

Olibama López Tushar Hispanic Legacy Research Center

The light of the past illuminates the road of our future

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www.hispaniclegacy.org

MESSAGE FROM THE OLTHRC PRESIDENT

Confessions of a Newbie Genealogy President

By Mark Leyba

For those of you who don't know me yet, my name is Mark Leyba and I am the relatively new President of the OLTHRC (I was just elected last January). In case you missed it, I introduced myself in the last newsletter, shared a little bit about myself, and also thanked our former president, Catherine Aragon, for her many years of service.

Now for the big news – in fact it's kind of a confession, and I hope you're sitting down. Are you ready? Ok, here it is - I'm not a genealogist. Oh, Dios Mio! How could a non-genealogist not only end up on the board of a Hispanic Genealogy group, but end up as the President?

Well, let me explain...

I'm what I refer to as a "HOG" – the Husband of a Genealogist (just don't call me a *cochino*). My wonderful wife, Lori, is the genealogist of the family. I know there's a lot of HOG's out there, because I've met several in our genealogy travels, and I've even met a few "WOG's" as well – a Wife of a Genealogist. The arrangement my wife and I have around genealogy is sort of like the arrangement we have around food. She does the cooking, and I do the eating. It's a great arrangement (for me anyway) and it's served me well for the last 36 years. At this point I need to make a disclaimer that after 36 years of marriage my wife isn't as happy as I am with this arrangement, so I may have to re-think my role in this matter.

Anyway, to expand the metaphor, my wife does the genealogy research, and I reap the benefits. She absolutely loves doing the research (on both her side and mine), and I absolutely love finding out more about our families.

After learning my deep dark secret about genealogy, you're probably thinking, "I know why he ended up becoming the president – no one else wanted to do

Monthly Hispanic Genealogy Meetings

OLTHRC hosts monthly research meetings at the Denver Public Library/Central (10 W. 14th Ave at Broadway) on the third Saturday of each month from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., except in August (summer picnic) and December (winter party). The meetings usually convene in the Mountain Division Room on the 5th floor in the Western History and Genealogy Department.

[Parking and Using
Denver Public Library](#)

[El Farolito Quarterly
Journal](#)

**Colorado Family
History Expo**

Mark your calendars for the third annual 2012 [Colorado Family Expo](#) scheduled for

it!” Even though there is an element of truth in that statement, that is NOT the main reason I ended up in this role. Yes, as is the case with all non-profits, it’s always hard to get people to volunteer to serve on the board. But I actually believe there is something I can contribute by serving as president of the OLTHLRC despite the fact that I’m not a genealogist. You see, I think I can be an effective president BECAUSE I’m not a genealogist.

Yes, you heard me right. Many times, it’s not the best widget maker who ends up being the best leader of the widget makers. Having the skills of a widget maker, and having the skills of being a leader are not necessarily the same. In fact, in my 20 years of experience as a corporate trainer and facilitator, sometimes the best widget maker makes a really bad choice to be the leader of the widget makers. Please don’t get me wrong, I’m not saying that a genealogist would not make a good choice for being the president of a genealogy group. What I am saying is that whoever ends up being president needs to possess a completely different skill set that’s not necessarily related to genealogy —team building skills, facilitation skills, and conflict resolution skills, just to name a few.

Since I’m not a genealogist, what do I bring to the table? I have a passion for my Hispanic heritage. For the past ten years, I have focused on helping men, especially Hispanic men, become men of integrity and authenticity through the men’s groups I am involved with. For the past 15 years I have taught workshops and seminars focusing on leadership and organizational development. I’m a former certified mediator. And I’ve assisted numerous groups and organizations over the years in helping them reach their goals and become better at whatever it is they do.

Ok, you’ve heard my confession and now know that I’m not a genealogist. I can breathe a sigh of relief. So please don’t ask me for help with genealogy research when you come to one of our meetings. It will only make me nervous and you confused. Besides José Antonio Esquibel, Margaret Turner, and Deina Sandoval Mohlman, we have a number of experienced genealogists who can help you out with your research. However, even if I can’t specifically help you with your research, I am more than happy to sit down and talk to you about your family, your goals for being a part of the OLTHLRC, how we can best serve you, and how you in turn can help the organization. It can be a win-win for everyone.

I approach my first year as president of the OLTHLRC with both fear and excitement. Fear because I take this leadership role very seriously and I want to do what’s best for the organization and the people we serve. Excitement because I believe we’re on the horizon of a whole new era for Hispanic genealogy and we’re all going to be a part of that journey together.

So what is my vision for the future of the OLTHLRC and what do I see on the horizon? You’ll have to wait until the next newsletter to find out...

June 24th-25th in Loveland, Colorado.

There will be ten class sessions with as many as seventy class topics to choose from. Also, the Exhibit Hall is one of the best parts of the Expo. Learn more and get registration information at www.familyhistoryexpo.com.

Featured e-book:

John L. Kessell, *[Kiva, Cross and Crown: The Pecos Indians and New Mexico, 1540-1840](#)*

A great source of history of 17th-century New Mexico. Well-researched, well-written, lots of important details about live in New Mexico in the 1600s.

Helpful Links

[El Farolito Back Issues](#)

[New Mexico History Website](#)

[New Mexico Spanish Military Enlistment Papers, 1770-1816](#)

[“Beyond Origins of New Mexico Families”](#)

Until then, Vaya con Dios!

Mark

“Beyond Origins of New Mexico Families” Available Again Online

From 1998 until 2007, the “Beyond Origins of New Mexico Families” Web site, managed by José Antonio Esquibel, provided corrections and additions to the great work of New Mexico genealogy compiled by Fray Angélico Chávez, *Origins of New Mexico Families in the Spanish Colonial Period* (1954). Myself and numerous other researchers openly shared findings based on consultation of primary sources, resulting in eleven “volumes” that consist of about 220 pages of material that supplements Chávez’s work.

The original Web pages of the “Beyond Origins of New Mexico Families” are no longer available. However, the material from that Website was shared with the New Mexico State Historian and are now part of the [New Mexico History](#) Web site.

Go to the link for the page concerning [People](#) where you will find a list of family surnames. Click on a surname of interest and then click on the link for ‘More...’. A new window will pop up that contains useful information that corrects or adds to “Origins of New Mexico Families.”

It is very much worth consulting the “Beyond Origins” material in conducting your New Mexico genealogy research, particularly for family lines of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. —José Antonio Esquibel

El Farolito Spring 2012 Issue

The first issue of [El Farolito](#) for 2012 is forthcoming and includes:

- Voices From the Past by Robert Torrez
- The Muleteers of 1777 in El Parral, Nueva Vizcaya by Frank Dominguez
- Gómez or De la Luz Cemetery, Conejos County, Colorado by L. Ruybal Martinez
- Conejos Land Grant, Part 3: Testimony of Gregorio Martínez, May 8, 1900
- Santa Cruz de la Cañada Marriages, 1695-1726, Part 8

Fall Hispanic Genealogy Conference

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, October 20, 2012**, for an all-day genealogy conference at the Denver Public Library.

- Beginners and experienced genealogy researchers welcome

[at New Mexico History Website](#)

[The Great New Mexico Pedigree Database](#)

[Documentary Relations of the Southwest](#)

[FamilySearch Mexico \(1930 Mexico Census, and baptismal and marriage records\)](#)

[New Mexico DNA Project](#)

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- Make connections with people researching similar family lines.
- Meet others who share an interest in Hispanic culture and heritage.
- Come prepared to learn useful historical information and genealogy research techniques.

OLTHRC meetings on June 16 and July 21, 2012

Join us on Saturday, June 16th and or Saturday, July 21st at the [Denver Public Library/Central location](#) (DPL) from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m for an afternoon of genealogy research at the monthly OLTHRC meeting. You can receive assistance from experienced genealogy researchers and you may meet a *primo* who is researching a common family line.

The [Western History and Genealogy Department](#) of DPL is the premiere Hispanic genealogy research facility in the Colorado Region. OLTHRC has worked with the DPL librarians to expand the collection of Hispanic genealogy books, mainly consisting of extractions of numerous baptismal and marriage records of New Mexico and southern Colorado.

DPL also has microfilm copies of the Archives of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe containing copies of the original records of baptism, marriage, confirmation, burial records, and prenuptial investigation records (*diligencias*), microfilm copies of New Mexico land grants (including some for southern Colorado), and microfilm copies of the Spanish Archives of New Mexico and the Mexican Archives of New Mexico.

If you have family roots farther south, there is a full collection of microfilm of the Parral archives dating back to the early 1600s and two large books that catalogue the contents of the microfilm (one in Spanish and one in English).

The OLTHLRC Needs a Logo, and We Want Your Help!

The OLTHLRC is soliciting ideas for a logo for our non-profit. Are you artistic and creative? Do you want to put your skills towards helping the OLTHLRC?

If so, we need your help! The OLTHLRC wants to create a new logo for our organization, and we're asking our *primos* and *primas* to help us design one. We're soliciting submissions of logo designs that best represent our mission of Hispanic genealogy and history. The best design idea will be chosen by our logo design committee and board of directors, and the winner will be given a choice of 3 back issues of the El Farolito journal. The winning idea will then be given to a professional graphic artist who will use it as the basis for designing a finished logo for the OLTHLRC.

Below is a list of rules and criteria in order to submit your design:

1. Anyone with an interest in Hispanic genealogy and history may submit designs - both OLTHLRC members and non-members alike are encouraged to apply.
2. Submissions must be made before Sept. 31st, 2012. We're sorry, but submissions cannot be returned.
3. All submissions must be original designs.
4. The winning submission becomes the sole property of the OLTHLRC.
5. Submissions can either be produced electronically (such as a JPEG image), or by hand. Electronic submissions can be sent to OLTHLRC@gmail.com, and hand drawn submissions can be mailed to:

Mark Leyba
6487 Ammons Street
Arvada, CO 80004

6. The design criteria is fairly open ended, but designs that illustrate a compelling and artistic image of New Mexico and Colorado history and genealogy will have a greater chance of winning.

Questions can be addressed to Mark Leyba at OLTHLRC@gmail.com.