

Taos County Land Grants

And Grantees

1702 -1856

*The following was a handout given to the audience that attended the presentation **John J. Valdez, Ed. D** gave on February 11, 2017 at the General Meeting of the Fray Angelico Chavez Chapter of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America at the Heritage Museum in Pueblo, Colorado.*

Glossary:

Alcalde: a judge, magistrate in a village or district. He had many responsibilities including administrative and judicial functions.

Alcaldia: an administrative area governed by an alcalde or ayuntamiento.

Ayuntamiento: the municipal government; the cabildo (city council).

Cordel: a measuring tool, like a tape measure. Some cordels were 50 varas long (138.875 feet) others were 100 varas long (277.75 feet).

Court of Private Land Claims (PLC): The **United States Court of Private Land Claims** (1891–1904), was a United States court created to decide land claims guaranteed by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, in the territories of New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah, and in the states of Nevada, Colorado, and Wyoming. (Wikipedia). For more information refer to:

Ebright, Malcom, *Land Grants & Lawsuits in Northern New Mexico*, Center For Land Grant Studies Press, 2008, p. 45

Ejido and monte: common lands to be used by grantees for grazing purposes.

Encomienda: “. . . was a grant to a Spaniard of the fruits of Indian labor, which initially was collectible either in material tribute or in personal service, but soon became tantamount to slavery. By holding an Indian town in *encomienda*, a Spanish conquistador had the right to collect tribute from the town and sometimes to require personal service from the Indians. Although the *encomienda* by itself did not give the Spaniards a right to the land of the Indians, often *encomenderos* came to believe that they did own this land.”

Encomiendero: the encomienda could be granted after five years' residence in the colony, and the grantees, or encomenderos, could hold this privilege for their lifetimes and those of two successive generations; in addition, they became eligible for the much sought-after title of hidalgo. The encomenderos were obliged to defend the colony when called on to do so and to protect the missionaries as they sought to convert the Puebloan people to Christianity. They were also required to maintain a residence in Santa Fe, once the villa was established. Every Pueblo house was assessed each year one fanega of maize (2.6 bushels) and one manta

(piece of cotton cloth measuring about 5.5 square feet) for which a buffalo hide or deer skin could be substituted, for example, by those in northern pueblos where cotton could not be grown. Tribute was collected in May and October, the latter date being when Puebloans most likely paid their maize tribute from their newly harvested grain. In the late 1620s, the missionary custodian Fray Alonso de Benavides noted the conflict between the encomenderos and Puebloans over the collection of tribute. Only a partial picture of the encomienda establishment in New Mexico is available because records of such grants were destroyed in the 1680 Revolt (or otherwise lost), and no copies have been discovered. What is known comes from passing references in other documents in which a colonist is mentioned as an encomendero, sometimes along with the name of his tribute pueblo or pueblos.

Expediente: a document describing the steps taken in the awarding of a land grant. They included the grant, and the act of possession. A copy was made given to the grantee as evidence of title.

Land Grant: The first known grant was made in 1606 to Juan Martínez de Montoya, who came to New Mexico with reinforcements that were sent in 1600 to make up the shortfall in the number of soldiers called for in Oñate's contract. On October 6, 1606, Governor Juan de Oñate certified the services of Martínez de Montoya in New Mexico, granting him the encomienda of the Jemez pueblos for three lives. The Spanish rule on size of a land grant was to be no more than 11 square leagues.

League: a unit of measurement by the Spanish, it equals 5,000 varas, or 2.63 miles.

Pueblo Cruzate Grant: Governor Cruzate made a grant of four square leagues of land (about 17,700 acres) to each pueblo. Under Hispanic law and custom, the pueblos were considered to be entitled to four square leagues even without a grant. The Cruzate grants submitted to Surveyor General William Pelham were all confirmed by Congress, though they were later determined to be spurious. Since the pueblos were entitled to four square leagues of land in any case, the spurious character of the Cruzate grants is of little consequence from a legal standpoint.

Surveyor General (SG): a principal or superintending surveyor: such as *a* : an official having general oversight (as over an area, department, or function) definition from Merriam Webster Dictionary.

On July 22, 1854, the United States Congress had appointed a Surveyor General of New Mexico to review the validity of the various land grant claims and to advise Congress as to how to decide these matters relative to the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

For more information, refer to:

Ebright, Malcom, *Land Grants & Lawsuits in Northern New Mexico*, Center For Land Grant Studies Press, 2008, p. 37.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo: The **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo** (*Tratado de Guadalupe Hidalgo* in Spanish), officially entitled the **Treaty of Peace, Friendship, Limits and Settlement between the United States of America and the Mexican Republic**, is the peace treaty signed on February 2, 1848, in the Villa de Guadalupe Hidalgo (now a neighborhood of Mexico City) between the United States and Mexico that ended the Mexican–American War (1846–48). (Wikipedia)
For more information refer to:

Ebright, Malcom, *Land Grants & Lawsuits in Northern New Mexico*, Center For Land Grant Studies Press, 2008, p. 28.

Vara: a unit of measurement by the Spanish, it equals approximately 33.33 inches; 1 **acre** equals 5,645.38 varas; 1 **league** equals 5,000 varas. To convert varas to feet divide by 0.36.

Selected Bibliography

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Kavanagh, Thomas W. *The Comanches: A History, 1706– 1875*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1999.

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Rael y Ortega, Tessie and Cuddihy, Judith, *Another Time in This Place: Historia, Cultura y Vida en Questa*, 2003.

Stoller Marianne. "Grants of Desperation, Lands of Speculation: Mexican Period Land Grants in Colorado." In *Spanish & Mexican Land Grants in Colorado and New Mexico*. eds. John R. and Christine M. Van Ness, 22-39, Manhattan, Kansas: Sunflower University Press, 1980.

Tigges, Linda and Salazar, J. Richard, *Spanish Colonial Lives*, Sunstone Press-Santa Fe, 2013.

Torrez, Robert J. and Trapp, Robert, *Rio Arriba a New Mexico County*, Rio Grande Book, 2014, 2014.

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Van Ness, John R. and Christine M., *Spanish & Mexican Land Grants in New Mexico and Colorado*, Sunflower University Press, 1980.

Reports of Cases determined in the Supreme Court of the Territory of New Mexico from Jan. 1, 1911 to Jan. 15, 1911, Paul A.F. Walter Reporter, vol XVI, Santa Fe, N.M.

Docket Books Series I, Records of the United States Territorial and New Mexico District Courts for Santa Fe County, 1846-1951. *Fernando Meyer, Jr., et. al., Plaintiffs v. Thomas Keely, et al., and The Costilla Land and Investment Company, Defendants and The Costilla Estates Development Company, Successor in Interest, and The Costilla Land and Investment Company, Petitioners, v. Juan Francisco Martinez, et al., Respondent. Pluries Writ of Assistance for Case No. 4741, 1915.*

Kit Carson Memorial Foundation, Taos, New Mexico: Sangre de Cristo Land Grant. "Abstract of Title to the Costilla Estate, which is the South Half of the Sangre de Cristo Grant," Document 66.27.1, Folder 2.

Web sites

New Mexico Land Grants

https://nmahgp.genealogyvillage.com/new_mexico_land_grant_names.html

Center for Land Grant Studies:

http://www.southwestbooks.org/grants_taos.htm

New Mexico land grants map:

<http://online.nmartmuseum.org/assets/files/Maps/LandGrants.pdf>

La Cieneguilla Land Grant:

<http://econtent.unm.edu/cdm/ref/collection/catron/id/11207>

Don Fernando de Taos:

http://dev.newmexicohistory.org/filedetails_docs.php?fileID=24859

Land Grant Speculation in New Mexico During the Territorial Period

<http://lawschool.unm.edu/nrj/volumes/48/4/3b-correia-APPtoBG.pdf>

The Congressional General Accounting Office (GAO): study of New Mexico land grant claims, entitled Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

<http://www.southwestbooks.org/gaolgfresponse.htm>

Mora County Genealogy

<http://genealogytrails.com/newmex/mora/landgrants.html>

Ojo Caliente Grant

<http://dev.newmexicohistory.org/filedetails.php?fileID=4767>

Compilation of Colonial Spanish Terms and Document Related Phrases:

<http://www.somosprimos.com/spanishterms/spanishterms.htm>

[Summary of New Mexico land grant cases litigated](#)

<http://dev.newmexicohistory.org/filedetails.php?fileID=24805>

Suggested readings/viewing

U.S. Mexican War-- <http://www.pbs.org/era/usmexicanwar/>

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo--<https://www.archives.gov/>

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo--<http://www.history.com/topics/treaty-of-guadalupe-hidalgo>

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo--
<https://www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/ghtreaty/>

Court of Private Land Claims--<https://nmstatehood.unm.edu/node/71750>

Land Grants--<http://www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/archives/research-resources/land-grants/>

Arroyo Hondo Land Grant--
<http://www.kmitch.com/Taos/hondogrant.html>

Canon del Rio Colorado (Questa)--
<http://dev.newmexicohistory.org/filedetails.php?fileID=21982>

Internet contacts:

Face Book:

old spanish and mexican land grants in new mexico and southern Colorado

Arroyo Hondo

Individuals	position	location	year
José Miguel Tafoya	Alcalde	Taos	1815
Pedro Martin	Deputy Alcalde	Taos	1815
Felipe Nerio Sisneros	grantee	Arroyo Hondo	1815
Eusebio Abila	grantee	Arroyo Hondo	1815
Juan Antonio Alcon	grantee	Arroyo Hondo	1815

Julian Arellano, Ramon Arellano, Lorenzo Cordoba, Juan Duran, Juan Angel Garcia, Xabier Garcia, Miguel Lucero, Pablo Lucero, Juan N. P. Luna, Antonio Martin, Juana Martin, Juan Medina, Gregorio Pacheco, Salvador Padia, Juan Quintana, Jose Romero, Francisco Sandoval, Jesus Sandoval, Manuel Tafoya, Francisco Vigil

Canada de los Mestanos

Individuals	position	location	year
Vicente Trujillo	Alcalde	Taos	1828
Juan Gallegos	grantee	Taos	1828

Canon del Rio Colorado

Individuals	position	location	year
Antonio Jose Ortiz	Alcalde	Taos	1836
Antonio Elias Armenta	grantee	Taos	1836

Jose Victor Sanchez	grantee	Taos	1836
Jose Manuel Sanchez	grantee	Taos	1836

Cebolla

Individuals	position	location	year
Manuel Armijo	Governor	Santa Fe	1845
Carlos Santistevan	grantee	Questa	1845
Julian Santistevan (father)	grantee	Questa	1845
Jose Manuel Garcia de Noriega (father-in-law- of Julian)	grantee	Questa	1845
Charles Autobee	grantee	Questa	1845
Tomas T. Tobin	grantee	Questa	1845

Miguel Chavez

Unable to find information.

Cieneguilla

Individuals	position	location	year
Antonio Jose Ortiz	Alcalde	Taos	1795
Jose Sanches	grantee	Cieneguilla	1795

Jose Pablo Sanches, Concesion Sanches, Juan Sanches, Miguel Sanches, Francisco Sandobal, Antonio Begil, Juaguin Begil, Domingo Crus, Juan Jose Suaso, Miguel Urtado, Ysidro Suaso, Joaquin Martin, Jose Garcia, Juan Jose Martin, Juan Cordoba, Christobal Martin, Rafael Lobato, Juan Dairil, Felis Montolla

Cristobal de la Serna

Individuals	position	location	year
Juan do la Mora Pineda	Alcalde	Taos	1715
Cristobal de la Serna	grantee	Taos	1715
Juan de la Serna	son of grantee		
Sebastian de la Serna	son of grantee		
Diego Romero	next owner of the grant	Taos	1724

Jose Dominguez

Individuals	position	location	year
Juan Paez Hurtado	Alcalde	Taos	1702
Francisco Gomez Robledo	1 st grantee	Taos	(prior to) 1702
Jose Dominguez	next grantee	Taos	1702
Antonio Jose Ortiz	Alcalde	Taos	1836

Don Fernando de Taos

Individuals	position	location	year
Antonio Jose Ortiz	Alcalde	Taos	1796
Jose Montoya	grantee	Taos	1797
(63 other families)			
Antonio Jose Romero	Alcalde	Taos	1799
Juan Santistevan	resident	Taos	1893

Embudo

Individuals	position	location	year
Juan de Bustamente	Governor	Santa Fe	1725
Juan Marquez	grantee	Embudo	1725
Francisco Martin	grantee	Embudo	1725
Lasaro de Cordova	grantee	Embudo	1725

Manuel Fernandez

Unable to find information.

Gijosa (Rancho de Taos)

Individuals	position	location	year
Juan Ignacio Flores Magallon	Governor	Santa Fe	1715
Francisca Antonia de Gijosa	grantee	Taos	1715

Plaza de Guadalupe

Individuals	position	location	year
George Levy	Perfect	Taos	1851
Jose Miguel Ortiz	grantee	Taos	1851

Las Trampas

Individuals	position	location	year
Tomas Velez Cachupin	Governor	Santa Fe	1751
Juan de Arguello	grantee	Trampas	1751
Melchor Rodriguez	grantee	Trampas	1751

Joseph de Aragon , Juan Joseph de Arguello, Antonio Dominguez, Juan Garcia, Eusebio Leiva, Luis de Leiva, Vicente Lucero, Pedro Phelipe Rodriguez, Salvador Vaca, Ygnacio Vargas.

Antoine Leroux (Los Luceros)

Individuals	position	location	year
Gaspar Domingo de Mendoza	Governor	Santa Fe	1742
Pedro Vigil de Santillan	grantee	Taos	1742
Juan Bautista, Cristoval Vigil nephews of Pedro Vigil de Santillan			1883
Juana Catarina Vigil, niece of Juan Bautista			1883
Antoine Leroux, husband of Juana Catarina Vigil			1883

Salvador Lobato

Individuals	position	location	year
Fernando Chacon	Governor	Santa Fe	1793
Salvador Lobato	grantee	Taos	1793
Juan Antonio and Rafael, sons of Salvador		Taos	1793
Lorenzo Lobato, grandson of Salvador		Taos	1893

Lucero de Godoi (or Antonio Martinez)

Individuals	position	location	year
Felix Martinez	Governor	Santa Fe	1716
Antonio Martinez	grantee	Taos	1716

Sebastian Martin

Individuals	position	location	year
Jose Chacon Medina	Governor	Santa Fe	1703

Joseph Garcia Jurado, Sebastian de Vargas and Sebastian de Polonia were original grantees but forfeited possession as they did not settle it in the prescribed amount of time.

Francisco Cuervo y Valdes	Governor	Santa Fe	1705
Sebastian and Antonio Martin	grantees	Santa Cruz	1706

Jose Martinez

Unable to find information.

Beaubien-Miranda (Maxwell)

Individuals	position	location	year
Manuel Armijo	Governor	Santa Fe	1841
Charles Beaubien	grantee	Taos	1841
Guadalupe Miranda	grantee	Santa Fe	1841
Lucien Maxwell (son-in-law)	2 nd owner	Taos	1847

Felipe Medina

Unable to find information.

Mora (Town of)

Individuals	position	location	year
Albino Perez	Governor	Santa Fe	1835
Jose Tapia	grantee	Mora	1835

Juan Lorenzo Alico, Carmen Arce, Jose Maestas Archuleta, Manuel Arguella, Felipe Arguello, Francisco Arguello, Miguel Arguello, Felipe Carbajal, Francisco Coven, Juan B. Cruz, Jose Maria Garcia, Juan Antonio Garcia, Miguel Garcia, Tomas Encarnacion Garcia, Ignacio Gonzalez, Francisco Lara, Gabriel Lujan, Jose Ignacio Madrid, Bernardo Martin, Geronimo Martin, Manuel Gregorio Martin, Miguel Mascarenas, Cruz Medina, Cecilio Montano, Jose Guadalupe Ortega, Manuel Paez, Miguel Paez, Ildefonso Pacheco, Jose Miguel Pacheco, Mateo Ringinel, Carlos Rinto, Carlos Salazar, Maria Dolores Sanches, Francisco Sandoval, Manuel Sanchez, Francisco Sena, Manuel Suazo, Jose Tapia, Antonio Alba Trujillo, Juan Cristobal Trujillo, Juan Trujillo, Esteban Valdez

Ojo Caliente

Individuals	position	location	year
Antonio Martin	grantee	Ojo Caliente	1730
Codallos y Rabal	Governor	Santa Fe	1747
Francisco Duran	settler	Ojo Caliente	1752
Manuel García Pareja	Alcalde	Santa Cruz	1766
Francisco Marquez	settler	Ojo Caliente	1769
Miguel Abeyta & Ignacio Alarid	settlers	Ojo Caliente	1769

Jose Manuel Velarde	settler	Ojo Caliente 1769
Manuel García de la Mora	Alcalde	Santa Cruz 1793
Antonio José Espinosa,	grantee	Ojo Caliente 1793

Other grantees--Jose Aguilar, Antonio Archuleta, Juan de Jesus Avila, Salvador Bachicha, Luis Chavez, Ines Cordoba, Luis Duran, Sgt., Gabriel Duran, Francisco Gallego, Blas Galvez, Clemente Galvez, Juan Bautista Galvez, Salvador Galvez , Jose Antonio de Leon, Cristobal Lucero, Pablo Lucero, Pedro Lucero, Juan Zamora, and Salvador Maese

Orejas del Llano de los Aguages

Unable to find information.

Paraje del Punche (Hurraca Rancho)

Unable to find information.

Petaca

Individuals	position	location	year
Albino Perez	Governor	Santa Fe	1836
Jose Julian Martinez	grantee	Rio Arriba	1836

Other grantees--Antonio Martinez, Francisco Antonio Atencio

Rancho del Rio Grande

Individuals	position	location	year
Fernando Chacon	Governor	Santa Fe	1795
Antonio Jose Ortiz	Alcalde	Taos	1795
Nicolas Leal	grantee	Taos	1795
Jose Mirabel	grantee	Taos	1795

Rio del Picuris

Individuals	position	location	year
Rafael Fernandez	grantee	Picuris	1829
Jose Marie Martinez	alcalde	Taos	1829
Juan Fernandez, heir of R.Fernandez		Picuris	1893
Francisco Abreu	Secretary of Territorial Deputation		1832

San Antonio del Rio Colorado

Individuals	position	location	year
Juan Andres Archuleta	Perfect	Taos	1841
Rafael Archuleta	grantee	Taos	1841
Antonio Elias Armenta	grantee	Taos	1841
Miguel Montoya	grantee	Taos	1841

Santa Barbara

Individuals	position	location	year
Manuel Garcia	alcade	Santa Cruz de la Canada	1796
Balentine Martinez	grantee	Picuris Mission	
Eusebio Martin		“ “	
Other grantees--Francisco Aragon, Baitiste Benavides, Juan Benivedes, Manuel Cordova , Miguel Gonzales, Hemegildo Leyba, Alberto Martinez , Felix Martinez, Juan Jose Martinez, Ramon Martinez, Eusebio Medina, Tomas Medina, Salvador Medina, Clemente Mestas, Juan Olgin, Roque Sanchez Andres Sena, Felipe Sena			

San Cristobal

Individuals	position	location	year
Juan Antonio Lucero	alcalde	Taos	1815
Jose Mariano Jaramillo	alcalde	Taos	1835
Fr. Antonio Jose Martinez	priest	Taos	1835
Jose Madrid	resident	San Cristobal	1835
Other residents--Pablo Lucero, Juan Antonio Salazar, Severino Martinez			

Sangre de Cristo

Individuals	position	location	year
Manuel Armijo	Governor	Santa Fe	1843
Stephen Luis Lee	grantee	Taos	1843
Narciso Beaubien	grantee	Taos	1843

Picuris Pueblo

Picuris Pueblo—issued to the people of the Picuris Pueblo on September 25 1689 by Governor Domingo Jironza Petroz de Cruzate

Taos Pueblo

Taos Pueblo—issued to the people of the Taos Pueblo on September 25 1689 by Governor Domingo Jironza Petroz de Cruzate

Individuals	position	location	year
Pablo Romero	Governor	Taos Pueblo	1856
Juan Reyno	War Capitan	Taos Pueblo	1856
Benito Casillas	Cacique	Taos Pueblo	1856

What went wrong for the land grant claimants?

U.S. Attorney M.G. Reynolds in 1898, created technicalities and used procedural advantages to defeat land grant claimants. (p.134-Land Grants and Lawsuits in Northern N.M., by M. Ebright)

Claimants did not understand the U.S. jurisprudence system

Attorneys for the claimants did not understand 18th & 19th century N.M. customs related to land possession

Claimant was subjected to procedural burdens which gave the U.S. a greater advantage.

Purpose of the Court of Private Land Claims:

To determine the legitimacy of the land grant claim by its claimants (p. 135-Land Grants and Lawsuits in Northern N.M., by M. Ebright.)

Purpose of the U.S. Attorney:

To defeat the land grant claimants (p. 135--Land Grants and Lawsuits in Northern N.M., by M. Ebright.)