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A Spanish Ranker in New Mexico: Captain Manuel Delgado of Santa Fe, 1738–1815

EDMUNDO DELGADO

Upon his retirement, Captain Manuel Francisco Delgado, failing in health, sensed that his time on earth was at an end. Delgado had spent thirty-three years in the service of the crown, and had shared in the difficulties faced by Spanish frontiersmen in the harsh environment of the New Mexico–Chihuahua frontier. Rising through the ranks, Delgado's numerous assignments in the field and his service as commandant of various presidios, including the Santa Fe Presidio, under Governor Fernando de la Concha at the Villa de Santa Fe, had marked him as a *distinguido* among his peers. Yet recognition had not come easily to Manuel Delgado, for he had lived his life on the northern edge of the Spanish empire, an area little noticed by Spanish officials who preferred the metropolitan surroundings of the viceregal capitals in Mexico and Peru.

Born in Pachuca, Mexico, in 1783, don Manuel Delgado, son of

Edmundo R. Delgado, a former New Mexico Representative and State Senator, is a direct descendant of Captain Manuel Francisco Delgado, a Research Associate with the Spanish Colonial Research Center at the University of New Mexico and a frequent contributor of historical articles to magazines and newspapers. He is writing a biography about the prominent Delgado family who were among the early colonizers of New Mexico and also traders and merchants on the Camino Real and Santa Fe Trail. He has also recently completed a manuscript for a book: *Witch Stories of New Mexico Folklore*.

don Antonio Delgado and doña Juana Xavier de Chavarría Butrón, was baptized in a traditional colonial ceremony a few weeks later on December 30. Having sprinkled holy water on the infant, rubbed salt on his lips, and anointed him with holy oil, don Pedro Flores Brito completed the baptism of Manuel Delgado by asking the witness to sign the official *libro de bautismos* for inclusion in the parish archives. Dipping his quill into the container of sepia ink, the notary scribe made an entry in the baptismal book bound in red sheepskin—

I hereby certify: That on December 30, 1738 with the permission of the Weekly Reverend Curate, the celibate don Pedro Flores Brito, Baptized Manuel Francisco—Spaniard, legitimate son of don Antonio Delgado and doña Juana Xavier de Chavarría Butrón. His Godfather, don Domingo de Lamas is resident and merchant of this Kingdom. In witness whereof I sign, Doctor Butrón, Bachiller Flores Brito, Real de Minas Pachuca.¹

Little is known of Manuel Delgado's childhood, other than that he lived in Real de Minas de Pachuca. He began his military career, however, on July 22, 1761, with the Dragoons of Mexico, in which he served as a soldier for five years, seven months and ten days. On March 1, 1767, he was promoted to corporal and served in that rank until 1768. Luck favored Delgado, whose superiors recognized his talents by promoting him to sergeant a few months later. Captain Joseph Aldasoro of the Regimiento de los Dragones de Mexico initiated Delgado's promotion by writing to Colonel Joseph Aterino y Tevallos:

Finding the position of sergeant second class of my company vacant because of the desertion of Antonio Serrano, and it being convenient to resolve the problem of replacement with a person of good conduct, and wishing to proceed, I ask permission to appoint Corporal Manuel Delgado of my company, who, considering that besides having served seven years, has the qualifications to carry out the duties.²

Approval of his appointment to sergeant was expedited. On November 1, 1768, Sergeant Delgado officially assumed his new duties. Delgado remained at Pachuca for another six years. In the fall of 1774, Delgado accepted another promotion to the rank of *alferez* in the presidial cavalry stationed at the Presidio of Carrizal, a post in the pre-

1. Baptismal Records, Delgado Family Papers, State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico (hereafter cited as NMSRC).

2. Delgado Family Papers, Collection 123, NMSRC.

carious Chihuahua frontier north of Pachuca. The appointment was signed by King Carlos III, and is an excellent example of the governmental and military bureaucracy of the times:

The King—inasmuch as I have observed Sergeant of the permanent Dragoon Regiment of Mexico, Don Manuel Delgado, I have conferred upon him the title of Alferéz of the Presidio of Carrizal which is vacant with the complete benefit of the salary from the day in which the domination is received by my Viceroy of New Spain.

Therefore, I command the aforesaid Viceroy, Governor, and Captain General of the Province of New Spain to give the fitting order so that he may assume the said office, taking care and having care taken in the importance and exceptions which belong to him and must be fulfilled which is my will. That the officials of my Royal Treasury where it belongs, arrange the corresponding provisions, taking notice in the continuation of this despatch and pay the salary assigned by regulation to this office, from the day he enters in this position according to how it appears in the first review in the terms and in the manner in which the rest of the Military Personnel in the aforementioned Kingdom with the knowledge as those who do not owe anything under the rights of the annats of the half year by reason of and in consideration this office is purely Military. Through these presents it shall be considered in the General Accountancy and the distribution in my Royal Treasury and in my Council of the Indies—Given in Aranjuez on June 12, one thousand seven hundred and seventy four.

I The King.—Don Juan de Arriaga.—Appointment as Alferéz of the Presidio of Carrizal for Don Manuel Delgado.—Considered in the General Accountancy in the Distribution from the Royal Treasury.—Madrid, sixteenth of June of one thousand seven hundred and seventy four.—Leandro Borbon.—Considered in the General Accountancy of the Indies.—Madrid, eighteenth of June of one thousand seven hundred and seventy four.—Don Tomás ortíz de Landazuri.—Mexico 14 of September 1774.—Comply with what His Majesty commands in this Royal Despatch and noted in the books of my General Capitancy considered in the Royal Tribunal and accounts of the Accountancy of the Royal Treasury of the Capital and by the officers of these offices where the declared of this Presidio is paid.—The Royal Notary, Don Antonio Bucarely y Orasua.—Tribunal and Royal Council of Accounts 16 of September of 1774.—Pass to the Board of Accounts and Balances—16 September 1774.—Don Joachin Frebiestro.—A review has been made to the letter of the Royal Despatch of the preceding sheet in the General accountancy of the Royal Office of Government and War

under my command.—Mexico 19 September of 1774.—Pedro Foral Valdez.—It is recorded in this Royal Despatch in one of the books of Government and War of this Kingdom under my command to which it corresponds.—Mexico Sept. 19, 1774. Gorraez.—Royal Presidio of Carrizal, 28, October of 1774.—Comply with what His Majesty has commanded. Be pleased to order through this Royal Title.—Don Hugo Oconnor.—Chihuahua, Nov. 3 of 1774.—Recorded in this Royal Title in the Commissary and Treasury of War which is in my charge.—Manuel Antonio de Escarza.—

This is a copy of the title which is recorded in the book which is in this office where all the official records are kept.

I certify: Chihuahua, ninth of June of one thousand one hundred and seventy eight.

[signed] Manuel Antonio de Duarte³

Carrizal (30°25'N, 106°39'W), now an almost abandoned village in Chihuahua, was about ten miles southwest of Villa Ahumada and about ninety miles south of El Paso. It was occupied shortly before December 24, 1773, when Lieutenant Colonel Hugo O'Connor, an Irishman in Spain's royal army, was appointed commandant inspector of all the frontier provinces on September 14, 1772.

Delgado soon found himself in the midst of danger as Apache warriors constantly harassed the countryside around Carrizal. Fray Francisco Atanasio Domínguez, the missionary at Misión Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe at El Paso (who later served in New Mexico), caught a glimpse of Delgado's situation at Carrizal when he wrote:

Today, Friday, November 3, 1774, two citizens of this place arrived from the Presidio of Carrizal, 30 leagues from this pueblo. They are Vicente Ruiz and Ramón Orocasitas . . . both went to Carrizal to take up the *milpas* they had there. The two of them say that Vicente arrived there with the news that the Apaches had killed sixty men in the vicinity of Chihuahua, they had stolen all the herd of the Presidio of Carrizal, they had killed three men, including Alferez don Manuel Delgado's caretaker, and when they were on their way back to this pueblo, fourteen Apaches on horseback confronted them and there were more at a distance, although they could not make out the number, who cut them off. Perhaps because the Indians delayed to change horses, they had an opportunity to gain ground on them and make their escape.⁴

3. Arthur and Lorene Delgado Collection, NMSRC.

4. Fray Francisco Atanasio Domínguez, *The Missions of New Mexico, 1776*, ed. and trans. Eleanor B. Adams and Fray Angelico Chavez (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1975), 272.

For four years, Delgado commanded troops from Carrizal against Apache warriors who raided Spanish settlements throughout Chihuahua.

On August 6, 1778, Delgado received promotion to lieutenant of the presidio at San Elizario on the northern end of the Chihuahua frontier. Coincidentally, Delgado had also been given approval from his superiors to marry Josefa García de Noriega, daughter of don José García de Noriega and doña Rosalia Velarde of Pachuca. The wedding, however, was postponed so that Delgado could transfer to his new assignment. On March 22, 1779, Fray Damian Martínez, missionary in the El Paso district, gathered friends and family of the bride and groom at San Elizario and pronounced them husband and wife.⁵

San Elizario's site, chosen by O'Connor, was one of the points on the Río Grande closest to Carrizal. The presidials and their families were relocated here between January 9 and March 27, 1774, and they occupied the site until shortly after February 14, 1780, when they were ordered to transfer thirty-seven miles upriver to Tiburcios, the site of present-day San Elizario, Texas.

Delgado did not remain long at San Elizario before being transferred to the Presidio of San Buenaventura. The Reglamento de 1772 had required that the Presidio of San Buenaventura be moved from the San Buenaventura Valley to a point near the Valle de Ruiz. Hugo O'Connor, the inspector general, had selected a place for the new presidio between Janos and Carrizal.⁶ Delgado would serve at the new location.

In the absence of a captain at San Buenaventura, Delgado, still a lieutenant, performed the duties of a presidial captain. He maintained the company at full strength by recruiting qualified personnel, kept detailed records of enlistments and losses, filed periodic reports on the state of his command as well as conditions of the presidio, and signed documentation related to inspections. Presidio captains were required to depend upon volunteers and were prohibited from conscripting by force. Like the governors, they were prohibited from employing their troops in any manner for their own personal profit or from taking possession of their horses or mules.

The constant transfer of men to neighboring presidios required a considerable amount of bookkeeping. Delgado reported troop strength

5. Marriage Certificate, microfilm number 0162719, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah.

6. Rex E. Gerald, *Spanish Presidios of the Late Eighteenth Century in Northern New Spain* (Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico Press, 1968).

at San Buenaventura for June 1784 in a lengthy document entitled *Estado que manifiesta la fuerza de hombres y caballos que ha tenido esta compañía en el mes de junio con expresiones de los destinos en que se han hallado y de mas ocurencias particulares que se han ofrecido*. Of 134 men, Delgado indicated that 51 soldiers had been assigned to the Presidio of Janos near the northeastern part of the Sierra Madre Occidental in Chihuahua. Another 42 of his men were away on cavalry assignments; 8 were given guard duty; another 8 were out escorting sheep herders; 1 soldier was assigned to deliver mail to the nearby Hacienda del Carmen; 5 were imprisoned in the stockade for various offenses; and 7 were on sick call. Only 14 men were available for any service to San Buenaventura.

Delgado's report also lists an inventory of the presidial stores at San Buenaventura. He reported that the reserve stores contained fifteen packages of fine and ordinary gunpowder, nineteen packages of granulated gunpowder, and a supply of more than four hundred musket flints. Furthermore, he indicated that the presidio had six spare carbines in good condition, and a number of other muskets which were useless. The stores included one hundred spare sabers and swords of varied descriptions. He added that the garrison required an additional twenty-six sets of pistols for effective strength.

In addition to accoutrements, Lieutenant Delgado reported on sources for presidial food supply. He stated that four *fanegas* and eight *almudes* of corn and grain had been planted. He also indicated that he would verify the amount of beans that had been planted as part of the dietary supplement his troops received beyond meat and bread.⁷

On October 16, 1786, Delgado received promotion to captain. His official rank was first lieutenant, brevet captain. General Joseph Antonio Rengel, commandante general de las Provincias Internas, personally asked Delgado to stay on at San Buenaventura and continue his important duties. However, more pressing needs in New Mexico soon resulted in another move for Delgado. Months after his promotion, Delgado was reassigned to Santa Fe.

One of the first frontiersmen to record Delgado's presence in Santa Fe was Pedro Vial. Vial was a Frenchman in the employ of Spain who traveled the Southwest for twenty-six years, blazing the trail for others who would later move wagons from Independence or Westport to Santa Fe, in order to sell their wares. Vial had been commissioned to establish a trail between the Presidio de San Antonio de Bexar in Texas and the Presidio de Santa Fe. On his meeting with Delgado, Vial wrote:

7. Janos Collection, Historical Archives Manuscripts and Documents of Janos, New Spain, 1782-1789, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

May 26, 1787, we marched from this villa (Pecos) until we arrived at Santa Fe, where the troops came out to receive me; I went along with them until I delivered the banner to Señor Capitan don Manuel Delgado.

That historic moment marked Vial's success in reaching Santa Fe from San Antonio. Vial's route, however, took him north from San Antonio to the Red River and into Comanche territory, and proved infeasible for New Mexicans, who were at war with the various Comanche bands. Nonetheless, Delgado's acceptance of the banner that Vial presented to him served as ritual proof that the hispanicized Frenchman had accomplished his goal for Spain.⁸

While serving as captain of the Santa Fe Presidio, Delgado learned that the Gila and Mimbres Apaches were among the most formidable Indians the Spaniards had encountered in North America. Because attacks from Utes, Comanches, and Navajos were not imminent, don Fernando de la Concha, governor of New Mexico, organized an expedition against the Gila and Mimbres who had been raiding New Mexico farms and villages. On August 27, 1788, Concha completed inspection of four divisions commanded by Capitan Delgado, Ensign Antonio Guerrero, and sergeants Pablo Sandoval and Cleto Miera. The governor divided the four divisions into four smaller units commanded by junior and commissioned officers for greater efficiency of command.

By the first week in September the army, marching south from Santa Fe, had reached Laguna Pueblo in west-central New Mexico. Suffering from a "severe pain," Governor Concha ordered captain Delgado to advance the troops to "Sebolla," south of Laguna. The governor rejoined the force at their camp at Sebolla, where Delgado reported the status of his troops and the situation. To that point, Delgado reported, the enemy had not been sighted.

Under orders from Concha, Delgado and Pablo Sandoval scouted the terrain ahead of them in search of Apache *rancherías*. Marching in a southerly direction, Concha's troops found few signs of enemy Indians. At this point, Concha had led his men south from Santa Fe, past the Plains of San Agustín, to the Santa Rita and Mimbres Mountains. Suddenly, on September 9, Concha, who had mistaken the east fork of the Gila River for the Río San Francisco, received an electrifying report from the scouts that an Apache camp had been found.

Quickly, Concha ordered that the camp be kept under surveillance

8. Noel M. Loomis and Abraham Nasatir, *Pedro Vial and the Roads to Santa Fe* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1967), 285.

Santa Fé del Nuevo México.

Hojas de Servicios de Oficiales y Sargento de ésta Compañía.

Gobern. d. Fer. Com. d. ⁶ Fernando de la Concha.

Fer. 1.º el Capitan d.º Manuel Delgado.

Teniente 2.º d.º Vicente Troncoso.

Alferez 1.º d.º Antonio Guerrero.

Alferez 2.º d.º Pablo Sandoval.

Sargento Juan de Abrego.

while he called a *junta de guerra* to plan the attack. As it was late in the day, he ordered an attack against the Apache camp while there was still enough daylight to fight. After a brief firefight, the Apaches escaped, but Concha's troops overtook them in a narrow canyon and exchanged musket shots with Apache arrows. Meanwhile, almost all the Apache warriors, women, and children had made their escape during the confusion of the battle under cover of darkness. When it was over, the Spaniards counted eighteen dead warriors and four prisoners. No account of Spanish troops was reported, although it is unlikely they did not also suffer casualties.

The fight in the Gila wilderness was part of a forty-six day campaign. In the long run, the campaign did little more than momentarily intimidate the Apaches. It was, however, a way for the Spaniards to assert colonial control of the area. Concha and his men returned by way of the Río Grande where they picked up the Chihuahua Trail portion of the long Camino Real back to Santa Fe.⁹

Several months later, on March 27, 1789, Governor Concha, having received an order from his superior, Pedro de Nava, Commandant General of the Western Internal Provinces, began the construction of barracks (*cuarteles*) for the presidial company of Santa Fe. Furthermore, Concha ordered that all magistrates, and their deputies and agents in all sections and districts of their respective jurisdictions, make an exact and full list of the inhabitants between the ages of sixteen and thirty years of age. He ordered that at the end of eight days, counting from the date of publication of the circular, all citizens of New Mexico should present themselves to Captain Manuel Delgado in Santa Fe with a letter and list of names signed by the *alcalde* of each jurisdiction. The governor, moreover, explained that the order to appear in Santa Fe did not include farmers and their servants who were cultivating their fields, but it did include homeless and jobless individuals. On the other hand, farmers who listed individuals that were not servants would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment and service without pay.

In regard to the construction of the barracks, Governor Concha wrote to Jacobo Ugarte y Loyola, commandante-general, on November 15, 1790, that it had been impossible to complete the barracks because of the continuous rains that had destroyed and washed away about eighty thousand adobes. He reported that despite the rains, the laborers had completed quarters for 90 soldiers. Quarters were still needed

9. Concha Diary, 1788 Gila Expedition, Archivo General de la Nación, *Provincias Internas* Tomo 193, State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

for 24 of the 114 troops in the Presidio de Santa Fe. Nearly a year later, on October 15, 1791, Governor Concha announced that the barracks of the Presidio de Santa Fe had been completed.¹⁰

Meanwhile, Captain Delgado, now fifty-two years of age and ailing, had petitioned for retirement. His military record, *Hoja de Servicio*, of December 1790, indicated that he had completed thirty years, eight months, and eight days of service. During that time, he had served in the Dragoons of Mexico and in the presidios of Carrizal, Aguaverde, San Elizario, San Buenaventura, San Carlos, Principe, and Santa Fe. His service record, furthermore, showed that he had participated in many campaigns. Indeed, he was credited with having led attacks against rebel Indians, and had, himself, been seriously wounded in action. His valor and abilities had been acknowledged in all previous service records. The evaluation of Delgado's military career for December 1790 was signed by Governor Concha.

Concha's inspection of the Presidial Company of Santa Fe took place on April 1 and 2, 1791. In his report of the inspection, he wrote that the personnel were fit and capable in the field. He indicated that they were well trained in the use of firearms, and that target practice took place with regularity. Concha alluded that maneuvers for cavalry and infantry were not ignored. He acknowledged the discipline of the soldiers, indicating that they obeyed orders well. Concha praised the presidial captain, Manuel Delgado, as "experienced and competent in the field; he has had various encounters with the enemy."¹¹

Delgado's petition for retirement was approved on July 22, 1791 by Commandant General of the Western Provinces, Pedro de Nava. Writing to Governor Concha, Nava stated:

Enclosed is the Royal Despatch of retirement that His Majesty has deemed to grant to don Manuel Delgado, First Lieutenant of the Company under your command, so that you may deliver to the interested party. May God grant you long life. Chihuahua, July 22, 1791.¹²

Although Delgado had retired, his life was far from finished. His

10. Governor Concha to Jacobo Ugarte y Loyola, November 17, 1790, reel 12, frame 417, Spanish Archives of New Mexico, State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

11. *Archivo General de Simancas, Secretaría de Guerra Siglo II, Hojas de Servicios de America*, microfilm number CD 1869, A-55, Special Collections, Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

12. Jenkins Collection, Delgado Family Papers, NMSRC.

household in Santa Fe included his wife, Josefa; twins, Manuel and Manuela; another daughter, Estefana; and two other sons, Marcos and Fernando. The latter served as *alférez* in the Santa Fe Company and was killed by Apaches. In addition to his immediate family, Delgado's household included four servants and their families. Even before his retirement, Delgado had been engaged in the mercantile business in Santa Fe, and he traded with other villages along the Camino Real such as Los Cerrillos, Manzano, Real de Dolores and Chihuahua. His sons were later also active in the Santa Fe trade. In 1798, Manuel Delgado was selected as *alcalde de primera elección* in Santa Fe, a position which granted him judicial, executive, and legislative powers. Two years later, he served as *alcalde de segundo voto*, a civil position with magisterial powers.

Delgado's life soon took another turn, for Josefa died on May 9, 1801 in Santa Fe. Not long after her death, however, he took another wife, Ana María Baca, daughter of Juan Domingo Baca. It seems that Delgado's son, Manuel Salustiano Delgado, had been courting Ana María, sister of María de la Luz. Manuel Salustiano encouraged his father to seek the hand of Ana María. Family lore has it that the captain dutifully complied with his son's suggestion since he was now a widower; he liked Ana María for himself, and the younger sister, María de la Luz, for his son. The captain died leaving the young Ana María a widow in the prime of her youth. She later married don Pedro Bautista Pino.

On August 31, 1815, Fray Francisco de Hozio, military chaplain, performed the burial services for Manuel Francisco Delgado at the site of *La Castrense*, the military chapel. *La Capilla de los Soldados*, as it was called, was built between 1717 and 1722 by Governor Valverde y Cosío, at his own expense.

Manuel Delgado left no testament and had not received the *vaticum* (last rites) because of his sudden death.¹³ Shortly after, on September 4, 1815, Juan Rafael Ortíz and Fernando Delgado went before the Provincial Governor to petition for the settlement of the estate on behalf of Juan Rafael Ortíz, Marcos Delgado, Manuel S. Delgado, and doña Manuela Delgado now married to José Francisco Baca. Lieutenant Ygnacio Elias Gonzales and don Antonio Ortíz were appointed as evaluators of the estate.

The inventory of Manuel Delgado's estate reveals much about his private life. His property included over 400 listed items from stores in

13. Burials, microfilm roll 40, Archives of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

his mercantile business. Other items included: 2,240 head of sheep; 61 mules; 7 burros, used for wood hauling; 8,938 pesos and 4 reales, 26 quarts of spirits (*aguardiente*); a tri-corned hat; a house with a vegetable garden; a piece of land near the Río Chiquito; a ranch named Las Golondrinas with a house; a ranch in Pojoaque with a house; a ranch in Los Cerrillos with farmlands; additional farmlands in Cuyamungue; land in an area called Los Palacios; land in La Cañada de los Alamos; a ranch in San Miguel del Vado. He also owned a mill (*molino*) in Pojoaque; and another mill in Las Golondrinas. Susan Magoffin, one of the first Euro-American women to travel the Santa Fe Trail, mentioned stopping at Rancho de los Delgados in Los Cerrillos.

October 1846. Wednesday 7th. Camp No. 1. El Rancho de Delgado. Lo, we are camping again! And after all it is quite as good as staying in Santa Fe. I was impatient to leave. Gabriel (Valdez) and William (Magoffin) are with us now. The wagons are all on ahead, and we'll not reach them yet for some days. Left Santa Fe about 12 o'clock. came on fifteen miles to this place—a little farm, called a rancho—rather a poor place, only a little corn, beans, and an abundance of *chile verde* (green pepper), a few goats, sheep and jacks—the beast of all work—they pack wood on them, ride them, take all their little “fixings” to market in baskets or bags swung on the long-eared animals back etc. etc. We camped pretty near the house and of course the peepers are not a few. The women stand around with their faces awfully painted, some with red which shines like grease, and others are daubed over with flour-paste. The men stand off with crossed arms, and all look with as much wonder as if they were not people themselves.

It is quite cool and our little tent is comfortable enough—it is a fine thing.¹⁴

“Susanita,” as she liked to refer to herself, did not know that from 1793 until 1810 Manuel Delgado had purchased the Los Cerrillos land grant from Antonio Analla, Salvador Martin, and Cleto Miera, years before she had visited El Rancho de los Delgados. The 6,000 acre ranch was bounded on the north by La Cañada de Jucio and land belonging to the Baca family. On the south its boundary was Los Cerros Altos.

Manuel Delgado's personal library included: *La Obra de Carlos Quinto en Pringamira*; *Practica Criminal*, one volume; *Teatro Mexicano*, one vol-

14. Susan Shelby Magoffin, *Down the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico, the Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin, 1846-1847*, ed. Stella M. Drumm (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1982), 149-50.

ume; *Monaguia Hebrea*, four volumes; *Vida de Estevanillo*, one old volume; *Ejercito Cotidiana*, and others.

Although the estate was valued at 24,891 pesos, 9 reales, and 10 granos, a very curious note was listed—it read: “Loaned to His Majesty to be repaid within two years, 100 pesos.” Manuel Delgado, indeed, had died a wealthy man—one who listed the King of Spain as one of his debtors. In the end, Delgado’s estate was divided equally among the five heirs.¹⁵

The significance of Manuel Delgado of Santa Fe can be measured in many ways. He was part of a frontier movement from south to north which had begun as soon as the first Spaniard set foot in Mexico. He participated in the pacification and settlement of the great Mexican Plateau which lies north of Mexico City between the Sierra Madre Occidental and the Sierra Madre Oriental. He was also one of the extraordinarily few individuals who rose through the ranks from private to captain in his thirty-three-year military career—truly a mustang or a ranker in modern military jargon. And he was one of the eighteenth-century frontiersmen who settled in New Mexico and established a family line which exists today. As soldier and officer, and later as merchant, rancher, farmer, and government official, Manuel Delgado contributed his signature to a page of New Mexico history.

15. Settlement of Estate of Captain Retirado Dn. Manuel Delgado, September 4, 1815, historical file 42, State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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