

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



FIELD TRIP REPORT

Date: **June 22 - 25, 2018**

Destination: **Santa Fe, Pecos Pueblo, and Ohkay Owingeh Feast Day**

Leaders: **Rhonda Raffo and Jim Mueller**

Number of Participants: **7**

Trip participants (Barb and Lyle Hancock, Jay Culver, Kristine Johnson, Randy Graham, Rhonda Raffo and Jim Mueller) met at 2:00 p.m. at the **San Miguel Mission in Santa Fe**, the oldest church in the United States. Exactly how old is unknown, but the first documentation with reference to San Miguel is from 1628, with oral history dating it to 1610. Docent Dave gave an inspirational and passionate talk on the Mission, although maybe not quite historically accurate account of the items and history.



Originally, 250 Spanish and about 700 Native Indians travelled north from old Mexico in 1598 to the Santa Fe area, with the Spanish settling east of the San Juan Pueblo (now called the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, where we visited on Sunday for the dance & feast day). The native Indians, a band of Tlaxcalan from central old Mexico that came north with the Spanish, chose to settle in what is now Santa Fe. Eleven years later in 1609, the Spanish moved from the San Juan Pueblo to a site across the river from the Tlaxcalan settlement.

The Tlaxcalan, Roman Catholic by this time, had built a place of worship over an ancient Kiva (+/- 1200 CE, confirmed by survey in 1955). It is believed that when the Spanish moved here in 1609 or shortly thereafter, is when the Spanish had the Tlaxcalan rebuild their modest structure into the San Miguel Mission, hence the 1610 date. The Mission was partially destroyed in 1640 and again in 1680 during the Pueblo Revolt. A major archaeological study and restoration were undertaken in 1955 that restored or exposed artwork from the early 1700's. Excavation revealed the original dirt floor, sanctuary steps, pottery shards and hundreds of human remains. Glass plates beyond the Communion rail look down into these features.

Next, we visited the '**Oldest House**' in Santa Fe and like the San Miguel Mission across the street is believed to be built on the foundation of a 1200 CE pueblo. Built in 1646, it is the oldest residential house in New Mexico, but younger than the Palace of the Governors and San Miguel Mission, both built in 1610.

Saturday was a visit to **The Pecos National Historical Park**. This day was to include a special private tour of petroglyphs up the Pecos river valley and the Glorieta Pass Civil War Battle Field. Unfortunately, both of these were in the Santa Fe

Sunday was on to the **Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo** for their San Juan Feast day dances. I counted 200 dancers from young boys and girls to old men and women. There were more, I just stopped at 200. The costumes were colorful and varied and the collective dancing was quite extraordinary.

On the way home Monday, we stopped at the **Poeh Cultural Center** of the Pojoaque Pueblo. The art work ranged from modern art to historic pottery. It also displayed an exhibition of their 'Nah-Poeh Meng' (The Continuous Path), starting with the Emergence Room through to the modern day. Of future note: the museum is scheduled to receive over a hundred artifacts back from the Smithsonian later this year, to be displayed by early next year.

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- By Jim Mueller