

A Cultural & Economic History of Los Lunas

By Cynthia J. Shetter



San Clemente Land Grant near the Rio Puerco. Museum of Heritage & Arts' San Clemente Land Grant Exhibit, 2016

Origin of the Name

The Village of Los Lunas is located within the San Clemente land grant, one of the oldest land grants made in the Río Abajo, or lower Rio Grande valley of New Mexico. Mateo de Sandoval y Manzanares was granted the tract of land before the expulsion of the Spanish during the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. Shortly after Don Diego de Vargas re-established Spanish authority in Nuevo México in 1693, the Manzanares heirs returned to Nuevo México and his daughter Ana de Sandoval y Manzanares, widow of Blas de la Candelaria, successfully petitioned Governor Felix Martinez to grant her the land in 1716 (U.S. House of Representatives, 1882). Soon after the restoration of her land claim, Ana de Sandoval y Manzanares named her son Feliciano “Félix” Candelaria as her heir to the land, which he maintained for eighteen years¹.

Although the grant was originally awarded to the Manzanares family, Los Lunas derives its name from Domingo de Luna a descendant of *Capítan* Diego de Luna. *Capítan* Luna was a native born New Mexican and described as tall, with a long face and long straight hair (Chavez F. A., 1954). *Capítan* Luna was sixteen years old at the time of the 1680 Pueblo Revolt and fled with family members to the exile settlement of Corpus Christi de Ysleta just south of El Paso. He was listed as a member of *La Cofradia de La Conquistadora* (Brotherhood of the Conqueress) in 1689 and in 1692 he was ordered to assemble his men for the first Entry of Vargas into New Mexico (Chavez F. A., 1954). In 1697, his daughter, María Gregoria Luna (1669 – 1746), had a son Antonio de Luna who is believed to have been the illegitimate son of Cristóbal Baca II (1635 – 1697) (Shetter, 2021) (HGRCNM, 2019).

¹ The land tenure history of the San Clemente land grant is controversial. After the United States acquired jurisdiction of New Mexico with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, Ana Sandoval de Manzanares heirs filed the grant papers with the Surveyor General in 1855 for confirmation of the grant. The papers were found to be genuine and complete in 1871 by Surveyor General T. Rush Spencer but no confirmation was decreed until Solomon Luna, descendent of Domingo de Luna, filed another petition in 1896 claiming ownership. On September 4, 1896 the Court entered a decree confirming the grant to the heirs and legal representatives of the original grantee. Once the decision became final, a contract was awarded to Deputy Surveyor John. H. Walker to survey the grant (see Figure 1). The survey was made in November 1898 and showed that the grant, as confirmed, contained 37,099.29 acres. A patent for the land was issued on November 15, 1909 allowing present occupants to retain possession (U.S. House of Representatives, 1882).

Antonio de Luna (1697 – 1729) married María Jacinta Peláez in 1718 in Albuquerque and they had seven children. Baptismal records from San Augustine de Isleta place their son Domingo de Luna (1719 – 1773) in the San Clemente area as early as 1747 (FamilySearch, 2020). Domingo de Luna began acquiring portions of the San Clemente grant in 1747 and 1748 from Bonafacio Jollanga (Joyanga) (Twitchell, 1914) and Domingo’s wife, María Josefa Lucero, inherited a small parcel of cultivated land near Tomé from her parents. The 1786 estate records for Domingo’s son, Antonio de Luna (1748 – 1779), who was killed interstate at the hands of Apache on the ninth day of June 1779, is one of the earliest known references depicting the area as Los Lunas. The document reads: “a tract of land in the said place of Los Lunas, the boundaries which are on the North lands of Los Lentes, on the South lands of Bernardo Padilla, on the East the Río del Norte [Rio Grande], on the west the Rio Puerco (Arteaga, 1784)”. The court proceedings went on to state that on September 4, 1784, Miguel Lucero, a relative of Antonio de Luna’s mother, was granted guardianship of Antonio’s heirs, José Enrique, María Josefa, Antonio de la Encarnación, and José Bruno.

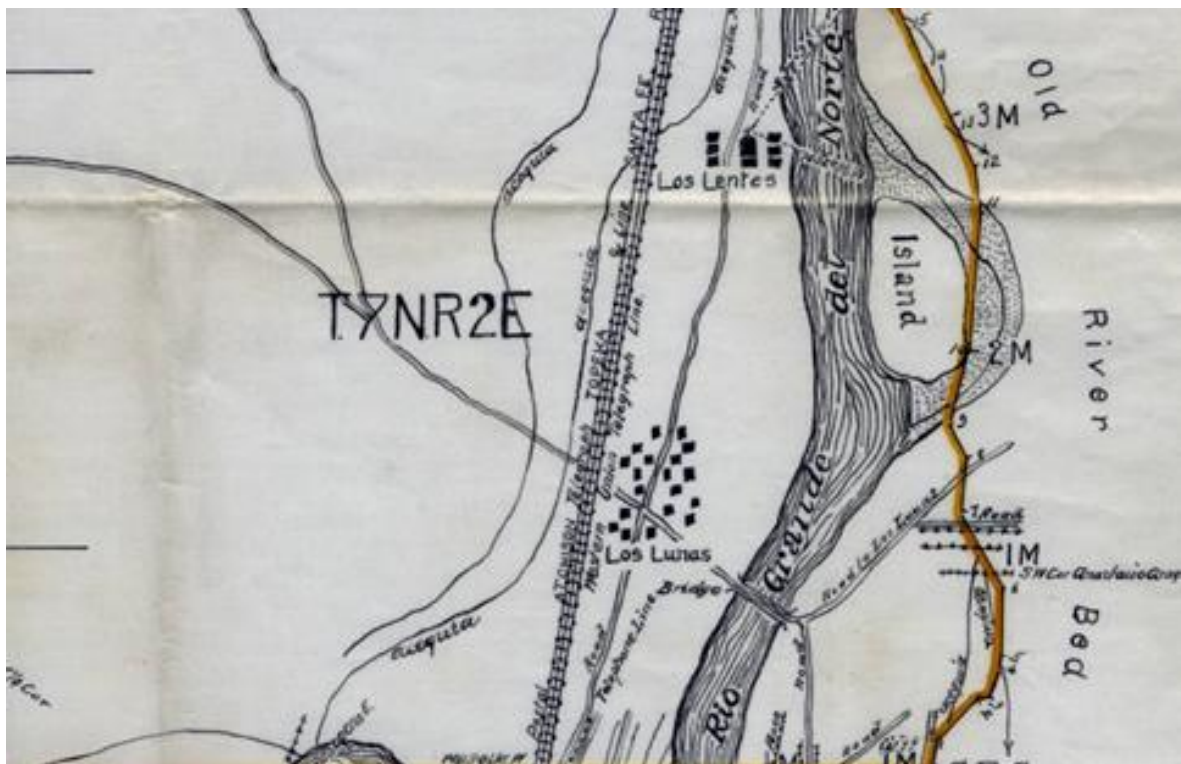


Figure 1. Plat showing San Clemente Land Grant in Valencia County as surveyed by John H. Walker, USDS, 1898. Courtesy University of New Mexico, Thomas B. Catron Papers.

Spanish Colonial Period (1598 – 1821)

The Spanish Colonial period is divided into two by the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, the most successful instance of Native American resistance in North America. The second period begins with the Re-conquest in 1692, and it ends with the independence of Mexico from Spain in 1821.

In 1541 through 1542, Don Francisco Vázquez Coronado utilized centuries old routes established by indigenous people as he made his *entrada* into the interior of present New Mexico and the Great Plains. Decades later, in 1598, Don Juan de Oñate led a large contingency of Spanish settlers and thousands of livestock from central Mexico to the outpost of Santa Fe. This route that linked Mexico City with the Santa

Fe settlement became known as the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. When the Pueblo Indians revolted in 1680, they ejected the Spanish and their religion but kept their sheep. At the end of the 1700's, a century after the Spanish reconquered the colony, sheep raising had developed into a major regional industry and an integral part of the New Mexican economy. Hispanics started herding flocks of sheep southward into Chihuahua, Mexico, along a well-established route that connected the colony to the rest of the Spanish Empire. Trade caravans traversed north and south along the Camino Real to supply settlements such as Los Lunas creating a commercial market. Cloth, metalwork, household tools and implements, and other products unavailable in New Mexico were shipped north while sheep, agricultural products, furs, hides, and other locally-produced goods were then carted southward to markets in Mexico. Though New Mexico remained peripheral to the rest of New Spain, it helped feed the communities centered around the valuable silver mines of north-central Mexico. In 1803, perhaps as many as twenty-five thousand *churros* were driven south. The numbers exported from New Mexico fluctuated in the following years, but sheep remained important to the region's economy.

In the mid-eighteenth century, New Mexicans had developed the *partido* system. Under this system an owner of a flock would lend an individual a specific quantity of sheep and expected an equal number to be returned in three to five years. Each year the renter paid around twenty percent of the flock to the owner. If the sheep reproduced in sufficient numbers, the system worked well for both parties. The owners received annual payments while someone else watched over his livestock. The renter could build his own flock and eventually lend out some sheep of his own. Such arrangements in a cash-poor province functioned as a transfer of capital, but if the flock did not reproduce as planned, the renter remained in debt to the owner. Although the *partido* system resulted in economic opportunity for some, it worked to the advantage of the rich, creating two distinct social classes the *ricos* and the *peons*.

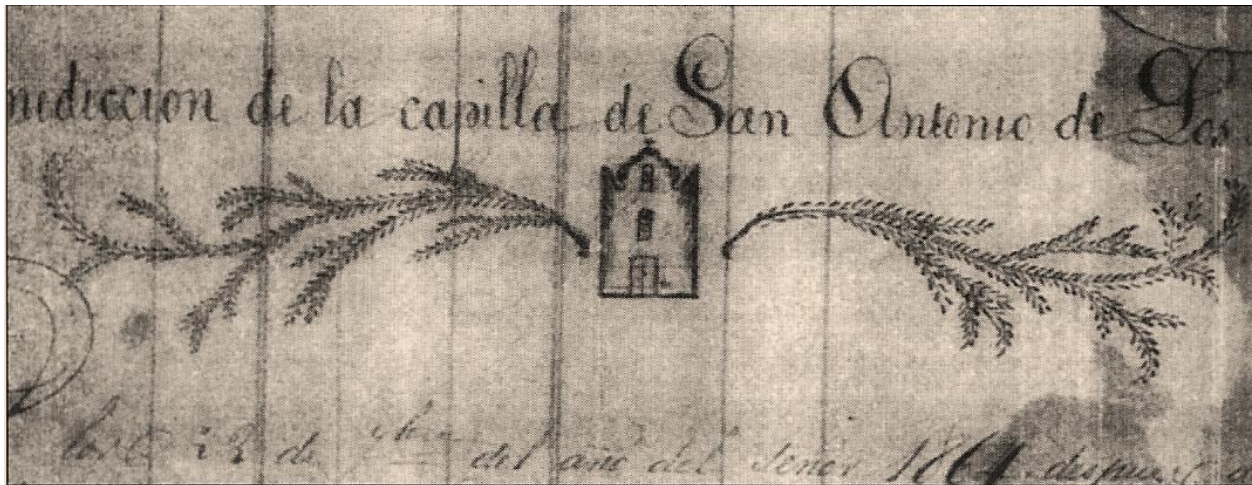
Various contemporary censuses between 1750 and 1830 accounted for the residents of nearby settlements, including Plaza de la Purísima Concepción de Tomé, Plaza de San Fernando, La Sangre de Cristo Puesto de Valencia, San Clemente, and Belén (Crowson & Ainsworth, 2013). Spanish colonial society was punctuated by Catholicism and the omnipresence of the Church and priests. As Spain searched for wealth and the fabled Cities of Gold, Catholic priests traveling with the Spaniards focused on converting the native peoples they encountered along the way. This resulted in the priests establishing missions along the Camino Real.



The mission of San Agustín de la Isleta, 1867. The priest is likely J. B. Brun. Photograph by Alexander Gardner or William A. Bell.

The nearby mission, San Antonio de Isleta, was built by the people of Isleta between 1613 and 1617 (National Park Service, 2019). Religious suppression and labor demands throughout the pueblos of New Mexico fostered a resentment and the subsequent 1680 Pueblo Revolt. A majority of the native people of Isleta Pueblo fled south with the Spanish settlers of the area. During the period of 1680 to 1692, natives, fueled by the fire of resentment, burned the mission church destroying much of the tangible evidence of Spanish presence. Upon Don Diego de Vargas' 1692 re-entry, only the walls of the nave of the church at old Isleta were found. The church and a large *convento* adjoining on the east

were rebuilt by returning Isleta and Hispanic families from 1709 to 1710 and the church was consecrated as San Agustín de Isleta. This mission church became the mother church for those residing on the west side of the Rio del Norte. San Agustín de Isleta is amongst the oldest churches built in the United States and is still used regularly for religious services, second to the San Miguel Chapel in Santa Fe that was built between 1610 – 1626 and rebuilt upon re-entry in 1710 (National Park Service, 2019).



La Capilla de San Antonio de Los Lentes consecrated in 1789 depicted on a San Clemente land grant document.

The mission church Nuestra Señora de la Concepción was established in the neighboring community of Tomé in 1750. In 1789, to honor their beloved San Antonio, the native people of Isleta and the Hispanics of Los Lentes built a new *capilla* (chapel), La Capilla de San Antonio de Los Lentes. The 1790 Spanish census mentions the “Pueblo de San Antonio en Los Lentes” and named the Lente, Saenz, Piro and Chávez families as being among the many families who occupied the pueblo (San Clemente Parish, 2021). The Sangre de Cristo church at Valencia on the east side of Los Lunas was established in 1801 and in the later part of the nineteenth century Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (1892) in neighboring Peralta and San Clemente Church (1894) in Los Lunas were established. Like San Agustín de Isleta, these Catholic churches, except for San Clemente, are still standing and are used regularly for religious services. The latter church was severely damaged by flood water from the Rio Grande and was rebuilt in its current location in 1949.

It is a humbling experience for visitors today to be able to walk within the adobe walls of these historic churches and look up to see the *vigas* (wooden beams) that were cut in the Manzano Mountains 200 to 300 years ago and for parishioners to realize that their ancestors once stood within these walls. While the buildings now have modern conveniences, the traditional folk art decorating the alters and walls give these visitors a sense of time and place. This primitive art form depicting stories from the Holy Bible, the saints, the holy family, and Jesus Christ are uniquely New Mexican and are the result of infrequent trade caravans from Mexico during Spanish colonial times. Unable to obtain the more realistic statuary usually seen in churches in one piece gave rise to the *santero* or saint maker. These *santeros* would hand carve abstract wooden *santos* (saints), *bultos* (sculptures), and *retablos* (paintings on wood) and paint them with pigments found in nature. Today, *santeros* continue to educate the public about the related cultures and living traditions of this art form.



Alter at Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe in Peralta created by Valencia County Santero Carlos Otero.

Mexican Rule (1821 – 1846)

Before and after Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1821, small-scale irrigated farms and livestock raising formed the basis of the economy in and around Los Lunas. Census records of the time period state that the residents of the area were farmers but that label is deceptive (Gonzales R. , 2017). Farming was an agricultural endeavor that encompassed stock raising and sheep were the predominant domesticated animal in the region. Unlike some sheep breeds, the small *churros*, which were more valuable for meat than wool, survived in the harsh, arid environment of New Mexico. While the Lunas and Romeroes were the principal sheep ranchers on the west side of the Rio Grande, the Oteros and the Chávezes were the predominant ranchers invested in sheep across the river in Peralta, Valencia, and Los Pinos (present day Bosque Farms) and Tomé. Unlike the Lunas and Romeroes, Don Mariano Chaves and Don Antonio José Otero had experience with trading in the United States and Mexico via the Santa Fe and Chihuahua Trails. In 1837, over 40,000 sheep were driven down the Chihuahua Trail to northern and central Mexico. Most of these came from Los Lunas, Valencia, and Belen in the Rio Abajo (USDA , 1998). It was these business and eventual marriage connections that would predicate Valencia County being named the Sheep Capital of New Mexico in the latter decades of the nineteenth century.

The Mexican War of Independence lasted from 1808 to 1821, resulting in Mexico's and subsequently New Mexico's independence from Spain. New Mexicans, now under Mexican authority, were largely ignored due to political infighting and economic devastation linked to the independence effort. The officials' indifference and their outright inability to provide support, however, also translated into the erosion of peace and a renewal of cycles of retributive violence between *nuevomexicanos* and their nomadic neighbors. Settlements all along the Rio Grande were being attacked by Navajo, Apache, and Comanche for their large herds of sheep. On October 25, 1846, Navajos killed two sheepherders and stole 5,000 to 6,000 sheep owned by Don Antonio José Otero, who lived at Valencia and had a ranch nearby (USDA , 1998). This led many *nuevomexicanos* to if not welcome but appreciate military support after the United States prevailed in the Mexican-American War between 1846 – 1848.

Territorial New Mexico (1848 – 1912)

As the residents of New Mexico said goodbye to Spanish rule, one wonders if Antonio de Lunas' sons, José Enrique and Antonio de la Encarnación could fathom the impact that their sons and daughters, their relations by blood and marriage, and their neighbors would have on influencing the economy and politics locally, regionally, and nationally as the United States began to occupy New Mexico.

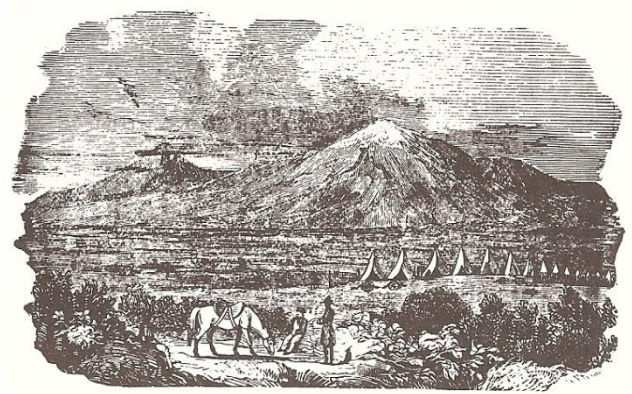
In August 1846, General Stephen Watts Kearny's Army of the West entered the Mexican territory of *Nuevo México*. The region had a poor Mexican population of some 60,000 people, mostly small farmers and sheep ranchers who scratched out a living along the Rio Grande and its tributaries. Surrounding these residents were some 40,000 Native Americans, half of whom belonged to nomadic tribes such as the Utes, Navajo, and Apache. These tribes subsidized their existence by plundering one another and their Mexican neighbors.

On September 2, 1846, Kearny and seven hundred troops traveled to the village of Tomé, setting up camp at Valencia near the lava-topped mesa named *El Cerro de Tomé*. There, he found that the citizens were satisfied with the change in government and that there was no need for the Americans to fear resistance

or open revolt. While they were in the Rio Abajo, however, they received word that Navajos had attacked the Luna ranchero three miles to the rear of the troops, killing one New Mexican, wounding another, and running off a large quantity of sheep (McNitt, 1972).

On February 2, 1848, one and one-half years after Kearny's entry into New Mexico, the Mexican government formally ceded the territory to the United States in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The United States Army continued to protect East/West and North/South caravans, the Mexican inhabitants, and any new settlers from Indian attack. Army administrators assigned twenty-one companies to form the Ninth Military Department, later named the Department of New Mexico, with headquarters in Santa Fe. The army assigned additional troops up and down the Rio Grande in an effort to protect settlements as needed.

Troops were stationed at various points in Valencia County, Cebolleta, Socorro, and further south. Life was not easy for residents of New Mexico in the 1850's but marauding Comanches, Apaches and Navajos added to their worries. The California gold strike of 1849 was bringing men West to seek their fortune, making them easy targets for the raiding natives.



Kearny's men camped at Valencia. The locals took advantage of army needs and charged 25¢ a stick for firewood.

In 1850, the Prefect of Valencia County, Don Ramon de Luna² (Antonio de la Encarnación's son), conducted a military expedition to the Navajo country, a report of which he submitted to the governor of the territory, Donaciano Vigil:

"November 16th last [1850]

I received a communication from Messers. Andres Romero and Anásticio García, citizens of the county under my jurisdiction, informing me that the Navajos had robbed them of 2,000 sheep at the place known as Valverde [in Socorro County]. I immediately issued orders to the alcaldes of the county to collect the best men they could find and be ready at the place of Cubero on the following day, while I proceeded to Cebolleta³ to demand assistance from the commander of the troops stationed at that point, which I effected immediately on my arrival through a dispatch asking him for the mentioned assistance to proceed to the vicinity of the town of Luna, from where the Indians would start with the stolen property. He returned to me a verbal answer that he would not give me the assistance I required as the horses belonging to the troops were in a wild condition. From thence I was obliged to proceed with only fourteen men which were furnished to me by the alcaldes, taking with me the clerk and sheriff of my county, I was reinforced by forty men forming part of a volunteer company which was being raised at that time by permission of the commander

² Ramon de Luna is the great grandfather of Federico "Fred" Luna (1931 – 2010) and Santiago Richard Luna (born 1937). Fred served as a New Mexico State Representative for 36 years and as a Los Lunas School Board member for 26 years while his brother Richard served as Los Lunas Municipal Court Judge from 1968 to 2002.

³ In 1746, Padre Juan Mechero persuaded several hundred members of the Navajo Tribe to settle at Cebolleta. A mission was established for the purpose of converting the Navajo to Christianity. The community was formally established in 1749, under the name of "Cebolleta", a word meaning "little onion." It was named for the nearby Cebolleta Mountains, now called the San Mateo Mountains. But in 1750, the Navajo rejected the efforts and returned to their own lands. Seboyeta, as it is known as today, is in Cibola County.

of the troops stationed at Cebolleta, and which were going on an expedition to the Navajo country. With this reinforcement I proceeded to the vicinity of Laguna Colorado where we joined the balance of the volunteer company; there we succeeded in capturing 500 of the stolen sheep. Finding myself at this point, it was impossible for me to return with so small a number of men, I therefore went on with 292 men to the Mesa de la Vaca, there I divided forces and scattered them on the various routes to the Navajo country. I succeeded in chastising the Indians and taking their stock amounting to 5,000 sheep, 150 riding animals, 11 oxen and 28 prisoners; also 24 men, who were delivered to us by a Navajo who surrendered himself to save his life. We used up nearly 700 fanegas [bushels] of their corn. With these spoils we started back without sustaining any loss whatever; on my way back I was unfortunate in losing some of my men for want of discipline; when we arrived at the mouth of the Cañon de Chellé six of my men were killed who had left the camp without permission; here we met an express consisting of 13 men; when we reached San Miguel they thought themselves out of all danger, being near Cebolleta, they laid down without taking precaution whatever, and were surrounded by the Navajos while asleep and were defeated. Up to this time six of them have been found, four of them wounded, the other seven are still missing. While writing this communication, I will also add that some difficulty exists between the owners of the recovered stock and captors. The former claim [sic] the sheep as their property and can prove it by their brands, while the latter maintain that they are in the same position with the other goods and should be subject to the same conditions. However, I believe the governor's decision will settle the dispute (McNitt, 1972)."

The Prefect did not identify these forty men, although there is good evidence that they included a number of *Diné Ana'aii*, Sandoval himself, and thirteen or fourteen Cebolleteños. Cebolla Sandoval, occasionally known as Antonio Sandoval, was "ambitious, cunning, devious and contradictory (McNitt, 1972)." Sandoval was an informant most often for the *Anglos* but occasionally, if the information was paid for, for the Navajos. He became wealthy by buying and selling his own people. He was a man for hire for any evil purpose. Luna's report, which curiously makes no reference to the important presence of the *Diné Ana'aii*, is one of the rare firsthand accounts of New Mexican slave trade⁴ against Navajos (McNitt, 1972).

Post at Los Lunas

In July 1851, Colonel Edwin Vose Sumner took over the command of Department of New Mexico. Sumner had come to Santa Fe with orders to reduce military expenditures. He began by removing troops that lived in towns at great expense to the government. He ordered officers to move their posts to the country and issued a general order to become more self-sufficient. Now the men would have to help grow their own crops, gather their own forage and fuel, and build their own posts.

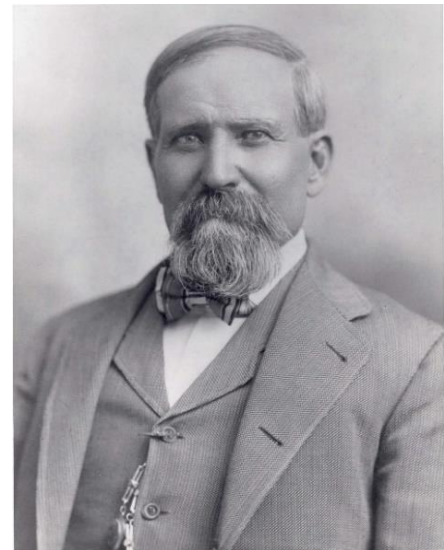
Fort Defiance was established on September 18, 1851, to create a military presence in *Diné bikéyah*, Navajo Territory. In doing so, Sumner broke up the post at Santa Fe and created the first military presence in Arizona. Fort Defiance would become the temporary home of five platoons. The fort commander Major Electus Backus' directive was to provide safe passage to travelers and secure relations with tribes along the New Mexico-Colorado border. Due to winter conditions and poor preparation, Backus was faced with actual starvation of his command and their livestock. Owing to poor foraging conditions, and a fire that destroyed their hay camp, Backus ordered Captain Richard Stoddert Ewell to proceed east to seek winter

⁴ Territorial citizens approved antislavery resolutions in 1848 and 1850 but a reversal in sentiment came in 1859, with adoption of a slavery code by Southern sympathizer Miguel A. Otero, the New Mexican delegate to Congress.

shelter. Captain Ewell and his Dragoon Company G took post along the west bank of the Rio Grande at Los Lunas on January 3, 1852, renting quarters for the men, a corral, and storehouses for \$25 per month and quarters for the officers at \$10 per month per officer from area residents and Moses Sachs, Los Lunas' first non-Hispanic merchant (Gonzales R. , 2017).

Born in Bavaria in 1823, Moses "Martin" B. Sachs was a German Jewish merchant that converted his capital into saleable merchandise and spurred a new age of commerce in the Rio Abajo through government military contracts (Gonzales R. , 2017). Sachs became the principal merchant in town servicing a population of 261 people and the mainstay of Sachs' business was as a forage agent for Captain Ewell and his seventy Dragoons and infantry men. As a forage agent, Sachs would supply products such as hay, corn, barley and oats to the military that was produced by area farmers.

In the spring of 1852, keeping with Sumner's directive to be self-sufficient, Ewell and the dragoons of Company G planted a vegetable garden on land donated by local farmers who benefited from the army's protection. They cleared a large tract and planted onions, beets, and cabbages. Ewell also rented a local vineyard. Military reports specify that Ewell and his soldiers harvested twenty-five bushels of wheat, twelve bushels of barley, five bushels of oats, twenty-seven quarts of beans, twelve quarts of clover seed, and twelve acres of corn (Frazer, 1983). In a letter to his brother, Ben, he wrote, "I am delightfully fixed now, cows, chickens, etc., and I make my own butter and all that sort of thing, as comfortable as any farmer (Pfan, 1998)." While the soldiers farming efforts supplemented their food stores, Captain Ewell still had to purchase supplies from Sachs and Hispanic merchants such as Ramon de Luna y Hermano and Toribio Romero (Frazer, 1983) (Gonzales R. , 2017). Flour was used in great quantity and Antonio José Otero's flour mill at Peralta contracted with the army to provide flour at 8 cents per pound⁵.



Don Antonio José Otero (1812 – 1870)

When Captain Ewell was not playing gentleman farmer at Los Lunas, he was protecting New Mexicans and trying to recover livestock stolen by marauding Navajos and Apaches. He led two campaigns from Los Lunas to the Four Corners area, then south into Arizona. This led to additional campaigns along the Texas border and in the Guadalupe and Sacramento Mountains. Throughout the summer of 1853 and the ensuing years, Ewell and his company were almost constantly in the saddle⁶. There were very few

⁵ Antonio José Otero, a Peralta resident, was appointed justice of the Supreme Court of New Mexico and justice of the Second Judicial District by President James K. Polk after the U.S. – Mexican War. The Oteros were one of the *rico* families of the Río Abajo tied by marriage to the prominent Luna, Perea, and Chávez families. Antonio José's wife was María Francisca Chávez, daughter of Francisco Xavier Chávez, the first governor of New Mexico under Mexican rule (Frazier, 2021).

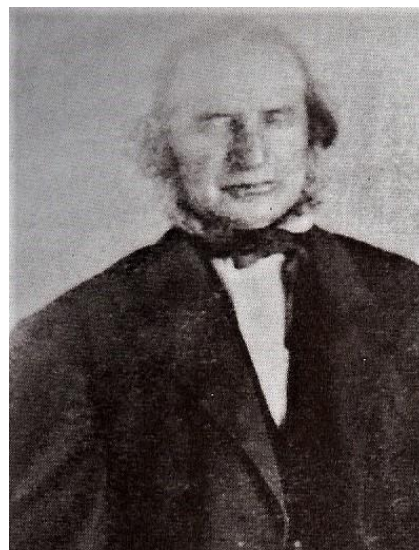
⁶ In February 1855, Captain Ewell and his command fought with Captain Henry W. Stanton against the Mescalero Apache in the Sacramento Mountains. Stanton met his end in an ambush but the battle was a blow for the Mescalero and they soon petitioned for a treaty with Governor David Meriwether. In July 1855, Ewell participated in the Laguna Negra Treaty negotiations with the Navajo as well. In 1859, he was wounded in a skirmish with Apache warriors under Cochise. He returned east in 1860 and when the Civil War broke out in 1861, he was a senior commander under Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee for Confederate forces. He fought in several battles including First Battle

merchants in the West to obtain the amount of supplies that Captain Ewell and his men needed so he continued to utilize Sachs and his connections in the Río Abajo to obtain the supplies required while stationed at other posts throughout New Mexico and Arizona (Gonzales R. , 2017).

Throughout his career in New Mexico, Capitan Ewell and his men repeatedly returned to the comforts they had established at the Post in Los Lunas. Their beloved post was occupied and abandoned several times between January 1852 and October 1862. The Post at Los Lunas was always intended to be temporary and shut down entirely in 1862 after Brig. General Henry Hopkins Sibley and his Confederate Texas plans were foiled by Union forces, led by Colonel E.R.S. Canby with the aid of New Mexico and Colorado Volunteers.

Rise of the Sheep Industry

The 1849 gold strike in California offered a new opportunity to New Mexico sheep ranchers. While the trails to California were less developed, dryer in places, and plagued by greater Indian dangers than the well-traveled Camino Real, rumors of food shortages and high food prices enticed New Mexicans. Soon massive sheep drives were departing the territory for California. In the opening years, the trade did not involve Hispanic livestock producers directly, but was undertaken by Anglo-American speculators who amassed capital and purchased sheep from the expanding flocks of New Mexican sheep ranchers since the close of the Camino Real trade (Wallace, 2014). Up until this time the Luna families, among others, lived as sheep ranchers until the California gold rush improved their lives, amplified their wealth, and elevated their socioeconomic status (Gonzales R. , 2017). In 1852, Antonio José Luna⁷, Antonio José Otero, Rafael de Luna,⁸ and other Hispano families from the Río Abajo set out to California with twenty-five thousand sheep where they could receive \$10 to \$15 per head compared to the local market value of 50 cents (Kephart, 1853) (Alexander, 2012) (Chavez & Espinosa, 1966).



Don Antonio José Luna (1808 – 1881)

In the years that followed, Río Abajo sheep ranchers expanded their herds and continued to drive their sheep to markets in California to supplement food stores for the miners that were flocking there to find their fortunes. In 1858, Sydney A. Hubbell reported to the Santa Fe Weekly Gazette:

of Bull Run, Second Battle of Bull Run, and Battle of Gettysburg where he came under scrutiny for his decisions may have lead them to lose the battle. This controversy caused his military career to decline.

⁷ Antonio José Luna (1808 – 1881) is the son of José Enrique de Luna and Juana María Gabaldón. He is also a first cousin to Rafael and Ramon de Luna.

⁸ Rafael de Luna (1816 – 1870) is the son of Antonio de la Encarnación and María Antonia Marcelina Chávez as well as brother of Ramon de Luna.

“the number of sheep being driven or about to be taken overland from this section of the territory to California: Joaquín Perea⁹, 22,000; Antonio José Luna, 17,000; José Jaramillo¹⁰, 17,000; Antonio José Otero, 11,000; Rafael Luna, 10,000; Toribio Romero¹¹, 9,000; Ramon Luna 7,000 and miscellaneous person 12,000 for a total of 105,000 sheep from Bernalillo and Valencia Counties (Yost, 1858).”

It has been estimated that these sheep traders brought in over a half-million dollars in new capital and made these families big *ricos* and political leaders in the Río Abajo (Baxter, 1987). By the early 1860s, this capital allowed the Luna, Jaramillo, and Romero families to become merchants to the 484 Los Lunas residents that includes 49 U. S. Army regulars at the Los Lunas Post as well as neighboring communities. By this time, Moses Sachs had overextended his business and was indebted to his wholesalers forcing him to sell his assets and the mercantile then relocate to Belen (Gonzales R. , 2017).

In 1859, German immigrant, Erhardt Franz arrived in St. Louis and shortly thereafter, encountered Franz Huning, who was a prominent German merchant in Albuquerque. Huning suggested he try his luck in the New Mexico Territory. Franz brought his legal and financial savvy to the territory. Franz had access to capital and forged extensive connections to Missouri. Sachs’ misfortune was instructive for the merchants that succeeded him and Franz paid attention. He learned that the military was the main market for agricultural goods in New Mexico. He also realized they needed to cultivate relationships with the military as well as at a local and state levels. Furthermore, a relationship with the wealthy Hispanos of the community served three important functions, they supplied the produce, were reliable freighters, and could provide financial backing under difficult circumstances (Gonzales R. , 2017).

Civil War in New Mexico

In 1861, just three months into the conflict, the Civil War reached New Mexico. Confederate leaders wanted to extend their territory to the Pacific Ocean. Control of New Mexico would allow easy access to Pacific shipping routes and the gold mines of Colorado and California. On July 25, 1861, Confederate Lieutenant Colonel John R. Baylor and 258 soldiers marched into Mesilla and were met by Union forces from Fort Fillmore. After obtaining Major Isaac Lynde’s surrender near San Augustin Springs, Baylor pronounced the town of Mesilla as the capital of the new Confederate Territory of Arizona.

Battle of Valverde - In January 1862, Brig. Gen. Henry H. Sibley’s 2,600-man army entered New Mexico with the objective of capturing Fort Craig under the command of Colonel E.R.S. Canby. 3,800 Union soldiers awaited Sibley’s Texans at Fort Craig. Avoiding a frontal assault on the fort, Sibley led his force across the Rio Grande River and up the east side of the river to the ford at Valverde where Canby met him with 2,800 soldiers to prevent the Confederates from crossing the river. The Confederates, commanded first by William Scurry and later by Tom Green, halted in the old Rio Grande riverbed, which served as a strong defensive position. After Union soldiers rebuffed a cavalry charge, the main Confederate force made a frontal attack, capturing six artillery pieces and forcing the Union battle line to break and many of the men to flee. Canby ordered a retreat. Left in possession of the battlefield, the Confederates claimed

⁹ Sydney A. Hubbell was married to Joaquín Perea’s sister María Ignacia Perea. Their father, Juan Dolores Perea, is a brother to Dolores Lauriana Perea that married Santa Fe and Chihuahua Trail trader Mariano José Chaves. Upon Mariano’s death she then married Chihuahua Trail trader Henry Connelly who was appointed New Mexico Territorial Governor by Abraham Lincoln at the outset of the Civil War.

¹⁰ Jose Jaramillo (1823 – 1869) is the husband of the María Trinidad Romero the daughter of Antonio José Luna’s sister María Soledad Emiliana Luna and Juan Andrés Romero.

¹¹ Toribio Romero is the son of Antonio José Luna’s sister María Soledad Emiliana Luna and Juan Andrés Romero.

victory but had suffered heavy casualties and had failed in their objective to the capture of Fort Craig.

Skirmish at Socorro - With the sting of Valverde fresh in their minds, Colonel Nicholas Pino and Major Charles Wesche departed Fort Craig on February 22, 1862 with a command of 280 New Mexico Militia troops. Their orders, to destroy supplies in Socorro and points north. They rode west to skirt the Confederate camp, then turned north, arriving in Lemitar on the 24th. Shortly after they arrived, a messenger from Canby ordered them to return to Socorro to defend against an approaching Confederate regiment led by Lieutenant Colonel Henry McNeil. McNeil and his Texans arrived on high ground south of the town late on the afternoon of the 24th. McNeil demanded that Pino surrender, but he refused so McNeil deployed his artillery and began to bombard the town. With no prospect for reinforcements, Pino surrendered around midnight. The capture of Socorro gave the Texans a base of operations, some much needed supplies, and a hospital where the wounded men from Valverde could be more effectively treated.



Battle of Glorieta - Sibley and his men continued north plundering farmers and merchants for supplies. On the night of March 25, 1862, 270 Confederate soldiers under the command of Major Charles Pyron encamped on the west side of Glorieta Pass, just east of Johnson's Ranch on the southern end of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Around noon on March 26th, Union Major John Chivington arrived at the Pass with about 400 men. Chivington captured the Confederate pickets and launched a charge down the canyon, splitting his forces to encircle Pyron's men. In series of attempts, the Union forces drove the Confederates down the canyon. Late in the afternoon, fearing both darkness and the possibility of an ambush, Chivington broke off the engagement and retired to Koslowski's Ranch to await reinforcements.

"the only lancer charge of the entire Civil War – a glorious but disastrous ride by Captain Willis Lang and Company B of the Fifth Texas against Captain Theodore Dodd and a company of Colorado Volunteers"

- John M. Taylor

Both sides were reinforced on the 27th. Lt. Col. William Scurry's men swelled the Confederate ranks to about 1,100 while John Slough led a Union force of about 900. The two armies met just west of Pigeon's Ranch in the late morning. During an all-day battle, the Confederates drove the Union forces back until both sides broke off the fighting in the late afternoon¹². Another Confederate tactical victory was marred by an attack on the Confederate supply train by Chivington and about 400 men which forced the Confederates to retreat



The Battle of Glorieta Pass in Apache Canyon has been called the Gettysburg of the West because it was a turning point in the Confederate occupation of New Mexico. -- Painting by Wayne Justus.

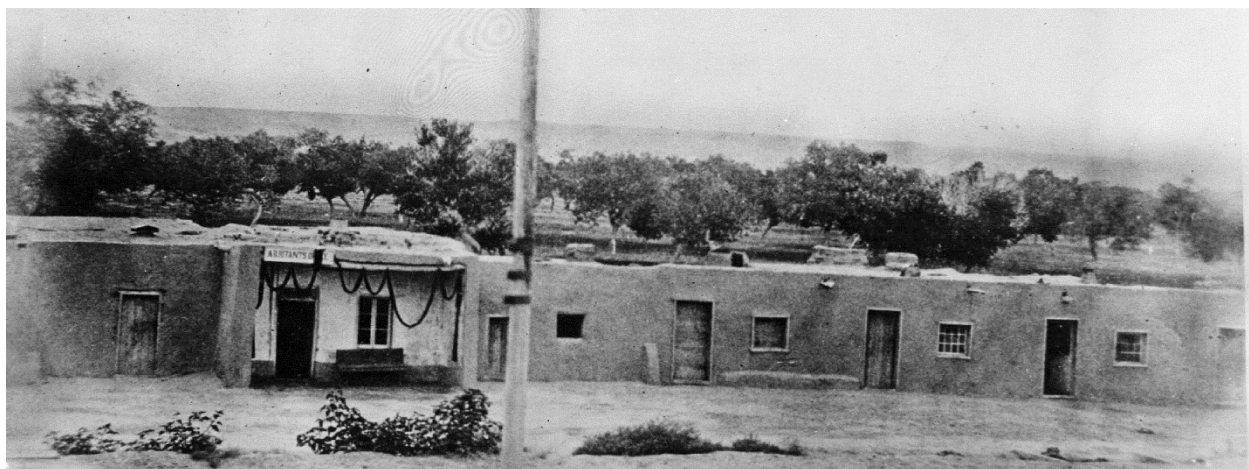
¹² Perea's Battalion lead by Lt. Col. Francisco Perea and other New Militia fought in Apache Canyon.

to Santa Fe and then to Albuquerque, where they commandeered Franz Huning's flour mill at what is now Laguna and Central. The mill was named, ironically, La Glorieta. On April 8, Canby arrived just to the south in the small farming settlement of Barelás. He sent James "Paddy" Graydon's Independent Spy Company¹³ and the regular cavalry to antagonize the Texans and draw their fire to ascertaining its strength and the position of the enemy's batteries.

Skirmish at Albuquerque - Captains William P. Hardeman and Bethel Coopwood were in charge of the two rebel companies holding Albuquerque. They kept Canby and his forces guessing as to how many artillery pieces were there. The Texans repositioned their four cannons after each shot or two to give illusion of greater firepower. The "Skirmish" lasted several hours. It was only an artillery shelling, with few casualties. As the cannon balls flew back and forth, a worried group of citizens approached Canby and told him the Confederate Army would not allow the women and children who had remained in their homes to leave and find a safe refuge. Canby ordered his men to stop firing. Sibley was arriving from Santa Fe with a larger force. So under the cover of darkness, Canby withdrew south leaving a small company of musicians with several fires lit to cover the noise of their withdrawal.

When Sibley arrived in Albuquerque from Santa Fe, the Confederates had food for 15 days and only 35 to 40 rounds of ammunition per man. To save his army he felt it was best to retreat down the valley and back to Mesilla. On the morning of April 12, the rebel army began its retreat southwest of town. Half the army crossed to the west bank of the Rio Grande and half continued down the east bank. Sibley and his staff left Albuquerque and crossed by ferry to the west bank of the Rio Grande while Green's and Pyron's men marched along the eastern bank followed by Southern sympathizers, including Judge Spruce Baird and the merchants, Rafael and Manuel Armijo, along with their families. Sibley continued on to the small village of Los Lunas and made camp. Green was supposed to cross the river and join him but instead commandeered Governor Connelly's hacienda in Los Pinos, just north of Peralta.

Battle of Peralta - Hoping to hasten the Confederates departure, Canby night-marched his troops from Albuquerque, arriving after midnight in the bosque north of Chical. The scene that greeted them was literally music to their ears. The Texan officers were holding a raucous party in the Governor's hacienda as the enlisted men slept nearby. The normally vigilant Col. Green had let down his guard.



Territorial Governor Henry Connelly's Hacienda, c. 1875

¹³James "Paddy" Graydon knew the area well. He was assigned to Capt. Richard Stoddert Ewell's Company G at Los Lunas in 1853. He was made a bugler, despite his lack of musical talent.

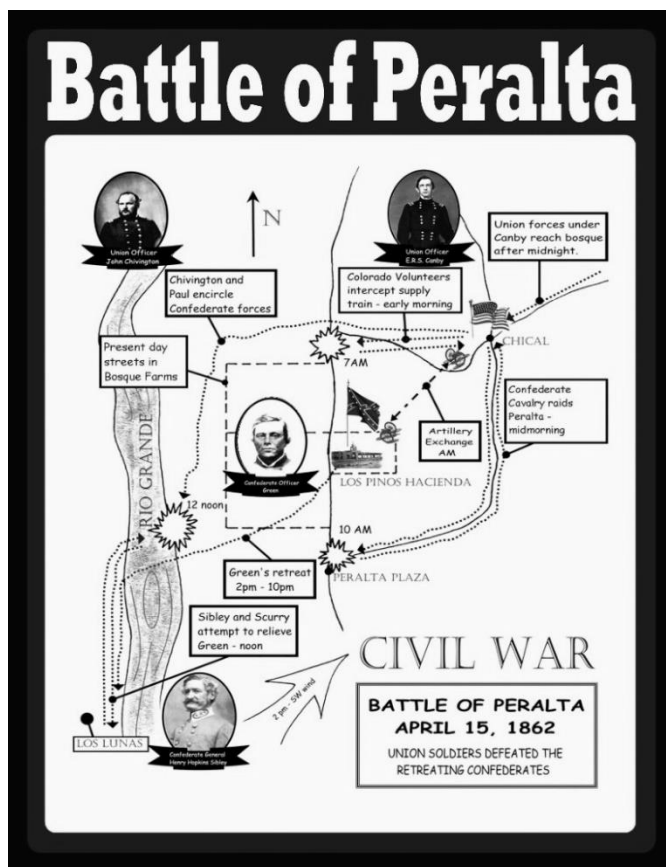
Of the confederates in Los Lunas, Charles Gardiner noted on the night of April 14th: “Some of our scouts went into the town, and even in the Fandango Room, where the [Confederate] officers were having a dance with the fair señoritas of Los Lunas.” Lieutenant Bell, commanding a Union artillery unit, observed:

“The sounds of the fandango carried into the morning hour [along with] the hilarious shout of some over-excited participant. All was merry as a feast within the dark outline of the town, just growing visible in the gloomy light of approaching day. There we lay in the restrained excitement of the situation....”

The next morning the rebels opened fire on Canby's troops after spotting a camp fire. Around the same time, a rebel detachment was seen racing to reinforce the main body at Connelly's ranch. Chivington detailed Companies F and H to intercept the supply train. They captured several prisoners, a howitzer, seventy mules, ten to fifteen horses, and seven wagons filled with quartermaster and commissary stores. At the sound of the artillery fire from across the river, Sibley sent two regiments on the west bank to aid their comrades. Green's men fought from the ditches and behind the adobe walls that ran around the Connelly compound but they were driven back. Canby maintained a steady volley of fire upon the Texans. He also sent Colonels Paul and Chivington around to the north and west of the Connelly hacienda with orders to force Green's retreat. The battle for Connelly's ranch lasted until mid-afternoon. The skirmish was abruptly ended by the onset of a fierce spring windstorm. The Texans took advantage of the storm to retreat across the river and join their comrades in Los Lunas.

The Confederates continued their retreat and marched down the west side of the river. Canby had Graydon's unit follow parallel on the east side to make sure they exited New Mexico. Wanting to avoid Kit Carson's troops, Sibley skirted Fort Craig and went west around the San Mateo Mountains coming out at the Rio Palomas. The trip was harsh. Sibley's men arrived in Mesilla worn out and demoralized. His soldiers noted that many of the Texan officers stayed drunk most of the way back dubbing it “The Famous Whiskey Keg Retreat.”

In 1866, Erdhardt Franz and Hispano merchants had a moment of solidarity. Santiago Luna y Hermano, Toribio Romero y Hermano, and Erhardt Franz requested compensation for items the Confederate Texans had plundered when they ransacked their stores after the skirmishes in Los Lunas and at Governor Connelly's residence at Los Pinos. The merchants desired recompense for hay, fodder, corn, meat, livestock, sugar and at least 37 barrels of whiskey. Luna's, Romero's, and Franz's total losses equaled \$3,215, \$4,048, and \$2,750, respectively (Gonzales R. , 2017).



Navajo Surrender and Continued Resistance

April 1868

Bosque Redondo, New Mexico Territory

Ma'ii stood on the fringes fighting her bonds as she watched the *Diné* (Navajo) medicine men perform their ceremony. Earlier Navajo children had been sent to capture her. They found her nestled amongst some short brush after a night of hunting. It was early spring and her yellow-brown coat still showed the vestiges of winter. *Ma'ii* is known for being irresponsible and as a troublemaker but to these men she is revered. She is a truth seer. She has the power to foretell the future. It is for this reason that *Ma'ii* is here.

Fifteen men are standing in a big great circle, each man about 10 feet apart. They are singing, praying and performing a ritual. They sprinkle pollen upon her fur and brush it off onto a blue colored stone. Then *Ma'ii*, the coyote, is let loose in the middle of the circle of men. She looks around. She hesitates. No one is making an attempt to harm her so slowly the coyote starts searching for a way out. The men watch her intently as they chant to the drums. Finally, *Ma'ii* makes her bid for freedom between two men and starts running at great speed to the west.

The direction of coyote's escape signified to the *Diné* – the People – that they would soon be leaving the inhuman conditions of *Hwéeldi*, the Bosque Redondo encampment where the white man had forced them to live. Soon they would be going home to *Diné'tah* but it was not the end of the clashes between the native peoples and the European settlers of New Mexico.

The Bosque Redondo Navajo reservation near Fort Sumner, New Mexico was an assimilation experiment that was formulated in the mind of General James Henry Carleton, commander of the Department of New Mexico, to save the Navajo people by converting them into Christian farmers. He devised this plan in a time when popular opinions were that the American Indian should assimilate or be exterminated. Carleton obtained his objective by ordering Christopher "Kit" Carson and other officers to destroy all Navajo livestock, crops and starve them into submission. This scorched earth policy achieved its purpose and Bosque Redondo was to become the home of some 8,500 Navajos that traversed *The Long Walk* between 1864 – 1866 on some fifty-three different forced marches. The marches were 250 to 450 miles long depending on which route they took. Early routes took them through Los Pinos near Peralta where they were held and given additional provisions.

Contrary to popular belief, not all Navajo people surrendered. Thousands moved to other areas or hid in the mountains and valleys that were unknown to the soldiers. They maintained their traditional ways that included raiding Pueblo Indian, Hispanic and Anglo settlements and even their own people to feed their families.

In November 1864, Jesus María Luna, son of Don Antonio Luna, of Los Lunas reported to military leaders that Indians had absconded with some of his livestock in the Rio Puerco area located 18 miles west of Los Lunas. He immediately organized a party of citizens and went after them. They caught up with them near the Sierra del Datil and recovered his livestock with the exception of two hundred sheep and twenty steers. Luna estimated there were 32 men in the raiding party and believed them to be Apache and Navajo warriors.

In January 1865, Major E.W. Eaton questioned a Navajo woman when he recovered some sheep taken from Lemitar. She stated that they had been living near the Moqui Villages in Arizona. Apaches had come

to their camp and asked them to participate in the theft. Eaton also received reports from Zuni and some Navajos that a large party of Navajos were starting a campaign to strike settlements from Socorro up and sent a party of forty men to intercept them.

The end of the Civil War impacted military forces ability to combat depredations by Apache, Comanche, Kiowa and Navajo. Major General John Pope ordered all Californian troops home to be mustered out. This was a reduction of 1,516 men from the 2,468-man force. This left only 952 men to guard the nearly 8,000 Navajo at Bosque Redondo and the entire Territory. This set the stage for continued depredations along the Rio Grande and trade routes. Navajo and Apaches often traveling hundreds of miles to seek livestock and food stores to feed their families.

While these Native American tribes continued their raiding life style, the Navajo that survived The Long Walk lived four years of utter despair. They experienced disease, drought, rancid food, starvation, rape, death and other atrocities inducing Navajo leaders as well as leaders in Washington to seek changes.

The Navajo Treaty of 1868

In the spring of 1868, four Navajo leaders rode a train to Washington to meet with President Andrew Johnson to seek the release of their people. Barboncito, Manuelito and two other leaders entered the White House to negotiate the return to their homelands on the border of Arizona and New Mexico. Navajo tradition says it was Barboncito, known as *He-Who-Runs-Forward* by the Diné - the Navajo People, that gave the eloquent speech inducing Washington leaders to let his people return to their homeland. His speech has gained mythical portions and has been passed down from generation to generation amongst the Diné.

In an interview with author Ruth M. Underhill, Arthur Chester, a member of the Navajo Nation, told her his version of how *He-Who-Runs-Forward* made his eloquent plea to the white chiefs:

“You must understand,” Chester explained, through an interpreter, “that when a Navajo wishes to speak beautifully, he must hold under his tongue a turquoise anointed with ‘live pollen.’ That means pollen, which has been sprinkled on a live, moving animal, then brushed off. Best of all for diplomatic purposes, is the sagacious coyote. Someone produced a turquoise given him by the chanter after a ceremony in the homeland. This was put under the tongue of *He-Who-Runs-Forward*, whom others call Barboncito. He stuck a knife in his moccasin, and then went to speak to the white chiefs, while all of the Navajos gathered around the door.”



Navajo War Chief Barboncito c. 1865

He-Who-Runs-Forward took the knife from his moccasin and threw it on the floor. “If you wish to send my people away from their home,” he said, “first take this knife and kill me.” This made the white chiefs think. They said: “If we let you go home, will you promise never to fight again?” The Navajos around the door shouted with one voice their word for yes, “*Hao hao!*” “Will you work and irrigate the soil, as you have seen the soldiers do?” “*Hao, hao!*” “Will you send your children to school every day that they may learn paper?” “*Hao, hao!*”

“Very well, your past behavior is now taken from you.” Thus, it was said, “The ox carts are ready. Start now” (Underhill, 1956)

Barboncito was also instrumental in convincing General William Tecumseh Sherman, the Commander General the United States Army, to let them return to the *Diné* versus a reservation in the Indian Territory of Oklahoma. On June 1, 1868, eighteen Navajo leaders put their crosses on the document outlining the treaty. Then on June 18, 1868, some seven thousand Navajos began their Long Walk Home. The government was to provide two sheep per person and rations for all the People until the first harvest. Every man, woman and child would receive \$5 worth of clothing each year for the duration of the ten year treaty. There would also be \$10 of supplies for every farmer or mechanic among the People. Each farmer would have \$100 for the first year and \$25 for the two succeeding years if he continued farming and remained on the reservation.

Dinétaah. the Navajo homelands were surrounded by four sacred mountains: Blanca Peak (*Sisnaajini* or “white shell”), Mount Taylor (*Tsoodzil* or “blue bead”), San Francisco Peak (*Dook’o’oostlid* or “abalone shell”) and Hesperus Mountain (Dibé Nitsaa or “big sheep”). Now, under the treaty, their lands were reduced to three and one-half million acres. A long, narrow rectangle that straddled the Arizona/New Mexico border - for portions of their ancestral homelands had been set aside for the Hopi, Zuni, Mexicans and white settlers. There were Navajo that did not recognize the new boundaries and lived outside of the reservation such as those that did not surrender in 1864. The United States was reluctant to enter another war so the Navajo and Apache depredations continued at the detriment to the communities along the Rio Grande and trade routes.

Death of José P. Jaramillo

Don José P. Jaramillo was a merchant that traveled from Los Lunas to various parts of the southwest to sell his wares. He was prosperous in his endeavors and his family was influential in New Mexico politics. His wife María Trinidad Romero was the daughter of Don Juan Andrés Romero and Doña María Soledad Luna, sister of Don Antonio José Luna of Los Lunas. In late June 1869, Jaramillo’s wife received word that Indians in southwest New Mexico had murdered Don José.

Jaramillo had travelled to Tucson four months earlier to sell merchandise. He had accomplished his task and was in route to Mesilla when he rode ahead to scout for water. His party had crossed into New Mexico and was near Soldier’s Farewell, about 30 miles south of Silver City, when he met his end presumably by Apaches.

Don José Jaramillo’s death also sparked outrage amongst the citizens of New Mexico and the United States’ reluctance to project its citizens sparking some to write editorials and sometimes anonymously:



*Jose Jaramillo’s widow
Maria Trinidad Romero*

Weekly New Mexican
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Tuesday, July 6, 1869
Los Lunas, N. M.
June 30, 1869
Editors New Mexican:

We are all in mourning here for the loss of one of our most estimable citizens, Don José Jaramillo, who was killed by the Indians recently while freighting to Tucson. Thus has another victim been added to the number of those who have lost their lives through the temporizing policy of the government in regard to Indian affairs. Had Jaramillo killed the Indian he would have been severely punished for it, or, at least, put to great expense and loss of time to clear himself of the imputed crime. Our military officers of this territory are not to blame, as they must obey orders from the powers that be.

There is great excitement in all the Rio Abajo about Indian raids. Within a few days past several bands of Indians, reported to be Navajoes [*sic*], have been seen in the vicinity of Sabinal, the mouth of the Puerco and Limitar [*sic*]. A large herd of sheep, the property of Judge Otero, in charge of Tomás Luna, have been run off, leaving the Judge but about fifteen hundred head. If I am rightly informed, Judge Otero has lost by the Indians at different times nearly eighty thousand head of sheep in all.

I have just heard that fifteen Indians passed near the house of Tomas Valencia, on the Puerco seeking sheep to borrow from their white friends, and if their white friends refuse to lend, the friendly Indian will persuade him to do so with leaden argument, as was the case with José Pino's herd of Limitar [*sic*], which the Indians borrowed, a few days since, as I am informed, after wounding the mayordomo and one herder; but the people of Limitar [*sic*] objected to the loan and pursued the Indians, recapturing the stock. Persons in this vicinity are afraid to send their teams out for wood. It is well for us that the weather is warm and but little wood is wanted; we can do our cooking with "prairie chips."

We are having rain almost daily, and crops look well, considering the late spring we had. The bugs and worms have done some damage, but I think we will have a fair crop of wheat and corn. Our fruit crop will be short with the exception of grapes. If we do not have any heavy hail storms [*sic*] this summer, there will be a very abundant crop of grapes both in this and Socorro counties. I have never seen vines hang so full of young grapes as they do at present. The river is falling so that it is being forded at Isleta.

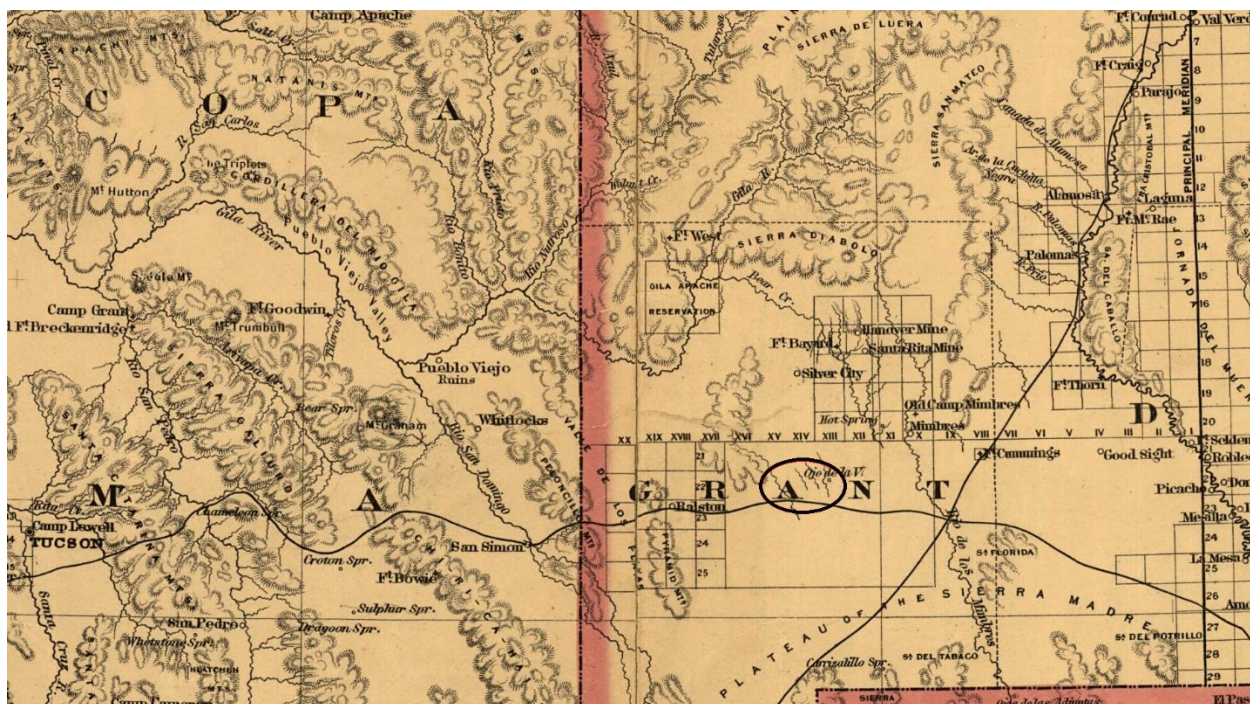
R. A.

P.S. - For fear some of your readers may think that "R. A." are initials of the writer's name this is to inform them that they stand for "Rio Abajo" in the present instance. I did not dare put my real name to this letter for fear that some Indian Agent of the friendly persuasion would get the friendly Indians after me for libel.

R. A.

P.P.S. - It is with great sorrow that I have opened this letter to add that three more of our best citizens were, on the 27th instant, added to the list of victims; to wit: Tomás Luna of Bosque de Belen, Juan Luna of Los Lunas and José María Baca of Belen. They were of party of ten who pursued the Indians that captured the sheep spoken of in the first letter. They had succeeded [*sic*] in recapturing the sheep and were returning home with them. In a defile of the “Sierra del Datil” the Indians ambushed the party and killed the three men named; two of the party escaped at once; the other five fought the Indians until their horses were killed; and then they abandoned the sheep to the Indians, and fighting their way out, made their escape. Tomás Luna and Juan Luna, were brothers to Hon. Antonio José Luna, Probate Judge of this county, and Mr. Baca was his brother-in-law. Heart-felt and deep is the sorrowing throughout all this section of country (Santa Fe Weekly Post, 1869).

R. A.



Location of Soldier's Farewell where Don José Jaramillo was ambushed and killed is circled.

Tragedy in the Sierra del Datils

Patrocinio Luna was the son of Jesús María Luna (brother of Don Antonio José Luna) and María Preciliana Salazar. Jesús María died when Patrocinio was a child and his brother Don Tomás Mariano Luna took him in to raise as his own. Patrocinio was an eyewitness to the deaths of his adopted father Don Tomás Luna, his uncle Don Juan Antonio Luna, and his Aunt Isabella Baca Luna's brother Don José María Baca in the Sierra del Datil. On his return, he penned a letter to his uncle Don Felipe Sandoval and it was printed in Spanish in the Santa Fe Weekly Post on July 10, 1869.

Here is his account translated into English:

June 30, 1869, Los Lunas, N.M. to Don Felipe Sandoval

Dear Uncle:

With shaking hand and anxious heart, my pen wants to inform you of the lamentable and horrible event that happened on Monday the 28th ...I attended funerals of the deceased. Don José Jaramillo, whose took place on the 27th of the aforementioned. When the news reached us that the livestock of my father Don Tomás Luna were taken away, at the same moment, the Navajos reached you, my deceased father ... my late uncle Don Juan Luna and the deceased Don José María Baca, and four other men. After having traveled about one hundred and five miles with six men, we took the livestock away from the Navajos. We were leading them away when those barbarians no doubt with immediate help from their people, spotted us in rough territory and opened fired upon us leaving two men without life... my father Don Tomás and Don José María Baca. Four of us still had life so we took a defensive position but my uncle Juanito watching his brother lifeless, flew like impetuous lightning knocking down anything in his way to get his brother in the middle of that crowd of savage murderers. Finally, he succumbed to the countless bullets that rained down on us from all over, and here, dear uncle, we three held the battle and I confess to you, we were incapable but burning in fury to avenge the blood of the three leaders who had just expired. The combat continued from about two o'clock in the afternoon until the night; the dreadful night, covered with its funeral mantle all around.

When the enemy Navajo saw that we did not abandon our beasts, the only resource that we had left to survive; because our munitions were about to end, one had at the most five shots. Then the astute enemy, before closing of the night, killed our beasts, and the darkness of the night ended such horrible scenes. I prayed to heaven I keep my life, while I rested, I waited for her to redeem the three victims so dear to my heart. Heaven denied me this favor of joining them in the heavenly mansion where they rest, full of honor, glory and dignity. While here on earth, they were commended for their virtue, and the high position they occupied in society and finally their good deeds that is more sublime than that of the great, but heaven had given them both.

Respectfully your nephew,
Patrocinio Luna (Luna, 1869)



Location of the ambush by Navajos that took the lives of Don Tomás Luna, Juan Luna and José María Baca circled.

Gather the Posse

In the span of a week, four respected men – all related by blood and marriage – died as the result of native depredations devastating communities all along the Rio Abajo. New Mexicans lived in constant fear of being attacked. On August 24th 1869, the Adjutant General of the United States Army James M. Wilson issued orders urging the probate judges of the ten New Mexico counties to organize mounted *posses* of not less than ten nor more than twenty-five men in each precinct in their respective communities. They were to arm themselves and be in continued readiness, to promptly pursue and punish parties of marauding Indians; but cautioned them against allowing peaceable natives to be molested, and hostilities provoked by lawless conduct on the part of the citizens (Wilson, 1869).

The hostilities calmed during the winter of 1869-1870 but the possibility of a return threat during the summer had newspaper editors such as William H. Manderfield writing editorials that bore testimony to the utility of the *posse* organization. The editorials included circulars that Territorial Governor William A. Pile sent to the Prefects of the counties urging them to keep the *posses* in their most exposed neighborhoods.

The presence of the *posses* helped curb the attacks but it would take over a decade more before New Mexicans would be able to live un-accosted by hostile natives. Unfortunately, the proud native peoples, that once ruled the New Mexico landscape through battles with each other, succumbed to a much larger predator. A predator that sustained itself through the promise of land and riches while riding on the ideal of manifest destiny.

Mercantile Capitalism & Military Occupation

Historians agree that German merchants dominated the mercantile business in the post-Civil War era. Historian Ricardo Gonzales hypothesizes, that in the case of Erdhardt Franz, he was able to become the

primary merchant in town due to modernizing the open markets and the effects of the dissolution of debt peonage. Hispano merchants could no longer use the patron system as a way to exchange merchandise for work or cheap labor (Gonzales R. , 2017). Gonzales felt that Franz used his business acumen of organized open markets to attract customers, accounting practices and extended credit.

While this was novel at the time these practices became the standard throughout New Mexico in the nineteenth century. Erdhardt Franz's mercantile became the principal store in Los Lunas by 1870 and the Luna, Romero and Jaramillo families showed a slight decline in their wealth. Many sheep ranchers and former retail merchants became freighters. The shift to freighting allowed the Hispanos to continue their merchant activities but in a different capacity and in other markets. Their wagons and teams freighted cargo to places such as Missouri, Colorado, Arizona, and Mexico and were susceptible to attack by hostile Indians. The Civil War had left the frontier open and this was not lost on the tribes seeking plunder or bearing old grudges that the white men were fighting among themselves, abandoning forts, and withdrawing troops for duty in the East. The ensuing bloodshed brought nightmare days to Los Lunas and New Mexico.



Placida or Interior Court of Mexican House, Los Lunas, New Mexico, on the Rio Grande by Alexander Gardner, 1867

The attacks from marauding natives necessitated action from the U. S. Military. While the Post at Los Lunas had been abandoned in 1862, military commanders were still turning to Erdhardt Franz for supplies. In 1869, he sold his store to Louis and Henry Huning, brothers of Franz of Albuquerque but he remained in New Mexico until 1871. Franz and Carl Huning had immigrated to the Territory of New Mexico in 1849 from their German homeland, where the Revolution of 1848 was violently reshaping that confederacy of municipal states. In 1850, Franz was a merchant in Santa Fe with fellow German Louis F. Bartels and by 1855, Franz and Carl were firmly settled in Albuquerque and had established a permanent storehouse by the time their brothers Louis and Henry joined them in 1861¹⁴ (Ancestry, 1861). Louis and Henry remained

¹⁴ Henricka Busch Huning memoirs state that Louis and Henry immigrated in 1858 but Louis' 1900 Census states 1861 and New York, Passengers Lists, 1820 – 1957 and U.S. Germans to America Index, 1850 - 1897 state: Ernst H Huning

in Albuquerque to learn the mercantile business, bookkeeping and Spanish under Franz and Carl's tutelage.

In 1865, Louis and Henry purchased a store in Belen from a German Jewish merchant, Julius Freudenthal. Freudenthal and Franz Huning had known each other and opened stores in Belen and Paraje in the late 1850s. For a sum of four thousand dollars, Louis and Henry Huning purchased the store in Belen and opened another store in Sabinal soon after (Gonzales R. , 2017). This began their official partnership, which lasted for twenty-three years. When they took over the Los Lunas store in 1871 from Erdhardt Franz, they were determined to follow his and their brother's business formula which consisted of establishing a store with St. Louis and East Coast connections, garnering support from affluent Hispanos, and making regular transactions with the U.S. Army (Gonzales R. , 2017). This required Louis to keep the books and Henry to cultivate new customers.



L. & H. Huning Mercantile Company established in 1871

Acquiring army contracts during the Indian Wars generated cash flow to underwrite mercantile operations for frontier merchants. They received compensation for providing transportation and freighting services, and commodities such as flour, bran, barley, corn, oats, and beans, for U.S. Army troops and outposts. The demand for supplies increased when frictions between Hispanos, new Anglo settlers, and Warm Springs and Mescalero Apaches amplified with the discovery of silver and other minerals in southern New Mexico. This friction gave rise to noted Indian leaders such as Victorio, Nana, Geronimo, Ju, Roan Shirt, Naiche, Chatto, Chihuahua and Mangus which propelled the army to increase troop aggregates in the Southwest, including at Fort Craig.

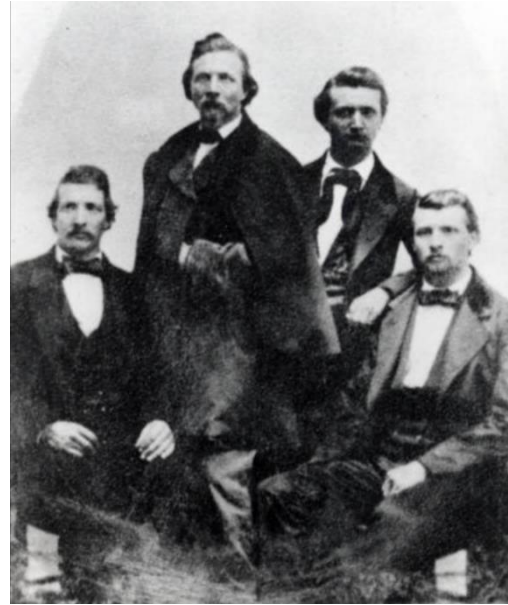
Fort Craig, situated south of Socorro along the Jornada del Muerto, a dangerous and waterless stretch of the old Camino Real below Socorro, became the Department of New Mexico's tactical anchor for waging war against Apaches and Navajos in the south-central region of the territory. Fort Craig, became a depot and transshipment point for goods destined for Forts Stanton, Bliss, Cummings, and Bayard. In January of 1871, Louis and Henry Huning entered into their first contract with the Department of War to deliver 6,000 pounds of beans to Fort Craig and they soon sought additional contracts to keep the fort well supplied (Gonzales R. , 2017). Additionally, they branched out to supply Forts McRae, Tularosa, Marcy, and Forts Apache and Wingate in Arizona.

In order to meet these demands, the Huning brothers built relationships with the farmers as well as wealthy Hispanos in the Rio Grande Valley to fulfill the orders. Agricultural production surpassed numbers

born 1837, apothecary and JCL Huning born 1834, farmer from Dielingsdorf, Germany arriving on 3 Apr 1861 on the ship New York in New York from Southampton, England. Manifest ID 00009750

seen before U. S. occupation and gave rise to increased farming, freighters and millers. The Oteros, Romero, and Hunings were among those that possessed flour mills. Flour was the largest commodity in demand being shipped to the forts. The first gristmill in the area was built in 1850 by Ceran St. Vrain and Antonio José Otero. It was a water-powered mill that had the capacity to produce a higher output than any milling operation beforehand. Located in Peralta, Otero's mill ground 500,000 pounds of flour a year.

In 1870, the Hunings built a more modern gristmill in Los Chaves and with the aid of the army contracts, agricultural production increased in the area. In 1880, the agricultural census stated that Valencia County produced 1,791,120 pounds of wheat for the year and by 1882, the Huning's Champion Mill was processing 1,841,965 pounds of wheat brought in by residents in Valencia County and outlying areas. The establishment of Champion Mill was said to have revolutionized the economy in Valencia County by introducing a system of exchange value and market relationships to survival base agricultural community (Gonzales R. , 2017).



Carl, Franz, Henry and Louis Huning, c. 1870s

While Louis stayed in Los Lunas, Henry moved to Cubero to open a store and foster relations with area farmers to supply Fort Wingate¹⁵. He eventually moved to Show Low, Arizona opened a mercantile there as well. In addition, the brothers backed the development of other mercantile businesses in areas near several forts to supply the residents drawn to those areas. From 1871 to 1884, L. & H. Huning received a total of \$427,090.29 (an equivalent of \$9.8 million in 2015) in federal contracts to supply army posts in Arizona and New Mexico (Gonzales R. , 2017). This revenue not only substantiated the Huning's business acumen but established incomes for the residents of New Mexico, particularly the Rio Abajo, and Eastern Arizona. Many historians use their success to illustrate the rise of merchant capitalism for that era.

Wine Growers

In the early 1800s, wine, wool, and pelts were the top exports in New Mexico. Vineyards were well established in the valley areas between Bernalillo and Socorro. Wine, brandy, and raisins from Isleta Pueblo were traded from Santa Fe to Chihuahua. Each barrel of wine sold for \$15.00. When nomadic Indians began attacking supply trains, there was a dramatic effect on trade. Around 1812, wine became the only revenue producing product.

The grape most generally cultivated was that known as the "Mission" variety, introduced by the Franciscan

¹⁵ There have been three Fort Wingate's. The first Fort Wingate (1849 – 1862) was located in Cebolitya, New Mexico (now Seboyeta). In 1862, Lt. Col. J. Francisco Chaves established the second Fort Wingate (1862-1868) in San Rafael, New Mexico, under the order of Brigadier General James H. Carleton and was the staging point for the Navajo deportation known as the Navajo's Long Walk in 1864. J. Francisco Chaves is the son of María Lauriana Perea and Mariano Chaves, as well as the stepson of Territorial Governor Henry Connelly. The Chaves/Connelly hacienda in Los Pinos (Bosque Farms), where the battle with Confederates occurred in 1862, was being used an army post to hold Navajos during the Long Walk in 1864. The most recent Fort Wingate (1868-1993) was established at the former site of Fort Lyon, on Navajo territory near Gallup, New Mexico.

friars and cultivated in the valley for the past two centuries. The vineyards were almost always started from cuttings, planted from six to ten feet apart each way, though some growers preferred to trench the cuttings and root them for planting the first or second year after, in the places where they were to remain. Wine production in the state surged from 16,000 gallons in 1870 to 908,000 in 1880. New Mexico had 3,150 acres dedicated to vines — twice the acreage and amount produced in New York State (Nichols, 2003). In 1881, there were vineyards established in the communities of Los Lunas, Los Lentes, Isleta, Valencia, Peralta and Tomé. Two notable vintners in the area were Louis and Henry Huning of Los Lunas and Josephine Tondre of Los Lentes (Hazledine, 1881).

In 1864, vintner Joseph Tondre, after emigrating from France, came to New Mexico at the invitation of fellow Frenchman Archbishop Jean Baptiste Lamy, seeking a healthier climate for his tuberculosis. Joseph, his wife, and their four children settled at Isleta Pueblo to run their vineyards. His wife, Mary Josephine Mellecker Tondre, a French immigrant as well, was the force that held this pioneer family together. Joseph died in 1870, leaving Josephine to raise their children and run the vineyard. In 1876, she bought 51 acres in Los Lentes just south of Isleta. She and her sons then set out to plant 30,000 grapevines and employed residents from Isleta to tend the vines under her supervision. In 1879, the vines were producing quality grapes, so she taught her sons to make wines and brandies. Josephine died in 1882 leaving the business to her sons. In 1885, Mrs. Tondre gained national attention as Henry Mills Alden of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* wrote, "The late Madame Josephine Tondre, at Isleta, was famed for her wine, and was one of the most successful growers." This was quite an accomplishment for a woman of that time.



*Josephine Mellecker Tondre
(1841 – 1882)*

Atchison, Topeka, & Santa Fe Railroad

In the early 1880s, the Atchison, Topeka, & Santa Fe Railroad arrived in Los Lunas and in anticipation of the tracks, a depot was constructed in 1879. José Enrique Luna's son Antonio José Luna provided the land on which the depot sat in exchange for \$13,000 to build a new home that later became known as the Luna Mansion. Antonio José died in December of 1881 before construction was completed. His son Tranquilino Luna, his wife Amalia Jaramillo de Luna, and their son Maximiliano were the first to occupy the home along with his mother Doña Isabela Baca y Luna. Tranquilino transferred the deed into his wife's name and placed the home in a trust. After Amalia's death, Tranquilino's brother Solomon purchased the home in 1889 and Tranquilino moved to Peralta with his new wife Dolores Chaves Armijo. Eduardo Otero, their nephew, and his wife Josefita Manderfield Otero were the next to reside in the home (Sullivan, 1975). They are the individuals responsible for turning the territorial style home into the antebellum style we see today. Josefita's son Theodore Roosevelt Armijo-Otero and family were the last of the Luna family to reside in the mansion.



Drawing of Luna Mansion by J.A. Carruth, 1897

The home was eventually sold to Eunice Turner Sullivan. Her and her sons, Charles and Kenneth Sullivan, lived there in the 1960's. Eunice petitioned and succeeded in having the "Tranquilino Luna House"¹⁶ placed on the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties and the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and 1975 respectively. In 1978, Earl Whittemore and his business partners Bob Middleton, Mike Munsey and John Purcell restored the mansion and converted it into a high end steak restaurant. Today, the Luna Mansion is owned by Pete and Tenci Torres.

Wool Industry

Sheep had traditionally been used as a medium of exchange in New Mexico, and wealthy Hispanic families dominated the trade since the eighteenth century and well into the nineteenth century. The Luna family herded sheep as far as the Arizona border near Luna, New Mexico, the Oteros in the Estancia Valley, and the Hunings as far as the White Mountains in Arizona. The introduction of the railroad presented new business opportunities that strengthened the New Mexican economy. Sheep ranchers started freighting their wool to train depots to be sent back east. In Los Lunas, Louis and Henry Huning acted as freighters, consignment agents, and bankers for area ranchers. The amassed products would be gathered then shipped east by the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway to be sold in wool commission houses in Philadelphia. In 1880, New Mexico produced 4,019,188 pounds of wool and 2,088,831 sheep grazed throughout the territory (Gonzales R. , 2017). That same year, L & H Huning accounted for one quarter of the wool produced having consigned 1,000,277 pounds of white wool to eastern markets making Valencia County the sheep capital of New Mexico.



*Luna Mansion featuring Otero renovations in the 1930's.
Photo by Richard Federici, 1973*



Eduardo Otero wool waiting to be shipped from Ranch.



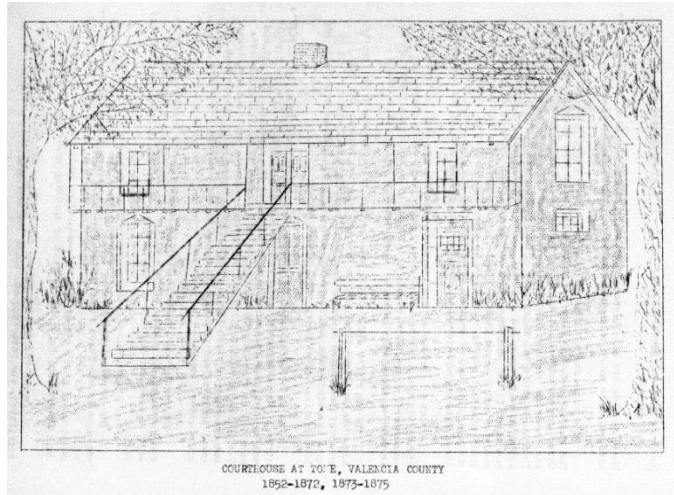
Wagons of wool in front of Simon Neustadt's General Merchandise offering Hay, Grain, & Lumber

¹⁶ Tranquilino Luna engaged in stock raising and was politically active. He was elected as the Republican delegate from the Territory of New Mexico to the Forty-seventh Congress (March 4, 1881 – March 3, 1883). He served a second term (March 4, 1883 – March 5, 1884) and was succeeded by Francisco A. Manzanares who contested his election and prevailed. He also held the office of Valencia County Sheriff from 1888 – 1892.

Valencia County Seat

Valencia County was one of seven counties comprising New Mexico prior to 1850 and at one time stretched from Texas to California. The county boundaries of the state have been through no less than a dozen changes since Mexico ceded to the United States in 1848 establishing New Mexico as a territory. The most recent change to Valencia County was in 1981 when Cibola County was created from the western half of Valencia County.

In 1875, the legislative assembly of the Territory of New Mexico voted to move the county seat of Valencia County to Los Lunas from Tomé. The elevated economy and political influence of wealthy residents are thought to have precipitated this change. A two story adobe courthouse, similar to the style built in Tomé and in Lincoln County, was built on the site of the present day public library. The courtroom and offices were on the top floor and cells were underneath. Legend has it that famed Socorro lawman, Elfego Baca, broke his father, Francisco Baca, out of the jail when he was a teen (Crichton, 1934). His father was a Sheriff in Belen and was being held for shooting two cowboys for disorderly conduct. Waiting for the jailer to leave to take part in the festivities of the feast of St. Teresa, young Elfego used a ladder found at the rear of the courthouse to gain access to the second floor and freed his father through a hole in the courtroom floor. As they ran for the brush surrounding the courthouse, they stole some venison and chile left drying outside.



Valencia County Courthouse similar to courthouses at Tome and Lincoln.



Valencia County Courthouse, 1936

The courthouse remained there until a fire in August of 1912 hastened the construction of a two-story federalist style brick courthouse at the northwest corner of Main and Luna streets. An estimated 5,000 people attended the dedication for the new courthouse that was held on Labor Day, September 2, 1913. The guest speaker, Governor W.C. McDonald, and others gave speeches. Followed by Fathers Dochere, Picard, Ralliere, and Dasternie blessing the steps of the courthouse, followed by games, horseraces, and a barbeque in Huning grove next the river.

First Doctors

Searching for new opportunities, Dr. William Frederick Wittwer left his Peru, Indiana practice in 1899 and headed West. Arriving in Albuquerque, he visited his friend Dr. George S. Easterday and accompanied him on several house calls, including one as far south as Los Lunas. The village had had practicing physicians, including Dr. Henry P. Brown in the early 1880s and Dr. J.L. Harrington in the early 1890s, but none had stayed very long and no physician hung his shingle in town at the turn of the century.

Lacking a full-time doctor for their community, local leaders suggested that Wittwer establish a practice in Los Lunas. Several merchants, the local postmaster and the stationmaster, whose wife happened to be pregnant, quickly raised a subscription list to pay the doctor \$50 a month, plus whatever fees he charged on his own (Melzer, 2016).

Wittwer turned down the offer and continued south but did not receive a better offer in Las Cruces or El Paso. He decided to take the offer in Los Lunas but lacking the funds to travel back to Los Lunas he pawned his bicycle. Still lacking sufficient cash for a railroad ticket north, Wittwer caught a ride on a freight train. When railroad workers found him and tried to force him off the train, "I pretended I was mute and they left me alone" (Melzer, 2016). His adventures did not end once he arrived in Los Lunas. According to local legend, one of the first local residents to "greet" the new physician was literally at the end of his rope, having been recently lynched from the old hanging tree on Main Street.



Dr. William Frederick Wittwer
(1871 – 1965)

In August 1899, Wittwer opened his office in a room in Simon Neustadt's residence, where he not only treated patients, but also lived. The doctor soon moved to the Hunings' store and home near the northwest corner of today's Los Lentos Road and Main Street. Local residents had agreed to pay his room and board until his practice was well established (Melzer, 2016). He then built a home directly across from the Luna Mansion and practiced out of his home. Dr. Wittwer's home was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987 and is now Teofilo's Restaurante that is owned by Pete and Tenci Torres.

Twentieth Century

The end of the Nineteenth Century heralded many changes for Los Lunas and New Mexicans but many vestiges remained of the turbulent 1800s. One such story was told in the Albuquerque Morning Journal on Tuesday, August 11, 1903. The headline read "*Cold Blooded Murder Down in Los Lunas*" (Albuquerque Morning Journal, 1903).

Word reached this city yesterday of a big shooting affray down at Los Lunas late Sunday evening. As a result of the affair Solomon [sic] Vallejos, son of Demetrio Vallejos, is dead, and Sotelo Apodaca is in a serious condition.

Vallejos got into a quarrel with Ciesto [sic] Apodaca and his brother Sotelo Apodaca and finally drew a revolver and shot Sotelo in the breast. He also beat Ciesto [sic] up badly about the head with the butt of the weapon. As soon as he saw what he had done Vallejos went after Dr. Wittwer. "While he was gone some one notified Deputy Sheriff Gutierrez of the fight and, bringing a heavy calibre rifle with him, he hurried to the scene of the shooting. A large crowd had collected. Gutierrez is reported to have walked up to Vallejos, who was standing quietly by and aiming at him with the rifle to have said: "You are my prisoner." shooting him instantly in the abdomen. Vallejos died three hours later.

A telephone message to the Journal-Democrat yesterday evening was to the effect that Sotelo

Apodaca was resting easy and would probably recover. O. W. Strong's Sons sent a casket down to Los Lunas yesterday to receive the remains of the unfortunate Vallejos, who will be buried at Los Lunas. The community is quite shocked over the affair, as Vallejos' whose father is probate clerk of Valencia county, belongs to a very prominent family.

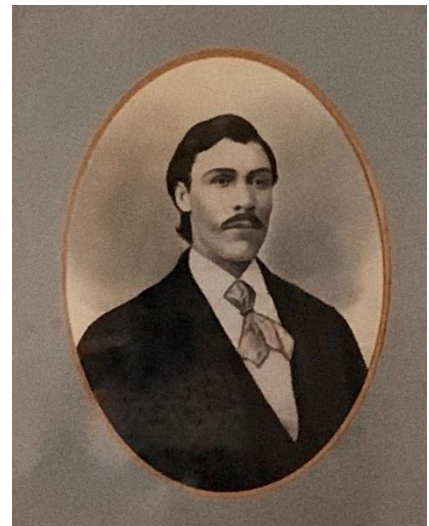
Gutierrez is to be held for the grand jury. It is said that his action was for the purpose of wiping out an grudge he had against Vallejos.

Salomon Vallejos (1879 – 1903)

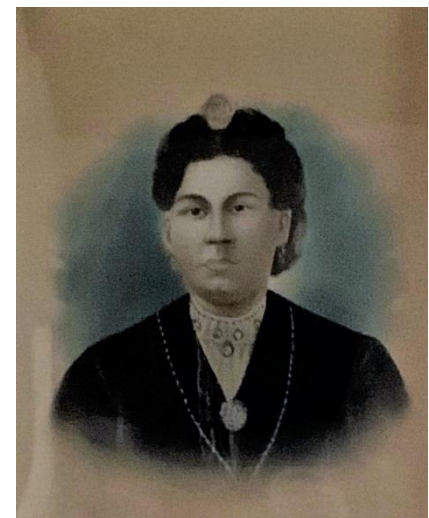
Don Jose Demetrio Vallejos and his bride Maria Peregrina Luna were married two years when they welcomed their first-born son Salomon Vallejos after several miscarriages and stillbirths. They christened him on September 3, 1879 in the San Augustin de Isleta Catholic Church at Isleta, New Mexico. Demetrio was the son of Jose Demetrio Vallejos and Maria Isabel Pacheco of the Sabinal, New Mexico area. Peregrina was the daughter of Juan Antonio Luna and Maria Rumalda Pino of Los Lunas. It was their son and grandson that was shot late Sunday evening on August 9, 1903.



Salomon Vallejos Remembrance Card



Jose Demetrio Vallejos (1849 – 1929)



*Maria Peregrina Luna Vallejos
(1861 – 1937)*

Photos: Courtesy of Robert Vialpando

Sunday morning August 9, 1903 dawned clear in the Rio Grande Valley below Albuquerque, New Mexico. There was a slight breeze out of the northwest resulting in a cool 57-degree temperature. The residents of the area attended mass at San Antonio de Los Lentes and San Clemente in Los Lunas. As the day proceeded and as the sun travelled across the sky, the temperatures rose to 92-degrees and by the evening so did tempers causing a quarrel to break out between Salomon Vallejos of Los Lunas and brothers Cisto and Sotelo Apodaca of Los Lentes. The fight escalated. It was Vallejos against the two brothers. Outnumbered, Vallejos drew his pistol and fired a shot into Sotelo Apodaca's chest. He then proceeded to pistol whip Cisto Apodaca about the head and shoulders with the butt of his pistol. Afterwards, Vallejos proceeded to the home of Candelario Jaramillo in Los Lentes for help and Dr. William F. Wittwer was called to attend his wounds. In the meantime, the Apodaca's though badly injured, went to Deputy Sheriff Toribio Gutierrez' home and demanded he arrest Vallejos. Sotelo, who was shot in the chest, then fainted in Gutierrez' door.

Gutierrez gathered a posse of about eleven men and hurried to find Vallejos. When Gutierrez and his armed entourage arrived at the home of Candelario Jaramillo, Dr. Wittwer had just stepped out of the home and when Vallejos stepped out of the doorway behind him, a shot rang out. Carrying a heavy caliber rifle, Gutierrez had fired his weapon hitting Vallejos in the abdomen. Dr. Wittwer treated the gunshot wound but three hours later Salomon Vallejos, eldest son of Demetrio and Peregrina Vallejos, took his last breath.

Deputy Sheriff Toribio Gutierrez was immediately arrested for the murder of twenty-four year old Salomon Vallejos. The citizens of Los Lunas deeply mourned the loss of such a prominent citizen and many cited that Gutierrez shot Vallejos due to an old grudge.

The Trial

The case of the Territory of New Mexico vs. Toribio Gutierrez began in April 1904 with the selection of the jury. The case was heard before Judge Benjamin S. Baker in the Second District Court of Bernalillo County. Gutierrez' attorney Estanislao V. Chavez had presented a request to have the venue changed from Valencia County due to the influence of Vallejos' family. Besides his father being probate clerk, Salomon Vallejos was the grandnephew of Don Antonio Jose Luna. His mother, Peregrina, was the daughter of Luna's brother Juan Antonio Luna and cousin to Solomon Luna a strong figure in New Mexico politics.

As the trial progressed, the prosecution and the defense testimony differed greatly. The evidence could not have been more varied. The prosecution witnesses swore on the stand that Vallejos did not have a gun in his possession, but conceded that a few hours before he had shot a man in a quarrel. The witnesses for the prosecution swore that Vallejos did not point a weapon at Deputy Sheriff Gutierrez. The defense on the other hand argued, Vallejos was armed and Gutierrez shot Vallejos as he pointed the weapon at the deputy to resist arrest.



E. V. Chavez (1862 – 1926)

The attorneys for both sides held their closing arguments in the afternoon of April 14, 1904 and the case was turned over to the jury around 5 o'clock that evening with instructions on obtaining a verdict. The jury deliberated until about 10 o'clock that night without reaching a verdict then continued the next morning finally reaching a decision by midafternoon.

After almost twenty-two hours of deliberation, the verdict was read, "We, the jury, find the defendant guilty of murder in the second degree." Toribio Gutierrez was remanded to the county jail and his attorney, E.V. Chaves, immediately filed a motion for an appeal in district court before Associate Justice Benjamin S. Baker. The initial appeal was based on an error in the jury instructions and was overruled by Baker. This did not deter his attorney though; E.V. Chaves continued to fight for his client by filing an appeal with the Supreme Court of New Mexico.

Supreme Court Appeal

Case No. 1081, Territory of New Mexico appellee, vs. Toribio Gutierrez, appellant was argued and submitted. F.W. Clancy, representing the Territory, and E.V. Chaves the appellant.

E.V. Chaves for the appellant maintained that under the law, murder is the unlawful killing of a human being with malice and forethought, either express or implied. Malice should not be presumed from the use of a deadly weapon and their innocence should be presumed until a case is proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

As he continued, he explained that it is the duty of the court in its instructions to the jury in a criminal case to give them all the law to which the evidence is applicable whether requested to do so or not. If an act must be committed willfully to render it an offense, then the legal meaning of the word "willfully" should be explained. As should murder in the second degree should be defined. When the court has any doubt as to the degree of the crime and there is any evidence which tends to reduce the degree, the court should instruct the jury as to the law of the lower degree.

George Pritchard, Solicitor General, for appellee maintained that assignments of error must be definite and certain. The law presumes malice from the use of deadly weapons "unless evidence which proves the homicide also shows that it was perpetrated without malice."

Opinion of the Court

After a review of the instructions given to the jury in the 1904 trial, the Supreme Court found that the jury instructions were erroneous as to the determination of malice in instructions number four and five as well as to the determination of murder in the second degree in instructions thirteen and fourteen.

The court found that instruction number thirteen did not define murder in the second degree as it is defined by New Mexico statute. They also were of the opinion that the trial court should have given instruction number one asked for by the defendant, as the same substantially outlines justifiable homicide and the appellant had a right to have that question submitted to the jury under the evidence. For those reasons, the case was reversed and remanded for a new trial. William J. Mills, Chief Justice; John R. McFie, Associate Justice; Frank W. Parker, Associate Justice, and William H. Pope, Associate Justice concurred with the opinion written by J. Mann, Associate Justice. Associate Justice Ira M. Abbott was present but did not participate in the decision.

The Retrial

A jury of twelve men was secured from a venire of nineteen for the retrial of Toribio Gutierrez for the murder of Salomon Vallejos on August 26, 1906. The jury consisted of James B. Nipps, Roman Montoya, Candido Garcia, Jesse Lewis, Luke Walsh, D. A. Bittner, Frank Little, D.H. Boatright, Apolonio Garcia, Macedonio Gutierrez. Jesus de las Luz Sanchez and Guadalupe Gutierrez.

The retrial began that afternoon before Associate Justice Ira M. Abbott in the Bernalillo County District Court in Albuquerque, New Mexico. District Attorney Frank W. Clancy conducted the territory's case, unassisted, while Attorney E. V. Chaves conducted the defense alone.

Three eyewitnesses were called to testify by the District Attorney. Two of which were the sole eyewitnesses to the tragedy - Dr. William F. Wittwer and Louis August. Wittwer testified that the killing was entirely unprovoked. He alleged that he had just left Candelario Jaramillo's house where he had been called to attend Vallejos, when the latter stepped from his doorway and was shot by the defendant in cold blood.

For the defense, E.V. Chavez called upon several of the men from the posse gathered on the evening in question. They recounted the tale and affirmed Toribio Gutierrez' claim that Vallejos had a pistol in his hand when they arrived to arrest Vallejos for the shooting of Sotelo Apodaca. They stated that Gutierrez was acting in self-defense when Vallejos raised his pistol.

The Verdict

The jury heard two and half days of testimony. During that time, they neither ate nor slept out of sight of a deputy sheriff. The court followed careful and vigorous rules to ensure the defendant secured a fair and impartial retrial.

The attorneys finished their arguments at noon on Saturday, August 28, 1906 and at 1:30 o'clock that afternoon Judge Abbott read the jury instructions covering eight closely typewritten pages. The jury retired at 2:20 o'clock and returned with a verdict after an hour of deliberation.

The jury returned with a verdict of not guilty. Attorney E. V. Chaves won a notable victory in securing an acquittal in the case of the Territory vs. Toribio Gutierrez, charged with murder. The witnesses called helped prove that Gutierrez shot Vallejos in self-defense as the latter pulled his pistol threateningly.

The Aftermath

Cisto and Sotelo Apodaca recovered from their injuries. Toribio Gutierrez was appointed constable of Precinct No. 5 in Albuquerque a few months after he was acquitted. He died in 1944 and is buried in Stanley, New Mexico.

Socorro born Estanslao V. Chavez (E.V. Chavez) served as a territorial delegate to the Democratic National Convention at St. Louis just after the 1904 trial. After he won the acquittal for Gutierrez, he continued to be a prominent attorney in Albuquerque until he turned his practice over to fellow Socorro native Antonio Abad Sedillo (A. A. Sedillo) to move to Los Angeles. There he expanded his practice and continued his political involvement. He died February 11, 1926 at fifty-five years old.

The loss of their son Salomon was a grave loss for Demetrio and Peregrina Vallejos. At the time of his death in 1903, Peregrina had nineteen pregnancies of which only three had survived to adulthood. Just a few months after Gutierrez' acquittal, they gave birth to a son. They named him after the patron saint of lost items, San Antonio, and after their first-born Salomon. Antonio Salomon Vallejos went on to live to be ninety-three years of age.

Statehood January 6, 1912

Don Solomon Luna, arguably the most powerful politician in Los Lunas and in New Mexico at the turn of the twentieth century, was born in Los Lunas, the third son of Don Antonio José Luna and Isabela Baca. He was educated by private tutors until his teenage years when he graduated from St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri. Upon his return to New Mexico, he focused his attention on expanding his family's finances and political fortunes. His 1882 marriage to Adelaida Otero¹⁷, granddaughter of José Antonio Otero, enhanced the former while involvement in public office augmented the latter.

His business interests were extensive and in addition to being the leading sheep grower in New Mexico, and the owner of substantial real estate, he held board positions with the Bank of Commerce, The First National Bank of Albuquerque, and Occidental Life Insurance Company.

During the course of his political career Don Solomon served as: Probate Clerk (1885), Sheriff (1892), Treasurer (1894 – 1912) and National Committee delegate (1896). He was unanimously nominated as the Republican delegate to Congress in 1900, but declined the honor. Don Solomon was considered the most important delegate at the New Mexico Constitutional Convention in 1910 where he was chairman of the committee to appoint committees. Luna was considered the largest sheep owner in New Mexico. He served as the president of the Sheep Growers Association and the Sheep Sanitary Board. Ironically, he fell into a sheep dipping vat and drowned August 30th 1912, just eight months after New Mexico was admitted to the Union as the 47th state on January 6, 1912. In 1963, he was inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.



Solomon Luna (1858 – 1912)



*Adelina 'Nina' Otero-Warren
(1881 – 1965)*

Women's Suffrage, Prohibition & Racism

In 1915, the new Congressional Union for Women Suffrage (CUWS) representative, Ella St. Clair Thompson recruited Adelina 'Nina' Otero-

¹⁷ María Adelaida Otero (1864 – 1927) was the daughter of Manuel Rito and Ana María Otero. Her cousin Manuel Basilio Otero (1859 – 1883) married Solomon Luna's sister Emelia Eloisa Luna (1864 – 1914).

Warren¹⁸ and in 1917 national suffragist leader, Alice Paul chose Nina as CUWS New Mexico chapter leader. That same year she was also appointed Superintendent of Santa Fe Schools; defeating a male opponent in an open election for the position. On February 21, 1920, New Mexico approved the 32nd of 36 states needed to ratify the 19th Amendment. Nina Otero-Warren played a key role in this process at the State Republican Caucus, a first for a woman in the state. The following year Nina ran for federal office as the Republican nominee but lost the election by less than 8%.



This woman that spent her childhood in the Luna Mansion in Los Lunas will be honored by the U.S. Mint in 2022 as the fourth coin to be released in the American Women Quarters series.

Nina Otero-Warren, American Women Quarter to be released by the U.S. Mint in the Summer of 2022.

While 1920 promised to be a successful year, New Mexicans were confronted with the enactment of the 18th Amendment, which was ratified on August 18, 1920, prohibiting the production, importation, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages. Along with a variety of other civil rights barriers that triggered unprecedented activism.

Native American children were forced to attend boarding schools, where their cultures were suppressed, as an attempt to make them 100% American. To compound this Senator Holm O. Bursum from Socorro, New Mexico introduced the Bursum Bill in 1921 whose effect would have been to divest Isleta and other Pueblos of large portions of their lands in favor of non-Indians who had occupied property on pueblo borders. The bill was defeated and in 1924, the U.S. Congress granted U.S. Citizenship to all Native Americans guaranteeing their right to vote in all states except for New Mexico and Arizona. This put a strain on relations between some Los Lunas and native Isleta residents.

In addition, most black New Mexicans experienced discrimination, especially in public school. The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) intimidated individuals and burned crosses in scattered parts of New Mexico. An anti-Klan bill was enacted but it had little effect. Hispanics also felt the sting of racism as well, especially in education. Often some educators separated Hispanic children and made them feel inferior because of their language, their culture and their ethnicity in efforts to Americanize them. These were obstacles that would not be overcome for years to come.

Los Lunas Home & Training School

In 1925, the New Mexico State Legislature voted to approve the construction of the Los Lunas Home & Training School at the behest of the Federated Women's Clubs in the state. The purpose of the facility was to provide a home for "wayward" girls, a euphemism for unmarried mothers. Initially, no funding was approved for the undertaking, but in 1927 the legislature obligated \$37,500 for the construction of the first building on site. Dillon Hall, which was opened for use in April 1929. Three years later, boys began to be admitted to the school and training center, and part of their responsibilities entailed working the adjacent agricultural fields. Over time, the facility gradually changed its mission to care for and educate

¹⁸ Adelina 'Nina' Otero-Warren is the daughter of Manuel B. Otero (La Constancia) and Eloisa Luna Otero-Bergere (Luna Mansion). Her father, Manuel, was killed during a land dispute at their rancho at Manzano, New Mexico leaving Eloisa a young widow with two children and one on the way. Nina, Solomon Luna's niece, spent much of her childhood in the Luna Mansion with her grandmother Isabela Baca y Luna.

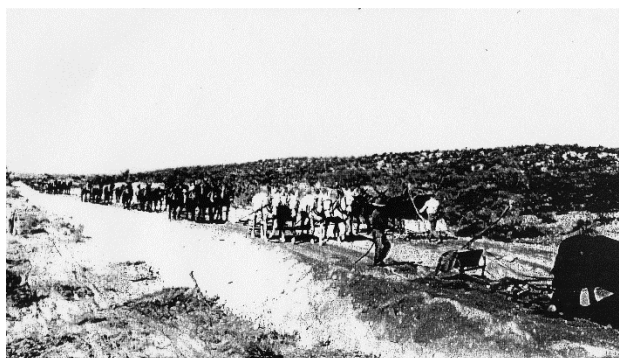
mentally and physically disabled individuals, and prior to its official closure in the 1997, the Los Lunas Hospital & Training School was one of the largest employers in the county.

Route 66 Leads to Incorporation

The arrival of automobiles in the 20th century made travel and migration easier. In the years immediately following the Great War of 1914 – 1918, America embarked upon a massive national undertaking to exert its new-found vitality and strength.

Skyscrapers rose in American cities, new time-saving appliances and devices transformed the American household, and the automobile was becoming increasingly affordable to most consumers. America bristled with youthful energy during the decade, and gradually a nationwide network of roadways was constructed to help move people throughout the country.

The Rio Abajo area was no exception. In 1925, a stretch of automobile highway was completed in Los Lunas. This road was part of a circuitous route that ran from Santa Rosa to Romeroville, southwest of Las Vegas, before turning south to Santa Fe and then down to Los Lunas. Fred D. Huning, Sr. was instrumental in overseeing the paving of this portion of highway. As the highway construction work was ongoing, on Armistice Day in 1926 the establishment of the United State Route 66 was realized. This new National highway, popularly known as Route 66 or the Mother Road.



Mule trains were used to build Route 66, 1925

Travelers were making the trek from the east to the west coast. California was the destination drawing many for a variety of reasons. Oil, movies, manufacturing, military installations, trans-pacific trade, and agriculture were the key drivers of growth.

As his ancestors before him, Fred D. Huning, Sr., Joseph F. Tondre and many other residents of Los Lunas recognized the opportunity being presented. This induced them to incorporate. Here are the Valencia County Commission meeting minutes documenting the proceedings:

"On July 2, 1928, during a board of county commissioners meeting at the Valencia County Courthouse, Fred D. Huning and Joseph F. Tondre presented a signed petition by residents of the settlement of Los Lunas requesting incorporation as a village pursuant to State law. The commissioners ordered the petition to be filed with the county clerk, while also appointing Pabla Aragon to conduct a census and ordering a survey of the proposed village, whereupon the meeting was adjourned until July 10. On that day, Emiliano Castillo, Sr., chairman; J. Procopio Silva, member; Jesus Gallegos, sheriff; and Luis Baca McBride, clerk (represented in proxy by his deputy Abelino A. Gutierrez) considered the matter of incorporation and, satisfied with the procedure, ordered and declared "the people of the territory embraced within the boundaries of the said survey platted and filed as aforesaid to be an incorporate village under the name and style of The Village of Los Lunas." After that historic meeting, an election was ordered to be held for the officers of the commission. On August 7, 1928, residents voted at the Los Lunas Public School and returned the following results:

Antonio J. Archuleta, Mayor

Joseph F. Tondre, Trustee

Gilberto C. Luna, Clerk

Fred D. Huning, Sr., Trustee

Simon Neustadt, Treasurer

Abelino A. Gutierrez, Trustee

Jesus Maestas, Trustee

Frank C. H. Livingston, an attorney from Belen and a notary public, administered the oath of office. In his first official act, Mayor Archuleta appointed Juan Luna to serve as Village Marshal, Roberto G. Sanchez as Police Judge, and Frank C. H. Livingston as Village Attorney."

Several full service gas stations appeared along the main street in Los Lunas, including one that Climaco Aguirre owned located next to the courthouse on Main and Luna Streets. Climaco was authorized to issue automobile licenses, and in his capacity as the county clerk he was able to issue marriage licenses - sometimes from the service station - and as the superintendent of Valencia County Schools, he was actively involved in the County's educational programs. Climaco and the other residents of Los Lunas witnessed the migration of hundreds of thousands of people in search of a better life as they passed through. Today, only one of the era's service stations remains on Main Street in Los Lunas on the northwest corner of the intersection of Highway 6 and Highway 314 as a testament to the glory age of the Mother Road.



Climaco Aguirre and Fifi

On October 29, 1929, *Black Tuesday* hit the Wall Street Stock Exchange wiping out thousands of investors and launching America into the Great Depression. This was immediately followed by dust bowl conditions that lasted over a decade and propelled people to migrate West seeking reprieve from conditions and employment. Combined, these events placed Los Lunas in a position to become an integral stopping point on the road west... Route 66. John Steinbeck described Route 66 in his 1939 iconic novel, *The Grapes of Wrath* as...

"...the path of a people in flight, refugees from dust and shrinking land, from thunder of tractors and shrinking ownership, from the desert's slow northward invasion, from the twisting winds that howl up out of Texas, from floods that bring no richness to the land and steal what little richness is there. From all of these the people are in flight, and they come into [Route] 66 from tributary side roads, from the wagon tracks and the rutted country roads. [Route] 66 is the mother road, the road of flight."

"...there's an end to Texas. Tucumcari and Santa Rosa and into the New Mexican mountains to Albuquerque, where the road comes down from Santa Fe. Then down the gorged Rio Grande to Los Lunas and west again on 66 to Gallup, and then there's the border of New Mexico."

The 1930's heralded the introduction of modern conveniences to the residents of Los Lunas. Electricity and natural gas arrived in the area and in 1939, the water works system and water tower were completed utilizing funds raised by a bond issue vote.

In 1935, the gross receipts tax was introduced during the depths of the Depression. Then Route 66 was realigned in 1937 - creating a direct link from Santa Rosa to Albuquerque - ultimately bypassing small

settlements, Santa Fe, Bernalillo, and Los Lunas that were along the original route. Some residents had already felt the economic impact when the route was re-routed to parallel the railroad tracks linking Isleta to Los Lunas on the West side of the Rio Grande bypassing Bosque Farms, Peralta and Valencia on the East. Business owners invested in cabins for overnight lodging and service stations but they were no longer on the direct path. The White Hotel¹⁹ had experienced a fire right around the time the first re-route occurred and they were able to rebuild the Hotel and add a cafe across from the Luna Mansion to be on the Route again. Eleven years on Route 66 shaped what the Village is now. Today visitors can retrace the pre-1937 alignment of historic Route 66 and rediscover the vestiges of Los Lunas from all those years ago.

As 1940 rolled around Los Lunas boasted a population of 686 residents and as the years progressed, the numbers waivered until 1960. In 1941, the United States entered the World War after the bombing of Pearl Harbor taking some of the young residents of Los Lunas to places all around the world offering them different opportunities. Opportunities such as the G.I. bill induced them to go to College giving them prospects they never had before. Many went into careers that didn't demand them to be working in the fields. The Korean and Vietnam wars were much the same so the population of Los Lunas had only risen to 973 by 1970. For those that did return, they embraced their heritage and honored the friends and neighbors that had been lost. Such was the case with Edwin Berry.

Edwin Antonio Baca (Berry) was born in Adelino on May 15, 1918, the oldest of seven children born to Manuel Atocha Baca y Vigil, of Adelino, and Leocadia Sanchez y Gallegos Baca, born in Jarales and largely raised in Adelino. After the United States entered World War II in late 1941. Edwin and three of his four brothers, Ramon, Doroteo and Gladio ("Lalo"), soon entered the military and, after basic training, were shipped out to fight overseas. A member of the 5th Army, Edwin saw action in North Africa and Italy, mostly as a military policeman, an interpreter and, later, as a baker. Although seldom on the front lines, Edwin witnessed great loss and suffering. In one of his most traumatic moments of the war, Edwin recognized the body of an old friend, Foch Romero, as it was transported in a Jeep driven by Romero's captain. Taken aback, Edwin forgot to salute the captain, who chided him for his neglect of protocol. Edwin apologized, saying that he had gone to school with Romero back in New Mexico (Melzer, 2020).

Foch Romero was born August 4, 1918 in Los Lunas to Donaciano D. Romero and Barbarita Speare. Legend has it that Foch's mother, Barbarita, had a dream one night. She heard a large boom and ran outside to see what had happened. What greeted her was a huge hole that had been blown in her yard. As the smoke cleared, there on the ground near the hole was her son Foch. The next morning the family received a



Acoma Station, owned by Jesus Gallegos, was the last stop on the dirt heading west to California.



*White Café
Owned by Paia Romero and George Ade*

¹⁹ George Ade, a Greek businessman married Paia Romero. When they rebuilt across from the Luna Mansion they installed Greek inspired ceiling tiles.

telegram informing them of their son's death. Technical Sergeant Foch Romero, a member of the 180th Infantry, experienced a traumatic event which ultimately resulted in the loss of his life on February 19, 1944 on the Anzio beachhead in Italy. A plaque memorializing Foch Romero is located next to the Los Lunas Middle School football field. His father on the condition that the field be named after his son donated the 9-acre field to the school (Trujillo, 1989).

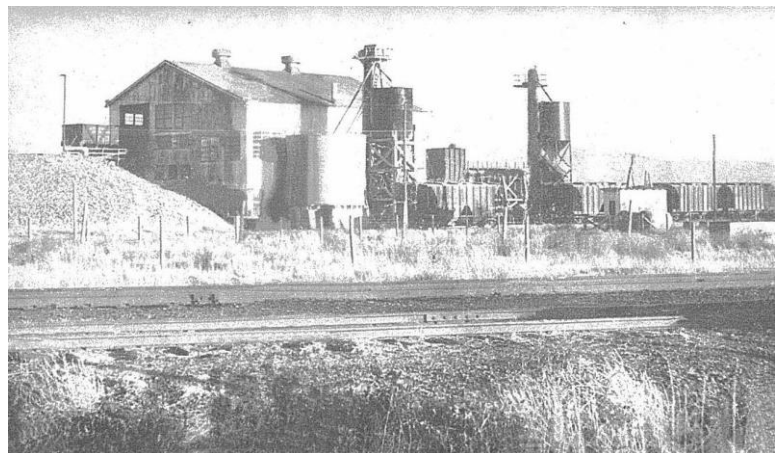


*Sgt. F. Foch Romero
(1918 – 1944)*

The following year, Edwin's 19-year-old brother, Ramon, was killed by German small arms fire in Belgium on March 2, 1945. Grateful that he had survived the war, but saddened by the loss of so many men of his generation, Edwin helped build a memorial to the 16 soldiers from Tomé and its neighboring communities who had died in World War II. The 16 men were Ramon Baca, Antonio Blea, Romulo Chavez, Paul Guerrero, Willy Lopez, Gregorio Lucero, Leandro Lucero, Feliciano Montañón, Luis Peralta, Clovis Perea, Arturo Saiz, Santiago Saiz, José Torres, Pedro Torres, Florenio Trujillo and Juan Vallejos. The impressive structure, built in 1946, still stands near the entrance to the Immaculate Conception Church (Melzer, 2020).

Edwin wanted to do more to express his faith and assert his gratitude for those who had died in World War II. Remembering his father and the Penitentes' crosses at Easter, family and friends helped him build and erect three permanent crosses at the peak of Tomé Hill and dedicated them on March 25, 1948 (Melzer, 2020). His tribute is celebrated each Easter as thousands of people walk through Los Lunas to make the pilgrimage to Tomé on Good Friday.

In 1946, shortly after World War II had ended, future Mayor Howard C. Simpson and his family moved to Peralta. There, they established a Chile farm. He worked on the farm until he suffered a heart attack. After recovering he went to work for the Zuni Milling Co. in Los Lunas milling fluorspar.



Zuni Fluorspar Mill 1944 - 1953

The mill was built in 1942 by the Defense Plant Corporation as part of the war industry during World War II. The mill was situated on a straight spur about 200 yards off the line of the Santa Fe Railway just south of the present day transportation center. Fluorspar played a very active part in the production of atomic energy in the nuclear age; it is also used as a flux in steel making. The flotation plant made its initial production in March 1943 and was the largest producer of fluorspar in New Mexico in 1943.

Most of the concentrates were shipped to hydrofluoric-acid plants, but some were shipped to the Government stock pile at East St. Louis, Illinois and to glass plants (Pehrson, E W, 1945). The mill feed was supplied by the Navajo mine in western Valencia County (now Cibola) near Grants. In addition to supplying milling ore to the flotation plant, the Navajo mine shipped 7,700 tons of fluxing-gravel fluorspar. The Navajo mine was acquired during the latter part of 1943 by the Shattuck Denn Mining Corporation, that also took over management of the flotation plant at Los Lunas 1944 and operated it until it closed in 1953 (McAnulty, 1978).



Louis Griego, Mariano Chavez, and David D'Spain

After the plant closed, Simpson relocated to Sandoval Road in Los Lunas and began working with Lloyd Ball, who owned a gas station on Main Street, just east of Los Lentos Road, currently the property of the Range Café. Along with Felix Baca, he drove a truck for Ball. Eventually he bought the truck and started his own company. Known as Hub Oil (above right), Simpson's company provided gasoline to service stations from Albuquerque to Socorro, with two retail outlets in Los Lunas and El Cerro (Gonzales R. S., 2013).

By 1960, the population had risen to 1,186 and Simpson was induced to run for mayor. In 1962, he narrowly edged out Fred Huning, Jr. in a close election. Even though he beat Huning, Mayor Simpson collaborated with Huning on local residential and commercial development. Together they were both instrumental in the Interstate 25 project that brought the freeway to the west side of Los Lunas. During his three terms as Mayor of Los Lunas, Simpson pioneered the first sewer plant to be built in the country under the Federal Accelerated Public Works Program, initiated plans for a new bridge over the Rio Grande, oversaw the adoption of the Village's first comprehensive plan, and zoning ordinances, and subdivision regulations (Gonzales R. S., 2013).

Mayor Simpson also over saw the establishment of the Los Lunas Community Library in 1966, which was housed in the west rooms of the former Community Center (built during the New Deal as WPA project) located under the water tower. The ground breaking for the new Los Lunas recreational park was held in 1966 and was dedicated in 1967 during Mayor Emiliano Castillo's term in honor of SF Daniel D. Fernandez, an infantryman in Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment Mechanized, 25th Infantry Division, who was posthumously award the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry as he sacrificed his life to save others in his unit on February 18, 1966 in Vietnam, Hau Nghia Province.



Daniel D. Fernandez



José Ignacio and Lorinda Griego Fernandez receiving the Medal of Honor posthumously awarded to their son, Sp F Daniel D. Fernandez for conspicuous gallantry by President Lyndon B. Johnson as “Lady Bird” Johnson looks on.

In 1968, Rio Grande Construction Co. of Albuquerque was awarded the contract of \$777,150 from construction of the first phase of a new Los Lunas High School (City Firm Gets Los Lunas Job, 1968). The first phase of the construction was the main portion of the new building that was completed in 1969.

I-25 and the interchange that Mayor Simpson had helped negotiate was still under discussion. Mayor Emiliano Castillo attended several meetings to discuss the need for double lanes on the off ramps and a mile off the freeway.



Los Lunas High School c. 1971 - 1972

The Los Lunas Hospital and Training School received a federal grant to construct a new 80-bed facility in 1969. The Training School was the only mental health facility with 24-hour care in the state (Albuquerque Journal, 1969).

In 1940, the New Mexico Penitentiary System built the Los Lunas Prison Farm for honors prisoners. In 1980, the correctional facilities were expanded and the New Central New Mexico Correctional Facility opened as a medium security prison with 480 beds. Today it features both minimum and maximum security units with a 666 offender capacity.

In 1970, the population had decreased 18% to 973 then Los Lunas experienced a housing boom due to financial assistance of the Farmers Home Administration loans to develop rural New Mexico. By 1980 the population in Los Lunas had more than tripled to 3,525 residents. The village had already been rationing new sewer hook-ups to developers, because the plant built in 1962, was strained to capacity. It was news well received when Mayor Emiliano Castillo announced that they had received a \$2 million in federal grants to build a new sewer plant (Los Lunas to get Funds for New Sewer Plant, 1981). That would only pay for 75% of the projected cost.



New home for "honor prisoners at New Mexico State Penitentiary's Los Lunas Prison Farm

Vision and Vitality



El Cerro de Los Lunas

When Louis F. Huning, Sr. first ran for mayor in 1982, he teamed up with Charles Griego and Robert Vialpando, who were both running for council seats, on the "Vote for a Change in Los Lunas" campaign. In an interview for the Valencia County New Bulletin, Mayor Huning remembered, "*We were all businessmen, and we felt we needed to bring some life into the community to help our businesses.*" They "*wanted a community where you could live, work, and play....We started on that trip, and we ran a successful campaign. Then the morning after came. We didn't know what we got ourselves into — we had no idea* (Fox, 2017)."

In 1982, Main Street was a two-lane asphalt road, and there were only a handful of police officers on the force. The first few months, and even years, were spent trying to muddle their way around the red tape of local government. Mayor Huning, along with the council members Charles Griego, Robert Vialpando, Frank Gurule, Ruben Sais and Clerk/Treasurer Phillip Jaramillo, struggled to get projects funded. Their first village budget totaled about \$750,000 for the whole community, and the village had around 20 employees. “We knew that people were leaving our community because they weren’t able to stay in our community and work,” said current Mayor Charles Griego (Fox, 2017). They knew they needed to attract businesses into the community in order to create the revenues being spent in other communities.



*Robert Vialpando, Louis F. Huning, Sr. and Charles Griego
“Vote for a Change in Los Lunas”*

Growth

The previous administration did not promote growth, so when the medical supply company Ethicon wanted to build a manufacturing plant in Los Lunas, the council did not want to extend utilities. This is one of the instances that spurred Huning, Griego, and Vialpando to run for office (Fox, 2017). They started attending economic development seminars and sought out professional consultants and Adelmo “Del” Archuleta with Molzen-Corbin, an architectural, engineering and planning firm based out of Albuquerque. Together, they began building water and storm lines, sewer lines, roads and installing street lights on Main Street. They revised the zoning ordinance, developed a master plan, and started building a water rights portfolio for future growth.

When the State of New Mexico widened Hwy 6/Main Street in 1985, the south end of the Bernie Gonzales Clinic was torn down. The Village purchased the building and renovated it then moved the public library from the west rooms of the former community center making more room for the police department and municipal court. The public works, community development, and the chamber of commerce offices were located in the former



Los Lunas Public Library



*Police Department & Municipal Court
(Site of first Fire Station. Truck garage was on south end of building where court is pictured.)*



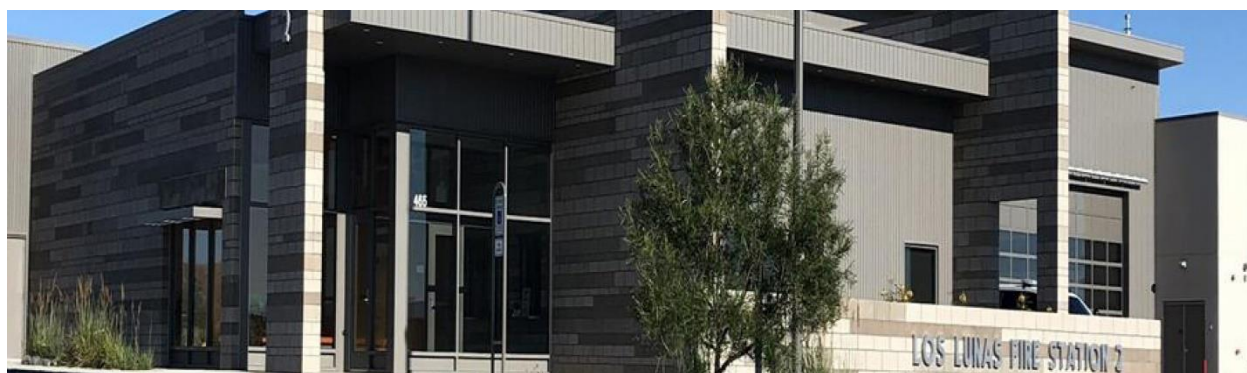
Nicanor Artiaga home that was located west of the renovated public library. The administrative offices, council chambers and the water department were across the street in the fire department.

In the mid-1990s, the village administration and police department moved into new facilities, located at 660 Main St. NW, which had enough room to accommodate these departments, plus the Los Lunas Village Council Chambers. Since that time, the police department has been renovated and expanded to accommodate the staffing needed. In efforts to keep downtown vital, the Mayor and council worked with legislators to receive Capital Outlay funding to renovate the fire department and the public library in FY 2003-04.

*Public Works, Community Development
& Chamber of Commerce*



Fire Department & Administrative Offices



Los Lunas Fire Station #2 built with bond issue funds opened on the west side in July 2018.

Fire Station #2

The 17,000 square foot facility is more than twice the size of the Main Street station and was made possible by a \$5.79 million general obligation bond voters approved in March 2016. The GO bond also funded the purchase of a ladder truck, which they received in the fall of 2018.

Community Services

Over the years the Mayors and Council members have sought and approved a variety of building and expansion projects at the Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center, all the parks, the Los Lunas Public Library, and the Museum of Heritage & Arts in an effort to provide quality of life opportunities for the citizens of Los Lunas. This has enabled the Village of Los Lunas to offer a wide variety of programming for all ages.

Community Parks

Daniel Fernandez Memorial Park, established 1967

Enchantment Little League, established 1983

River Park, established 1990

Los Lunas Sports Plex, established 1998

Heritage Park, established 1999

Los Cerritos Park, established 1999

Buena Vista Park, established 2005

San Antonio Park, established 2008

Huning Ranch Park established 2010

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Park, established 1983
Main Street Memorial Park, established 1985
Valley View Park, established 1985
Artistic Park, established 1986

Chester Skinner Park, established 1990
Villa del Rosa, established 1999 (Native Lands.
Helen Court, established 2005 (Undeveloped)
*Splash pad was added at Daniel Fernandez
Memorial Park in 2020

Badlands Drive-In

In efforts to provide safe activities for the public during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Parks and Recreation Department built a drive-in movie theater near the Los Lunas Sports Plex. Moviegoers were able to watch Jurassic Park at the early show then Guardians of the Galaxy at the late show on opening night February 5, 2021.

Open Space

In 2006, Jack and Louis F. Huning Sr., of Huning Limited Partnership, donated the 1,525-acre hill, El Cerro de Los Lunas, to the village of Los Lunas to prevent its development and restore the geological and cultural aspects of the area. Since then trails have been developed and the Village hosts an annual King of the Hill trail run at 5K, 10K, and half marathon. Open space staff oversee the preserve as well as river trails that have been developed. In addition, they offer a variety of adventure camps for youth.



King of the Hill Trail Run

Museums

In 2005, Senator Michael Sanchez appropriated \$50,000 to be used to purchase equipment to create an oral history program. The program began with contracting with historian Patty Guggino in one room at the library. The program expanded when the Mayor and Council budgeted general funds to have the Agustin Archuleta building renovated. One February 29, 2008, the Museum of Heritage & Arts opened featuring the Otero-Luna Dynasty Exhibit. Then in 2016, the Village purchased the Archuleta/Gallegos property on Main Street west of the Lunas Mansion for the future site of a Route 66 Museum. The addition of an outdoor pavilion on the south side of the museum was completed in 2021.

Senior Center

When the Fred Luna Senior Center opened in December of 1990 it was a 5,600 square foot facility. Over the years there have been various renovations with the most recent in 2018. The \$1.5 million project added 3,700 square feet on the south side of the building. The new construction brought the total square footage to 28,000 feet, expanding capacity from about 275 to 350 people.



Fred Luna Senior Center, 2018

Transportation Center

The Los Lunas Transportation Center opened for business after the arrival of the Rail Runner in 2006. In 2016, broke ground for the beginning of the second phase of development for the station. The Transportation Center is considered the heart of the vision for a mixed-use Village Center. The most recent update to the Master Plan was in 2018 (Sites Southwest, LLC, 2018).



Los Lunas Transportation Center

Recent Economic Development

Los Lunas has a strong agricultural tradition that predates its incorporation, and agriculture continues to define the local character if not a significant contributor to the local economy. Over the last two decades the Village has been able to diversify its local economy with a range of services and employers locating in Los Lunas. The Wal-Mart Distribution Center arrived in 1998 which was followed by a Wal-Mart Super Center and other auxiliary businesses. East of the interstate, Home Depot and Lowe's have added to the economy as many homeowners and builders shop for building supplies. The two stores, located side-by-side, act as anchor stores drawing additional businesses such as Starbucks, Applebee's Buffalo Wild Wings, Planet Fitness, IHOP, Autozone, Harbor Freight, Del Taco, Verizon, Maurices, and more to neighboring properties.

2016 brought the Village two major developments that created jobs and further changed the economy of central New Mexico. The first development was the announcement that Facebook would be building a data center in Los Lunas. Facebook went online with its first building in 2017 and, as of 2022, has six buildings online with plans to build two more buildings. The new expansion will place the data center just under 3.8 million square feet and brings Facebook's total investment in the Los Lunas Data Center to \$2.2 billion dollars. The second development is the Central New Mexico Rail Park. The rail park is a 1420-acre master planned regional rail-served industrial park. The site plan allows for manufacturing/warehouse/distribution companies. The park is being built in phases. Phase one will make 443 acres available to interested industries.

The Village has also drawn Niagra Bottling, Wall Colmonoy, Fresenius Kidney Care, Accurate Machine & Tools and the University of New Mexico – Valencia Campus (UNMVC) Work Force Training Center to the west side business parks. The \$8 million facility should be completed by Winter 2021. In addition, it was announced in February 2022 that an Amazon fulfillment center will be built in the area, creating 600 new jobs (Wyland, 2022).



UNMVC Workforce Training Center

While retail and industry are contributors to the Village's economic development, home building has been a significant contributor. Gross receipts tax received for construction have accounted for as much as 40% of the gross receipts tax revenue in recent years. In March of 2020, it was announced that the Legacy@Sierra Vista subdivisions, which will consist of 750 homes and 300 apartment units in being planned. Then in May 2020 Sivage Homes announced they were building homes at Inspiración subdivision in the Fiesta master-planned community.

As one reviews the history of Los Lunas one detects a pattern that has signified economic stability. Each century, and each decade there are leaders that step up to focus on the economic development of the area. They realized that if they want a better quality of life for themselves and future generations, they need to raise everyone up. These leaders built relationships and worked together to strengthen the community to bring the resources that improved the quality of life for the residents of Los Lunas, and beyond.

Mayors of Los Lunas

Don Antonio Archuleta (1883 - 1955)

Served 1928 - 1930



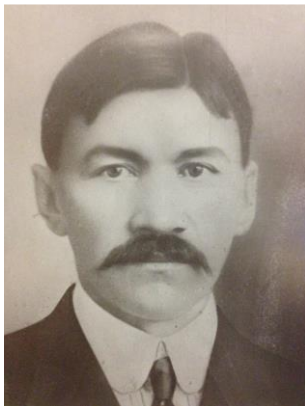
Antonio Archuleta was born Los Lunas in June 1883. He married the former Veneranda Gauna of Los Lentos and their union was blessed with three children were born: Nina, Rose, and José, better known as Figo. After Veneranda's death, Don Antonio traveled as was the custom among many townspeople to take the baths in Hot Springs, New Mexico. There, he courted and later married Isabelita Trujillo, who became his life partner in marriage as well as in business. The couple had four sons, including Telesfor, Agustín, Salomon, and Antonio Jr.

On August 7, 1928, Don Antonio earned the distinction of being elected the first Mayor of the Village of Los Lunas. The meetings in those years were not held on a regular basis but convened when issues arose that demanded the attention of the Mayor and Board of Trustees. Mayor Archuleta's administration enacted the first ordinances that set the foundation for municipal government in Los Lunas.

Don Antonio Archuleta's term as mayor was one instance of public service; he also served as a Justice of the Peace, the Chairman of the Board of Education Other from 1925 to 1926 as Valencia County Sheriff.

Emiliano Castillo, Sr. (1871 - 1953)

Served 1930 - 1932



Emiliano Castillo, Sr. was born May 28, 1871 in Pajarito, New Mexico to Jose and Lupita Castillo. His siblings were Francisco, Macedonio and Maria. He also had a half brother and sister—Leonard and Lucinda.

He was orphaned at age 11 and was raised by Louis B. and Henrietta Busch Huning. Mrs. Huning was his educator as well as guardian. She taught him how to speak German as well as English. He helped at the Huning's mercantile and became an authority on livestock.

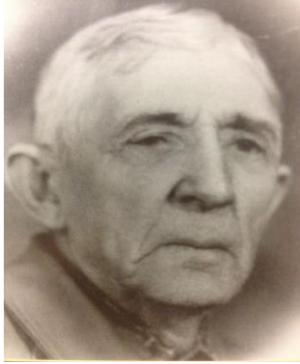
Emiliano married twice; he and his first wife Sofia Chávez were parents to Josefita, José and Luis—then Sofia died in childbirth. On November 28, 1901, he and Anna Weber, a native of Krausendorf, Germany, were joined in matrimony. She had emigrated to the United States upon answering an ad placed in a German newspaper by the Hunings of Los Lunas. Emiliano and Anna's children were named Oswald, Hattie, Fred, Emiliano, Jr. and Anita.

For half a century, Emiliano Castillo, Sr. engaged in business in Los Lunas, as well as brief stint in the mining town of Kelly near Magdalena. During his career, he served as Superintendent of County Roads, was a member of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Board, and was elected to the Valencia County Commission. Three of his sons were later to be Mayor — José, Fred and Emiliano, Jr.

Mayors of Los Lunas

Don Diego Aragon (1872 – 1951)

Served 1932 - 1934



Diego Aragon was born in Valencia on November 13, 1872 and was raised in Los Lunas. He married Teresa Vigil of Valencia, and together they had seven children. Don Aragon was engaged in business in Los Lunas and operated a ranch in the eastern part of Valencia County.

Aragon was the proprietor of a saloon called the “American Bar,” which was located on the site now occupied by the Los Lunas Public Library. He also operated the only hotel that Los Lunas for many years and with his brother-in-law, Abel Vigil, he entered a partnership in the grocery business.

Don Diego spent many years in public service in Valencia County and to the State of New Mexico, whether as a County Assessor, County Commissioner, Village Councilman, or Aide-de-Camp to four New Mexico Governors. His contributions to Los Lunas are memorialized by a street and a shopping center bearing his name.

José Castillo (1895 - 1969)

Served 1934 - 1936



The second child born to Emiliano and Sofia Castillo, José Castillo was born in Los Lunas on September 10, 1895. In 1917, following America’s entry in the First World War, he was inducted in the United States Army, serving in Company H, 30th Infantry Regiment. From June 1918 until the American Expeditionary Force’s final offensive in the Meuse-Argonne sector in October 1918, Castillo’s unit fought on the Western Front. Upon returning to America in the summer of 1919, Castillo was discharged at Fort Bliss, Texas.

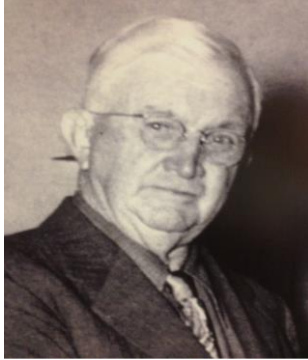
After his homecoming, Castillo married Sofia Brusuelas and resumed his w groceries and dry goods for his father’s store in a horse-drawn wagon and later managed the general store E. Castillo and Sons for his family.

As the fourth Mayor of Los Lunas, he followed the same precedent established by his three predecessors by serving only one term in office. Apart from the grocery business, Castillo was an active member of the Knights of Columbus Council in Belen.

Mayors of Los Lunas

Fred D. Huning Sr. (1880 - 1956)

Served 1936 - 1952



A son of Louis B. Huning and Henrietta Busch Huning, of the prominent Busch brewing family from St. Louis, Fred D. Huning, Sr. was born in Los Lunas on September 10, 1880. His siblings were Louis D., Emma, and Lolita.

He first worked for his father on their sheep ranch and then with the Gross, Blackwell, and Company of Albuquerque as a salesman. Returning to Los Lunas, he assumed active management of his family's ranch and the mercantile business.

Fred D. Huning married Matilda "Maud" Irene Jagels Steinecke on August 10, 1911, in Albuquerque, and within two years their son Fred, Jr. was born. After Maud died in childbirth in 1915, Fred married Ethel Tyler, and from that union

Lucille, Betty and John L. Jack: was born.

Of the four original Village Trustees, only Fred D. Huning eventually served as Mayor of Los Lunas. Huning also served on the New Mexico School of Mines, Board of Regents, the Middle Rio Grande District Conservancy Board, and as a State Highway Commissioner, where he was instrumental in overseeing the first paved roads in New Mexico.

Fred Castillo (1908 - 1977)

Served 1952 - 1962



Los Lunas' sixth mayor was its first born in the Twentieth Century. Fred Castillo, a half-brother of former Mayor José Castillo, was born in Los Lunas on November 5, 1908, as the third child of Emiliano and Anna Castillo.

After completing elementary school in Los Lunas, he graduated from Belen High School in 1927 and continued his education at the Western School for Secretaries in Albuquerque. During his career, Castillo was employed by the Federal government, surveyed for the State Highway Department, worked as a drag line operator for the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, and managed of the E. Castillo and Sons, the store his father established in Los Lunas.

In 1932, Fred Castillo and Aurora Sedillo of Valencia married, and the following year their Anita was born. Aurora died of illness on December 19, 1939, leaving Fred to raise their six-year old daughter. On February 12, 1947, Fred married Margaret Chávez of Los Lunas, and they became parents to a son, Arthur, and a daughter Juliette.

During the Second World War, Castillo served on the local Selective Service Board. In addition to his ten-year-long term as Mayor of Los Lunas, he served as Fire Chief for the Village and was a member of the Board of Education.

Mayors of Los Lunas

Howard C. Simpson (1911 - 1978)

Served 1962 - 1968



Howard Cliborn Simpson, the youngest of 12 children, was born on November 20, 1911, at Datil, New Mexico. His youth was marked by an upbringing tinged with poverty during the Depression era, but his experiences shaped his determination to dedicate himself to the betterment of the underprivileged.

He attended grade school in Duran, New Mexico, high school in Meadow, Texas, and Wayland Baptist College in Plainview, Texas, until a death in the family necessitated his return to the family farm. As a professional baseball pitcher, he earned money to help care for his widowed mother and two orphaned nieces. Howard married Edna E. Justiss in 1936 in Eddy County, New Mexico, and this union was blessed with two children, Howard Douglas and Barbara Anne D'Spain.

Simpson operated a ranch near Scholle, New Mexico, as well as serving as president of the State Senior Citizens Group and on the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Municipal League. Upon leaving office in 1968, he retired to Jacksboro, Texas, where he became an ordained Baptist minister. Howard C. Simpson died in his home in Jacksboro on February 6, 1978.

Emiliano Castillo, Jr. (1914 - 1986)

Served 1968 - 1982



The youngest child of Emiliano Castillo, Sr. and Anna Weber Castillo, Emiliano, Jr. was born on October 18, 1914, in Los Lunas. He was educated at Los Lunas Public School, Solomon Lunas High School, and one year at the University of New Mexico.

Prior to America's entry in the Second World War, he married Lucy Romero of Los Lunas, and within the next few years their children JoAnn, Randolph, Barbara, and Jerome were born. Tragically, their youngest child died in infancy. When Emiliano registered for the military draft in 1940, he was employed as the Assistant County School Superintendent and served on the Board of Education.

Emiliano Castillo, Jr., the Village's eighth mayor, was the fourth member of his family to serve the citizens of Los Lunas in this capacity. Emiliano served as Mayor for 14 years, and he also served as the Municipal Clerk prior to his tenure. Notably, he served on the Board of Director of the Los Lunas Hospital and Training School and was elected to a term as Valencia County Sheriff.

Mayors of Los Lunas

Louis F. Huning, Sr. (Born 1949)

Served 1982 - 2009



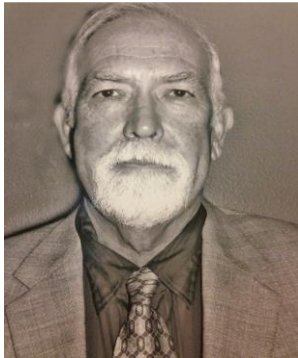
Louis F. Huning, Sr. was born on June 10, 1949, in Albuquerque to Fred D. Huning, Jr. and Ruth Ellen Dils Huning. He graduated from Los Lunas High School in 1967 and later earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of New Mexico. In 1986, he married Nancy Mountain of Belen, and together they are parents to Ruth Ann and Louis F. Huning, Jr.

A direct descendant of the Louis B. Huning who emigrated from Germany to New Mexico in 1861 to become merchant in the Rio Abajo region, Louis F. continued the family tradition of working for the Huning Mercantile Company. Louis B. Huning and his brother Henry opened their first mercantile at Belen in 1865. They then opened one at Los Lunas in 1871. For more thirteen decades the Hunings provided a wide-array of goods to nearby residents. With the store's closure in 1994, four generations of Hunings had worked there, including Louis F., whose tenure stretched across twenty years. He is currently a general partner in Huning Limited Partnership, a ranching and land development company.

In 1982, Los Lunas was a small, sleepy town with a population of between 1,500 and 2,000 people - at the most. Main Street was a two-lane asphalt road, and there were only a handful of police officers on the force. As Mayor, Louis F., along with his 1982 Council running mates Robert Vialpando and Charles Griego, increased the number of employees from twenty to more than two-hundred, while raising the Village's operating budget from \$750,000 to \$64,200,000 to serve the more than 12,000 resident of the community.

Robert Vialpando (Born 1949)

Served 2009 - 2014



Robert Vialpando, a life-long resident of Los Lunas, was born on February 4, 1949, to Tony and Nina Vallejos Vialpando. After graduating from Los Lunas High School in 1967, he attended New Mexico State University to study studio art.

He is a former radio personality, whose program on KARS 860 AM was a regular feature broadcast from Belen for seven years. His interest in public service began in the early 1980s, and in 1982 he was elected to one term on the Village Council. In 1992, Robert was again elected to represent the residents of his district, a position he held until assuming the responsibilities of mayor upon the retirement of Louis F. Huning in 2009. He was elected to his own term as Mayor of Los Lunas in 2010, at a time when the community boasted a population of 14,835.

Robert is married to Doris Pareo Vialpando, who formerly taught drama at Los Lunas High School and presently owns Shanti Yoga. They have two children, Demetrio Vialpando and Jessica Montaño.

Mayors of Los Lunas

Charles Griego (Born 1951)

Served 2014 - Present



Charles Griego was born on July 12, 1951, in Los Lentes to Ramon and Juanita Perea Griego. A life-long resident of Los Lunas, Charles is an alumnus of the University of New Mexico, where he was conferred a Bachelor of Arts in History. In 1984, he became the manager of Heritage Title of Valencia County, a company he currently owns and operates. He is married to Angela Griego née Carabajal of Los Lunas; and they have two children Charles Joseph Griego and Ana Emilia Van de Putte.

His career in public service began in 1982 upon his election to the Village Council. As the Village's population increased throughout the 1990s, the community was partitioned into four districts in 2000, and Charles represented District 2 until 2014. After thirty-two years as a representative, he was elected the 11th Mayor of Los Lunas in March 2014.

During his first term in office, the Village experienced considerable growth, which necessitated long-range land-use, water conservation, transportation, and wastewater plans. With the announcement by the social media company Facebook in 2016 of its forthcoming data center in Los Lunas, the Village regained some of its national recognition that had been diminished when U.S. Route 66 was realigned through Albuquerque in 1937.

As of the spring 2021, Charles continues to serve as Mayor of Los Lunas, having been elected to a second term in March 2018. In the nine decades since Los Lunas incorporated as a Village, many changes have occurred in the once-sleepy town along the banks of the Rio Grande. Eleven men with deep local roots have guided and managed the Village's growth, a process which continues under the leadership of Mayor Griego.

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