



**New
Member
Handbook**

Welcome New Member,

The Fray Angélico Chavez Chapter (FACC) of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America (GSHA) welcomes you to our Society and to our Chapter. The purpose of this handbook is to provide a foundation as you begin your quest into the past to meet your ancestors whether you are a beginning genealogist or have many generations of family research experience.

There is much to be learned. Our members, who have been researching for many years, can tell you that they are still learning. Please do not hesitate to ask your board members or a society member to assist you with questions you may have. If we do not have the answer, we can help refer you to the proper resource for the genealogical information you are searching for.



FRAY ANGÉLICO CHAVEZ

Fray Angélico Chavez was born Manuel Ezequiel to don Fabian Chaves and his wife Nicolasa Roybal on April 10, 1910 in Wagon Mound, New Mexico. At a young age (14) he decided to dedicate his life to God and joined the Franciscan Friars and studied at various institutions in the Cincinnati, Ohio area. He was ordained in 1937. After serving as a chaplain in the United States Army during World War II, he was given an opportunity for further study, but instead asked to become a missionary priest in New Mexico.

Throughout his ministry, Fray Angélico was a prolific writer and completed a substantial variety of works including poetry, plays, essays, historical writing, church renovation and most of all, translating and compiling information which was then gathered into a book called "Origins of New Mexico Families. This book included a brief history of New Mexico and information about the people who came to New Mexico in the 17th and 18th century.

During his ministry, Fray Angélico also compiled marriage investigations of couples wishing to marry and perhaps needed some kind of dispensation. These were compiled on microfilm. He

also found early marriage investigations while he was studying in Cincinnati and these were printed in the 2010 editions of the New Mexico Genealogist. These have been an invaluable asset to all genealogists who are researching in New Mexico (internet link to the Diligencias Matrimoniales: http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/cswr_reference/5/?show=full).

In 1996, at the suggestion of Mike Baca, to the then president Charlene Simms, the Pueblo branch of GSHA decided to name their chapter in honor of Fray Angélico Chavez. I was President of the Chapter and Mike Baca approached me with the idea of naming our chapter after this famous New Mexican who had done so much for genealogy and promoting the History of New Mexico. One of our members, Lucy Gettler, had contacted the family and obtained Fray Angélico's written permission, before his death. We then had the dedication at the GSHA Annual Conference in July, 1996 with some of Fray Angélico's family in attendance. (Excerpt from Nuestras Raíces Journal - Summer 2009 - Volume 2).

Contributor: Pat Sanchez Rau

***Past Presidents of the
Fray Angelico Chavez Chapter
of the
Genealogical Society of Hispanic America***

1989: Deborah Espinosa (June to October 1989 –interim while branch was forming)

1989, 1990: Mike Baca

1991, 1992, 1993: Isabel Shaneff

1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998: Charlene Garcia-Simms

1999, 2000: Michael Baca

2001, 2002: Gloria Falcon

2003, 2004: Cathy Archuleta

2005: Mike Baca, Charlene Garcia-Simms, Rita Morales

2006: Rita Morales

2007, 2008: Vera Estrada

2009, 2010: Rita Morales

2011, 2012: Heraldo Acosta

2013, 2014: Ralph Salaz

2015, 2016: Penny Garcia

2017, 2018: Carmen Arteaga

2019, 2020: Carmen Arteaga

2020, 2021: Joe Martinez

2021, 2022: Phyllis Miranda

2023, 2024: Daniel Romero

UNTANGLING YOUR HISPANIC GENEALOGY ROOTS

A Genealogy Primer

By Patricia Sanchez Rau

Where do I come from? I wonder who my ancestors are. Any one of those questions indicates that you've been infected by the genealogy bug. It starts out as a simple question, but that is how your search begins. You might ask your parents or a relative what they know about their ancestors, which in most cases isn't very much (so they say). You then begin either looking up genealogy on a Web site or stopping at your local Public Library to see what resources are available.

I was infected a few years ago, when my mother would pose questions about her ancestors. I remember her telling me that her grandmothers were all related through the Ortiz family. She had such a desire to find out about her ancestors that everywhere she went, funerals, weddings, or even visiting relatives she would find the oldest 'viejito' or 'viejita' and start asking questions. As I was living in Chicago, at first I didn't pay much attention. Then she gave me a gift for Christmas, "The Origins of New Mexico Families" by Fray Angelico Chavez and then I became infected with the genealogy virus. I read the book from cover to cover and started wondering....I wonder if he could be my ancestor.... Oh here's another Sanchez, could this be the one?

That summer when I came home for vacation I started by interviewing my mother, but I actually made a chart of the names and information she gave me. I went back to Chicago and tried the LDS Family History Center but only found a small amount of information so I got discouraged and put it away. Occasionally I would get out the information and try again but it wasn't until my mother passed away and that I moved back to Colorado that the search began in earnest. I spent a few months "spinning my wheels" until I hit on a method that has really worked for me. I'd like to share this with you.

- **Begin by interviewing your parents and/or the older members of your family.** Ask pointed questions. When and where were you born? What are the names and birth dates of your brothers and sisters? What are your parents' names (remember maiden names become very important). Where and when were they born? Get as much information as possible. Go back as far as possible. Get a good map of the area you are going to be searching in. Sometimes the records you need may be in a nearby community or county seat.
- **Ask for any newspaper copies of wedding stories, obituaries or Mass cards** your ancestor might have in his/her possession. Then write down all that information being sure to include all the new information such as children, brothers, sisters or where they were from. Does your ancestor have any baptismal records or marriage certificates, check those out too and if possible take a copy of them (front & back).
- **Old Photo Albums** - Ask to see the old photo albums and ask questions as you look. Many times, your parent may think they don't remember but seeing the old photos will jog their memories. If possible, write down the names of the people on the back of the picture, either by putting a label on or writing lightly (Be careful not to damage the picture permanently). I never did and when I went back after my parents' death there were a number of pictures that I couldn't identify. My parents were the last of their generation and now there is no one who can identify the pictures.
- **Organize your material in file folders.** I started out with one for each family group I had found and put all my information pertaining to that family in the folder. That meant that I had a hard copy of the material at hand. I then drew a fan chart and put in all the names that I knew. The fan chart was the most useful tool I had because when I went to the library or started working on someone, I could look down at a glance and see what I had or what I needed. You can download one for free from the internet but they are too

small to work with so take it to a print shop and get it blown up to 11 x 17 size and you can easily write on it.

- **If you have a computer, purchase a good Family Tree Program.** We started with one, and found that it was not satisfactory so we finally purchased Family Tree Maker® which has been an excellent choice. If purchasing a software program, look for one that prints fan or vertical family trees, prints source information and imports pictures. Put in all your information, even if you don't have last names. Another good program is Roots Magic. This program is extremely easy to use in case you are just starting with computers and/or genealogy..
- **Check the resources you have available in your hometown.** Does your library have a genealogy section? What resources do they have from New Mexico, Colorado, etc. Is there Mormon Church in your locale? Do they have a Family History Center? From there, you can order films from other places. What resources do they have on hand, microfilm, books, etc. If you are just getting started and don't have too much information, your best bet is your local church records. If you're on the Internet, then check the forums, and the resources they offer. I will list some web site addresses at the end of the article that have been most beneficial.
- **FamilySearch.com** by the LDS church has now put many of its microfilms on line beginning September 2017, so you can pull up the films from your own computer.

A. **Marriage Records** provide the best information because they generally list the parents of the bride and groom so that gives you the previous generation. This also keeps you on the right track. As you get further and further back in your search you will need to look for Marriage Diligencias. These were records obtained by the local priest to make sure that the bride and groom were not too closely related, because of the small number of people in New Mexico at the time. These are separate records and may be out of date sequence with the actual marriage record. Below are three places where you might find marriage investigations, then besides this you may find others at the State Archives of New Mexico in Santa Fe. (*The Marriage Diligencias are now on-line.*)

- a. New Mexico Roots Ltd. by Fray Angelico Chavez – this is available on microfiche and can be found at some genealogy libraries. You can download all 11 volumes from this site. http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/cswr_reference/5/
- b. New Mexico Prenuptial Investigations Volumes 1 and 2 – published by the Rio Grande Historical Collections New Mexico State University Library. P.O. Box 30006, Dept. 3475, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003. There are two volumes. This is the site for Volume 1 – Volume 2 is below it. <https://www.google.com/search?q=new+mexico+prenuptial+investigations+&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8>
- c. New Mexico Genealogy Society found some additional marriage investigations, which they published in their four journals in 2010 – They have since published these marriage investigations in a book – Santa Cruz Marriages 1826-1849 and Roots Ltd. Addendum. Book is available at Amazon.

B. **Birth Records.** One of the reasons I urge you to look at the baptismal records for as many children as you can find is because oftentimes they have hidden clues. A middle name for your ancestor or in some instances a first name. Your 'Antonio' may become "Jose Antonio." On one of my families my 'Garcia' became "Garcia de Noriega" and my 'Vigil' became "Montes Vigil."

- i. Okay..., you've listed all the children you can find, but what does that mean? Then if you haven't found the marriage record, start looking backwards from the birth of the first child. If they stayed in the same place, you can hope to find the marriage record within a couple of years from the birth of the first child.
- ii. The birth records may also present you with another challenge. You will be going along and...OOPS your great grandfather is listed with a different spouse. This usually indicates the death of the spouse. Again keep writing down the information and then that means that you have to go back to the marriage records to see if you can locate the new marriage record.

- iii. There is one other problem that your searching may uncover, that is two people with the same name... In some instances, you find two individuals with the same name having families at the same time. I have one ancestor where I have that problem. There are two Pedro Ignacio Sanchez living in the same area and the same period. I know which one my ancestor is, but was having difficulty finding his parents. I have another ancestor who uses two names interchangeably. On most of the records, he is listed as Manuel Romero but on several records he is listed as Manuel Marques, then his children use the two last names as well. This man was a “natural child”, the mother was unmarried.
 - iv. Last but not least, some of the birth records might list both the maternal and paternal grandparents (1821 to 1850 baptism records). Hooray!!! Another link!
- C. **Compadrazgo Connections** - What in heaven’s name is that? Well, in most of the families, there were cousins, brothers and sisters as well as close friends. When you have your children baptized, do you choose strangers or do you choose family members as godparents for your children? Generally, your first choice will be a brother or sister, followed by friends. The same thinking took place when getting married. Most of our ancestors would rather choose a spouse for the daughter from someone they knew as opposed to strangers and as most marriages were arranged, the spouse was selected from family or close friends. Many times you will find siblings from one family marrying siblings from another family. This guaranteed no loss of land for either family.
- D. **Name Similarities** - Look for habits in the naming of children. In my family, there is a child every generation baptized with the name of the grandparent.
- E. **Native American or Genizaro ancestors** - People trading and selling was something that had gone on in New Mexico, Mexico and all over the world for many years. At one time, an Indian tribe offered to sell many Indian children to the Spanish soldiers and for some reason they were turned down; so the tribe killed them all. When the King of Spain heard this, he ordered the people in the New World that from that time forward, the Spanish felt it was their duty to rescue as many captives as they could and then “Christianize” them. These became the genizaros. Technically, they were supposed to be taught a trade and then freed by age 21, but some owners did not do this. If you are looking for an ancestor in New Mexico the child or person was baptized and “adopted” into the household, you may find the baptisms indexed under the name of the owner. If they got someone else to baptize the child, then it will be more difficult, but the owner is still sometimes listed. Census records may give the name of the tribe. There are no specific Indian census for New Mexico. Genizaros or Christianized Indians were given permission to form their own communities. Belen and Abiquiu were two of them founded in 1790. They are difficult to find but sometimes they take the surname of the owner and may be found in the baptism and marriage records.

OTHER RESOURCES

- F. **Census Records** - Not sure where your ancestor may have lived? Check the census records from the era when he lived and try to locate him in “Santa Fe” or wherever. Some of the census information gives the names of the whole family group and ages of the children (that’s another reason to try to find the names of the children, especially if there is one with a unique first name). The ages may not be entirely correct, sometimes the children didn’t age much between censuses. Another thing that I found interesting is something my father told me... The Spanish people did not start counting your age when you were born, they started counting when you were a year old. So many of the people I was looking for were at least a year or so older. Some of the census records list the county and state the person was born in. A big help when trying to find someone from another state. Your public library has access to many of the census records and if you live in a city you can access [Heritage Quest](#) and [Ancestry.com](#) on-line with a library card. Some census books are available from New Mexico - a) Spanish & Mexican Census 1750-1830 b) New Mexico Spanish & Colonial census 1790, 1825, and 1845 – as well as partial census in a couple of other places. After this, the US census is present for all researchers. The 1850 US census has many misspellings and many areas were not enumerated.

G. **RESOURCE BOOKS** -

- **“Origins of New Mexico Families”** by Fray Angelico Chavez is still a good book to have in your library even though there have been corrections and additions since the first edition.
- **Beyond Origins of New Mexico** - Jose Antonio Esquibel has moved Beyond Origins to his private blog where he continues to give information on New Mexico families. https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1060505.Jose_Antonio_Esquibel/blog
- **“The Spanish Re-colonization of New Mexico”** by Jose Esquibel & John Colligan is an excellent resource to obtain, because of the more current records found in this book. (out of print). This may still be available at some of the libraries for an inter-library checkout.
- **Church Records** - If you can locate where a large portion of your family is from, you might consider purchasing the birth records and marriage records from that church if they are in print. I can't tell you how many times I have reviewed Volume 3 of the Santa Cruz Baptisms. These can be purchased from the various Genealogical Societies – (New Mexico Genealogical Society; Hispanic Genealogical Resource Center and Colorado Society of Hispanic Genealogy).
- **“Place names of New Mexico”** by Robert Julyan. I have found that several of the places where I was searching for records no longer appeared on the map. “Atrisco” had become a suburb of Albuquerque. This book lists the names of places and where they are located as well as various names for the same places. That's also why you also need a good map of the area where you are searching.

H. **Legal Records** If you are fortunate enough to live close to where your ancestors came from check the courthouse for land records and for wills.

I. **Death Records/Cemeteries** Check and see if there are any death records in your area. Many times, they will list parents. Take a ride to the cemeteries. Some of them can still yield valuable clues. If you find a headstone for a family member. Take a picture of it.

J. **Genealogy Societies** - If at all possible join a genealogy society in the area where you are looking. They have access to resource materials that you, as an individual may not have. I have purchased back issues of their quarterly magazines for information on certain families.

K. **Spanish Archives of New Mexico** – If you can schedule a trip to New Mexico include a trip to the Spanish Archives of New Mexico Library located in Santa Fe. This is the researcher's ‘dream come true’ – as you can find books, wills, land grant material, newspapers and microfilm from the sources all over New Mexico which might yield your lost information.

<https://www.archives.gov/nhprc/projects/catalog/archives-of-new-mexico>

L. **Internet Genealogy Sources** – Some of them have monthly costs like Ancestry.com but others like US GenWeb can give you State resources. Recently, the US GenWeb has added a lot of information on the various counties. <http://usgwarchives.net/nm/nmfiles.htm>

- **The Hispanic Genealogy Great New Mexico Database** has been the most helpful in providing resources. They have changed the format but will still give help if you can't access the records. The first day I found it, I looked up my great grandparents and lo and behold, there they were on the database with an ancestral tree to go along with them. A huge time saver. You can find them at <http://hgrc-nm.org>

- **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints** has a web site where you can do look-ups. I have found that it is best to put in only one name and then when you get a list of people look them up individually. That's because our ancestors did not always use the same name every time they baptized a child. This web address is: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/united-states/>. Film research can be looked at by going to the website – Search - Catalog and when the search box comes up – type in United States, New Mexico, county name i.e. Rio Arriba

and town name i.e El Rito. You will see books that have been extracted but you need to look for actual church records – they will list the years covered. Click on that link then scroll down and you will see the following. Continue scrolling down and you will see the types of records held, i.e. baptisms, marriages, deaths, confirmations. On the right side you will see either a roll of film which says the film is held at the LDS center or a camera – that means you can look at the film at home. They are supposed to be putting everything on film available at home, but I see many that are still only available for rental.

Church records, 1869-1956

Authors:

[Catholic Church. San Juan Nepomuceno \(El Rito, New Mexico\)](#) (Main Author)

Format:

Manuscript/Manuscript on Film

Language: Spanish -English

Publication:

El Paso, Texas : Golightly, 1956

Physical:

5 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.

- **New Mexico Gen Web Project** - Some of the counties are helpful, others do not have any information, but it is still a good source to try. <https://home.rootsweb.com/>
- **New Mexico AHGP - NM AHGP** – <https://nmahgp.genealogyvillage.com/default.htm> Some counties like Taos have great information and census records. It never hurts to look.
- **New Mexico State Historian** <http://www.newmexicohistory.org/> - great information on land grants and other historical events.
- **Links** - When you do get to a web site that looks helpful, be sure to look at the Links - For example the Hispanic Genealogy Resource Center has a portion on their web site that lists Other Genealogical Resources - Be sure to check them out.

Helpful Hints

1. Remember ‘**DO THE MATH**’- If there is too much time between the person you are researching and the previous generation - it is very possible you have skipped a generation.
2. Don’t assume that all the sources you have found are totally correct. On my great grandmother’s birth record it shows her mother and grandmother’s name as the same. My mother had information in several places that listed the parents & grandparents. I confirmed this with the birth record of another child. Therefore, the priest who wrote the information made a mistake.
3. Take copies of extracts where possible. That means you have accurate information at your fingertips. Be sure to list and document resources. When I started I was so excited I didn’t list anything and then found I had to go back and confirm all those sources. Most genealogy programs allow you to “source” the material

– include book, film, published by, place and page number if known so if you need to go back you know where you found the material.

4. Reach a Dead End??? Go back to the drawing board. Recheck the data bases, the books, etc. and then network, maybe someone else has found significant information that will help you.
5. Network & Write Queries - This has enabled me to find “cousins” who are searching for the same information so we have pooled our resources and our time and have been able to find more information.

After a few years of researching I find that my circle of ancestors is almost complete however, I still have a bad case of the genealogy virus.....so.....are there any “primos” that need help???

You can contact the author Patricia Sanchez Rau at leadville5@gmail.com

Relationship Chart

1. Across the top row find what your relationship is to the common ancestor.
2. In the left hand column find what the relationship of the other individual is, to the same common ancestor.
3. The square where the two individuals intersect is the correct notation of their relationship.
4. Example: First individual’s common ancestor is a Great 2nd Grandparent (on top row). Second individual’s common ancestor is a Great 6th Grandparent (on left column). They intersect at 3rd Cousin 4 time removed.

Common Ancestor	Grandparent	Great Grandparent	Great 2 nd Grandparent	Great 3 rd Grandparent	Great 4 th Grandparent	Great 5 th Grandparent	Great 6 th Grandparent	Great 7 th Grandparent	Great 8 th Grandparent	Great 9 th Grandparent	Great 10 th Grandparent
Grandparent	1 st cousin	1 st cousin once removed	1 st cousin 2x removed	1 st cousin 3x removed	1 st cousin 4x removed	1 st cousin 5x removed	1 st cousin 6x removed	1 st cousin 7x removed	1 st cousin 8x removed	1 st cousin 9x removed	1 st cousin 10x removed
Great Grandparent	1 st cousin once removed	2 nd cousin	2 nd cousin once removed	2 nd cousin 2x removed	2 nd cousin 3x removed	2 nd cousin 4x removed	2 nd cousin 5x removed	2 nd cousin 6x removed	2 nd cousin 7x removed	2 nd cousin 8x removed	2 nd cousin 9x removed
Great 2 nd Grandparent	1 st cousin 2x removed	2 nd cousin once removed	3 rd cousin	3 rd cousin once removed	3 rd cousin 2x removed	3 rd cousin 3x removed	3 rd cousin 4x removed	3 rd cousin 5x removed	3 rd cousin 6x removed	3 rd cousin 7x removed	3 rd cousin 8x removed
Great 3 rd Grandparent	1 st cousin 3x removed	2 nd cousin 2x removed	3 rd cousin once removed	4 th cousin	4 th cousin once removed	4 th cousin 2x removed	4 th cousin 3x removed	4 th cousin 4x removed	4 th cousin 5x removed	4 th cousin 6x removed	4 th cousin 7x removed
Great 4 th Grandparent	1 st cousin 4x removed	2 nd cousin 3x removed	3 rd cousin 2x removed	4 th cousin once removed	5 th cousin	5 th cousin once removed	5 th cousin 2x removed	5 th cousin 3x removed	5 th cousin 4x removed	5 th cousin 5x removed	5 th cousin 6x removed
Great 5 th Grandparent	1 st cousin 5x removed	2 nd cousin 4x removed	3 rd cousin 3x removed	4 th cousin 2x removed	5 th cousin once removed	6 th cousin	6 th cousin once removed	6 th cousin 2x removed	6 th cousin 3x removed	6 th cousin 4x removed	6 th cousin 5x removed
Great 6 th Grandparent	1 st cousin 6x removed	2 nd cousin 5x removed	3 rd cousin 4x removed	4 th cousin 3x removed	5 th cousin 2x removed	6 th cousin once removed	7 th cousin	7 th cousin once removed	7 th cousin 2x removed	7 th cousin 3x removed	7 th cousin 4x removed
Great 7 th Grandparent	1 st cousin 7x removed	2 nd cousin 6x removed	3 rd cousin 5x removed	4 th cousin 4x removed	5 th cousin 3x removed	6 th cousin 2x removed	7 th cousin once removed	8 th cousin	8 th cousin once removed	8 th cousin 2x removed	8 th cousin 3x removed
Great 8 th Grandparent	1 st cousin 8x removed	2 nd cousin 7x removed	3 rd cousin 6x removed	4 th cousin 5x removed	5 th cousin 4x removed	6 th cousin 3x removed	7 th cousin 2x removed	8 th cousin once removed	9 th cousin	9 th cousin once removed	9 th cousin 2x removed
Great 9 th Grandparent	1 st cousin 9x removed	2 nd cousin 8x removed	3 rd cousin 7x removed	4 th cousin 6x removed	5 th cousin 5x removed	6 th cousin 4x removed	7 th cousin 3x removed	8 th cousin 2x removed	9 th cousin once removed	10 th cousin	10 th cousin once removed
Great 10 th Grandparent	1 st cousin 10x removed	2 nd cousin 9x removed	3 rd cousin 8x removed	4 th cousin 7x removed	5 th cousin 6x removed	6 th cousin 5x removed	7 th cousin 4x removed	8 th cousin 3x removed	9 th cousin 2x removed	10 th cousin once removed	11 th cousin

Pedigree Charts – Here are two pedigree charts that are free to download fill out and print on your home computer. You may freely copy and reproduce as many as you want so long as you do NOT alter or change anything on the chart.



6 Generation Pedigree Chart –

https://www.misbach.org/static/media/pedigree_chart.1303c3b7.pdf

This is your traditional pedigree chart. It holds up to 6 generations in the familiar standard format. The one difference being that this chart has room for one generation of descendants. There are fields that allow you to link from one chart to another. Size is 8.5" x 11". (This chart allows you to fill it out in Acrobat before printing).

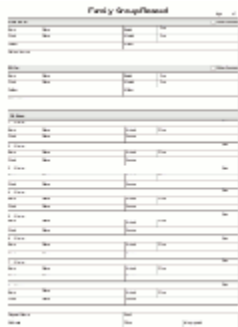
5 Generation Pedigree Chart –



https://www.misbach.org/static/media/picture_chart.1b740323.pdf

This 5 generation chart is packed with a lot of information, but kept clean for easy readability. It contains space for the spouse of the starting person as well as the children of the starting couple. This chart provides space to record 4 generations of ancestors and one generation of descendants (children), to make up a total of 5 generations. It's the perfect chart for those looking for a portrait oriented chart that fits nicely in a 3-ring binder. This chart is an "interactive" PDF chart that can either be printed out on your printer and filled in by hand, or can be edited on your computer using the free version of Adobe Acrobat. The chart can be saved with your genealogical data to a file and can be shared with others.

Family Group Record



Family Group Record –

<https://www.misbach.org/static/media/FamilyGroupRecord.5482a6fc.pdf>

A very popular chart among genealogists. You can look far and wide on the Internet for a better Family Group Record/Sheet and not find it. The layout is simple, clean, elegant, and easy to read. It provides space for up to 8 children. This chart is an "interactive" PDF chart that can either be printed out on your printer and filled in by hand, or can be edited on your computer using the free version of Adobe Acrobat. The chart can be saved with your genealogical data to a file and can be shared with others.

For more charts go to: <https://www.misbach.org/#/>

New Mexico Historical Timeline, 1536-1912

Prologue: This historical timeline is related to New Mexico, beginning with the early Spanish claims and settlements along the Rio Grande; and continuing up to the time of New Mexico's statehood in 1912, as follows:

1536. Spanish explorer Cabeza de Vaca entered present New Mexico via the Rio Grande valley. He was the first Spaniard to repeat the story of the Seven Cities of Cibola (or Seven Cities of Gold) he had learned about from the local Indians. The Indians perpetuated the rumor, always telling the Spaniards that the cities of gold were just a little further away. This ploy worked for 60 years, keeping the Spanish soldiers from staying long in one place.

1539. Franciscan friar Marcos de Niza and companion Esteban explored present New Mexico and Arizona looking for the Seven Cities of Cibola. They reached the Zuni village of Hawikuh where Esteban was killed.

1540. Francisco Vasquez de Coronado of Spain came searching for the Seven Cities of Cibola. Coronado never found the cities of gold, but did find the Gulf of California, Colorado River, Grand Canyon, and the Arkansas River Valley areas of Colorado and Kansas. He claimed the entire region as part of New Spain.

1590. The first attempt to colonize Nuevo Mexico was made by conquistador Gaspar de Sosa, who led a party of some 170 settlers into the Pecos River Valley. De Sosa was infamously known for the numbers of natives he captured and sold into slavery.

1598. Juan de Oñate founded the first permanent Spanish colony at San Juan de los Caballeros (near present-day Espanola, New Mexico). San Juan became the capital of the Province of Nuevo Mexico.

1600. San Gabriel was founded at the confluence of the Rio Grande and Chama Rivers. San Gabriel became the new capital of Nuevo Mexico. Lists of settlers living in Nuevo Mexico exist for as early as 1600. Microfilm of the Seville originals are at the New Mexico State Archives in Santa Fe.

1609. Santa Fe de Nuevo Mexico. Governor Pedro de Peralta founded Santa Fe as the final capital, and renamed the Spanish province as Santa Fe de Nuevo Mexico.

1680. The Pueblo Indians revolted and drove the Spanish out of northern Nuevo Mexico, who fled to El Paso del Norte.

1693. Diego de Vargas conquered Nuevo Mexico (again) for Spain.

1743. French Louisiana traders from Arkansas Post (near the Mississippi River) reached Santa Fe and initiated trade with the Spanish colonists. The route they blazed to get there became part of the Santa Fe Trail.

1750. A Spanish census taken in 1750 exists for Albuquerque, Belen, Santa Fe, and Valencia. Microfilm of the Seville originals are at the New Mexico State Archives in Santa Fe.

1776. A route from Santa Fe to Los Angeles was explored, later known as the Old Spanish Trail.

1790. A Spanish census for Santa Fe and Taos survives. Microfilm of the Seville originals are at the New Mexico State Archives in Santa Fe.

1800. The Spanish colonial population of Santa Fe de Nuevo Mexico had reached about 20,000 people.

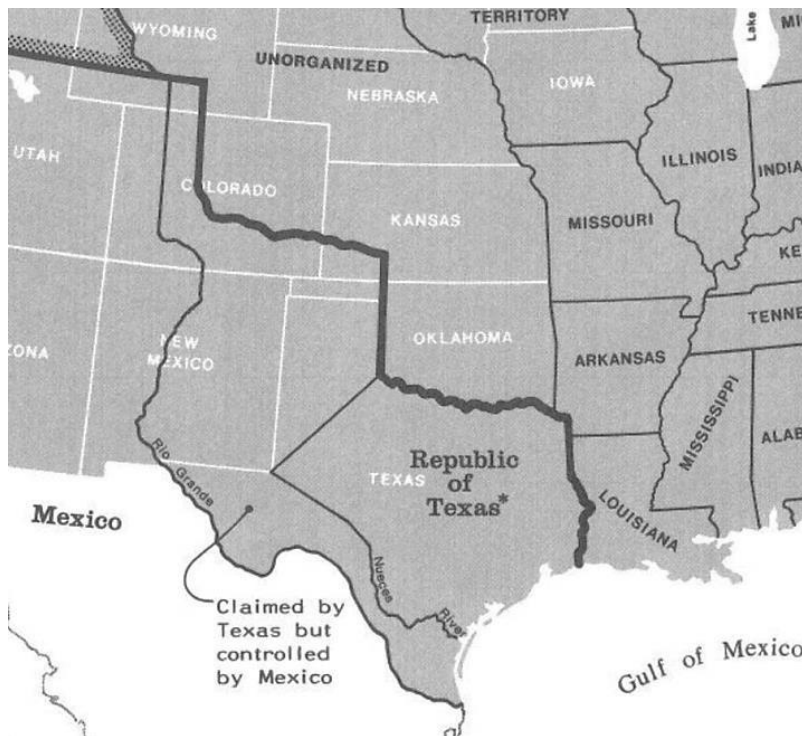
1804. Hearing of a supposed intrusion of Americans into their territory, Spanish troops were dispatched from Santa Fe to intercept the Lewis and Clark Expedition, but failed to find them.

1807. U.S. Army Captain Zebulon Pike led the first American expedition into the Rocky Mountains and returned via Nuevo Mexico. Pike's published book reporting his expedition was the first written English description of the Rocky Mountains, as well as descriptions of the Spanish culture in North America, and became a best seller in North America and Europe. The book was also the inspiration and guide to a great number of Mountain Men, the only non-Indian residents of the Rocky Mountain region for another twenty-five years.

1821. Mexico gained independence from Spain and exerted military control of the provinces of Santa Fe de Nuevo Mexico and Coahuila y Texas. That same year, merchants and traders from the United States come into the area via a route called the Santa Fe Trail.

1829. The first commercial caravan along The Old Spanish Trail from Santa Fe to Los Angeles was led by Mexican trader Antonio Armijo. He is best known for naming an artesian spring oasis in the desert as Las Vegas (The Meadows).

1830. A Mexican census for Santo Domingo is extant. The originals are located at the New Mexico State Archives in Santa Fe.



1836. Texas Claim. As a province of Mexico, the southwestern border of Coahuila y Texas was along the Nueces River and an extended line to the southeast corner of present New Mexico. The border was extended by the new Republic of Texas in 1836, from the Nueces to the Rio Grande, thus adding eastern New Mexico and areas into present Colorado. Although claimed by Texas, the extended area was never occupied by Texas. Map source: [Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920.](#)

1839. A Mexican census for Valencia exists, the originals are at the New Mexico State Archives in Santa Fe.

1841. Texas troops invaded present New Mexico areas along the Rio Grande, attempting to possess their claim to the area, but the Texas troops were held at bay by Mexican forces.

1845. Texas was annexed to the United States as the 28th state. The U.S. wanted to acquire the Texas Claim to the Rio Grande, but Mexico warned that a war would result from such an action.

1846. Feb. The U.S. officially made an offer to Mexico to purchase the area of the Texas Claim. Mexico rejected the offer.

1846. Apr. **Mexican-American War.** U.S. Forces quickly took control of the Rio Grande Valley. The captured area from the old Texas line to the Rio Grande was annexed to the United States, based on the acquired Texas Claim.

1846. Dec. **A Provisional New Mexico Territory** was organized by U.S. Army General Stephen Kearny. The provisional territory operated until the official New Mexico Territory was created by Congress in 1850.

1848. Mexican Cession. As part of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ending the war with Mexico, the United

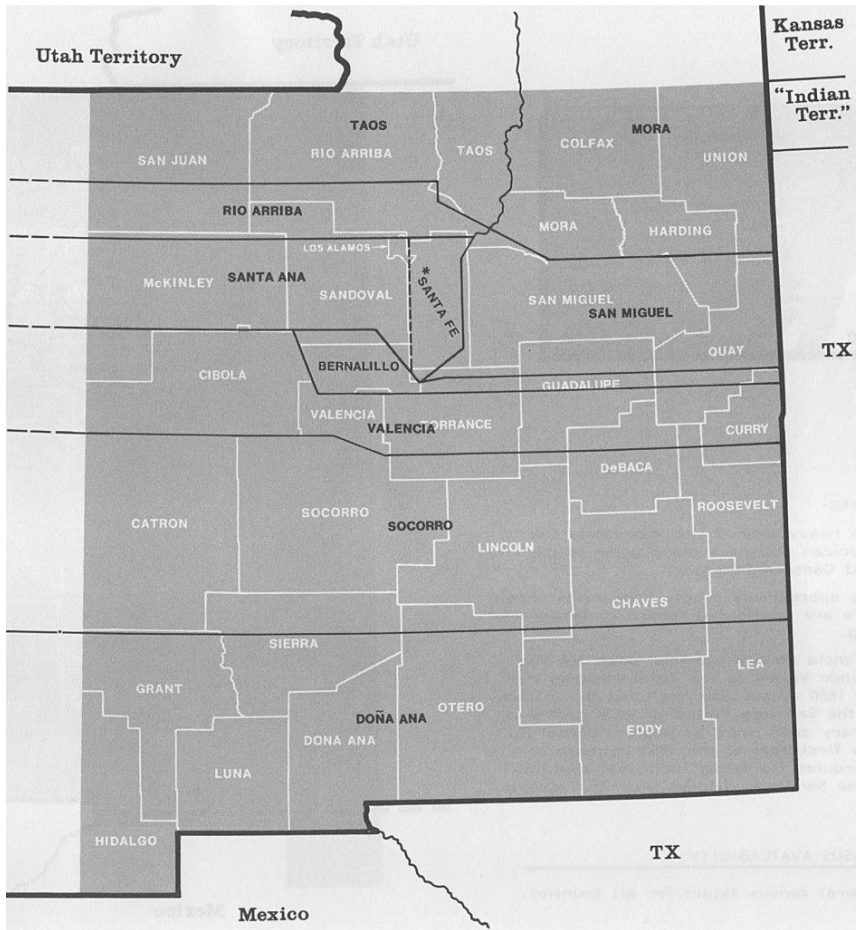


States gained ownership to the remainder of New Mexico west of the Rio Grande, including most of present Arizona; a portion of western Colorado; part of southwestern Wyoming; and all of present California, Utah and Nevada. In compensation, the U.S. paid Mexico a sum of 18 million dollars for an area which was nearly half of the Republic of Mexico, and was comparable in size to the Louisiana Purchase. The Provisional Territory of New Mexico now extended from Texas to California. Map source: Wikipedia.

1850. June. **Federal Census.** The provisional Territory of New Mexico was included in the 1850 census, with the original seven counties of Bernalillo, Rio Arriba, Santa Ana, Santa Fe, San Miguel, Taos, and Valencia counties. Taos County included an area of all or part of 13 modern Colorado counties. The area of present Arizona north of the Gila River was also part of New Mexico Territory, but no population was enumerated there.

1850. Sept 9th. California was admitted to the Union as the 31st state; and on the same day, Congress established both Utah Territory and New Mexico Territory.

1852. Doña Ana County was established, stretching across the southern portion of New Mexico Territory, well into the area that later became Arizona.



1853. Gadsden Purchase. Seeking access for a southern railroad route, the U.S. paid Mexico a sum of 10 million dollars to purchase a 45,000 square mile tract of land south of the Gila River. The purchase was negotiated by James Gadsden, minister to Mexico. The entire area of the Gadsden Purchase was added to New Mexico Territory, which immediately expanded Doña Ana County to administer the newly acquired area.

1857-1861. Butterfield Overland Stagecoach. Beginning in 1857, the Butterfield Overland Mail Co. held the U.S. Mail contract for service from either St. Louis or Memphis to San Francisco. The first part of the routes converged on Fort Smith, AR, then through Indian Territory to points including Fort Worth and El Paso, TX;

and on to Santa Fe, New Mexico Territory. From Santa Fe to Los Angeles, the Butterfield route followed the same general trace as the Old Spanish Trail, passing through Tucson and Fort Yuma, en route to Los Angeles; and then up the Central Valley of California to San Francisco. For nearly three years, two Butterfield stages per week made the trip, one leaving Memphis each Monday and St. Louis each Thursday. From San Francisco, Butterfield stages departed each Monday and Thursday. The trip would take at least 22 days and sometimes up to 25 days to complete. The Butterfield southern mail service was discontinued upon the start of the Civil War, replaced by the Central Stage Route in 1861. The Butterfield operation was taken over by the Wells Fargo Co in 1866.

1859. New Mexico Territory created Arizona County from Doña Ana, within the Gadsden Purchase area of present Arizona south of the Gila River.

1860. Federal Census. New Mexico's population of 93,516 people was enumerated in areas of present southern Colorado, and all of present Arizona and New Mexico. Arizona's enumeration was in Arizona County, New Mexico Territory, including the few settlements just north of the Gila River; plus Fort Mojave on the Colorado

River, technically in New Mexico's Valencia County. Map Source: [Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920.](#)

1861. Confederate troops from Texas invaded and occupied New Mexico Territory, mostly the settlements along the Rio Grande Valley, but also as far west as Tucson.

1861. The **Territory of Colorado** was created by the U.S. Congress. New Mexico lost the northern-most parts of Taos and Mora counties to the new territory.

1861-1862. The **Confederate Territory of Arizona** was declared by the Confederate Congress with the capital at La Mesilla. The area of the Confederate Territory of Arizona was a southern swath of the original New Mexico Territory on a horizontal line running from Texas to California.

1862. April. **The battle of Velarde and Glorieta Pass** was fought to a stalemate, but soon after, the Confederate armies retreated from New Mexico, and the Confederate Territory of Arizona disappeared. However, Confederate troops did not leave Tucson until 1863.

1862. Arizona County, New Mexico Territory was abolished, its area returned to Doña Ana County.

1863. Arizona Territory was created by the U.S. Congress, with Prescott as the first capital. The area of New Mexico Territory was reduced to its present size and shape. Arizona Territory was created during the Civil War, and after the demise of the Confederate Territory of Arizona, the combined Confederate/Union area was managed by a military governor for two years. The northern boundary of Arizona Territory extended west to the California line, and included all of present Clark County, Nevada. When Congress divided New Mexico Territory on the same meridian as Colorado's western line, the resulting map created the "four corners" of Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico, the only point in the U.S. where four states meet at a quadripoint.

1870. Federal Census. New Mexico Territory's population was at 91,874.

1880. March. The **Southern Pacific Railroad** reached Tucson, Arizona Territory, completing the route from Los Angeles. The Southern Pacific had purchased a railroad running from the Atlantic Coast to Texas, and was now starting the connection from Arizona Territory to Texas.

1880. June. **Federal Census.** New Mexico Territory's population was at 119,565. After microfilming, the National Archives gave away the original 1880 census schedules for New Mexico Territory (3 vols.). In the 1950s, they were first located at the DAR Library in Washington, DC., but recent inventories there show the NM 1880 originals may have been later moved (to New Mexico?).

1881. October. With the completion of the leg from Tucson, Arizona Territory to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and on to Sierra Blanca, Texas, the **Southern Pacific Railroad** became the second transcontinental railroad.

1885. June. A New Mexico territorial census was taken with federal assistance, the only territorial or state census in New Mexico.

1912. Jan 6. **New Mexico** became the 47th state, with Santa Fe as the state capital.

Genealogy Website Links

	Website	Category	Type	Address
1	Fray Angelico Chavez Chapter	society	pay	http://www.facc-genealogy.weebly.com
2	FACC Facebook Group	research	free	https://www.facebook.com/groups/faccgsha/
3	Genealogical Society of Hispanic America	society	pay	http://www.gshaa.org
4	New Mexico Genealogical Society	society	pay	http://www.nmgs.org
5	Colorado Society of Hispanic Genealogy	society	pay	https://hispanicgen.org
6	Hispanic Genealogical Research Center	family tree	free	http://www.hgrc-nm.org/
7	NM Roots Ltd. - Diligencias Matrimoniales	records	free	https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/cswr_reference/5/
8	NM Prenuptial Investigations Durango 1760-1799	records	free	https://hispanicgen.org/
9	NM Prenuptial Investigations Durango 1800-1893	records	free	https://lib.nmsu.edu/archives/documents/ahadnmpi2.pdf If link does not open, copy and paste to browser and it will open in the browser.
10	FamilySearch	records	free	https://www.familysearch.org/
11	Links to Microfilms at FamilySearch.org	records	free	https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/3ca0f1_527977adf4924648a4c038af949562b5.pdf
12	Huerfano County Resources	records	free	http://www.kmitch.com/Huerfano/index.html
13	Tri County Obituary Project	records	free	http://www.kmitch.com/Pueblo/obits/obitindex.html
14	Ancestry.com	records	pay	http://www.ancestry.com/
15	Find A Grave	cemetery	free	http://www.findagrave.com/
16	Beyond Origins of NM Families	records	free	https://sites.google.com/site/beyondoriginsofnmfamilies/
17	Clues in Census Records	Information	free	https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1790-1840.html
18	1940 Census Website	census	free	https://1940census.archives.gov/
19	Free Pedigree Charts	charts	free	http://misbach.org/free-pdf-charts.html

20	Colorado Marriages 1858-1939	records	free	http://digital.denverlibrary.org/cdm/search/collection/p16079coll37
21	MyHeritage.com	family tree	pay	http://www.myheritage.com/
22	Geni.com	family tree	pay	http://www.geni.com/
23	Newspapers.com	newspapers	pay	http://www.newspapers.com/
24	Family Tree DNA	DNA testing	pay	http://www.familytreedna.com/
25	WikiTree	family tree	free	http://www.wikitree.com/
26	Fold3	records	pay	http://www.fold3.com/
27	Genealogy Bank	newspapers	pay	http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/
28	GEDmatch	DNA testing	free	http://gedmatch.com/
29	USGenWeb Archives	records	free	http://usgwarchives.net/
30	Daughters of American Revolution	society	pay	http://dar.org/
31	Newspaper Archive	newspapers	pay	http://www.newspaperarchive.com/
32	Cyndi's List	links	free	http://cyndislist.com/
33	Billion Graves	cemetery	free	http://billiongraves.com/
34	RootsMagic	software	pay	http://www.rootsmagic.com/
35	Genealogy Trails	records	free	http://genealogytrails.com/
36	First Families of Colorado	society	free	https://cocouncil.org/familyrecognition.html
37	Statue of Liberty Ellis Island	records	free	http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org
38	CLLARO	Society	Free	https://www.cllaro.org/directory/colorado-society-of-hispanic-genealogy