

4-1-1935

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Recommended Citation

Bloom, Lansing B.. "The Governors of New Mexico." *New Mexico Historical Review* 10, 2 ().
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmhr/vol10/iss2/10>

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THE GOVERNORS OF NEW MEXICO

By LANSING B. BLOOM

NEW MEXICO can show a longer line of governors than any other State in the Union. Beginning in 1598 and continuing over a span of 337 years to date, New Mexico has been successively a province of Spain; a province, territory, and department under Mexico; and a territory and state of the United States.

In view of the fact that the records at Santa Fé were destroyed in the Indian Rebellion of 1680, it is not surprising that our knowledge of these governors has long remained incomplete. The list as compiled by Bancroft¹ had serious gaps and mistakes, yet his work was basic and it is still quoted as authoritative. Some of his errors may be found in the works of H. E. Bolton,² R. E. Twitchell,³ B. M. Read,⁴ and C. F. Coan,⁵ and in the writings of other authors who have depended on the works just mentioned.⁶ As one result of study begun in 1910 in the archival records in Santa Fé, Washington, and at other depositories in this country, a number of corrections as to various governors were established,⁷ and in recent years archives which have been secured in Spain and in Mexico have yielded a mass of

1. H. H. Bancroft, *History of Arizona and New Mexico* (1889), 253-254 and *passim*. He includes five who never served and omits eight who did, and many of the terms as shown are incorrect.

2. H. E. Bolton, *Guide to Materials for the History of the U. S. in the Principal Archives of Mexico* (1913), 473-474, copies the Bancroft list without any change.

3. R. E. Twitchell, *Leading Facts of New Mexican History*, 2 vols. (1911-1912), *passim*, also follows Bancroft.

4. B. M. Read, *Historia Ilustrada de Nuevo Mexico* (1911) and *Illustrated History of New Mexico* (1912), also depended upon Bancroft.

5. C. F. Coan, *A History of New Mexico*, 3 vols. (1925) and *A Shorter History of New Mexico*, 2 vols. (1928). The latter is simply an abridged mimeographed edition of the former; both follow Bancroft for the Spanish period, but in the later periods show some corrections due to research which had by then been done.

6. As recent a work as that of C. W. Hackett, *Pichardo's Treatise on the Limits of Louisiana and Texas*, vol. II (1934) *passim*, quotes Bolton (who copied Bancroft) as to the governors of New Mexico.

7. Especially as to the Mexican period in "New Mexico under Mexican Administration, 1821-1846," published in *Old Santa Fé*, vols. I-II (1913-1915), *passim*.

detailed information.⁸ This material was used for the revised list given to the Secretary of State and published in the *New Mexico Blue Book* of 1925-1926. Further revision was made in the four subsequent issues but even in the last one (1933-1934) the copy supplied was not very carefully followed; moreover that publication is not always available outside of New Mexico. It seems desirable, therefore, to give in our quarterly the complete list as it now stands.

Does such a chronological record make dry reading? Possibly so, and yet even a glance will show that it is a perfect galaxy of great family names, distinguished in Spain and in the New World. Military titles are numerous of course, but three of the Spaniards were admirals—before they came to New Mexico! Some were of noble rank; many were knights of the military orders of Santiago, Alcántara, and Calatrava. Some of them lay in prison for months, even years; others were haled before the Inquisition; at least three were assassinated. Glory and ignominy, romance and tragedy, lie thick upon the pages of our early history.⁹

The list as given is consecutive throughout except for the years 1846-1848 when military and civil rule were parallel but held by different men. When the term *ad interim* has been used, it indicates that the previous incumbent had died, resigned, or been removed from office.

If all the men and women were included who served as temporary or "acting" governors during this third of a millennium, the list would be interminably long and involved. For example, Cristóbal de Oñate was *acting* governor in

8. During a year of research in Spain (1928-1929), with the aid of Mrs. Bloom, a wealth of detailed information was gathered. Some of this came from Simancas and Madrid, but most of it was found in Seville, especially in the financial records, the *Sección de Contaduría* of the *Archivo General de Indias*. This was particularly true for the 17th century, the period in which the archives at Santa Fé had so little. Later some details as to various governors turned up in the archive material secured in Mexico City in 1930, and again in the summer of 1934.

Much of this material has been used in papers which have been published in the *NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW*, vols. I-IX (1926-1934), and in Bloom and Donnelly, *New Mexico History and Civics* (1933).

9. See, for example, the papers by F. V. Scholes and J. M. Espinosa in this issue.

1604-1605 when he was a youth of only sixteen years and while his father was on his famous journey to the Gulf of California; but after Don Juan resigned, Don Cristóbal was elected by the colonists in *Cabildo Abierto* and served until the arrival of Peralta. Therefore he belongs in the list as shown.

The term *acting* will be found in the list at only two places: in 1844 and in 1846. Late in 1843 the Mexican authorities closed New Mexico for some months against the commerce from the United States—and Manuel Armijo lost interest in the governorship, resigning first the military, and then the civil, authority and going to his home in Albuquerque. In 1846 again, upon the approach of the invading army under General S. W. Kearny, Manuel Armijo deserted his post and fled the country. Vigil's proclamation as "governador politico y militar interino"¹⁰ explains the including of his name in the list, brief as his tenure was.

There have been countless other "acting" governors, and recent secretaries of state have included such names in the list.¹¹ This is interesting as a matter of record, but in the list as here given it has seemed best to show only the names of those who have held the office when it was definitely vacated by the preceding incumbent.

GOVERNORS OF NEW MEXICO

(List as revised by Lansing B. Bloom)

UNDER SPANISH RULE, 1598-1822

1598—1608	Don Juan de Oñate, <i>adelantado</i>
1608—1610	Don Cristóbal de Oñate, <i>adelantado</i> (governor <i>ad interim</i> by election of the colonists)
1610—1614	Don Pedro de Peralta
1614—1618	Admiral don Bernardino de Ceballos
1618—1625	Don Juan de Eulate
1625—1629	Admiral don Phelipe Sotelo Ossorio
1629—1632	Capt. don Francisco Manuel de Silva Nieto
1632—1635	Capt. don Francisco de la Mora y Ceballos

10. Reproduced in facsimile by B. M. Read, *Illustrated History of New Mexico*, 865. A translation of the text is given at pp. 430-431.

11. See *New Mexico Blue Book*, last four issues (1926-1984).

- 1635—1637 Capt. don Francisco Martínez de Baeza
 1637—1641 Capt. don Luís de Rosas
 1641— General don Juan Flores de Sierra y Valdés
 1641—1642 (1st Sergeant Francisco Gomez). The *cabildo* of Santa
 Fé was in actual control
 1642—1644 Capt. don Alonso Pacheco de Heredia
 1644—1647 Capt. don Fernando de Argüello Carvajál
 1647—1649 Capt. don Luís de Guzmán y Figueroa
 1649—1653 Capt. don Hernando de Ugarte y la Concha
 1653—1656 Don Juan de Samaniego y Xaca
 1656—1659 Capt. don Juan Mansso de Contreras
 1659—1661 Capt. don Bernardo López de Mendizábal
 1661—1664 Capt. don Diego Dionisio de Peñalosa Briceño y Berdugo
 1664—1665 Capt. don Juan de Miranda
 1665—1668 Capt. don Fernando de Villanueva
 1668—1671 Capt. don Juan de Medrano y Mesía
 1671—1675 General don Juan Durán de Miranda (2nd time)
 1675—1677 Capt. don Juan Francisco de Treviño
 1677—1683 Capt. don Antonio de Otermín
 1683—1686 Capt. don Domingo Jironza Pétriz de Cruzate
 1686—1689 Don Pedro Reneros de Posada
 1689—1691 Capt. don Domingo Jironza Pétriz de Cruzate (2nd time)
 1691—1697 Don Diego de Vargas Zapata Luján Ponce de León
 1697—1703 Don Pedro Rodríguez Cubero
 1703—1704 Don Diego de Vargas Zapata Luján Ponce de León,
 Marqués de la Nava Brazinas (2nd time)
 1704—1705 Capt. don Juan Páez Hurtado, *ad interim*
 1705—1707 Don Francisco Cuervo y Valdés, *ad interim*
 1707—1712 Admiral don Joseph Chacón Medina Salazar y Villa-
 señor, Marqués de las Peñuelas
 1712—1715 Don Juan Ignacio Flores Mogollón
 1715—1717 Capt. don Phélix Martínez, *ad interim*
 1717— Capt. don Juan Páez Hurtado, *ad interim*
 1717—1722 Capt. don Antonio Valverde y Cossío, *ad interim*
 1722—1731 Don Juan Domingo de Bustamante
 1731—1736 Don Gervásio Cruzat y Góngora
 1736—1739 Don Henrique de Olavide y Micheleña
 1739—1743 Don Gaspar Domingo de Mendoza
 1743—1749 Don Joaquín Codallos y Rabál
 1749—1754 Don Tomás Veles Cachupín
 1754—1760 Don Francisco Antonio Marín del Valle
 1760— Don Mateo Antonio de Mendoza, *ad interim*
 1760—1762 Don Manuel del Portillo y Urrisola, *ad interim*
 1762—1767 Don Tomás Veles Cachupín (2nd time)

- 1767—1778 Capt. don Pedro Fermín de Mendinueta
 1778— Don Francisco Trebó Navarro, *ad interim*
 1778—1788 Lieut.-Col. don Juan Bautista de Anza
 1788—1794 Don Fernando de la Concha
 1794—1805 Lieut.-Col. don Fernando Chacón
 1805—1808 Col. don Joaquín del Real Alencaster
 1808— Don Alberto Maynez, *ad interim*
 1808—1814 Lieut.-Col. don José Manrique, *ad interim*
 1814—1816 Don Alberto Maynez, *ad interim*
 1816—1818 Don Pedro María de Allande, *ad interim*
 1818—1822 Capt. don Facundo Melgares, *ad interim*

UNDER MEXICAN RULE

- 1822— Francisco Xavier Chaves
 1822—1823 Col. José Antonio Viscarra
 1823—1825 Bartolomé Baca
 1825—1827 Col. Antonio Narbona
 1827—1829 Manuel Armijo
 1829—1832 José Antonio Chaves
 1832—1833 Santiago Abreu
 1833—1835 Francisco Sarracino
 1835—1837 Col. Albino Pérez
 1837—1844 Manuel Armijo (2nd time)
 1844— Mariano Chavez, *acting*
 1844— Felipe Sena, *acting*
 1844—1845 General Mariano Martínez de Lejanza
 1845— José Chavez y Castillo, *ad interim*
 1845—1846 Manuel Armijo (3rd time)
 1846— Juan Bautista Vigil y Alarid, *acting*

UNDER UNITED STATES RULE

- | <i>Military</i> | <i>Civil</i> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1846— Gen. Stephen W. Kearny | 1846—1847 Charles Bent |
| 1846—1848 Col. Sterling Price | 1847—1848 Donaciano Vigil |

Civil-Military

- 1848—1849 Col. J. M. Washington
 1849—1851 Col. John Munroe

Territorial Government

- 1851—1852 James S. Calhoun
 1852— John Greiner, *ad interim*
 1852—1853 William Carr Lane

1853—	W. S. Messervy, <i>ad interim</i>
1853—1856	David Meriwether
1856—1857	W. W. H. Davis, <i>ad interim</i>
1857—1861	Abraham Rencher
1861—1866	Henry Connelly
1866—	W. F. M. Army, <i>ad interim</i>
1866—1869	Robert B. Mitchell
1869—1871	William A. Pile
1871—1875	Marsh Giddings
1875—	William G. Ritch, <i>ad interim</i>
1875—1878	Samuel B. Axtell
1878—1881	Lew Wallace
1881—1885	Lionel A. Sheldon
1885—1889	Edmund G. Ross
1889—1893	L. Bradford Prince
1893—1897	William T. Thornton
1897—1906	Miguél A. Otero
1906—1907	Herbert J. Hagerman
1907—	J. Wallace Reynolds, <i>ad interim</i>
1907—1910	George Curry
1910—1912	William J. Mills

State Government

1912—1917	William C. McDonald
1917—	Ezequiél Cabeza de Baca
1917—1919	Washington E. Lindsey, <i>ad interim</i>
1919—1921	Octaviano A. Larrazolo
1921—1923	Merritt C. Mechem
1923—1925	James F. Hinkle
1925—1927	Arthur T. Hannett
1927—1931	Richard C. Dillon
1931—1933	Arthur Seligman
[1933]-1935	Andrew Hockenhill, <i>ad interim</i>
1935—	Clyde Tingley