

# FACC Newsletter

Genealogical Society of Hispanic America

Sept 30, 2021

Volume 28 Issue 3

## Presentations

November—TBD  
December—TBD

### FACC Meetings Zoom

11:00—Speaker Intro and  
Presentation  
11:45—Q & A  
12:00—FACC General Member-  
ship Meeting

### In Person

8:30 am—Library/Research  
10 am—General Membership  
Meeting  
11 am—Speaker Presentation  
Pueblo Heritage Museum  
201 West B St., Pueblo, CO

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### Board of Directors

President—Phyllis Miranda  
Vice President—Joe Martinez  
Secretary—Kathy Pacheco  
Treasurer—Bob Craig

**Acting GSHA Representative**  
Bob Craig

**Newsletter Editor**  
Christina Quintana

### Board of Directors Meetings

Open to the Membership  
First Tuesday of the Month  
5 PM at Pueblo Heritage Museum  
201 West B Street, Pueblo, CO

## President's Message



Dear FACC Members,

FACC has had a very busy few months this summer! We have had some fantastic speakers and your Board of Directors has been busy preparing to provide our members with a hybrid meeting in person and on Zoom.

Our speakers during the last quarter were George Autobee speaking on the Autobee Dig in July, Justice Martin Gonzales speaking on the Maestas School Discrimination Case and History in August and Manuel Romero speaking on his book *Mi America: The Evolution of an American Family*. All of these presentations were fascinating and certainly sparks a renewed interest for me in the history of our ancestors.

I want to remind everyone about our on-going fund-raising using Amazon Smile. Just follow the steps below and AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to FACC at no extra cost to you.

How to use AmazonSmile on a web browser:

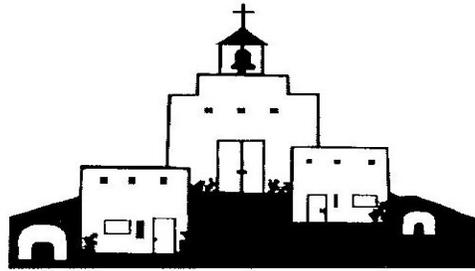
- Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)
  - Sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com
  - Select your charity, Fray Angelico Chavez Chapter Gsha-Pueblo
  - Start shopping! Remember to checkout at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to generate donations for FACC.
- Tip: Add a bookmark to make it easier to shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

Also, if you or anyone you know would like to do a presentation for FACC, please contact Joe Martinez, FACC Vice President, at [facc\\_vp@gshaa.org](mailto:facc_vp@gshaa.org). We love presentations by our members about their research and ancestors!

The Fray Angelico Chavez Chapter of GSHA is dedicated to helping our members discover, document, and share their Hispanic family history through education, support, and the knowledge of fellow members. We count on our members to keep our society going and to ensure that we meet our mission to promote Hispanic genealogy and historical research. Please reach out to me or any other board member if you can volunteer to assist us in any way.

Happy Family Tree Climbing!

Phyllis Miranda, FACC President



The Pueblo Heritage Museum staff has been busy during this past year streamlining and reorganizing the museum. They have asked us to take a critical look at our current display and make any changes we think would make it more current and visitor friendly.

The original group that created the current display did an outstanding job many years ago.

We have already received constructive input from Retired Judge Joe Ulibarri and his wife Juanita, Bill Trujillo (retired art teacher) , Retired Police Chief Ruben Archuleta, and Dr. Deborah Martinez Martinez (author and publisher).

In addition, the committee feels it is important to have input from other community sources. Deborah Espinosa, former Director of El Pueblo Museum met with the committee last week and the current Director of El Pueblo, Dianne Archuleta, has agreed to meet with the committee in the near future.

Committee members Tom Martinez ([tommartinez@gmail.com](mailto:tommartinez@gmail.com), 816-886-8629), Claudine Riccillo ([criccill@utep.edu](mailto:criccill@utep.edu), 719.676.2650), Mary Ellen Burciago ([mburciago@gmail.com](mailto:mburciago@gmail.com), 719-330-0704), and Connie Romero ([cromero618@aol.com](mailto:cromero618@aol.com), 505.670.8804) will be prepared to hear any input/comments you would like to offer via email or phone calls. We hope to begin planning the new exhibit in November with the final project completed in 2022.

<p><b>FACC ZOOM PRESENTATIONS</b>          2nd Saturday each month...11 am          Click on link in your email  <b>FREE for members</b></p>	<p><b>FACC LIBRARY</b>  <b>MAKE APPOINTMENT</b>          CALL  <b>TOM MARTINEZ</b>  <b>816-886-8629</b></p>	<p><b>FACC Website:</b>  <a href="https://facc-genealogy.weebly.com">https://facc-genealogy.weebly.com</a>  <b>FACC Facebook:</b>  <a href="https://facebook.com/groups/faccgsha">https://facebook.com/groups/faccgsha</a>  <b>GSHA website:</b>  <a href="https://gsha.org">https://gsha.org</a></p>
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**Fray Angelico Chavez Chapter  
Genealogical Society of Hispanic America**

**Cash Flow Statement**

**General Fund**

**07/01/2021 to 09/30/2021**

**Cash Flow In**

<b>Membership Paypal</b>	<b>\$ 231.69</b>
<b>Amazon donation</b>	<b>\$ 16.48</b>
<b>Savings interest</b>	<b>\$ 0.67</b>
	<b>\$ 248.84</b>

**Cash Flow Out    Honorarium**

**\$ 50.00**

**\$ 50.00**

<b>Beginning balance 07/01/2021</b>	<b>\$ 550.00</b>
<b>Library user fees</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Fines</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Purchases</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Ending balance 09/30/2021</b>	<b><u>\$ 550.00</u></b>

**Library Fund**

**per February 2012 BOD and Membership  
vote, Library fund shall begin with a budget  
of \$500.00, for new calendar year.**

**Bank Balance as of 09/30/2021**

<b>General fund</b>	<b>\$ 2,823.76</b>
<b>Raffle</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Savings</b>	<b>\$ 9,063.78</b>

**Total \$ 11,887.54**

**Bob Craig**

**Treasurer**

**9/30/2021**



## FACC Library

As most of you know, the FACC library was moved to my home due to the Covid-19 pandemic back in early 2020. Many of you have still been able to check out items from the library just by giving me a call and setting up a day and time to access the library.

It now looks like the library will be transferred back to the cabinets in the Pueblo Heritage Museum in time for the January 8, 2022 general meeting. That is only if we are once again meeting in person at the museum.

We had our first meeting in person on October 9. There were 16 people in person and about 25 people on Zoom, all listening to Rob Martinez presentation from Albuquerque, NM.

If the pandemic continues to subside and as long as everyone who attends the next meeting in November is vaccinated and is wearing a face mask, we should be able to have the library back to normal operation and be able to browse, check out and return items at our general meetings (8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.).

In November, we will be conducting an inventory of the library. If you have books checked out, please bring them to my home on or before the November general meeting (Nov. 13).

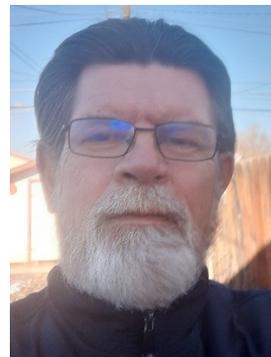
Tom J. Martinez

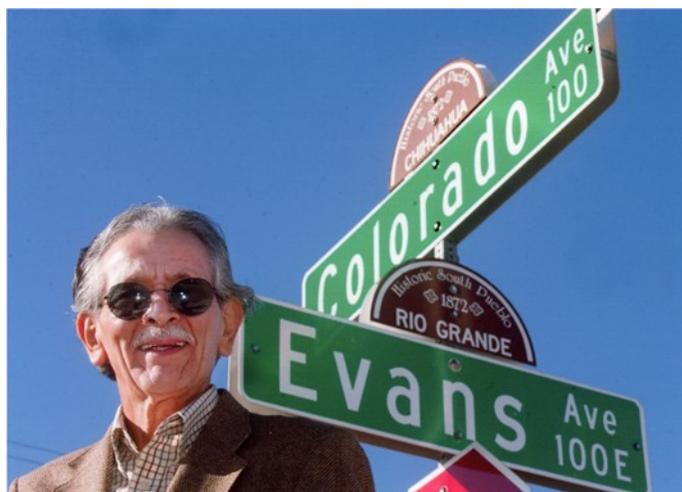
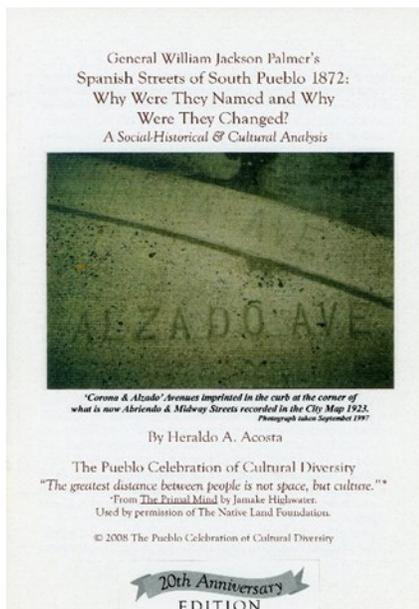
FACC Librarian

Greetings FACC members,

All good things must come to an end, but not yet. June 2020, I volunteered to grow my beard, as a fundraiser, until we met again in person. I do not think any of us anticipated that it would be 18 months before we met again in person. I must confess that I had never grown my beard for that long of time, subsequently I have trimmed it on occasion, I was starting to look like Yosemite Sam, and it was being very unruly. But I have decided to continue growing until the end of the year and I will shaved it off at the January 2022 membership meeting. To date we have raised \$750.00, our goal is \$1000.00. So, you still have time to donate to FACC, your donation would be appreciated.

Please mail to FACC, PO Box 3027, Pueblo, CO 81005 by December 2021.





Project to Acknowledgment 1872 Spanish Street Signs of South Pueblo is Twenty-years-old  
By Charlene Garcia Simms

It's hard to believe that it's been twenty years since I was president of the Fray Angelico Chavez chapter of our national genealogical society (GSHA), and Heraldo Acosta came to us to ask for a letter of support to place historical signs throughout Mesa Junction, South Pueblo and the Bluffs (near the library).

When this area was first developed in 1872, the streets had Spanish names, and Heraldo felt their history and physical reminder was important to show the ethnic presence that was once early Pueblo. The new historic signs he was proposing were not to replace the modern signs or change the street names, but they were to become part of a designated historical signage area. Rustic signs would be placed to reflect what the streets were first named and become part of Pueblo's community memory.

Heraldo became a one-man army in his quest to get this done because it took many meetings with county and city officials to make them realize the importance of historical signs to allow the past to speak to the present. It also took a lot of fundraising through grants and other pockets of money to get them done.

Heraldo feels there were several reasons for the change of street names from Spanish to English including: (1) It was a way to show disapproval towards General William Palmer's decision to build his Denver and Rio Grande Railroad in South Pueblo and bypass Pueblo and go south with his plans to extend his railroad to Mexico. (2) The influence of U. S newspapers, including the Colorado Chieftain, publishing generalizations, negative stereotypes and name calling they had of Mexicans and Mexican Americans. (3) the Inherent cultural differences between Mexicans and Anglo-Americans before and long after the 1846-1848 U. S. and Mexican War.

Heraldo states, "The reappearance of the original Spanish street signs not only celebrate extraordinary moments in history, but also is instrumental in their reification. Meritoriously, they introduce an authorized story of Pueblo history into ordinary settings of everyday life. In their capacity, both as an historical reference and as spatial designations, they provide for the conflation of Pueblo history and geography."

Today, people from Pueblo take great pride when they see these beautiful brown, stylish signs on so many street corners and the history is visually told that Washington Street was once Zotula, Jefferson was Tampico, Madison was Moctezuma, Lake was Guanajuato, Michigan was Guadalajara, Broadway was Albuquerque, and so on. City Ordinance 18, passed on April 14, 1886 on the Mesa is what changed the names. On May 12, 1931 City Ordinance 1291, in the area known as the Blocks, changed those names such as: El Paso became South Union and Entrado became Idaho.

In addition to finding the funds to complete the project which took several years, Heraldo wrote a booklet about a lost history. The title of the book is "General William Jackson Palmer's Spanish Streets of South Pueblo 1872: Why Were They Named and Why Were They Changed? A Social-Historical and Cultural Analysis." Congratulations and thank-you, Heraldo, for all your hard work that continues to preserve our Hispanic/Mexican heritage in Pueblo. Heraldo is a past president of FACC and may be reached at [wblks.1872@gmail.com](mailto:wblks.1872@gmail.com).

## Old Handwriting

### By Phyllis Miranda

I love all the images of original Spanish records we have access to on web sites like FamilySearch. But reading old handwriting can be challenging. I just spent 3 hours translating and transcribing a Spanish marriage record. It was tricky because I don't speak, read, or understand much of the Spanish language. Additionally, the handwriting was difficult to read due to ink splashes, abbreviations, swirls and curlicues and the way letters were written in the 1800s. In case you have the same troubles as I do, or just need some help with a few old handwriting alphabet letters, here is a list of some websites and books you may find useful.

#### Selected Internet Sites

BYU Script Tutorials (<https://script.byu.edu/Pages/home.aspx>)

Cyndi's List, Handwriting & Script ([www.cyndislist.com/handwrit.htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/handwrit.htm))

Early-Modern Palaeography (<http://paleo.anglo-norman.org/empfram.html>) FamilySearch Learning Center (<https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html>)

How to Read a Document ([www.earlyamerica.com/read-document](http://www.earlyamerica.com/read-document)) How to Read 18th Century British-American Writing

([http://dohistory.org/on\\_your\\_own/toolkit/writing.html](http://dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/writing.html))

How to Read Old Handwriting ([www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/how-to-read-old-handwriting-page1.html](http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/how-to-read-old-handwriting-page1.html))

How to Read Old Handwriting ([www.wikihow.com/Read-Old-Handwriting](http://www.wikihow.com/Read-Old-Handwriting))

Introduction to Collecting Vellum Indentures ([www.historicpages.com/texts/velhist.htm](http://www.historicpages.com/texts/velhist.htm)) Murray, Sabina J. Deciphering Old Handwriting ([www.amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/oldhand.html](http://www.amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/oldhand.html))

Newberry Library, Chicago: Paleography ([www.newberry.org/paleography](http://www.newberry.org/paleography))

Old English Handwriting Helps (Family History Research Wiki)

([https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Old\\_English\\_Handwriting\\_Helps](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Old_English_Handwriting_Helps))

Quill Pen (<http://medievalwriting.50megs.com/tools/quill.htm>)

Reading Old Handwriting (<http://genealogy.about.com/od/paleography/tp/examples.htm>) Reading Old Handwriting ([www.moonzstuff.com/articles/oldhandwriting.html](http://www.moonzstuff.com/articles/oldhandwriting.html))

Sperry, Kip. Guidelines for Reading Old Documents ([www.genealogy.com/genealogy/68\\_sperry.html](http://www.genealogy.com/genealogy/68_sperry.html))

Tips for Reading Old Handwriting

([www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Tips for Reading Old Handwriting](http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Tips_for_Reading_Old_Handwriting)) Trails of Hope: Overland Diaries and Letters (BYU) (<http://overlandtrails.lib.byu.edu>) UK National Archives: Palaeography ([www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography))

## Old Handwriting (continued)

### Paleography: Tips for Reading Old Handwriting: Selected Bibliography

Bailey, Kent P., and Ransom B. True. *A Guide to Seventeenth-Century Virginia Court*

*Handwriting*. Richmond: Assoc. for the Preservation of Va. Antiquities, 1980. Barrett, John and David Iredale. *Discovering Old Handwriting*. Shire Publications, 2001. Bolton, Charles Knowles. "Colonial Handwriting." *Essex Antiquarian* (1897): 175–76. Drake, Paul. *What Did They Mean by That?: A Dictionary of Historical Terms for*

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Logan, UT: Everton Publishers, 1973

Marshall, Hilary. *Palaeography for Family and Local Historians*. Phillimore, 2004. McLaughlin, Eve. *Reading Old Handwriting*. 4th ed. The author, 2007.

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Myrick, Shelby, Jr., comp. *Glossary of Legal Terminology: An Aid to Genealogists*.

Technical Leaflet 55. Nashville: American Assoc. for State and Local, 1970. Newton, K.C. *Mediaeval Local Records: A Reading Aid*. 1971.

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Rushen, Percy Charles. *The Genealogist's Legal Dictionary*. C.A. Bernau, 1909. Sperry, Kip. *Abbreviations & Acronyms: A Guide for Family Historians*. 2nd rev. ed. Provo, UT: Ancestry, 2003.

———. *Reading Early American Handwriting*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1998. ———. *Reading Early American Handwriting*. Hurricane, UT: The Studio, 2001. Video. ———. "Reading Early American Handwriting." *National Genealogical Society Newsletter*

25 (September/October 1999): 234–35.

Stryker-Rodda, Harriet. *Understanding Colonial Handwriting*. Baltimore: GPC, 1986. Stuart, Denis. *Latin for Local and Family Historians*. Phillimore, 1995.

Thoyts, E. E. *How to Decipher and Study Old Documents*. London: Elliot Stock, 1893. Yeandle, Laetitia. "The Evolution of Handwriting in the English-Speaking Colonies of America." *The American Archivist* 43 (Summer 1980): 294–311.



### **Rosemary Aguilar, Our Prayer Warrior**

**By Charlene Garcia Simms**

As many of you have done this year, I have also cried a river with all the losses we have had and here we have another. When Carolyn Cordova told me we had now lost Rosemary Aguilar, *se me cayeron las allas*, as my grandmother, Carlota, would say. I felt as if all my spirit spiraled to the ground.

Rosemary was the wife of my cousin Eddie Aguilar. I am sure many of you remember him and his funny sayings. Each time I saw him at our meetings, he would say, *ven aca prima*. And he would whisper the funniest Spanish saying in my ear or he would say, *te acuerdas cuando* (do you remember when). Our ancestors came from Garcia, right on the state line of Colorado and New Mexico. His grandmother Emilia Cordova Aguilar Quintana was the sister to my great grandmother Nemecia Cordova, making Eddie and I second cousins once removed. Rosemary and Eddie were the ideal couple. She grew up in Gardner, moved to Colorado Springs, and “fell in love with a man who had stars and menus in his eyes.” The word “menus” remind us that they opened up *El Taco Rey* in 1976 in downtown Colorado Springs. If you went there at noon the line was a mile long. They made the best chicken tacos on white and most of you probably remember her dozens of tamales she would bring for our Christmas parties. Eddie and Rosemary made me smile the minute they came in the room. She had the best hugs, I just wanted to stay in her arms because I felt safe and she had the fragrance of the gentlest of rain, my grandmother’s smile and an aura of kindness that surrounded her. I can just imagine what comfort she brought to so many children when she was a teacher’s aide. I smile as I know she is in heaven with her best friend, my primo and her loving husband Edumenio (Eddie). She is survived by her children, Edith Foster (Robert), Danny (Carolina), Louella, Diana Vigil (Les), Judy Allen and Jana Mitchell, thirteen grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren, numerous nephews and nieces and friends galore including those from FACC and GSHA. Rest in peace, our dear and beloved Rosemary.

If you have an item of interest you would like to see published in our newsletter, send your submissions to Christina Quintana either by email: [chrismq@pacbell.net](mailto:chrismq@pacbell.net) or by regular mail: P.O. Box 927069, San Diego, CA 92192-7096. Items of interest would be family pedigree charts, family history stories, pictures of your ancestors, articles about your re-

# *In Memoria*

Rosemary Barela Aguilar

September 20, 2021

Richard Charlifue

October 06, 2021

Eloy Barcelon Arellano

October 06, 2021

Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow;  
I am the diamond glints on the snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain;  
I am the gentle autumn's rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft star that shines at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry.  
I am not there; I did not die.





1. Go to <https://zoom.us>
2. Then download the Zoom app to your device. Here is a link to a video showing you how to download the Zoom app: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsy2Ph6kSf8&feature=emb\\_rel\\_end](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsy2Ph6kSf8&feature=emb_rel_end)
3. Here is a video showing you how to join a meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

You will receive an invitation to our FACC meeting through an email. A few minutes before the meeting, go to the email and click on the link to the meeting and follow the instructions, however, ignore the message that tells you to download the Zoom app if you already have it downloaded. Once you get in you will be placed in a Waiting Room. We will see who is in the Waiting Room and let you in to the meeting.

**IMPORTANT:** We will set up the meeting with your microphone muted, so please do not unmute your microphone. Muting everyone except the administrators and the presenter will keep background talk from ruining the presentation. At the end of the meeting you can use the Chat button to write in any questions you may have for the presenter.

One last thing. Some desktop computers do not have a camera and/or a microphone, which may not allow you to set up the program. Other than that, it's really pretty easy. Let's see if we can have a lot more than 29 people join our next Zoom meeting.

Ángel de Cervantes is offering zoom lectures over the coming weeks. If you enjoy learning about history and DNA, and the impact events made on the lives of our ancestors, please join these very informative lectures from the comfort of your own homes.

Here are a few of the topics that will be scheduled in the coming months. For information, please contact Ángel de Cervantes at [angelcervantes@gmail.com](mailto:angelcervantes@gmail.com) for dates and times. It will be well worth your time.

The Villa de Albuquerque (1706-1821)

Spanish Castas, DNA and Identity

The Cautivo System through DNA & its impact on the New Mexico colony

The Spanish Colonization of Baja California & the Camino Real

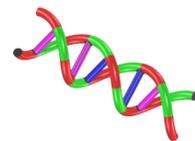
The Anza Expedition (1775-1776)

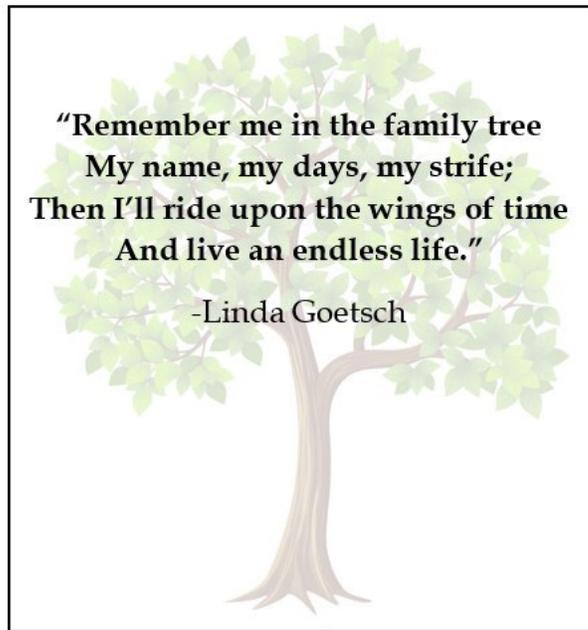
The Founding of California (Spain's & Russia's Connection)

The American Conquest of California: John C. Fremont

The San Patricios & The Mexican-American War

The Real Zorro: Who was Joaquin Murrieta? (Identity in the 19th Century Southwest)





### Family Tree Relationship Chart

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	<b>Common Ancestor</b>	<b>Child</b>	<b>Grandchild</b>	<b>Great Grandchild</b>	<b>2nd Great Grandchild</b>	<b>3rd Great Grandchild</b>	<b>4th Great Grandchild</b>	<b>5th Great Grandchild</b>	<b>6th Great Grandchild</b>	<b>7th Great Grandchild</b>
2	<b>Child</b>	brother or sister	nephew or niece	grand nephew or niece	great grand nephew or niece	2X great grand nephew or niece	3X great grand nephew or niece	4X great grand nephew or niece	5X great grand nephew or niece	6X great grand nephew or niece
3	<b>Grandchild</b>	nephew or niece	first cousin	first cousin once removed	first cousin twice removed	first cousin 3X removed	first cousin 4X removed	first cousin 5X removed	first cousin 6X removed	first cousin 7X removed
4	<b>Great Grandchild</b>	grand nephew or niece	first cousin once removed	second cousin	second cousin once removed	second cousin twice removed	second cousin 3X removed	second cousin 4X removed	second cousin 5X removed	second cousin 6X removed
5	<b>2nd Great Grandchild</b>	great grand nephew or niece	first cousin twice removed	second cousin once removed	third cousin	third cousin once removed	third cousin twice removed	third cousin 3X removed	third cousin 4X removed	third cousin 5X removed
6	<b>3rd Great Grandchild</b>	2X great grand nephew or niece	first cousin 3X removed	second cousin twice removed	third cousin once removed	fourth cousin	fourth cousin once removed	fourth cousin twice removed	fourth cousin 3X removed	fourth cousin 4X removed
7	<b>4th Great Grandchild</b>	3X great grand nephew or niece	first cousin 4X removed	second cousin 3X removed	third cousin twice removed	fourth cousin once removed	fifth cousin	fifth cousin once removed	fifth cousin twice removed	fifth cousin 3X removed
8	<b>5th Great Grandchild</b>	4X great grand nephew or niece	first cousin 5X removed	second cousin 4X removed	third cousin 3X removed	fourth cousin twice removed	fifth cousin once removed	sixth cousin	sixth cousin once removed	sixth cousin twice removed
9	<b>6th Great Grandchild</b>	5X great grand nephew or niece	first cousin 6X removed	second cousin 5X removed	third cousin 4X removed	fourth cousin 3X removed	fifth cousin twice removed	sixth cousin once removed	seventh cousin	seventh cousin once removed
10	<b>7th Great Grandchild</b>	6X great grand nephew or niece	first cousin 7X removed	second cousin 6X removed	third cousin 5X removed	fourth cousin 4X removed	fifth cousin 3X removed	sixth cousin twice removed	seventh cousin once removed	eighth cousin

Compliments of GenealogyInTime Magazine [www.genealogyintime.com](http://www.genealogyintime.com)



## Introducing Your Newsletter Editor: Christina Quintana

Allow me introduce myself as your editor for the FACC newsletter. I was born in La Veta, Colorado, the daughter of Fermin Quintana and Dora Rodriguez. I left Colorado in 1967 and have lived on the west coast since then. I retired from AT&T after 33 years as an engineering space planner for central switching offices in San Diego and Imperial Counties in 2009. I currently live in San Diego and miss the snow and seasons in Colorado.

I started my genealogic journey back in the early 1980s when my father, Fermin Quintana, told me stories about the Quintana/Roybal trek into the Sand Arroyo area from the Las Vegas, New Mexico area. On my paternal side I am the great granddaughter of Jose de Jesus Quintana and Maria de Los Dolores Arellano who came to Colorado in the late 1870s. My grandfather, Jeronimo Quintana then married Juanita Roybal in Colorado. My father, Fermin Quintana, one of 7 children, was born in Colorado. He married Dora Rodriguez and I am their daughter, one of 5 children.

I am a Colorado Territorial Daughter as my maternal great-great grandparents, Antonio D. Bela and Victoria Chavez Bela with infant son, Manuel migrated from Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1862 and settled in the La Veta Pass area. That same year Manuel Bela was baptized in St. Mary Catholic Church in Walsenburg. I am the great grand daughter of Manuel Bela and Maria Rosario Gomez whose daughter, Victoria Bela married Toribio de Jesus Rodriguez. My mother, Dora Rodriguez was one of 10 children born to that union.

My roots are deep in Colorado and New Mexico as many of my ancestors came from New Mexico into Southern Colorado onto land grants that promised new futures for the families.

On both sides of the family tree there is a strong tradition of railroaders and farmers. I am interested in ancestry and the ancestors who have made me who I am.



The Huajatollas also known as the Spanish Peaks. Paradise enough for me.