

First Expedition of Vargas into New Mexico, 1692

Translated, with Introduction and Notes

by

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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Governor Vargas	Frontispiece
Preface	ix
Historical Introduction	1
Document I. Report of the finance committee of the government of New Spain, Mexico city, May 28, 1692, officially authorizing Don Diego de Vargas to reconquer New Mexico	43
Document II. Vargas' campaign journal and correspondence, August 21 to October 16, 1692	48
Document III. Vargas' campaign journal and correspondence, October 16, 1692, to January 12, 1693	166
Document IV. Letter from Don Diego de Vargas to the Conde de Galve, El Paso, January 12, 1693, concerning the settlement of New Mexico	278
Document V. Report of the Conde de Galve to Don Diego de Vargas, Mexico city, November 24, 1692	290
Document VI. Report of the general junta, Mexico city, February 25, 1693	297
Document VII. Order of the Conde de Galve to Don Diego de Vargas, Mexico city, April 18, 1693	304
Index	309

their leaders were already doing. After they had arrived at their plaza, I told them, through the interpreter, in words clear to their understanding, why I had come. They were satisfied, and they said that the only reason why all of the said people, the women, children, and the rest, would not be able to come down until tomorrow was that they did not wish to leave unprotected their clothing which they had taken with them into the said sierra. Nevertheless, I told them that most of them could come down today and take over their pueblo and houses, and that the said soldiers would not occupy them. After they had pointed out many difficulties, all of them born of their fear and suspicion of my intentions, I succeeded in convincing them to come down. I treated the said governor and captains with consideration, and in the said plaza I publicly reconciled them with the said Don Luis and Don Lorenzo and the other Picuríes, Teguas, and Tanos, making them embrace each other and shake hands as friends, which they did, settling differences as they embraced one another.

At about four in the afternoon some other Indians came down with a number of women and children of this said pueblo; having arrived before me, they greeted me, saying, "Glory be!" And I received them with much affection, embracing them, giving them all my hand, and telling them why I had come, as related in these records of this entry. Finally, they having fully understood through the interpreters, I ordered them to go and rest, for it was late, and I said that the rest of the people would arrive tomorrow, and with all of them together I would then speak to them and carry out that which is of service to both Majesties.

And that the above be of record, I signed this with the said captains, the alférez of the presidio, the interpreter, and my secretary of government and war.

DON DIEGO DE VARGAS ZAPATA LUJÁN PONCE DE LEÓN,
JUAN PÁEZ HURTADO, ROQUE DE MADRID, JUAN DE DIOS LUCERO
DE GODOY, PEDRO HIDALGO. Before me, ALFONSO RAEL DE
AGUILAR, secretary of government and war.

All of the said people finally come down from the sierra and render obedience to me, said governor and captain general; in the name of his Majesty, possession of this said pueblo is revalidated, and the natives and children are absolved and baptized by the said fathers.

Today, Wednesday, the eighth of the present month of October of this date, I, said governor and captain general, having been notified by the said Indians, Josephillo, "the Spaniard," and Francisco Pacheco, the governor of this pueblo of Taos, that the last remaining people had come down from the sierra and all were now together, I therefore ordered them to have all the people climb down from their dwellings and gather in the plaza.

Ninety-six children and other persons, of all ages and both sexes, were baptized.

This having been done, I went out into their midst, the interpreter, soldiers, the alferez carrying the royal banner, and my secretary of government and war having been previously ordered to assist me, I repeated to the natives the same as that which it is recorded that I told them yesterday, and finally, that his Majesty, the king, our lord, may God spare him, was their master, and not any Indian like them; that, being master and lord of this land and over them, he asked nothing of them; and that, in proof of regaining possession, I had ordered the hoisting of the royal banner, which I held aloft, and at the same time the soldiers cried out with me three times, "Long live the king, our lord, Charles the Second, king of the Spains and of this new world, the kingdom of New Mexico, and this land and pueblo of Taos, whose natives are his vassals." In the aforesaid manner I revalidated the said possession, and I also told them that I had brought the said reverend fathers to absolve them, which, at my request, the reverend father, Fray Francisco Corvera, assisted by the two other reverend fathers, carried out. They also baptized the children and such other persons as were not baptized, and having done so it was found that ninety-six, of all ages and both sexes, were baptized. I ordered all of them to wear crosses and to say the four prayers; that all of those who

were not living with their wives should take them back and should part from those with whom they are living; and that those who were not married, and who wished to be, should do so.

And that all of the above be of record, I signed with the said interpreter, captain, alferez of the presidio, and my secretary of government and war.

DON DIEGO DE VARGAS ZAPATA LUJÁN PONCE DE LEÓN, ROQUE DE MADRID, JUAN DE DIOS LUCERO DE GODOY, PEDRO HIDALGO. Before me, ALFONSO RAEL DE AGUILAR, secretary of government and war.

The said Josephillo and Governor Pacheco notify me of having been told by two Indians of this pueblo, who returned from Zuñi, and whom they bring before me, that a council has been held in order to plan an attack upon me, said governor, and my soldiers, when we leave, by awaiting me in ambush on the road.

Today, Wednesday, the eighth of October of this date, at about four in the afternoon, the interpreter, Pedro Hidalgo, who has generally served as such on this campaign, came to tell me, said governor and captain general, that Josephillo, "the Spaniard," and the governor and captain of this said pueblo of Taos, Francisco Pacheco, had told him that they wished to see me and to tell me what they had learned. Therefore, I ordered them to enter my tent and to sit down, and I told them that I would listen with the greatest pleasure to whatever they might wish to tell me. They told the said interpreter that we were as brothers and friends now that they were again Christians, and that they wished to tell me that two young natives of this pueblo of Taos had returned from the province of Zuñi, and that on the way back, near Acoma, they came upon a great council, which was held for three days and nights by all the captains of the Zuñi tribe as well as those of the Moqui, Jémez, Keres, Pecos, Faraon Apaches, the Coninas of the Cerro Colorado, and many others from other parts; that they heard them say that it would be some time before the Spaniards would leave this kingdom, and that in the meantime they all could prepare their

supplies of provisions, and then, on the road, they would lay in ambush for the horses, as well as for me, said governor and captain general, and my said forces.

Having seen them and understood full well what they said, I thanked them and treated them kindly. I then told the said Indians, with Don Luis and Don Lorenzo present, that since the said tribes were their enemies, and in order that they might remain safe and be able to live peacefully in their pueblos without being harmed by any one, they should gather together the most agile and valiant young men of their pueblos and the ones best equipped with arms and horses, to sally forth with me and my said force to the pueblos of the said tribes adjoining theirs, namely, the Pecos, the Keres of Cochití, Santo Domingo, San Felipe, Santa Ana, and Sia, and the Jémez, in order that they render the said obedience, just as they did; and that if they should do so I would pardon them and the said fathers would absolve them and baptize their children and the others who had not been baptized; and if not, we would wreak destruction upon all of them. For the day of departure, I ordered them to be at the villa of Santa Fe within eight days from tomorrow, and from there they would set out with me for the pueblo and district of Pecos. Since the Taos are the friends of this said pueblo, I told their governor, Francisco Pacheco, that two swift youths could be sent, to whom I would give a cross placed on a piece of paper, and that I would give each one a rosary, which they should wear at their throats as proof that it was true that I was going to see them to make peace, to pardon them, and in order that the fathers might do what they have done in this and the other pueblos; and that they should tell them this. And I, having decided upon this, they agreed with my plan and decided to make the trip. They agreed that they were much relieved by being thus assured, and they remained very happy. I again showed my regard for them, again assuring them that I esteemed and loved them from the bottom of my heart. I told them that I had asked them to accompany me, not because I feared their numerical strength, but solely in order to leave them reconciled and assured, just as I had done at this pueblo. They said that they had understood it thus.

And that the above be of record, done by virtue of the said news, I signed this with the said interpreter, captain, alférez of the presidio, and my secretary of government and war.

DON DIEGO DE VARGAS ZAPATA LUJÁN PONCE DE LEÓN, ROQUE DE MADRID, PEDRO HIDALGO, JUAN DE DIOS LUCERO DE GODOY. Before me, ALFONSO RAEI DE AGUILAR, secretary of government and war.

Departure from the pueblo of Taos.

Today, Thursday, the ninth of the present month of October of this date, I, said governor and captain general, having left the natives of this pueblo assured, tranquil, happy in having seen me, and restored to our holy faith; and the captives found having been surrendered at my command, namely, two women with seven children of various ages, both boys and girls, and a Tigua Indian who is leaving in order to marry, upon his arrival at El Paso del Rio del Norte, God, our Lord, willing, one of the said two women of the Piro tribe, who has borne him three children, and who is accompanied by her brothers; and having spent the night with the said camp at Paraje de Miranda, the following day I passed on to the pueblo of Picurías, where I was received with courtesy and humility.

And that the said arrival may be of record, having traveled ten leagues on the said two days, I signed this with the captain and alférez of the presidio and my secretary of government and war.

DON DIEGO DE VARGAS ZAPATA LUJÁN PONCE DE LEÓN, ROQUE DE MADRID, JUAN DE DIOS LUCERO DE GODOY. Before me, ALFONSO RAEI DE AGUILAR, secretary of government and war.

Arrival of the three young Indian braves of the pueblo of Taos who are on their way to see the Pecos in order to induce them to come down to the villa to see me, said governor and captain general.

Today, Friday, after I, said governor and captain general, had arrived with the camp at this pueblo of Picurías, the general interpreter, Pedro Hidalgo, appeared before me with three Indians, natives of the pueblo of Taos, the ones I had prear-

said outfit, having traveled, going and coming, about three leagues.

In testimony of the said entry, and that which is referred to therein, including the submission and conquest of the said natives to our holy faith and the royal crown, I signed this with the said military leaders and officers and my secretary of government and war.

DON DIEGO DE VARGAS ZAPATA LUJÁN PONCE DE LEÓN, MARTÍN DE ALDAY, JUAN PÁEZ HURTADO, ROQUE DE MADRID, JUAN DE DIOS LUCERO DE GODOY. Before me, ALFONSO RAELE DE AGUILAR, secretary of government and war.

He dispatches the Moqui Indian.

Today, Wednesday, the twelfth of the present month of November of this year, upon my arrival at this said place, I, said governor and captain general, was notified by the Moqui Indian that he had found another native of the said province of Moqui who told him that although his companion, whom I, said governor and captain general, had sent from the pueblo of Jémez with a rosary and a holy cross as a symbol of peace to the natives of their said pueblo and the others of the said province of Moqui, nevertheless, the Navajo Apaches had informed and told them not to believe me, that under the guise of the said assurance of peace they would all be killed and their women and children would be carried off, and that, in view of this information, they had believed it to be true and had driven their livestock deep into the mountains and sierras for safety.

In order to dissuade them from such a story, which only could have been disseminated by the devil in order to persuade them not to believe in me and to destroy their faith in the pardon and absolution which is offered and granted them for the benefit of their children, who have been born and raised since their revolt: for this reason I gave him a letter for the said natives and for an Indian named Miguel, of the pueblo of Aguatubi, who can read and write, in which I assured them, by virtue of the holy cross marked on it, that with it went the said pardon; that with regard to the said story they should not believe it; that it was my desire only to assure them in every

way; that they should repeat the same to the said natives, since they have been witnesses to that which I have done at the other pueblos and, at the present time, at this said province of Zuñi; and that they should remain in their houses and pueblos undisturbed, and many other arguments. And I gave each one a rosary, a mule, and food for the journey, and they left, very happy to fulfill that which I had ordered of them.

And that it be of record, I signed this with the said captain and alferez of the presidio and my secretary of government and war.

DON DIEGO DE VARGAS ZAPATA LUJÁN PONCE DE LEÓN, ROQUE DE MADRID, JUAN DE DIOS LUCERO DE GODOY. Before me, ALFONSO RAEL DE AGUILAR, secretary of government and war.

An Apache captain arrives.

Today, Thursday, the thirteenth of the present month of November of this year, I, said governor and captain general, at about two in the afternoon, as I was strolling about this said place and parade ground, a captain of the Salinero Apaches arrived with eight or ten Indians in his company, and through an interpreter they told me that they had come to tell me that they had always entered this land and province of Zuñi on terms of peace, that they were friends of its natives, and that it was their earnest desire that the Spaniards be their friends. The said captain came up to me and embraced me and gave me his hand, as did the others. Whereupon I told them that I would be their friend provided they were good, and that if they should be so, as they said, that they should go out and kill the Faraon Apaches, for they had driven off some of my cattle; that if they should capture them, not they but the Salinero Apaches could be accused of the theft; that I could not say for certain whether they or the others had stolen them, for I was telling them only that which the natives and people of this said province told me. To this he answered, in a different vein, that he had come to see me in order that I might go to Moqui reassured and to tell me that the Apaches, who were very numerous, would not intercept me on the road to do me harm. To this I answered that I was