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Donaciano Vigil, "The Gifted Giant" - But Was He a Traitor?

By Paul M Kraemer



Donaciano Vigil
(courtesy of the Historical Society of New Mexico, Museum of New Mexico)

The name Donaciano is derived from the Spanish word for gift, *donación*.¹ Donaciano Vigil was clearly a gifted person. His parents had chosen his unusual but not unknown name with unexplained clairvoyance in 1802, but the name became somewhat common before Donaciano's death in 1877, perhaps because of Donaciano Vigil's fame², which rested partly on the fact that he was physically a giant (possibly about 6' 5" at a time when the average New Mexican man was about 5' 4" tall).³ Hence, being instantly recognizable, he was known by almost everyone. But Donaciano was a giant in other respects as well. He could speak, read and write both English and Spanish and would translate documents in either direction with a high degree of competence.⁴ We also know from his speeches (below) that he possessed a modern analytical mind.⁵ Thus, in 1846, when New Mexico was first annexed by the United States, it was not surprising that General Stephen Watts Kearney would want Donaciano in the civil government that he was forming under his "Kearney Code". When Donaciano accepted the position of Secretary of the territory,⁶ he became a collaborator with questionable loyalty to the Republic of Mexico according to a conservative faction of the population, as at that time Mexico was at war with the United States.

There was, however, considerable diversity of opinion among New Mexicans. One viewpoint was offered by Donaciano's cousin, Juan Batista Vigil y Alarid, who was in charge of Santa Fé at the plaza after General Kearney had addressed the crowd on August 19, 1846. Juan Batista Vigil's response included the following: "Do not find it strange if there has been no manifestation of joy and enthusiasm in seeing this city occupied by your military forces. Though the power of the Mexican Republic is dead; but no matter what her condition, she

was our mother. What child will not shed abundant tears at the tomb of his parents?"⁷

Later, when Colonel Munroe became commander of the U.S. military occupation, the colonel asked Donaciano what he thought of the Mexican government. Donaciano switched to a different metaphor for his response:

"I felt very much as a son would feel toward a father who had given him little or no attention in his youthful days, except as he exacted his hard earnings, and left him to shift for himself when in trouble."⁸

His disillusionment with the Mexican government was described in detail in a series of lectures and proposals he delivered to the Departmental Assembly, of which he was an alternate member, in May and June, 1846, just before the American invasion. He said that as a young man he was very optimistic about the Mexican Republic and believed that the northern frontier provinces would be supported by the government under the federalist constitution of 1824. As he expressed it, "we saw everything through rose-colored glasses at that time."⁹ But the ascendancy of Antonio López Santa Anna in 1833, followed by a series of conservative centrist governments, the abandonment of the 1824 constitution and instability that historian David Weber characterizes as "teetering between chaos and anarchy"¹⁰ (over the period 1833 to 1855, there were thirty six presidential changes, eleven of which involved Santa Anna¹¹). The centrist governments did little to support the frontier provinces, and Texas, Sonora, California and New Mexico all had rebellions against the Mexican government between 1835-1837¹². After the rebellion of 1837 in New Mexico (in which he served as a sergeant in the Presidio Company), Donaciano became a protégé of Governor Manuel Armijo, serving the latter's administration as Military Secretary and later being promoted to Captain.

Donaciano's speech of June 18, 1846 mostly concerned the deterioration of relations with the "wild" tribes that surrounded the Hispanic population. After a detailed analysis of this problem, he concluded that since the central government would not help them, they had to somehow defend themselves. Since 1835, the centrist government was so fearful of rebellions that they did everything possible to limit the effectiveness of local militias.¹³ This, of course, also limited New Mexico's ability to defend itself against the American invasion. The citizen militia rarely had any guns or ammunition while even the presidial soldiers were poorly equipped and, in any case, only served to protect Santa Fé. It was thus absolutely necessary to provide guns

and ammunition to the dispersed villages. He proposed that the central government could at least allow them to import arms and munitions duty free.¹⁴

Four days after his speech of June 18, he addressed the Departmental Assembly again, this time concerning the centrist government's practice of appointing governors who knew nothing about New Mexico, but nevertheless believed that it was culturally inferior. The speech was basically a political diatribe against three such governors: Albino Pérez, who was assassinated in the 1837 rebellion, Mariano Martínez, who replaced Manuel Armijo in December 1843, and Francisco García Condé who served briefly in August 1845 before Manuel Armijo was appointed for a third time as governor. In this address he also accused the central government of interference with the Santa Fé Trail trade, which had greatly improved the economy of New Mexico.¹⁵

Donaciano was not alone in his disillusionment. In 1844, when Santa Anna further increased his centrist



Governor Manuel Armijo wearing the plumed brass helmet of the elite Mexican Cavalry

dictatorship, the Departmental Assembly made the following ambiguous oath of allegiance to the centrist government: "intimately united with the Mexican Republic, we continue to be free and independent."¹⁶ Mariano Chavez, a wealthy and influential merchant (he served as acting governor in 1835 and President of the Assembly in 1844) was more specific: "neglect has weakened ties with the central government and new ties could not be established without our sustained, mutual reciprocal services."¹⁷ As David Weber put it, "what they got was another outsider governor."¹⁸

Native New Mexicans numbered somewhat over fifty thousand at this time just before the American invasion. Politically they could be considered as being divided into factions. Some, like Donaciano, were openly pro-American, while there were a few that were pro-Texan. The most conservative

elements included the wealthy influential people and especially the clergy, most of whom had received their education in Durango and were under obedience to the Bishop of Durango. But a sizeable majority had strong ties only to New Mexico itself. Some would have opted for an independent republic, if that were possible. But with the approaching invasion, many people much preferred being annexed by the United States rather than becoming part of Texas, the latter having been repeatedly aggressive since 1841.¹⁹ The potential annexation to the United States would be especially preferred if New Mexico could achieve statehood quickly and thereby not be completely governed by outsiders. Even Padre Martínez of Taos, a very nationalistic citizen of the Republic of Mexico, admired American institutions and had many American friends.²⁰

The invasion of New Mexico in August 1846 was a small part of the war with Mexico (1846-1848) and there appears to be general agreement as to its causes.²¹ The United States had very rapid population growth in the first half of the 19th century, producing demographic pressure that created an expansionist political response. A British member of parliament at that time commented that if this growth continued, the United States "would become the greatest bully in the world,"²² which sounds like "the pot calling the kettle black." The population grew to about 20 million people by 1846. Growth was accompanied by an economic slump in the Eastern states where people were accumulating, with many moving westward. In Texas, for instance, Americans settled in sufficient numbers to rebel against their Mexican hosts, establishing an independent republic in 1836.²³ Similar infiltration occurred in California. "Manifest Destiny" became a rallying slogan: a clever phrase because it could mean different things to different people. At any rate, the result was the 1846 annexation of about half of the Mexican Republic, along with the addition of Oregon and Washington and the present border of Western Canada at the 49th parallel. The war with Mexico was a very unequal conflict in almost every respect. While the United States had about 20 million people and a strong federal government, Mexico had a population of about 7 million and a central government in which conflicts between political factions were so virulent that early in 1847 there were riots between them in the streets of Mexico City even as General Winfield Scott was approaching the capital with U.S. troops.²⁴

Donaciano's appointment as Secretary of the territory under Governor Charles Bent was based on

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Donaciano Vigil... *(continued from page 1)*

the Kearny Code, a provisional arrangement that was completely subservient to the military commander. At this time, the territory of New Mexico was not a Territory of the U.S. but an occupied military zone. Nevertheless, Donaciano, the only native New Mexican holdover from the Armijo years, played a useful role as a bridge between populations. And what had seemed a smooth annexation process soon proved otherwise. According to historian Howard Lamar "in December 1846, Secretary Vigil, who maintained an elaborate political spy system throughout New Mexico, began to hear reports of a conspiracy.²⁵ Lamar provides no evidence to support his "elaborate political spy system" and such a construction in New Mexico seems intrinsically unlikely. In a society of cousins no elaborate political spy system is needed. Because of his size and scholarly personality, he was well known and respected throughout native New Mexico society. But there was a conspiracy brewing to assassinate Americans and New Mexican collaborators such as Donaciano. The conspiracy was organized by Diego Archuleta, who had been Governor Armijo's commander of the military forces before the annexation. Twitchell lists 21 names of the conspirators which he obtained many years later from two of their number who had become prominent in the territorial period.²⁶ The 21 names were mostly younger people of leading New Mexican families, including the Vicar of New Mexico, José Felipe Ortiz and his younger half brother Tomás Ortiz. In short, they could be called the "young patriots" of the Mexican Republic. Their final plan was to be initiated on Christmas night 1846, when, in conjunction with people from the countryside, they would incite to retake New Mexico.²⁷ Perhaps they counted on the elite Mexican troops that were arriving in El Paso to defeat the U.S. forces under Colonel Doniphan and then reinforce their takeover. If so, their plan was foredoomed because on that very Christmas day, Doniphan completely routed the Mexican forces at Brazito, north of El Paso.²⁸

In the event, however, their foolish plan came to nothing. Donaciano alerted Governor Bent to the plan and the governor immediately notified Colonel Sterling Price, who arrested many of the conspirators except Diego Archuleta and Tomás Ortiz, who escaped to the south. From the point of view of some people, Donaciano "betrayed" the "young patriots". He probably saved their lives. Colonel Price apparently did not take the conspiracy very seriously. He reported later that he investigated the plot, but few details of the investigation have been found.²⁹ Most of the conspirators had not yet actually done anything actionable and were released, presumably after a warning. Both the Colonel and older members of the prominent families knew that under military occupation rules, these wealthy families were vulnerable to having their property confiscated. So what became known as the Archuleta conspiracy was quashed.

Diego Archuleta (1814-1884) came from a farm family in the Rio Arriba district. As a youth he was a student at the school that Padre Martínez organized in order to prepare New Mexican boys for the seminary in Durango, where he then received an education from 1832 to 1840. But when he returned to New Mexico in 1840 he decided not to be a priest, but to use his education, which was not commonly accessible to most Mexicans, as a

pathway to other careers in the military and the political arena. His advancement was rapid. In 1841 he was a captain (as was Donaciano) in the forces that captured the members of the Texas-Santa Fé expedition. In 1843 he was elected to the Mexican national congress (while Donaciano was serving as Governor Armijo's protégé and Military Secretary). When Archuleta again came back to New Mexico in 1845, he became second in command of the military forces under Governor Armijo.³⁰ But then Archuleta may have done something foolish. Neither Armijo nor Archuleta provided any resistance to the American invasion. This was considered disgraceful and a serious blow to the 'honor' of New Mexico. But it would have been a very bloody day if the undisciplined, unsupplied and unled mob at Apache Pass had tried to resist Kearney's troops. Their numerical superiority was not an asset, because Kearney's forces were well equipped with state of the art artillery, including anti-personnel



Diego Archuleta on the Santa Fé Plaza in 1884.

weapons such as canister and grape projectiles. Thousands of New Mexicans might have been killed. The local forces at Apache Pass were simply sent home the day before Kearney's forces arrived, and Armijo and about 70 national troops (that had been attached to the Santa Fé company) retreated to the south. According to the memoirs of Senator Thomas Benton, an advance mission of Captain Philip St. George Cooke and a Santa Fé Trail trader named James Magoffin convinced both men not to resist the invasion. Armijo was already wavering on that point, but Archuleta was told that Kearney would only take New Mexico east of the Rio Grande and that Archuleta could rule New Mexico west of the river. This, of course, did not happen and it is said that Archuleta felt cheated.³²

Archuleta, like Armijo and Tomás Ortiz, came back to New Mexico after the war with Mexico was concluded in early 1848. After signing an oath of allegiance, he was given a federal job west of the river just as Magoffin had supposedly promised, but only as Indian Agent to the Southern Utes. He served capably in several appointments and for fourteen years in the New Mexico legislature until his death at the age of 70 in 1884.³³

About a month after the Archuleta conspiracy was quashed, a much more serious rebellion broke out in Taos. Governor Bent and many Americans were assassinated and on January 22, 1847 a gathering of about 2000 men started the march on the capitol.³⁴

The death of Governor Bent caused an unexpected and unwanted change in Donaciano's life: he automatically became the acting governor of New Mexico. In the first few days after he learned of Governor Bent's assassination, Donaciano issued two proclamations that were distributed throughout the territory, as

well as a circular letter. These documents provide illumination of Vigil's general position, not only on the Taos revolt, but on all the important events of the most recent ten years.³⁵ The first proclamation, written on January 22, almost certainly within hours of Donaciano's receipt of news of the assassinations, seems quite emotional and includes personal items going back to the rebellion of 1837. The proclamation says, in part:

"Fellow Citizens: Your regularly appointed governor had occasion to go on private business as far as the town of Taos. A popular insurrection, headed by Pablo Montoya and Manuel Cortéz, who raised the cry of revolution, resulted in the barbarous assassination of his excellency, the governor, of the greater part of the government officials, and some private citizens. Pablo Montoya, whom you already know, notorious for his insubordination and restlessness, headed a similar insurrection in September, 1837. Destitute of any sense of shame, he brought his followers to this capital, entered into an arrangement, deserted, as a reward for their fidelity, the unfortunate Montoyas, Esquibel and Chopón, whose fate you know, and retired himself well-paid for his exploits to his den at Taos. The whole population let the weight of the execration fall on others and this brigand they left living on his wits - for he has no home or known property and is engaged in no occupation. Of what kind of people is his gang composed? Of the insurgent Indian population of Taos, and of others as abandoned and desperate as their rebellious chief. Today or tomorrow a respectable body of troops will commence their march for the purpose of quelling these disorders of Pablo Montoya, in Taos. The government is determined to pursue energetic measures toward all the refractory until they are reduced to order, as well as to take care of and protect honest and discreet men; and I pray you that, harkening to the voice of reason, for the sake of the common happiness and your own preservation, you will keep yourselves quiet and engaged in your private affairs.

The term of my administration is purely transitory. Neither my qualification nor the ad interim character, according to the organic law in which I take the reins of government, encourage me to continue in so difficult and thorny a post, the duties of which are intended for individuals of greater enterprise and talents; but I protest to you, in the utmost fervor of my heart that I will devote myself exclusively to endeavoring to secure you all the prosperity so much desired by your fellow-citizen and friend."
DONACIANO VIGIL
January 22, 1847

This document is of considerable importance because it indicates a definite relationship between the rebellions of 1837 and 1847, even though ostensibly they were directed against, first the central government and then against the foreign invaders. Donaciano also affirms his credibility on this question by his emotional remarks concerning his older brother, "Chopón" (i.e., "Shorty"), who was a leader in the insurgency of 1837 and was delivered by another leader, Pablo Montoya, to Governor Armijo who was arranging the closure of the 1837 rebellion. Donaciano's older brother (Chopón Juan Baptista Vigil) was executed, along with the two Montoya brothers (not related to Pablo Montoya) and José Antonio Esquibel in January 1838. Donaciano was a sergeant in the Santa Fé Presidial Company at the time of the Rebellion against Governor

Albino Pérez, was captured by the rebels, was considered a friend because of his brother and was pressed into service as the secretary for the rebel governor, José Gonzales, for about a month.³⁶ Donaciano obviously had an intimate knowledge of the 1837 rebellion. He also made it clear in his first proclamation as acting governor that he didn't really want the job. Later he recommended that the job be given to Ceran St. Vrain, who was Bent's partner and very well liked by all factions.³⁷

Three days after his first proclamation, Donaciano issued another reporting that the forces under Colonel Price had routed the rebels in the first encounter near Santa Cruz de la Cañada, and that he expected the entire rebellion would be quashed within ten days. He then composed a circular letter that surveyed the events of the preceding years that he thought were relevant to the situation in 1847. This letter is well worth studying in detail:

"In the year 1843 the Pablo Montoya gang rose and sacked the tithe granaries situated at various points in the valley of Taos and the government, shrinking from the duty of punishment of this excess and castigating, at least, the principal culprits, approved, or for the same reason, so completely overlooked it, that no notice was taken of the affair. Encouraged by the impunity which attended this crime, in the beginning of July, in the same year, they reassembled with criminal views of a more enlarged nature; for they proposed to themselves and attempted, in the first place, to kill the few Americans and French who had married and settled among them; and although they did not consummate this, owing as well to want of unanimity among themselves as to their failing to effect a surprise, they sated their rapacity by plundering the stores and houses of the wealthiest foreigners. The local authorities, with the view of quieting the complaints of the injured individuals, commenced some proceedings which, from the mode in which they were carried on, necessarily led to no result. On this application was made to the government, but with the same result; and finally, after much expense and trouble, through the indifference and connivance of the said authorities and of the government, the injured parties were ruined, and the miscreants who perpetrated the crime were left to enjoy, in absolute impunity, the fruit of their plunder.

The apathetic and criminal conduct of the previous administrations with respect to popular commotions gave so much encouragement to the perpetrators of these crimes that those who originated the plan of the revolution which has just been quelled found no difficulty whatever among the people of Taos, already adept in such proceedings.

According to statements made by the Indians of the town of Taos, who have appealed to the clemency of the commander of the forces employed in the restoration of order, the same Diego Archuleta who, in the middle of December, last year, planned a revolution in this city, which, being discovered in time by the government, was quelled before it burst forth, is the individual who, before flying from the country, aided by the so-called generals Pablo Montoya, Manuel Cortéz, Jesus Tafoya, and Pablo Chavez, instigated them to the insurrection and proceedings which they carried into execution, and persuaded them that they might enter Santa Fé without resistance, and might subsequently, with little trouble, destroy or drive out of the country all the forces of the

government.

The individuals mentioned are, so far as now known, the chiefs of this band of murderers and thieves. Diego Archuleta fled in a cowardly manner from the territory before the commencement of the revolution which he himself planned and counselled; Chavez and Tafoya fell in action; Montoya was executed at Taos, and the assassin, Cortéz, is wandering a fugitive in the mountains. There are besides at the disposal of the tribunals various individuals arraigned as accomplices, upon whom, if guilty, the judgment of the law will fall.

The government troops triumphed over the rebels successively at La Cañada, Embudo and Taos where the victory was decisive. There were killed in the field and town of Taos about two hundred rebels; the remainder begged for their lives and a pardon, which was granted them; and they were left at liberty to pursue their occupations in the security and peace which they themselves had disturbed."

Donaciano continued the criticisms of Governor Martinez that he started in June, 1846. This letter uses the terms "criminal and connivance" to describe Governor Martinez's failure to punish the Pablo Montoya gang. In other documents he merely refers to the governor's "feeble mind."³⁸ In introducing this letter, Twitchell makes the point that the Pablo Montoya gang's crimes were at the time of the troubles with Texas, but does not venture any further speculation. In any case, it seems clear that Donaciano regarded both the Pablo Montoya and Manuel Cortéz gangs as purely criminal organizations with no loyalties to anybody else. Eisenhower points out that guerrilla operations in the Mexican war often turned out to be purely criminal operations even though some leaders (such as Manuel Cortéz) apparently were commissioned officers in the Mexican army.

Donaciano also cited testimony of



A Missouri Volunteer. "They fought like game-cocks," but as occupiers were "overbearing, abusive, and quarrelsome."

Taos Pueblo Indians that is the only scarce evidence that links Diego Archuleta to the Taos Revolt of 1847. It also seems clear that Diego Archuleta's father-in-law was an important leader of the 1847 revolt.³⁹

Colonel Price's forces put down the Taos Revolt in a few days and the 2nd Missouri Volunteers, from a military point of view, proved just as effective as the 1st Missouri Volunteers under Colonel Doniphan had been at Brazito. That is, Colonel Price's forces killed several hundred insurgents while having very few casualties themselves. Price's forces also included a group of New Mexico Volunteers led by Ceran

St. Vrain which included some men who had been arrested as part of the Archuleta conspiracy.⁴⁰ And later there were the infamous "treason" trials when some of the insurgent prisoners were tried in civil court and hanged. This was surely a low point in the history of American jurisprudence, since the insurgents were still Mexican citizens and the Mexican-American war was still very much in action. Later, of course, these trials, and the whole Kearney Code which had established these civil courts, were repudiated by higher federal authorities.⁴¹

After the Taos rebellion, Donaciano's career as governor was intrinsically weakened because New Mexico was not really a Territory of the United States, but an occupied area under military control. This status lasted over four years, even though peace with Mexico was finalized by the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hildago in early 1848.⁴² New Mexico finally became a Territory of the United States as part of the "Compromise of 1850". One of the most troublesome problems for New Mexicans during this prolonged military occupation concerned the Missouri Volunteers. While these units had been of great value as fighters, as occupiers they were, in Bancroft's words, "overbearing, abusive, and quarrelsome."⁴³ George Ruxton, the British adventurer, was even less complimentary; visiting New Mexico in December 1846, he would add "dirty, unshaven and usually drunk" to describe the volunteers.⁴⁴ Governor Vigil recognized that these people were making the occupation period even worse that it was anyway, and in 1847, under the lax discipline of Colonel Price, it became "a bad state of affairs". Governor Vigil wrote several times to the Secretary of State, James Buchanan, and in his letter of March 26, 1847 said:

"I can not close without again urging upon the Government the absolute necessity of replacing the present volunteer force in this territory by the force of Regular troops, on the ground of greater economy, expediency, and efficiency. In my opinion, both the interests of the United States and of this territory clearly demands it."⁴⁵

This probably had little effect because the issue was up to Price's boss, Secretary of War William Marcy, not the Secretary of State.

Governor Vigil did what he could under these conditions, by using the "bully pulpit" to urge rational approaches to problems, in some cases continuing the arguments he made before the annexation in June 1846. For instance, in early 1848, the problems associated with Indian attacks on the settlements and the lack of arms and ammunition merited primary attention:

"The pacification of the Indians is another necessity of the first order, for as you already know the principal wealth of this country is the breeding of livestock, and the warfare of the Indians obstructs this almost completely."⁴⁶

It was also in this period that Governor Vigil began focusing his attention on the single public policy issue that would remain his chief concern for the three remaining decades of his life, namely, public education. At the legislative assembly of December 1847, Governor Vigil delivered a lengthy address which began as follows:

"If your government here is to be republican, if it is to be based upon democratic-republican principles, and if the will of the majority is to be one day the law of the land and the government of the people, it is evident...the people must be

enlightened and instructed. It is particularly important in a country where the right of suffrage is accorded and secured to all that all should be instructed and that every man should be able to read... This is the age of improvement, both in government and in society and, such improvements can only be promoted by diffusing knowledge and instruction among the people... All that the legislature can do in the cause of education for the people is most earnestly pressed upon them and will meet with my hearty approval and co-operation."⁴⁷

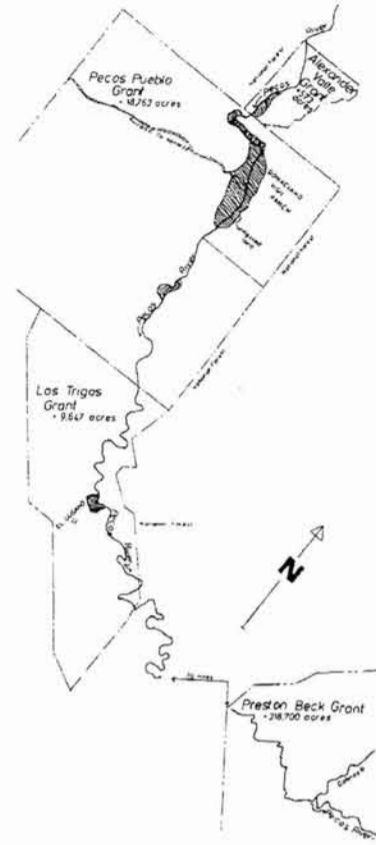
An interesting historical note: Many years later, Diego Archuleta, who had returned to New Mexico, served in the legislature for fourteen years. His main interest before he died in 1884 was to introduce legislation to support non-sectarian education.⁴⁸

Governor Vigil finished his term as governor late in 1848, at which time the new military commander, Colonel John Washington, abolished the office and became military governor. Donaciano reverted to Secretary and served as such under Colonel Washington and Colonel John Munroe until the military occupation period was ended when James Calhoun arrived in Santa Fé as the first Territorial governor in March 1851.⁴⁹

His years of service under Governor Manuel Armijo and then under the military occupation brought forth Donaciano's long term interest in land grants. During the last ten years of Mexican rule, the Armijo administration, undoubtedly influenced by Donaciano, and apparently in anticipation of an eventual annexation by the United States, made land grants in an unprecedented number and size.⁵⁰ This policy was based on the desire to increase and stabilize New Mexican settlements. While the policy was frustrated by Indian hostilities, Donaciano continued his interest during the occupation years. He studied the Mexican laws on the subject that were still relevant under the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, and reorganized and indexed the New Mexico Archives, separating out all documents relating to land organization. His reorganized archives are still used today as he divided them into SANMI and SANMII.⁵¹ By the time that the federal government of the United States started to take land ownership problems seriously, Donaciano was the leading expert on the subject in New Mexico. He worked closely with the surveyor-general William Pelham when he arrived in 1854 with no knowledge of Spanish-language documents.⁵²

After 1850, Donaciano was repeatedly elected to the Territorial Legislature from San Miguel County, and was always active when the issue involved public education.⁵³ But in general, he withdrew from active politics. The "statehood" and "territorial" parties (Donaciano was a nominal supporter of the territorial party) had proved basically irrelevant, because New Mexico had no representation during the negotiations of the 1850 compromise. Donaciano began focusing his attention on a land grant ambition of his own. Before 1837, as a sergeant in the Presidial Company, he had served in the detached unit at San Miguel del Vado, and had become well acquainted with the Upper Pecos River area. The Pecos Pueblo was finally abandoned in 1837, and Hispanic people were moving in, but without any legal rights. Somehow (the details seem unclear) Donaciano gained two substantial portions of the Pecos Pueblo Grant.⁵⁴ He moved his family to the area, built a water powered grist mill, a saw mill and

ranch headquarters, and gained many employees, including Indian children he bought at the Taos fair and raised as skilled farmers. It may seem surprising to people now that about one thousand stolen Indian children were sold at Taos during the antebellum territorial period (1850-1862).⁵⁵ Donaciano became a successful and versatile farmer/rancher. In 1860, for



Donaciano Vigil's ranches on the Upper Pecos River.

instance, Donaciano was selling onion seeds and flour to Santa Fé trader James Webb.⁵⁶ In general his grant was apparently successful in its fundamental purpose of encouraging and stabilizing settlement. In 1980, historian Emlen Hall made a detailed survey of the upper Pecos area. He found that the Donaciano plaza was still in the Vigil family and that of the 600 people in the area, over 90% dated their presence to Donaciano Vigil.

To return to the original question, was Donaciano a traitor? Specifically, did he betray the Republic of Mexico when he served in the civil government of the invaders and when he "betrayed" the "young patriots" of the Archuleta conspiracy? Some people would claim that the charge was absurd. Others would not. Let us examine the second group first.

The distinguished Mexican historian, Josefina Zoraida Vasquez, starts her year 2000 article on the causes of the Mexican war as follows: "One hundred and fifty years later, Mexicans remain profoundly angered by the war between Mexico and the United States."⁵⁷ Some American Hispanic people may have the same attitude, depending on to what extent they identify with their Mexican heritage. However, at the time of the Mexican war and for the rest of his life, Donaciano was treated with great respect, and no evidence has emerged that he was considered a traitor by any faction. Perhaps this is explained by the disaffection for the centrist government not only in New Mexico, but by all of the areas of the Republic that were at any distance from Mexico City. Richmond's detailed analysis of "active and passive" collaboration with the American forces emphasizes economic factors that caused resentment of the government of the Republic. In short, Donaciano was considered completely loyal to the people of New Mexico and whether he was loyal to the Republic of Mexico seemed irrelevant to most people.

NOTES

1. The name is derived from the Spanish word for gift, donación; Francisco Sisneros and José Torres,

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Nombres: Spanish Given Names in New Mexico, Bernalillo, N. M.: Las Compañías Publications, 1982, 12.

2. Brief biographies are in Ralph Emerson Twitchell, *The History of the Military Occupation of the Territory of New Mexico from 1846-1851*, Chicago: Rio Grande Press, 1909 reprint, 207-229; David J. Weber, *Donaciano Vigil's Arms, Indians and the Mismanagement of New Mexico*, The University of Texas at El Paso, Southwestern Studies No. 77, 1986, xvi-xviii. In addition, there is a book length folklore type biography: F. Stanley, *Giant in Lilliput*, Pampa, Texas: Pampa Print Shop, 1963.

3. Janet Lecompte, "A Babble-Tongued Multitude on the Upper Arkansas, 1821-1856," in *The Survival of Spanish American Villages*, ed. by Paul Kutsche, Colorado Springs: Colorado College, 1979, 75, 77, n 39.

4. See biographies in note No. 2; Ralph Emerson Twitchell, *Old Santa Fe*, Santa Fé, 1925, 455, n 831.

5. For instance, his December 1847 address and note 47 on education and government is a typical sample of his progressive mind.

6. Hubert Howe Bancroft, *History of Arizona and New Mexico*, facsimile of 1889 edition, Albuquerque: Horn and Wallace, 1962, 426, n 21.

7. Ralph Emerson Twitchell, *The Leading Facts of the History of New Mexico*, Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Torch Press, 1912, Vol. II, 210-211.

8. Twitchell, *Military Occupation*, 226.

9. David J. Weber, *The Mexican Frontier, 1821-1846, The American Southwest Under Mexico*, Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1982, 14.

10. David Weber, *Mexican Frontier*, 32.

11. A useful biography of the strange career of Antonio López de Santa Anna is: Will Fowler, *Santa Anna of Mexico*, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2007.

12. David Weber, *Mexican Frontier*, 242-272.

13. *ibid.*, 244.

14. David Weber, *Arms, Indians and Mismanagement*, 8.

15. *ibid.*, 17-28.

16. David Weber, *Mexican Frontier*, 271.

17. *ibid.*, 271.

18. *ibid.*, 271.

19. Benjamin Read, *Illustrated History of New Mexico*, New York: Arno Press, 1972, 394-409.

20. Fray Angélico Chávez, *But Time and Chance*, Santa Fé, Sunstone Press, 1981, 90.

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Paul M. Kraemer, Los Alamos, is a frequent contributor to *La Crónica de Nuevo México*. See his articles "Shifting Ethnic Boundaries in Colonial New Mexico," January 2000 (No. 51), "Retrograde Franciscans in New Mexico, 1625-1652," April 2002 (No. 56), "Benavides Revisited: Franciscan Lobbyist or Medieval Visionary," March 2003 (No. 59), "Origins and Early Development of New Mexico's Wine Industry," March 2005 (No. 64), "Miera y Pacheco and the Gila Apaches," July 2008 (No. 76) and "The Zealot and the Politician: Two 18th Century New Mexico Franciscans," April 2010 (No. 83).

Donaciano Vigil House in Santa Fé

By Carleen Lazzell



Historic Donaciano Vigil House located at 518 Alto Street, Santa Fé, New Mexico (photograph courtesy of State Historic Preservation Office)

The Donaciano Vigil House in Santa Fe is located at 518 Alto Street. Vigil inherited the house from his parents and it dates back to at least the time of his father's will of 1832. Donaciano wrote his own will in 1842 in which he listed additional property in the area which he purchased from relatives. He had acquired one building from his niece, another from his nephew and had built a third structure himself. He extended his land holdings from the 75 varas of his inheritance to 195 varas through purchases from his brothers and his sister. His rather extensive Santa Fe River property included a sizable orchard planted by his father. The Vigil House and surrounding property was probably larger than any other in the Barrio de Guadalupe.

During his occupation of the house, which bears his name, it was one of the centers of civic and political activity in the Territory as it had been during his father's tenure. In 1855, he and his family retired to their ranch on the Pecos River, and the following year he sold the town property to Vicente Garcia. Donaciano Vigil and his wife are buried in the Rosario Cemetery in Santa Fe.

In the late 1950s, the Vigil House was bought by Charlotte White and Boris Gilbertson. They began restoring it in 1959 employing local craftsmen

who used traditional building materials and methods. The house was listed on the State Register in 1969 and on the National Register in 1972. It is now the property of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation. For detailed information about the Donaciano Vigil House, see Margaret Moore Booker, *The Santa Fe House: Historic Residences, Enchanting Adobes and Romantic Revivals* (NYC: Rizzoli Books, 2009). ~CCL



Interior of the historic Donaciano Vigil House 518 Alto Street, Santa Fé, New Mexico (photograph courtesy of State Historic Preservation Office)

Los Viejos Book Group of Santa Fe Field Trips in Search of New Mexico Literary History

By Kermit Hill

Some one once said that "when all historians learn to write well there will be no need for novelists." In light of a growing recognition that social history matters as much as political-military-economic history, and that artists can express all types of history in powerful ways we should honor social history for its true value.

"Los Viejos de Santa Fe," the book group to which I belong takes an occasional field trip in search of history, both literary and traditional. We also enjoy seeing architecture connected to our reading, and are sure to include a dining experience as part of the trip. Recently we traveled to the 1904 Carnegie Library in Las Vegas to read poetry we individually liked, followed by lunch at the Plaza Hotel.

We also toured the Witter Bynner house in Santa Fe the next month. Bynner was a major figure in the New Mexico art scene. I also remember a fall drive to Rociada and Gascon as part of our attention to La Farge's *Behind the Mountains*.

I offer a double challenge. Weed, New Mexico, of reunion fame in *La Crónica de Nuevo México*, July 2010 (No. 84) has a group - "Weed Reads." Let us get more people of all ages involved in reading, then, you readers "hit the road" and have fun studying the literary history of New Mexico. ~KM



Reba Wells Grandrud Honored as 2010 Arizona Culturekeeper



Dr. Reba Benge Wells Grandrud
September 19, 2010
Scottsdale, Arizona

A native of New Mexico (Lovington, Lea County), Reba Wells Grandrud went to Arizona from Albuquerque in January 1982. She holds degrees from the University of New Mexico in education, Spanish Borderlands history, and History of the American West. In her work (and play), she has taken an active role in the preserving, teaching, and publishing of state, local, and regional history in Arizona and New Mexico. A special interest in historic trails stems from the years she and her late husband, Dennis J. Wells, hiked, researched and photographed several Arizona segments of the Southern Route to California. In January 1988, according to the *Guinness World Book of Records*, they were the discoverers of the "world's tallest saguaro," located in Pima Pass in the Maricopa Mountains.

Grandrud's love affair with Arizona began to blossom when she started work in 1983 as research historian/writer for Gerald A. Doyle & Associates, a Phoenix architectural firm

especially known for its historic preservation projects. She became aware of two of the most significant 18th and 19th century locations in Arizona - John H. Slaughter's San Bernardino Ranch in extreme southeastern Cochise County, and the ford on the lower Colorado River known as Yuma Crossing. Subsequent work for the Yuma Crossing Foundation (1989-91) and continued involvement with the Slaughter Ranch (1983-present) has deepened Grandrud's interest and knowledge in the history of each location. She shares this historic understanding with others in writings, in efforts to recognize historic routes and trails, and as a statewide Roads Scholar (speaker) with the Arizona Humanities Council.

At the historic Ellis-Shackelford House in Phoenix, in the early 1980s, Grandrud volunteered with Wanda Carlock to revive Arizona Historical Society's Bicentennial oral history program. Together, they provided training for others as well as completing dozens of interviews themselves. In 1986, Grandrud was offered a position as Chief Curator/Assistant Director and worked for AHS for almost three years before leaving to become research historian for Yuma Crossing Foundation. After the death of her husband, in 1991, Grandrud was hired as the first Heritage Fund planner for Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), then became SHPO historian and Coordinator of the National Register for Historic Places.

Since retirement from SHPO in 1998, and in 2000, as two-year director of the Arizona Historical Society Museum in Papago Park, Reba Wells Grandrud has continued diligently to preserve Arizona's history in many

ways. She was a leader in the successful movement to resurrect the AZ Women's Hall of Fame program in 2002 after its unfortunate 11-year hiatus. In 2003, in anticipation of Arizona's Statehood Centennial, she and Jim Garrison, Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer, formed the inventory of Arizona Historic Cemeteries Working Group (IAHC) - county volunteers who are compiling, as Centennial Legacy Project, a comprehensive inventory of every historic burial site in Arizona. Grandrud, also, is pleased that her efforts have resulted in preservation of the personal papers of two important



Dr. Reba Benge Wells Grandrud
& Bill Owen, Cowboy Artist, another Recipient
of the 2010 Arizona Culturekeepers
September 19, 2010

Arizona individuals: architects Gerald A. Doyle, whose rich cache of documents are now at Hayden Library/ASU, and historian/author Marguerite Buchanan Noble whose wealth of materials await processing at Arizona State Archives.

Grandrud continues to work as a historical consultant and an active volunteer. She is in a leadership position, or as a board member for a

wide range of non-profits, including the Partnership for National Trails System, Anza Trail Foundation, Old Spanish Trail Association, Arizona State Committee on Trails, Arizona History Convention, Pioneer Cemetery Association, Phoenix Corral of Westerners, and Sunnyslope Historical Society. She is currently co-authoring a children's book about John Slaughter's young daughter, Addie, the "girl who met Geronimo."

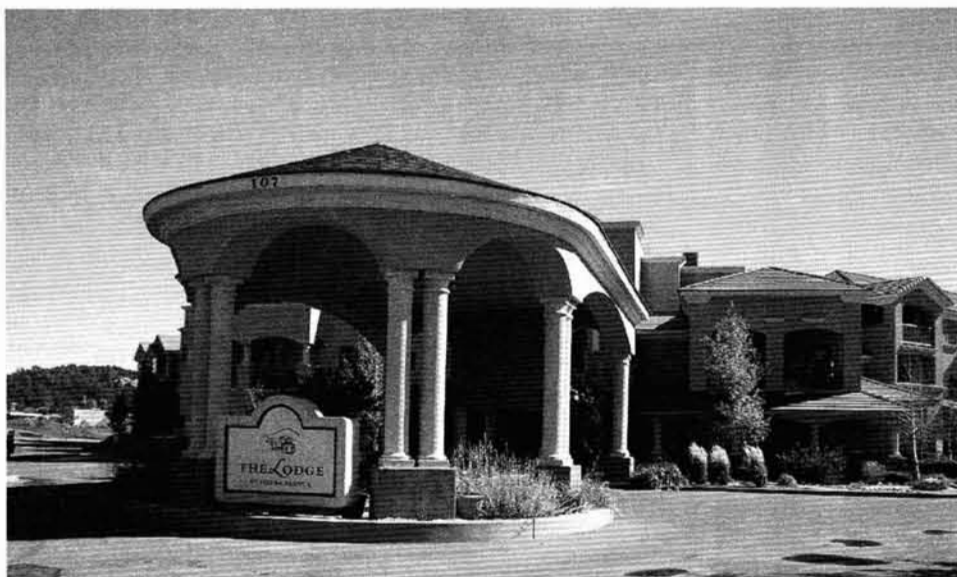
2010 Arizona Culturekeepers

- Anne Antone, Toohono O'odham Basket Weaver
- Frank Barrios, Author and Historian
- Aaron Cohen, Guidon Books
- Reba Wells Grandrud, Historian
- Dan Harkins, Philanthropist and Business Owner
- Sue Harris, Arizona Performer and Songwriter
- Roxanne Knight, Culture Preservation
- Rose Mofford, First Woman Governor of Arizona, Humanitarian, Historic Preservation
- Bill Owen, Cowboy Artist
- Scottsdale Charros

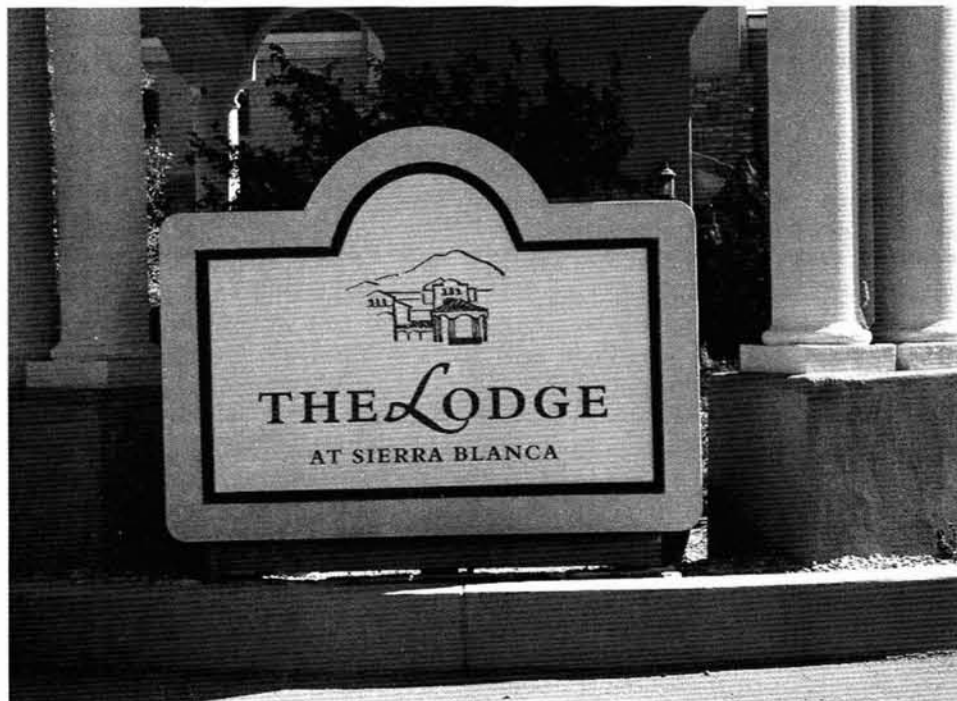
(Editorial note: Reba Wells Grandrud is Curtis Fort's aunt. See article about Fort on page 8 of this issue.)



The Lodge at Sierra Blanca Ruidoso, New Mexico



The Lodge at Sierra Blanca, Conference Hotel for the New Mexico History Conference
Ruidoso, New Mexico, May 5-7, 2011



Dr. Richard Greenleaf Honored

Dr. Richard Greenleaf was honored at a reception this past August by University of New Mexico Libraries, the UNM Latin American and Iberian Institute and the UNM Foundation for a lifetime of scholarship and generous giving. The event was hosted at University House and drew friends, students and colleagues from across the country and Mexico to celebrate the publication of *The Inquisition in Colonial Latin America: Selected Writings of Richard E. Greenleaf* published by the Academy of American Franciscan History.

Although born in Arkansas, Greenleaf spent his childhood in New Mexico where he developed his interests in Native American culture, the Southwest and Latin America. He completed his undergraduate and graduate education at the University of New Mexico, receiving his PhD in 1957. His graduate advisor, and UNM icon, France V. Scholes, introduced him to many of his lifelong interests. From 1955 to 1969, Greenleaf taught in the history department at the University of the Americas in Mexico City. In 1969, he moved to the history department at

Tulane University (New Orleans), remaining there until his retirement in 1998.

Dr. Greenleaf's generosity is well-known. He has given nearly \$1.3 million to the University of New Mexico. He continues to support the Greenleaf Student Fellowship, the Greenleaf Visiting Library Scholar Program and the Greenleaf Crypto-Judaism program.

His most recent contribution to University Libraries was given to the Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections to begin to create detailed digital reference guides to more than 85,000 pages of Spanish Colonial documents. Michael Kelly, associate dean for scholarly resources says, "With this gift, Dr. Greenleaf is providing the next generation of scholars access to primary resources that have, until now, not been widely available."

It is a testament to Dr. Greenleaf that so many of his colleagues and students attended the festivities. (The above information was published by the UNM Foundation, Fall 2010)

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Carlos Ortiz Receives 2010 Buck Ramsey Heritage Award

Carlos Ortiz was chosen as the recipient of the Buck Ramsey Heritage Award for Fostering the Cowboy and Ranching Way of Life, which was presented on September 25, 2010 at the annual Nara Visa Cowboy Gathering in Nara Visa, New Mexico. The Award nomination is as follows:

When someone is described as having earned so much respect and admiration through his honesty, hard work and caring of others, you know that person is Carlos Ortiz. He has lived his life by the traditions of the west, caring for the land, livestock, family and friends.

Both his paternal and maternal grandparents homesteaded and settled in the Trementina and Garita, New Mexico, area in the early 1900s. There were 10 children in Carlos' family, Carlos being the youngest. Times were tough as they were for so many at that time. During the drought of the mid-fifties, his parents saw fit to sell the livestock and lease out their land. When one baby girl was 14 days old, they packed up all they owned and moved to Albuquerque to find work. Carlos was three years old when the lease was up and they were able to go

back home. The first night back, he asked for someone to turn the lights on. When it was explained that the coal oil lamps were the light, he countered with, "There is better light, just pull the cord." It was many years before they could "pull the cord" and get light. Due to the remoteness of their land, they had neither electricity nor telephone until 1980.

When his dad passed away, Carlos was only seven years old. When money was short and grass was scant, he worked hard at singeing spines off cactus to feed the cattle. Since he was very young, he showed grit and determination to get things done and do them right.

After finishing high school and trade school, Carlos began working at neighboring ranches. When he got married in 1980, he went to work for the Clabber Hill and then the Willie White ranch out of Gate City, and the Chappel-Spade until they sold out. He has worked on, managed and helped at various ranches. Carlos now has his own place, and manages a ranch for Hollis Kent, as well as leasing acreage in the area. He has learned the proper way to run a ranch, from working

cattle horseback to fencing, and he doesn't believe in just doing the easy way out.

He enjoys the feeding, branding and neighboring. He breaks and finishes horses for himself and others, and is a top team roper. Neighboring is one of the ranching duties that Carlos enjoys. He likes to help anytime he can and is in high demand as a "top, all-around hand." Be it branding, shipping, doctoring, calving or whatever, Carlos gives it his all. In the last couple years there have been days that he was feeling bad health-wise, but he was still there horseback and working cattle. When asked why he didn't stay home and rest, he always responded that it is what he loves and is when he is the happiest, and that he's not going to quit.

A few years ago, he was worried about the young people and preserving our ranching heritage. He felt that they needed to learn how to be good hands by example, and had a "kid's branding." Breakfast was at 5:00 a.m. and they were off. The kids gathered, sorted, flanked, branded and drug calves to the fire. They all learned how it was done, and Carlos made sure they had a

good time doing it, and he made them feel so proud of their day's work. He loves helping children with their horsemanship, cattle work and roping, helping with their 4-H projects and youth rodeo competitions. He enjoys seeing the younger generation having an interest in ranching, and developing that love for the lifestyle that he has.

Carlos is a sensitive, caring, loyal person. When his friend had a tragedy, he was the first there and the last to leave. He is described as "no fair weather friend;" he is there through thick and thin, the good and the bad, the sunshine and the storms, a man you can depend upon. You need only to see where Carlos was raised, way back off the beaten path (you can barely get there by horseback) to know how far he has come. To come from such humble beginnings, and become as knowledgeable and respected as he is, he is well deserving of this award.

The above was published (with photographs) in the *Union County Leader*, Clayton, NM, October 27, 2010.



~In Memoriam~

Richard Abruzzo, age 47, and **Carol Rymer Davis**, age 65, apparently perished during a severe storm in the Adriatic Sea on September 30, 2010. The balloonists launched on September 25 from Bristol, England in their effort to win the 54th Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon Race. The two pilots had flown in many gas balloon races throughout the years and they won the Gordon Bennett competition in 2004. Abruzzo was involved in the operations of Sandia Peak Tramway, Sandia Ski Area and Ski Santa Fe. His father, Ben Abruzzo along with Maxie Anderson and Larry Newman flew the first Atlantic Ocean crossing in their "Double Eagle II" gas balloon in August 1978. Dr. Davis was a radiologist. The two were honored with a tribute to their lives at the Albuquerque Balloon Park on October 30. Governor Bill Richardson ordered flags to be flown at half mast on October 29 and October 30.

William H. Goetzmann was 80 years old when he died at his home in Austin, TX, on September 7, 2010. Dr. Goetzmann was born in WA on July 20, 1930, but grew up in St. Paul, MN. After receiving his PhD from Yale University in 1957, his dissertation was published. Goetzmann was a history professor at the University of Texas, Austin, for more than 40 years. He wrote and edited more than two dozen history books, including his Pulitzer-winning *Exploration and Empire: The Explorer and the Scientist in the Winning of the American West* (1966). In 1986, Dr. Goetzmann helped create the PBS documentary "The West of the Imagination." A book of the same title, co-written by his son William, was published that same year.

William B. Lenoir, age 71, died on August 26, 2010 from injuries suffered from a bicycle accident near his home in Placitas. An astronaut with NASA since 1967, Lenoir flew as mission specialist on the STS-5 Columbia space shuttle in November 1982. The Columbia and its crew orbited Earth 81 times before landing at Edwards Air Force Base, California. Among his many honors, Lenoir received NASA's Exceptional Service Medal in 1974 and the Space Flight Medal for the 1982 mission. Lenoir logged more than 122 hours in space.

Henrietta Berber Loy passed away on October 17, 2010, at her home in Albuquerque at the age of 92. She was born in 1917 at her grandmother's house on Edith, SE, Albuquerque, and was the first delivery for Dr. William Lovelace, MD. In 1960, Henrietta received a master's degree in history from the University of New Mexico. As a teacher, she encouraged her students to love history and understand how our history shapes who we are and who we hope to become. She received an Outstanding Teacher Award from the state of New Mexico. Her late husband Arthur Loy was the founder of KHFM. Henrietta and Arthur spent their lives volunteering for cultural and historical organizations. Her obituary reads: "Devotion to Excellence" describes the life of Henrietta "Dolly" Loy.

Joe M. Lujan died on October 19, 2010. Lujan was elected governor of Sandia Pueblo in January 2009. In a statement released by Senator Jeff Bingaman, he said "Governor Lujan was instrumental in the success Sandia Pueblo had in reaching the agreement that settled the pueblo's claims in the Sandia Mountains." The T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area settlement gave the pueblo the right to use about 10,000 acres of the Sandia Mountains for traditional purposes, and settled land claims about the area.

Antonio Jose "Tony" Martinez, Sr. died on October 6, 2010, at the age of 90 in Roy, New Mexico. Martinez was born November 4, 1919, on the family ranch homestead at Carrizo in Harding County. Tony had a rich Spanish heritage. He was a descendent of Don Antonio Jose Severina Martinez who settled in Taos during the Spanish Colonial period. Today the Hacienda de los Martinez in Taos, built in 1804, is a museum. Tony spent his life working on the family ranch in Harding County and later purchased his own place at Yates, New Mexico, where he raised cattle and sheep. For more information about his life, see *Union County Leader*, October 13, 2010. And, to see photographs of the Martinez Hacienda, see *Union County Leader*, October 27, 2010.

Valentine F. Miera passed away on June 5, 2010 at the age of 84. Miera was a lifelong rancher in the Beenham Community in Union County, New Mexico. He supplemented his income by working as a mechanic and driving a school bus. He married Irene Sanchez in 1948. Miera was a member of the historic Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bueyeros. His daughter Victoria Baker is the Director of the

Herzstein Memorial Museum in Clayton. Burial took place at the Ojo Bonito Cemetery on the Barney Ranch west of Clayton.

Carlos R. Montoya, a Bataan Death March survivor and former restaurant owner in Albuquerque died in San Diego, CA on August 24, 2010 at the age of 95. Montoya, a Pena Blanca native moved to Albuquerque in 1935. He was a member of the New Mexico National Guard's 200th Coast Artillery. At the age of 25, he deployed from Fort Bliss, TX in 1941 and was taken prisoner after the Bataan Peninsula was surrendered in 1942. Montoya opened and managed Cocina de Carlos Restaurant on north Second Street and later moved the establishment to Lomas, NE. Montoya's life has been detailed in the book *Carlos - A Tale of Survival* by J.L. Kunkle (I-Socket Press).

Jose Alfonso Nolan, Sr. died on October 23, 2010 at the age of 99. Nolan was born on June 12, 1911 in Los Escondida near Wagon Mound. He was the oldest of 12 children. He married Rosie Cordova in 1935 and they were married for 73 years. Nolan lived in Miami, New Mexico in a home which he built. He worked at many jobs throughout his life including school bus driver, carpenter at Philmont Scout Ranch and guard at the New Mexico Boys School. He farmed and had his sheep, cows, rabbits and also a pet skunk. Services were held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Springer, New Mexico

Florence Palladino Pavioni, age 95, passed away at her home in Albuquerque on August 11, 2010. Florence was a descendant of Gaetano and Julia Digneo Palladino. Palladino and his son-in-law Michele Berardinelli constructed the 1886 Bernalillo County Courthouse in Old Town (demolished 1959). Palladino and his brother-in-law Carlo Digneo were the contractors for the original Hodgkin Hall in 1892 (first building at University of New Mexico), which was remodeled to the Pueblo Revival style in 1908. The Italian stonemasons first arrived in Santa Fe to work on St. Francis Cathedral. Florence and her late sister, Armida Palladino, graciously shared their family history with scholars.

Thomas J. Steele, priest and scholar, died in Denver on October 25, 2010. A memorial mass was held for the Reverend Father on November 2, 2010 at the Immaculate Conception Church in downtown Albuquerque. He was ordained at St. Mary's College in Kansas in 1964, came to Immaculate Conception the same year, and completed his doctorate in English at University of New Mexico. The Catholic Jesuit priest lived in the Downtown church community for more than 40 years, dividing his time between New Mexico and Colorado where he taught English at Regis University in Denver. He retired in 1997 as a professor emeritus. According to an article by Lloyd Jojola, *Albuquerque Journal*, October 30, 2010, about Father Steele, he wrote "The writer, social historian and collector was the author or co-author of multiple books about religious art and culture, among them Saints and Santos: *The Religious Folk Art of Hispanic New Mexico*. He was working on his final collaborative effort, a book on Father Antonio José Martínez at the time of this death."

David Joseph Weber, age 69, passed away on August, 20, 2010, in a Gallup hospital near his summer home in Ramah, NM. Dr. Weber was born on December 20, 1940, in Buffalo, NY and grew up in nearby Cheektowage. He enrolled as a music student in State University of New York College at Fredonia, but soon changed to Latin American history. After graduating with a BA degree in social sciences in 1962, he came to Albuquerque to attend the University of New Mexico, where he received a MA degree in 1964 and a PhD in Latin American history in 1967. His dissertation was published in 1971 as *The Taos Trappers: The Fur Trade in the Far Southwest, 1540-1846*. Early in his career, Weber taught at San Diego State University. In 1976 he went to Southern Methodist University in Dallas, a leading research center for the study of the American West and the United States-Mexico borderlands. David published more than two dozen books on Spanish and Mexican America. In 2002 he was made a member of the Real Orden de Isabel la Católica, the Spanish equivalent of a knighthood, and in 2005 the government of Mexico named him to the Order of the Aztec Eagles, its highest honor bestowed on foreigners. For a heartfelt tribute to David J. Weber, see *Santa Fe New Mexican*, August 27, 2010, "Trail Dust: Remembering an Irreplaceable Southwest Historian" by Dr. Marc Simmons.



Membership Services

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Planning for the 2011 New Mexico History Conference, to be held May 5-7 in Ruidoso and Lincoln County, is well under way. Our partners, the Lincoln County Historical Society and the Lincoln/Fort Stanton State Monuments, along with Fort Stanton, Inc. and the Hubbard Museum, are putting together some excellent events, including an opening reception on Thursday at the Hubbard Museum, Saturday afternoon tours and presentations in Old Lincoln, and some special presentations on Saturday afternoon and evening at Fort Stanton.

The program is shaping up to be perhaps the best ever, with an unprecedented number of presentation proposals submitted. Our Program Committee, chaired by David Caffey, has shaped the presentations into a first for us--four parallel sessions! We know that most of us get frustrated at not being able to attend all the presentations we'd like to hear, but we have a great diversity of topics and many new presenters lined up for this conference. We wanted to include as many as we could, and it should be a great experience. Fortunately, the Ruidoso Convention Center has plenty of space for the sessions and is a great facility for what will likely be a very well-attended conference.

An important addition to the conference are some special sessions and workshops aimed at K-12 social studies teachers, to be held at the San Juan Church in Lincoln on Saturday, May 7. The focus of these will be on New Mexico Statehood, including the struggle to achieve it and its impact, with teachers' workshops on Statehood-related curricula that are being developed. We expect a good turnout of teachers, particularly from Lincoln County and nearby areas. Other conference attendees are more than welcome to attend these sessions.

A change from our last several conferences is that we will hold our Book Auction and Awards Banquet on Friday evening rather than Saturday. These events will also be held at the Convention Center, and we expect to have a great time, particularly at the Book Auction. We hope to expand the scope of the Auction a bit this year, so we will welcome your donations of objects of historical interest, such as maps, posters, prints, etc., in addition to books.

The conference hotel will be the Lodge at Sierra Blanca, which is adjacent to the Convention Center in Ruidoso and is an excellent hotel in a beautiful setting. We strongly encourage everyone to reserve early by calling (575) 258-5500 and asking for the Historical Society rates, which are \$99 for a double queen and \$109 for a King Studio Suite. The rooms are very nice and spacious, with the regular rates being much higher.

So, please join us in Lincoln County for what we think will be the biggest and best New Mexico History Conference ever. We all learn a lot at these conferences and also have a lot of fun! Look for more information on www.hsnm.org as it becomes available and for the conference program, which should be out in January.

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The Historical Society of New Mexico is now an Amazon Associates member! If you go to our website, www.hsnm.org, look for the links on the left for "Books" or "Amazon.com". The Books page links to a number of excellent works written or recommended by Board members and the Amazon.com link gives you the Amazon home page. Your purchases on Amazon through these links (including items other than books) will

provide to HSNM a percentage of the sales at no extra cost to you. Think about this as you do your holiday shopping--we will certainly appreciate your support of this program.

Also, if you don't have your copy yet, please take a look at *Sunshine & Shadows in New Mexico's Past: The Spanish Colonial & Mexican Periods, 1540-1848*, edited and with an introduction by Richard Melzer. This first volume of the three-part HSNM Centennial Series includes 16 essays by some outstanding historians and authors. This would make an excellent gift for anyone interested in New Mexico history. The second volume covering the Territorial Period will be out by the time of the 2011 New Mexico History Conference in Ruidoso, May 5-7.

The Office of the State Historian and Historical Society of New Mexico Scholars Program

New Mexico State Historian Dr. Rick Hendricks and the President of the Historical Society of New Mexico, Dr. Michael Stevenson, recently announced a new partnership between the State Records Center and Archives and its Office of the State Historian and the Historical Society. The partnership will focus on a joint Office of the State Historian and Historical Society Scholars Program. Under the program, fellowships of up to \$1,000 will be awarded to students and other scholars to perform research in New Mexico archival repositories on topics relating to New Mexico history and culture. Prior to the conclusion of the fellowship, each scholar will be required to submit a written report on the archival research he or she has conducted and give a public lecture based on the fellowship research. For 2011 a total of \$12,000 in fellowships will be awarded.

Funding for the fellowships is made possible through the generosity of several non-profit organizations. These include the Humanities Council of New Mexico, the Ellison Family Grant, the King/Carpenter Foundation and the Historical Society's Paul Carpenter Education Fund and Jane Sanchez Legacy Fund. The Historical Society serves as fiscal agent for these funds, and the Center for Regional Studies at the University of New Mexico funds two additional scholarships to UNM students. The scholar with the highest scoring proposal will be designated as the Myra Ellen Jenkins Awardee.

The Historical Society will administer the funding and contract with those awarded fellowships. The Office of the State Historian will issue the call for proposals, convene an awards committee to review qualifying applications and to select the fellowship recipients and verify that the terms of the agreements have been met. The partnership will allow the continuation of a program that had been suspended because of Fiscal Year 2011 budgetary limitations at the State Records Center and Archives.

The Office of the State Historian is a division of the State Records Center and Archives and is headed by the State Historian. More information about the State Records Center and Archives and the Office of the State Historian can be found at www.nmcpr.state.nm. Among the projects administered by the Office of the State Historian is the history website: www.newmexicohistory.org.

The 12 fellowship awardees for 2011, who have just been selected, and their research topics are as follows:

- Nader Ayadi, Masters Degree Student, Anthropology, NMSU, "The Representation of Muslims in the Spanish Folk Dances Moros y Cristianos, Matachines and Matamoras"
- Jamie Lara Bronstein, PhD,

Professor of History, NMSU, Las Cruces, "Accidents and Injuries in Twentieth-Century Southern New Mexico Mining"

- Aimee Villarreal Garza, PhD Candidate, Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz, "Places of Sanctuary: Mediating Secular and Sacred Values in New Mexico"

- UNM Center for Regional Studies Fellowship: Sam Markwell, Masters Degree Student, American Studies, UNM, "Transformations in Agricultural Water Governance in New Mexico: From Acequias to Conservancy"

- Katherine Massoth, PhD Candidate, History, University of Iowa, "Oh Yes, She had Worked very Hard When she was Young: Women's Labor in the New Mexico Territory"

- Sandra K. Mathews, PhD, Professor of History, Nebraska Wesleyan University, "The 1689 Cruzate Grants and Subsequent Struggles by Pueblo Indians to Defend and Maintain Ownership of their Traditional Lands"

- Brandon Morgan, PhD Candidate, History, UNM, "Columbus, New Mexico: The History of the Rural Border"

- Johnathan Puff, Masters Degree in Architecture, University of Michigan, Taubman College, "Riparian Dreams: Resettlement in the Lower Rio Grande Valley"

- Federico A. Reade Jr., PhD, Film Maker/Independent Scholar, Albuquerque, NM, "Insights Regarding the Tierra Amarilla Courthouse Raid, the Demise of the Alianza, and the Current Land Grant Movement"

- UNM Center for Regional Studies Fellowship: Ashley Sherry, Masters Degree Student, Anthropology, UNM, "I interact, therefore, I am: La Donna Harris and Taos Blue Lake"

- David Snow, Historian/Independent Scholar, Albuquerque, NM

- "The Life and Times of Doña Maria de Jesús Trujillo"

- Myra Ellen Jenkins Award: Joy Sperling, PhD, Professor of Art History, Denison University, Ohio, "Art, Tourism, and the Spectacle of the Southwest: Visually Enchanting the Land of Enchantment"

For more information on the program contact Dr. Dennis Trujillo, Assistant State Historian and HSNM Board member, at 505-476-7998 or send an email to dennis.trujillo@state.nm.us.

Statehood Centennial

Despite state funding holds, a number of projects are ongoing related to the commemoration of Centennial of New Mexico Statehood, including the formation of a new 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, the NM Centennial Foundation, Inc., and the selection of a design for a Centennial Balloon. The Historical Society's 2012 New Mexico Statehood History Conference has been designated an official Centennial Project by the Statehood Centennial Steering Committee, and this should be a very important conference for both the Society and the state of New Mexico.

The Steering Committee and its History Subcommittee, chaired by State Historian Rick Hendricks, has also developed a timeline of events related to New Mexico achieving statehood. The timeline will be featured at the 2011 New Mexico History Conference in Ruidoso and is planned to be made available in various formats to schools, libraries, museums and other organizations around the state.

In addition to special statehood-related sessions for educators at the 2011 Ruidoso conference, there will be a panel session chaired by David Townsend of Alamogordo on "Celebrating Our State: Centennial Plans Around New Mexico." David would welcome a few more participants on the panel who can share their

communities' plans for commemorating statehood. If you are interested, just contact David Caffey, Program Committee Chair, at caffeyme@suddenlink.net.

Finally, we congratulate the Historical Society's 2nd Vice-President, Don Bullis, who has published a number of excellent books on New Mexico history, on being named the state's Centennial Author. Earlier this year, New Mexico State Library personnel and some of those who are working hard to prepare for our state's centennial celebration in 2012, undertook to identify significant New Mexico writers who could share their work with tourists and New Mexicans alike in 2011 and 2012. Don was chosen by a selection committee appointed by the State Library. Also named were Veunda Mischeaux Nelson, Children's Author; Levi Romero, Poet; Joe Hayes, Storyteller; and N. Scott Momaday as Distinguished Writer.

Thanks to Our Donors

The Society is pleased to announce that it has received another very generous donation, in the amount of \$11,500, from the King/Carpenter Foundation. This is in addition to an earlier donation of \$10,000 from this Foundation which, along with a donation of more than \$10,000 from the Santa Fe Corral of the Westerners, was used to establish the Society's Paul C. S. Carpenter Education Fund. Of the latest donation, \$1,500 has been designated to support the 2011 Office of the State Historian/Historical Society Scholars Program, in addition to \$3,000 already allocated to this program from the Paul C. S. Carpenter Education Fund and \$4,000 from the Jane Sanchez Legacy Fund. We want to especially thank James N. and Ellen King and Paul C. S. Carpenter for their support of the Society and the Scholars Program.

We also want to thank the Ellison Family Grant, Dr. Solon Arthur Ellison, and the New Mexico Humanities Council for their donations in support of the Scholars Program. The Humanities Council has also provided us with a \$1,050 grant to help support the teachers' sessions to be held at the Ruidoso Conference, for which we are very grateful. Finally, we thank Dr. Laurence J. Campbell for his donation of \$5,000 to support video recording of presentations at the 2010 New Mexico History Conference at Hobbs and the 2011 Conference at Ruidoso.

Finally, we want to recognize and thank all who made other special contributions to the Society in the last year. As of November 1, this includes:

150 Club donations: Agnesa and Bruce Kidney, Willard and Kay Lewis, Paul Rhetts, and Calvin Smith.

Benefactor (\$250 plus) Level members: Thomas B. Clegg, Jacqueline Dunnington, and Martha Shipman Andrews.

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Sincerely,
Michael Stevenson

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Curtis Fort "Scatterin' the Drive" in *New Mexico Stockman*



Curtis Fort, a working cowboy
(photograph provided by Stephen Zimmer)

Starting in October 2010, the monthly *New Mexico Stockman* magazine will feature a new column, "Scatterin' the Drive," by New Mexico artist and storyteller Curtis Fort.

After graduating from New Mexico State University (NMSU), the Lea County native spent many years as a

working cowboy on several New Mexico ranches. "Scatterin' the Drive" will tell stories from those days, remembering ranches he worked on and the people he worked with. With this column, Fort hopes to give readers something on a lighter note to read and enjoy.

"I want to give people something fun to read, and will share some of my experiences - the humor, camaraderie, values, cowboys, horses and history from those ranches," he said. "Growing up in agriculture you learn certain values, the values that my dad taught me. When you work for someone, you give them your all. You don't just go home at five; you keep working until the cattle are all in, or have water, or whatever the job is that day."

The column's title refers to gathering a pasture, when the boss scatters 10 or 12 cowboys, half who have never been in the pasture before, around a pasture at daylight and they come out with the herd. "I'm gathering in the stories and experiences I had working on those ranches," Fort said. His first column in the October issue



"Spinnin' His Yarn"
Painting of Curtis Fort
by Gary Morton.

(Illustration from www.curtisfort.com)

focuses on his days working on the Bell Ranch with Leo Turner, wagon boss at that time.

Today, as a full-time sculptor, Fort portrays his love of ranch life through his bronze sculptures and is often

called a "Story-Teller in Bronze." He has had a long association with the *New Mexico Stockman* magazine as well as the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association.

"We are looking forward to "Scatterin' the Drive" with him each month when he shares with us his stories, and those of his cowpuncher amigos, who take pride in "riding for the brand," said Caren Cowan, publisher of the *New Mexico Stockman*.

Published each month, the *New Mexico Stockman* is the official publication of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association and the New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc. Available both in hard copy and on the internet at www.aalivestock.com, the magazine has a circulation of over 7000 readers. For subscription information, please call (505) 243-9515 or write to PO Box 7127, Albuquerque, NM 87194.

(Note: Curtis Fort received the Twitchell Award at the 2010 History Conference. See "Curtis Fort - Story Teller in Bronze" by Stephen Zimmer, *La Crónica*, April 2010, No. 83 and "HSNM Awards", July 2010 No. 84.)

New Books for your New Mexico History Library

Compiled by Richard Melzer

Barbe Awalt and Paul Rhett. **Faces of Market: Traditional Spanish and Contemporary Hispanic Market.** Albuquerque: Rio Grande Books, 2010.

Don Bullis. **New Mexico's Finest: Peace Officers Killed in the Line of Duty, 1847-2010.** Albuquerque: Rio Grande Press, 2010.

Craig Childs. **Finders Keepers: A Tale of Archaeological Plunder and Obsession.** Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 2010.

Mary P. Davis and the Corrales Historical Society. **Corrales.** Charleston: Arcadia Press, 2010.

Eric Jay Dolin. **Fur, Fortune, and Empire: The Epic History of the Fur Trade in America.** New York: W.W. Norton, 2010.

Chuck Hornung. **New Mexico's Rangers: The Mounted Police.** Charleston: Arcadia Press, 2010.

Sarah Horton. **The Santa Fe Fiesta, Reinvented: Staking Ethno-Nationalist Claims to a Disappearing Homeland.** Santa Fe: School for Advanced Research Press, 2010.

Stephen G. Hyslop. **Bound for Santa Fe: The Road to New Mexico and the**

American Conquest, 1806-1848. Norman: University of Oklahoma, 2010.

Marcia Keegan. **Taos Pueblo and Its Sacred Blue Lake.** Santa Fe: Clear Light Publishers, 2010.

Joe Kittinger and Craig Ryan. **Come Up and Get Me: An Autobiography of Col. Joe Kittinger.** Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2010.

Patricia Fogelman Lange, Louis A. Hieb, and Thomas J. Steele. **The Indians of Arizona and New Mexico: 19th Century Ethnographic Notes.** Albuquerque: LPD Press, 2010.

Lucy R. Lippard. **Down Country: The Tano of the Galisteo Basin, 1250-1782.** Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico Press, 2010.

C.S. Merrill. **Weekends with O'Keeffe.** Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2010.

Darlis A. Miller. **Open Range: The Life of Agnes Morley Cleaveland.** Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2010.

All Trails Lead To Santa Fe, An Anthology Official Commemorative Publication by Nineteen Historians, foreword by Marc

Simmons and preface by Orlando Romero. Commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the Founding of Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1610. Santa Fe: Sunstone Press, 2010.

Judy Pasternak. **Yellow Dirt: An American Story of a Poisoned Land and a People Betrayed.** New York: Free Press, 2010.

Tom Ribe. **Inferno by Committee: A History of the Cerro Grande Fire.** Bloomington, Indiana: Trafford, 2010.

Virginia Scharff and Carolyn Brucken. **Home Lands: How Women Made the West.** Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010.

Sandy Schauer and Denise Tessier. **A History of New Mexico Press Women.** CreateSpace, 2010.

Bud Shapard. **Chief Loco: Apache Peacemaker.** Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2010.

L.M. Sutter. **New Mexico Baseball: Miners, Outlaws, Indians, and Isotopes, 1880 to the Present.** Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland and Company, 2010.

Michael Trujillo. **Land of Disenchantment: Latina/o Identities and Transformations in Northern New Mexico.** Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2010.

Judith Ann Warner. **U.S. Border Security: A Reference Handbook.** Oxford: ABC-CLIO, 2010.

Marta Weigle. **Alluring New Mexico.** Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico, 2010.

Charles M. Williams. **The Crash of TWA Flight 260.** Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2010.

David L. Witt. Ernest Thompson Seton. **The Life and Legacy of an Artist and Conservationist.** Layton, Utah: Gibbs Smith, 2010.

Robert J. Tórréz and Robert Trapp. **Rio Arriba: A New Mexico County.** Albuquerque: Rio Grande Books, 2010.

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