

Geographic Dictionary by Pascual Madoz

Spain “How to” Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

October 2015

OBJECTIVE

This guide will teach you how to use the Madoz dictionary to correctly identify the province and diocese of a town.

INTRODUCTION

In Spanish research, the first thing you need for research is the name of the town. Once you have the name of the town you need to know where the records are located. This is where the gazetteers come into play. These gazetteers are more commonly referred to as “Geographic Dictionaries,” in Spanish speaking countries, and will be referred to as such in this guide. As you learn about this dictionary you will learn how to find the locations of records for a town.

INSTRUCTION

The Madoz dictionary is one of the most useful tools in Spanish research because it was created around 1850. The historical aspect is invaluable when trying to get a picture of what a town looked like during that time period.

Pascual Madoz added many things to his geographic dictionary that you would not typically find. A traditional gazetteer will usually list the name of the town, its geographic coordinates, and basic jurisdictional information. In addition to town names, Madoz added names of homesteads, ranches, rivers, and other landmarks. For each entry, he would include the name of the province and diocese, along with the parishes in the town and the number of residents and inhabitants. For genealogical purposes, the jurisdictional information is the most important.

One of the difficulties of using the Madoz geographic dictionary is his use of abbreviations. Madoz abbreviates many of the common words relating to jurisdiction and other entries that you will see. Following are a list of the most useful abbreviations found in the geographic dictionary along with their meaning and translation:

Abbreviation	Meaning	Translation
ald	Aldea	Small village
alm	Almas	Inhabitants
ayunt.	Ayuntamiento	Town council
cas	Caserío	Homestead
dioc	Diocesis	Diocese
felig	Feligresía	Parish

hab	Habitantes	Inhabitants
ob	Obispado	Bishopric
prov	Provincia	Province
part. jud	Partido Judicial	Judicial District
v	Villa	Town
(V.)	Véase	See
vec.	Vecino	Residents

Knowing these abbreviations will help you know where to look for records. Two particularly helpful abbreviations are “ayunt.” and “part. jud.” These two refer to where you would be able to locate civil registration records. The “dioc.” abbreviation will tell you what diocese the church records can be found; this is useful because diocese borders do not follow the provincial borders. All abbreviations with their meanings are found at the beginning of each volume.

All entries are organized alphabetically. Remember that “LL” and “Ñ” are considered separate letters. Below is the entry for Gatova. The abbreviations have been underlined in the entry. Most abbreviations are found in the same spot in each entry.

GATÓVA: l. con ayunt. de la prov. de Castellon de la Plana (40 leg.), part. jud. de Segorbe (2), aud. terr., c. g. y dióc. de Valencia (6): SIT. en terreno montuoso, junto a los confines de la prov. de Valencia; libre al embate de todos los vientos; su CLIMA es bastante templado y saludable. Tiene 212 CASAS, inclusa la cárcel, escuela de niños a la que concurren 92 dotada con 4,400 rs., otra de niñas con 78 de asistencia y 500 rs. de dotacion, y una igl. parr. (Ntra. Sra. de los Angeles), de la que es anejo la de Marines, servida por un cura de provision ordinaria. El térm. confina por N. con el de Segorbe (2 leg.); E. Serra (prov. de Valencia, part. jud. de Murviedro, 2 1/2); S. Marines (de la misma prov., part. jud. de Liria, 4), y O. Alcublas (id., part. de Villar del Arzobispo 3), y Altura (2 1/2). En su radio se encuentran los cas. dichos de Tristan y Marmolé, y muchos montes generalmente desp., aunque con buenos pastos. A la dist. de 4 leg. SO. del pueblo, está la ald. ó masia de Cucalon (V.), la cual corresponde al térm. jurisd. de Altura, aunque se halla dist. mas de 3 leg. de ella. El TERRENO es quebrado y de mediana calidad, en partes bastante ingrato. Los CAMINOS son locales y no muy buenos. La CORRESPONDENCIA se recibe de Segorbe, por peaton 3 veces a la semana. PROD.: trigo, cebada, vino, aceite, higos, almendros, garbanzos y legumbres; mantiene ganado lanar y cabrio, y caza de perdices, liebres y conejos. IND.: la agrícola, 4 almazaras de aceite, un edificio con 8 lagares, 3 hornos de pan cocer, 2 herrerías, y un poco de carboneo. POBL.: 452 vec., 797 almas. GAT. PROD.: 4.027,250 rs. IMP.: 64,040.

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¹ Pascual Madoz, *Diccionario Geográfico-Estadístico-Histórico de España y sus posesiones de ultramar* (Madrid: Imprenta 1850) v. 8, p. 332, FHL Call Number 946 E5m v. 8.

The Madoz dictionary is available in book form on the International floor at the Family History Library, Call # 946 E5m. There are 16 volumes.

ACTIVITY

Use the Madoz dictionary to find more information about the town of **Deveso (Sta. Maria Fiz del)**. Follow these steps to find the information.

1. While in the Family History Library, go to the bookshelves and find call number 946 E5m.
2. Look through the volumes until you identify the volume that would contain the town of Deveso (Sta. Maria Fiz del). It is in volume 7.
3. Find Deveso (Sta. Maria Fiz del) in the entries. It is on page 386.
4. Locate the province by finding the abbreviation "prov." It is La Coruña.
5. Now find out which diocese the town belongs to by locating the abbreviation "dióc." The name of the diocese is Mondoñedo.
6. Next, locate the judicial district. You will find the judicial district following the abbreviation "part. jud." It is Sta. (Santa) Maria de Ortigueira.
7. The next important jurisdiction to identify is the town council. The abbreviation for this is "ayunt." The town council is called Puentes de Garcia Rodriguez.
8. Finally, look for the number of residents for the town. The abbreviation is "vec." and is usually found at the bottom of the entry. There were 273 residents in Deveso (Sta. Maria Fiz del).

DEVESO (STA. MARIA FIZ DEL): felig. en la prov. de la Coruña (12 leg.), dióc. de Mondoñedo (9), part. jud. de Sta. Marta de Ortigueira (2) y ayunt. de Puentes de Garcia Rodriguez (1): sit. en un monte y dominada al SE. por las alturas del Cajado; disfruta de clima bastante sano, las enfermedades mas comunes son fiebres é hidropesias y se encuentran personas de 80 á 90 años: constituyen la pobl. 54 CASAS bastante dispersas. La igl. parr. (Sta. Maria), es única, y su curato perpetuo y de presentacion de la casa de Uceda; el cementerio capaz y bien ventilado. El TÉRM. confina por N. con San Juan de Insua; por E. con San Juan de Freijo; por S. con el indicado ayunt., y por O. con Somozas: le bañan dos arroyos que corren de S. á N. y se unen en Puente de Soutochao. El TERRENO es muy quebrado: tiene montes, y entre ellos el mas elevado es el denominado Cajado, que domina la felig.; crian robles y castaños aunque de poca consideracion. Los CAMINOS vecinales y poco cuidados, y el CORREO se recibe por la cap. del part. prod.: trigo, centeno, maiz, avena, castañas y patatas; cria ganado vacuno, lanar y caballar cruzado; hay liebres, perdices, lobos y otros animales dañinos, y se pescan truchas. IND.: la agrícola, varios molinos harineros y algunos telares de lienzo y lana. El COMERCIO se reduce á la venta de algun ganado y el de las telas que allí se elaboran. POBL.: 54 vec., 273 alm. CONTR.: con su ayunt. (V.)

² Pascual Madoz, *Diccionario Geográfico-Estadístico-Histórico de España y sus posesiones de ultramar* (Madrid: Imprenta 1850) v. 7, p. 386, FHL Call Number 946 E5m v. 7.