

Following the Manito Trail: Los nuevomexicanos en Guayomin



**VANESSA FONSECA
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LATINA/O
STUDIES AND ENGLISH
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**

**RICHARD GREENLEAF LIBRARY SCHOLAR
UNM LATIN AMERICAN AND IBERIAN
INSTITUTE**

OCTOBER 22, 2015

Overview



- **Manito Trail**
- **1910-1930 U.S. Census data + historical background**
- **Folklore and archival documents**
 - Stories of shepherding in Wyoming
- **Vicente M. Baca**
 - Wool and real estate
- **Oral history interviews (1930-present)**
- **Future directions**

Guayuma/guayumero



Cobos, Ruben. *Dictionary of New Mexico and Southern Colorado Spanish: Revised and Expanded Edition*. Museum of New Mexico Press, Santa Fe. 2003

- Guayuma [NM-CO Sp. *Guayuma* fr. Eng. Wyoming].
<El Venancio anda de borreguero en Guayuma.
Venancio is working as a sheepherder in Wyoming.>
- guayumero *adj.* [NM-CO Sp. *guayumero*]
sheepherder in or from Guayuma (Wyoming).

U.S. Federal Census – Rock Springs



1920s

- **Population – 33**
 - 4 family units
 - 19 men, 1 woman
 - 30 born in NM with mother/father also from NM
 - 3 born in CO with mother/father from NM
- **Jobs held**
 - 12 U.P.R.R., 4 coal miners, 3 sheep industry, 2 restaurant cooks, 1 servant, 1 shopmaker, 1 car repairer,

1930s

- **Population – 120+**
 - 16 families
 - Majority NM born, with some from CO, with at least one parent from NM
 - Younger generations born in Wyoming
 - Large percentage of single males working as guayumeros
- **Jobs held**
 - 7 U.P.R.R., 7 coal miners, 17 sheep industry, 1 chamber maid, general laborers, farmworkers, 1 soft drink parlor operator

U.S Federal Census – Rawlins



1910s

- **Population – 75+**
 - 2 family units
 - Mostly single males
 - Majority of individuals born in NM with mother/father also from NM
 - Few born in CO with one parent also from CO
- **Jobs held**
 - 60 + sheep industry, U.P.R.R., blacksmith, general laborer

1920s

- **Population – 86+**
 - 8 family units
 - Majority born in NM with both parents also from NM
 - Some younger children born in Wyoming
- **Jobs held**
 - 34 working for U.P.R.R. 3 general laborers, 1 dishwasher, 1 hotel clerk, 1 woman ran a boarding house, 1 woman ran a hotel, 1 pool room manager, 1 cook, very few shepherders

U.S Federal Census – Rawlins



1920s

- **Population – 86+**
 - 8 family units
 - Majority born in NM with both parents also from NM
 - Some younger children born in Wyoming
- **Jobs held**
 - 34 working for U.P.R.R. 3 general laborers, 1 dishwasher, 1 hotel clerk, 1 woman ran a boarding house, 1 woman ran a hotel, 1 pool room manager, 1 cook, very few shepherders

1930s

- **Population +/-250**
 - 32 family units
 - Majority still born in NM, with both parents also from NM.
 - Younger generations born in Wyoming.
- **Jobs held**
 - 85 shepherders – 2 foreman, 20 U.P.R.R, pool hall manager, realtor, grocery merchant, clothing salesman, prison factory shirt maker, prison factory machine operator, fur trapper, general labor, cowboy ranch laborer, ranch laborer, street laborer.
- **Women have a stronger presence in workplace: 3 women laundry house workers, 2 Rooming house landladies, 1 café waitress, 1 washerwoman for private family**

U.S. Federal Census – Riverton



1920s

- **Population +/- 35**
 - 6 family units
- **Family dynamics**
 - Majority born in NM, with both parents also from NM.
 - Some parents from Spain, Mexico, and Wyoming
 - Younger generations born in Wyoming
- **Jobs held**
 - 7 sheep industry, 6 general laborers, 1 female servant for private family

1930s

- **Population +/- 60**
 - 8 family units
 - Majority of individuals born in NM with both parents also from NM. Some from CO/WY/TX
 - Younger generations born in Wyoming.
- **Jobs held**
 - 7 sheep industry, 3 betabeleros, 4 U.P.R.R, livestock labor, farm laborer, painter, general labor

U.S. Federal Census - Wamsutter



1910

- **60 nuevomexicanos**
 - 3 family units
 - Most born in NM/CO with mother/father from NM
- **Jobs held**
 - 37 sheep industry, 3 ranch laborers, 1 coal miner, 1 general laborer, 1 U.P.R.R.

1930

- **45 nuevomexicanos**
 - 7 family units
 - Most born in NM with mother/father from NM
 - Many families from OK, TX, WY, KS, CO, MS, Arabia, Canada, Mexico
- **Jobs held**
 - 21 U.P.R.R, 3 sheep industry, 1 ranch hand

U.S. Federal Census – other towns



1930's Laramie

- **40 nuevomexicanos**
 - 6 family units
 - Mix of birthplaces for individuals and parents: NM, WY, CO and NE
- **Jobs held**
 - Steam railroad operator, shepherd, farm laborer, university instructor

1920's Douglas

- **8 nuevomexicanos**
 - 1 family unit
 - All from NM with both parents from NM
- **Jobs held**
 - All shepherders with exception of 1 farm laborer

U.S. Federal Census – other towns



1920's Walcott

- **8 nuevomexicanos**
 - All single males
 - All from NM with both parents from NM
- **Job held**
 - Sheep industry

1930's Cottier

- **10 nuevomexicanos**
 - 2 family units
 - All from NM with parents from NM – exception 1 male from Mex, 1 child born in WY
- **Jobs held**
 - Betabeleros (sugar beet workers)

Folklore and the archives



- **OJO DEL ESPIRITU SANTO RECORDS**
- **WPA COLLECTION - REYES MARTINEZ**
- **ANSELMO ARELLANO**
- **RUBEN COBOS ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION**
- **LA HERENCIA DEL NORTE**
- **JACOBO ARELLANO ALABADOS – THOMAS STEELE COLLECTION**
- **VICENTE M. BACA**

Ojo del Espíritu Santo Company Records

October 9, 1919.

Mr. Ted Sparr,

Cabezon, N. Mex.

Dear Sir:

A letter has just been received here addressed to Mr. C. C. Catron stating that the first shipment of sheep will leave Thermopolis, Wyoming on October 12 and that they expect to reach Bernalillo within 4 days thereafter. They have requested that you meet them at Bernalillo and direct them to the grant. Mr. Catron is out of town, but we suppose it is his intention that you should help these people and we accordingly request that you be in Bernalillo by the 17th and render them what assistance you can. We further suggest that you count the sheep and advise us of the number.

Yours very truly,

WPA Collection – Reyes Martínez



La Garrapata

J. B. Romero

Temprano en la primavera
Renace como una mata
Un insecto de la tierra
Que se llama garrapata

Resultando muy fatal
Le causara suena ingrata
Y se ira al hospital
Con la fiebre de garrapata

Cuando una al trabajo atiende
Y piensa que esta a la pata
Alli viene y se le prende
La maldita garrapata

La tonada es un nudito
Que con su voz lo desata
Y se entretiene un ratito
Cantando (La Garrapata)

WPA Collection – Reyes Martínez



“The above poem truly describes the experiences encountered by many a sheep-herder who has gone from New Mexico to the Wyoming sheep ranges. The tick-fever, as stated in the poem, is quite a serious malady, and in many instances has caused fatal results to those afflicted with it.”

- Connection to C.E. Lucero – 1 de junio, 1939
 - “Los versos de las dos barras” – Anselmo Arellano

Anselmo Arellano – Los pobladores nuevomexicanos y su poesía, 1889-1950



- **Enrenganchados – 15 de agosto, 1940**
 - Alfonso Archuleta. Rock Springs, Wyoming
- **Los pastores – junio, 1930**
 - Matheson, CO
- **La situación del borreguero – 4 de julio, 1931**
 - Salomón Villegas. Rocky Point, Wyoming
- **Adios – 11 junio, 1931**
 - Max Argüello. Rawlins, Wyoming

Ruben Cobos Collection



- **Carlos García (b.1893) – resident of Cheyenne, Wyoming recalls his experiences as a former resident of Mora, NM**
 - ✦ Folk customs, first automobile to arrive in Mora, Prohibition, house construction, folk customs – corrido de gallo, verses de chiquiado, Christmas, weddings, New Years
- **J. Felix Trujillo (b.1904) – resident of Ratón, NM**
 - ✦ 41:18-45:52 – story about a man who went to Wyoming for 20 years
- **J. Felix Trujillo (b.1904) – resident of Ratón, NM**
 - ✦ 3:01 (reel153) – poem about a man who is grateful to find work in Wyoming

Este era un amigo que se paseaba por la plaza de Wyoming
'Onde oye uno que rechinaba inglés, "Do you want to work there?"
Hablando de altro salario, de terreros perpetarios
Te doy noventa duros y te pongo mantura y caballo
Arreglando mis maletas me vine de borreguero
Y aquí me tienen amigos con gusto y placentero
Ganando noventa duros como los miro manitos en estos tiempos tan duros

Women's perspectives on Wyoming



- **Mrs. Frances Cordoba (b.1889) – resident of Valdez, NM**
 - ✦ 7:55-8:53 La labranza. Frances' daughter asks what her father did for work.
- **Virginia Sánchez - Mariposa en la casa**
 - La herencia del norte story about Viola Beroniz Espinosa (La Rinconada, NM)
 - ✦ Beet field workers in Worland, WY in the 1940's
 - ✦ Women's responsibilities

Thomas J. Steele Alabado Collection



- **Jacobo Arellano**
 - 1918. Rawlins, Wyoming

Vicente M. Baca



- Born August 15, 1853 in Las Vegas, NM
- Married to Margarita Chaves on September 16, 1874 in Belen, NM
 - Margarita is the son of Felipe Chavez
- Vicente and Margarita have 11 children between 1875-1903
- Margarita dies shortly after giving birth to her last child. She is 45 years old
- Vicente attends the University of Notre Dame
 - 2 of his children also attend the university



News

May 19/04

TH

LINEAL DESCENDANT OF AMERICAN EXPLORER

Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Baca, lineal descendant of one of the earliest discoverers of America and of one of the oldest families of the Spanish nobility, died at the age of 9 months at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent M. Baca, 1253 Sherman avenue, on Sunday. Pneumonia was the cause of the death.

The title of Prince of Cabeza de Baca was bestowed upon the progenitors of the present family in the year 700, as a reward for its services in battle against the Moors. In 1528 the prince from which the baby took its name set out on an exploring expedition and landed on the shores of Florida with thirty men. According to Spanish history they probably visited the great lakes, the site of St. Louis and Texas, where remains of a portion of the party are thought to have recently been exhumed.

With three men the explorer passed through New Mexico, Colorado and Mon-



ALVAR NUNEZ CABEZA DE BACA.

tana. After a trip home he brought his wife to New Mexico. She was the first white woman. Settling at Zuni, the explorer died there.

Vincent M. Baca, father of the deceased baby, who is a real estate and investment man, was born at Las Vegas in 1853.

Vicente M. Baca



Business Affairs

- **Opens a Boys School in Belen, NM in 1887**
- **Wool Merchant and Real Estate investor**
 - Moves from Las Vegas, NM to Belen, NM (likely through family connections to Felipe Chavez)
 - Belen, NM to Denver, CO
 - Denver, Co to Lusk, Wyoming
- **From 1915-1942, Baca lives in Lusk, Wyoming with his children after purchasing a cattle ranch**

Belen, N.M., Nov. 7th A.D. 1887.

Vicente M. Bacon opened, this day a private day School for Boys at Belen, N.M. with the following pupils under the instruction of the English & Spanish Languages.

Price of tuition per month (\$2.00)
Two Dollars to be paid in advance

Month of November, 1887.

Edmundo B. Bacon, Teachers
Melouan, N.M.

The following description was made by the original owner
in 1915, before I purchased the place. The altitude has only been
1600 ACRE WYOMING STOCK RANCH. altered and corrected by
me with ink mark.
Baca

LOCATION.

This ranch is located at Lusk, in Southern Wyoming, on the main line of the C & N. W. R. R., which passes through the Northern boundary. About 100 Miles from Cheyenne, and may be reached either over the Burlington or the C & S. Ry., from Denver, Colorado.

ACREAGE & CROPS.

There are 1600 Acres of deeded land, all taken up nearly 40 years ago, and in such a manner as to include the Valley land and control the water in this district. Of the 1600 Acres, 1400 Acres are first class Hay & Alfalfa land, and can all be irrigated and cultivated.

The soil is a rich dark loam, about one-half of which is thoroughly sub-irrigated. If all put in Alfalfa, this place would easily produce from 5,000 to 6,000 tons of hay per annum.

WATER RIGHTS.

This place includes with it its own ample decreed water rights, covering the entire property. There are 12 Springs boxed in with concrete pressure tank, from which it is piped to the house, barns, corrals, fountains and water plugs in the lawn.

BUILDINGS & FENCES.

Equipped with a stand of buildings costing over \$20,000. The residence is a stone and concrete structure, 9 rooms, modern, substantially built. One barn 60 X 100 ft. which cost \$5,000; and there is a complete and ample set of outbuildings of all kinds, including smoke house, ice house, shop, etc., The entire place is fenced and cross-fenced with substantial well built wire fences, all of which are in first-class order.

CLIMATE ETC.,

The Altitude is about 5000 ft., The land is all smooth, fairly level, or gently rolling valley land. Has excellent shipping facilities; Good train service; and is in a very salubrious temperate zone. Cattle and Sheep do unusually well, and very little feeding required during the winter. This ranch has taken twenty prizes for stock during the past fifteen years, during which time the owner has been exhibiting, and sold last year 150 head of prize thoroughbred netting \$200 per head.

Vicente M. Baca



- **Songwriter**

- American Flag
- Japan as a major world power
- The professional divorcer

- **Politics**

- 9 page memo on the ramifications of the Spanish-American War
- Predictions on presidential races

- **Humor?**

- Baca includes a facsimile of his own head as part of his collection at the Fray Angélico Chávez Library

The semile of the
Shape of my head

Vicente M. Bacu

Denver, Colo

March 10/1908

Forehead

Back

Thank you



- All materials presented today are from the archival collections at the Center for Southwest Research at UNM and the Fray Angélico Chávez Library, as well as the U.S. Census records from 1910-1930.
- Many thanks to
 - UNM Latin American and Iberian Institute
 - Center for Southwest Research
 - UNM Libraries
 - Fray Angélico Chávez Library
 - Levi Romero