Ribeiro de Avellar Family Plantation
Records, 1797-1858: Finding Aid

Summary Information

Call number: C1605
Repository: Princeton University Library. Special Collections.
Manuscripts Division
One Washington Road Princeton, New Jersey 08544 USA
Size: 2.0 linear feet
2 boxes
Language(s) of Material: Portuguese
Abstract: Consists of plantation records of the Ribeiro de Avellar family documenting the accounts and operations of their sugar and coffee plantation Pau Grande in the parish of Paty do Alferes, Brazil. Materials include extracts from account books spanning from 1797 to 1810 and correspondence and receipts from the 1830s through the 1850s.
Location: This collection is stored onsite at Firestone Library.
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The Ribeiro de Avellar family (also sometimes spelled Ribeiro de Avelar) was an aristocratic Portuguese family in Brazil that owned the Pau Grande plantation in the parish of Paty do Alferes, about sixty miles northwest of Rio de Janeiro. Antônio Ribeiro de Avellar and his brother Antônio dos Santos, José Rodrigues da Cruz founded the Pau Grande plantation in the 18th century. The lands were divided in 1797, and the portion belonging to Antônio Ribeiro de Avellar, who died in 1798, was later managed by his widow Antonia Maria da Conceição, alongside Luiz Gomes Ribeiro, his nephew and son-in-law who was connected to the family through his marriage to Joaquina Mathilde de Assumpção Avellar. Joaquim Ribeiro de Avellar (1791-1863), visconde de Ubá and barão de Capivay, was the son of Antônio Ribeiro de Avellar and Antonia Maria da Conceição; he assumed responsibility for the management of the plantation in the mid 19th century, with the assistance of Domingos Alves da Silva Porto, manager of Avellar & Companhia and commercial agent for the Ribeiro de Avellar family in Rio de Janeiro.

Consists of family business records of the Ribeiro de Avellar family pertaining to their plantation (fazenda) Pau Grande and its manor house in the rural parish of Paty do Alferes, Brazil. The family operated the plantation using enslaved laborers and first focused solely on sugarcane production, but later expanded to grow coffee and other foodstuffs. The extracts from account books, correspondence, and receipts found in this collection provide a detailed financial account of the operations of a large colonial sugar and coffee plantation in Brazil in the 19th century.

There are two bound volumes containing transcribed excerpts of financial accounts documenting the plantation's finances spanning the period from 1797 to 1810. These excerpts were created by Luiz Gomes Ribeiro, then manager of the plantation following the death of its original owner, Antônio Ribeiro de Avellar in 1798. Luiz Gomes Ribeiro was required to report on his management of the plantation to his mother-in-law, Antonia Maria da Conceição. There are also later correspondence and receipts related to the management of the plantation in the mid 19th century under the control of Joaquim Ribeiro de Avellar (1791-1863), the son of Antônio Ribeiro de Avellar and Antonia Maria da Conceição. These later materials consist of 144 letters to Joaquim Ribeiro de Avellar written by Domingos Alves da Silva Porto, manager of Avellar & Companhia, an agricultural export business in Rio de Janeiro, along with receipts pertaining to expenses involved with running the plantation and selling its products.

Arranged by material type, then chronologically.
Access

Open for research.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. No further photoduplication of copies of material in the collection can be made when Princeton University Library does not own the original. Inquiries regarding publishing material from the collection should be directed to RBSC Public Services staff at rbsc@princeton.edu. The library has no information on the status of literary rights in the collection and researchers are responsible for determining any questions of copyright.

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition


Appraisal

No materials were removed from the collection during 2018 processing.

Processing and Other Information

Works Cited

Biographical information was gathered from:


Encoding

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit 2018-06-11T14:45-0400

Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Subject Headings

- Avellar, Joaquim Ribeiro de, 1791-1863
- Avellar, Ribeiro de, Família
- Coffee plantations -- Brazil -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
- Plantation owners -- Brazil -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
· Slaveholders -- Brazil -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
· Slavery -- Brazil -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
· Sugar plantations -- Brazil -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
· Pati do Alferes (Brazil) -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
· Correspondence -- 19th century.
· Financial records -- 19th century.
· European history
· Latin American history
Contents List

Luiz Gomes Ribeiro Extracts from the Accounts of Pau Grande, 1797-1810
Description: Two volumes ("Extracto de Caderno 1" and "Extracto de Caderno 2") containing extracts from account books made by the manager of Pau Grande.

- Luiz Gomes Ribeiro Extracts from the Accounts of Pau Grande ("Caderno 1"), 1797-1810
  Box: B-001197
  Folder: 6

- Luiz Gomes Ribeiro Extracts from the Accounts of Pau Grande ("Caderno 2"), 1797-1810
  Box: P-000110

Domingos Alves da Silva Porto Letters to Joaquim Ribeiro de Avellar, 1831 March 5-1858 December 4
Description: Consists of 144 letters referring to the daily operations of Pau Grande, as well as political and economic matters in Rio de Janeiro.

- Domingos Alves da Silva Porto Letters to Joaquim Ribeiro de Avellar, 1831 March 5-1844 June 15
  Box: B-001197
  Folder: 1

- Domingos Alves da Silva Porto Letters to Joaquim Ribeiro de Avellar, 1844 June 21-1848 April 11
  Box: B-001197
  Folder: 2

- Domingos Alves da Silva Porto Letters to Joaquim Ribeiro de Avellar, 1848 June 6-1853 April 16
  Box: B-001197
  Folder: 3

- Domingos Alves da Silva Porto Letters to Joaquim Ribeiro de Avellar, 1854 March 16-1858 December 4
  Box: B-001197
  Folder: 4

Receipts for Purchases on Accounts of Joaquim Ribeiro de Avellar, 1834-1836
Description: Consists of receipts forwarded by Domingos Alves da Silva Porto related to the accounts of Joaquim Ribeiro de Avellar, including lists of purchases and expenses related to Pau Grande.

- Box: B-001197
  Folder: 5