Dear Members,

Once again we face the task of putting together our annual First Thanksgiving History Conference. Our grant from Texas Humanities has been approved to pay part of our speakers and their travel costs. The main task before us is the logistics of putting together the conference and promoting the event to bring up attendance. The San Elizario Genealogy & Historical Society will host our History Conference which will be on April 24, 2010 from 8:00 a.m.to 12:00 noon. We will have our museum open and plan to conduct tours as needed. We will be conducting a Genealogy workshop on Saturday afternoon at our Portales Museum.

The First Thanksgiving event will start with a welcome reception Friday, April 23, hosted by Al Borrego and Mission Trails Association. They will be in charge of Saturday’s afternoon re-enactment and all of Sundays activities.

Our SEGHS members will welcome our Conference attendees on Saturday, April 24th, beginning at 8:00 A.M. with registration, coffee & donuts. Since the morning is totally ours, we will take care of all logistics and attend all presentations. Everyone is encouraged to attend the MTA scheduled luncheon April 24 from 12:00 1:00 P.M. as well as Friday’s, April 23, 6-8 P.M. reception. MTA is sponsoring the re-enactment of the First Thanksgiving from 5-6P.M. Saturday, April 24, History conference 8 A.M.-12 noon, afternoon activities at approximately 2:00 P.M. SEGHS will be conducting a workshop in “Researching, Organizing, and Archiving family pictures and documents with Dr. Leon Blevins. Our Genealogy experts will be available to discuss our personal genealogy interests which will enhance our education. Sunday activities will highlight an Arts & Craft Market.

An idea has been suggested, to get San Elizario families whose ancestors have been school teachers, school administrators, School Board member to develop an exhibit. We still need to work out the specific details of such an exhibit.

Thank you - lets keep up the good work!        Miguel A. Teran
Veteran’s Talk  The Veterans Committee held their first meeting for 2010 on Tuesday, February 16, 2010. We had 28 attendees, two of who attended our meeting for the first time, veterans Jacob Apodaca and Edmundo R. Lara.

The committee voted to have our meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 P.M. The meetings will be held at 1501 Main St. in San Elizario, in the building directly behind the Adobe Horseshoe, next to the jail.

Plans are underway to have a San Elizario Veterans Queen. The Pageant will take place on Saturday, April 17 at the Adobe Horseshoe in San Elizario. Tickets will be sold by the members of the Veterans Committee. The committee also voted on and selected Luz Estrada as the Vice-Chairman, Alex Payan, as Treasurer. Our Secretary, Annie Lara, will continue in that position.

The Veterans Memorial Walk Project and the sale of the bricks is showing great progress and promise. The first check was presented to the Veterans Committee on 2/16/10 by Grace Sanchez, of the El Paso Mission Trail Association. Memorial bricks can be purchased for $30 online by going to: www.EpPasoMissionTrail.com/veteranswalk/ and completing the order form. Most major credit cards are accepted online or by completing the order form and mailing a check (payable to El Paso Mission Trail Association) to EPMTA, PO Box 1010, San Elizario, TX 79849. Order forms are also available at the Portales Museum or any of the Art Galleries in San Elizario. For more information contact Al Borrego at 594-8424 or 526-5971. Ray Borrego, Chair, Veterans Committee

Sanchez Ancestral Connections to Billy the Kid by George Sanchez

Two of the younger members of the San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society (SEGHS), Vince Sanchez and Annie Lara, asked me if I could tell them how their Sanchez ancestors were connected to Billy the Kid. Vince’s father, Samuel Sanchez, is a long time member of SEGHS and has served as the president of the organization and Annie’s mother, Josephine Borrego Lara, was also a long time member of SEGHS. Both Samuel and Josephine are my first cousins since my father Abran Sanchez was a brother to Vince’s grandfather, Antonio Sanchez, and Annie’s grandmother, Cornelia Sanchez Borrego. This also make Vince and Annie second cousins.

Vince and Annie had often heard that their great-grandfather Felipe Sanchez had moved his family from the Lincoln County area of New Mexico to San Elizario, Texas early in the 1900’s. They also knew that their Sanchez ancestors were living in Lincoln County during the Lincoln County Wars and that they were somewhat connected to Sheriff William Brady who was killed by Billy the Kid. Currently both Vince and Annie are very colorful characters in El Paso’s entertainment group “Six Guns and Shady Ladies” and as members of the San Elizario “Desperados” they have many times re-enacted the legend that the famous outlaw Billy the Kid, who was living in Mesilla, New Mexico at the time, came to San Elizario to break out his friend Melquiades Segura who was incarcerated in the local jail. Stories about this incident refer to this as “the only time Billy the Kid broke into a Jail”. But what many of Vince and Annie’s
fellow actors don’t know is that there is a very strong ancestral connection to this same Billy the Kid who in the morning of April 1, 1878 was involved in the assassination of Sheriff William Brady in La Placita del Rio Bonito, now the town of Lincoln in Lincoln County, New Mexico.

I was asked for our connection to Billy the Kid since as members of SEGHS Vince and Annie have been told that I am considered the Sanchez family genealogist because I have written three family history books: “The Gurule/Aragon Family of San Miguel County, New Mexico”. “The Sanchez/ Padilla Family of Lincoln County, New Mexico,” And “New Mexico Abuelos:1598-1998”. (All of these books are out of print now). These three books and the complete Sanchez and Gurule Genealogy can be found at Los Portales Museum, in San Elizario, in the computer with the Family Tree Maker program installed.

I have traced the Sanchez ancestry, with much help from my fellow genealogist in Albuquerque, to the soldier colonists who came with Juan de Oñate to what is now New Mexico in 1598 and, also traced the Gurule ancestry, to the colonists recruited by Diego de Vargas in the re-conquest of New Mexico in 1692. The re-conquest was about twelve years after the 1680 Pueblo Revolt the resulted in many New Mexico Spanish colonists killed by those Pueblo Native American who wanted to get rid of their so called Spanish oppressors. Those Spanish colonists who did survive the massacre managed to reach the settlements to the south in El Paso del Norte

The “1692 El Paso Census” taken by De Vargas in this area has the progenitor of the Sanchez family, Jacinto Sanchez de Inigo, along with his brother Pedro, and sister Francisca. Jacinto was an eighteen year old Spanish soldier, probably from the presidio at the Villa de Santa Fe, when he mustered shortly after reaching the El Paso del Norte area 1680. By 1699 he was married to Maria Rodarte de Castro Xabalera, a single member of the Rodarte family from Sombrerete, Mexico. She had been unlawfully partnered by Lt. Governor Juan Paez Hurtado, who De Vargas had put in charge of recruiting colonists for the re-conquest of New Mexico, with a single Spanish soldier named Felipe de Soria. This was done by him to cheat the Spanish Crown, Hurtado was receiving 300 pesos for every married couple he recruited so he paired older girls in families to any single men. (John B Colligan, The Juan Paez Hurtado Expedition of 1695: Fraud recruiting Colonists for New Mexico,p.98-99.)

Many male descendents of Jacinto Sanchez de Inigo and Maria Rodarte are well known in the colonial history of New Mexico. For example, Jose Gregorio de la Trinidad Sanchez, a great grandson of Jacinto and Maria and one of our direct paternal ancestors, was married to Maria Rita Baca, the daughter of Capitan Don Bartolome Baca who was the governor of New Mexico from 1823-1825, one of the first governors at the start of the Mexican Period. Their story was given in a previous SEGHS newsletter. Jose Gregorio and Maria Rita had five sons, Juan Christobal, Jose Manuel, Diego Antonio, Santiago, and Jose Mauricio, and one daughter Paula. (HGRC Herencia article and New Mexico Marriages, Immaculate Conception of Tome 1800-1855, archives of Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Microfilm#33, page 59, frame 871.)
A son of Jose Gregorio Sanchez and Maria Rita Baca was Jose Mauricio de la Trinidad Sanchez. Sometime before 1865 Jose Mauricio and his wife Maria Candida de Jesus Gonzales and their family migrated to near present day Roswell, New Mexico. Later they moved to La Junta, present day Hondo, where the Río Bonito and the Río Ruidoso come together. Mauricio and Jesusita had seven sons, Jose Toribio (died young), Antonio, Estolano, Francisco, Juan, Jose Manuel, and Donaciano, and three daughters, Reimunda, Visitacion, and Jesusita Amada. Mauricio and his sons operated large sheep and cattle ranches in Reventon near La Placita del Rio Bonito, now called Lincoln, and from Hondo to present day Ruidoso, New Mexico. Mauricio was the first sheriff of Lincoln County, having been appointed by Governor H.H. Heath on March 12, 1869 after the first elected sheriff resigned. This was during the very turbulent times of the infamous Lincoln County Wars. (William Brady: Tragic Hero of the Lincoln County War by Donald R. Lavash.)

Estolano Sanchez, the son of Mauricio Sanchez and Jesusita Gonzales, who is our direct paternal ancestor, married Cornelia Pacheco from la Placita del Rio Bonito, July 21, 1871. They had five sons, Felipe, Valentin, Aurelio, Presiliano, Estolano, Jr. and three daughters, Eluicia, Celia, and Rosario. Estolano Sanchez was a member of the Lincoln County Riflemen, a group of men that the Governor Lew Wallace organized on March 15, 1879 to help restore order in Lincoln County during the Lincoln County Wars. (Violence in Lincoln county 1869-1881 by William A. Keleher.)

Felipe Sanchez, the oldest sibling in Estolano and Cornelia’s large family, married Candelaria Padilla. Felipe’s youngest sister, Rosario Sanchez, married Willie Brady, a grandson of Sheriff William Brady who was killed by Billy the Kid and other members of the McSween faction during the Lincoln County War.

Finally, that is the Sanchez family connection to Billy the Kid!

In about 1915 Felipe and Candelaria were wealthy ranchers and farmers in the Hondo and San Patricio, New Mexico area. Felipe probably inherited most of his wealth from his wealthy parents, father Estolano Sanchez and mother Jesusita Gonzales. Candelaria’s father was Andalesio Padilla and her mother was Paublita Marino. They had a large ranch near Three Rivers about ten miles north of present day Tularosa, New Mexico. Andalesio is buried in that mountain chapel just north of the petroglyphs in Three Rivers, New Mexico. His grave is marked by a large icon cross with “Andalesio Padilla” welded on it. Felipe and Candelaria had seven sons, Antonio, Sipio, Emiliano, Abran (Georges’ father), Reynaldo, Benito, and Onecimo, and three daughters, Paublita, Cornelia, and Celedonia (died young).

Sometime before 1920 Felipe and Candelaria decided to move their family to Guadalupe, Mexico across the Rio Grande close to San Elizario, Texas, where Candelaria’s uncle Randolf Reynolds, Tío Rendo, had a large ranch. The reason for this move might have been Felipe’s dispute with the United States Government over land that he leased for grazing his animals and the fines that might have been assessed for certain violations.
There is also a legend that Felipe and his men might have “strung up” or “pistol whipped” a government agent. When World War I started, Felipe who was now living in San Elizario, Texas, sent his two oldest boys, Antonio and Sipio, to live with their Tío Rendo in Guadalupe, Mexico. Felipe, having recently lost much of what he owned to the United States Government, had no intention of letting his sons serve in that war. Felipe and Candelaria’s oldest son Antonio Sanchez would eventually marry Juanita Caballero. They are Vince’s paternal grandparents. Cornelia Sanchez, one of Antonio’s sisters, married Alfonso Borrego. They are Annie’s maternal grandparents.

You can write to George A. Sanchez at 5141 Bastille, El Paso, Texas 79924, call him at H 915 755-7125 or C 915– 373-0127, or e-mail him at GSanchez011@ELP.RR.COM

Installation of SEGHS Officers 2010
On February 14, 2010, the new SEGHS Board was sworn in by Honorable Patricia Macias at the San Elizario L.G.Alarcon Elementary School. The monthly meeting followed with a pot luck luncheon. A good time was had by all.
The officers elected were Miguel Teran, President; Erasmo Payan, Vice President; Ray Borrego, Veteran’s Vice President; Aurora Bustos, Secretary; Marta Garcia, Treasurer.: Bernie Sargent, from the El Paso Historical Commission, was our featured speaker for the meeting on February 14, 2010.

Above: Hon. Patricia Macias, far right, left to right are Erasmo Payan, Miguel Teran, Marta Garcia & Aurora Bustos and Raymond Borrego.

Bernie Sargent speaking to SEGHS
Photos by Lillian Trujillo

Membership
This year 2010, we are happy to report that we have registered new members to our organization. We welcome Maria Aurora Garcia, daughter of Carmen Lopez and Conrado Caballero, Alicia Pedregon Martinez, daughter of Juanita Maese & Bonifacio Pedregon, Anna Maria Moon, daughter of Carmen Jimenez and Billy Moon and Arthur A. Velis, son of Mauro Velis & Eloise Alvarado.

Ruth Vasquez, Membership
THE Artist JOSE CISNEROS

By George Sanchez

Jose Cisneros the artist from El Paso famous for print drawings depicting early Spanish colonist, Native American, Mexican Vaqueros, and Texas Cowboys, and for illustrating many historical books, passed away Saturday, November 14th. Jose would have been 100 years old on April 18, 2010. He was a good friend to many San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society members and the Los Portales Museum and Information Center, which SEGHS operated, is proud to have a few pieces of his work on display.

I have been aware of Joe Cisneros’ work for some fifty years, About ten years ago I completed my third genealogical family history book “New Mexico Abuelos:1598-1998” and sent the manuscript to Marc Simmons so he could proof read it. Marc Simmons is a well known southwestern historian who lives in Northern New Mexico near Santa Fe. Marc is a good friend of Jose Cisneros who illustrated his “Last Conquistador” book on Juan de Oñate. Mr. Simmons really liked my book telling me that I was a good “grass roots” historian and that, since I lived in El Paso, I should ask Jose Cisneros to make an illustration as a frontispiece for the book.

I called Mr. Cisneros and told him who I was and that his friend Marc Simmons wanted me to ask him a question. He invited me to his home in central El Paso where he gave me a tour of his small studio and showed me many copies of some of his drawings and awards he had received. I then showed him a copy of my manuscript and told him what his friend Marc Simmons wanted me to ask. Mr. Cisneros told me that he was losing his eyesight, he was in his late eighties at the time, but that he would see what he could come up with and would call me when he had something ready for me to look at. A few days later I was very surprised to receive a call from him asking me if I didn’t mind going to his house to see if I liked what he had drawn for me! That wonderful drawing is now the frontispiece of my “New Mexico Abuelos:1598-1998” book. He did not want to get paid but I finally convinced him to take $100. Now that drawing is an original Jose Cisneros and hangs with six or seven of his prints in our home. Jose Cisneros was truly a very nice guy. I had the privilege of taking him to Albuquerque when the New Mexico Hispanic Culture Preservation League honored him a few years ago.

Kila and I went to Jose’s Rosary November 17th and to his funeral mass and burial the following day. The Rosary was led by three Franciscan Friars and a young lady sang between the prayer mysteries, and only one of his granddaughters spoke afterwards about her “grandpa.” At the funeral mass he was eulogized by his parish priest. He talked about the El Paso Museum of Art having a special section with Jose Cisneros’ work. I will also be looking forward to El Paso’s memorial in honor of Jose Cisneros.

Several of Jose Cisneros works are on exhibition at Los Portales Museum in San Elizario, Texas
Christmas Luminarias:  On the evening of December 19, 2009, the Placita, surrounding historical sites and streets, as well our beautiful church were aglow with Christmas lights and the traditional luminarias. Mother nature co-operated and gave us a windless night with moderate temperature.

Lillian Trujillo narrated the biblical version of the Nativity and Eloisa Levario coordinated the costumes for the actors.

The San Elizario L.G.Alarcon Elementary 3,4,5 grades choir directed by Ms. Alvarez sang traditional Christmas songs. Erasmo and Tere Payan were Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus. They gave out bags of candy, pecans & oranges. Oranges and candy provided by the Piña Brothers of Vista Markets , and pecans donated by Miguel Teran, President SEGHS, the milk for the hot chocolate was donated by Licon Dairies.

Transito Macias, Patricia Macias, Olga Hernandez served free hot chocolate & cookies to all, while Marta Garcia, Lillian Trujillo, Lupe Gonzales Aurora Bustos, Mary Alice Garcia were busy in the kitchen selling menudo, tamales, & champurado.

A big Thank You goes out to the volunteers that helped make the tamales: Ruth Vasquez, Tere Payan, Marisela Garcia, & Margarita Saenz.

A night like this takes months of preparation and for this we are grateful for the help given us by Mr. Tito Lujan, the San Elizario Senior Citizen Center, the Confirmation class, the students/actors that helped with the Posadas pageant, Mary Perez, coordinated the luminarias project, The Bikers Club, Paso del Norte Paranormal Society, United Way (Americorps).

Eloisa Levario, Director & Olga Hernandez

Prayers for the Sick: Bobby Madrid, Livorio Correa, Richard Sambrano, Margarita Ramirez, Isela Holguin., Condolences to the family of Evangelina Kleine, former member & resident of San Elizario.

Update on Cookbooks: Cook books are selling fast. Hurry and get yours for $12.00 at the Los Portales Museum.

Collections Management Workshop: Some members of the SEGHS and Staff will be attending a Collections Management Workshop in Pecos, Texas, March 8. This workshop is coordinated in partnership with the Texas Heritage Trails program.

Los Portales office hours:  
Tuesday- Saturday:  
Sunday:  
Closed Mondays

Phone:  
915-851-1682  
Fax:  
915-851-0045  
E-mail:  
sanelizario@sbcglobal.net  
Web site:  
www.epcounty.com/sanelizariomuseum