

Parientes

By José Antonio Esquibel

Founders of the Villa de Santa Fe #3: the Madrid Family



A bronze statute representation of chirrioneros de los carros, the occupation of Francisco de Madrid, on his trip to New Mexico in 1603. Statue by Sonny Rivera and Betty Sabo at the Albuquerque Museum. Photo courtesy of Reynaldo Rivera.

The surviving records relating to the early history of New Mexico offer very little insight into what motivated individuals and families to come to New Mexico between 1598 and 1608. Certainly, these were people willing to

take risks and who did not shy away from adventure and danger. Francisco de Madrid, the founder of the Madrid and Madril families of New Mexico, was such a person.

Francisco de Madrid was born around 1593. His place of birth is not known. Given the facts that he came to New Mexico as a boy of about 10 and was a member of a crew that worked wagons, he was most likely a native of one of the realms of New Spain.

In 1603, four Franciscan friars and 10 soldiers left Mexico City with a caravan of wagons bound for the distant frontier settlement established in New Mexico by Juan de Oñate. For unknown reasons, the young Madrid was enlisted to help with the *chirriones*—strong, well-built, two-wheeled carts pulled by oxen that formed part of the caravan.

The caravan traveled from Mexico City northward on the rutted dirt path of El Camino Real through a vast expanse of land. Well-practiced routines were performed daily as men and beasts traversed dangerous territory to reach security in towns like Zacatecas. The caravan pushed onward through the small frontier settlements of Fresnillo, Cuencamé and Santa Bárbara. Surviving attacks by various bands of Indians, the group completed its arduous journey at the settlement of San Gabriel near the Pueblo of Oque Owengue, known by the Spaniards as San Juan de los Caballeros.

Francisco de Madrid chose to remain in New Mexico despite grueling challenges and harsh condition that caused others to leave. By 1608 there were only 50 soldiers still living in New Mexico, some with families.

SPONSORED BY THE:

Santa Fe
400th
Commemorative Committee

Parientes

By José Antonio Esquibel



Francisco Madril (born 1889) and his wife, Feliz Gutiérrez (born 1893), were both born in Galisteo, N.M., just south of Santa Fe. Their families moved to Torrance County, where this couple was married in the town of Manzano in 1911. This photograph was taken on their wedding day. Photo courtesy of Luis Madrid, their grandson.

Although the Spaniards were on the verge of abandoning New Mexico, the Crown made a firm commitment to maintain a presence in the region for the purpose of evangelization. Orders were issued by Luis de Velasco, viceroy of New Spain, to establish a formal municipality for the small number of remaining Spaniards. These orders were given to the new governor, Pedro de Peralta y Aloque, who arrived in New Mexico in late 1609.

In addition to selecting a suitable site for the new *villa*, provisions were made to elect municipal councilmen, *regidores*, who would elect two *alcaldes ordinarios* (civil magistrates) from among their number, with the authority to hear civil and criminal cases in the jurisdiction of the *villa*. The *regidores* also had the authority to elect a notary and, with the governor's approval, an *alguacil mayor* (high sheriff). The viceroy's decree then outlined that the *villa* would consist of six districts with a public square where the *casas reales* (royal government buildings) would be located, along with other public buildings. According to these orders and in accordance with Spanish custom, the *regidores* would elect those who would succeed them in the following year.

Velasco also made the provision for the *regidores* to allocate plots of land for houses, gardens and fields, with irrigation, for planting vegetables and vineyards. Those who received such allotments were legally bound to remain as residents of the *villa* for 10 years. Francisco de Madrid was among the

original settlers of Santa Fe and apparently received land for his house and fields. He, his children and grandchildren remained as residents of the Villa de Santa Fe for the rest of the 1600s and were active civic leaders.

The original Plaza of Santa Fe was twice as long as it is today, stretching eastward to the modern-day area of Cathedral Park and the Basilica of Saint Francis. It was most likely on this eastern side of the Plaza that the original church and Franciscan *convento* were built by 1613. Several brief references in early records tell us that the church had an *altar mayor* (main altar) on a raised step, an altarpiece, a gospel stand, a sacristy and a *sagrario*.

The *sagrario* was a side chapel where sacraments were administered, in particular those of baptism and matrimony. It was most likely that the son of Francisco de Madrid was baptized in this *sagrario* sometime between 1613 and 1615 and christened with the name of his father. This church collapsed and another was constructed in the late 1620s

under the leadership of Fray Alonso de Benavides, who also placed a statue of Santa María in a chapel of the church. Apparently located in the vicinity of the church was the *convento*, with its rooms, library, patio and garden.

Francisco de Madrid was married by 1615 to a daughter of Capt. Alonso Martín Barba, whose name is not known. She was deceased by 1626, when records show he was already married to María de la Vega Márquez. In this same year he was described as a captain and a "*vecino antiguo de Santa Fe*" The designation of *antiguo* did not refer to his age but rather was a term apparently used to distinguish him as someone who lived at the military camp of Santa Fe before its status was elevated to that of a *villa* in 1610.

Despite the constant dangers of attacks by various bands of Apache Indians, Francisco and his family continued to live in the Villa de Santa Fe with about 30 other Spanish families. In the late 1630s he served on the *cabildo* (town council) and established a legacy of civic service for his children and grandchildren. In 1639 he was elected as one of the two *alcaldes ordinarios*, a position that would later be held by one of his grandsons. This was during the administration of Gov. Luis de Rosas, when the small Spanish population was contentiously divided into at least two political factions, those who supported the Franciscan friars and those who supported the royal governor and civic independence. Francisco de Madrid sided

Parientes

By José Antonio Esquibel

with the latter faction, as did his son and namesake in later years.

It is not certain how many children Francisco de Madrid had, by either or both of his wives, due to the loss or destruction of the early church records of Santa Fe. At least three individuals appear to be his children: Francisco de Madrid II, María de Madrid and Francisca de Madrid, wife of Juan Varela de Losada.

Francisco II, born about 1613 to 1615, was in all likelihood a child by his first wife. As an adult, Francisco II was identified racially as *castizo*, a term used for a person with one Spanish parent and one *mestizo/mestiza* (part Indian and part Spanish) parent. This indicates that one of his grandparents was an Indian.

Francisco II first married Sebastiana Ruiz de Cáceres, a daughter of Capt. Juan Ruiz de Cáceres, with family roots in the Canary Islands. Their children were Lorenzo (born about 1633), Juan (born about 1641), Roque (born about 1644), and apparently Francisco (born about 1638) and Pedro (born sometime between 1630 and 1640). Firm documentation of parentage is lacking in the case of these last two.

A widower, Francisco II subsequently married María de Albizu, a native of Santa Fe born about 1621 and a daughter of Maestre de Campo Tomás de Albizu. Doña María was a *mestiza* with Spanish and Indian antecedents; first husband, Cristóbal Enríquez, was executed in 1643 for his role in the murder of Gov. Rosas. It is not certain whether Francisco II and Doña María had any children.

In 1662, Francisco de Madrid II held the military rank of *sargento mayor* and the post of *comisario del cabildo*, administrator of the material goods of the town council. Juan Luján referred to him as one of the honorable men in the Villa de Santa Fe. In this same year, Santa Fe was described as a town with 30 "*casillas de adove*" (adobe houses), one of which belonged to Francisco II and Doña María. The population of Santa Fe was small because New Mexico remained a dangerous land. In fact, there were only about a hundred Spanish *vecinos* in the entire province around that time.

Bands of Apaches frequently attacked Pueblo Indian communities as well as the *estancias* of settlers, stealing sheep, cattle and horses, taking women captive and killing those who stepped in their way. These daring marauders even raided Santa Fe. Francisco de Madrid II very likely participated in many campaigns to chase Apache raiders in an attempt to regain lost livestock and captives. He was appointed as field commander of one

particular expedition in June 1669 following a raid on the Pueblo of Ácoma, in which 12 Pueblo Indians were killed, two women taken captive and more than 800 head of livestock stolen.

Between December 1668 and June 1669, the Apaches killed six Spanish soldiers and 373 Pueblo Indians and stole more than 2,000 horses, mares and mules and more than 2,000 head of sheep. Gov. Juan de Medrano Messia commented that the Apaches kept New Mexico "so ravaged and destroyed that it is a miracle anyone remains." This was also a time of great famine in New Mexico, and Medrano Messia noted that the Pueblo Indians were "dying of hunger on the roads, feeding on hides, herbs of the field and vermin, while the Spaniards and other civilized people sustain themselves only with little meat and milk."

In response to the Apache raid on the Pueblo of Ácoma, Gov. Medrano Messia commissioned Francisco de Madrid II to lead an expedition consisting of 50 soldiers and 600 Pueblo Indians. In all likelihood one or more of his sons participated in this expedition. In New Mexico, boys often began their military careers between ages 11 and 14, serving as caretakers of the horses and livestock as they learned military skills and strategy from their elders.

By 1680, the sons of Francisco de Madrid II were already seasoned and well-respected soldiers. Lorenzo de Madrid began his military service in 1652 and held the rank of *sargento mayor* in the 1680s and 1690s. He also served as *alcalde ordinario* of the *cabildo* of Santa Fe in 1684, 1693, 1694, 1696 and 1703.

Lorenzo's brother, Capt. Roque de Madrid, became an accomplished and trusted military leader who also served as an interpreter of at least three Pueblo Indian languages—Tewa, Keres and Towa. His *estancia* was located less than six miles south of Santa Fe near the Arroyo de San Marcos and was abandoned as a result of the Pueblo Indian uprising of August 1680.

The various members of the Madrid family were among the fortunate survivors of the Pueblo Indian uprising. Despite the severe hardship and poverty they experienced in exile at El Paso del Norte, these hardy frontier people persevered in their resolve to remain close to the land of their birth, with the hope of eventually returning to their former homes.

After the restoration of New Mexico to the Spanish Crown in 1692–1693, Lorenzo de Madrid and his brothers returned with their families to live in the Villa de Santa Fe. Roque de Madrid and his family eventually

If You're a
Descendant of
One of Santa Fe's
Founding Families
Please send **Photos**
and **Information** to
herencia@herencia.com

settled in the jurisdiction of Santa Cruz, now part of the city of Española.

Many descendants of the Madrid family trace their lineage to Roque de Madrid. Over time, some of these descendants adopted the spelling of Madril, a variation closer to the original pronunciation of the surname, articulating a softer consonant at the end and emphasizing the sound of the second vowel. Descendants of this family eventually spread across New Mexico and into southern Colorado.

The next column will feature the history and genealogy of Juan López Olguín and Catalina Villanueva, the progenitors of the Holguín family of New Mexico and founders of Santa Fe. If you are a direct descendant of this couple, consider submitting a family photo of grandparents, great-grandparents and possibly even great-great-grandparents. 🌿



José Antonio Esquibel has roots in northern New Mexico and northeastern Mexico. He's the co-author of two books on genealogy.