

4-1-1929

Documents Bearing upon the Northern Frontier of New Mexico, 1818–1819

Alfred B. Thomas

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

Recommended Citation

Thomas, Alfred B.. "Documents Bearing upon the Northern Frontier of New Mexico, 1818–1819." *New Mexico Historical Review* 4, 2 (1929). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmhr/vol4/iss2/4>

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, lsloane@salud.unm.edu, sarahrk@unm.edu.

DOCUMENTS BEARING UPON THE NORTHERN
FRONTIER OF NEW MEXICO, 1818-1819¹

Edited by ALFRED B. THOMAS

Introduction

The following documents concern the interest officials of New Spain took in the activities of Americans, who, in 1818-1819, were disturbing New Mexico. Others, closely associated, which reveal points of contact between Spaniards and American from the Sabine to the Yellowstone, the writer has translated elsewhere, with detailed introductions.² All together they not only show a growing rivalry for control of Indian tribes in the western Mississippi Valley, the defensive measures imposed by Spain, but add valuable information concerning the location of many places, the names of which have since disappeared.

Briefly the Declaration of Hernandez is the evidence of a Spaniard who escaped from the Pawnee to warn Governor Melgares in New Mexico of an impending attack by Indians and Americans. The Diary is that of Don Jose Maria de Arce whom Melgares sent north to investigate and impede the approach of these invaders.

1. The following article presents an aspect of the writer's study of *Spanish Activities North and East of New Mexico 1593-1821*. The writer is indebted to the American Council of Learned Societies for assistance in gathering this material in the Archives of Mexico.

2. A. B. Thomas, "The Yellowstone River, James Long and Spanish Reaction to American Intrusions, 1818-1819" in *West Texas Historical Year Book* 1928, pp. 3-15; "An Anonymous Description of New Mexico, 1818" *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (in press.) In these articles identifications have been made of the various Indian tribes mentioned in the present paper and a map also provided to indicate the location of the various places mentioned.

DECLARATION OF HERNANDEZ³

Number 3.

Don Felipe Griego, Second Ensign of the
 Naming of the Presidial Company of Santa Fe, New
 Scrivener Mexico, was commissioned verbally by the
 Senor Governor of this Province, Captain
 Don Facundo Melgares, to take the declaration of a country-
 man, a captive among the Nations of the North, whom the
 Alcalde of Taos sent to this Villa. Having proceeded to
 examine this individual, he appointed to serve as Scrivener
 in the matter, a soldier of the same (Company) Joaquin
 Alarid who, having taken notice of the obligation which he
 is undertaking, accepts, swears, and promises to maintain
 secrecy and fidelity in whatever judicial acts he performs.
 In order that it may appear so, the said Senor Ensign duti-
 fully required that both will sign for the required validity.
 In Santa Fe, 2nd day of the month of September of 1818.
 Felipe Griego. Joaquin Alarid.

Immediately on the said day, month, and
 Declaration of year, I had appear before me the captive
 Jose Cayetano spoken of, and before me, the Scrivener
 Hernandez had him raise his right hand and make the
 sign of the Cross. I interrogated him
 in the following terms:

Asked: Will he swear to God and on this sign of the
 Cross to tell the truth in whatever he knew or might be
 asked? He said, yes, I swear.

Asked: (What is) his name, family name, religion,
 and employment? He said that he called himself Jose Manuel
 Cayetano Hernandez of R. C. A. R., that he obtained em-
 ployment as a soldier in the Presidial Company of Carrizal,
 now six years ago because he had left the service in 1812.

3. Declaracion de Jose Cayetano Hernandez Numero 3, Junio de 1819. Pro-
 videncias tomadas sobre invasion de la Provincia del Nuevo Mexico proyectada por
 los facciosos de los Estados Unidos. Historia, Notas Diplomaticas, Tomo 4, Archivo
 General, Mexico.

Asked: Why did he solicit permission to leave the Company in which he served? He said that he became ill as was seen by the Surgeon of the Hospital of the Province.

Asked: Is he married or has children in Carrizal? He said that he is married in the same Presidio of Carrizal⁴ to Maria Josefa Lucero, and that there he has two sons, that all three are there.

Asked: How long ago had he left his wife and sons, and what provisions or assistance he left them for their maintenance? He said that it was going on three years since he left his family and that he provided for the subsistence a flock of brooding hens and three pair of oxen.

Asked: What particular ends or what motives moved him, the declarant, to go from the side of his family, when by natural reasons, the speaker ought to have been in his home as much as to look after his interests as to secure forthwith the necessities of his family which will have suffered perhaps in the time of his absence? He said that the interest that caused him to undertake this absence from the side of his family was solely the object of looking for lands in this Province that would be sufficient to establish himself with it (his family), as Lieut. Don Miguel Ortiz could testify, from whom he had asked a passport to that effect. He proposed that his interests would never decline because of the good opinion which his wife holds of him and that his sons would care for them

Asked: Why did he not return to his land as soon as he finished the affair which brought him to this, since three years that he had to achieve his desires are sufficient (to accomplish) any other thing of greater import? He said that he had not returned to the side of his family at the very moment of having accomplished the affair which brought him to this Province, as he desired to carry back to his sons some little buffalo hides, and that in effect he undertook to go from this capital to Taos to join there some people

4. Carrizal was the presidio and town about seventy-five miles south of El Paso.

to trade with the Nations; that having made his journey from that point with Don Pablo Lucero, the speaker, and the rest of his companions had the misfortune to be robbed of the horseherd by Cuampes and Cayguas (Kiowas). His owners could not retrieve more than a small part with which they returned to this Province. He, the speaker, not having been able to secure even a single horse of those he brought, saw himself in the position of remaining on the spot on the Huerfano hoping that an Indian whom he had paid would bring him some beasts; that this was made plain to Don Pablo Lucero with whom he had gone, and that the latter told him that he could do what he pleased because of their small forces, he was not able to recapture the horseherd from the enemies; and that having remained on the Huerfano, as he said, he joined there at that point Don Julio and Sotó,⁵ Anglo-Americans, and the same nation Caygua who carried off the horses from them, to await the Indian who had offered to bring him his own. He returned with two mares which he gave him. He knew at once that one of these was his own and the other of the Nation. The same Indian having told him that since, after having gone about a great deal, he had not encountered his beasts, he should take that which he gave him. In view of all set forth, he remained to talk among those to see if he could recover his beasts or others, with the little skins to take to his sons. This he did not succeed in doing because of other affairs which he undertook. Don Julio having set out with two Frenchmen from the Huerfano for this Villa, he who is speaking, also did so with the Cayguas together with Sotó and other Americans to look for his horses and buffalo. After fourteen days time, more or less, had passed Lieutenant Don Francisco Salazar appeared on the same spot on the Huerfano with Don Julio and his two companions who were going from this Villa at the order of the Governor to

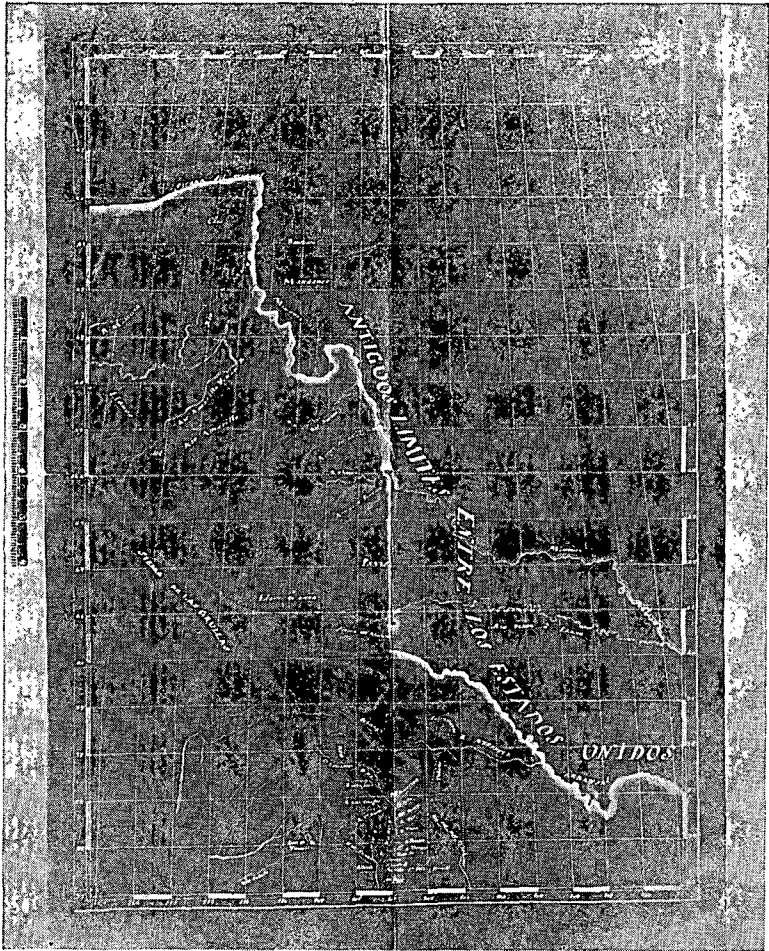
5. Julius de Mun and A. P. Chouteau. See De Mun's account of his arrest in his letter to William Clark in *Annals of Congress*, 15th Congress 1st Session, Vol. 2, 1818 pp. 1953-66.

arrest them. The speaker presented himself to Lieutenant Salazar, setting forth the reasons that he had for being among that people, saying he supposed that not having encountered his beasts nor acquiring nothing to take to his sons, it was his desire to return with him at once to this Villa. To this the same Lieutenant answered that that was well and they would go at once. This he could not verify because on his going to flesh a bull which he killed on the other side of the same Huerfano toward the hill to replenish supplies, Pawnees captured him and carried him to their lands.

Asked: Why does he say that Don Julio with two other Frenchmen were brought to this Villa when it is publicly and widely known that the Governor commanded them brought from the same Huerfano by Sergeant Don Mariano Bernal? He said that it is certain that Sergeant Don Mariano Bernal brought Don Julio and all the rest of his companions from the Huerfano, but that would be after Lieutenant Salazar had come for them to march at the order of the Governor, which, accordingly, the speaker could not give an account because he was already a captive among the Pawnee, as he said.⁶

Asked: How could the declarant have been a captive among the Pawnee, when it is known in that Capital, because Don Julio has said it, that the declarant, at the moment of having described the detachment of Bernal, which was coming to bring them back, fled on a horse of Sotó, and in the night had told Don Julio to send him his luggage because he intended to go from there to St. Louis. Accordingly, as this is known, all that the captive has testified is false and that it better pleases him to go about among the gentiles and the Americans than to be at the side of his family. He said that all Don Julio said in this Capital is untrue as it is known that he had now presented himself when he had the opportunity to the Alcalde at Taos, and

6. De Mun states Salazar arrested them, in his letter to William Clark.



that he would have done so, that he is a Christian, he loves his family, and loves his King, and would to God that Don Julio were here to say so before him and prove his truth.

Asked: How long was he a captive among the Pawnee? He answered from February of the past year until January of the present.

Asked: Where he had hidden the seven months of the year, and what reason he had for not presenting himself to the Alcaldes of the Jurisdictions of this Province? He said that after his flight, having passed through a thousand difficulties among the mountains, he came upon a little mountain opposite El Almagre. Therein was a nation called Orejones who trade with the people of this Province, and there he took refuge with them to see if he could not secure his transference to the side of his people, but that after being with the Orejones about twenty days, some two hundred Indians of the Panilori also came there who knew that the speaker was a captive of the Pawnee, and they shifted him again to the pueblo of the latter; that had been the reason why he had not presented himself to the Alcaldes of this Province in the seven months which were asked about.

Asked: How did he secure his liberty a second time from the Pawnee? He said that a few days after having arrived again in captivity, according, as he remembered, it would be at the beginning of April, an American general with two negroes arrived from down the Missouri, going up, in a pirogue to the Pueblo of the Pawnee. Without leaving the water, he said, by means of one of the negroes who understood the language of the Pawnee, to Aricara, General of this Nation, that Pajato, a general of the United States, was calling on him and to Chief Charara of the said Pueblo of the Pawnee, to let them know that the Spaniards were already taking possession of their lands; and that he was carrying this information up the river to the generals of the rest of the nations; that on the return, after having concluded his commission with the nations, he would carry all of them in his pirogue to the United States, and that

having finished saying this, he continued his travel. The American general Pajato having returned, according as he remembered in May, along the same Missouri River he went ashore opposite the Pawnee with twenty-two or twenty-three generals of the nations which he was to convoke. After having been there about half a day, he embarked again with the Indians, Aricara and Charara, for the United States, to stir up the other generals below. The American general having gone away with the rest of the generals of the Nations for the United States, the Chiefs who remained in the pueblo of the Pawnee told the declarant that they were going as soon as the Chiefs below came to unite to attack this Province; but that meanwhile, when the leaves were falling from the poplars, which was the time set for the expedition, a chief of the Pawnee would come with a party of their people to leave for the land of a chief of the Cayguas, whom they called La Estrella, who had just come from the United States with many presents to join him and the rest of the nation. They will call together all the Nations so that when the leaves fell from the poplars they would all be in La Agua Gerbidora,⁷ to which (place also there would come many people from the United States to begin, united, the war which they were to make on this Province. The declarant on this occasion agreed with the chief who came with Caygua general La Estrella that he would take him in his company to attack the Spaniards, and that gentile having listened to him, he led it as far as three Sierras which have a river which runs north from where the sun sets.⁸ This was the very spot where he succeeded in escaping a second time. Nine Cheyenne gentiles arrived there and all the people went forth to attack them. On this occasion he secured a gun and pouch of powder from the same nation and left the river, gaining the sierra, and although they captured it (the sierra) he succeeded in fleeing.

7. Manitou Spring, Colorado. The location of this spring is worked out in the reference in note one above, "Anonymous Description of New Mexico, 1818."

8. The present South Platte River runs in this general direction.

After having traveled through the mountains with a thousand difficulties, he reached the Huerfano and from this, as is verified, (reached) in two days the Plaza of the Colorado and presented himself to its Lieutenant who gave an account of his arrival to the Alcalde of Taos.

Asked: What does the Alcalde of the Plaza of Colorado, whom the declarant says he presented himself, call himself? He said that he is named Francisco Chavez, as he remembers.

Asked: How much did he explain to that Justice at the time of his presentation? He said that arrived at the Plaza, the report that he gave to the Justice, Chavez, was that it was more than twenty days since he had escaped from the gentiles to whom he had already made reference; that he was for a long time a captive among the Pawnee, and that he was a Spaniard; and that he had learned that the Nations were uniting in La Agua Gerbidora to attack this Province at the time when the leaves fell from the trees. He told no more to the Justice. He asserts this again and to prove it will go and point it out in case the government should so dispose.

Asked: Does he say that the French are those who are uniting with the Nations to make war on this Province as appears from the report which the declarant made to the Alcalde of Taos because of which exposition he had begun the punishment of the Navajoes who are attacking it (the Province) and that this government is already having an expedition for this purpose? He said no, he had not told the Alcalde that any French were among the Nations, but that if he has communicated thus to the government, he is quite mistaken, since he only said that the Americans were to unite in La Agua Gerbidora at the time when the leaves were falling from the trees; that surely to these explanations he gave another meaning.

Asked: If in all the time of his captivity and while he had wandered among the barbarous nations, he had noticed if there were among them Insurgents, foreigners,

or unknown persons who were trying to prejudice us? He said that he had noticed among the nations, no French, Insurgents, or persons unknown, other than the Americans who commonly are among them trading, and that he saw on the Missouri General Pajato, the only unknown person, who was commissioned by the United States to incite the nations against this Province.

Asked: What preparations for war do the Nations, called together by General Pajato in the name of the United States, count on to make war on this Province? He said that up to now, none, but that the nations of Chen, Human, and Panil were awaiting with their corresponding pueblos, many arms, and more which the Americans, who are to join them at La Agua Gerbidora, were to bring them and further than that they count on also many presents of guns and powder which the Americans have made them by means of General La Estrella.

Asked: Does he say with frankness under the honor of a good man and the oath that he has taken, if he has come into this Province with the object of injuring it, if he is serving as an emissary of the foreigners, and Nations, or if he is a spy to ascertain the dispositions of the government and strength on which it counts, as the truth is to be presumed in this case, because of the three years that he has been in union with those, apostating from the religion of Jesus Christ, Our Lord, forgetting entirely that he is an Apostolic Roman Catholic Christian, and that he has a wife and sons? He said that the same Lord who created us and whom he called on as a witness knows very well that he has come into this Province only to direct himself to the side of his sons, without proposing to do any other thing than the objects about which they have asked him; and although it has been three years that he was among the gentiles, he never has apostated from the Law of Jesus Christ rather he has always commended himself as a good Christian to the Most Holy Virgin, Our Lady.

Asked: If he says finally how much there may have

occurred to him in all the time that he had been among the nations and unknown people, that there was among them for the information of this government which could dictate in consequence active measures for the defense of this precious Province, part of the monarchy of the King, remembering that he is a Christian and that if does not do so, God Our Lord, will demand it of him? He said that he had no more to say to this question than what he has said already. It is affirmed, ratified, and read that this declaration was his. He said he was forty years of age and because he did not know how to write made the sign of a Cross. Said Senior Ensign having done so with me the Scrivener, to which I swear. Felipe Griego. Before me, Joaquin Alarid.

Declaration of
Hernandez
follows

The same day having passed, another interesting question was put to the same Hernandez. The aforesaid Ensign had him appear and in his presence he took the oath as a good Christian. Having been asked what particular conversation he had with the Senor Governor of this Province concerning three thousand men that the United States paid with salary who were being disciplined in the territories of the Pawnee, he said that it was true that a little more than three thousand men, under salary by the American government, are being instructed in the management of arms in their own pueblos which are those of Humà and Chen, and that it is true that they are enlisted by the Americans as the daily supplies of arms, munitions and presents of provisions testify. This is what he has said to the Señor Governor and that because it is the truth, the oath below affirms. Placing the sign of the Cross for the required validity, I, said Señor, signed it before me to which I swear. Felipe Griego. Sign of the Cross. Before me, Joaquin Alarid.

It is a copy. Durango, 23 of September, 1818. Francisco Velasco. (Rubric)

Diary which Second Lieutenant Don Jose Maria de Arce made and copy of other documents.⁹ 1818.

Number 3. Number 356. Señor Commandante-General. Sergeant Invalid Juan Lucero, charged with observing the conduct of the gentiles, returned without having noticed any new development. In order to have more exact information, I directed among other measures that he go out again to the Comanche country and see if foreigners were among that nation. After twenty-three days he has returned, declaring that everything was found quiet and tranquil, and that there were no unknown people among this nation. He brought with him more than a thousand Comanche with the General Soguara to trade with the settlers of this Province, according to custom, telling me that the General of the Cuchunticas died on the road. I advise your Lordship of this for your superior knowledge in reply to your order of June 18 last, informing you that I had notified this group that they inquire in council who must succeed Tanquigui and as soon as they name him I shall confirm him accordingly, giving your Lordship an official account of who it may be for your information. Your Lordship will already know that this numerous company has left me little or nothing of that used as Indian presents; that if people of some other group come, I shall find myself perplexed to satisfy them. I supplicate that your Lordship may be pleased to arrange as soon as possible to send me whatever your goodness may have best intended for this purpose. May God guard you many years. Santa Fe, 8 of October, 1818. Facundo Melgares. Señor Field Marshal Don Alexo Garcia Conde. It is a copy. Durango, 16 of November 1818, Francisco Velasco.

Number. 565. Señor Commandante-General. The diary subjoined, which I duly send to the superior hands of your Lordship, is that of the expedition made to the north

9. Diario que forma el 2º teniente don Jose Maria de Arce y copia de otros documentos. 1818. Estado, Mexico No. 13. Archivo General de Indias Seville.

by Lieutenant Don Jose Maria de Arze as I have informed your Lordship before. According to it your Lordship will be interested to see that countryman Hernandez deceived us and that Arze returned to this Villa without having noticed any new development. Facundo Melgares. Señor Field Marshal Don Alexo Garcia Conde. It is a copy. Durango, 16 of November 1818. Francisco Velasco.

Diary which Second Lieutenant of the Company of Santa Fe Don Jose Maria de Arze formed on the expedition which he made through the frontier to the north to protect the places and destroy or detain a force of foreign enemies approaching, according to the order of the Señor Governor interim, Don Facundo Melgares, on the 31 of August, last.

August 31. After having received the order of this date, and the verbal orders which the said chief gave better to advise me concerning the commission, I began the march at eight in the morning with the greatest possible speed to the Pueblo of Taos, accompanied with the carabineer Jose Vaca, of the same Company, giving an order to the Alcaldes and the rest of the Justices of the Pueblos through which I passed, so that having united the armed men who were to go, they should follow me without losing a moment. At half past six in the afternoon I arrived at the Pueblo of Taos without mishap. There I examined the settler, Jose Manuel Hernandez, fugitive from the tribes, who brought the said news. I saw through his conversation that the report was not of the validity that I considered before. I ordered him sent to the Señor Governor so that he could hear him verbally, ordering the Justices (whom on passing through their pueblos I had set in motion) to suspend their march until the new decision of the above mentioned Chief.

September 1. At four in the afternoon I was able to collect one hundred and twenty male settlers and Indians of the pueblo of Taos, twenty-nine of them mounted, and twenty-three on foot with thirty-three guns, thirty-nine lances, two hundred and twenty-four cartouches, and the rest bows and arrows. I followed the march at a regular

pace and at seven of the same afternoon made camp on a dry arroyo without accident. On this day I communicated my departure by official letter to the Señor Governor.

2. At five in the morning I continued the march, made camp on the Rio del Datil; the night passed there without mishap. At three in the afternoon of this day, I received a despatch from the Señor Governor in which he informed me that he had advised the Alcalde of La Cañada, Don Matias Ortiz, to continue his march to Taos with more than three hundred men whom he commanded. To this I replied in the same hour, and of the afore-mentioned Alcalde Ortiz I asked that fifty men with fire arms come to me at double time, because those who accompanied me were not going well armed nor mounted.

3. I continued the march at five in the morning, and at six in the afternoon halted on the Rio de la Culebra. I passed the night there tranquilly. On this day ten settlers reached me who were bringing the balance of my account, two boxes of cartuches.

4. I undertook the march at four-thirty in the morning, and made camp in the Vallecito del Puesto of Sangre de Cristo at six in the afternoon; the night passed there without accident. On this day at five in the afternoon, a trail of ten tracks was found which on that very day crossed the road with direction toward the Sierra de lo Yutas. I sent a detachment of forty horsemen under the command of a settler of Taos, Jose Antonio Martinez, who followed them until set right concerning who the people were. At eleven at night he returned giving me an account of how he had encountered a horse that they just killed and that they themselves were fleeing. Because of the route they took to the Sierra, dwelling place of the Yutas and Xicarillas, they could be no others than the Indians of those two nations. They certainly had stolen animals from the Nations of the North, and were fleeing post-haste so that the said nations were close to the Sierra and at that point they could not be described in it. At eight in the evening,

a soldier from Santa Fe, Jose Alari, presented himself before me with a despatch from the Señor Governor, in which he informed me that I should try to dispose by political means of the reunion of gentiles whom Hernandez said were in Agua hirviendo.¹⁰ For this purpose he had sent to join me a detachment of four hundred and sixty men who were going on my account under the charge of the Alcalde Don Juan de Dios Peña. At twelve at night, I replied to the said Chief, offering to make the best terms which were possible for me.

5. I continued the march at six in the morning. I crossed the Sierra of Sangre de Cristo, and at eight at night halted on the Rio Huerfano. I rested there without trouble.

6. Remaining on the said river to await for the four hundred and sixty men who were to join me under the command of Don Juan de Dios Peña. No news.

7. Waiting; this day fifty men joined me, whom, in the despatch of the second, I asked as aid from the Alcalde of La Cañada, Don Matias Ortiz.

8. Waiting; without news.

9. Remaining; without news. At eleven o'clock in the day, I received a despatch from the Señor Governor to wait for the four hundred and sixty men whom were referred to before under the command of Peña.

10. Without news.

11. id. id.

12. Waiting without news. I ordered a detachment of twenty-five horsemen under the command of the settler, Don Jose Antonio Martinez of the Pueblo of Taos, to go off and reconnoitre the pass which they call the Gap of the Sierra Blanca¹¹ and the valley of San Luis, advising him that he should not give notice to any nation he should discover; and having (discovered) one should return to advise me. If he did not find anything, he should reconnoitre where the Rio Napete comes out from the sierra, all the

10. La Agua Gerbidora is also referred to as La Agua Hirviendo.

11. This Gap was either Sand Hill or Mosca Pass, probably the former.

Sierra de Almagre, and where the water boils,¹² and ought to unite with me at the junction of the Rio del Almagre with the Napete.

13. Waiting on the above mentioned Rio Huerfano without news.

14. Id. Id. The Alcalde Don Juan de Dios Peña joined me with three hundred and thirty-eight men mounted and ninety-four on foot, delivering to me a despatch, a box of cartuches, and a supply of clothes and other effects which the Señor Governor sent me as presents for the Indians for peace who might be found at the council which Hernandez said (would be) at the Agua Herviendo.

15. The encampment composed of four hundred and seventy-nine horsemen and one hundred and seventeen infantry continued the march at seven in the morning and at two in the afternoon halted on the Rio de San Carlos,¹³ where it passed the night without news.

16. At five in the morning I marched, and at twelve of the same day at the spot where the Rio de Almagre¹⁴ joins with the Napete, and on which was found the detachment which had gone out on the twelfth, having reconnoitred the spots which was set forth in the remark of the said day. They did not encounter any nation, nor any other old trail or new except the track of Hernandez in Agua Herviendo afoot and alone. Fearing that the reunion of the gentiles might be in other spots of those immediate neigh-

12. "Where the water boils" refers to La Agua Herviendo.

13. The present San Carlos stream which flows into the Arkansas River near Pueblo, Colorado. This reference is the earliest that the writer has seen to this stream under the name of San Carlos. In 1786 the Spaniards aided some Yúpe Comanche to settle on the Arkansas apparently near the San Carlos. On the map the San Carlos is called Dolores, a name applied to it by Governor Anza who campaigned in this territory in 1779. See A. B. Thomas, San Carlos, A Comanche Pueblo on the Arkansas River, 1786. in *The Colorado Magazine* (in press).

14. The Rio de Almagre is the present Fountain Creek. It will be noted that the map here has Almagre on the Arkansas River. This instance is the only known one in which the Arkansas has been so designated. The Rio Almagre derives its name from the fact that it has its source in the Sierra Almagre. The name on the map here for Rio de Almagre is Sacramento, a term also given to it by Governor Anza.

borhoods, I decided that a detachment of fifty horsemen should go out to reconnoitre under the command of the settler Antonio de Herrera of the Jurisdiction of La Cañada, equally cautiously as those who had just done so and returned.

17. Waiting on the cited spot without news.

18. Id. Id.

19. Id. Id.

20. Waiting on the cited spot. Advice was received from the detachment that was going out that having reconnoitred as far as the Rio Chato and noticing nothing new their return was being made little by little because they were bringing some tired horses.

21. I began the march down along the Rio Napete. At six in the morning, and at three in the afternoon halted on the banks of the same river; on it the night passed without news.

22. At half past five in the morning I continued the march and at two in the afternoon halted on the same Rio Napete, where I remained without news. As eight in the evening the detachment of fifty horsemen which Herrera commanded joined us, without any other news than that of bringing some tired horses, and the rest of the horseherd very footsore.

23. Waiting; I held a consultation with the settlers, most experienced in these lands, to agree among ourselves as to what we should do to make certain whether or not there were developments among the nations. In my council they decided that they should reconnoitre for two days more further down where the Rio de las Animas¹⁵ joins the Napete, because there are various points in which the said nations were accustomed to have their council; that at least they could be there because some days ago some settlers of the Province had traded with them in the place of La Nutria (The Otter) and they said that they were going to penetrate

15. The present Purgatoire River is not shown on the map here.

or return to the countries of their origin along the Napete above, according to their conversations. With this news on the same day, I despatched a detachment of fifty horsemen to reconnoitre those spots, as has been said, under the command of the settler, Francisco Sanchez of La Canada.

24. Waiting; without news.

25. Id. Id.

26. Id. Id.

27. Id. Id.

28. I marched at five in the morning for the spot in which I was to join the detachment which set out, and at four in the afternoon halted on the Arroyo de la Tempa, and rested without news.

29. Marched at five-thirty in the morning and halted at three-thirty in the afternoon in the arroyo del Chico, and spent the night there without news.

30. At five in the morning I continued the march, and at four-thirty in the afternoon halted on the Rio de las Animas, where I slept without news.

October 1. Waiting; in the said day at eleven in the morning the detachment under the command of Sanchez joined me, giving me an account of having reconnoitred as far as the banks of the Arroyo Tiquin,¹⁶ and of not having encountered any rancheria, nor old tracks from which it could be suspicioned that any gentiles had been there. I sent a despatch to the Señor Governor of all that had occurred up to this date, and the news of Hernandez had turned out to be false.

2. At five in the morning I undertook the march to retire to the Pueblo of Taos. Halted on the Rio del Sicorica¹⁷ at six in the afternoon. The night passed there without mishap.

3. I continued the march at four-thirty in the morning

16. With such meagre information it is impossible to identify the arroyos de la Tempa, del Chico and Tiquin.

17. The Rio del Sicorica apparently refers to some stream coming down from the Mesa Sicorica, the term then applied to Raton Mesa of today.

and at four in the afternoon halted on the Rio de las Vrracas, where the night passed without accident.

4. At six in the morning I continued the march, and at four in the afternoon halted on the Rio Colorado;¹⁸ the night passed there without news.

5. I marched at seven in the morning and at five-thirty in the afternoon halted in the spot of Agua Fria, on the Sierra of Taos. I slept there without news.

6. Marched at eight in the morning, and at five thirty in the afternoon arrived at the Pueblo of Taos. At ten in the morning I received a despatch from the Señor Governor in which he advised me to continue the return as far as the Villa of Santa Fe, taking leave of the detachments of people of Taos and La Cañada.

7. Waiting in Taos to deliver the division to Captain Don Andres Sanudo according to the disposition of the Señor Governor. At five-thirty in the afternoon, I received a despatch from the same chief in which he ordered me not to alter my return from the manner in which I had been advised.

8. At eight in the morning I set out from Taos, leaving in it the settlers of that Jurisdiction, and taking of them at the Vado at their houses, and at four in the afternoon halted in the settlement of Embudo. I passed the night there without news.

9. At seven in the morning I continued my return, taking leave of the settlers of the Jurisdiction of La Cañada at their houses and at five-thirty in the afternoon halted in the Cerro del Pujague. The night passed there without accident.

18. It is hard to tell whether the reference here to Colorado is to the Rio Colorado del Natichitoches (Natichos on the map), or to the Rio Colorado which enters the Rio Grande above Taos. Inasmuch as Arce refers both to a Rio del Sicorica (a Raton Mesa stream doubtless) and in the next day's journey to the Sierra of Taos, it seems that the present Canadian or one of its headwaters is referred to here. If so, his route back from the Las Animas would be over Raton Mesa to the Taos Range, probably via the San Fernando Creek.

10. At four in the morning I continued the march, and at eleven of that morning, arrived at this Capital. I presented myself to the Señor Governor, giving him an account of what occurred, and at his order the settlers took leave for their houses. Santa Fe, 10 of October, 1818. Jose Maria de Arce. It is a copy. Durango, November 16, 1818. Francisco Velasco.

THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER, JAMES LONG AND
SPANISH REACTION TO AMERICAN INTRUSION
INTO SPANISH DOMINIONS 1818-1819.¹

ALFRED B. THOMAS

Introduction

A significant aspect of the American frontier conflict of 1818 and 1819 is presented herewith in a letter of Viceroy Venadito of New Spain. The document, a digest of various official reports from Philadelphia to Acapulco, Mexico, gives details of the threatened American invasion, Spanish preparations, and the Spanish point of view bearing on the approaching danger. Regarded as a whole the report of Venadito calls attention to the essential unity that characterizes American history in its widest sense. The problem, for example, of defending Spanish frontiers at such widely separated points as the mouth of the Sabine and the mouth of the Yellowstone was exactly the same. So too, the American danger in the early nineteenth century must be closely associated with French and English encroachments that constantly disturbed the Spaniards in the pre-

1. The following article presents an aspect of a study of Spanish activities beyond New Mexico 1592-1821, material for which the writer obtained in the Archivo General de Indias, Spain, during the years 1925-1926.