



Missionary District of Porto Rico

Rt Rev. Manuel Ferrando

Bishop Suffragan

Mountain Lakes, N. J.
Sept. 7, 1932

Rt. Rev. C. B. Colmore, D.D.,
Box 1115, San Juan, P. R.

My dear Bishop:

I have at hand your letters of Aug. 23d and 31st, and Sept. 2nd, with enclosed documents.

As to the document of Mr. Valentine, I do not need any further release from you or the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.

What I wished to avoid has already come to pass, - that is that he might claim he had done me a great favor by generously giving up what was justly his due; and you see - in the document he states that "although the compensation for his work to date is worth much more he has consented to cede all his rights in favor of" - etc, etc. - What work has he ever done for me? He was receiving a salary

for his services to the mission. I do not think much of such a conscience, and I am sorry such a document was ever registered, but now it is done, and I have nothing further to say.

That piece of land you speak of I recall now is bordering the Mameño road from the entrance to Veitia's old house to another entrance before reaching Primitivo's house - (I had never any idea it was as much as ten acres.)

I knew it was not included in Veitia's property, but when my friend Don Pedro Juan Rosali bought La Mascota and all the land extending to the Carretera of Adijuntas including that bought later by Emilio Vergne, he came to me with the proposal to exchange the piece in question, that was his and useless to him, for a small strip of our property extending up to the "loma", which was practically of no use to us, but would allow him to build a road to connect two of his properties. He assured me he would legalize the transaction without any expense to me. I was just leaving for the States, and as I knew and trusted him I consented gladly, and was later surprised to see how little he took in the exchange and how much he gave - as you may see for yourself, if any one

Shows you our present boundary and our old one. While I was here, I was shocked to hear he had committed suicide. When I learned that Emilio Vergue had bought some of Rosali's land I asked him one day if the exchange had been legalized by Rosali, and he told me that it had been done, and that mention of it had been made in his deed. So I do not think you need to do anything about it but verify it by looking up Emilio Vergue's deed, and as the boundaries are corrected and registered as they now stand, I think any further investigation would simply complicate matters.

As a business man with great responsibilities Mr. Kortebentel's lawyers are very careful about all he does. They have gone over the records of the proceedings of the Board of Trustees and it appears that Mr. Kortebentel was elected Chancellor, and Mrs. Robertson Secretary of the Board. Mr. Kortebentel was to act as Recording Secretary so that his lawyers might pass on the legality of our proceedings. So, when it came to signing the Certificate it was decided Mrs. Robertson should sign it. That was why he did not mail it to you the day after I went to see him.

Much upset, he advised me later he had not received it back from Mrs. Robertson, so, as I was in New York yesterday I stopped at her office - She was surprised and distressed that it had not reached Mr. Kortensutel. It seems she gave the signed Certificate to her Secretary to mail just as the Secretary was leaving for her vacation and Mrs. Robertson was afraid she might have taken the letter with her by mistake. I could not learn anything further last night as Mrs. Robertson did not come back to Mountain Lakes, but I am going in to town to-morrow, and will see what has been done to trace it. I certainly hope it can be sent on to you without further delay.

In the record of the proceedings of the original Board of Trustees, I am given full power of administration with regard to the Church properties, but cannot sell without the consent of the Board. No mention is made of buying. The Veitia property was bought out of my own funds and on my own initiative, for the Church. Mr. Stearns was always much concerned about it and did not want to have it put in the hands of the Trustees until there should be sufficient funds to reimburse me, so it was only after the death

of most of the original members, at a meeting held here on Sept. 11th, 1920, I presented to the new members a list of all the properties belonging to or used by the Church of Jesus. Among these is item # 7 - "Ninety-six acres of land known as Veitia, which, while recorded in the name of the Church of Jesus, for reasons fully explained to, and understood by the Board, were purchased personally by Bishop Ferrando from his own funds, and for which no payment has ^{as yet} been made by the Church to the Bishop." So, it was accepted in trust by the Board with the condition that I was to be reimbursed as soon as practicable.

I found also a record of the deed that says - "Veitia property. Deed # 106, Notary, Don Francisco G. Descartes Colón; recorded in the Registry in Ponce". The copy of this deed which I presented to the Board was the same copy I afterwards gave into the keeping of Francisco Manuel Loro, and as you say, Reyes knows where it is in the files. But Parra-Capó has the protocol of Descartes, and he himself told me that the original deed was there.

This deed is more important than the one made by Gustavo Rodriguez, as that contains a mortgage, while the Descartes deed contains a carta de pago and release of the mortgage, so there must be some mistake at the Registry.

I should prefer to wait until you see if you can find that deed before having the Board of Trustees send their ratification of the purchase, so as to substitute that number and date and Notary's name for those given in the draft you sent me -

Thank you for all news. This letter is too long already, so I will only add our greetings and best wishes to you and yours -

Faithfully yours -
+ Manuel Ferrando
Luff.