

1-1-1935

## Albuquerque and Galisteo Certificate of their Founding, 1706

Lansing B. Bloom

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmhr>

---

### Recommended Citation

Bloom, Lansing B.. "Albuquerque and Galisteo Certificate of their Founding, 1706." *New Mexico Historical Review* 10, 1 (). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmhr/vol10/iss1/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in New Mexico Historical Review by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [amywinter@unm.edu](mailto:amywinter@unm.edu), [lsloane@salud.unm.edu](mailto:lsloane@salud.unm.edu), [sarahrk@unm.edu](mailto:sarahrk@unm.edu).

ALBURQUERQUE AND GALISTEO  
CERTIFICATE OF THEIR FOUNDING, 1706

*Edited by* LANSING B. BLOOM

LAST summer the University of New Mexico received from the Rockefeller Foundation a grant in aid for the continuing of the archive work in Mexico which had been begun there by the writer during the fall of 1930. One of the smaller documents which were photographed during August is the interesting certificate of the founding of Albuquerque and the re-founding of Galisteo. It is here translated, and is accompanied by a facsimile reproduction of the original.<sup>1</sup>

[I] Don Francisco Cuerdo y Valdez, Caballero of the Order of Santiago, Governor and Captain General of this Kingdom and [the] provinces of New Mexico, and Castellan of his forces and Presidios for H[is] M[ajesty] &c.

CERTIFY to His Majesty (whom may God guard for many years), to his Viceroys, Presidents, Governors, and other Officials:

That I founded a Villa on the margin and meadows of the Rio del Norte in a goodly place of fields, waters, pasturage, and timber, distant from this Villa of Santa Fe about twenty-two leagues, giving to it as titular Patron the most glorious Apostle of the Indies San Francisco Xavier, calling it and naming it the Villa of Alburquerque. [I located it] in a good site, keeping in mind what is prescribed by His Majesty in his Royal Laws of the Recopilacion, Book IV, Title VII, and there are now thirty-five families settled there, comprising 252 persons, large and small. The Church [is already] completed, capacious and appropriate, with part of the dwelling for the Religious Minister, the Royal Houses [are] begun, and the other houses of the settlers finished with their corrals, acequias ditched and running, fields [already] sowed—all well arranged and without any expense to the Royal Treasury.

1. The document was found in the Archivo General de la Nación (Mexico), sección de las Provincias Internas, tomo 36, ramo 5.

*Hackett, iii, 369+*

*Ag. J., Guad. 116, x, #258*

*20 J.W., Sp. Archo, i, 350+*



sado de mill setecientos Trece Millos,  
y los demas Pueblos Ranchos y haciendas, pu-  
bly de dila mas mntz. Prof. en ellas, Con-  
jugados, muy guiberos. En el año de Que-  
to. Dize q. el dho. Santa Maria de Guaya-  
de Qalillo, Iglesia Cathedral de mntz. y  
an la Iglesia q. Curuero, su mntz. fco.  
Campanas, ni Ornamentos, q. la mntz. sem-  
brada, q. el dho. dho. an mntz. halla dho.  
Singular de la P. Nazura, y unaportan-  
na poblacion, an lo Testigo y aza que  
Conte de la p. mntz. Testigo. En mntz.  
monio de vidad, en mntz. Villa de Guayaquil,  
En vidad Trece dias del mes de abril de mil  
Setecientos quete años firmo de dho. mntz. re-  
llada q. el dho. dho. mntz. q. el dho. dho.  
da de mntz. dho. mntz. dho. dho. dho.  
Dize q. el dho. dho. mntz. dho. dho. dho.  
dho. dho. mntz. dho. dho. dho. dho.

Ca  
Cuerpo y Calles

Pdo. Juan de Capis  
Leon, del S. Juan y Capis Leon.

Juan de Capis Leon  
Juan de Capis Leon  
Juan de Capis Leon

Likewise I CERTIFY:

[that] I settled the old Pueblo of Galisteo with 150 families of Christian Indians of the Tano nation who were found dispersed since the year of 1702 [and] living in the other pueblos, ranches and frontiers in poverty and misfortune, whereas today they are found assembled and very happy in their said Pueblo entitled Santa María de Gracia de Galisteo;<sup>2</sup> and it has been completely rebuilt, and also the Church and Convent [but] without minister, church-bells, or ornaments; and the fields sowed and cultivated—likewise until now without cost to the Royal Treasury, both one and the other [of the] new settlements. Thus I certify, and in order to validate it I give this certification as testimony of its truth, in this Villa of Santa Fé, on the 23rd day of the month of April, 1706, signed by my hand, sealed with the seal of my arms, and witnessed by the subscribed secretary of government and war, and on this ordinary paper since there is no legal paper nor is there any in these parts.

[signed]

FRANCISCO CUERBO Y VALDES (rubric)

By order of the Sr. Governor and Captain General:

[Signed] Alfonsso Rael de Aguilar

Secretary of government and war

So far as the wording of this certificate goes, the date of the actual founding might have been much earlier than April 23, 1706—even back in the previous year. Other documents, however, in the archives at Santa Fé definitely place it in the year 1706,<sup>3</sup> so that it must have occurred during that spring and only shortly before the date of the certificate.

Unfortunately the official record of the actual founding seems to be lost beyond any hope of recovery. The "instrumento de la fundación" as it was called may have included the written petition of those who wished to settle in the new villa; it certainly embodied the written authorization of

2. Bancroft, *Arizona and New Mexico*, 228, misread this name "Santa Maria de Grado," and confused Galisteo with Santa Cruz. Hodge, *Handbook of American Indians*, I, 482, also gives the name incorrectly.

3. The year is definitely stated in a petition addressed in 1708 by the residents of Albuquerque to the council at Santa Fe. Twitchell, *Spanish Archives*, I, no. 1205.

*rrata* → Governor Cuervo y Valdes, and also the formal proceedings whereby the settlers were placed in possession. Responsibility for its loss or disappearance would seem to lie with Captain Martín Hurtado who was the first alcalde mayor of Albuquerque and who held that office until 1722.<sup>4</sup> Five years burquerque brought before Gov. Juan Domingo de Bustamante, protesting against three local grants which Captain Hurtado had made while he was alcalde and without consulting "todo el común de esta villa." The governor had said that the instrument of the founding of the villa was necessary, and therefore they petitioned Bustamante to order Hurtado to show this document before the governor or else explain where it then was.<sup>5</sup> It appears that Bustamante started an investigation—but the last pages of the record are gone. We should like to know what Hurtado had to say, but even if he still had in his possession in 1727 the "instrumento de la fundación de esta villa," it would now seem to be irreparably lost.

\* When was the City of Albuquerque founded? The most definite reply that can be made is: "In the spring of 1706."

As to Galisteo, the Indian pueblo which was reestablished by Governor Cuervo y Valdes stood a mile and a half northeast of the present Spanish-American plaza of the same name. In spite of its "hundred and fifty families,"<sup>6</sup> this pueblo was a failure and it entirely disappeared toward the end of the eighteenth century. It was decimated by smallpox and by persistent hostilities of the Comanches, until in 1794 the few survivors abandoned their pueblo and moved down the Galisteo river and were absorbed by the pueblo of Santo Domingo.

4. Twitchell, *Spanish Archives*, II, no. 319; his resignation in February, 1722.

5. The petition, in incomplete form, was found at the Bancroft Library, Berkeley. It was dated June 20, 1727.

6. Hodge, *op. cit.*, has "90 Indians" whereas the total individuals must have been about ten times that number. He has been misled by Bandelier and Bancroft who strangely confused the records as to this pueblo with those of Santa Cruz de la Cañada which was refounded by Gov. Diego de Vargas in 1695, north of Santa Fé.

*Juan Candelaria (1776) said "Feb. 7, 1706."*  
*(NMHR, IV, 274)*