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SONORAN MISSIONARIES IN 1790

By HENRY F. DOBYNS AND PAUL H. EZELL *

IN THE first days of the year 1791, a Spanish royal official sat down in the winter chill of Arizpe, capital of the Frontier Provinces of New Spain, to write out a list of the missionaries serving in the Province of Sonora. This was an annual duty. His list dated January 3, 1791, located in the National Archives of Mexico,¹ throws some light on the history of these frontier missions that does not appear in any published history.

First, Henrique de Grimarest—the officer who drew up the list—named fifteen clergymen among a total of twenty-six who do not appear in the roll of sixty-two Franciscan priests known to have served in Sonora from 1768 to 1800 as published by H. H. Bancroft.² These additions raise the known total of Franciscan priests in Sonora during this period to seventy-seven, and indicate that additional names may come to light as more documents are found in the archives.

Second, Grimarest's list provides one proof of the true responsibility for the erection of the architectural gem of Franciscan mission churches, San Francisco Xavier del Bac near Tucson, Arizona. Historians of this monument of faith from Bishop J. B. Salpointe³ on have credited Fray Baltasar Carrillo with building the edifice during a tour of duty during the construction years.⁴ The Grimarest list throws this theory into discard, for it has Carrillo at Tumacacori and Fray Juan Baptista Llorens at Bac in 1790. From another unpublished document, it is known that Father Juan re-

* Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; and San Diego State College, San Diego 15, California, respectively.

1. By Ezell.

2. H. H. Bancroft, *History of the North Mexican States*. San Francisco: Bancroft Co., 1885, I:691.

3. J. B. Salpointe, "The Church of San Xavier del Bac," *Arizona Star*, April 20, 21, 1880.

4. Marion A. Habig, O. F. M., "The Builders of San Xavier del Bac," *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, LXI:2 (October, 1937) 154-166.

mained at Bac until at least 1814.⁵ Not all his time was taken up by the problems of mission construction and administration, for he traveled with Fray Diego Bringas de Manzaneda to the Pima Indians on the Gila River in 1795.⁶ From this journey resulted one of the most accurate maps of the area drawn prior to explorations by the United States Army fifty years later.⁷

Third, Grimarest's list includes another priest who played a significant role in that part of northern Sonora which later became part of Arizona. In 1820 Fray Pedro Arriquibar compiled a register of parishioners at the presidio of Tucson which has been taken to be the earliest census of that city.⁸ Inasmuch as Arriquibar appears on the Grimarest list as missionary at San Ignacio in 1790, he had evidently seen thirty or more years' service on the Sonoran mission frontier by the time he was at Tucson in 1820.

With this brief introduction, we present Grimarest's list:⁹

Report on All the Missions which there are in the Province of Sonora, Jurisdictions in which they are found situated, Names of the Clergymen who Administer them, Monastery to which the latter belong, and Stipends with which they are assisted annually by the paymaster of Arispe.

| MISSION | | Juris- diction | Monastery of Guada- lajara, Province of Xalisco | Monastery of the Holy Cross of Queretaro | Annual Sti- pend |
|--------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|---|---|------------------------|
| Acomchi | Fr. Francisco Antonio Barbastro | Sonora | | Ditto | 309.6.6 |
| Onavas | *Fr. Juan Ruis Tamajon | Hostimuri | | Ditto | 350.0.0 |
| Arivechi | *Fr. Domingo Narena | Ditto | Ditto | | 309.6.6 |
| Saguaripa | *Fr. Pedro de la Cueva | Ditto | Ditto | | 309.6.6 |
| Bacadehuachi | *Fr. Francisco Cavallero | Sonora | | Ditto | 309.6.6 |
| Baserac | *Fr. George Loreto | Ditto | Ditto | | 309.6.6 |

5. Fray Juan Baptista Cevallos, *Auto de Visita de 1814*, Manuscript dated July 7, 1814, in *Archivo General de la Nacion*, Mexico, Misiones 11.

6. Lucas Alaman, "Memorial on the Gila Pimas and Maricopas," Manuscript dated 1825, in *Archivo Militar*, Mexico, D. F.

7. Paul H. Ezell, "Fray Diego Bringas, a Forgotten Cartographer of Sonora," *Imago Mundi*, XIII (1956) 156.

8. Bernice Cosulich, "Copies of Tucson's Earliest Census, Dated 1820, Received," *Arizona Daily Star*; October 18, 1942.

9. Found in *Archivo General de la Nacion*, *Ramo de Misiones*, XIII:230.

| | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| Guasavas | *Fr. Diego Vidal | Ditto | Ditto | 309.6.6 |
| Bacuache | Fr. Lorenzo Simo | Ditto | Ditto | 400.0.0 |
| Banamichi | Fr. Fernando Madueno | Ditto | Ditto | 309.6.6 |
| Matape | *Fr. Diego Pozo | Ditto | Ditto | 309.6.6 |
| Ures | *Fray Martin Perez | Ditto | Ditto | 309.6.6 |
| S. Joseph de Pimas | *Fray Ygnacio Davalos | Ditto | Ditto | 350.0.0 |
| Comuripa | *Fr. Salvador del Castillo | Hostimuri | Ditto | 350.0.0 |
| Tecoripa | *Fr. Juan Labado | Sonora | Ditto | 350.0.0 |
| Opodepe | *Fr. Antonio Oliva | Ditto | Ditto | 350.0.0 |
| Cucurpe | Fr. Roque Monares | Ditto | Ditto | 309.6.6 |
| Tubutama | Fr. Francisco Yturralde | Ditto | Ditto | 350.0.0 |
| El Ati | Fr. Francisco Moyano | Ditto | Ditto | 350.0.0 |
| Cavorca | Fr. Antonio Ramos | Ditto | Ditto | 350.0.0 |
| S. Ygnacio | Fr. Pedro Arriquibar | Ditto | Ditto | 350.0.0 |
| El Bac | Fr. Juan Baptista Llorens | Ditto | Ditto | 350.0.0 |
| Cocospera | *Fr. Juan Santistevan | Ditto | Ditto | 350.0.0 |
| Tumacacori | Fr. Baltasar Carrillo | Ditto | Ditto | 350.0.0 |
| Sarie | Fr. Florencio Ybanez | Cienegilla | Ditto | 350.0.0 |
| Taraichi | *Fr. Domingo Funcosa | Hostimuri | Ditto | 309.6.6 |
| Seris | Fr. Juan Felipe Martines | de Sonora | Ditto | 309.6.6 |
| To the Curate of this Capital, Don Miguel Elias Gonzales | | | | 200.0.0 |
| TOTAL | | | | 8,867.60 |
| Arispe, January 3, 1791 | | | | Henrique de Grimarest (rubric) |

* Priests not listed by Bancroft: 10 in Sonora and 5 in Hostimuri.