

TIMELINE

DON DIEGO DE VARGAS 2nd Entrada 1693-1700

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From CHAPTER X: RECONQUEST BY DON DIEGO DE VARGAS 1692-1700

In 1692 **Don Diego De Vargas Zapata y Luxan Ponze De Leon**, reentered New Mexico making treaties with all the pueblos ending the war started in 1680. The pueblos assured Don Diego De Vargas that they would allow a resettlement and if needed fight alongside the Spanish. In 1693 governor and captain general of New Mexico Don Diego De Vargas was tasked with bringing the displaced refugees back to their homes in New Mexico and reestablishing the government at the **Villa Real de la Santa Fe de San Francisco de Asís**. Don Diego De Vargas now had the responsibility of protecting the lives and health of the families and soldiers who agreed to make this journey with him.

1693, October 13: Don Diego de Vargas sets out with 100 soldiers, 70 refuge New Mexican families with over 800 persons in all, accompanied by seventeen friars under Padre Salvador de San Antonio as custodio, from El Paso, NM. The start was in three divisions. Lieutenant-general Luis Granillo was second in command, and Captain Juan Paez Hurtado had special charge of the colonists.

1693, December 16: Under Don Juan de Oñate's original banner, Diego de Vargas and the colonists reached their homes in Santa Fe, 30 persons having died during the hard journey. The Tanos had left their pueblo and now occupied Santa Fe. Don Diego de Vargas set up the camp outside Santa Fe while he negotiated the return of the Tano's to their pueblo of Gallisteo. Vargas met with pueblo leaders and sent out parties to reconnoiter the land. San Felipe, Santa Ana, and Cia (Zia) remained friendly and Pecos offered military aid. Twenty-two children died of exposure within a few days while negotiations continued.

1693, December 28: On December 28th the Tanos closed the entrance to the plaza and prepared for defence. Summoned to surrender, they demanded a day for deliberation, and then, with shouts of insult, proclaimed their purpose to resist. They said El Demonio could do more for them than God or María; the Christians would be defeated, reduced to servitude, and finally killed. The Tano's thus restarted the war with Spain in New Mexico.

1693, December 29: Don Diego required prayers to be read for his kneeling soldiers, raised the Virgin's picture (Our Lady Of Remedies) on the *royal banner*; The army was shouting praises to the Santo Sacramento, and rushed in two divisions upon the capital. The conflict lasted all day. Arrows, stones, and boiling water rained upon the assailants from defensive works erected by the Spaniards years ago. At last the plaza gate was burned and the new estufa captured; but Tehua reinforcements appeared. Twice did the cavalry charge and scatter this new foe, but night had come and Vargas could do no more than prevent the interference of the enemy from abroad. The next morning the besieged surrendered, their losses being severe and their wounded governor having hanged himself. Seventy surviving warriors - only nine having been killed in the fight including Antonio Bolsas, their leading spirit- were immediately shot, after an exhortation to penitence by Father Alpuente. The women and children, 400 in number, were distributed as 'hostages,' to serve until the viceroy should decide their fate.

1694, January 9: Early in January Juan Ye, chief of the Pecos, applied for aid against the rebels and Apaches, and Captain Madrid was sent out with thirty men, but it proved to be a false alarm invented to test the sincerity of Spanish promises. On the 9th Vargas marched with ninety men to the abandoned pueblos of Tesuque and Nambé, and thence to the mesa of San Ildefonso, where the Tehuas of these three towns and of Pujuaque, Cuyamanque, Santa Clara, and Jacona, with the Tanos of San Cristóbal and San Lázaro, were encamped. They promised to come to

the villa and make peace, but this was only a device to gain time for a meeting with the Jemes, Picuries, Taos, and others.

1694 January, 23: Padre Farfan led 70 families from El Paso to Santa Fe.

January, 28 Vargas marched again to the mesa with offers of peace and pardon. The natives professed repentance, but required the governor and padre come alone and receive their submission, believing that if they could kill the leader the rest of the Spaniards would leave the country. Failing in this, they paid no heed to entreaties or threats, and Vargas returned to Santa Fé. Captain Madrid attempted to get material for balls from a lead mine that had been worked by his father near San Marcos; but the Indians had filled it up. Hostilities now became frequent, and through messengers sent from the friendly pueblos, as from occasional captives, always questioned and shot, news was often received of what the rebels were doing. It seems there was a small element among the enemy favoring surrender, but their arguments were always answered by a reference to the seventy Tanos shot after the taking of Santa Fé. Meanwhile, efforts were made by the hostiles to get aid from Acoma, Zuñi, and Moqui, and to form alliances with Apache bands. Raids on the Spaniards' livestock were frequent, and sometimes successful.

1694, March 4: Vargas marched with about 100 soldiers and many settlers and Indians for the mesa of San Ildefonso. Encamping at the pueblo of that name, he sent Captain Madrid across to the west bank of the Rio Grande to reconnoitre and recover stolen animals, and finally began the attack on the 4th of March.

Spaniards were met and repulsed in a fight of five hours, fifteen Indians being killed and twenty Spaniards wounded, eight of them seriously. Obtaining reënforcements and sending his disabled back to the villa, Vargas repeated the assault on the 11th, fighting six hours, without gaining any advantage. Next night the Indians came down and made an attack, but were repulsed. The siege was continued till the 19th, and then abandoned on account of bad weather, disabled horses, and lack of ammunition. The army returned to Santa Fé, having killed about thirty Indians, recovered 100 horses and mules, and taken a large store of maize, of which 100 fanegas were sent south for the approaching Farfan families.

1694 April, 12: Vargas marched on April 12th, joined the Queres under Ojeda of Santa Ana --- the man already named as one of Governor Cruzat's captives of 1689, now a firm friend and on the **17th** defeated the foe at their new pueblo, capturing and shooting thirteen warriors, besides the seven killed in battle, taking 342 women and children, with 70 horses and 900 sheep, and next day sending a provision train with a guard of twenty soldiers to the villa, where on the 17th a band of raiding Tehuas had been repulsed by Lieutenant-general Granillo. The governor remained at Cieneguilla with 36 men; and the natives were now very penitent, desiring the release of their women and children; but Vargas insisted on their burning the new pueblo, and returning to their old home at Cochití.

1694 April 20: On the 20th or 21st the Spanish camp was suddenly attacked, and 150 of the captives were lost, two soldiers being killed, one of them accidentally, and **Adjutant Francisco de Anaya Almazan** being drowned a few days later in crossing the river. The mesa pueblo was burned, and the army returned to Santa Fé in two divisions on the 25th and 27th.²⁵

Back at the capital, Don Diego gave his attention to the distribution of hostages and live-stock, to the apportionment of lands, and to the posting of guards, and other measures to protect the settlers and friendly natives while putting in their crops.

1694, May 21: The hostiles of fourteen towns, or six nations, made a raid on the *real de caballada*, or grazing camp, but were repulsed by the guard; whereupon Vargas marched to the mesa of San Ildefonso, where he had several skirmishes, taking 48 animals and a few captives, and returning to Santa Fé. The Queres had also sent in five Jemes prisoners, two of whom were not shot one because he promised to show the grave of a martyred friar, and the other at the intercession of the Pecos chief Juan Ye.

1694 June 23: The families from Mexico under Padre Farfan arrived, and were lodged in the villa until on the close of the war lands could be assigned elsewhere. With the colonists or a little later came new stores of ammunition and other needed articles.

1694 June 30: Vargas marched northward, killing eleven Tehuas of Cuyamanque the first day, finding Picurí abandoned, and reaching Taos on the **3d of July**. This pueblo was also deserted, but the people had left their property protected by crosses, which they supposed the Spaniards would respect, as they did for a time. The Taos were in a cañon not far off, but after a complicated series of negotiations, carried on chiefly through **Juan Ye** and a band of friendly Apaches, nothing could be effected, and the pueblo was sacked, a large amount of maize being taken. To reach Santa Fé the governor took a roundabout way northward into the Yuta country, across the river, and thence southward to Ojo Caliente, Rio Chama, and San Juan. On the way he had several skirmishes, and spent some days hunting buffalo for meat.

1694 July 12: In the night Vargas was attacked by the Yutas on a stream called San Antonio, losing eight soldiers killed. The savages were repulsed, pardoned on the plea that they mistook the Spaniards for hostile Indians who had often invaded their country in Spanish dress, and became very friendly. Finally, having reconnoitred the mesa of San Ildefonso, where the rebels were still strongly posted, he returned by way of Pujuaque and Tesuque to Santa Fé, arriving on **July 16th**.

1694, July 21: Governor Vargas marched with 120 men to join the Queres under Ojeda in an attack on the Jemes, who after his start assaulted Cia and killed five men, but whose new pueblo on the mesa Don Diego carried by assault on the **24th**, after a hard fight, in which the allies of Santa Ana and Cia fought bravely, Don Eusebio de Vargas - perhaps a brother of the governor - greatly distinguished himself, and the enemy lost 84 killed and 361 or 371 prisoners. The pueblo was sacked and burned, after 300 fanegas of maize had been sent to the villa, the rest of the spoils being distributed among the native allies, except 106 animals given to Padre Alpuente for his proposed mission at Čia. Before returning, Vargas went to the old pueblo of Jemes, where he **recovered the remains of Padre Juan de Jesus, killed in the revolt of 1680, deposited with appropriate ceremonies in the chapel at Santa Fé on the 11th of August.**

1694, August 17: Messengers came in to ask pardon for the Jemes, attributing all their bad actions to the influence of the **chief Diego**, whom they were willing to give up; also promising to return to their old pueblo and to render aid against the common foe. Their offer was accepted, and **Diego** was brought in on the **26th** to be sentenced to death - a sentence which at the last moment, on the intercession of his people, was commuted to ten years' labor in the mines of Nueva Vizcaya. The Jemes were given some implements, **promised their hostages back** when they should have proven their good faith, ordered to be ready for a march against the mesa, and sent home to rebuild their old pueblo.

1694, September 4: Vargas now felt the importance of striking a decisive blow against the Tehuas and Tanos before the winter should set in. With all his available force, including 150 Queres and Jemes, he marched on the 4th of September, assaulted the mesa of San Ildefonso, and was driven back with a loss of 11 men wounded, including Captain Antonio Jorge of the Santa Fé presidio. On the **5th** the native allies with three soldiers and an arriero marched up the slope, challenged the foe and were put to flight, the muleteer and one soldier being killed. For several days Vargas now gave his attention to the cutting -off of supplies. At sight, however, of their fields of corn in the milk trampled by the Spaniards, and of their native foes dancing round the scalp of a fallen warrior, the Tehuas several times came down and engaged in desperate conflict; but they were repulsed and soon became discouraged.

1694, September 8: The Tehuas began to treat for peace, sending trifling gifts to appease the governor's wrath. Peace and pardon were granted on condition of return to their pueblos. Thus New Mexico at last, except the towns

of the extreme north and west became once more a Spanish province. The Jemes, having proved faithful allies in the last campaign, were now given their women and children at the politic intercession of their destined missionary.

1694, September 13: The chiefs of San Juan, San Cristóbal, San Lázaro, and Santa Clara came in with some mules which they had taken from the Apaches, reporting that all the Tehuas and Tanos were hard at work rebuilding their pueblos. Vargas now appointed the regular pueblo officials.

1694, September 17: Don Diego de Vargas started on a tour of inspection, which satisfied him that the natives had submitted in good faith. Other tours followed, during which occurred the formal submission and pardon of other pueblos. The vice custodio was notified that the missions were ready for their respective padres, and by the end of 1694 the friars were distributed and at work, though obliged to content themselves with very humble quarters while the Indians were rebuilding churches and houses.

1695: Several tours were made by the governor and custodian to inspect the pueblos and settle the missionaries. The women and children taken from the different towns and distributed as servants among the colonists and soldiers were now gradually returned. Of the Tano hostages taken at Santa Fé, 45 ran away, where-at the vecinos complained bitterly; but the chieftains were ordered to bring back the fugitives, and did so, which so pleased Vargas that he released the 45 and promised to free the rest soon, proposing to settle with them the **village of Cieneguilla**, five leagues west of the capital. This policy naturally pleased the natives, but it made for the governor many bitter foes among the colonists.

1695, November, 1: Padre Francisco Vargas arrived as custodio with four new friars, when Padre San Antonio, who had gone to El Paso, resigned his office. Mean while the governor sent south an order to a friend to purchase and forward 3,000 fanegas of maize, wishing to relieve the Indians of excessive taxation for a time until the old prosperity should return.

1695, April 12: The seventy Mexican families who had come up with Padre Farfan were settled in the new villa of Santa Cruz de la Cañada, founded on the 12th of April, under an alcalde mayor and capitan á guerra, sergeant, four corporals, and alguacil, with Padre Moreno as the first minister. The new villa and the lands assigned to the vecinos included the sites of San Cristóbal and San Lázaro. This year the Picuries and Taos were peaceably reduced to submission and put in charge of missionaries.

1695-96: It appears that in 1695-6 there was a failure of crops resulting in serious privations, and even in a terrible famine.

1696, June 4: the Taos, Picuríes, Tehuas, Queres of Santo Domingo and Cochití, and the Jemes rose, killed five missionaries and 21 other Spaniards, in most cases immediately abandoning their pueblos and fleeing to the mountains.

1696, June 7: Don Diego de Vargas started on a tour of inspection among the deserted towns. Pecos, Tesuque, San Felipe, Santa Ana, and Cia had remained faithful, but the Acomas, Zuñis, and Moquis had aided the rebels.

1696, June 14: The chief of Santo Domingo, a leading spirit in the revolt, was captured and shot, and several revolutionary agents were also put to death at Pecos with it's governor's consent.

1696, July 23: A body of rebels was attacked and 10 of the number executed.

1696 August: Don Diego de Vargas returns to Santa Fé from an expedition to Cia to distribute 200 head of cattle, which now arrived from the south.

1696 August 8: Don Diego de Vargas marched for Acoma, and attacked that pueblo on the 15th, capturing five natives, one of them the chief, but failing to reach the peñol summit. Then he released the chief and re sorted to persuasion, without success, finally executing the captives, destroying the cornfields and returning to Santa Fé.

1696 October 8: Taos surrendered to Don Diego de Vargas returning to live in the pueblo.

1696 October 26: The Picurías and the Tehuas of San Juan feigned a desire for peace but Vargas discovered their plans, and attacked them, capturing 84 of their women and children, to be distributed as servants among the soldiers on his return to the capital, early in November. There were other campaigns, productive of but slight results, as it was difficult to find any considerable number of the rebels together.

1696 November 24: the date of the governor's report to the viceroy, all had been reduced to nominal submission except those of Acoma and the west, Pujuaque, Cuyamanque, and Santa Clara. The surviving Querétaro Franciscans left the country in 1696.

1696 December: The governor's term of five years expired. The King thanked Vargas for his services, gave him the choice of titles between marqués and conde, and granted a reappointment, to take effect on the expiration of Cubero's term. In the King's same cédula was approved all that the viceroy had done in connection with the reconquest; and it was ordered that the presidial force of Santa Fé should be raised to 100 men, the Parral force retiring; that the force at El Paso should not be reduced, as had been proposed; and that additional families should be sent, not from Nueva Vizcaya, but from Mexico.

The revolt of 1696 not only ensured the presence of many more Spaniards in New Mexico, but also by its failure to attract all the pueblos, it crushed forever the prospect of another major uprising.

1697 July 2: Pedro Rodriguez Cubero takes possession of the governorship of New Mexico. Cubero had a commission as juez de residencia, and Vargas is understood to have passed his residency favorably.

Formal charges were presented before the governor, his authority to consider them was very doubtful. Don Diego de Vargas was fined 4,000 pesos for costs of the suit, all his property was confiscated, and he was kept in prison for nearly three years.

1698: There were in those days fears of French invasion. Padre Niel tells us that among the captives whom the Navajos were accustomed to bring to New Mexico each year for **Christian ransom**, he rescued two little French girls. In 1698 the French had almost annihilated a Navajo force of 4,000 men; and in **1700** the Apaches reported that a town of the Jumanas had been destroyed by the same foe.

1700, July: Don Diego de Vargas returns to Mexico here the charges against him are said to have been fully investigated by royal order, he was exonerated from all blame, and his reappointment as governor remained valid.

1704, April 8: Don Diego de Vargas had returned to New Mexico as the **Marqués de la Nava de Barcinas** for a second term as governor. Still the noble man on horseback, the 60 year old Vargas proclaimed a campaign against the Faraón and Siete Rios Apaches. Leading his troops through the Rio Abajo the Reconqueror fell ill. They carried him back as far as Bernalillo, there on April 8 he died.

ⁱ Due to Bancroft's anti Spanish and Indian bias, some words and opinions have been left out or changed. O.D.