiian-named — for Kamehameha.]	26 (orig. 178–9)	n27
1827-12-31	26	Dec income/expense: duties from Russian brig *Baikal* (\$459) & frig. *Franklin* (\$166); mission supplies \$275; postal/tithe/tobacco; 50 cattle to the troops (\$150). Tota...	27 (orig. 181)	n28
1827-10-12	27	French corvette *Comète* (from Mazatlán) — tonnage duty waived (already paid at Mazatlán); allowed to sell some goods to fund rigging repairs.	27 (orig. 182)	n28
1827-12-31	28	Liquor duties for 1827: 2 barrels wine + 18 aguardiente = \$152 less 5% = \$144.	28	n29
1827-11-30	29	Monthly income/expense: anchorage (2 vessels), tonnage on the vessel 'Cadiac' (Kodiak, 172 t, \$430), loans, *Franklin* import duties (\$272 + avería), rancho nacional, Sa...	28–29 (orig. 184–5)	n29
1827-05-31	30	Monthly income/expense: \$2,686 aduana receipts + Jefe Político loan (\$800) + postal/tobacco/tithe; total \$4,997, balance \$70.	29 (orig. 186)	n30
1826-08-03	31	Goods delivered by Capt. John B. Cooper from the *Rover* voyage — 'procedente de Canton y Manila,' for the govt, valued \$5,250 (under the Argüello contract).	30 (orig. 187–8)	n31
1827-06-01	32	Corte de caja (May): income \$4,997, expense \$4,927, balance \$70.	30 (orig. 188)	n31
1827-10-01	33	Corte de caja (Sept): \$2,571; of income, \$1,634 aduana + \$409 tobacco + postal/sealed-paper/rancho + Pacheco loan.	30–31 (orig. 192–3)	n31
1827-11-01	34	Corte de caja (Oct): mission effects from San Juan Bautista, San Carlos, Santa Cruz (\$809) + rancho nacional, aduana \$1,276; total \$2,601, balance \$477.	31 (orig. 195–9)	n32
1827-01-31	35	Am. frig. *Courier* (200 t, Capt. Cunningham) entered San Pedro Nov 9, sailed Nov 11.	31–32 (orig. 200)	n32

Date	Doc	Record	Orig. p.	Scan
1842-09-23	36	Takes possession as Administrator of the Monterey Maritime Customs (Aduana Marítima), handed over by interim Antonio M. ^a Osio.	32 (orig. 247)	n33
1830-04-01	37	Solemn protest over 78 convicts (presidarios) shipped from Acapulco 19 Dec 1829: Santiago Argüello refused to receive them at San Diego (no orders from the absent coman...	32-33 (orig. 393-5)	n33
1832-09-24	38	Long account of his delayed voyage to Cal. as comandante gral./jefe político: embarked Acapulco 17 July, disembarked Cabo San Lucas; 28 Aug troop mutiny — soldiers seize...	33-37 (orig. 487-92)	n34
1834-11-20	39	Handed over the San Diego receptoría to Martín Cabello (Oct 31).	II.1 (orig. 16-7)	n40
1834-07-01	40	Took charge as Administrator of the maritime & land customs of Monterey (the notorious Ramírez of the Híjar-Padrés era).	II.1 (orig. 21-2)	n40
1834-01-13	41	Port-captain appointment/notice.	II.1 (orig. 23)	n40
1834-08-21	42	Customs regime for the Russian Bodega trade. Orders the SF receiver to stop merchandise 'introducidas... desde el puerto de Bodega... sin satisfacer los derechos nacionales'...	II.1-3 (orig. 68-9)	n40
1833-06-15	43	Advance of \$2,001 to José M. ^a Herrera for his term as Sub-Comisario of Alta Cal., secured by bond, repaid by deducting 1/3 of his monthly salary.	II.4 (orig. 217-9)	n43
1830-07-31	44	Naturalization/registration of foreigners (per the 1 May 1828 law): French/Canadian trappers François Turcote, Jean Vaillant & Anastase Cariel, residents of New Mexico w...	II.4-5 (orig. ~217-9?)	n43
1833-11-13	45	Naturalization información of the sailor Daniel Cannon.	II.5 (orig. 224)	n44
1833-05-25	46	Naturalization información of the English pilot Andrew Watson.	II.5 (orig. 230)	n44
1833-02-08	47	On the need for a custom-house & wharf. Presidio buildings collapsing ('no hay una habitación que no se esté cayendo'); w/o a customs house/muelle less than 1/3 of duties ...	II.6-7 (orig. 276-9)	n45
1833-02-15	48	'1833 Feb 15 Mont... Sobre balleneros y las ventajas que daban al país'; the Sandwich-Islands 1/2-real flight, \$400-500/ship, 'hasta 30 balleneros,' '35 á 40,000\$... ahora que...	II.8 (orig. 280-1)	n47
1833-03-04	49	Foreign commerce & contraband. Frigate *Califa*(?) despatched to Boston with sebo, cueros & peletería (tallow/hides/peltry); a Cal.-owned brig waits on the coast for its...	II.9 (orig. 283)	n48
1833-04-10	50	On Antonio M. ^a Osio's Contador appointment (conferred by ex-jefe político Echeandía); González lacked authority to install him; referred to Figueroa, who resolved Osio b...	II.10 (orig. 284)	n49
1833-04-11	51	Land customs (aduanas terrestres) created by the jefe político per the 24 Aug 1830 law — never before existing in the territory; asks which articles pay alcabalas.	II.10 (orig. 286)	n49
1833-04-16	52	On foreign tobacco: abuse of admitting it; the national tobacco sent is spoiled/weak, unwanted even by the troops, sitting in the warehouse; has dared to confiscate fore...	II.11 (orig. 288-9)	n50
1833-04-19	53	On tobacco introduction: an Eng. frigate brought tobacco; for lack of stock he let it in — disguised on the manifest under another name ('hice mudar el nombre').	II.11-12 (orig. 289)	n50
1833-05-01	54	Again on losses from the missing aduana & wharf; ships damaged, captains complain; lost a launch & boat in 8 days. 'Cuando veo los males de la Hac.da suspiro sin tener á...	II.12 (orig. 290)	n51
1833-05-07	55	Scarcity of funds: jefe político demanded \$400 dietas for Juan Bandini (deputy elected to Congress); had only \$100 cash, gave a \$300 draft on the frig. *California* + \$6...	II.13 (orig. 291)	n52
1833-05-07	56	Illegalities & contraband: an Am. frigate anchored at the SB roadstead against the law. 'Santa Barb.a y San Fran.co son el criadero' of contraband; an overland smuggling...	II.13-14 (orig. 292-3)	n52

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1833-05-31	57	'Tiranías y excesos de los buques nacionales': foreign ships are the only ones paying duties and selling cheap; national ships tyrannize the people with dear goods and f...	II.14–15 (orig. 294–5)	n53
1833-06-06	58	Took charge (14 May) of the Sub-Comisaría principal from Mariano Estrada (who resigned) — 'un destino de tanta responsabilidad y odiosidad entre la tropa,' amid scarcity...	II.16 (orig. 295–6)	n55
1833-07-02	59	Named customs Receivers: Pedro del Castillo (SF), Santiago Argüello (SD), José Maldonado (SB) — also to collect land alcabalas, all 'en gran desorden desde la salida del...	II.16–17 (orig. 299–300)	n55
1833-02-16	60	Urges the presidio habilitados (SD/SB/SF) not to permit loading/unloading without a duty certificate, 'ni mucho menos en las radas y ensenadas que tienen las misiones.' ...	II.17 (orig. 302–3)	n56
1832-12-13	61	Office-expenses account (\$275); held the secretaryship from May — 'antes de llegar Figueroa á Cal.'	II.18 (orig. 373)	n57
1833-06-01	62	His annual salary as Comandante Gen.l & Inspector of Alta Cal. was \$4,000 (per the war ministry, 17 Oct 1832).	II.18 (orig. 381)	n57
1832-05-25	63	Treasury certificate re Gen. Figueroa's pay/deductions (graduated brigadier gen., cav. colonel).	II.18–19 (orig. 382)	n57
1833-07-27	64	'1833 Julio 27 Mont... sobre buques rusos, y franquicias que piden'; 'Wm A. Gale ha presentado, á nombre del Gobno de Sitka, una solicitud pa que un buque ruso entre á Sn ...	II.19–20 (orig. 476–7)	n58
1833-08-17	65	Answers González's consultation on whalers & Russian ships. Institutional memory: the barca *Baikal* once came seeking salt & Echeandía sent it to San Quintín (paid tonn...	II.20–22 (orig. 478–9)	n59
1833-10-29	66	Tithe-collection resistance: José Sánchez (SF) refuses (serves 'casi de balde'); the San José alcalde said if they want a horse-tithe 'que fueran por ella á los Tulares'...	II.22 (orig. 482)	n61
1833-06-11	67	Orders a wharf plan with topographic siting & cost estimate for Monterey.	II.23 (orig. 496)	n62
1833-06-05	68	Opposes export duties & burdensome alcabalas ('esto sería hostilizar demasiado al Comercio'); suggests appointing José M. ^a Maldonado to the civil-treasury branch; recomm...	II.23–24 (orig. 509–11)	n62
1833-06-17	69	Matanza (cattle-slaughter) tax rates: 10% on cattle, 6% on yearling calves, 4% on 3–4-yr calves, 11% on matanza exports, 8% on tanning (curtiduría). Ranchers protested t...	II.24–25 (orig. 512–3, 516–7)	n63
1833-06-24	70	Agrees to collect alcabalas without oppressive burdens that would 'aniquilar la naciente y única industria del país' (the cattle trade); charge by value; uniformize acro...	II.25 (orig. 514–5)	n64
1833-11-12	71	Brief (judicial referral).	II.25 (orig. 548–551)	n65
1833-06-02	72	Sends his accounts.	II.25 (orig. 552–3)	n65
1833-05-24	73	Osio installed as receiver of ship duties at the San Pedro cove and the overland trade of New Mexico & Sonora residents — but not the alcabalas branch (law misinterprete...	II.25 (orig. 554–5)	n65
1833-05-24	74	Municipal act opposing Receiver Osio's excessive alcabala on cattle-slaughter (a federal-district tariff misapplied); ordered him to suspend collection pending the jefe ...	II.26–27 (orig. 568–71)	n66
1833-04-13	75	Salary drafts to be cashed in Mexico: \$253 Lt Col M. Echeandía, \$90 Capt. Leonardo Barros, \$300 deputy Juan Bandini + \$100 cash.	II.27 (orig. 720–2)	n67
1833-11-18	76	Sets a fixed \$10-real port duty on all whalers (pending the Supreme Govt's ruling on their tonnage exemption) — 'solo tolerados por la costumbre' — earmarked to build th...	II.28 (orig. 732–3)	n68
1843-07-21	77	'1843 Julio 21 Mont, Guillermo E. Hartnell... á Juan B. Alvarado'; 'naufragó en Punta de Pinos la goleta inglesa Estrella de Occidente... su carguamento... á cargo de Dn Tomás...	III.1–2 (orig. 836, 848–50)	n70

Date	Doc	Record	Orig. p.	Scan
1836-11-22	78	Amid the 1836 Alvarado free-state revolution: relays 'el Gob. de este Estado (Alvarado)'s order (21 Nov) — Díaz appointed per 'el Decreto N.o 3 del Soberano Congreso Co...	IV.1 (orig. 227–8)	n73
1836-03-01	79	On the comisario revistas (musters) — the SD military/political commandant orders garrison musters on the 1st & 3rd of each month with the receiver present.	IV.1–2 (orig. 330–34)	n73
1836-06-03	80	Reports SD receiver Cabello's 'faltas de respeto' to the local authorities; his arrest & a sumaria ordered, a substitute named to represent the Treasury — an 'extraordin...	IV.2–3 (orig. 341)	n74
1836-06-03	81	Names Andrés Castillero provisional receiver at San Diego, replacing the prosecuted Cabello.	IV.3 (orig. 353)	n75
1836-06-03	82	Transmits the jefe político's order naming Castillero to replace him; hand over the receiver's office with inventory of documents & sealed paper.	IV.4 (orig. 363)	n76
1836-06-18	83	Printed decree extending by one year the term of the 12 Jan 1828 Treaty of Limits between Mexico & the United States (the boundary question).	IV.4 (orig. 387–90)	n76
1836-06-28	84	Circular (after the Veracruz customs-warehouse fire of the 18th): don't store liquids/combustibles with arms/goods.	IV.5 (orig. 391–2)	n77
1835-12-15	85	Communications on the fraudulent unloading by launch — a brig (W. Leese) landing goods at Santa Clara without duties.	IV.5 (orig. 618–27)	n77
1835-04-18	86	Reglamento & model of guías/forms for the Dirección Gen.l de Rentas.	IV.6 (orig. 246–53)	n78
1838-02-12	87	The Russian ship *Elena* (Helena, RAC) anchored at San Francisco (29th) though Monterey was the only port authorized for foreign trade; questions Vallejo's conduct in pe...	IV.6–7 (orig. 467–9)	n78
1839-01-05	88	Accepts the post of oficial 1.o / vista of the Monterey Maritime Customs.	V.1 (orig. 1–2)	n81
1839-12-31	89	Measures dictated to prevent foreign vessels' coasting trade (cabotaje).	V.1 (orig. 3)	n81
1839-11-16	90	✓ opening VERIFIED vs scan n81 (2026-07-06): '1839 Nov 16 Mont... sobre Contrabando entre Ross y San Franco — Medidas de un empleado en frontera'; 'de Ross introducen á S....	V.1–2 (orig. 4–6)	n81
1839-01-06	91	Formal notice appointing Pablo de la Guerra oficial 1.o / vista (pairs w/ row 88). [continues n83].	V.2	n82
1839-01-31	92	Prohibited foreign goods admitted 'por necesidad' will pay a stable duty 'que no bajará de 40 por ciento.'	v.4	n84
1839-03-31	93	Acknowledges his relief from the Sub-Comisaría.	v.43–4	n84
1839-04-09	94	Collecting ship duties amid the cash shortage — duties taken in goods at inflated prices; merchants prefer a private *pagaré* to an official aduana order; sets a coin-vs...	v.12	n92
1834-12-07	95	Resists Bandini's authority (commissioned by the Vice-President per the 17 Mar order) to inspect the customs books — professes respect but objects; a notable customs-ove...	iv.1	n108
1834-07	96	Figueroa accepts a provisional oficial mayor of the aduana (\$1,000/yr); Ramírez presses the need for a properly appointed & bonded Sub-Comisaría — Rafael González holds ...	iv.270–1, 292–3	n116
1835-01-20	97	Osio recognized as Receptor de Alcabalas of Los Ángeles; Osio replies on *intereses federales* / the district judge's jurisdiction.	iv.613–4	n120
~1834–5	98	SF Bay port regulation (articles): ships must present the consul's patente; must anchor at Yerba Buena, not Sausalito; whalers get limited licenses with a guard aboard; ...	iv.4	n128

Date	Doc	Record	Orig. p.	Scan
1842	99	Customs-house personnel & salary roster: Oficial 1° Pablo de la Guerra (\$1,500 + \$250 interpreter); Comand.te de celadores Rafael González (\$1,500); celadores Benito Día...	v.122-3	n100
1845-08	100	Notifies Rafael Pinto[?] of his appointment as Receptor of the port of San Francisco; orders M. Díaz to hand over the SF receptoría with accounts — the ex-governor now r...	vi.241-2	n134
1846 / 1835	101	Micheltorena's \$600 impost on foreign ships (1846); a 'Libro manual de Cargo y Data' — the SF Aduana account book for econ. year 1 Jul 1833-30 Jun 1834 under Ángel Ramír...	vi.217-8, 368-447	n138

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