

La Crónica de Nuevo México



Published since 1976 ~ The Official Publication of the Historical Society of New Mexico

July 2011

Awards Issue

Issue Number 88

The Remarkable Romeros of Las Vegas: The Almost Forgotten Sisters

By Doyle Daves

The family of Jose Miguel Romero y Baca and his wife, Maria Josefa Gregoria Delgado de Romero, was the most prominent and important family in Las Vegas from the founding of the town in 1835¹⁴ through the first quarter of the twentieth century. This family, Miguel and Josefa Romero, their ten children - five sons and five daughters - and their forty-eight grandchildren, was in the forefront of Las Vegas in business, politics and society.⁵ The Romero family dominated the town for decades and made great contributions to the development of Las Vegas in all these areas. The activities and exploits of Miguel and Josefa and the five Romero brothers, Trinidad, Eugenio, Hilario, Benigno and Margarito, have been extensively documented. In contrast, the five sisters, Aniceta, Manuela, Avelina, Josefa and Juliana have been largely ignored by history. Perhaps, this is not surprising since, as Priscilla Gutierrez⁶ has recently noted: "In general, the historical record has not been very kind to women, in spite of the critical role they have played in how history turns out." The present account focuses on these remarkable, almost forgotten, Romero women, the men they married and their children.⁷

The Family Background

Miguel Romero is thought to be the grandson of Cristobal Romero, a native of Santander, the capital of Cantabria Province in Spain; Cristobal came to New Mexico by the mid-1750s to serve in the Spanish Militia in Santa Fe. Josefa's Delgado family came to New Mexico from Pachuca, a small town north of Mexico City. Josefa's grandfather, Manuel Francisco Delgado was the second in command of the Presidio in Santa Fe. Both Miguel Romero and Josefa Delgado were born and grew to adulthood in and around Santa Fe as members of these well-established military families. Miguel's father, Jose Guadalupe Romero and Josefa's father, Manuel Salustiano Delgado were, following their own fathers, officers in the provincial militia stationed at Santa Fe. In his turn, Miguel joined the Mexican army in March, 1823 and was active in escorting wagon trains along the Camino Real to Chihuahua.⁸

When Miguel Romero and Josefa Delgado married in 1830, Miguel was thirty-two years old while Josefa was only fourteen. After their marriage, Miguel continued his military career until February, 1833 when he resigned from the militia. By this time, he had land and business interests in Santa Fe and also in Las Vegas Grandes on the eastern frontier, where the permanent settlement of Las Vegas would soon commence. In addition, as a result of his marriage to Josefa, Miguel obtained an interest in the Delgado mines in the Ortiz Mountains southeast of Santa Fe. In these ways, Miguel quickly became a successful established businessman. During the 1830s and 1840s, Miguel's business interests continued to expand. It was only after the American annexation of New Mexico in 1846, that Miguel began to focus most of his attention on Las Vegas. Undoubtedly, the increasing importance of the Santa Fe Trail and the prospect of riches to be made in freighting and merchandising trail goods played a major role in this decision.

In 1835, the thirty-one original peti-

tioners from San Miguel del Bado were awarded the Las Vegas Land Grant and undertook the settlement of a new town at the site where the Santa Fe Trail crossed the Gallinas River. These original thirty-one and an additional 118 petitioners were awarded lands to establish homes and farms. Miguel Romero received 200 varas of land to cultivate his crops using waters of the river for irrigation and was also awarded a space on the planned plaza to construct a home.⁹ In 1851, the Romero family settled permanently in Las Vegas and began their rapid rise to local leadership.

The Romero Family

Miguel and Josefa Romero raised a family of ten children.¹⁰ Their first born was daughter, Maria Aniceta, born April 28, 1833 in Santa Fe. She was followed by brothers, Trinidad, Eugenio, Hilario and Benigno; then sisters Maria Manuela and Maria Andrea Avelina, fifth brother Margarito, and finally younger sisters, Maria Josefa and Maria Juliana. Juliana was born June 19, 1857 in Las Vegas. Thus, Aniceta was twenty-two years, a full generation, older than youngest sister Juliana; indeed Aniceta was already married before either Josefa or Juliana, the two youngest sisters, were born. This great difference in age resulted in very different childhood experiences and makes generalizations about the sisters more difficult.

Settlement in Las Vegas and Construction of the Romero Home

While Miguel had been active with business interests in Las Vegas Grandes even before the establishment of the town; as noted above, only in 1851 did the Romero family finally settle permanently in Las Vegas. By this time, the older children were growing up - Aniceta was eighteen and Trinidad was seventeen. The lot that Miguel had been given for construction of a home was located on the northeast corner of the plaza. It is not clear just when the Romero home was built; probably some construction took place in the late 1830s when the plaza was initially laid out. Undoubtedly, the Romeros had need of a house in Las Vegas and had been using it at least periodically for some years before they finally settled there. Gottschalk's 1853 map of the plaza area¹¹ implies that the Romero home was complete by this time; this seems unlikely. Undoubtedly, construction occurred in stages over many years with the final configuration only emerging well after the family settled in Las Vegas. What finally emerged was a "large twenty-three room mansion"¹² It "was a Spanish colonial adobe house built in a complete square, creating a placita, or courtyard, in its interior...Portales lined the courtyard and the house's façade on the plaza...one could walk through a doorway into the Romero orchards that extended towards the river."¹³ "There was the family chapel, el zaguan [the gateway], the receiving room, and the common room for family meeting place, entertaining and bailes. There was the dining room, la cocina [the kitchen], the wine room and pantries. "The little room" was used for sweets, those imported candies which Don Miguel had freighted in by ox team."¹⁴ Truly, the Romero children, especially the younger ones, grew up in luxury.

Following permanent settlement in



Portrait of the Romero Sisters, Las Vegas, New Mexico. Standing are Juliana on the left and Josefa on the right. Seated (l to r) are Manuela, Aniceta and Avelina
(Photograph courtesy of Doyle Daves)

Las Vegas, the Romero wealth and influence in the community built rapidly. Because of his earlier work and investments, Miguel had ample resources; in the 1850s and 1860s, his family was growing to adulthood and the need to provide for the family future led to great expansion of business activity. The financial success and dominance of the Romero father and sons during the period after settlement in Las Vegas has been thoroughly documented.¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Because the focus of this account is the Romero women, it is important to note that Josefa Delgado de Romero was an unusually organized and effective woman. She had the responsibilities resulting from being mother to ten children and maintaining a large house for an active professional husband. In addition, Josefa "with the help of servants [and undoubtedly her daughters] operated a creamery in the Romero residence, making butter and cheese."¹⁸

The Romeros Educate Their Children

From the arrival in 1598 of Juan de Oñate and the first settlers, there were no schools in New Mexico until 1835 when Padre Antonio Jose Martinez,¹⁹ opened a small one in Taos. The great majority of New Mexicans grew up with essentially no education. At the time that Miguel and Josefa Romero were raising their children, only about one in twelve adult men could read or write. Even fewer women possessed these skills.²⁰ Indeed, the situation was such that the typical New Mexican "had no great vision, knowing very little about education."²¹ In fact, when the territorial legislature held a referendum in 1856 regarding taxation to support public

schools the vote was 37 in favor and 5,016 against.²² What little education occurred was restricted to the wealthy, rico classes who employed private tutors or sent their children (almost exclusively sons²³) to Mexico or the American states for schooling.

The Romeros, as a result of their long association with the Santa Fe elite and their military service, had been literate for generations. More impressively, the family was well aware of the many advantages that accrued from education. And after the annexation of New Mexico by the United States, they saw the need for learning the language, laws and business practices of the new country. Maggie McDonald, a Delgado descendant, expressed it thusly: "The Romeros were more worldly [than the Delgados and many other privileged families]. The Romeros appeared to see the value of educating their sons in the "American" way whereas the Delgados did not."²⁴ Perhaps most impressive was the Romeros commitment to education for their daughters.

Vigil says of Trinidad, oldest son and a year younger than sister Aniceta, that his "only education came through private tutors and through the proverbial "school of hard knocks."²⁵ This surely describes Aniceta's education as well. These two oldest children likely began their studies in the early 1840s; at a minimum they learned to read and write Spanish and to do simple arithmetic. Following the American annexation of New Mexico, educational opportunities began to emerge. When Bishop Jean Baptiste Lamy arrived

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Romero Sisters... (continued from page 1)

in New Mexico, he recognized an urgent need for schools and hospitals and he moved quickly to address these needs. The Sisters of Loretto opened a school in Santa Fe in 1852 and one in Las Vegas in 1869.⁸⁶ Unfortunately, this occurred much too late to serve the needs of some of the Romero children. In this regard, the four younger Romero daughters fared better than their older siblings. Family memory indicates that they attended schools in both Santa Fe and Las Vegas run by the Sisters of Loretto. The Academy of Immaculate Conception in Las Vegas offered a curriculum which consisted of reading, writing, arithmetic, religion, music, painting and needlework designed "to prepare young women for their roles as Catholic wives, mothers and dutiful daughters of the Church."⁸⁷ Youngest daughter, Juliana, learned to play the piano and was often asked to perform at family functions.

Josefa Delgado de Romero's Special School

Josefa Romero was an exceptional woman. Not only did she raise an outstanding family of ten children, manage a household for her large, active family and run a successful business (see above); she also found time to provide special training for her five daughters and five daughters-in-law in the practical skills necessary to manage an upper-class household. Ann Nolan Clark⁸⁸ explains: "From her specially built chair in the kitchen she directed the Indian slaves to assist [her daughters and] the sons' new wives in learning household tasks. If, at the end of a year, the girls had learned to manage a house in proper Spanish fashion [and they all did], a large home was built for them nearby. It was furnished completely and [Josefa] gave to each a present of a thousand dollars." This was an enormous sum in the late 1800s when most working people earned eight to thirty dollars per month.

The Elegant Romero Sisters

"The five Romero sisters had their own precise little Frenchman hair dresser and they also had their own filigree man who made into ornaments the raw gold brought to them from the family mine."⁸⁹ The sisters dressed fashionably; sometimes [they] wore the wide fringed flower-patterned shawls and lace mantillas, heirlooms from the courts of Spain. At other times they were sedate in Paris frocks with proper polonaise, bustle and basque." The sisters were noted for their hospitality and culinary skills. There were many parties with "smart coaches drawing up to the portal with a flourish, the cocheros vying with each other in dashing arrivals, the gallant dons assisting the stately doñas and dainty señoritas to alight. The entire family came for these parties; the elders were accompanied by the children, the dueñas and nursemaids. Parties lasted for a week or ten days and often overlapped. Food was lavish; always a mixing of Anglo and Spanish. There was always champagne. There was as often ice-cream, the freezers having been brought from the east and the ice from the family ice house in Las Vegas"⁹⁰ It is important to note that the above discussion relates to the period, 1870s and later, after their parents were gone and when all of the Romero sisters were married and matrons of their own households. It reflects the closeness they maintained with each other as mature women.

The sisters were socially prominent, civic-minded women in the burgeoning community of Las Vegas in its heyday when it was the transportation hub and most dynamic city of the Southwest. In their own ways, the sisters made contributions to the community consistent with the Romero family values and added luster to the standing of the family in New Mexican society.

Choosing Spouses: Marriage Customs in Nineteenth Century New Mexico

Probably no task faced by Miguel and Josefa Romero was as daunting as assisting their ten children to select suitable marriage partners. Ramon Gutierrez has described the marriage customs that prevailed in New Mexico at the time the Romero's siblings were coming of age. He notes that "Marriage was the most important ritual event in the course of life, and it

was an occasion when it was necessary for the honor of the family to take precedence over all other considerations."⁹¹ And "Marriage in Spanish society was strictly supervised to ensure the perpetuation of social inequities."⁹² This latter statement seems pejorative; it isn't really. In the case of the Romeros, Gutierrez's point is simply that the elder Romeros desired their children to select spouses of their own social and economic class. Today, most parents still have this desire, although modern marriage customs give parents little or no role in spousal selection processes.

"Women were the things honorable men [like Miguel Romero] guarded most intensely in their households."⁹³ A result was that young women had very little, if any, unsupervised time and few opportunities to become well acquainted with potential marriage partners. As a result, they generally were guided by their parents, who carefully arranged occasions for their daughter to meet and talk with "suitable" young men and thereby, carefully guided the selection process.⁹⁴ That this was the case for the Romero sisters is strongly supported by a letter we have that Miguel and Josefa Romero wrote to "Señora Doña Dolores Sandoval de Baca". The letter dated January 6, 1876 is a reply to a request made by Señora Baca on behalf of her son Francisco, asking for permission for him to marry youngest Romero daughter, Juliana. In the letter, the elder Romeros accepted the marriage proposal on behalf of their daughter. Almost certainly a similar process occurred for each of the Romero sisters. The result was that the sisters' husbands all came from well-established "rico" families and were socially and economically on a par with their Romero brothers-in-law.

Maria Aniceta Romero

Aniceta was born April 28, 1833 in Santa Fe and grew up there and in the mining town of Dolores where the Romero family lived during the 1840s prior to relocating to Las Vegas. On April 4, 1853 in Las Vegas, three weeks before her twentieth birthday, Aniceta married Jesus Maria Sena y Esparza, born at San Miguel del Bado the son of a prosperous farmer and merchant who moved his family to Las Vegas after 1850. The 1860 census for San Miguel County indicates that Jesus's father, Miguel Sena y Quintana, had real estate worth \$1,500 and personal property worth \$4,000, impressive assets for the time. Aniceta and Jesus were parents to six children when Jesus died leaving Aniceta a young widow.

On December 18, 1867, she remarried to widower Juan Jose Lopez y Baca who "was a supplier to the Bosque Redondo Indian Reservation [at Fort Sumner] and later sold much of the land that was to become the Las Vegas railtown."⁹⁵ This marriage resulted in the birth of three more children. In the 1900 census, Aniceta indicated that she had given birth to twelve children but that only eight were living; these, apparently, are the six Senas and two Lopez children. Son Atanacio Sena, following family tradition, operated a general store on Bridge Street and later one on South Pacific Street.

Aniceta lived out her life in the home on North Gonzales Street, presumably given to her by her mother, Josefa, shortly after her first marriage in 1853. Descendants remember her there in her last years as a kindly old lady who loved to cook for them. She died February 21, 1915 at the age of eighty-two leaving her children "quite a lot of money" and, apparently a ranch in the Newkirk area of Guadalupe County.⁹⁶

Maria Manuela Romero

Second daughter, Manuela was born June 24, 1842, the sixth child of Miguel and Josefa Romero following Aniceta and four brothers. She was nine years younger than Aniceta and only ten when the Romero family settled in Las Vegas. A record has not been found but it seems likely that she spent some time in Santa Fe attending the new school established in 1852 by the Sisters of Loretto. When she was fifteen in 1857, she married Dionicio Gonzales y Ulibarri, son of a prominent Las Vegas couple. Jesus Gonzales and his wife Jesusita Ulibarri established a successful mercantile business on the Las Vegas

plaza. In the 1860s, together with their son Dionicio, they purchased a storehouse from Ceran St. Vrain located on the southeast corner of the plaza. The Gonzales opened up the corner creating Gonzales Street and built onto their building to the south.

Dionicio was a freighter; he contracted with merchant, Andres Dold to haul goods to fulfill Dold's contracts to supply military installations.⁹⁷ Dionicio also freighted goods over the Santa Fe Trail from Missouri. In 1865, serving as a contractor for Andres Dold, Dionicio was the captain of a wagon train bringing goods from Missouri that was especially noteworthy. Accompanying this wagon train was the Italian holy man, Giovanni Maria de Augustino, who is even today memorialized as the hermit of Hermit's Peak west of Las Vegas.⁹⁸ Dionicio was still freighting on the Santa Fe Trail as late as 1881, two years after the railroad reached Las Vegas and, at least in theory, trail travel had ended; in that year, he carved his name on Inscription Rock, some eight miles north of the present site of Boise City in the Oklahoma Panhandle.⁹⁹

In the 1870 census for San Miguel County, Dionicio listed himself as a farmer with assets of \$14,000, comparable to the \$15,000 in assets declared by his "wealthy" brother-in-law, Eugenio Romero. Manuela and Dionicio had three children. Their son, Adelaido, was well-educated, having attended the Jesuit College in Las Vegas, and had a particularly successful career. He was involved in the mercantile business with his parents and grandparents until 1893 when he became the Superintendent of Schools for San Miguel County, responsible for the 130 schools in the county at that time. He also served as a captain in the First Regiment of New Mexico Volunteers.¹⁰⁰

Maria Andrea Avelina Romero

Avelina was born in Santa Fe, November 20, 1844; like older sister Manuela she undoubtedly was educated by the Sisters of Loretto. At age sixteen, she married Manuel Baca y Ortiz, October 25, 1869 in Las Vegas. Manuel had served as a soldier in the New Mexico Volunteers during the Civil War period. The 1870 census shows the couple and their infant daughter, Cleofas, living with Avelina's parents. In this record, Manuel, age twenty-nine is listed as a freighter with assets of \$1,500; Avelina indicated that she was a seamstress, a common response, as at that time "housewife" was not in common usage in New Mexico.¹⁰¹ In the 1880 census, the couple, now with five children, are recorded in the San Geronimo community and Manuel was "working in a sawmill." Manuel apparently died about 1896; in the 1900 census, Avelina was listed as a widow living in Las Vegas with her two youngest children; her older son, Hilario Baca, and his family were living next door.¹⁰²

In her later years, Avelina lived alone in Las Vegas but had grandchildren and great grandchildren nearby. They adored "Grande", listened to stories of the old days and relished the many treats emanating from her kitchen. She passed away at eighty-six.

Maria Josefa Romero

Josefa was born in 1854, the ninth child of Miguel and Josefa following youngest brother Margarito by nine years. She was the first Romero child to be born in Las Vegas. Although she would have been fifteen when the Sisters of Loretto started the school in Las Vegas, it is possible that Josefa attended; undoubtedly, like her older sisters, she had earlier been sent to Santa Fe to school. When Josefa was twenty, on November 6, 1874, she married Felipe Santiago Lopez y Baca.¹⁰³ Felipe was the son of Francisco Lopez and Petra Baca, a well-established Santa Fe couple who, like Miguel and Josefa Romero, had come from Santa Fe to Las Vegas to take advantage of the opportunities the new community afforded, particularly the freighting and merchandising made possible by the Santa Fe Trail and army post at Fort Union. Two of Felipe's older sisters, Valeria and Ascencion (Chonita) had married Josefa's older brothers, Trinidad and Eugenio, respectively. Like the Romeros, the Lopez clan had many enterprises; Felipe "focused on the ranching operations of the family."¹⁰⁴

Josefa and Felipe Lopez did not have

children of their own; however, they raised a niece, Celestina (Tina), who was the daughter of Josefa's sister Juliana and her husband Francisco Baca y Sandoval.

Maria Juliana Romero

Juliana, born June 19, 1857 was the tenth and last Romero child, born when Josefa was forty-one. She was younger than several of her nieces and nephews. She attended schools run by the Sisters of Loretto in both Las Vegas and Santa Fe where, among other skills she learned to play the piano. She married Francisco Nazario Baca y Sandoval on January 15, 1876. Francisco was the son of prominent Mora County businessman Juan Maria Baca and Maria Dolores Sandoval. He was educated at the Christian Brothers School in Mora and was sent by his parents across the Santa Fe Trail to attend college at St. Louis University. After New Mexico Normal School was established in 1893, Francisco studied there. He was a businessman and school teacher.¹⁰⁵ By about 1880, Francisco had opened a wine and liquor store on the Las Vegas Plaza in a portion of the former home of his in-laws, the now-deceased elder Romeros.¹⁰⁶ The *Las Vegas Daily Gazette* (November 3, 1881) reported that "Francisco Baca y Sandoval is in receipt of a car load of fine wines including Port, Hock, Reisling, Sherry, etc." Some months later the paper reported (July 26, 1882) that "Thos. J. Gates is perfecting arrangements for the opening of a high-toned restaurant in Francisco Baca y Sandoval's building on the north side of the plaza."

Juliana and Francisco were parents to nine children. Their son, Eduardo F. Baca, was a Las Vegas businessman who operated a store on the plaza for more than forty years. After Francisco died in 1918, Juliana lived almost two more decades, passing away in 1937. Late in Juliana's life, Ann Nolan Clark visited her and reported that "The stately Doña Julianita Romero de Baca showed me her memory book with yellowed newspaper clippings, faded pictures and pressed flowers, precious souvenirs of that gay summer [1883]. Sitting in the quiet, time-shadowed house with Doña Julianita, youngest sister of Don Trinidad and once married to the wealthiest man in San Miguel, wistfully fingering the treasures in her diary it was easy to become part of that long ago gaiety."¹⁰⁷

NOTES

1. Lynn Perrigo, *Gateway to Glorieta, A History of Las Vegas, New Mexico* (Boulder, CO: Pruett Publishing Company, 1982) Chapter 1.
2. Milton Callon, "Las Vegas, New Mexico, The Town That Wouldn't Gamble" (*Las Vegas Daily Optic*, 1962).
3. Anselmo F. Arellano and Julian Jose Vigil, *Las Vegas Grandes on the Gallinas 1835-1985* (Las Vegas: Editorial Telerana, 1985) Chapter 1.
4. Marcus C. Gottschalk, *Pioneer Merchants of Las Vegas* (Las Vegas: M. C. Gottschalk, 2004)
5. Doyle Daves, "The Remarkable Romeros: the Development of Las Vegas" (*Las Vegas Optic Special Heritage Week Supplement*, July 2010) 17-19.
6. Priscilla Shannon Gutierrez, "The Many Lives of Red St. Vrain Bransford" *Wagon Tracks*, 24 (August 2010), 1.
7. Interviews and notes: Tito and Mary Chavez, Kathleen Ortiz, Anna Ortiz, J. Paul Taylor, Cleo Werner, Maggie McDonald, Evelyn Baca Knight, James Sena, Michael Taylor.
8. Marcus C. Gottschalk, *Miguel Romero y Baca and the Early Settlement of Las Vegas, New Mexico* (Las Vegas: M. C. Gottschalk, 1999) 2-4.
9. Marcus C. Gottschalk, *Miguel Romero y Baca and the Early Settlement of Las Vegas, New Mexico*. Interestingly, Miguel's brothers, Vicente, Jose Leon and Rafael Romero, also received land and settled in Las Vegas, but never shared the prominence of Miguel and his family.
10. Four additional children died in childhood.
11. Marcus C. Gottschalk, *Pioneer Merchants of Las Vegas*, 37.
12. Maurilio E. Vigil, *Los Patronos: Profiles of Hispanic Political Leaders in New Mexico History* (Washington, DC: University Press of America, 1980) 64.
13. Marcus C. Gottschalk, *Pioneer Merchants of Las Vegas*, 11.
14. Ann Nolan Clark, "The House of the

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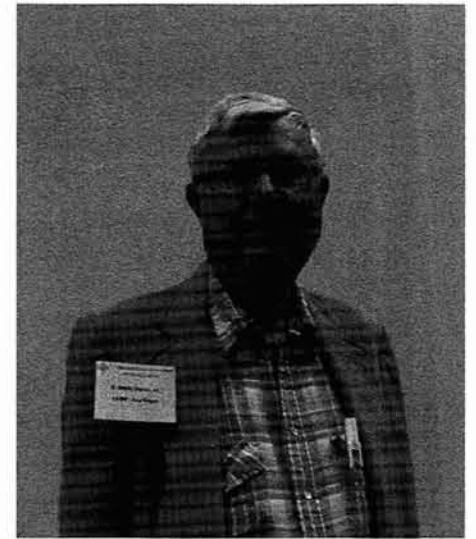
Dons." George Fitzpatrick, Ed., *This is New Mexico* (Albuquerque: Horn and Wallace, 1948) 20-21.
 15. See references 1-4, 7, 11.
 16. Maurilio E. Vigil, "Hispanos and the Santa Fe Trail," *La Herencia* (Fall 2004) 42-43.
 17. Ann Nolan Clark, "The House of the Dons," George Fitzpatrick, Ed., *This is New Mexico* 14-24.
 18. Marcus C. Gottschalk, *Pioneer Merchants of Las Vegas*, 11.
 19. Antonio Jose Martinez, Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.
 20. Carolyn Zeleny, *Relations Between The Spanish Americans and Anglo-Americans in New Mexico* (New York: Arno Press, 1974) 264.
 21. S. P. Nanninga, *The New Mexico School System* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1942) 19.
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 23. In 1850, Spanish-born New Mexico businessman, Damaso Lopez had sent his eight-year-old daughter Maria Francisca to school in St. Louis. See: Doyle Daves "Trinidad Lopez, College Boy on the Santa Fe Trail" *Wagon Tracks*, 24

(February 2010) 17.
 24. Maggie McDonald, email response to a question concerning the education of the Romero and Delgado children.
 25. Maurilio E. Vigil, *Los Patronos: Profiles of Hispanic Political Leaders in New Mexico History*, 63.
 26. Doyle Daves and Ernest Quintana, *Remembering Immaculate Conception School* (Las Vegas, Citizens Committee for Historic Preservation, 2006).
 27. Doyle Daves and Ernest Quintana, 2.
 28. Ann Nolan Clark, 21.
 29. Ann Nolan Clark, 19.
 30. Ann Nolan Clark, 17-19.
 31. Ramon A. Gutierrez, *When Jesus Came, The Corn Mother Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846* (Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press, 1991) 227.
 32. Ramon A. Gutierrez, *When Jesus Came, The Corn Mother Went Away*, xix.
 33. Ramon A. Gutierrez, *When Jesus Came, The Corn Mother Went Away*, 235.
 34. For a discussion of the elaborate "Rituals of Betrothal and Marriage" see Ramon A. Gutierrez, *When Jesus Came, The Corn Mother Went Away*, 259-265.
 35. Marcus C. Gottschalk, "Freighting Families of Las Vegas" (Photo Exhibit at the

Citizens Committee for Historic Preservation, 2004).
 36. Interview with James Sena.
 37. Marcus C. Gottschalk, *Pioneer Merchants of Las Vegas*, 54-57.
 38. Milton Callon, "Las Vegas, New Mexico, The Town That Wouldn't Gamble" (*Las Vegas Daily Optic*, 1962) 318.
 39. Marcus C. Gottschalk, "Freighting Families of Las Vegas" (Photo Exhibit at the Citizens Committee for Historic Preservation, 2004).
 40. *Illustrated History of New Mexico* (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1895), 219-220.
 41. Janet Lecompte, "The Independent Women of Hispanic New Mexico" in Joan M. Jensen and Darlis A. Miller, *New Mexico Women: Intercultural Perspectives* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1986) 74.
 42. In the 1900 census, Avelina indicated that she had given birth to eleven children but that only six survived.
 43. The second husband of oldest sister, Aniceta, Juan Jose Lopez y Baca is not a brother of Felipe; any relationship between them is unknown.
 44. Marcus C. Gottschalk, "Freighting Families of Las Vegas" (Photo Exhibit at the Citizens Committee for Historic Preservation, 2004).
 45. *Las Vegas Optic*, February 3, 1937.

46. Marcus C. Gottschalk, *Pioneer Merchants of Las Vegas*, 71.
 47. Ann Nolan Clark, 19

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Doyle Daves at the New Mexico History Conference in Ruidoso
 (Photograph by Carleen Lazzell, May 6, 2011)

Doyle Daves grew up on a ranch in Union County. After a long career as a research scientist and university professor and administrator, he and his wife, Pamela, live in retirement in a restored 1898 Victorian home in Las Vegas.

New Mexico and The Great War A Collection in Need of Historians

By R. Kermit Hill Jr.



Ona George, Army Private, 1918
 (Photograph provided by Kermit Hill)

Woodrow Wilson created the National Council of Defense in 1916, before the United States entered the Great European war. This act has left suspicions of a Machiavellian conspiracy on Wilson's part. It also has left a collection of materials housed in the N.M. State Records and Archives vault which has been only lightly touched by historians.

World War I has been largely forgotten in New Mexico history but these records give us a strong sense of the passions of that time, and of the eternal sense of loss which war causes. When The U.S. declared war in April 1917 the states were expected to replicate the National Council of Defense. New Mexico did so with a passion and a number of well known people became involved. They included Aldo Leopold, Lansing Bloom and Edgar Lee Hewett who was in the middle of creating the Fine Arts Museum. The Historical Society of N.M. became

deeply involved in Council affairs.

Among the many sub series of the New Mexico Council of Defense series of the Adjutant General collection, all of which are interesting and important to understanding those tempestuous times, two are deserving of special notice.

A newspaper clipping campaign was conducted under the aegis of the state council through subordinate county councils. This collection, only recently organized for use, offers us a great insight into the rather hysterical atmosphere the war generated in the U.S. That passion was even more driven in New Mexico by Villa's raid on Columbus in 1916 and by the influx of diverse peoples into the state during the immediate pre war period, people often from what were now enemy countries.

In 1926 Lansing Bloom published his series "New Mexico in the Great War" for the *New Mexico Historical Review* as one of its inaugural pieces. In this work he touches lightly on the efforts of the Board of Historic Services regarding the collecting of biographical information about New Mexicans who served in the military in 1917-1919. By 1926 many Americans were questioning our participation in the war, and Bloom may have realized that the whole idea was born of the excessive jingoism of 1917, but sacrifice always requires honor.

On October 25, 1917 the *Santa Fe New Mexican* announced that the Historical Society, led by Ex-Governor Prince, would try to collect a photo of every New Mexico soldier. Later, as the death toll grew Bloom and others focused on those men who were lost. This was a somewhat daunting task, but a manageable one which his group deserve much credit for. Some statistics are in order, and they point to how the project could be carried out here more easily than in some states.

New Mexico had about 16,000 men in service. Three hundred forty-eight died, one hundred forty-one in action, two hundred seven not in action. One in four hundred sixty New Mexicans died in military service in 1917-1919. Sixty percent of those men died of disease and accidents. We ignored then and have somewhat continued to ignore the disaster of the Spanish Influenza in 1918. One in every ten American soldiers was from New York state, which undoubtedly suffered a commensurate loss of men. About 10,000 New Yorkers were lost.

I would like to note three examples from the collection which express the state of New Mexico society at the time.

Marcus Armijo, 32nd Division, died of wounds in France on August 5, 1918. His widow Maria, living in El Paso, received his posthumous DSC. In the collection are a letter and a postcard from him to her, in Spanish, and the telegram notifying her of his death.

Ray G. Ahnefelt, born in Michigan, received dual degrees in civil and mining engineering from New Mexico School of Mines in 1918. He entered the Army at Socorro, and died a 2nd Lieutenant at Camp A.A. Humphreys, Virginia on October 9, 1918 of the Spanish Influenza. N.M.S.M Registrar Blanche E. Reed sent Bloom a glowing letter of commendation of him.

Ona George first crossed my path back in 1981 when I saw his headstone at Avis Cemetery He was a rancher raised in the Sacramento Mountains. He died a private in the 31st Division at Camp Mills, New York, October 10, 1918, another victim of the Flu. His file includes a newspaper obituary, a poignant letter from his mother and a photo.

This body of materials offers a wonderful view of New Mexico in 1917-1919 when it had been a state for only five



Grave site of Ona George in Avis Cemetery, Otero County, NM
 (Photograph by Kermit Hill, June, 2009)

years, when Mexican border tensions focused national attention on the state, when eastern New Mexico was just being truly settled, when the ethnic-cultural mix of the state was expanding and when the arts were taking firm root. We hope historians will use these great materials in the near future to enlighten us about that momentous time. ~KH

Kermit Hill is a retired school teacher who enjoys traveling around New Mexico exploring small towns and unusual places. He first discovered the grave of Ona George when he visited Avis Cemetery in 1981. In 2009 Kermit returned to the grave of Private George to take a photograph of the site with the American flag and irises planted around the stone.

St. Catherine's Industrial Indian School

By Tom Drake

St. Catherine's is significant for its architecture, its role in the education of Native Americans and for its association with wealthy Philadelphia heiress Katherine Drexel who established the school and later was canonized.

Though many campus buildings were listed in the State Register in 2001, the nomination needed to be clarified to identify the property type as an historic district and to give the district a boundary. The CPRC

voted that the buildings that form the campus and the historic cemetery comprise the district and celebrate the school's 101-year history. The contributing buildings were landmarked by the City of Santa Fe in 2006.

The campus is dominated by the 1887 adobe, three-and-one-half story Main Building, thought to be the tallest earthen building ever built in New Mexico. The building can be seen from numerous Santa Fe vantage points. Its thick adobe exterior

walls are fortified by buttresses and several interior adobe walls form high-ceilinged, smoothly plastered rooms, many with marble fireplaces. The "Our Lady of Guadalupe of the Americas" fresco painted by Edward O'Brien surrounds one of them in a reception room.

Interested parties addressed the committee to provide their views of the campus and the boundaries for the historic district. One suggestion was that the athletic field be

included in the district as recognition of the importance of athletics to the student community. The campus is partially bordered by the Veterans Administration Santa Fe National Cemetery, which is looking for adjacent land for expansion.

~TD

2011 New Mexico Historical Society Awards

Friday, May 6, Ruidoso Conference Center

Paul A. F. Walter Award

Service to the Historical Society of New Mexico
Van Dorn Hooker, FAIA, University of New Mexico Architect Emeritus



Van Dorn Hooker

Edgar Lee Hewett Award

Significant Contribution to the Public

Jay Smith, former Director of Hubbard Museum, President of Mountain Plains Museum Association and current Vice-President of Lincoln County Historical Society.



Gary Cozzens on left presenting the award to Jay Smith

Dorothy Woodward Award

For Education
The New Mexico Museum of Art, Director Mary Kershaw



Mary Kershaw, (on right) accepted the award on behalf of Mexico Museum of Arts from Michael Stevenson.

Ralph Emerson Twitchell Award

Significant Contribution to the Field of History

David Witt for *Ernest Thompson Seton: The Life and Legacy of an Artist and Conservationist* (Gibbs Smith Publisher)



David Caffey (on left) presented the award to David Witt

Gaspar Perez de Villagra Award

Outstanding Publication in the Field of History

Sunstone Press, Santa Fe, New Mexico
• *White Shell Water Place: Anthology of Native American Reflections on the 400th Anniversary of Santa Fe, New Mexico*
• *All Trails Lead to Santa Fe, An Anthology Commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the Founding of Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1610*



Michael Stevenson accepted the two separate awards on behalf of Sunstone Press

Lansing B. Bloom Award

Outstanding Publication by an Institution

- New Mexico Jewish Historical Society for its newsletter *Legacy*. Naomi Sandweiss accepted the award from John Porter Bloom.

- Menaul Historical Library of the Southwest for its newsletter *Menaul Historical Library of the Southwest Review* and its historical calendar.



Nona Brown and Nancy Jones (at podium) accepted the award from John Porter Bloom.

Fray Francisco Atanasio Dominguez Award

For Historic Survey and Research
Lucy R. Lippard for *Down Country: the Tano of Galisteo Basin, 1250-1782* (Museum of New Mexico Press)



Lucy R. Lippard

L. Bradford Prince Award

Significant Work in the Field of Historic Preservation

Diane Prather for preservation work at the Nogal Ranger Station.



Diane Prather (on right) received the award from Richard Melzer.

Pablita Velarde Award

Outstanding Children's Publications
Peggy Pond Church (text) and Charles M. Carrillo (illustrations) for *Shoes for Santo Niño* (Rio Grande Books)



Paul Rhetts, Publisher of Rio Grande Books, accepted the awards on behalf of the family of Peggy Pond Church and Charles Carrillo.

Gilberto Espinosa Award

For best article published in the *New Mexico Historical Review* Awards sponsored by the Espinosa family and NMHR

Richard Melzer received the award for his article "New Deal Success or 'Noble Failure'? Bosque Farms' Early Years as a Federal Resettlement Project, 1935-1939," (Winter 2010), Volume 85, No. 1



Richard Melzer, Margaret Espinosa McDonald and Durwood Ball, Editor, *New Mexico Historical Review*

(All awards photographs by Sherry Robinson, May 6, 2011)



Billy the Kid Photograph Sold for Record Amount

By Carleen C. Lazzell

The sale of what is believed to be the only photographic image of Billy the Kid sold in June 2011 at Brian Lebel's 22nd Annual Old West Show and Auction in Denver. Private collector William Koch paid \$2.3 million dollars for the rare photograph. A spokesperson for the auction said it was the most expensive item ever sold at this particular event. A 15 percent fee was added to the bidding price, bringing the selling price more than \$2.6 million dollars. Organizers believed that the tintype would sell for somewhere between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

The tintype which had four identical images is believed to have been taken in Fort Sumner, New Mexico in 1879 or 1880. Billy is dressed in a rumpled hat, a vest and a bulky sweater/jacket. His outfit also includes a "wild rag" around his neck. He is standing with one hand on a Winchester carbine on his right side and a Colt revolver holstered on his left. The remaining three identical images have never been located.

According to historical accounts of Billy the Kid, he gave the image to his friend Dan Dedrick and it has been owned by Dedrick's descendants, the Upham family, since that time. The photograph

had only been displayed during the 1980s at a museum in Lincoln County, New Mexico. For more information about The Kid, see *La Crónica de Nuevo México*, (April 2011), No. 87. ~CCL



Billy the Kid tintype sold at auction in Denver



Historic courthouse and jail in La Mesilla, New Mexico where Billy the Kid was incarcerated in 1880. (photograph by Carleen Lazzell, June 2, 2011)

Membership Benefits Historical Society of New Mexico

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 - Annual Awards
 - Speakers Bureau
 - Scholarship Programs
- Annual New Mexico History Conference
- Cultural Property Review Plaques

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www.hsnm.org

Steins Ghost Town Visit: An Ethereal Experience

By Carleen C. Lazzell

Late afternoon Monday, June 6, 2011, I joined my daughter Ruleen Lazzell White, and granddaughters Claire Renee and Sophie Irene White to drive from Las Cruces/Mesilla to Mesa, Arizona. As we neared the Arizona border, about 20 miles west of Lordsburg, we arrived at the exit to Steins Ghost Town. Ruleen asked if I had ever been to Steins and I replied that I had not but always wanted to visit the place. Ruleen said she had stopped there many times in the past several years and always enjoyed the experience of looking around and shopping at the quaint mercantile store. Although the town had long been abandoned, Larry Link had purchased the property in 1988 and it had been a popular tourist stop for 20 years before he closed his mercantile store and shut the town down in 2008.

When we arrived at the "ghost town," it was approximately 6:00 PM. I took four pictures of the buildings with the waning light and shadows, which gave the ruins an eerie ambiance and we could feel the

psyche energy of those who had gone before us. As we left the town, we noticed that a white pickup and white horse trailer were parked at the nearby private residence, but there wasn't anyone around the place. We then went under I-10 to the south and drove around the old unkept cemetery; also an ethereal experience.

Of course, there was no way to know what the next 12 hours would bring. A couple of days later, we were watching the evening news on Phoenix television, when we learned that Larry Link, the proprietor of Steins Ghost Town had been murdered around 6:00 AM on Tuesday, June 7 only a few hours after we had been there.

For more information, see the article from *Las Cruces Sun-News* and picture of Larry Link. He is also listed in the "In Memorium" column below. Photographs of Steins Ghost Town by Carleen Lazzell, Monday, June 6, 2011. ~CCL



Steins Ghost Town (above and right) with fence encircling the once vibrant tourist attraction. (Taken the day before the murder, photographs by Carleen Lazzell at approximately 6:00 PM, Monday, June 6, 2011)

Well Known Border Businessman Larry Link Found Dead

LAS CRUCES - Officials had no new details Thursday about this week's slaying of a well known border businessman 140 miles west of Las Cruces.

A family member found Larry Link, the 68-year-old former proprietor of Steins Ghost Town, shot twice around 6 a.m. Tuesday (June 7) on Summit Road, near his truck, said New Mexico State Police Maj. Scott Weaver.

There are no suspects, Weaver said. "We don't have anything," he said, calling any reports that a trespasser or illegal immigrant was involved "all speculation." "If (anyone) can help us out, that would be very beneficial," he said. "We would certainly be very appreciative if anyone has any information as it pertains to this homicide investigation."

An autopsy was performed Wednesday, but no preliminary results, were available Thursday from the Office of the Medical Investigator.

Link moved from Phoenix and, in 1988, bought the railroad ghost town 20 miles west of Lordsburg and just a few miles from the Arizona border. After 20 years of leading \$2.50 tours, telling stories and recounting history for thousands of visitors, but also suffering theft and vandalism from the property, he closed it in 2008.

Nick Russell, of the *Gypsy Journal*, an RV travel newspaper and website, wrote Wednesday about meeting Link and his wife before the ghost town closed.

"The last time we visited with Larry, he told me that he and Linda wanted to take a vacation, but anytime they left the property, they came back to find some-



Larry Link
(Photograph courtesy of Las Cruces Sun-News)

thing stolen."

Russell wrote. "He said it wasn't uncommon to find illegal aliens on the property, some just passing through, but others that made him cautious."

Russell went on to write that he suspects it was one of those trespassers who shot Link, but he's not certain: "What I do know is that a damned good man was gunned down, a man who deserved a hell of a lot better. One more victim of a war on society that we are losing."

Anyone with any information on the case is urged to call Sgt. Felipe Gonzalez at (575) 524-6111

Ashley Meeks, reporter, can be reached at (575) 541-5462

Reprinted with permission from *Las Cruces Sun-News*, Friday, June 10, 2011



~In Memoriam~

Lewis Robert Binford, age 79, died in Kirksville, Missouri on April 11, 2011. He was born in Norfolk, Virginia on November 11, 1931. He was an American archeologist known for his influential ideas in archaeological theory, ethnoarchaeology and the Paleolithic period. Often at odds with traditional archeologists, Binford joined the faculty at University of New Mexico in 1969. After teaching at UNM for 23 years as a distinguished professor, he joined the Southern Methodist University faculty in 1991.

Linda Gayle Hugg Blazer, age 68, passed away on May 8, 2011 in Las Cruces. Although she was born in Gallup, Linda grew up in Clayton, NM where she graduated from Clayton High School. Linda was valedictorian of her class. She received her degree from Eastern New Mexico University and then moved to Seattle where he earned a master's degree in Library Science. In the early 1970s, Linda became a librarian at New Mexico State University where she worked in the archives. She assisted many researchers through her work at the Rio Grande Historical Collections. In 1988, Blazer wrote *Building a Future: a History of Engineering at NMSU*. In addition, Linda did extensive research on the Shalem Colony of Doña Ana County.

Laurence Joseph Campbell, age 74, died at his home in Los Alamos on June 2, 2011. He was born in West Virginia on February 26, 1937. After receiving his Bachelor and Masters degrees from MIT he obtained a PhD in Physics from UC San Diego and joined the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in 1967. He was a fellow of the American Physical Society. Following his retirement in 1998, Larry promoted the history of Los Alamos and served on the board of the Los Alamos Historical Society. He negotiated the purchase of the wartime residence of J. Robert Oppenheimer for the Society. In addition to his historical interests in Los Alamos, Larry was also a board member of the Historical Society of New Mexico.

Max M. Casaus, age 95, a survivor of the Bataan Death March died on June 13, 2011. He was born in Elvira, NM, near Santa Rosa, on his parent's ranch. During WWII, he was sent to the Philippines with the US Army 200th Coast Artillery Regiment. Captured by the Japanese, he spent 3 1/2 years as a prisoner where he lost almost 70 pounds. Years later he and his wife went to Japan where they visited the site of the camp where he had been imprisoned. Casaus was interred at the Santa Fe National Cemetery. See *Albuquerque Journal*, June 18, 2011, p. D-3.

Sidney "Sid" Dillon Cutter, age 77, died at his home in Albuquerque on May 21, 2011. Sid was born on May 9, 1934, the grandson of New Mexico Governor R.C. Dillon (1927-1931) and the son of aviation pioneers William P. "Wild Bill" Cutter and Virginia Dillon Cutter, founders of Cutter Aviation. Sid served in the US Air Force where he flew single-engine jets, large cargo aircraft and helicopters. When he returned to civilian life, he became President of Cutter Flying Service. Sid is best known, however, as the founder of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

Among his numerous awards, he was the National Hot Air Balloon Champion in 1978 and again in 1986. For more information, please see *Albuquerque Sunday Journal*, May 22, 2011, pgs. A-1, A-5, D6.

Betty Ford, 93, former First Lady of the United States passed away on July 8, 2011 at the Eisenhower Medical Center near her home in Rancho Mirage, CA. Ford's post-White House public service legacy includes one in Albuquerque that has helped educate many New Mexican students - the Bosque School. The school's library is named for Gerald and Betty Ford. It was the first building in the nation to bear both their names. The couple visited Bosque School in May 2001 for the dedication of the library. And, Betty Ford attended the graduation of her granddaughter, one of the school's first graduates. Mrs. Ford's husband President Gerald R. Ford preceded her in death on December 26, 2006 at the age of 93.

Jorge Enrique Tristani, age 93, (son-in-law of the late U.S. Senator Dennis Chavez) died on May 11, 2011 in Washington, DC. He was born in Havana, Cuba, on December 9, 1919 and as a teenager moved with his parents to Puerto Rico. After graduating as valedictorian from Ponce High School he attended Pennsylvania State University and graduated with honors in 1941 with a degree in electrochemical engineering. He completed post-graduate studies at Harvard, MIT and the Special Projects School at the Naval Research Laboratory. He then served as a U.S. Naval officer during WWII. After the war, he received his Juris Doctorate and practiced law. Tristani is survived by his wife of 65 years, Gloria Chavez Tristani. The couple married on February 9, 1946, at the Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle in Washington, DC. Their wedding was highlighted in *Life* magazine. Margaret Truman was a bridesmaid at the ceremony and she hosted a wedding party at the White House. Tristani's son, Jorge E. Tristani, Jr. has been a long-time resident of Albuquerque.

Larry Link, age 68, was shot twice near his home at Steins Ghost Town apparently during the early morning of Tuesday, June 7, 2011. Link purchased the property when he moved from Phoenix in 1988. For twenty years he had a mercantile store and conducted tours of the historic site. He closed his business in 2008. At this time, no suspects have been arrested for his murder. See article by Ashley Meeks from *Las Cruces Sun-News*, June 10, 2011, photograph of Link, pictures of the site and commentary by Carleen Lazzell above.



Statehood History Workshops for New Mexico Teachers

By Michael Stevenson

The Historical Society of New Mexico has been very pleased to organize and host two (so far) teachers' workshops focused on New Mexico statehood history, both as related to the pre-statehood territorial period and the post-statehood period (1912 to the present). These Statehood Centennial workshops were presented for the teachers both to increase their knowledge of New Mexico's struggle for statehood and also to provide them with teaching ideas and tools to incorporate this knowledge in their classrooms. We also gave the teachers copies of the HSNM publications *Sunshine and Shadows in New Mexico's Past*, Volumes 1 and 2 and *A New Mexico Statehood History Sourcebook*, Volume 1, 1846-1850 along with a set of handouts including statehood history essays and teachers' guides prepared by the Albuquerque Historical Society.

Both workshops were kicked off with an interactive lecture by Dr. Richard Melzer, UNM-Valencia Campus, on "New Mexico's Road to Statehood," featuring political cartoons from the period and showing how these can be used in student exercises. This was followed by a marvelous presentation by Dr. Jon Hunner, New Mexico State University Department of History Chair, and some of his "Time Travels" students. Dr. Hunner and his students, in period dress, took the teachers

presentations in the old San Juan Church. We had 29 enthusiastic K-12 teachers participating, many from Lincoln County and nearby areas but others from as far away as Maxwell and Ramah. HSNM Board Member Kermit Hill led the teachers in a tour (see photo 2) around Lincoln Town featuring the architectural history of this uniquely preserved 19th century "Old West" community and the buildings of the Lincoln State Monument. Kermit Hill and John Ramsay, HSNM Treasurer, also gave a presentation on how historic maps can be used in teaching New Mexico history. Other presentations in Lincoln included one by Gary Cozzens, President of the Lincoln County Historical Society, and Shirley Crawford, Superintendent of the Capitan Municipal Schools, on using local history to involve students in New Mexico and American history. Trevor Carter of the New Mexico Humanities Council also provided the teachers with information on National History Day.

The second workshop, held in Mesilla on June 10 at the Town Hall and the Taylor-Barela-Reynolds-Mesilla State Monument (the "Taylor House"), was at least as exciting and successful as the first. Thirty-six teachers participated, most from the Las Cruces region. The highlight of the day was a visit with J. Paul Taylor, former Las Cruces educator and New



Dr. Rebecca Sanchez, a Professor in the UNM-Albuquerque Department of Education. (Photograph by Polly E. Chavez, May 7, 2011)

points out now belongs to all New Mexicans while he is just "the caretaker." The home is only open for special tours such as this one for the teachers. Docents from the Friends of the Taylor Family Monument escorted the teachers through the house, and both they and Mr. Taylor described how the art objects in the house illustrated the history of the Mesilla Valley.

The teachers' enthusiasm for these workshops is evident in their comments, some of which are quoted below:

"I attended your workshop in Lincoln last weekend and found it so informative and wonderful."

"I had the greatest time at the Lincoln workshop on Saturday. What a bunch of awesome historians. I learned good information as well as new and inexpensive strategies for my classes."

"Just wanted to thank you and the rest of the Historical Society for hosting us at Lincoln last Saturday. You gave us a plethora of good, usable, relevant information, and as a teacher I am so very grateful. There is so much we can do in teaching history, and being around historians who really are passionate about the subject is great for recharging the well. Also, thanks for all the great resources you gave us. I've already used some of the websites with my current NM history class and have big plans for next year."

"I really enjoyed the workshop in Lincoln. It got the creative juices flowing, and I am excited to start reading the books that were given us."

"Thanks for a great workshop in Lincoln. It was a great experience, and I walked out with a lot of tools. We have now decided to have a Centennial Day at our High School in Albuquerque."

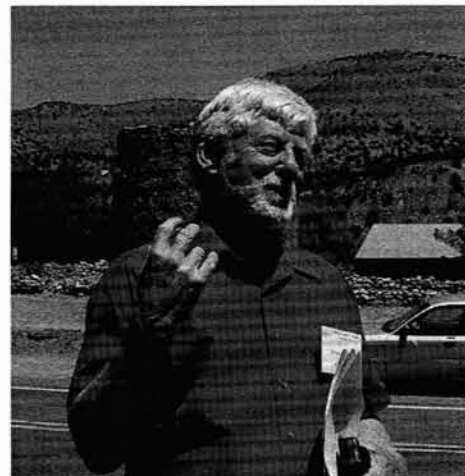
"Thank you for this wonderful opportunity! We learned so much that can be put to immediate use. History teaching will be enriched at our school thanks to your efforts!"

"This workshop was amazing! Everything was indeed unbelievable--from the presenters to the tour of Mr. J. Paul Taylor's home. I truly left this workshop with a thorough understanding of how and why New Mexico became a state."

"This was a great workshop! Thank you

for not trying to tell us how to teach; we know how to do that. We were just pleased to get more information on New Mexico history."

The response of teachers to our workshop offerings has been tremendous. We now have had over 200 New Mexico K-12 teachers contact us about attending one of our workshops. The teachers are very interested in learning more about New Mexico history, and we will continue working to support them in this interest. A third Statehood Centennial workshop will be held on July 28 in partnership with



Kermit Hill leading tour of Lincoln. Historic torreon in background. (Photograph by Polly E. Chavez, May 7, 2011)

and at the New Mexico History Museum in Santa Fe, and we hope to present others in the future.

We thank the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, the New Mexico Humanities Council, and members and donors of the Historical Society of New Mexico for their financial support of these workshops. We are also grateful to the Lincoln State Monument staff, the New Mexico State Monuments Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Lincoln County Historical Society, Mr. J. Paul Taylor, the Friends of the Taylor Family Monument, the town of Mesilla,



Janet Saiers presenting the New Mexico Statehood Centennial Teachers Guide. (Photograph by Polly E. Chavez, May 7, 2011)

the New Mexico History Museum, all our presenters, other partners, and the Board of the Historical Society of New Mexico for their support. ~MS

Press Release prepared by Michael Stevenson



Dr. Jon Hunner, NMSU, (on right) with his "Time Travels" students (l to r) Pam Kirch, Andrea Severson, Kiera Hoffman, and Morgan Rocks illustrate how teachers can use living history in the classroom. The Teachers Workshop was held in the historic San Juan Catholic Church. (photograph by Polly E. Chavez, May 7, 2011, Lincoln, NM)

back to 1912 and a debate on whether women should "get the vote." This presentation illustrated how teachers could use living history in the classroom, and the teachers were brought into both sides of the debate to show how they could involve their students in similar discussions.

The workshops also included presentations by Janet Saiers, President of the Albuquerque Historical Society and HSNM Board Member, and Dr. Rebecca Sanchez, a Professor in the UNM-Albuquerque Department of Education, which focused on websites, teachers' guides and other available materials for bringing New Mexico's statehood history into the classroom. The teachers were also asked to discuss their own ideas for making history come alive for their students.

The first workshop was held on May 7 in the historic village of Lincoln, with pre-

Mexico state legislator, in the Taylor House on the Mesilla Plaza. On the walk from the Mesilla Town Hall over to the Taylor House, Dr. Jon Hunner talked to the teachers about the history of Mesilla. He explained how the town had played a very important role in the establishment of New Mexico Territory in 1850, when Mesilla was part of Mexico, the Gadsden Purchase in 1853, when Mesilla became part of the United States, and the subsequent events of the Civil War, including Mesilla becoming the capital of the Confederate Territory of Arizona for a short period.

In 2005, Mr. Taylor and his family donated their 19th century home with its extraordinary history and art collection to the Museum of New Mexico, and it, along with the adjacent Barela and Reynolds buildings, also donated by the family, was designated a state monument. Mr. Taylor still lives in the house, which he

Santa Domingo Trading Post Rebuilt

By Carleen Lazzell



On left Santo Domingo Trading Post built in 1881.

Kewa Pueblo, formerly known as Santo Domingo, has been awarded a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to restore its historic Domingo Trading Post. Built in 1922, the trading post, which is next to the Rail Runner Express commuter train, was destroyed by fire in 2001.

The historic building is 1.5 miles west of I-25, south of Santa Fe. It was located on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe rail line and on the 1926 alignment of Route 66. It was a well known tourist stop for

the Southwest Chief. Many dignitaries visited, including President John F. Kennedy.

The Santo Domingo Trading Post was listed on the New Mexico Cultural Properties in 1997 and on the National Register of Historic Properties in 1998.

The trading post is "an icon of our history," Kewa Pueblo Governor Tony Tortalita, said, adding that many of the pueblo's artisans used it to sell their jewelry and pottery to tourists. The pueblo expects the trading post to generate thirty long-term jobs and they also plan to open a restaurant at the site.

~CCL

Membership Services

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Those of you who were able to attend our May 5 - 8 history conference in Lincoln County will likely agree that it was the best New Mexico history conference we've ever held. Based on a number of comments from attendees, the presentations were uniformly excellent. The Program Committee, chaired by David Caffey, did an excellent job in juggling 72 presentations, a total of 24 sessions, and four parallel tracks to produce an outstanding program overall, with the only complaint from attendees being the difficulty of choosing which presentations to attend.

The special events at the Hubbard Museum, Lincoln State Monument, and Fort Stanton State Monument were outstanding. The teachers' workshop in Lincoln was a hit with all involved (see separate article), and the Ruidoso Convention Center proved to be an excellent venue for the conference.

We had more than 200 conference registrants, and with the teachers in Lincoln, the many volunteers at the Convention Center, Lincoln and Fort Stanton, we had about 300 total participants. Thanks to the better than expected success of our live and silent auctions preceding the Friday evening Awards Banquet, the finances for the conference were well in the black.

Our hats are off to our partner organizations, the Lincoln County Historical Society, the Lincoln and Fort Stanton State Monuments, the New Mexico State Monuments Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, Fort Stanton, Inc., and the Hubbard Museum for all they did to make the conference a success. The staff of the Ruidoso Convention Center and the adjacent Lodge at Sierra Blanca, our conference hotel, were great to work with and very cooperative. Our volunteers (particularly our Secretary, Henrietta Christmas) made the registration process work "seamlessly," as one registrant said (even if Henrietta didn't think it was all that seamless!).

At our annual membership meeting, held at the conference Friday lunch, we gave a short talk on the "State of the Society." To put this on the record, the major financial points were the following:

- 1) The Society is in excellent financial shape. We have been able to maintain a balanced operating budget for several years now and at the same time keep our invested resources stable while still using them to support programs.
- 2) Our operating expenses have stayed very low (less than \$9000 operating expenses on a cash flow of about \$60,000 in 2010) for an organization that does as much as we do programmatically. This is largely due to the hard work of our Board and other volunteers, as we have no paid staff.
- 3) The Society's membership is steadily growing, and we are almost at our goal of 400 memberships in 2011. This includes about 60 organizational members, including many local and county historical societies, so that through these and our regular memberships the "reach" of the Society is in the thousands.
- 4) Thanks to the generosity of our donors, our two major funds, the Jane Sanchez Legacy Fund and the Paul Carpenter Education and Research Fund, combined with our reserve funds carried over from previous years, comprise a total of over \$100,000 in prudently invested resources.

Beyond our financial stability, the more important question is how and what are we doing to fulfill our mission of "increasing the knowledge of New Mexico history?" We view this mission as being directed at a broad audience, including students, educators, history researchers, adult learners, history "buffs", and members of the public who may not have been or are just beginning to be interested in New Mexico history. This is where our programs come in.

- 1) We support history research through our joint Fellows Program with the Office of the State Historian. In 2010 this joint program awarded \$13,000 in research fellowships (including the Myra Ellen Jenkins Fellowship) to 13 scholars, of which \$11,000 was funding from the Historical Society (from the Sanchez and Carpenter Funds, a donation from Solon Arthur Ellison, and a grant from the New Mexico Humanities Council, for which we are grateful).
The Society's Grants program, which awarded \$2,500 in 2010 and \$2,900 in 2011 in individual and institutional grants supporting research and other projects.
Providing a forum for researchers, including presentations at our conferences and articles in *La Crónica de Nuevo México* and the Centennial book publications, *Sunshine and Shadows* in New Mexico's Past.
- 2) We have increased our focus on K-12 history education through our Centennial Statehood History teachers' workshops (see separate article).
- 3) Our public outreach efforts have been expanding.

Our Speakers' Bureau included 25 speakers in 2010 and is about to grow to more than 30 in 2011. The number of talks given to this point in 2011 has already doubled the total in 2010.

The New Mexico Historical Notebook, a monthly e-journal published by 1st Vice-President Don Bullis, reaches more than 1000. If you do not receive this and wish to, just e-mail hsnminfo@hsnm.org and let us know.

We responded to hundreds of inquiries over the last year, most related to New Mexico history. Our Secretary, Henrietta Christmas, both responds directly to many of these and also solicits help when needed from our Board members, the Office of the State Historian, and other experts.

La Crónica de Nuevo México, our quarterly journal and newsletter, reaches hundreds of New Mexicans and others directly and also many more through libraries across the state.

Our State Register Plaque Program continues to be popular. If you notice a plaque with the Zia symbol on historic structures, it was produced through our program. We encourage all owners of State Register properties who do not have such a plaque to apply for one. The information is available on our website, www.hsnm.org.

We have supported several public programs funded through the Society by the New Mexico Humanities Council, most recently the "Riders on the Orphan Train" presentations around the state.

We have been active in Statehood Centennial commemoration efforts by serving on and supporting the Centennial Steering Committee of the Department of Cultural Affairs (currently both Don Bullis and I are on the Committee), including taking the lead along with the Office of the State Historian in producing statehood history timelines. We have also provided project and financial management for Centennial programs from the Department of Cultural Affairs including our teacher workshops, an upcoming statehood history radio spot program, and the Centennial Authors program.

We have encouraged and are supporting the "Rio Abajo History Coalition," a group of some 50 entities in the Bernalillo to Belen area who are coordinating information exchange and presentation notifications.

In a new program, we video-recorded a number of presentations at both the 2010 and 2011 conferences. The 2010 presentations can be viewed as on-line streaming videos at the Los Alamos public access channels website, www.Pac8.org (Pac 8 recorded and produced the videos for us) and have also been shown on most public access channels around the state.

The Society's *Sunshine and Shadows* books, edited by Richard Melzer, and the recent *Sourcebook of New Mexico Statehood History* are reaching new audiences (these are available at Amazon and other outlets).

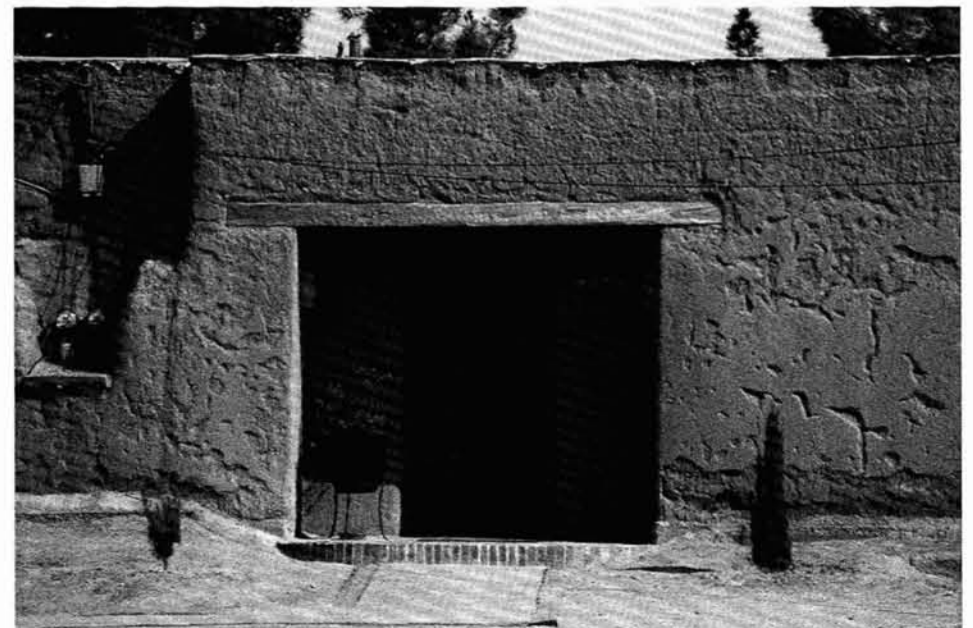
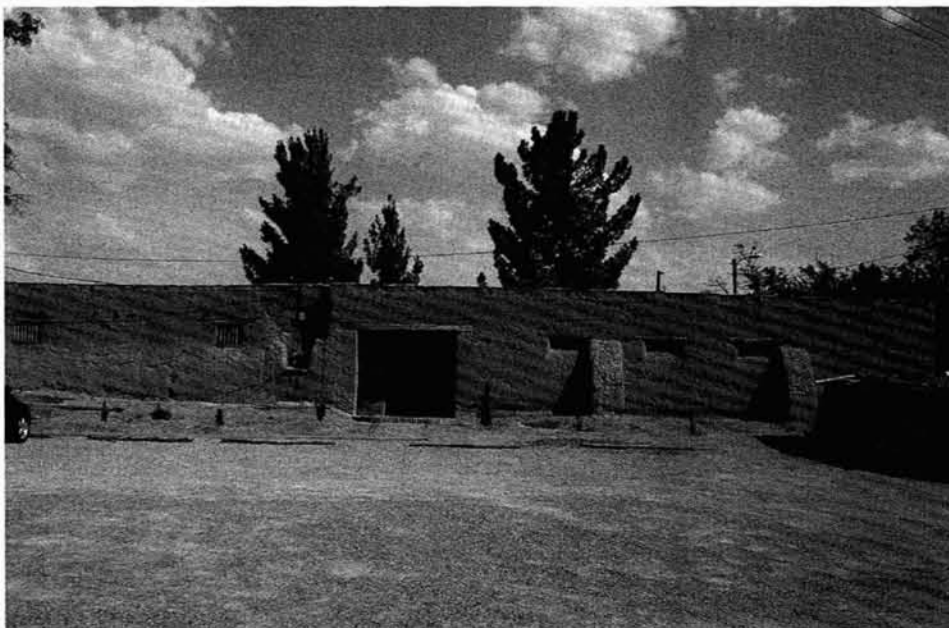
Finally, I want to welcome and thank the Board members elected in 2011 (some returning, some new) and announced at our Annual Meeting.

John Porter Bloom, Las Cruces
David Caffey, Clovis
Kathy Flynn, Santa Fe
Nancy Owen Lewis, Santa Fe
Richard Melzer, Belen
Kate Nelson, Placitas
Janet Sayers, Albuquerque
Robert Torrez, Albuquerque
Dennis Trujillo, Albuquerque

and also officers Don Bullis, 1st Vice-President, Bruce Gjeltema, new 2nd Vice-President, Henrietta Martinez Christmas, Secretary, and John Ramsay, Treasurer for their continued willingness to serve the Society.

And I also want to express my and the Board's condolences to the family of Dr. Laurence J. Campbell, who passed away recently after more than a year's struggle with lung cancer. Larry was an outstanding physicist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, a Fellow of the American Physical Society, a mountaineer, an excellent photographer, and a strong supporter of history and preservation efforts. As a Los Alamos Historical Society Board member he took the lead on the preservation of the historic Romero homestead cabin, a project which came to fruition while he was very ill. He was elected to the HSNM Board in 2009, but, sadly, was forced to resign in 2010 due to his illness. We are very grateful to him and his family for the donation of \$5000 to support the video-recording program noted above and for his foresight and leadership in encouraging us in this program.

Sincerely
Michael Stevenson



The long facade of the J. Paul and Mary Taylor home in Mesilla, New Mexico. The Taylor/Barela/Reynolds property is part of the historic colony of La Mesilla that was established in early 1852 by the government of the Republic of Mexico in the aftermath of the United States-Mexican War.

(photograph by Carleen Lazzell, June 2, 2011)

This Newspaper is published by
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
 NEW MEXICO**
 P.O. Box 1912
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

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La Crónica de Nuevo México



Number 88

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

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Mercantile store and adobe ruins at Steins Ghost Town
 (June 6, 2011, photograph by Carleen Lazzell)



Windmill fanblades without a tower at Steins Ghost Town
 (June 6, 2011, photograph by Carleen Lazzell)



Call for Presentations

2012 New Mexico History Conference
 May 3-5, 2012
 Santa Fé Convention Center
 Santa Fé, New Mexico



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO invites proposals for papers and presentations for the 2012 New Mexico History Conference, celebrating the Centennial of New Mexico Statehood, to be held in the ancient capital of Santa Fe, New Mexico, May 3-5, 2012. The conference will take place in the Santa Fe Convention Center.

Conference sessions are 1½ hours in length. Most sessions will consist of oral delivery of three papers or presentations, each approximately 20 minutes in length, along with the moderator's introduction and questions from the audience. Limited opportunities may be available for sessions allowing two presentations, each 30 minutes in length. Conference sessions will occur both morning and afternoon on Friday, May 4 and Saturday morning, May 5; proposers should be prepared to present at any of those times, as determined by the program committee. Proposers will be advised concerning acceptance and scheduling of the presentation by mid-December, 2011.

The Program Committee also invites proposals for special topical sessions, generally involving multiple presenters or panel members, and occupying the full 1½ hour period. Proposals for such sessions should include names, topics, and contact information for all panel members.

Topics on any aspect of the history of New Mexico and the Southwest are

welcome. While the range of possible topics is not limited, proposals relating to the broad subject of New Mexico Statehood are especially invited.

Presenters must register as conference participants. Digital projection systems and other usual audiovisual presentation equipment will be available.

Deadline for submissions is September 30, 2011. Proposals may be submitted electronically or by mail. Notification of acceptance will be sent beginning in early November.

Proposals will include presenter contact information and vita or biographical summary, presentation title, a brief synopsis, and technical support needed. For additional information, including a proposal form and information about past conferences, please visit www.hsnm.org or contact Bruce Gjeltema, program chair, bjelt@unm.edu; 1102 S. Strong Dr., Gallup, New Mexico, 87301.



New Books for Your New Mexico History Bookshelves

Donna Blake Birchell and the Southeastern New Mexico Historical Society. **Eddy County.** Charleston: Arcadia Press, 2011.

Lyn Bleiler and the Society of the Muse of the Southwest. **Taos.** Charleston: Arcadia Press, 2011.

Myla Vicenti Carpio. **Indigenous Albuquerque.** Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 2011.

Dorothy Cave. **God's Warrior: Father Albert Braun, OFM, 1889-1983.** Santa Fe: Sunstone Press, 2011.

Ronald J. Dulle. **Tracing the Santa Fe Trail: Today's Views, Yesterday's Voices.** Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing, 2011.

Melody Groves. **Hoist a Cold One: Historic Bars of the Southwest.** Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2011.

Loretta Hall. **Out of This World: New Mexico's Contributions to Space Travel.** Albuquerque: Rio Grande Books, 2011.

Gary Herron. **Baseball in Albuquerque.** Charleston: Arcadia Press, 2011.

Karen Holliday Tanner and John D. Tanner. **The Bronco Bill Gang.** Norman: University of Oklahoma, 2011.

Greg MacGregor and Siegfried Halus. **In Search of Dominguez and Escalante: Photographing the 1776 Spanish Expedition through the Southwest.**

Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico Press, 2011.

Walter Earl Pittman. **New Mexico and the Civil War.** Charleston: The History Press, 2011.

David Remley. **Kit Carson: The Life of an American Border Man.** University of Oklahoma Press, 2011.

Mark Santiago. **The Jar of Severed Hands: Spanish Deportation of Apache Prisoners of War, 1770-1810.** University of Oklahoma Press, 2011.

Harley Shaw and Mara E. Weisenberger. **Twelve Hundred Miles by Horse and Burro: J. Stokely Ligon and New Mexico's First Breeding Bird Survey.** Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2011.

Bradley G. Shreve. **Red Power Rising: The National Indian Youth Council and the Origins of Native Activism.** University of Oklahoma Press, 2011.

Kim Vesely, Dick Brown, Tom McConnell, and Paul Rhett, eds. **The World Comes to Albuquerque: Celebrating 40 Years of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.** Albuquerque: Rio Grande Books, 2011.

Stephen Zimmer. **Parker's Colt: A Novel of New Mexico Ranch Life.** Sunstone Press, 2011.

Compiled by Richard Melzer