

FACC Newsletter

Genealogical Society of Hispanic America Volume 25, Issue 2

President's Message

Dear FACC Members,

Spring has sprung as FACC has entered into its second quarter this year. As always I wish all our members health and happiness. Our organization continues to move forward providing abundant opportunities to learn more in the area of genealogy. This quarter we have listened to a presentation made by retired educator, Gloria Mora, author of "Mis Crismes." She shared her family history and culture growing up in La Puente, NM and her book was written in three languages: contemporary Spanish, 16th century Spanish and English.

FACC took a field trip to El Pueblo History Museum to visit the exhibit highlighting the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. This was an excellent review of our rights guaranteed by this treaty with the USA to retain our language, culture and land.

In May, Ron Sandoval and Fidel Vigil gave an interesting historical overview of the Walsenburg and La Veta areas. We learned much about the Vigil, Valdez and Espinoza families in this area as well as about survival, *ciboleros*, ranching and coal mining.

Many FACC members also attended the Family Heritage Day in Las Vegas, NM where a celebration of the Martinez Family helped many of us who are descendants of Hernan Martin Serrano and Doña Ines learn more about who we are.

It is with sadness in my heart that I share the loss of one of our most active and dear members, Virginia Santistevan, who has passed to the other side.

As we move into this third quarter, we have much planned. FACC will be sponsoring a fundraising trip to Cripple Creek on September 29 and of course, our annual FACC picnic in August is almost here. Most importantly, get your registrations in for our GSHA Conference, Aug. 17-19.

Many thanks to Nick Herrera who provides snacks for our monthly meetings and to all FACC members who contribute to making our organization a great success.

Un Abrazo Fuerte,
Carmen Arteaga, FACC President



Speakers

July 14 - Marcus Flores, "The New Mexico State Archives"
August 11– Picnic, City Park
Sept. 8 – Anthony Garcia, author The Portal of Light

FACC Meetings
8:30-10 am – Library, research, fellowship, refreshments.
10-11 am – Meeting.
11-12 pm – Speaker.
Location: Pueblo Heritage Museum: 201 West B St, Pueblo, CO

President – Carmen Arteaga
Vice-President – John Valdez
Secretary – Lynda Sena Kouba
Treasurer – Bob Craig (seeking new volunteer)
Members-at-large:
Tom Martinez
Ron Sandoval
Victor Sena
Rita Gonzales
GSHA Representative:
Mary Ellen Burciago

Family Heritage Day Celebrating the Martinez Family of NM

By Carmen Arteaga

FACC members (Carmen Arteaga, Charlene Garcia Simms, Lynda Kouba, Jeanette Martinez, Tom Martinez, Gloria Martinez, Connie Romero and Victor Sena) met on June 15th at Highlands University in Las Vegas, NM to learn more about who we are descended from. Henrietta Martinez, President of NMGS, gave a presentation on her trip following El Camino Real or *La Ruta de Oñate* as it is called in Mexico. She took us on the same journey as our ancestors beginning in Mexico and ending in San Juan de los Caballeros in what is now NM. We travelled through Zacatecas, Durango, Cerro Gordo and we learned about the soldiers on this journey: Juan de Oñate, Francisco Ibarra, Juan Zaldivar and Juan Tolosa de Banuelos who are all Basques. Of course Hernan Martin Serrano was on this same *camino* and was a soldier following the above mentioned leaders. She emphasized that people travelled up and down El Camino Real for business, education and to visit family.

Rob Martinez, Deputy State Historian, stated in his presentation that New Mexico was named after Mexico City. He went on that Hernan Martin Serrano was born in 1558 in Zacatecas and no one can say where his father was from as no evidence exists. Hernan was a *sargento mayor* of the Oñate Expedition and Oñate had a contract with the King of Spain to come to NM.

There were many other presentations by Martinez descendants. We even took a field trip to Fort Union which has become a national park and we hiked the grounds, watched Native American dancers and ate buffalo for dinner. We all truly had a wonderful and educational experience and met so many more *primos* to add to our family tree.



FACC members attend the June conference in Las Vegas, NM. Top left: Ft. Union. Bottom left: Charlie's Spic 'n Span Las Vegas. Above: NM volunteers 3500 in Civil War.

**FACC Cripple Creek Fundraiser
(Fall Festival – Battle of the Bands)**

**September 29, 2018
8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Meet at Kmart on Northside**

**\$25 each person
(If you purchase a ticket, you will receive a
FREE \$10 meal voucher plus \$20 coupon to
gamble.)**

Treasurer's Report

By Bob Craig 4-1-2018 thru 6-30-2018

Operating

Income	\$489.00
Expenses	<u>\$(918.34)</u>
	\$(429.34)

Raffle

Income	\$ 96.00
Expenses	<u>\$(133.11)</u>
	\$(37.11)

Note: No May raffle. Meeting at El Pueblo
Email akdcraig@aol.com for details

Account Balances as of June 30, -2018

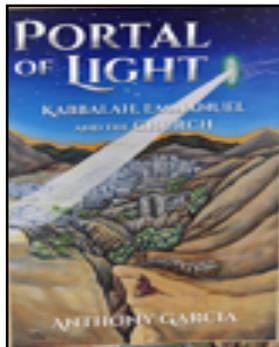
Operating	\$1769.32
Raffle	\$ 46.55
Savings	<u>\$5236.42</u>
Total	<u>\$7054.29</u>

Speakers for Third Quarter

From John Valdez, Vice-president. Programs begin at 11 am.

July 14, 2018

Marcus Flores, Archivist at Santa Fe, New Mexico Archives. Are your ancestors hiding in the archives? There are many resources in an archive that can be extremely useful in genealogical research. If you have ancestors from New Mexico, then visiting the State Archives of New Mexico should be one of your stops in your genealogical search. Marcus Flores, Archivist at SANM, will describe collections and resources that are useful for genealogical research, as well as information about what to expect when visiting the archives. Some of the collections/resources that will be covered are county records which include probate and deed records, district court records, the Spanish/Mexican/Territorial Archives of New Mexico and the Archives of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe (AASF).



August 11, 2018

FACC Annual Picnic, Pueblo City Park, from noon to 4:00 p.m. Gloria Mora, author of Mis Crismes 1956, will have her books available for sale at the picnic.

September 8, 2018

Anthony Garcia, author. Anthony is a native Coloradan with family roots in Northern New Mexico. He has earned Masters and Bachelor degrees from the University of Colorado. "Garcia listened to Alabados as a child. The lyrics and genre always piqued his interest—a focus ultimately responsible for his lifelong study. He is author of the historic www.Alabados.com website."

Garcia's book The Portal of Light (www.ThePortalLight.com) is the story of the cryptic Jews from New Mexico and Colorado and it was warmly received due its sharing of both cryptic and Kaballah history of this community. The Portal of Light is a finalist for the New Mexico Book Association for the Religion category. In the fall of 2016, Sacred Lives, Twin Sun, also by Garcia, was released.

Book Review

by Deborah Martinez Martinez

[Their Lives Their Wills: Women in the Borderlands, 1750-1846](#) by Amy M. Porter published by Texas Tech University Press, 2015.

Wills of women on the borderlands from 1750 through 1848 reveal as much a story about their lives and interactions as about their holdings, relationships, and property. Wills are primary documents that affirm the marriages, lineage, and offspring of alliances. The author, Amy M. Porter, is an associate professor of history at Texas A & M University—San Antonio where she teaches courses on early America, women, and Texas.

Women's wills suggest women ran business operations such as cattle, sheep, orchards, fields, and money lending. Although it was more

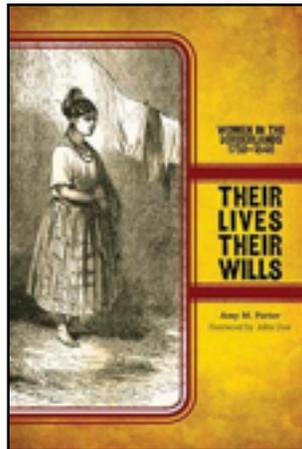
common for men to owe men a debt of money, 15 per cent of men owed women money and 22 per cent of women owed women money.

Through Porter, 221 women's wills reveal details about religion, family, and economics in Santa Fe, El Paso, San Antonio, Saltillo, and San Esteban. She located these documents at:

- New Mexico State Records Center and Archives in Santa Fe,
- the Saltillo Municipal Archives,
- the Spanish Archives at the Bexar County Courthouse,
- the Texana Room at the San Antonio Public Library,
- the University of Texas at El Paso Library, Degolyer Library at SMU.

Porter references two articles in *Nuestras Raices* (Rick Hendricks, Winter 1994: 161-167) that list El Paso wills on microfilm.

Wills follow a template from Spanish law and serve to verify the legal marriage of the woman, the birth of her legal heirs or recognition of other heirs. The format also lists her parents, the date of the marriage, the dowry or other property brought into the marriage which, by law, remained the property of the woman. Community property



laws meant that men and women shared everything equally that they accumulated during a marriage.

Even though most of the women did not sign their names, they were knowledgeable about their property and holdings. One woman left one hour of water to the church to have Mass said on a regular basis. In some communities, there does not seem to be pressure to remarry.

The book is available for checkout at the Western Research (third floor) of the Pueblo City-County Rawlings Library.

A Moment for Members Who Have Passed....

by Penny Garcia

Gilbert LeFebre (Christina)
 Pat Archuleta
 Virginia Santistevan (Abel)
 Gloria Cordova, Los Alamos, NM
 Alfred Salazar (Alfie)
 Ben Duran (Betty)
 Dorsey Templeton (Joann Peralta)
 Dolores Rodriguez (Ruben)
 Betty Cummings (Tom)
 Ferman Pacheco
 Lucia Aragon (Robert)
 Lori and Joe Barela
 Eddie Aguilar, Colo Springs
 Edeumenio Aguilar (Rosemarie)

FACC Website: <http://facc-genealogy.weebly.com/>

FACC Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/faccgsha/>

GSHA: <http://www.gsha.net/>

FACC President Carmen Arteaga email
carmen.arteaga@hotmail.com

Contact Newsletter Editor
 Deborah Martinez Martinez, 719-561-0993
 Email: VanishingHorizons1@me.com
 Articles and Suggestions Welcome

Board of Directors Meetings:
 Open to the Membership
 First Tuesday of the Month, 5 pm at Pueblo Heritage Museum, 201 W. B St., Pueblo, CO

Remembering Virginia

by Mary Ellen Burciago

**“Say not in grief she is no more -
but live in thankfulness that she was.”**

Hebrew Proverb

Virginia Martinez Santistevan was born on April 25, 1944 and died in Pueblo, CO on March 31, 2018. Virginia's life was not always easy, but she embraced it with a great positive attitude and cheerfulness. Her parents, Fred Martinez and Lucy Apodaca were not able to raise her so her Grandmother Maria Aragon took on that job so successfully, that Virginia called her 'my mother.' During her pre-teen years, Virginia worked the Pueblo fields to make money to help cover her living expenses. She talked about crops being dusted with chemicals as her crew worked and wondered if that might have been a cause of her health problems later in her life. She married the love of her life, Abel Santistevan, in 1964.

Virginia became an excellent mother to Abel, Jr., Maria, Christina and Christopher. After her children were more independent, she joined the workforce in a variety of positions: a cook for the Pueblo Soup Kitchen, as an Enumeration Team Leader for the U.S. Census, as a telemarketer, a cook in District 70 schools, and a security officer in a department store.

As her husband of 54 years, Abel was always proud of Virginia's accomplishments and her dedication to him and their family. He remembers a time when hail ruined their roof. He took on the reroofing job and, without him asking, there was Virginia, right alongside him, helping until the roof was done. His memory may not be

romantic in some people's minds, but for Abel, it is a cherished remembrance symbolizing how unselfish and loving she was and the perfect life partner for him.

Virginia and Abel joined FACC in 1991 and with Lucy Gettler and Juanita Ulibarri, the four organized the library and set up a book check out system. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to them.

Richard Arellano recalls that she was always one of the first people to help with any project taken on by FACC, including cleaning at the Pueblo Heritage Center to build 'sweat equity' to help pay for the organization's rent. He remembers her work on table decorations for GSHA and FACC events. Vicky Arellano remembers the lovely and delicious cakes that Virginia baked each month to celebrate FACC members' birthdays and to raffle off as a fund raiser. She remembers Virginia doing this until recent years when she became too ill to do so.

Virginia and Alfie Salazar performed plays such as 'El Piojo y La Liendre.' What a wonderful sense of humor these two brought to FACC. Many FACC members recall Virginia, Alfie Salazar and Eleanor Valdez dressed as Hispanic frontier señoras, presenting the Heritage Center's Spanish Trunk to area students. They made the history of early Hispanic settlers in the Southwest come alive.

I also witnessed a few occasions when Virginia did not agree with some issue within the FACC membership. Sticking to the issue, never striking out at individuals, she spoke clearly and without rancor making salient points. I don't remember the position she took but I admired that she spoke her mind so effectively.

Everyone has their own special memories of Virginia. They paint a picture of a person of great integrity, kindness, and good deeds. How fortunate we were to have Virginia as a colleague and friend.



"...The things we do are the most important things of all. They are more important than what we say or what we look like. The things we do outlast our mortality. The things we do are like monuments that people build to honour heroes after they've died. They're like the pyramids that the Egyptians built to honour the Pharaohs. Only instead of being made out of stone, they're made out of the memories people have of you. That's why your deeds are like your monuments. Built with memories instead of with stone."

— R.J. Palacio

A Story of Language

by Mary Ellen Burciago

A story of language, customs, relationships and family love, *Mis Crismes* is a memoir of an Hispanic family in La Puente, New Mexico, (take a right at Tierra Amarilla) celebrating Christmas in 1956. It is told through the voice of seven-year-old Gloria Mora.

As an adult, Gloria wanted to document her experiences for her own children and grandchildren. She did so in the Spanish dialect of her small isolated village. Being the consummate teacher, she also translated her dialect of the Tierra Amarilla area into English and modern day Spanish. All three language versions appear alongside each other on every page.

Gloria regaled the FACC group with her memories growing up. When she left La Puente in 1966, her grandparents still had no electricity, no indoor plumbing, no TV, and no businesses existed in the village. She does remember clearly the *morada*, the church, and the other fourteen families that populated her world. The only news received of the outside world was a monthly newspaper which detailed only local village happenings. Not much news from events in the larger were known to La Puente residents.

Before school she had many chores: starting the fire in the kitchen, chopping wood for the day, feeding and watering the horses and pigs, and feeding and milking the cows. Her lunch on most days was a jar of beans with a requisite spoon in her pocket. Gloria helped her grandparents prepare for winter by making adobe bricks, drying corn (chicos), chili, *quelites*, fruit, and herbs.

Today, as a mother, grandmother, and retired educator, she says, "Knowing our history and culture helps us build a sense of belonging." Gloria Mora's presentation was given with sincere joy and a sense of immense authenticity. She will be available at the August Picnic for a book signing of *Mis Crismes*.



YOUR History Collection

By Deborah Martinez Martinez

Genealogists may benefit from knowing the role of museums, archives, libraries and others in the preservation of diaries, speeches, ephemera, newspapers, photos, artifacts and other documents. In an effort to bring a broader light to the many services offered in the area for personal archiving support and potential repository, I hope to have some information from time to time.

Did you know the CD that holds all your genealogy records, family photos, and copies of documents will only last 20 years? You will have to copy that disc to a new disc or to a new generation of digital storage within 20 years or lose it. But fear not.

The Pueblo City-County Library was one of seven grant recipients from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for creating a Do-It-Yourself place for personal digital archiving. This "place" in the Rawlins library will provide scanners and other equipment to create digital copies from negatives, slides, old photos, VHS tapes, documents to digital storage (CD) supplied by the user. Open reel film and 8-inch floppy discs are not included at this time according to Blake Hatton, Digitization Coordinator.

To reserve a space for three hours, users must attend an orientation to familiarize them with the equipment. Although the Digital Lab opens in September, Blake is scheduling orientation sessions throughout July and August. Look for the dates in the Library's Newsletter or call Blake Hatton at 719-562-5626.