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Editor's Introduction

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Editor's Introduction

The common theme of memory links the essays in this issue of the *New Mexico Historical Review*. Each author speaks to how we remember the past and how people in New Mexico have forged a collective identity. Kathleen L. Howard's photographic essay on Elle of Ganado demonstrates how the Fred Harvey Company created and marketed an image of an Indian Southwest. Judy Mattivi Morley explores how Albuquerque's Old Town was molded architecturally to evoke a civic identity and construct a tourist attraction based on a nostalgic memory of the Hispanic village. Lawrence D. Taylor re-examines the significance of the battle for Ciudad Juárez, captured by Francisco I. Madero and the Anti-Reelectionist forces in May 1911, to question historical memories of the event as the single pivotal moment in the revolutionary struggle of 1910–1911.

Each essay invites readers to think about how we remember the past. One key to these memories is documents. Both Howard and Morley emphasize how photographs can function as historical documents, and not merely as illustrations. Howard uses photographs to narrate how Elle of Ganado's image was framed to represent Albuquerque and the Indian Southwest. From a current vantage point, readers may experience dissonance between the photos themselves and the language through which Harvey Company publicists and the Albuquerque press described Elle and her work. Howard simply reproduces these reports, which eloquently sketch early twentieth-century Anglo racial assumptions as they habitually use words like "squaw" and "buck," and debate whether a respected weaver was or was not a "pure-blooded Navajo." As Howard emphasizes, our historical understanding of Elle is limited by sources, since the only written accounts of her life are such filtered print documents. Howard's use of oral history, and particularly of the photographs themselves, provides a counterpoint to the print sources, offering a more fully dimensional sense of Elle as she participated in constructing her own image.

Morley also uses oral histories and photographs to demonstrate how Albuquerque's Old Town was constructed—both literally and in memory—after World War II. Her use of photographs allows us to see how the buildings in Old Town were tailored to fit an imagined past, while the oral histories chronicle whose version of that past was inscribed in physical memory. Taylor, who addresses a more traditional military topic, re-examines military and political sources to question the way a key battle has been remembered and interpreted.

These threads come together in our Documents Department for this issue. Peter Pabisch and Tina Edsall provide a letter from the Franz Huning collection, from which Ann Massman drew material for her article on Clara Huning Fergusson in our last issue. Pabisch and his students have accessed another portion of this valuable collection through their translation of the German correspondence among various Huning family members. Their introductory essay explains the painstaking process of historical translation. For our document in this issue, Pabisch and Edsall selected an 1866 letter from Georg Franke, the brother of Franz Huning's wife, Ernestine Franke Huning. Franke's letter describes his experience as a soldier in Bismarck's army. The editors selected this particular correspondence because it speaks to a military experience of acknowledged importance in European history. From the perspective of social history, it is also interesting for Franke's comments on the daily experience of a soldier, and for the window it provides on how the German community of Albuquerque knew and related to political events in Germany. Whether individual readers are more drawn to political, military, or social history, Franke's letter provides an individual slice of historical experience.

If documents and our individual and collective perspectives participate in forging historical memories, the process of printing history is a much less abstract and more mundane enterprise. Considerable dedication, energy, and professionalism from the *NMHR* staff went into producing this issue. Associate Editor Javier Marión has been on leave while he does dissertation research in Bolivia. The rest of the staff have put in extra hours of work as a consequence, and I am grateful to Evelyn Schlatter, Jennifer Miller, Amanda Taylor-Montoya, Kim Suina, and Ramona Caplan for work above and beyond their job descriptions. With this issue, too, we welcome a new Editorial Assistant, Jeff Sanders, who began his graduate studies in western history at UNM this year. And, as always, our Administrative Assistant, Tony Goodrich, keeps the whole enterprise going. Many thanks.

Elizabeth Jameson
for the *NMHR* staff