

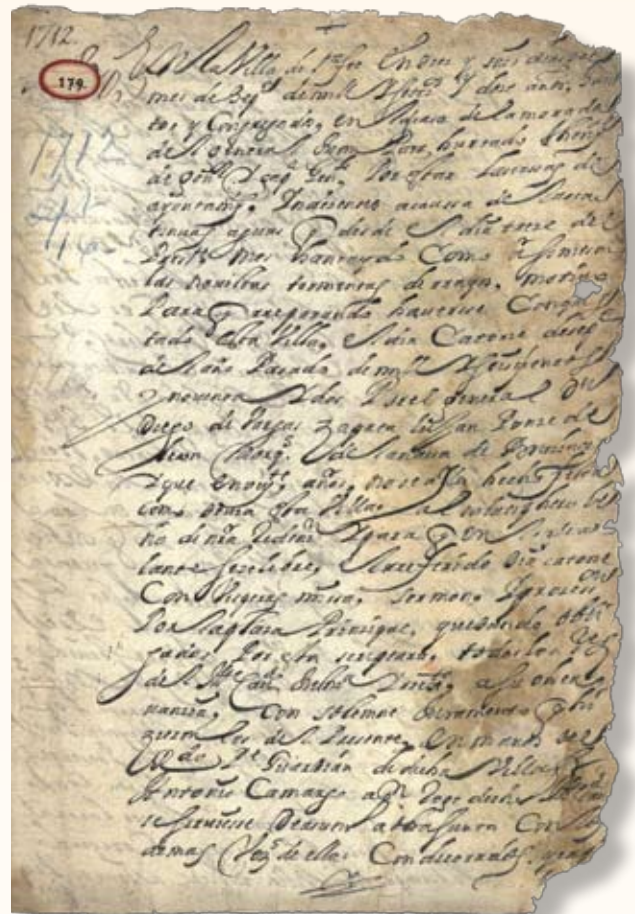
¡Viva la Fiesta! It's the Law

In 1712, the governor of the province of Nuevo México through his Captain General and spokesman, Juan Paez Hurtado, proclaimed that year and each thereafter a Fiesta would be held specifically honoring the bloodless reconquest of Santa Fe twenty years prior. It was decreed that the Fiesta should be one of religious thanksgiving and general celebration. The nine men whose signatures were affixed to the document obligated themselves and posterity to this perennial festival for all future time.

Proclamation of Santa Fe Fiesta—September 16, 1712

In the Villa of Santa Fe, on the sixteenth day of the month of September of the year seventeen hundred and twelve, gathered and met together in the house of residence of the General, Juan Paez Hurtado, Lieutenant Governor and Captain General, because the official meeting houses were unfit as a result of the continuous rains that have fallen since the thirteenth day of the present month, as also the lightning storms not seen before [at this time of year], the purpose being that, recalling how this Villa had been conquered on the Fourteenth day of September of the past year of sixteen hundred and ninety-two by the General Don Diego de Vargas Zapata Lujan Ponce de Len, Marquis of La Nava de Brazinas, and that in twenty years no fiesta had been observed, as this Villa should have, in honor of the Salutary rood of Our Redemption, and so that in the future the said fourteenth day be celebrated with Vespers, Mass, sermon, and procession through the Main Plaza, all the gentlemen of the Illustrious City Council, Justice and magistracy, remaining bound to its observance by this writ, through the solemn oath which those of the Present [council] made at the hands of the Reverend Father Guardian of said Villa, Fray Antonio Camargo, whom said Illustrious City Council had invited to graciously attend said meeting with the rest of the citizens of the Villa [especially] those who have received decorations, and former council members, being that a formal invitation had already been presented by the Captain, Alfonso Rael de Aguilar, Magistrate Ordinary, and the Adjutant and Regent, Salvador Montoya, to the Lord Marquis of la Peñuela, Governor and Captain General of this Kingdom, in order that his Lordship might assist at said meeting as President, who [in turn] gave an order to the aforesaid his Lieutenant General to preside over it, who in compliance with it thus carried it out.

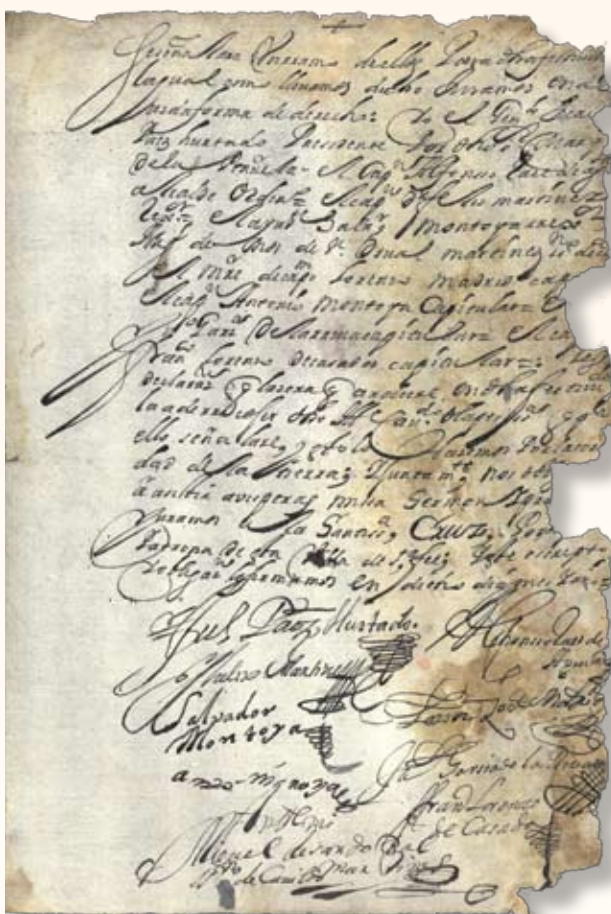
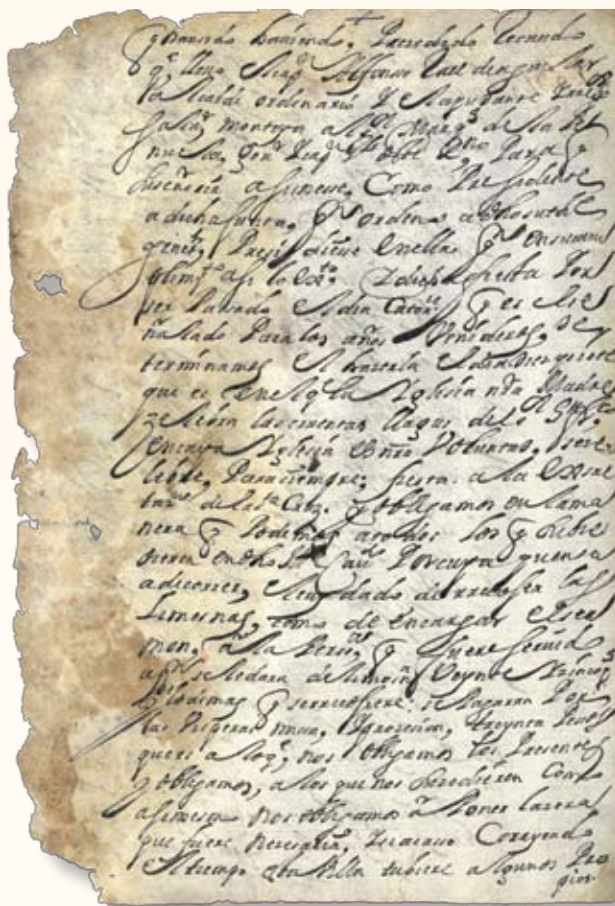
And said Fiesta, since the Fourteenth Day was past, which is the one designated for future years, we determined to celebrate on the



Proclamation of Santa Fe Fiesta—September 16, 1792. Courtesy of the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives. The last page of the document shows signatures of the nine men sworn:

Seventeenth Day, which is the one in which the Church Our Mother celebrates the Bleeding Wounds of the Lord St. Francis, in whose Church it is our will that it be celebrated for all time, a Fiesta in honor of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

And we oblige, in the manner with which we are empowered, all those who could succeed us in said Illustrious City Council, in whose charge will be the burden of collecting the contributions, as well as assigning the sermon to the Person whom it should please, who will be given twenty-five pesos; and the rest that should be collected thirty pesos will be paid out for the Vespers, Mass, and Procession, which is what we the Present ones bind ourselves to, and we bind those who should succeed us, as we likewise oblige ourselves to furnish the beeswax that should be needed, and if, perhaps, with the



“General, Juan Paez Hurtado, President in the place of said Lord Marquis of la Peñuela—the Captain, Alfonso Rael de Aguilar, Magistrate Ordinary—the Captain, don Felix Martinez, Regent—the Adjutant, Salvador Montoya, Regent—Miguel de Dios Sandoval Martinez, Secretary of the Council—Field Commander, Lorenzo Madrid, Council Member—the Captain, Antonio Montoya, Council Member—the Captain, Juan Garcia de la Riva, Council Member—the Captain, Francisco Lorenzo de Casados, Council Member.” Read the English translation at elpalacio.org.

passing the time this Villa should have some of its own funds, a portion of them will be designated for said festivity, which, as we have finished saying, we swear in due form of law;

I, the General, Juan Paez Hurtado, President in the place of said Lord Marquis of la Peñuela—the Captain, Alfonso Rael de Aguilar, Magistrate Ordinary—the Captain, don Felix Martinez, Regent—the Adjutant, Salvador Montoya, Regent—Miguel de Dios Sandoval Martinez, Secretary of the Council—Field Commander, Lorenzo Madrid, Council Member—the Captain, Antonio Montoya, Council Member—the Captain, Juan Garcia de la Riva, Council Member—the Captain, Francisco Lorenzo de Casados, Council Member—

And we declare that the beeswax which is [left over after being] burned in said festivity shall be gathered up by said Illustrious

Council, or the person it should assign for the purpose, and this we do because of the scarcity in this land.

And all together we bind ourselves to assist at Vespers, Mass, Sermon, and Procession, and we swear to the Most Holy cross for its being Patron [i.e. Title] of this Villa of Santa Fe.

And we sign this writing and obligation on said day, month, and year. ■

Proclamation print, “The First Santa Fe Fiesta Council, 1712,” by Fray Angélico Chávez, *New Mexico Historical Review*, Vol. XXVIII, No. 3, July 1953) pp. 183–85. Translated from Spanish into English, Archive No. 179, *Spanish Archives of New Mexico*, Vol. II (R. E. Twitchell) *Historical Society of New Mexico*.