

A. B. J. Hammett

September 28, 1971

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

I want to personally write you and thank you for your recent order for some of The Empresario, Don Martin De Leon Books. The Books have certainly been going in a terrific way on the advance sale and practically all of our Commerative, Leather Bound, Collectors copies have been sold.

In coming to Victoria, twenty years ago, there was a definite need in this community for someone to help our Mexican population and I have accordingly over these years helped at least 400-500 of our local people, with advice, legal work and other aids, which in many instances saved them from serious trouble and losses.

I also organized the first independent National Bank to be in Victoria, and allowing a good many of our Mexican citizens to participate as part owners of this Bank, as well as, the American Citizens Social Club. This was very helpful as we made loans to our friends, who were in the agriculture or farming business and friends in other businesses, helped them to obtain automobiles so they could travel to their jobs, trucks for those who needed trucks in their business and activities and in general I have been extremely busy for about twenty years in this particular community.

I was shocked to learn many years ago, that of all the Empresarios, that founded Colonies, that one of the most important Don Martin De Leon, and his loyal family had never been publicized, there had never been a Book devoted exclusively to them and their activities, no Museum or Archives to house their possessions and papers and in fact, it took me several years to find where they had been buried, having been removed from their original graves, in 1853. I set about the task of preparing as complete a record as possible, because so much of the actual history has been lost over the years. It was my desire to preserve and maintain this history and to procure more of it. The School Teachers, School Principals, and Educators in general have all responded to the story and Book and are eagerly awaiting it. I have been asked to appear before the various High School classes, the De Leon Club and various organizations to tell this story, and I certainly welcome this opportunity and will do so.

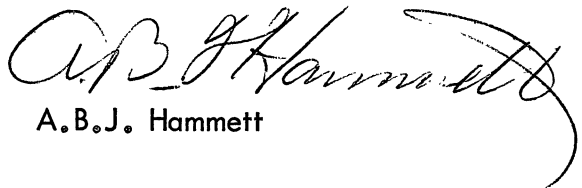
Dr. Hector P. Garcia
Page 2

The Book is an entirely non-profit publication with all net proceeds going to the Don Martin De Leon Memorial Foundation Fund, that I have started for the purpose of building and improving a suitable grave site with Historical Markers for this proud and loyal family, who have been deserving of such treatment for the past 150 years.

I encountered some local opposition on the Historical Markers and proceeded to Austin, where I by-passed the obstacle and am happy to say these Markers for Dona Patricia de la Garza De Leon, Don Fernando, Don Felix, Silvestre and Agapito De Leon are in the process of manufacture and we intend to have a very big day in Victoria, when they are received and we have a public dedication. Should you or any of your friends have a desire to contribute to this most worthy fund, I will indeed be happy to have any contributions, which are tax free and in this same respect, of what I hope will result in my being able to build a Memorial Museum here to house all of the papers and possessions of the De Leons', as well as, the papers and possessions of the 41 original families, who settled this Colony, in 1824.

I know of your interest in our affairs in this community and when we have our dedication on the Grave Markers, you will receive a personal invitation from me to attend, in the meantime I was indeed happy to have the order for the Books, which I believe you and your friends will appreciate and be happy to have.

Cordially yours,



A.B.J. Hammett

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