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A. K. Peterson

INTERVIEW OF SENATOR J. M. MADRID

(Pioneer of Las Animas County,
Colorado.)

I was born in Mora County, New Mexico, May 5th, 1863. In December of 1864, my parents moved to Colorado, to the little settlement called Madrid, not far from Trinidad.

My parents were Jose C. Madrid and Maria C. Madrid. I had three brothers and two sisters.

I attended public schools in Colorado until about 1879, when we moved back to New Mexico for a short while, and I attended private school there for about three years.

I taught school from 1881 until 1886. That year I was elected County Superintendent of Colfax County, New Mexico. I served one term and was offered a position in Colorado, so I moved back to Madrid; the same house and lands where I lived as a child. This was in 1889. Here I taught school in the same school room for twelve consecutive years.

ATTENDANCE:

This varied but my records show that I never had less than 45 pupils, and on one day I had 67 in attendance. I taught all grades up to the ninth.

MARRIAGE:

In 1882 on the 3rd day of May, I married Inez Gonzales. The ceremony was celebrated in the Holy Trinity Church of Trinidad, by Father Richard Di Palma. I was living at Vermajo then, and it was quite an all day's journey from there to Trinidad, the way we traveled then. We had the usual feast and dance that night, and after a few days went back to Vermajo. We celebrated our fiftieth anniversary in 1932, by having a dinner and a general good time. We have had 9 children, 7 of whom are now living.

PUBLIC LIFE:

In 1902 I was elected to the House of Representatives of the Fourteenth General Assembly, from Las Animas County.

In 1904 was elected County Superintendent of Schools of Las Animas County, and held that office for four consecutive terms, or until 1913. In the meantime, while I was teaching school at Madrid I also served as Court Interpreter for Judge Jesse Northcutt, of the Third Judicial District of Colorado.

In January of 1905 I moved to the City of Trinidad. In 1913 I established a real estate and insurance office, which business is still in existence, and I am still running it.

NO. 5. J. M. M...

In 1932 I was elected to the Senate from the Fourth Senatorial District, on the Republican ticket, which position I am at present filling in the Second Extra Session of the Twenty-ninth General Assembly.

MEANS:

I remember distinctly the time when the Utes and Apaches used to camp in the neighborhood of the place where I was raised. As boys, my brothers and I used to play together with the little Indian boys. Three I remember very well, they were KANIACHE, JUAN ANTONIO and SALVADOR.

WIGHTING DAYS:

I used to freight from Kit Carson to Trinidad, and from El Moro to Las Vegas and Cimmaron. This was during the years 1874 to 1878 that I drove the freight wagons. We drove over the old Santa Fe Trail. We brought supplies, merchandise of all kinds from Otero, Sellers and Company; Chick, Brown and Manzanarez; and the Bartels Brothers. You see in 1872 we freighted from Kit Carson to Trinidad and from El Moro to Las Vegas. These same merchants followed the railroad in 1876. This merchandise was shipped all over New Mexico and as far as Las Cruces and Santa Fe,

I freighted until in December of 1878, and in January of 1879, we moved back to New Mexico; and I remember there was about twelve to fifteen inches of snow on the ground when we made this move, and very cold. We drove oxen for the freight wagons; we had six oxen in our outfit. Two of ours were very large and beautiful, the two leaders, "Blackie" and "Buffalo".

"Buffalo was an immense, reddish brown animal and "Blackie" was coal black and not quite so large. We did our own shoeing at the blacksmith shops before we would start out on a trip.

OTERO COUNTY IN COLORADO

was named for Miguel A. Otero, who was the merchant of the firm of Otero, Sellers and Company at El Moro, and OTERO COUNTY in New Mexico is named for M.A.Otero, the Ex-Governor of New Mexico and the son of the Colorado Otero. The present Judge M.A.Otero of the First Judicial District of New Mexico is a grandson of the Colorado merchant.

"UNCLE DICK" WOOTON'S TOLL GATE:

On November 5th, 1874, I went to New Mexico with a relative, and that is the day I first went through "Uncle Dick" Wooton's Toll Gate. I went through the gate seven different times, up to and including 1879. I did not again go through the place where the gate was until on the 26th day of July of 1933, I again stood on the exact spot where 59 years ago the old chain was stretched across the gate, and I had a picture made of this and one of "Uncle Dick" Wooton's house. The charge for going through the Toll Gate was \$1.00 for one wagon and the first team and fifty cents for each additional team.

RAILROADS AND COAL MINES:

The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad came into El Moro in 1876. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe came to Trinidad in 1878. The Colorado and Southern came in 1888, from Texas, and used to be known as the old Denver, Texas and Fort Worth

Railroad.

The first coal mine was started in Ingleville in 1876; then followed Starkville in 1878; Hastings in 1886; Berwind and Sopris in 1887. (This mine was named for General Sopris). In 1901 came Primero, Segundo, Tercio and Cuarto. In the meantime, along in 1892 and 1893 came Gray Creek and Delagua.

WATER MILLS: SAW MILLS:

That little canyon or valley in which Trinidad is located is a very rich little valley. It took four threshing machines starting in September, clear up into January to thresh the grain grown there, each season. There were five grist mills, 3 at Trinidad, 1 at Weston and 1 at Stonewall. The first grist mill was owned by Mr Foster, and was established about 1868. Theodore Lunning ran the first water power grist mill and Frank Barnes operated the first steam grist mill, and incidently, it was the last. Tom Walch bought Lunning out.

The first saw mill was established by Jacob Beard, at the mouth of Long's Canyon, about 8 miles above Trinidad, in the year 1865 or 1866.

LAS ANIMAS COUNTY ESTABLISHED:

Las Animas County was created from the southern part of Huerfano County, February 9th, 1866, by Territorial Act; also

a portion of this county was taken from Pueblo County.

PIONEERS OF LAS ANIMAS COUNTY:

I am one of six pioneers who are left in Las Animas County.

This is the order in which they came into the County:

Jose Lujan, came in 1861 and is 76 years of age; Agapito Duran came in 1862, is 78 years old. Andres Madrid, (my cousin) came in 1863, and is 79 years old; Vicente Lovato came in 1863, and is 71 years of age; Jose M. Madrid (myself) came in 1864, and I am now 70 years of age; Teodoro Abeyeta, came in 1864 and is 73 years of age.

I am the youngest of the Pioneers, both as to residence and in years. I have a wide acquaintance with the history of Las Animas County, and on account of my long residence there, have come to know very well, all the pioneers, their residence and their occupations. We six had a sort of a get-together meeting in November of this year (1933), and had a photograph made, which makes a good record of the pioneers at this time.

(Signed) _____

(Present Address) _____

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INTERVIEW WITH NICHOLAS VIGIL OF BUEYEROS, N. M.
Taken by A. K. Richeson, Trinidad, Colo.

Dec 7-1934

I was born three miles west of Trinidad near Sopris at the former Colorado Plaza on Oct. 29, 1869. I had my schooling at the district school near here; Las Vegas, and St. Marys, Kansas.

My father was born on June 18, 1843 about 18 miles north of Santa Fe. Our family was of pure Spanish descent for many generations back. He and my grandfather decided to come to the vicinity of Trinidad with the view of settling on government land. In October of 1862 they set out on horseback from Cimmaron. They had been working for Mr. Maxwell. My father had been reared at his homestead. At one time he had served as houseboy for Mrs. Carson when her husband made a trip to California in 1857. Later he served as houseboy for the Maxwell family. It might also be stated that Lucien B. Maxwell was a son-in-law of Carlos Beaubien, one of the original grantees of the land now known as the Maxwell Grant.

They came up thru what is now New Mexico to what is now Raton pass. They spent one night with Dick Wooten at his famous Toll Gate. My grandfather obtained an option on a place below what is now Garcia Plaza from a man related to Juan Ignacio Alirez, a merchant in Trinidad in the '60's and father-in-law of Jesus M. Garcia, the first county clerk of Las Animas County, and who was known as the "perpetual county clerk". Mr. Jose Pio originally owned what is now Garcia Plaza, and he loaned my grandfather six head of cattle with which he could bind his option until he could bring his cattle and goods from near Cimmaron. There was not much money in circulation those days and the barter method of purchase was prevalent to a large extent. However the deal did not go thru because the owner's family returned from Taos in the meantime and disapproved of the transaction.

Upon my father's and grandfather's return to Trinidad they purchased two log houses on Main St, where the Aeillo Block now is in Trinidad. In January 1863 they bought land where the Raton Creek runs into the Picketwire (~~Las Animas River~~) from two Irish bachelors, one of whom was Reilly Dunton. This extended from what is now the Simpson Homestead to the junction of Colorado Canyon at the Colorado and Wyoming tracks in Jansen.

This land was thought to be government land, but later it was contested to be a grant extending from the north boundary of the Maxwell grant to the vicinity of Hoehne. The original grantees were recorded in the Mexican courts as Vigil and St. Vrain. St. Vrain was first here on an expedition with Kit Carson. Alfred Bent, son of

Gov. Charles Bent of the Colorado-New Mexico territory. It might be stated here the Gov. Bent together with Kit Carson and Tom Boggs married daughters of Pablo Jaramillo of Taos, New Mexico.

My grandfather when this came up filed on 80 acres where the Colorado and Wyoming tracks are in Jansen, because he thought this was outside of the grant. Final proof was suspended on this because of the claims of the heirs of Alfred Bent. In later years this grant was suspended and the land reverted to Public Domain. Then my grandmother received title to the 80 acres and my uncle Francisco Vigil filed an adjoining 160 acres.

In 1866 there were quite a number of Ute Indians in and around Trinidad. Liquor, as it is well known, never did them any good, and there were ill feelings between the Indians and the settlers. The Indians had strings of horses, about 25 each. They were accused of stealing horses and a justice of peace, -----, took them away from the Indians. In retaliation the Indians drove their horses over the settlers's crops. The people complained to the commander at Ft. Lyons. The sheriff, -----, tried to pacify them, but in turn was taunted and ridiculed by them. When the Indians heard that the commander had sent troops, some twelve young bucks accosted Wm. R. Walker, afterwards coroner, and accused him of making the complaint to the commander. He was frightened and laid the blame on my grandfather Ramon Vigil, commonly known as Ramon Colorow.

These young bucks, under the influence of liquor, started for our place and met my grandfather about halfway to town. He quieted them and escaped when one of the braves recognised him as his benefactor at one time. The Indian camp was on the south side of the river where Sopris now is. On their way they had to pass the home of Juan Gutierrez, what was later known as the Simpson place. They fired on the house and the fire was returned with no fatalities but two horses. An hour later the Gutierrez noticed two Indian riders riding to camp with the news of the arrival of the soldiers and he succeeded in killing one of them. The soldiers went up the south side of the river and engaged the Indians in battle, but with the nitefall they succeeded in escaping. My father and other settlers took up the pursuit with the soldiers and the Indians pillaging as they went finally surrendered at Ft. Garland. This was known as the Indian uprising of 1866. 1.

It, might well be stated here that my father, Juan De Jesus Vigil could not speak or read English. His native language was Spanish.

In June of 1868 he took up freighting with his ox teams and wagons. At this time he undertook to take six wagons loaded with wool from Trinidad Merchants to reach the Missouri River near Independence, Mo. by a certain date. He got as far as Ft. Lyons where the commander told him that it was impossible to go further an account of the Indians and that he could not furnish him and escort for so small a wagon train. He returned to Trinidad and then took a load of wool to Cheyenne and exchanged it for a load of supplies. On this trip there were signs of Indian warfare but no encounters.

For a period after this he hauled government freight from Kit Carson to Las Vegas and Santa Fe. Then in 1871 he hauled materials to aid in the construction of a telegraph line along this same route. Also for a short time before this he hauled ties to aid in building the Union Pacific south of Denver.

Between 1872 and 1876 He hauled government supplies to the Indian reservations of Red Cloud and White Clay in South Dakota. It was while thus engaged that he formed a friendship with General Custer. As a token of friendship he received from ~~the~~ General Custer a fine meershaum pipe, which tho broken, I still have in my possession. Custer would have given him a commission in the U. S. Army if he had known enough of the English language to receive and give orders.

On one of these trips to the Indian Reservations he met an old freighter friend of his from Denver. Charlies Hague advised him in no uncertain terms not to linger at the post for there were some three thousand Indians in the hills manifesting a warlike attitude. Also there were not enough soldiers at the post to render protection. He reached the reservation in the evening and got one-half of his train unloaded. The next morning he finished his business and started on his return trip. That nite he camped without making a fire. He had his men ate a cold snack consisting of crackers and sardines. They found the newly dug graves of three men whom he knew as the Dakota Boys. He afterwards learned that his friend General Custer met his death, 1876, when coming to the rescue of the men at the reservation.

68 Moro

In the latter part of 1876 he hauled ties for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad from Huerfano and Apishipa to Elmore. This stretch of railroad was finished in that year and also marked the end of his freighting experiences. From this he turned to the raising of cattled and sheep.

In 1876 he was nominated by the Democratic party for county assessor, His opponent, a saloon keeper, was killed before the election took place. He was the last county assessor under territorial government. He served ascounty assessor under state government to 1879. From then he was sheriff thru 1885.

My father went to live in New Mexico in 1894 And served as county commissioner there for three years. Because he thought the Republican party was doing more for him as a sheep rancher he changed his politics in 1888. He died April 14, 1932. His mind was clear up to the last and his will waas made an hour before his death.

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Geo Simpson came to this territory in the early 40's with Kit Carson. He married Juanita Suazo in 1844 at Taos N.M. He was a very peacable man, weighing about 130 lbs. and not over 5' 7" tall. He served on the first school boards in this vicinity and had much to do with their development.

Felipa Baca came in '57 and died in '71. He settled in the vicinity of Apishipa and became wealthy thru ranching. Juan Pedro Baca tended to his father's business until 1880 when he was killed by some neighboring English ranchers. It seems as the two ranches had on the boundary between them a watering place. Baca's flock separated and some went over on the neighboring ranch and these men refused to give or let him get them back. He went to court about it and obtained an order to get his sheep. When he and his uncle went to get them they were killed. These men were tried, obtained a change of venue to Pueblo and afterwards acquitted.

December 7, 1934. I certify that the above account of my conversation with Mr. Richeson is correct.

Nicholas Vigil

Nicholas Vigil
Bueyeros, N. M.

Supplement to the interview with Mr. Vigil

1. The Indian that Juan Guiterres killed while riding to take news of the arrival of the soldiers, was later scalped and dragged for a mile by an ox team. Mr. Nicholas Vigil remembers seeing this scalp at his grandfather's as late as the fall of 1891. The man who scalped the Indian was Lorreto Aregullo.

2. With Mr. Vigil's father on his freighting expeditions were his father's younger brother Donaciano Vigil, two nephews- Antonio Jose and Encarnacion Vigil, and two brother-in-laws Reyes Montoya and Santiago Lucero.

Jesus M, Pablo, and Lorenzo Abeyta came to this county in the early '60's. Lorenzo left in 1893 for Sonora Mexico where he was killed by the Yaqui Indians and thrown in the Yaqui River in 1898.

A.W, Archibald in the 60's was for a short time U.S. Marshall in the territory by appointment by President Lincoln. Then he served as postmaster.

George Thompson came from Taos in the '60's and settled 1 mile west of Sopris. He married the widow of Alfred Bent and moved to Trinidad in 1884.

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Note:

According to "All About Trinidad and Las Animas County" published by Dr. M. Beshoar in 1882 there is only one Ramon Vigil listed as holding a county office, and he was Ramon Vigil, coroner from 1867 to Oct. 17, 1868.

A. K. Pickman

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TRINIDAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
First records in the Treasurer's Office.

FIRST MEETING.

Trinidad, Colorado
February 7, 1888

"Meeting was called to order by John Conkie Esq.

"Upon motion by Mr. Collier, Mr. John Conkie was elected temporary chairman and Julius H. Clark, secretary.

"Upon motion of Henry L. Moon the chair appointed H. F. Moore, T. B. Collier, H. S. Mulnix, R. B. Holdsworth, and S. W. De Busk as a committee to report a plan of permanent organization.

" The committee reported as follows: that this organization shall be known as 'The Trinidad Chamber of Commerce'; its officers shall consist of president, first and second vice-presidents, secretary, asst. secretary, and treasurer; a board of trustees to consist of five members namely: the president, first and second vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. All of these officers to be elected by a majority vote of the members of the organization.

" The following standing committees to be appointed by the president viz:

- Committee on Finance - five members
- " " railroads - three members
- " " manufactures - five members
- " " Reception and entertainment - 12 members
- " " membership - three members
- " " investigation and development of resources three members

and such other committees as may from time to time be deemed necessary; that the membership fee be twenty-five dollars and dues shall be one dollar per month.

" Upon motion the report of the committee was accepted.

" Upon motion the chair appointed J. O. Packer, H.F. Moon and R. B. Holdsworth as the committee on incorporation and T. B. Collier, H. E. Mulnix, and John Conkie as temporary committee to solicit membership.-----"
J. H. Clark, secretary."

- Feb. 9, 1888 officers elected:
- President- Thos. B. Collier
 - 1st. Vice- president- Sol Jaffa
 - 2nd. " " John Conkie
 - Secretary- R. B. Holdsworth
 - Asst. Sec.- J. W. Shyrock
 - Treasurer- H. C. Mulnix

Trinidad Chamber of Commerce

February 28, 1888 - Standing Committees appointed:

Finance:

- Hugh J. Alexander
- E. D. Wight
- A. Mansbach
- D. Gottlieb
- Forbes

Railroads:

- John Conkie
- D. L. Taylor
- R. B. Holdsworth

Manufacturers:

- S. H. Jaffa
- M. Leuhart
- D. L. Taylor
- J. D. Packer
- Henry Schneider

Reception and Entertainment:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| E. B. Sopris | C. H. Wiebeer |
| H. F. Moore | S. C. Snyder |
| Dan A Noble | W. C. Smythe |
| E. B. Stoddard | J. H. Clark |
| Casimiro Barela | F. A. Morath |
| S. B. Brown | C. P. Marcash |

Investigation and development of resources:

- J. W. Shyrock
- S. W. De Busk
- John Davis

Membership:

- H. F. Moon
- J. C. Gunter
- A. Mansbach

Advertising:

- H. C. Mulnix
- J. W. Shyrock
- S. W. De Busk

Roads and Transportation

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| D. A. Chapell | John Conkie |
| M. Beshoar | Joseph Hausman |
| John Davis | |

Trinidad Chamber of Commerce

Officers for 1889:

- S. H. Jaffa - Pres.
- D. Gottlieb - 1st. Vice- pres.
- C. H. Walburn - 2nd " "
- E. D. Wight - Treasurer
- H. E. Mulnix - Sec.
- S. C. Snyder - Asst. Sec.

List of members on record on March 5, 1898.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Alexander, H. J. | Jamieson, W. M. |
| Beshoar, M. | S. H. Jaffa |
| Bowen, Albert | Klein, Henry |
| Branson, A. L. | Krug, H. W. |
| Brown, H. B. | Kaapcke, Richard |
| Burkhard, F. | Kuver, C. C. |
| Butler, E. T. | Littlefield, Wm. |
| C. Con Buddenock | Lawler, W. E. |
| Carmichael, S. C. | Lawler, Frank C. |
| Cooley, J. H. | Lindsay, John A. |
| Cooper, J. J. | Mc Combs, H. H. |
| Crombie, G. M. | Mc Chesney, A. C. |
| Calloway, D. R. | Mc Intyre, T. V. |
| Cunningham, W. B. | Mansbach, M. |
| Chapell, D. A. | Morgan, W. B. |
| Coulson, J. C. | Nash, A. M. |
| Collier, T. B. | Nicholas, C. H. |
| Crane, C. C. | Nichols, H. C. |
| Deardon, W. | Quilitch, H. R. |
| Dunlavy, F. E. | Robinson, W. H. |
| Dunlavy, J. P. | Stone, D. W. |
| Day, E. H. | Schneider, Henry |
| Espey, J. R. | Sherman, W. |
| Elston, J. W. | Sherman, J. F. |
| Eliot, M. | Stevens, S. H. |
| Foster, S. C. | Stites, Frank |
| Finch, D. D. | Sugurman, E. |
| Greenfield, R. A. | Smith, J. F. |
| Griswold, F. E. | Vossbeck, H. |
| Gerardi, Pascal | Wood, F. R. |
| Goldsmith, M. J. | Wilson, C. P. |
| Gunter, J. C. | Wooton, R. L. |
| Hughes, J. T. | Wenger, D. B. |
| Humphreys, John | Wardenburg, Fred |
| Holloway, H. K. | |
| Hamilton, G. J. | |
| Hendricks, J. J. | |
| Huling, E. J. | |

The last meeting recorded in the record book now in the treasurer's office of Las Animas County is dated March 28, 1898. The record is complete for the years between 1888 and 1898.

First Records.

First assessment books for Las Animas County start with 1878.

The first name is Antonio G. Archuleta of Precint #1. There were eighteen precints at that time.

The first tax sale certificate was issued Aug 6, 1878 to J. R. Maulding, Amount \$4.86 for land N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 4 Township 32 Range 62 which was listed under the owner Daniel B. Powley.

Trinidad Board of Trade

The ledger book containing records of this organization from May 14, 1885 through May 5, 1887 is the property of the De Busk Memorial sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Trinidad. Mr. Gilbert Sanders was kind enough to let me look at it at my leisure. From the copy below of the minutes for the meeting of May 14, 1885 it is easily noted that the same men formed the "Trinidad Chamber of Commerce" in 1888. In 1885 the Board of Trade had evidently functioned for some time.

"Pursuant to adjournment the Board of Trade of Trinidad met at the Grand Union reading rooms May 14th, with Samuel Jaffa in the chair. The roll was called by the secretary, and there being a quorum of the old board present, a resolution was offered to the effect that we continue under the old organization of the financial management was raised whereupon H. F. Moore stated that the funds were judiciously expended at the Denver exposition in advertising the resources of the county, and that he would submit a written report, if required, whereupon the motion prevailed."

"A committee on membership was then appointed, consisting of A. Krille, H. E. Mulnix and D. Gottlieb, who reported favorably on the following new members: A. W. Archibald, J. W. Shryock, E. W. Osborne, J. M. John, C. Barela, L. H. Turner, F. Burkhard, J. Roosa, R. B. Holdsworth, C. H. Nichols, J. S. Day, C. H. Bartlett, R. G. Head, Ed. West, M. Lenhart and Ed. Wight."

"The secretary was authorized to cast the ballot for the board, which was cast in favor of admitting the members to all the rights and benefits under the charter."

"The election of officers to fill vacancies being next in order, L. H. Turner was placed in nomination for the position of 1st vice-president, and was unanimously elected. A committee conducted Mr. Turner to the chair, which he accepted in a brief speech, interrupted by the applause of the retiring chairman, Mr. Jaffa, and all the members."

Trinidad Board of Trade.

"Ed. Wight was unanimously elected treasurer of the association and R. B. Holdsworth secretary.

"A motion was then made by J. M. John that a committee be appointed to revise the constitution and by-laws, which was adopted, and the following committee appointed: J. M. John, John Conkie and T. B. Collier, who were ordered to report at next meeting.

"The tax question was then discussed at length by J. M. John, Senator Barela, A. W. Archibald, T. B. Collier H. F. Moore and others, which resulted in a resolution being passed to the effect that the valuation placed by the state board on railroads be the basis upon which all property of the county should be assessed.

"A motion was then made and carried that the chair appoint a committee of five for the purpose of ascertaining the value of property throughout the county, and report to the county commissioners at their meeting in July, when the question of equalization could be considered. The chair appointed D. A. Chappell, J. M. John, A. Krille, C. Barela and A. W. Archibald, who were authorized to select others to assist them. The committee was ordered to report progress at next meeting.

"The influence of an organization of this description was then discussed, and the benefits and other cities had derived from similar organizations, and all members present felt satisfied that a great deal of good could be accomplished if all would put their shoulders to the wheel and work in harmony.

"The meeting then adjourned, to meet Thursday, May 21, at the Grand Union reading rooms."

JNO. CONKIE,
Secretary pro tem.

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INTERVIEW WITH EUSEBIO CHACON- 420 E. Topeka, Trinidad
Taken by A.K. Richeson, Trinidad, Colorado

Jan 11-1934

Mr. Chacon comes from a Spanish family prominent in the history of Spain, Mexico, and New Mexico. His father, Major Rafael Chacon, was a veteran in the Army of the Republic in the Civil War and of an expedition against the Utes and Apaches in New Mexico and Colorado territory in the year 1855. Attached is a map of this campaign drawn by Mr. Eusebio Chacon from an account of it in the memoirs of his father which he has in his possession; These memoirs are written in Spanish. Major Rafael Chacon was one of the prominent early Spanish settlers in Las Animas County; he with his wife and young son, Eusebio, and his other children came to the county in 1870. The young lad, Eusebio, attended the Sisters' school at Trinidad, Las Vegas College in Las Vegas New Mexico, and Notre Dame University, where he received a law degree. He has practiced law since his admission to the Bar on June 18, 1981. He served as deputy district attorney under Judge McHendrie, Mr. Joe Hawley, and Mr. Malcom B. Erickson.

The Chacon name first appears in Spanish history when Gonzalo Chacon was a page in the court of John II, king of Castile and father of Queen Isabella. In the reign of Queen Isabella, the catholic, Juan Chacon was the royal treasurer. In 1700 the first Bourbon king of Spain was Philip V, son of Louis XIV of France. On August 5th, 1707 José Chacon, Medina, Salazar y Villaseñor, Marquis De la Peñuela, Knight of the order of Santiago, was appointed governor and captain-general of the province of New Mexico by Philip V. king of Spain..

Eusebio Chacon

In 1722 Lieutenant General Fernando Chacon commanded the ships of war "Guadalupe" and "Toluca" which conveyed the Marquis de Casa Fuerte, 37th viceroy of Mexico, to Vera Cruz. In 1795 another Fernando Chacon was governor of the province of New Mexico and a contemporary of Felipe Chacon, great-grandfather of Eusebio Chacon. Albino Chacon maintained that his father, Felipe, and the governor, Fernando, were both descended from the Marquis, the record of whose branding iron was in the New Mexico archives, almost totally destroyed in 1870 during Governor Pile's administration. Another Felipe N. Chacon was a general under Maximilian of Austria, the Emperor of Mexico, who was executed by Juarez in 1867.

In the city of Havana, Cuba, is a street by the name of Chacon. Prince of Wales Island off the shore of Alaska has a cape by the name of "Cabo Chacon". Vancouver when he explored this region of the northwest left the names on the maps which had been given by the Spanish Explorers preceding him. Also in the state of New Mexico there is a small town by the name of Chacon..

On his mother's side Eusebio Chacon is descended from Captain Juan Paez Hurtado who was with General Don Diego de Vargas in 1690 when he reconquered New Mexico. A copy of the genealogy so far as can be verified by family records and tradition as prepared by Mr. Chacon is attached to this interview.

Rafael Chacon was born in 1833 at Santa Fe, New Mexico under the Mexican flag. At the age of twelve he was attached as a cadet to the Mexican army training in the Branch Military Academy at Chihuahua, under the superintendency of Captain

Eusebio Chacon

Miguel Gomez, a very fine officer of the Mexican Army. He and his father, Albino Chacon, were with General Armijo at the coming of the Americans under General Kearny. In 1855 Rafael Chacon was a sargant in Colonel Ceran St. Vrain's Battallion to supress the Indians with troops from Fort Massachuesetts, Now Ft. Garland, and Fort Union.

When the Civil War started he organised his own company and joined the union army at Fort Union. He was enlisted as a captain. He fought at Valverde^{de}, February 21, 1862, and then again at other battles during the Confederate invasion of New Mexico. He was in command of the escort for the first governor and other territorial officers of Arizona and helped to locate to town of Prescott, Arizona. He was returned to Fort Wingate, New Mexico. He aided Kit Carson in the transfer of Indians from the Navajo country to their reservation. He was later commander of Fort Stanton and was discharged from the army as a major.

(Rafael Chacon with his wife, Juanita Paez de Chacon, and their children, among them Eusebio, born December 16, 1869, left Taos County in November 1870 and came to Las Animas County where they first stopped at the home of Rafael Paez, father of Mrs. Rafael Chacon who was living on a ranch at San Jose, west of Aguilar. The following February they took a ranch a few miles south of Gulnare, Colorado, at Sarcillo Canyon. Major Rafael Chacon took a leading part as a citizen in both New Mexico and Las Animas County, Colorado.)

Eusebio Chacon

Before coming to Las Animas County he served in the senate of the territorial legislature of New Mexico for two terms and at a later session was clerk of the senate. At one time he ran for justice of peace in Chamisal, New Mexico. This election was contested and taken to court, but he won out in the Supreme Court and it is recorded as the case of Arellano vs. Chacon in the First Reports of the New Mexico Supreme court. This case set a precedent for future decisions in the courts to be based on.

(Major Rafael Chacon was the Republican Treasurer for Las Animas County from 1879 through 1880. In 1885 he was elected sheriff on the Republican ticket for the same county.) In acknowledgment of his part in the new community of Trinidad and Las Animas County the Mount San Rafael Hospital of Trinidad was named in his honor; the land was given by Doctor M. Beshoar and the hospital built in 1885.

A sister of Major Rafael Chacon was a pioneer nun, and the following mention is made of her in the "Rocky Mountain News" of January 30, 1929:

"After having been a figure in religious life of Denver since frontier days, Sister Eudocia of Loretto Heights College died there Sunday. She was 87.

"Had she lived but three years longer, Sister Eudocia would have celebrated her diamond anniversary of assuming the veil.

"For nearly 40 years she had been a beloved instructress and spiritual guide for hundreds of girls who attended Loretto Heights.

AIDED FIRST BISHOP

"Sister Eudocia was associated with Bishop Machebeuf, first bishop of Denver, in bearing the tenets of Catholicism to the pioneer community more than 60 years ago.

"She was one of the first nuns brought to Denver from Santa Fe, New Mexico, by Bishop Machebeuf in 1864. Sister Eudocia was a member of the faculty of the old St. Mary's

Eusebio Chacon

continuation of Eudocia Chacon

Academy until 1891.

"She then became affiliated with Loretto Heights. Because of age, she retired from active teaching a number of years ago. Sister Eudocia spent the remaining days of her life in prayer and meditation.

BORN IN 1842

"She was born in Taos, New Mexico in 1842. Seventy-two years ago she entered the order of the Sisters of Loretto, the first purely American Sisterhood."

Mr. Eusebio Chacon has one brother Ladislao Chacon, who is single and making his home in New Mexico. He has one sister living in Trinidad, Mrs. Gumecinda C. Cordova; she has the following children:

Isabel, a teacher in the Trinidad High School.

Rose, stenographer in the office of Drs. Costigan and Newburn,

Amadeo Cordova, deputy sheriff of Las Animas County.

Horacio Cordova, residing in West Los Angeles, Calif.

On November 8, 1891 the marriage of Eusebio Chacon to Sofia Barela, daughter of Senator Casimiro Barela, took place at the senator's ranch called El Porvenir. At this wedding was practically the entire population of Trinidad and Las Animas County.) Mrs. Sofia B. Chacon was born January 29, 1874. The other children of Senator Barela were: Mrs. Lenora B. Garcia, deceased 1911; and Mrs. Juanita B. Martinez, living at Des Moines, New Mexico.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Eusebio Chacon are:

Josefina Enriqueta- Mrs. Pedro J. Alvarado, Glendale, Calif.

Ernestina- Mrs. Leo M. Rice, Bakersfield, Calif.

Casimiro Gustavo- Born 1902, deceased 1922 in Calif.

Carmen- Mrs. Harold Neiland, Los Angeles, Calif.

Ana Isabel- Mrs. Abe Lonteen Jr., Peoria, Illinois

Dolores Chacon, teacher at the Sandoval Ranch and living at home.

Eusebio Chacon

From 1891 to 1904 Mr. Chacon was the official interpreter and translator of the United States Court of Private Land Claims for the then territories of New Mexico and Arizona. He later served as deputy district attorney under Judge Will W. McHendrie, Joseph W. Hawley, and Malcom B. Erickson, in Las Animas County.

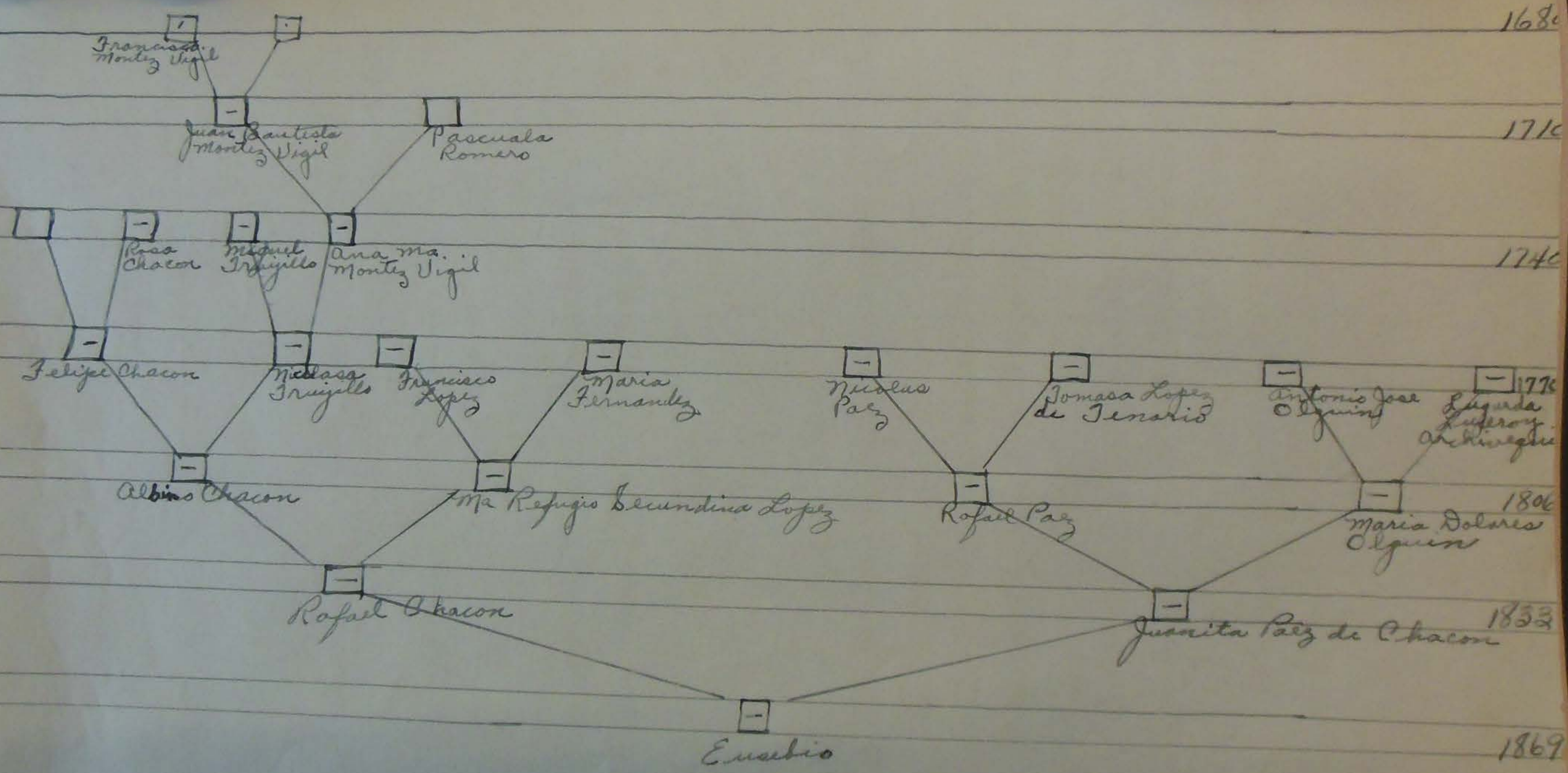
Mrs. Chacon, at present, is the Las Animas County executive secretary for the American Red Cross. During this period of depression and distress it has been her duty to supervise the relief in this county, and she is doing her work in a very praiseworthy manner.

January 11, 1934. I certify that the above facts and incidents, the maps and genalogy, are accurate according to the best of my information and knowlegge.

Signed,

Eusebio Chacon
Eusebio Chacon
420 E. Topeka Avenue
Trinidad, Colorado.

Árbol Genealógico de la Familia de Eusebio Chacón



1680

1710

1740

1770

1806

1853

1869

1916

354
15

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INTERVIEW WITH IRA B. GALE - Trinidad, Colorado
Taken by A. K. Richeson

Dec 29-1933

Mr. Gale was born in Illinois March 7, 1858. As a lad in 1874 he came west with a government train which was going to California. He stopped in New Mexico to punch cattle, and in 1899 came to the Stonewall country of Las Animas County as the representative of the Maxwell Land Grant Company. He remained to work for the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company when they purchased the Colorado interests of the Maxwell Land Grant Co. He watched over their interests until 1928 when he was retired. He now resides at his home at 813 Colorado Avenue, Trinidad, Colorado.

The government train which brought Mr. Gale west in 1874 consisted of freight wagons and an ambulance with a detachment of soldiers to see that the train reached its destination of California safely. Mr. Gale left the train at Vermejo, New Mexico where he hired out to Clay Allison, quite noted as a desperado in those days. Mr. Gale says that Clay Allison was originally from Tennessee; that he was quick with a six-shooter; not quarrelsome; and did no countenance stealing or cattle rustling among his men. Clay Allison is supposed to have married a girl from below Ft. Sumner on the Pecos River, and to have raised a family of several children.

In 1880 Mr. Gale worked for a short time for Jack Codlin on a ranch a little distance north of Cimarron. In the winter of 1880 and the spring of 1881 he worked in the gold mines of Astec, Montezuma, and Rebel Chief near Elizabethtown, New Mexico. However he did not have much luck and went to visit his sister, Mrs. Litrell, at Vermejo. While here Mr. M. M. Chase hired him and sent him to take charge of the Oak T. Ranch.

Mr. Ira B. Gale

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Soon he was asked to take charge of the Red River Cattle Company. The cattle were then mostly the Texas longhorns. Mr. H. M. Porter, now of Denver, was the first to try to improve the stock by importing pure bred Hereford bulls for his herds.

The Maxwell Land Grant Co., The Red River Cattle Co., The Healy Cattle Co., The Cimarron Cattle Co., and The Pawnee Cattle Co. in Colorado were all owned by the same stockholders with minor exceptions; among whom were John Dawson, J. Taylor, S.M. Folsom, Ben Mc ^{Lean} ~~Clave~~ of Kansas City, M.M. Chase, and H.M. Porter. These latter two men had the entire management of these companies.

In 1899 Mr. Gale was sent to take charge of the Colorado portion of the grant. In this year the U. S. Supreme Court had ordered the United States Marshall of Colorado to place this land in the control of the Maxwell Land Grant Company. Mr. Gale joined the marshall, Mr. Bailey, and his seventeen deputies. Jake Beard was the interpreter, and there were two drivers and a cook in the outfit which traveled to Stonewall Colorado. Mr. Gale mixed and mingled with the settlers, winning their confidence, and thus aided in bringing to a peaceful conclusion this troublesome matter.

In 1900 the Maxwell Land Grant Company sold its Colorado possessions with exception of certain ranches to the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company.

Mr. Ira B. Gales

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Mrs. Russell was given a deed to eighty acres and allowed to purchase the other eighty acres of her homestead for the government price of \$1.25 per acre. (Anderson Duling was allowed to purchase his entire homestead at the government price. The other lands sold at four dollars per acre

were:

- J.L. Torres - 200 acres on South Fork
The Murray Camp
- F. Aragon - 160 acres
- J. B. Aragon - 40 acres
- Agipito Trujillo - 160 acres
- Henry Fisher - 160 acres
- Mr. Bennett - 200 acres
- One other ranch north of the wall- 180 acres

From 1900 to 1928, when he was retired on a pension, Mr. Gale served the interests of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company.

Mr. Gale's wife's name was Mattie Adeline Hamilton and they have three children:

- Corra E. - Mrs. Joe Galardi - Trinidad, Colorado
- Cornelia A. Gail- Living with her father
- Helen Hamilton - Mrs. Grant - living at Hoehne.

Mr. Gale has kept a diary of his entire life, but the books containing the diary prior to 1898 were destroyed by fire.

The remainder he has and values them very highly.

December 29, 1933. I certify that the above facts that Mr. Richeson has recounted are accurate.

Ira B. Gale
Ira B. Gale
813 Colorado Ave.
Trinidad, Colorado

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Doc. 76
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HISTORY OF METHODISM IN TRINIDAD.
Facts gathered by Miss Cora Curtis, 4th and State
And given to A.K. Richeson, Trinidad, Colo.

Rev. E. Jay Rice was born in Sullivan, Ohio, December 18, 1822, and was graduated at Madison University, New York, when a very young man. Soon after he was ordained as a minister of the Methodist Church. In conjunction with his chosen field of labor he adopted the work of education. On June 22, 1861 he was married at Detroit, Michigan, to Miss Laura Rice.

Soon after his marriage he moved to Lawrence and was the first to be elected to a professorship in the University of Kansas which had just been established. A few years later, after having served as the president of the college faculty, he became president of Baker University which is situated twelve miles from Lawrence and is now one of the leading educational institutions of Kansas.

His health commencing to fail he was compelled to remove further west and decided upon Trinidad as his future home. After a tedious and monotonous journey of twenty days he arrived at his destination being accompanied by his wife, his daughter Nettie, Now Mrs. E.S. Bell, and a cousin Miss Sylvia Rice.

A week after his arrival he preached the first protestant sermon ever preached in Trinidad. This was October, 1869, in one of the east rooms of the former U.S. Hotel which was then a one story structure. The attendance was very small, there having been but thirteen American families in the city at that time. The next sermon was also preached in the United States Hotel, the third in a little house near the residence of Dr. W.L. South, and the fourth in an adobe structure nearby with the earth for a floor. Communion services being celebrated, mats were brought into use, on which to kneel.

Among the Americans in Trinidad at that time were Joseph Davis, E.J. Hubbard, Frank G. Bloom and wife, J. A. Foster and wife, P.B. Sherman and wife, Henry Barraclough, Dr. M. Beshoar, D.L. Taylor and family, E.F. Mitchell and family, John Hough, W. and C. Rifenburg and wives, G.B. Cornell and wife, Dr. Lyons, and A.W. Archibald.

The first Sunday School was established some months before the arrival of Rev. Rice. E.J. Hubbard was superintendent and Joseph Davis had the bible class. Mrs. F.G. Bloom and Mrs. P.B. Sherman were assistants. During the winter of '69 the Methodist Church was organized with the following as members: Rev. E.J. Rice, Mrs. E.J. Rice. Misses Sylvia and Nettie Rice, and Mrs. Mc Clelland who afterwards became Mrs. Richmond.

In 1870 Mr. Rice bought the property on which The Rice School now stands. The price paid for the lot was \$150, the money having been borrowed from D.L. Taylor.

Mr. Rice also became owner of all the property between the Courthouse and Second Street. This sale was originally intended for a Methodist University and the parsonage was to be located where the residence of R.H. Purington now stands. Services were held in Mr. Rice's residence over three years which was also used as a schoolhouse and was known as the Rice Institute, having been named by E.J. Hubbard.

While the Rice residence was being used in which to hold services the old portion of the Methodist Church, then next to the court house was being erected under the supervision of Mr. Rice. It was nearing completion when he died. The date of his death was April 7, 1872. On the day of his funeral services every store in town was closed; his wife, who afterwards became Mrs. Pierson, his daughter and E.J. Rice, Jr. who was the first American boy born in Trinidad, survived him. Mr. E.J. Rice, Jr. now resides at 402 W. Baca St. Trinidad, Colorado.

Rev. Rice was a man of profound learning. He was conversant in nine different languages. One of his greatest delights was to organise classes for the purpose of teaching its members the theory of music. He was in fact, the first to bring a piano to Trinidad. He was broad and liberal in his views, which fact made him exceedingly popular with all his acquaintances and he was a man of great benevolence. The Rice School is named in his honor.

A. K. Richman

Doc

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MAXWELL GRANT - SOURCE MATERIAL

"Western Empire" Publisher-Ralph Jett - Pueblo 1.

"In the year 1841 appeared before Manuel Armejo, civil governor of New Mexico, Guadaloupe Miranda and Carlos Beaubien, residents of Santa Fe, who presented to him their formal petition for a grant of a vast body of land....."

Santa Fe, New Mexico
January 8, 1841

Governor Manuel Armijo

"The undersigned Mexican citizens and residents of this place, in the most approved manner required by law, state:

"That of all the departments in the Republic, with exception of the Californias, New Mexico is one of the most backward in intelligence, industry and manufacture, etc., and surely few others present the natural advantages to be found therein, not only on account of its abundance of water, forests, woods and useful timber but also on account of the fertility of soil, containing within its bosom rich and precious metals, which up to this time are useless for the want of enterprising men who will convert them to the advantage of other men.... under the above conviction we both request your excellency to be pleased to grant us a tract of land for the purpose of improving it....and raising sugar beets, which we believe will grow well and produce an abundant crop....and in time to establish manufactories of cotton and woll and raising stock of every description.

"For the above reasons expressed and being the heads of large families we humbly pray your excellency to take our joint petition under consideration and be pleased to grant us the land we petition for by doing which we will receive grace and justice. We swear it is not done in malice; we protest good faith and whatever may be necessary. etc.

Signed,

Guadaloupe Miranda
Carlos Beaubien

"As Miranda and Beaubien were honorable gentlemen and in favor with Governor Armijo, the petition was granted, as is attested by the formal act of Cornelio Vigil, Justice of Taos, New Mexico, on February 13, 1843, who gave them legal possession in the following interesting manner:

"I proceeded with them to the land referred to in the petition and went over the boundaries after which, I took them by the hand, walked with them, caused them to throw earth, pull weeds, and show other evidences of possession, with the act concluded, the boundaries being determined...As I the aforesaid Justice in the name of the sovereignty of the nation, (which may God preserve) I gave to the aforesaid.... the perfect and personal possession asked for by them."

1. Mr. J. M. Madrid has this in his possession and allowed me to copy it.

Maxwell Grant - Source Material

The boundaries of the grant as given by Cornelio Vigil are described in the House Reports 36 Congress, 1st. session, No. 321, P. 247-8. Below is an excerpt:

"commencing on the east of Red River, a mound was erected; from whence following in a direct line in an easterly direction to the first hills, another mound was erected at the point thereof; and continuing from south to north on a line, nearly parallel with Red river, a third mound was erected on the north side of Chico Rica, or Chacuaco mesa, (table land); thence turning towards the west, and following along the side of the said table land of Chacuaco to the summit of the mountain, where the fourth mound was erected; from thence following along the summit of the said main ridge from north to south to the Cuesta del Osba, one hundred varas north of the road from Fernandez to the Laguna Negra, where the fifth mound was erected; from thence turning again to the east towards Red river, and following along the southern side of the table lands of Rayado and those of Gonyalitos, on the eastern point of which the sixth mound was erected; from thence following in a northerly direction, I again reached the river on the western side, where the seventh and last mound was erected, opposite to the first, which was erected on the eastern side. "

A note by A. W. Archibald found in the De Busk Memorial

"As long ago as the year 1858 I traveled over the country south of Raton Mts, and now known as part of Colfax county.

"A conical peak or hill was pointed out to me as Fisher's Peak.

"I worked for Maxwell and often traveled with him when he made trips over his large area of land, now later as the Maxwell Land grant. Maxwell Claimed for his domain the territory south of the crest of the Raton Mountains. To the north of said crest the land belonged to the Vigil and St. Vrain Grant. All of the water shed draining south toward the Canadian River was claimed by Maxwell. All the water draining northward belonged to Vigil and St. Vrain. During Maxwell's ownership he never claimed or thought of any other dividing line.

"Maxwell sold his land to purchasers who proved to be daring and unscrupulous. They conceived the scheme of acquiring 240,000 acres of land more than they bought. Their purchase was not for a definite number of acres, but for a domain described by meters and bounds. They boldly decided to claim the Raton Peak to be Fisher's Peak and moved their north line to correspond. "

Maxwell Grant - Source Material

Mr. J. M. Madrid sums the whole controversy in the following manner: "The original grant was not to exceed 11 square leagues for each party; it was changed to read 11 leagues square. This makes quite a difference when one knows that a league is approximately 3 miles."

R. D. Russell settled back of the wall in 1871. The next year they bought the land which Mrs. Russell now has from A.W. Archibald who had bought it from Juan Guitierrez. They paid the government price of \$1.25 and filed on this land. They finally received a patent from the land office in Pueblo. In this time people were far from land offices, and possession was considered ownership and no one else interfered with them. The Russells then paid the government a government price for the land. Then in 1902 Mrs. Russell had to buy the land again from Tom. Shumberg, president of the Maxwell Land Grant Co. She was given a deed for eighty acres and allowed to purchase the other eighty acres of her homestead at \$1.25 per acre. Mrs. Russell tells this and Mr. Ira B. Gale in charge of the Colorado portion of the grant verifies the purchase from the grant in 1902.

Chaffee, Elkins and Co. were the purchasers of the grant from Maxwell. Elkins was connected with the Dept. of Interior and afterwards senator from West Virginia.

Verdict of Coroner's Jury: 2.

"Upon our oath we find R.D. Russell came to his death by a gunshot wound fired from a rifle or carbine loaded with powder and ball, in the hands of Billy Hunn and the killing was done feloniously, aided and abetted by the other five men of Hunn's party at the Hotel."

Henry Fisher, foreman
J.W. Shouse
George Lounsberry
G. A. Storz
C. H. Bonnett

Mr. Russell was shot August 25, 1888 and died on August 27. The Pooler or Coe Hotel was burned the night of Mr. Russell's funeral. "A great land fraud is the egg from which these evils are all hatched. These would not have occurred without the other."

2. This and subsequent copies from newspaper clippings are thru the courtesy of Mrs. R. D. Russell taken from three scrapbooks which she has.

Maxwell Grant - Source Material

Tom O'Neil and Company. Stonewall Colo. Sept, 6, 1888.

"Tom O'Neil..... admitted here that his occupation had been a gambler. A few days before the killing O'Neil had been in Stonewall and stayed about a week at Coe's Hotel..O'Neil did not find a ranch, nevertheless he returned to Stonewall.....on the same day the Six came..August 24. He did not this time put up at the Coe Hotel. He doubtless knew that it was no place for his wife and children, and it was no place either for a gambler who was to play the part of a settler.

"The next morning- August 25, O'Neil joined Mr. Russell's party.....Immediately after it was announced to the settlers that the Six had determined not to go, O'Neil's pistol, with which he was fooling, went off in the air, as it was supposed by accident; firing began and down went Mr. Russell; the gun that shot him being thrust through a window near which he was standing- John Coe holding aside the curtain while the shot was fired. (Mrs. Russell still has the cartridge.)

"O'Neil's first work was accomplished by his seemingly accidental shot which led to the firing and served as an excuse for the killing of the leader. O'Neil's next work..... was to strike out for Trinidad. George Storz Jr. hearing that a doctor was wanted for Mr. Russell was soon down to his folks' store. Shortly afterwards came O'Neil. He said to George, 'I want to ride your pony to get the doctor. You drive my wife down and I will give you five dollars. ' Without waiting for an answer he mounted the pony and lit out. O'Neil arrived in Trinidad several hours before George but did not get a doctor for Mr. Russell. He was seen about five minutes after his arrival on the streets of Trinidad in company with Mr. Holdsworth, the grant's company agent here. He next figured in the Sheriff Posee matter,... generously contributing Mr. Storz's saddle to aid in mounting one of the men.....

"Evidently, then, O'Neil was a Maxwell Grant Company settler. Backed by the Six his business was to 'settle the settlers's leaders at Stonewall'. After the settlers had stopped the contractors from working on South Creek ditch, the company realized something must be done to crush them or all was lost. O'Neil, a spy, is sent in guise of a health and ranch seeker, and his visit results in a plan of operations. First the settlers must be made odious, the tide of public opinion must be turned against them. Randolph, the home spy, who had been warned to leave must go, but burn his own house first and send the report to Trinidad....that the settlers burned it. On the heels of this O'Neil returns brining the Six with him and a systematic arrangement is made at Coe's Hotel to receive Mr. Russell's party, for O'Neil well knew ~~that~~ from his previous knowledge of affairs that Mr. Russell would order the Six to return to Trinidad, the Six would refuse, O'Neil's pistol would go off seemingly by accident, the fire from the hotel would begin, leaders would be killed, settlers terrorized, and Stonewall surrendered to the Maxwell Grant Company.

Maxwell Grant - Source Material

"I cannot believe that this scheme goes no deeper than Holdsworth, the Trinidad agent. The company's chief agent, Mr. Pels, judging from the following paragraph from the 'Trinidad Citizen', may have had, doubtless had, a hand in the matter.

'Eait Pels, of the Maxwell Grant, has a poor opinion of Las Animas County. He says: 'The fault of the county in previous troubles has been that there has not been a sufficiently severe prosecution of these disturbers and the trouble will continue.....unless sufficient force is sent to overawe the mob and capture the ringleaders, or unless these men are killed in a fight.'

The scheme, then, for killing the leaders of Stonewall is right in line of Mr. Pels idea of eternal fitness of things."

O.P. Mc Mains, Agent for the settlers.

From the Springer Convention:

"Second: The so called Maxwell Land Grant was confirmed in 1860 by Congress of the U. S. Charles Beaubien, himself, one of the grantees, declared over his signature in a letter to the governor of New Mexico dated April 13, 1844.....'This grant does not exceed fifteen or eighteen square leagues as will be seen by the accompanying judicial certificate.' On the third of December 1869 J. D. Cox then Secretary of the Interior placed on file in his department his decision that the grant could not be legally surveyed to include more than 22 square leagues, and so the matter rested for nineteen years.

.....It was then that Steve Elkins, a present partner of Gen. Harrison, who aspires to be Sec. of Interior, in his letter of May 26, 1877 who approved the fraudulent survey and urged the issue of a patent by the secretary of Interior.

"Third. The signature of Rutherford B. Hayes, attached to the grant patent after the same had been for nineteen years denied, and this letter of Elkins urging the patent are a standing reminder of the treachery of these high Republican officials....." O.P. Mc Mains

August 29, 1888 Letter to Hon. A. W. Tourgee from R. D. Russell.

"In June 1885 Commissioner Sparks reported the decision of Secretary Cox of December 31, 1869, declaring this the Maxwell tract, public land was final and unreversed and therefore valid. Under the Cox decision we entered our land, and have final receipts and some patents issued: yet a foreign corporation has taken possession of these lands without law or justice, and we are summoned to court like sheep to shambles, a score and hundred names in a single summons. This last notice gave but three full days to appear at the U. S. Court at Denver, a distance of 235 miles in three days, Sunday included; distance from railroad station - 35 miles....."

"The Private Land Claims committee have our case under consideration, but even here justice is likely to be defeated by the chairman of the subcommittee who is a relative to the grant owner.." R. D. Russell

Maxwell Grant - Source Material

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Mr. Mc Mains "Whatever people may think for or against O.P. Mc Mains, the fact remains that he has read more of the literature of land grants, and possesses more information on that subject than any other in these parts." - Trinidad Citizen 1888.

"The Interior Department admitted March 6, 1888 that the decision of Secretary Cox of December 31, 1869 upon which your property rights depend, had not been reversed by a direct proceeding. The law says it cannot be reversed by an indirect or collateral proceeding. Hence, the Secretary's decision is valid; it is law; it must be enforced."

O.P. Mc Mains.

Ed. Brown's Version of Stonewall battle.

Ed. Brown, one of the six deputies who were corralled, makes the following statement: "We started Thursday evening and arrived Friday evening. We met Lewellyn. Driven out by masked men, Hazen was ordered off. We met the stage with Thomas Randolph, who told us that two-hundred armed men ordered the work stopped. Everybody advised us to quit. We went to the hotel and put our mules in the pasture, then stopped with Coe, who stood as relief guard because the hotel was liable to be burned. Next day we were informed that they were organizing, and John Selles and William Hunn went down to the store and saw twenty-two armed Mexicans with horses and arms and conversed with them. They came back to camp and told us that we had to fight soon. Shortly afterwards the settlers rode up seventy-five strong. The American portion were all masked with exception of Russell, Mc Mains, and one other.. (Mrs. Russell, J. M. Madrid, Mrs. Marion Russell Duling, Mr. Ira B. Gale have each said that they knew for certain that this statement, above, is wrong and false, the purpose of which was to put the settlers in a bad light.) Some of the Mexicans were painted. Hunn and Selles received them in the doorway of the hotel. Mc Mains addressed Hunn. The deputy ordered him to leave at once. He was interrupted by Russell who came inside of the gate and said, 'You men talk and talk quick; are you going to leave this grant at once and what are you here for?' with many hard words. Hunn said, 'We are here to keep peace and for no other purpose.' 'You hook up your mules and go.' said Russell. Hunn said, 'We will not.' At that a man with a white mask shot off a six shooter. I returned to my station and the firing became general. There must have been one hundred shots fired within two minutes into the house. The hotel was riddled and the plastering broken on all sides. They dismounted from their horses pouring in volley after volley, and we dismounted several men. Early in the fight Mc Mains's horse was shot from under him and he escaped over the fence. Four horses in all were killed. We then drove the settlers out of range and away from the horses.

Maxwell Grant - Source Material

The firing continued for perhaps a quarter of an hour with the exception of desultory shots from time to time. An ambulance was driven up to the spot where Russell had fallen early in the strife, right at the front of the hotel. He crawled fully sixty yards from where he fell and was removed to his home.

Mr. D. D. Finch says, "Russell and Petigue fell. Petigue was shot in the head, an ugly wound."

Stephen B. Elkins and Jerome B. Chaffee.

"By an act of congress which was procured by these two worthies, the title of the grant was confirmed and the boundary made to suit them and given to capitalists in Holland and it is upon the attempt of these foreigners to take possession of this stolen property that the settlers have offered armed resistance."

Mr. Pels:

"A number of the settlers on the grant have rented tracts of land, and it is expected that a large number will purchase when the land is on the market for sale. This.....will probably take two years to finish the survey. The grant altogether comprises 1,700,000 acres and lies partly in Colorado and partly in New Mexico."

"Mr. Pels has for the past three years been the representative of the Dutch Syndicate which has owned the land for several years. He is also the president of the company which owns the Castilla Estate which adjoins the Maxwell Grant and he represents other Dutch interests. He will remain permanently in Denver and will have charge of the grants.-Denver Republic.

Conspiracy to Defraud.... Baton, New Mexico April 24, 1886.

"Chief conspirators: Hon. S. B. Elkins, delegate to Congress from New Mexico; Hon. T. B. Carton, then U. S. Attorney for New Mexico; Hon. M. W. Mills, member territorial legislature; Hon. H. Atkinson, surveyor general of New Mexico; Hon. J. A. Williamson then commissioner of general land office.

1. "Because of Mr. Cox's decision December 31, 1869, Commissioner Drummond January 28, 1874 instructed surveyor-general to consider the grant as public domain.

2. "Right in face of this order.....Maxwell Grant was sold at Public Auction for taxes to Hon. M. W. Mills on Jan. 28, 1877 for the sum of \$16,479.46.

3. "On May 26, 1877 Hon. S. B. Elkins applied to Commissioner Williamson to have an unlawful survey of the Maxwell Grant, made by U. S. deputy surveyor W. W. Griffin in 1870 adopted and approved.....(turned down)

4. "On May 28, 1877 ~~Commissioner Williamson~~ Surveyor General Atkinson.....entered into contract with W. W. Griffin and

Maxwell Grant- Source Material

Charles H. Fitch for a survey of Maxwell Land Grant.....
but it was not approved.

5. "On June 28, 1877 Commissioner Williamson instructed the surveyor general of New Mexico to survey public land as the Beaubien and Miranda or Maxwell Grant in strict accordance with the description of the boundaries as given in the juridical possession.

6. "On July 19, 1877 Hon. M. W. Mills sold his fraudulent tax title to the Maxwell Grant..... to Hon. Thomas B. Carton (his land partner) for the sum of \$20,000.

7. "On August 15, 1877, Surveyor General Atkinson entered into a contract with John T. Elkins (Hon. S. B. Elkins's brother) and Robert T. Marmon for the survey of Public land as the Beaubien and Miranda or Maxwell Grant.....

8. "On September 25, 1877 Hon. Thomas B. Carton sold his tax title.... to the Maxwell Land Grant and Railroad Co. for \$20,961. 85.

9. "On May 19, 1879 in bold defiance of the final and valid decree of Secretary Cox and in utter disregard of the settlers's complaints, petitions, protests and letters, a quit claim patent was issued to the Maxwell Land Grant claimants to the 1,714,764 acres of public land as the Beaubien, Maxwell Grant.

"Thus it was that a powerful band of official conspirators, has, for the last ten years, prevented the enforcement of a final decision of the Secretary of Interior, but it has not succeeded in overthrowing that decision; it still stands, unaffected by any subsequent proceeding.....The report of Commissioner Sparks on June 10, 1885 showed that the Maxwell Company Patent was not merely voidable, but void absolutely, because the officers had no ability to issue it; and it was on this basis of nullity of the patent that a suit was supposed to have been brought in New Mexico last September; what has become of the suit? Was the U. S. Attorney instructed to institute such a proceeding and secretly informed not to prosecute it? "

O. P. Mc Mains

"The Supreme Court sustained the U. S. Patent to the Maxwell Land Grant April 6, 1887 which declared the grant to be valid, that there was not sufficient evidence to invalidate the survey. However twenty-five thousand people thinking this was government land, northern New Mexico and Southern Colo.

Maxwell Grant - Source Material

One Newspaper said if the settlers had a half a million dollars to fight their case that so much fraud and filth would be discovered that they would win easily. The opinion of the Supreme Court read that U. S. Patents should mean something, but they did not consider that some of these same settlers had patents and final receipts issued by the land office."

O. P. Mc Mains was indicted for manslaughter in connection with the Russell killing. Judge Gunter, afterwards governor, was in charge. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty on October 13, 1889. He was immediately rearrested by the U. S. Marshall on a warrant charging him with conspiracy against the federal government. "A riot occurred there in Stonewall country in August 1888 in which Mc Mains was charged as being one of the participants, and in fact incited the settlers to rebel against the Maxwell Co. and the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court."

O. P. Mc Mains was instrumental in presenting petitions to President Harrison and President Cleveland. He died on April 20, 1899. Mc Mains was born in 1840 near Cincinnati, Ohio. He learned the printing trade while yet a boy. He joined the Methodist Church at the age of eighteen and started preaching at the age of nineteen. He came to Colorado in the '60's; in 1875 he was appointed to fill the place of Rev. Mr. Tolby killed in Cimarron, New Mexico. That was a time in this country when crime and corruption prevailed. Shortly after this he joined the settlers in their fight to preserve their homes.

F. E. Dunlavy, county treasurer of Las Animas gives the following account of a conversation between him, R. L. Wooton and John Cooke of Cooke and Davis, general merchandise. At that time Mr. Dunlavy was working for Cooke and Davis.

Steve B. Elkins was the delegate from the New Mexico territory to congress. He was successful in having his brother John T. Elkins appointed to survey the grant. John T. Elkins hired R. L. Wooton (Uncle Dick Wooton) to assist him in moving the north corner stone marking the limit of the grant still further north. At first they planned to place this stone at the city limits of Trinidad, but realizing that the Santa Fe owned the city of Starkville and the land north to Trinidad, they refrained because they realized that this railroad company was a large corporation and would fight them bitterly, and they might lose all. As a result this corner stone was placed at the southern boundary of the town of Starkville, Colorado. The moving of this stone took three full days and so one can easily see what a vast amount of new territory was included in the grant even if the work was done with a wagon and team.

Maxwell Grant - Source Material

Steve Elkins had this survey approved and the grant approved by congress inspite of the fact that many people had settled on the Colorado portion of the supposed grant. Through a partner of Elkins this land was sold to some English bankers for several million dollars, but they were not successful in getting the settlers to give up their lands, and in turn sold it to a Holland syndicate.

Mr. Dunlavy says that old Mexican people were a people who considered possession ownership and very carefully respected their neighbors rights. In other words there was no claim jumping. But when they were forced out of the Stonewall country to which they had formed such an attachment, they soon died of broken hearts, and failing to see that there was any justice in the matter.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY CONCERNING THE MAXWELL GRANT
- as compiled by Miss Bess McKennan, Trinidad.

I. Primary material.

A. Government Documents

1. Sen. Ex. Doc. 32 Cong. 2s-54 Map of- showing Santa Fe Trail passing through Grant.
2. House Doc. 35 Cong. 1s-IV p. 257 Settler of Pelham recommending confirmation of grants.
3. House Reports 35 Cong. 1s-Doc 457. P. 253 Documents in connection with grant.
4. House Reports 35 Cong. 1s- Doc 321 Documents. Important
5. Senate Reports 36 Cong. 1s-228 Recommendation that "a restriction of the confirmation to an extent of eleven square leagues for each claimant would be the utmost they could fairly expect."
6. Senate Jr. 42. 2s.-P. 344 Petition of settlers and miners of New Mexico praying that the differences existing between them and the Maxwell Land Grant and Railway Company might be adjudicated.
7. Senate Documents Vol. 47.-Treaties, Conventions International Acts and Agreements between the United States of America and other Powers. 1776-1909, VI.61, Cong. 2d. Sess. Doc. 351 P. 1112.- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.
8. U. S. Statutes at Large X. P. 308 Creation of office Surveyor General for New Mexico Land Claims.
9. U. S. Statutes at Large XII 71-72
10. U. S. Census/ 1870- 1920
11. 121 U.S. 325, 360. 7 Supreme Court 1015 Maxwell Land Grant Case decided 1887.
12. 122 U.S. 365-7) Maxwell Land Grant hearing
7 Supreme Court) denied.
13. 139. U.S. 529 11 Supreme Court 656 Inter State Land Company vs. Maxwell Land Grant Company. Previous grant proved invalid. Decided 1891.
14. Sen. Doc. 28/ Cong 2d Sess. No. 174 P. 9 Fremont report- Maxwell hunter and guide with the expedition.

Bibliography- Maxwell Grant

B. Newspaper Articles

1. Daily Colorado Tribune Feb. 6, 1867- Jan. 17, 1869.
 - a. Advertisement Public Sale of 400 town lots in Virginia City Dec. 25, 1867
 - b. The Moreno Mines Dec. 27,
 - c. Our southern Boundary Dec. 29,
 - d. Memorial of Boundary Jan. 4, 1868
 - e. "Maxwell and his Grant" " 24,
Good article inaccurate in personal characteristics of Maxwell and his birthplace which was incorrectly given as Missouri
 - f. Elizabethtown March 7, 1868
 - g. Comparison of Gold in Cimarron, Nevada April 23
 - h. Map of San Lous Parc May 6
 - i. Overland coach robbed May 24
 - j. Telegraph Denver to Trinidad June 17, 1868
 - k. Cimarron News June 18
 - l. Elizabethtown June 27
 - m. Telegraph to Maxwell's Jan 27
 - n. Telegraph to Santa Fe July 18
 - o. Stage Robbery July 25
 - p. The Denver Santa Fe Railway organized Dec. 15
 - q. Letter from Cimarron Jan 17, 1869
2. Denver Daily Tribune
 - a. Cimarron News July 14, 1871
 - b. Southern Colorado and Mexicans grants. " " "
3. The Denver Republican
 - a. "Killing at Stonewall" September 1, 1888

C. Private Letters

1. Mrs. L. W. Wills of Trinidad, daughter of Mr. M.C. Reed one of the first settlers was kind enough to furnish the account of the trip west her father's party made and the settlement of the grant after the gold discovery.
2. Senator De. Busk of Trinidad assisted in giving information of the grant. He kindly allowed me copy a letter to him from Archibald, surveyor for Maxwell. The copy of Transcript of Title of the Maxwell Land Grant was the property of Mr. De Busk. He also gae the map.
3. Mr. W. Hunn furnished the account of the "Stonewall Battle."
4. Mr. Willaim Burrows and Mrs. Russell of Trinidad furnished lists of settlers. These were grant settlers.

Bibliography Maxwell Grant

II. Secondary Material

Ralph Emerson Twitchell, "The Leading Facts of New Mexican History." VII 1912, The Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Bibliography to Chapter II (451-479)

Note- Mr. Twitchell reference in this Bibliography

Ch. 11, P. 415-16 to George W. Julien, "Land Stealing in New Mexico," in North American Review should be 1887 (vol. 145) it is given 1890

George W. Julien "Land Stealing in New Mexico" in North American Review V. 145 1887 P. 2-31

Dorsay, Stephen W. "Land Stealing in New Mexico" in North American Review V. 145 1887 P. 396-409

Benjamin M. Reed. "Illustrated History of New Mexico"-- New Mexican Printing Co. Santa Fe, New Mexico. P. 366 "From the year 1822 to the year 1827, the following foreigners came in:..... Lucien B. Maxwell." This 1827 must be a misprint for 1847. Maxwell did not come until 1846. Armijo said to be one of the governors during the influx of the foreigners was also in the '40's.

Bancroft- Hubert Howe, the works of San Francisco, The History Company, Publishers, 1889

Bancroft, H. H. XXV History of Nevada, Colorado and Wyoming 1840- 1888. P. 549 Footnote 36. Mr. Bancroft confuses the Beaubien grant with the Miranda and Beaubien grant. He attaches the history of the latter to the name and places of the former.

Bancroft XVII "Arizona and New Mexico" P. 738 and 781/
P. 778 has references to the grant Indians
P. 781 Footnote- Several Settlers before Goldrush.

Inman, Colonel Henry. "The old Santa Fe Trail"
Macmillan Company, Newwood, Massachusetts, U.S. A. 1897
Chapter on "The Maxwell Ranch" P. 373-88
Good for interesting details of the Maxwell Estate and account of Uncle Dick Wooton.

A.K. Richerson Doc 359 Am 357 195
KIT CARSON MUSEUM - west Main street, Trinidad.

Jan 29 - 1934

This museum is under the auspices of the City Federation of Women's Clubs. It was opened in May 1929 in an adobe house on ~~west~~ ^{east} Main street where Carson often stopped on his travels when passing through Trinidad. The house was originally built in 1868 by Fred ~~Bendetz~~ ^{Benavides} who came from Spain and operated the first jewelry store in the frontier town of Trinidad. The house is a four room affair and contains several secret places where Bendetz hid his money, and treasures. There have been several murders within its walls, and if they could talk would tell many an interesting and historical tale. For instance a daughter of Bendetz killed her sweetheart in the house and buried him in the backyard. The body was afterwards removed to the cemetery.

In the rear of the house is an old ^{jacal} jackal, made of cedar posts covered with adobe. This is now used as a meeting place for the girl scouts and boy scouts. The property is owned by the Pearse sisters, but it is kept up by the city.

The nucleus around which this museum was started is a trapper's coat once owned by the famous Kit Carson and given to his friend, the Honorable Dan. L. Taylor. The family has given this coat to the museum. There are two large pictures of Dan Taylor garbed in this spotted coat.

Some of the articles in this museum are listed below.

1. Spectator, 2 volumes V printed 1712, and VII, 1714
2. "Golwg ary Cybammoggrass" printed 1824
3. letters dated 1841 and 1842. Envelopes were not used and postage marked instead of stamps. Mailed from Anderson, Ind. to Indianapolis. Postage 18¢ and 25¢

Kit Carson Museum

4. confederate money, demoninations- \$5, 10, 1, 20, 50, and \$100.
5. 3 Philippine hats.
6. pieces of wreck of airplane- Navy N.C.-3
7. a large collection of arrowheads.
8. collection of pottery- Indian
9. Indian matodys (spelling may be inaccurate)
10. Hickoyy basket made in Daniel Boone period. metate
11. Petrified wood from Engleville Mine.
12. fossils
13. Indian maiden jacket and leggings.
14. " man's " " "
15. wooden clothes wringer - 75 years old
16. Indian beaded knife case
17. Indian baskets
18. 30 large guns including 1 flint rock and one from the Revolutionary War.
19. collection of swords and sabres.
20. pictures of Trinidad in 1872
21. History of Trinidad by Dr. M. Beshoar printed 1882.
22. Handmade razor and case
23. Picture of Wilford B. Witt, sawmill owner, merchant who came to the county in 1867 or 1868.
24. Picture of Joaquin Young, who came from southern California and settled in Trinidad in 1859.
25. Life of Luther- printed 1840
26. Shawl given by Kit Carson to his neice Mary Corbin
27. Handmade candle sticks
28. Grease lamp, 300 years old.
29. Pewter spoon for making shot
30. Powder spoon
31. Iron pots- over 300 years old
32. Pitkin (spelling may be inaccurate)
33. Powder horns
34. White Wig from Washington's time
35. flax stocking, hand made
36. candle mold
37. bugle made in 1776
38. wool carder
39. assasination pistol
40. Philippine spear heads, bolo, and opium pipe
41. twp swords from swordfish
42. leather powder carrier
43. railway spike from narrow gauge on La Veta pass.
44. handcuffs and leg chains
45. a number of pistols
46. skeletons of oxen heads
47. two saddles which Mrs. MacLure and son rode from Santa Fe to Oregon. 76 years ago.
48. hoop skirt
49. two hand carved picture frames
50. 1st nozzle of Trinidad fire dept.
51. one of the first street lights of Trinidad
52. Issue of New Hampshire Mercury dated 1786
53. papers during the Civil War (news)
54. Picture of Dr. M. Beshoar taken in Mexico
55. Indian peace pipe
56. handmade knife and fork

Kit Carson Museum

57. hand made nails from the Booth home in ~~Pennsylvania~~ Virginia
58. a spur which belonged to Pancho Villa
59. powder flask belonging to great-grand-grandfather of Carlos Romero
60. pistol for lead ball used in 1776
61. " owned by Sam Hatcher, 1841, first white settler of Las Animas county.
62. knife which belonged to "Billy the Kid"
63. Medical saddle bags and instrument case of Dr. M. Beshoar
64. dishes 200 years old
65. coffee made in 1859
66. hand made fancy work made 100 years ago
67. Pillow cover made from the wedding dress of Kit Carson
68. Oxen yokes from Uncle Dick Wooton's ranch
69. medicine case of George Simpson, who was a doctor and whose grandfather used the same case in 1776.
70. quilt made in 1822
71. Paisley shawl
72. an arithmetic published in 1795
73. Webster's spelling book, 1857
74. Walsh arithmetic, 1816
75. English literature, 1850
76. Bible, authorized version, 1835
77. Columbian Orator, 1807
78. Water color picture on white velvet, 135 years old
79. Picture made of seeds, once owned by Uncle Dick Wooton
80. Black Jack hanging, pictures and writeup, 1901
81. Melodian made 1855
82. spinning wheel
83. sewing machine, 1871
84. water carrier made of pottery made in 1889
85. had made coverlids, 1833, 1846, and 1836
86. two coverlids once owned by Captain Foster
87. Horn chair made of 16 sets of horns
88. two paintings, one hundred years old.
89. Saddle Bags of Judge Hines
90. Famous chair made in Denver cost \$7 and belonging to E.J. Hubbard

Note: the trustees of this Kit Carson Museum are Mrs. J. J. Hendricks, and Mrs. W.F. Burroughs of Trinidad, Colorado.

Dated. January 29, 1934.

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INTERVIEW WITH ED. HOWER, COUNTY CLERK, LAS ANIMAS COUNTY
Taken by A.K. Richeson, Trinidad, Colorado

Jan 30-1934

There have been members of the Hower family in Trinidad since 1879. The late James H. Hower was civil war veteran and prospector. Two of his sons have grown to manhood in this community, Edward who is now the County Clerk of the county, and Porter who spent all his working years as a mail carrier with the local postoffice. He was retired from active service on a pension this past December.)

That the pioneer Howers settled in Trinidad instead of Leadville, Colorado, was due to several circumstances, among which were rather meager funds, roaming Indians, and the fact that his father, James H. Hower, had no liking for the wild and "wooly hurly burly", such as Leadville was known to be at that time. When a wagon train from Clarendon, Texas stopped in Trinidad, a small settlement of adobe houses and frame shacks one March day of 1879 the members of that travel worn party of men, women, and children expected to press on over the mountains in quest of a fortune in the mines about Leadville. But the Howers never got any further. They drove their stakes in the mud flats of Trinidad and here they stayed to become among the best citizens of the community.

And here Mrs. Sarah C. Hower passed away on July 5, 1917 and her husband James H. Hower on January 12, 1921. The two sons remain to take an active part as citizens in the affairs of Trinidad today.

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Hower were natives of Pennsylvania, coming originally from near Pittsburg. James Hower was young man when the Civil War opened in 1861 and he was prompt to enlist in the Union army and his services were largely near Washington D.C. But after the war the Howers moved to Whiteside county,

Ed. Hower

northwestern Illinois, where the three children were born, Edward and Porter Hower, and a baby girl who died in infancy. Rather a rugged outdoor life this family lived in Illinois, but in 1878 James Hower felt the urge to come west and acquired what was called "the Leadville Fever." He set out for this mining area which was then booming.

It was a slow and tedious journey in a spring wagon for the Hower family. At Dodge City, Kansas, then somewhat of a rip roaring place itself, the Howers fell in with other parties also Leadville bound, and they decided to join forces in their trek westward.

However in the meantime they had heard of a new town in Texas called Clarendon. It was building up and Hower, who was a carpenter by trade, figured he might find plenty of work in that line in this new town. So he went to Clarendon leaving behind his family. This was only for three months however and then Hower returned to Dodge City and the journey back to Clarendon was made in the same spring wagon.

The journey from Dodge City to Clarendon was made by night travel and it required three nights. Indians were numerous and not the least friendly. The family remained at Clarendon for another three months and then decided to continue towards the original goal of Leadville.

About ten families made this journey and they assembled a wagon train at Sherman, Texas, and again the journey to Leadville resumed. The route taken was by way of Raton New Mexico and over the pass and through "Uncle Dick" Wootton's toll gate toward Trinidad. The trip consumed three long and wearisome

Ed. Hower

months, starting in January of 1879 and reaching Trinidad some-time in March.

There were hardships on the trek from Clarendon and the trip was not without hazards. The party feared Indian attacks at any time. One outfit traveled with horses and kept ahead of the oxen parties. The advance outfit was of a man who had been teaching school in Clarendon, but who decided to join the Leadville rush. This outfit was overtaken by a band of Indians and the entire outfit taken away, and the members of the party, unharmed, were allowed to depart. Some time later passing along the road where the ambush had taken place the Hower party saw an area of scattered feathers, the remains of feather beds that the Clarendon school teacher had ^{family of 3} surrendered to the Indians. This particular party did however finally reach Leadville, despite the adventure with the Indians.

Arriving in Trinidad in March of 1879 James Hower realized he could not take his family further without money, so he lingered in this village and set up a wagon repair shop and otherwise turned his hands to carpenter work and building, for Trinidad was experiencing a pioneer boom then. When reports began to circulate about the wild and woolly Leadville, the Howers reconsidered their original plan, and as work seemed plentiful climate good, and other conditions favorable, Mr. Hower decided to remain. Thus Trinidad in 1879 became the home of the J.H. Hower family.

Trinidad boomed in those days with cattle men and freighters. The town was built along a scraggly trail. Houses were not many, but these were of adobe and frame. The Santa Fe railroad had built through Trinidad the year previous, and

Ed. Hower

the town was growing rapidly with good times for all.

Where the Hower wagon stopped for the first night's rest was on the trail somewhere within the present confines of Kit Carson Park. A stream or irrigating ditch ran around the hill and past the place where the Pierce Lumber yard now is. The houses and shops were most numerous on Commercial street and the north side of the river was sparcely settled.

Mr. Ed. Hower was eight years of age when he arrived in Trinidad with his folks. He remembers, "Commercial Street was about as crooked as it now is. Stores built of adobe were of one story and some had sidewalks and there were steps leading up or down to the next place. These steps were handy for youngsters who rode horse~~s~~ they were used by the youngsters to mount their horses."

The first house occupied by the Hower family was located about where the Santa Fe railroad water plant now is. In fact, Ed Hower asserts, the Santa Fe took the property away from his family some years later.

(Thus settled, the Hower boys attended school. The first school they attended was a frame shack where the Pierce lumber mill now is. The teacher was a woman, who later became Mrs. Hughes, the wife of the pioneer founder of the Hughes Lumber Co. There were three schools then in Trinidad, the old Rice school, the Park school and the Catholic convent.)

(Of this period Ed. Hower recalls the old U.S. Hotel then for some years conducted by Roosa and Henerson, the old Union Hotel built by John Conkie in 1879 and which later became the Columbian Hotel. There was also an Overland Hotel. The Mitchell building, located where the Masonic temple now is, was

Ed. Hower

the best building in town.

J. H. Hower kept his wagon shop for years and was an active member of the G.A.R. and also an Oddfellow. In the gold rush in Arizona in the early 90's he prospected about Prescott and Tuscon and also in the Red River country of New Mexico. During the last ~~xxx~~ years of his life he operated a drayage and transfer wagon business and was retired from active work for more than ten years before his death on account of a fall that fractured his hip. J. H. Hower was a venerable looking old fellow in his last years; he wore a long flowing white beard. He passed away in 1921 some few years after his wife.

As has been said previously Ed Hower came to Trinidad as a lad of eight years. He has spent fifty-five years in the community. He and his brother, Porter, ~~first~~ went to work at the local postoffice, but Ed. Hower quit to take a part in the Democratic party politics, while Porter remained connected with the postoffice until December 1933.

Ed. Hower recieved his later education at the Rice school and the old Tillotsen Academy and graduated from ~~the~~ ^{Tillotsen Academy} ~~High school~~ in 1888. After leaving school his first job was herding cattle for one Tim Mitchell, a cattle man of El Moro, but ~~he~~ only lasted a week or two on this job. He next went to work for the Hausman Brothers Drug Store, now one of the leading businesses of Trinidad. He worked there for four years and was from 1891 to 1908 a mail carrier in the service of the local postoffice.

He had learned office accounting and bookkeeping which has stood him in good hand during the recent years. He was a

Ed. Hower

a candidate for city clerk the year that C.F. Turner was democratic candidate for mayor. He was also for a time deputy county treasurer, and in November 1930 was elected county clerk of Las Animas County, which position he has since held. He has a family consisting of his wife and son Edwin.

He recalls clearly the general developments of events through the eighties and nineties up to the present time. He recalls an old horse ~~car~~ line of the '80's that followed a trackage route on Main street and north on Commercial street to Colorado Ave. It operated only a few years.

Up through the '80's Trinidad was known far and wide for its hose running, volunteer fire department teams. They competed and won prizes at state meets. Hower once belonged to the junior E.J. Rice hose team and H.E. Mulnix a hook and ladder team. He has among his souvenirs of bygone time badges worn by these team members at different contests.

Hower was a young musician in those days. He played with the original Trinidad concert band in 1891, the year that the King Coal celebration took place at Pueblo. Tony Nigro was leader of the band. Hower also played in an orchestra at the old Jaffa Opera House.

He recalls a big fire that took place on a Christmas eve of 1890. It was at the H. Moses store then located on west Main street where the Aeillo block now is. It was one of the coldest nights of years and icicles formed whenever the volunteer fire department squirted water. The firemen much benumbed that night would every once in a while run across the street to the Ralph Hamerslough store, then located across the

Ed. Hower

street, thaw themselves out by the hot stove and go back to fight the fire.

(Hower remembers "Uncle Dick" Wooton and his famous toll gate and also a small engine used on the Santa Fe for a time which was christened the "Uncle Dick." It was used to pull short trains over the hill to Raton. It had six wheels and compared with the present huge locomotives, used by the Santa Fe, resembled a match box on wheels.)

He recalls that in the early '80's two men were lynched in Trinidad. Their bodies were seen on the next morning hanging on a projected rafter on an old barn about in the locality of the present Polaik Junk yard.

He recalls the early day sheriffs and cattle men. As a boy he knew the celebrated Bat Masterson of Dodge City, who was Marshall of Trinidad for a time. Bat used to give him and other small boys money to go to the shows at the old Jaffa Opera House.

He remembers when the coal industry in Las Animas county was in its infancy, when there was but the Starkville mine operated by the Santa Fe Railroad Co and the Riffenberg wagon mine. The Engleville mine was later opened. He has lived here to see fifty or sixty producing coal mines in operation at one time in this district.

The Howers were active citizens in those early days and gave what they could to new enterprises. They were contributors to the above described horse car line started by C.B. Treat, to the amount of \$25, but Hower insisted that the line not pass his house on account of the bedlam of the clanging bell. He

Ed. Hower

also has been a stockholder in various pioneer oil wells including the M. Lenhart well.

(For a time some years ago he was a manager of the West Theatre when that house was held under lease by Mr. Nye of Colorado Springs. He also billed raod shows at the Central Park theatre and was manager of the old Crystal theatre which is now the Rialto. That was in vaudeville days. He installed the first talking picture machine, an Edison, there, and in 1916 took hold of an equipped the Strand theatre for motion pictures, and leased it to the late Jack Nash who conducted it for many years before he moved to California.)

January 30, 1934. I certify that the above facts and incidents as recounted by Mr. Richeson are accurate.

Edward Hower
Edward Hower
1101 Arizona Ave
Trinidad, Colorado.

A. K. Richman 359
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I procured this information from the county Assessors office. 1909 was the earliest that I could find. These figures are the total assessed value of all property in the county.

	1909	1912	1913	1914
Total Ass- ment by Ass- essor	2,579,175.00	2,374,915.00	7,508,480.00	7,867,970.00
Railroad	548,720.00	548,720.00	1,819,050.00	1,986,210.00
Telegraph	12,590.00	12,710.00	23,090.00	23,090.00
Telephone	7,580.00	5,690.00	13,280.00	24,040.00
Other Prop. Ret. by Tax Commission	16,830.00	17,115.00	45,075.00	40,290.00
GRAND TOTAL OF ASSESSM.	2,964,895.00	2,959,150.00	9,408,975.00	9,941,600.00
	1915	1916	1917	1918
Total ass- ment by ass- essor	9,071,377.00	10,155,880.00	13,771,225.00	16,589,990.00
Railroad	1,937,110.00	1,876,810.00	1,912,780.00	1,912,780.00
6066 Telegraph	22,900.00	25,640.00	33,380.00	38,950.00
Telephone	18,500.00	20,010.00	20,750.00	29,550.00
Other Prop. Ret. by Tax Commission	39,797.00	44,290.00	44,640.00	38,940.00
GRAND TOTAL OF ASSESSMENT	10,089,684.00	12,122,630.00	15,782,775.00	18,610,210.00

