

14 February 1729

ROYAL DOCUMENT

FROM HIS MAJESTY,

AN ISSUED CONSULTATION FROM HIS COUNCIL,

Directed to the Captain D. Bartolome de Casabuena y Mesa,

judge superintendent of the Canary Islands Indian trade

The Marques de San Miguel de Aguayo has informed me that as a consequence of the French invasion of the province of Texas in New Spain in 1719, the Marques de Valero, who was viceroy of that kingdom, left the Franciscan missions fortified by necessary presidios for your protection. One of them is located in the center of Texas to protect the missions of San Antonio. But this is not enough to continue with the colonization of the province of Texas.

For the security of Texas and the missions of San Antonio, the Marques de Aguayo has recommended that it would be a good plan for the families of the Canary Islands to travel to New Spain and be distributed in the San Antonio area among the Texas Indians. It seemed to him that, without these families, it will be difficult to sustain the province, which was one of the most valuable in America.

To honor all the people of the Canary Islands, their children or legitimate descendants, who can carry the founding of a new settlement in Texas, we grant them the title of Hijos Dalgo, people with heritage and noble lineage. So that these people can be recognized as Hijos Dalgo of known lineage, I grant them all the honors as the nobles and knights of the reign of Castilla have and enjoy according to the laws and privileges of Spain.

For it to be dispatched in this order, the viceroy of the new Spain will be in charge of transporting them to Texas, and will provide them with everything they need for their survival for a year, until they sow their own crops. This is my will. Likewise, it should be informed as soon as possible, upon receipt of this expedition, and the measures effectively taken.

I the King

Philip V