

# FACC Newsletter

Genealogical Society of Hispanic America

September 30, 2019

Volume 26, Issue 3

## Speakers

Oct. 12 Halloween Party  
Costume Contest  
"COCO"/movie

Nov. 16 Tom Martinez -  
Stories From My  
Family Tree

Dec. 14 Xmas Party  
American Legion in  
Blend at noon

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## FACC Meetings

8:30-10 am — Library/research

10-11 am — Meeting

11-12 pm — Speaker

Location-

Pueblo Heritage Museum  
201 West B St, Pueblo, CO

## BOD Meetings

First Tues. of the Month 3:30  
pm at Heritage Museum

## Research

First Tues. of the Month 11-3  
pm at Heritage Museum

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President — Carmen Arteaga  
719-671-4921

carmen.artega@hotmail.com

Vice-President — John Valdez

Secretary — Kathy Pacheco

Treasurer — Bob Craig

Members-at-large

Carolyn Cordova

Tom Martinez

Phyllis Miranda

Ron Sandoval

GSHA Representative

Jessica Tidball

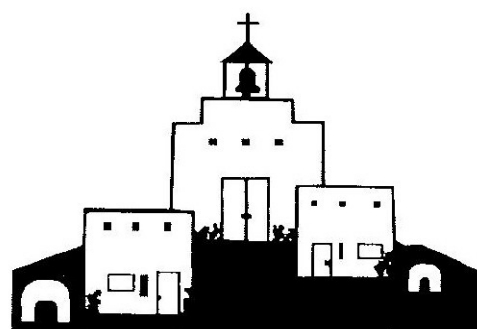
## President's Message

Dear FACC Members,

First and foremost, a great big "GRACIAS" to our Entertainment Committee, MaryEllen Burciago, Ruth Martinez, and Victor Sena, for the wonderful annual picnic. Having Brent Cruz give us a refresher on his book, Una Familia Mas Noble y Antigua, topped off the day. Our GSHA Conference in September was a rounding success and much credit goes to Bob Craig and Charlene Garcia Simms. So many FACC volunteers helped to make this one of the most enjoyable, educational and profitable ever.

As FACC continues to move onward, we congratulate our own, Bob Craig, as the new GSHA President. His unceasing hard work and leadership style will assist in the evolution of our national organization. We are sad to see Charlene Garcia Simms leave as she has brought so much to GSHA and to FACC and for that we are thankful.

Many of our members continue to shine with their efforts at making genealogy a very high priority in their lives. Ron Sandoval deserves credit for organizing the renovation of the old cemetery in Redwing, CO. John Valdez is assisting in the "Manito" Project which



is focusing on small pueblitos in New Mexico. Tom Martinez tirelessly helps those of us that are technologically weak and in need of understanding our DNA results. Last but not least is Phyllis Miranda which will begin a new session of classes in teaching our FACC members how to manipulate genealogy programs such as Family Tree Maker to better our experience in searching for our roots by making it easier and more enjoyable.

So, it is a pleasure to serve as your President. It gives me great satisfaction working with each and every one of you.

Un Abrazo Fuerte,  
Carmen Arteaga, FACC President

## Betty Duran - Elder Extraordinaire

It is so true, as genealogists often say, that when you lose an elder, you lose a library and Betty Duran exemplifies this saying. Now don't get me wrong. Betty is not going anywhere anytime soon. At our September FACC meeting, Betty gave us a history lesson about our own organization, FACC, and the Pueblo Heritage Museum. Here, in her own words, is a history lesson not soon to be forgotten:

"The FACC Museum Exhibit **Colorado's Hispanic Heritage (A Journey Into The Past)** consists of three sections – (1) Migration from Spain to



## Elder Extraordinaire (Con't)

Colorado over the last 600 years (2) Native American Indians (3) Nuestras Familias, which is the rotating section. The name "Nuestras Familias" was selected by a vote of the membership. FACC exhibits started in 2002 with the Wilfred Martinez family and in 2003 with the Ruben Archuleta family. The first West Wing museum exhibit was in 2004. Our newest Nuestras Familias is the 12th exhibit: Descendants of Francisco Montez Vigil presented by FACC members Carmen Arteaga, Kathy Pacheco, Claudine Riccillo, Ron Sandoval and Fidel Platero Vigil representing several different subjects: military, government, patriots ancestors, royalty aristocracy, ranching, livelihood, marriage, etc. The first committee in 2004 was: Bill Trujillo; Ruben Archuleta and his wife Joan Archuleta; Tom Cummins; Pearl Gutierrez; Betty Duran. I feel working on the exhibits was like baking a cake used to be. Before prepared, ready mixes you needed all the ingredients (flour, eggs, shortening, milk, sugar) and if you were missing one you couldn't bake a cake. You had to have everything to bake a cake. Bill was the flour; Ruben was the eggs; Joan was the shortening; Tom was the milk; Pearl & Betty were the sugar. And Bill put the frosting on the cake. There are many members of FACC that also

belong to PHM.

History of FACC began when members first attended GSHA meetings in Denver, became a part of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America, and later formed the Pueblo chapter. When FACC was first being organized in 1986 (33 years ago), meetings were being held at homes, restaurants and libraries. FACC books were taken to any of the libraries that were available and there was no storage place other than at a member's home. By 1989 this building had previously been purchased by the City of Pueblo and wanted non-profit organizations to operate a meeting place and museum under the name Southeastern Colorado Heritage Center (SCHC) which is now dba, doing business as The Pueblo Heritage Museum (PHM). At that time Tom Cummins was president of SCHC. Charlene Simms, Heraldo Acosta and Luis Valerio were serving on the board, representing FACC. Tom Cummins asked Charlene Simms, who was FACC president at the time, if FACC would want to be a part of SCHC. It was approved by the FACC Board, and FACC became one of the four founding organizations of SCHC and this has been our "Home" since 1989 (30 years). At that time the Heritage room was being used for meetings, but the rest of the building was not used, until restoration was completed. The Founding organizations are: Pueblo County Historical Society; Pueblo Archaeological and Historical Society; Pueblo Railway Foundation; Fray Angélico Chavez Chapter of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America. Visitors have commented they have visited other museums in Pueblo, Colorado Springs, etc., and they like this museum the most. (Even though others are State-of-the Art). One of PHM mottos is "Pueblo's Story Starts Here". Other local museums operate with a staff of Director, Curator, etc., etc., with several paid professionals, and they have assistants. PHM museum operates with a staff of one part-time paid employee (Spencer Little, Museum Coordinator). All the rest are volunteers. The PHM office has a banner hanging on the wall: "VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF THE HERITAGE MUSEUM". The City is responsible for the exterior of the building (landscaping, maintenance of building). PHM is responsible for the interior of the building – lights, heat, phones, air conditioning, alarm system, insurance, interior repairs.

MY PRESENTATION WAS FOLLOWED BY A WONDERFUL SURPRISE PARTY  
FOR MY 90TH BIRTHDAY!



## Highlights from GSHA Conference 2019 in Pueblo



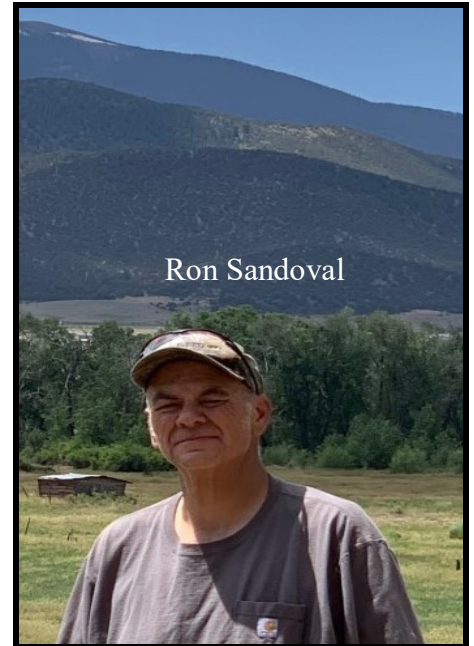






## Renovation at Redwing Cemetery - By Ron Sandoval

On July 20, 2019 at about 7:30 am about 25 participants including myself began the cleanup of the Redwing Cemetery which is located about 8 miles west of Gardner, Colorado. Cleanup is a bit of an understatement. The Cemetery was nearly inaccessible about 2 weeks prior to the cleanup. My wife, Michelle Sandoval, Harold Vargas and myself cleared a few areas making it more accessible. Much of the chamiso was 4-5 feet in height. We heard from many of the older Primos that many of the graves were very shallow. That eliminated the thought of bringing in a tractor or small skid loader. It was going to be nothing but working by hand with chainsaws, pruning shears, hand saws and weed whackers. I found that a pick axe worked the best. I believe in the future we will plan this earlier in the summer to avoid the July and August heat. At 12:30 we left the cemetery and went to my families home in Chama about one mile south of the cemetery for a potluck lunch. Much of what brought us



all together was our love of genealogy. This was a great time to discuss our family connections. I believe all the early Hispano families who settled in the upper Huerfano Valley in about 1869 are all connected either by blood or by marriage, so connections weren't hard to find. After about two hours of socializing we returned to the cemetery to resume our work until about 6:00 pm. It's difficult to describe the feeling among the group. Everyone was so proud and upbeat, even though it was difficult work in intense heat. At no time did it feel like work. It's hard to describe how fulfilled everyone was. I would estimate we cleared about 20 - 30% of the Cemetery. It is now much more accessible. We will likely have another cleanup in September of this year, more on a local level. One lady came from Houston, Texas for this one. We plan on making this an annual event, as many great relationships were spawned from this event.







Book Review by Deborah Martinez Martinez  
 The Hispanic Elite of the Southwest by Manuel G. Gonzales, Ph.D.  
 Published 1989 by Texas Western Press at the University of TX at El Paso, TX

Manuel Garcia Gonzales taught history at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, CA since 1971. This short book in 1989 was prompted by a PBS program called “Sequin” about Juan N. Sequin, a promoter of the Texas revolt of 1835-36.

Dr. Gonzales’ book highlights the lives of eight men who were leaders in New Mexico, California, Arizona, and California. The men are: Juan Seguin, TX, Jose Antonio Navarro, TX, Mariano Vallejo, CA, Pablo de la Guerra, CA, Donaciano Vigil, NM, Manuel Antonio Chaves, NM, Estevan Ochoa, AZ, and Mariano Samaniego, AZ.

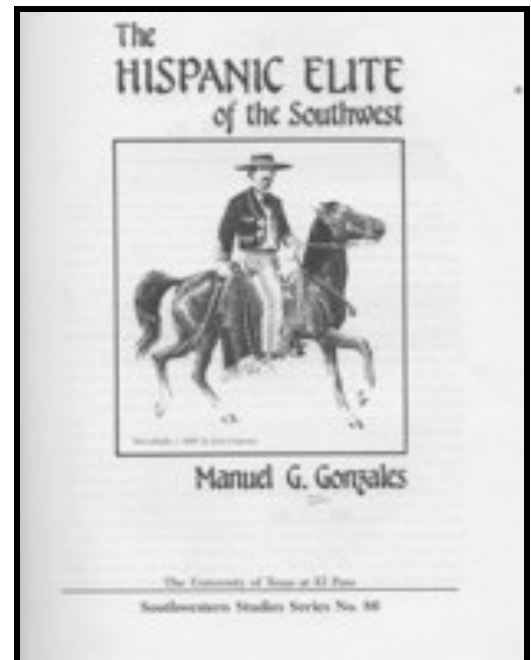
A biography of each man briefly describes his properties, his time in public office, and some of his choices. Dr. Gonzales refers to them as “accommodationists” as he attempts to put the men and their actions into perspective. By “accommodationists,” he means “those who chose to work with the invaders, who join the establishment.” These men were rich, powerful and wanted to maintain their status as the ruling class.



Dr. Gonzales finds high and low motives and “Clearly, power was a factor accounting for cooperation with Anglos in the nineteenth (pg. 28). Most of these men were disillusioned with the Spanish, then Mexican Governance of their part of the world. Many were traders and merchants of the products they produced. Because of the import laws and taxes, they welcomed the Americans, anticipating a more business friendly government.

For example, Navarro (1795-1871) dealt in livestock and owned a cotton plantation. Because he used slave labor, he was a defender of slavery. As a Mexican legislative member in 1827, he sponsored a contract labor law that protected slaveholders.

Manuel Antonio Chavez (1818-1889) rushed to Santa Fe to volunteer to fight the Americans when the Mexican-American War broke



out. After the betrayal of Governor Manuel Armijo, he was jailed but acquitted. Then he volunteered under Col. Ceran St. Vrain to put down the Taos Rebellion. Although he never opted for politics, he managed to gain financially while fighting Utes and Apaches. He raised sheep and acquired several land grants.

The most interesting piece of new information to me was the coming of the Masons to the western frontier. The first lodge was established in 1835 in Texas. There’s another place to search for your ancestors’ names! Navarro and Seguin were affiliated with the Masons, learning progressive ideas, and strengthening their ties with their Anglo counterparts. Dr. Gonzales does state, however, that many of the ricos, as he calls them, were intent on preserving their way of life and their culture and language.

This book was an interesting window into the transition of power before and after the Mexican American war. It is short but descriptive and, although packed with information, is easy to read. I encourage readers to also indulge themselves in the Notes at the back that give a ‘backstory’ for the author’s comments. I found this book in the Hispanic book section of the Library.

## Treasurer’s Report

Submitted by Bob Craig

Sept. 1, 2019– Sept. 30, 2019

### Account Balances

Operating	\$2632.35
Raffle	111.20
Savings	5621.67
Total	\$8365.22

FACC website:

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

FACC Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/faccgsha>

GSHA website:

<https://www.gshaa.org>



## FACC Annual Picnic - August 2019



**Thanksgiving Basket ...  
Do your part to help  
someone have a nice  
Thanksgiving Day Dinner!  
FACC will provide the turkey.  
Give names to FACC BOD.**

**Join Us For "Research"  
Every First Tuesday  
of the Month at Heritage Museum  
11 am - 3 pm  
Heritage Museum**

**Phyllis Miranda teaches  
Family Tree Maker 2017**

**Heritage Museum - 5 pm to 7:30 pm**

**Bring your laptop**

<b>Oct. 7th</b>	<b>Sources Part 1</b>
<b>Oct. 21st</b>	<b>Sources Part 2</b>
<b>Nov. 4th</b>	<b>Media Workspace</b>
<b>Nov. 18th</b>	<b>Web Search Workspace</b>
<b>Dec. 9th</b>	<b>Publish Workspace Part 1</b>
<b>Dec. 16th</b>	<b>Publish Workspace Part 2</b>