

FINAL SENT TO NMDOT

Official Scenic Historic Marker Program



CPRC meeting: October 10, 2008

**Name of Marker: Side One: Captive Women and Children of Taos County
Side Two: María Rosa Villapando, (ca. 1725–1830)**

County: Taos County

Review: Original Text/Replacement Marker Revised Text
 Move of Existing Marker New Marker

NMDOT District: 5

NMDOT Highway: To be determined

Suggested Site for Installation: To be determined

Proposed Text for August 8, 2008 CPRC Meeting

Side One:

Side One: Captive Women and Children of Taos County

In August 1760, around sixty women and children were taken captive in a Comanche raid on Ranchos de Taos. That raid is an example of the danger of living on New Mexico's frontier during the 17th and 18th centuries, for Hispanic and Indigenous communities alike, raided each other and suffered enormous consequences. Thousands of women and children were taken captive. Most were never returned.

Word Count: 64

Side Two:

María Rosa Villapando, (ca. 1725–1830)

One known captive of this raid, María Rosa Villapando was traded to the Pawnees and, after ten years, was ransomed by her future husband, a French trader from St. Louis. She was reunited with her New Mexican son, Joseph Julian Jaques in 1802. Her grandson, Antoine Leroux, returned to Taos and married into the Vigil family, making her the ancestral matriarch of several prominent Taos families.

Word Count: 66

Previous Title and Text: N/A

Researcher/author: Dr. Thomas E. Chavez

Captive Women and Children and María Rosa Villalpando

From the seventeenth century into the nineteenth century raiding and trading human beings, especially women and children occurred with regularity in New Mexico. Native Americans took and traded human captives among themselves as well as in the communities in north-central New Mexico. Captives were necessary for religious purposes, menial tasks, and trade. Some captives were traded at trade fairs held at Taos, Abiquiu and Pecos where captive Hispanics were traded back to their own society or captive Indians from as far away as Nebraska were traded into New Mexican society. Many of these latter people remained in New Mexican society. They and their descendents became known as *genízaros* in New Mexico.

Many Hispanic punitive expeditions took Native captives. Many of New Mexico's early governors actually illegally ran sweat shops of captive Indians. They also were involved in illegally trading captives south into Mexico.

The Diné or Navajo tribe raided western New Mexican settlements incessantly. At one time their raids successfully depopulated the Rio Puerco Valley, which they saw as a part of their homeland. Today, the descendents of many of these captives form a Mexican Clan in the Diné Nation.

María Rosa Villalpando is one case study. Taken in a Comanche raid on Ranchos de Taos in 1760, she was traded to the Pawnee tribe, with whom she lived for ten years. During that time she had a son and met a French trader who fathered her third child, ransomed her, and took her to the new village of St. Louis, where they were married in 1770. She and her husband had three more children.

After twenty-two years of marriage her husband went to France and never returned. Ten years later, in 1802, Maria Rosa's first child, Joseph Julian Jacques, a son from New Mexico who survived that long-ago raid, crossed the plains to visit his mother. She acknowledged him and made an estate settlement with him.

María Rosa Villalpando died on 27 July 1830, one month short of seventy years after she was taken captive in New Mexico. One of her St. Louis grandsons, Antione Leroux, moved to Taos in 1824 and married into the New Mexican Vigil family.

Today, the Taos Valley has many Jacques, Villalpando, and Leroux surnamed people who are distant cousins. All of them are descendents of María Rosa Villalpando. The story of that infamous 1760 raid is re-enacted regularly in a communal ritual, a conquest romance of "Los Comanches" in many northern New Mexican villages.

The raiding described above was a real danger of living on New Mexico's frontier during the 17th and 18th centuries. Hispanic, Pueblo, and Nomadic peoples routinely raided each other and suffered the consequences.

NMW comments:

I think the new Proposed Text addresses the 8/8 concerns. I would make a couple of changes:

In August 1760, some sixty women and children were taken captive in a Comanche raid on Ranchos de Taos. Such a raid is a real example of the danger of living on New Mexico's frontier during the 17th and 18th centuries. (delete ",because") Pueblo, Hispanic (delete comma) and Nomadic peoples routinely raided each other and suffered enormous consequences. Hundreds of women and children were taken captive. Most were never returned.

Side one: Captive Women and Children of Taos County

Side two: Maria Rosa Villapando (c. 1725- 1830)

Proposed Text for October 10, 2008 CPRC Meeting

Side One:

In August 1760, some sixty women and children were taken captive in a Comanche raid on Ranchos de Taos. Such a raid is a real example of the danger of living on New Mexico's frontier during the 17th and 18th centuries, because Pueblo, Hispanic, and Nomadic peoples routinely raided each other and suffered the consequences. Hundreds of women and children were taken captive. Most were never returned.

Word Count: 67

Side Two:

One known captive of this raid, Maria Rosa Villapando was traded to the Pawnees and, after ten years, was ransomed by her future husband, a French trader from St. Louis. She was reunited with her New Mexican son, Joseph Julian Jaques in 1802. Her grandson, Antoine Leroux, returned to Taos and married into the Vigil family, making her the ancestral matriarch of several prominent Taos families.

Word Count: 66

Tabled Title and Text:

In 1760 around sixty women and children were taken captive in a Comanche raid on Ranchos de Taos. The raid is an example of the real danger of living on New Mexico's frontier during the 17th and 18th centuries. Pueblo and Hispanic people routinely suffered the consequence of Nomadic Indian raids in which thousands of women and children were taken captive. Most were never returned.

One known captive of the raid, Maria Rosa Villapando was traded to the Pawnees and, after ten years, ransomed by her future husband, a French trader from St. Louis. She was reunited with her New Mexican son, Joseph Julian Jaques in St. Louis in 1802. Her grandson, Antoine Leroux, returned to Taos and married into the Vigil family, a marriage that linked her to several prominent Taos families.

In August 1760 around sixty women and children were taken captive in a Comanche raid on Ranchos de Taos. That raid is a real example of the danger of living in the Taos Valley during the 17th and 18th centuries, for Pueblo as well as Hispanic people suffered the consequences of Nomadic Indian raids in which hundreds of women and children were taken captive. Most were never returned.

Word count 68

Or

In August 1760 around sixty women and children were taken captive in a Comanche raid on Ranchos de Taos. That raid is a real example of the danger of living on New Mexico's frontier during the 17th and 18th centuries, for Pueblo, Hispanic, and Nomadic peoples raided each other and suffered the consequences. Thousands of women and children were taken captive. Most were never returned.

Word count 65

Beth O'Leary
Sociology + Anthropology
575 646-3821

Taken from Ranchos de
Taos in
c. 1760
Comanche raid

Subj: Maria
Date: Wednesday, July 25, 2007 9:04:20 AM
From: k.sahler@comcast.net
To: patgfrench@aol.com

Captured in a 1760 Comanche raid on Ranchos de Taos, María Rosa Villalpando was traded to the Pawnees and, after ten years, was ransomed by her future husband who was a French trader out of St. Louis. She was reunited with her New Mexican son, Joseph Julian Jacques, in St. Louis in 1802. Antoine Leroux, grandson from St. Louis, moved to Taos and married in to the Vigil family. Because of her will to survive, the Jacques, the Villalpandos, and the Leroux, of Taos, are distant cousins who share the story of a legendary woman.

The Captive Women and Children of New Mexico

In 1760 around sixty women and children were taken captive in a Comanche raid on Ranchos de Taos. That raid is a real example of the danger of living on New Mexico's frontier during the 17th and 18th centuries, for Pueblo as well as Hispanic people suffered the consequence of Nomadic Indian raids that in thousands of women and children taken captive. Most were never returned.

Word count: 66

Official Scenic Historic Marker Program



CPRC meeting:

Name of Marker: María Rosa Villalpando, (ca. 1725-1830)

Review: Original Text/Replacement Marker Revised Text
 Move of Existing Marker New Marker

NMDOT District:

NMDOT Highway:

Suggested Site for Installation: Taos County

Existing or Proposed Text:

Captured in a 1760 Comanche raid on Ranchos de Taos, María Rosa Villalpando was traded to the Pawnees and, after ten years, was ransomed by her future husband who was a French trader out of St. Louis. She was reunited with her New Mexican son Joseph Julian Jaques in St. Louis in 1802. Antoine Leroux, grandson from St. Louis, moved to Taos and married into the Vigil family. Because of her will to survive, the Jaques, the Villalpandos, and the Leroux, of Taos, are distant cousins who share the story of a legendary woman.

Word Count:

Previous Title and Text: N/A

Researcher/author: Thomas E. Chávez

Source(s):

Josiah Gregg, *Commerce of the Prairies*, (Norman; University of Oklahoma Press.)
Thomas E. Chávez, *New Mexico: Past and Future*, (Albuquerque; UNM Press, 2006)
Jack B. Tykal, "Taos to St. Louis: The Journey of María Rosa Villalpando," *NMHR*, (Vol. 65, no. 2, April, 1990), 161-174.

Text Approved by CPRC on Date: _____

CPRC Comments: _____

For Referral to: New Mexico Historic Women Marker Initiative

revised 05/08/06, jwm