

TLAXCALAN INDIANS IN NEW MEXICO

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TLAXCALA

antiguos volcanes vigilan los llanos

Monografía Estatal
Secretaría de Educación Pública

Most of the drawings and pictures in this powerpoint
come from this Tlaxcala book.

Published article

- Nuestras Raíces. Genealogical Society of Hispanic America. Pueblo, Colorado. Summer 2009 Volume 21 Number 2. “Tlaxcalan Indians” by Stanley A. Lucero, pages 13-19.
- Website: <http://www.gsha.net/>



My Tlaxcalan webpage

<http://www.lucerito.net/Tlascateca.htm>

- The Tlaxcalan Indians from Tlaxcala, Mexico were crucial to Cortez' victory over the Aztec Empire in 1521.
- The Tlaxcalans were awarded "special rights and privileges" by the Spaniards.
- Many Tlaxcalteca Indians accompanied the Spanish conquistadores north to New Mexico as soldiers and servants.
- They brought with them their turquoise and weaving skills and eventually settled in the Analco District of Santa Fe before 1610.
- My ancestors, the Britos, were Tlaxcalan Indians who became a part of the Trampas Land Grant in 1751.

Spanish Archives of New Mexico, Volume One, Twitchell, 1914, page 36

- “The “*Britos*” were “*Tlascalan Indians*.” The “*Analco*” district surrounds the old chapel of San Miguel. “*Analco*” means, “*the other side of the river.*”



Analco District in Santa Fe

- San Miguel Chapel
- Brito House: Oldest house in Santa Fe



Tlaxcalans in the Spanish Borderlands

- Simmons, M. (April 1964). Tlascalans in the Spanish Borderlands. *New Mexico Historical Review* , 101-110.



Tlaxcalan controversy

- Did they come to New Mexico?
- Who has been identified as a Tlaxcalan Indian in New Mexico?
- What historical proof demonstrates they came to New Mexico?
- Are the references quoted based on facts or are historians quoting misinformation?

What I have discovered



- They accompanied the Spaniards;
- They received concessions granted to them by the Spaniards;
- They were interested in turquoise;
- And they were weavers.

Who are the Tlaxcalans

- Pre-Columbian nation never conquered by the Aztecs
- They spoke Nahuatl
- They came from the Mexican state of Tlaxcala
- They allied themselves with Cortez to defeat the Aztecs in 1521

Smithsonian Website

- *“In 1521, the Tlaxcalans and Spanish defeated their common enemy, the Aztecs. In return, the Spanish awarded the Tlaxcalans special rights and privileges, and the Tlaxcalans supported Spanish efforts to integrate Indians farther north into the colonial system. By the late 16th century, they had established colonies as far north as New Mexico.”*

Contract between Spain & Tlaxcalan Indians [Newberry Library, Chicago, IL]



1521 Concessions (Milford, 1995)

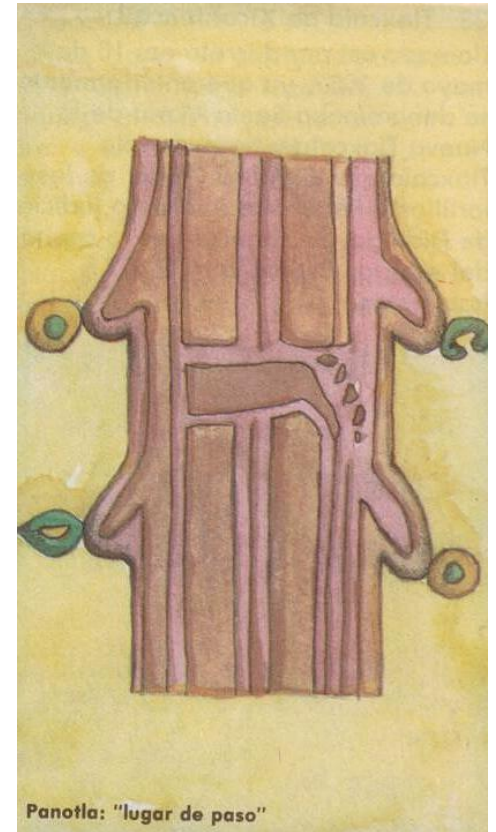
- *Shall be “hidalgos”*
- *Will have their own “barrios”*
- *No Spaniard can take or buy any “solar”*
- *Non occupation clause*
- *No taxes*
- *Can carry arms and ride horses*

Delgadillo Torres. “La Migración Tlaxcalteca Del Siglo XVI”

- The Tlaxcalteca founded the Mission of San Antonio and the Villa de San Andrés in Texas
- The Tlaxcalteca founded Albuquerque, Analco, and Las Cruces in New Mexico.
- These locations provided a route to connect Mexico City to Nueva España via “*El Camino Real de Tierra Dentro.*”

The Handbook of Texas Online

- The Tlaxcalans joined the Spaniards in the conquest of the Americans
- Texas: San Juan Bautista [by Eagle Pass] and San Saba Mission
- Central America
- South America
- New Mexico



Simmons, April 1964, p. 104

- *A Tlaxcalan was with Antonio de Espejo in Trans-Pecos Texas and New Mexico in 1582-1583.*
- *In 1688 a Tlaxcalan scout was sent La Salle's colony on the Texas coast*
- *This same Tlaxcalan reported the presence of Jean Jarry near the Rio Grande.”*

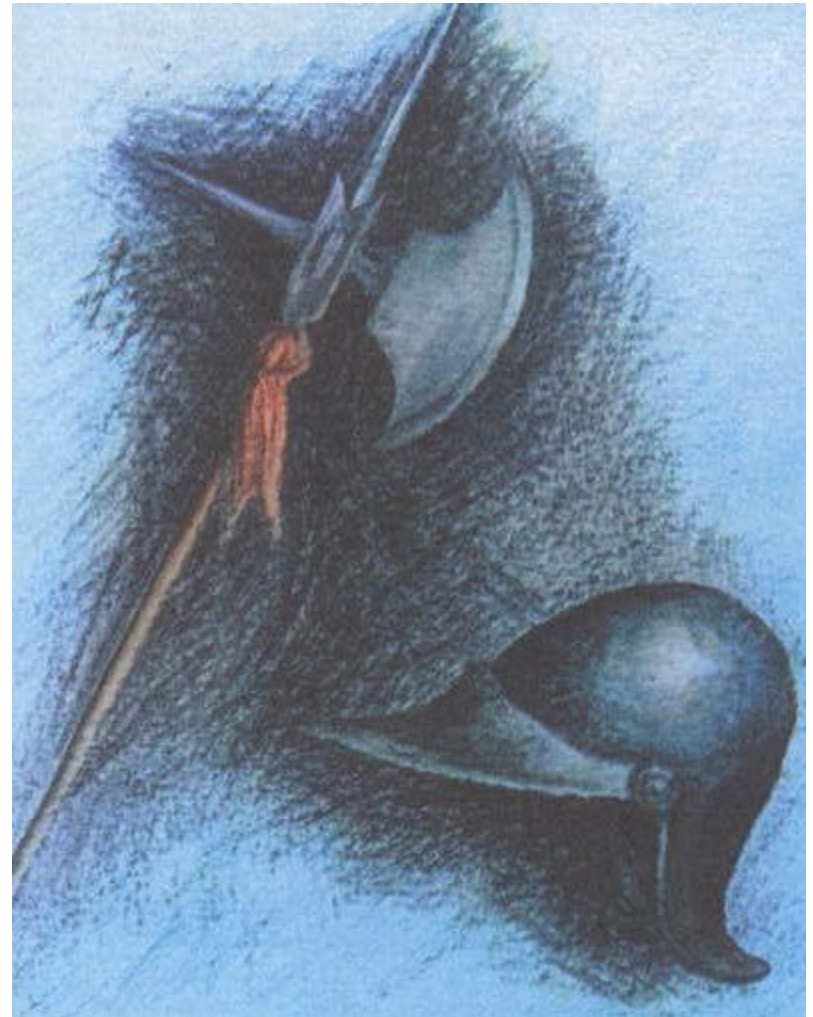
Simmons, April 1964, p. 107



- *“The expedition named the district around Taos, Nueva Tlascala, perhaps in honor of the homeland of one of its members.”*
- *Chamuscado party in the 1580s.*

Simmons, April 1964, p. 108

- *New Mexico in 1582*
- *Gregorio de Tlascala,*
- *“...a fine soldier who possessed the talent of carving new gunstocks for the Spaniard from the durable tornillo wood.”*





Based on Villagra's epic poem of 1610
(Perez de Villagra, 1992, p. xxxix)

- Acoma 1599
- “Then Oñate read the sentence which brought protests from the colonists themselves. “The males”, ordered Oñate, “who are over twenty-five years of age, I sentence to have one foot cut off and to twenty years of personal servitude.”

Rodriguez, L.V. *The Mestizo-Mexicano-Indian History.*

- Following Oñate's order to cut off one foot:
- *“Some of the natives that the Spaniards took with them as slaves and guides in their quest escaped, for example, the Tlascalans who were taken in by the Zuni in New Mexico.”*

Simmons, April 1964, p. 108



- “At least one of the *Franciscans* with *Oñate*, it is recorded, brought a *Tlascalan* assistant from the south, and others may have done likewise.”

Tlaxcalans and Turquoise



- The Tlaxcalans accompanied Oñate in 1598 to San Gabriel del Yunque as soldiers and servants.
- The turquoise mines located at Cerro Chalchiquite near Santa Fe were mined by the Tlaxcalans.

Milford, 1995



- *“The testimony taken at San Gabriel on July 28, 1600, mentioned that a half dozen Spanish men had started mining in the Cerrillos Hills with the help of members of their households and "servants" (Tlascalans).”*

World Famous Cerrillos Turquoise website

- *Cerro Chalchiquite*
- *There is no "Cerro Turquesa"*
- *The central-Mexico allies and fellow-travelers, primarily Nahuatl-speaking Tlascalans, esteemed turquoise above all other stones.*
- *The Tlascalan name for turquoise is "chalchiquite"*

Tlaxcalans and Weaving

- The Tlaxcalans were accomplished weavers.
- They developed cotton and plant fiber weaving techniques.
- They learned to weave the wool from the Spanish sheep.
- New Mexico Rio Grande blanket weavers use the Tlaxcalan weaving patterns and techniques.

Smithsonian Website

- *Saltillo-style textiles is attributed to the Tlaxcalans*
- *Tlaxcalans wove sophisticated textiles on backstrap looms, relying on cotton and other plant fibers.*
- *They began producing equally outstanding textiles using wool and treadle looms adopted from the Spanish.*

Castro, 2000



Saltillo Pancho c. 1850 Mexico

- *The Saltillo sarape – Tlaxcalan Indians*
- *Rio Grande blanket adopted many of the motifs of the Saltillo sarape*
- *The serrate diamonds and figures are probably of Tlaxcalan origin.”*

1807 Santa Fe (Stephenson, 2006)

- The Santa Fe government asked Juan and Ignacio Bazán from Mexico City to come and teach weaving.



Stephenson, 2006



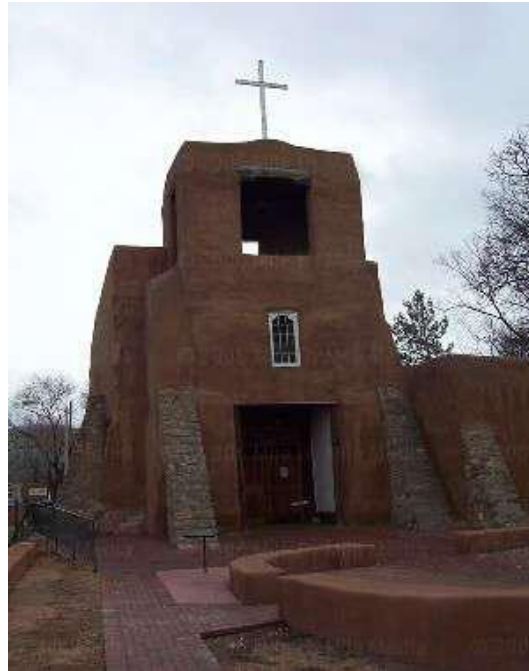
- *” The Bazáns are thought to have introduced designs and techniques developed by Tlascalan Indians in Saltillo, Mexico, to the weavers in communities surrounding Santa Fe.”*

Rio Grande blanket
Trampas, New Mexico, c 1870
[International Folk Art Foundation]



San Miguel Chapel in Santa Fe

- Located in the Analco District
- Intended for the use of the Indians.



Swadesh, 1974, p. 12

- 1598 Don Juan de Oñate
- *130 soldiers with their wives and Indian servants.*
- *It is likely that Mexican Indians, both servants and soldiers, outnumbered the Spaniards.*
- *In 1610 a special barrio (district) was set aside for these Indian colonists, who were referred to as Tlaxcalan.*

University of Arizona Library

Website

- *“The Church of San Miguel, first church erected, in the ward of Analco, and primarily intended for Indians, including the Tlascalans from Old Mexico.”*



University of Arizona Library

Website

- The Church of San Miguel - the oldest place of worship in the United States
- On the south side of the Santa Fé River in the Barrio de Analco
- “Analco” is an Aztec word
- Analco means “on the other side” or “beyond the river.”
- Analco owes its origin to the Tlascalans who accompanied the first Spaniards who came for the conquest of the kingdom.”

University of Arizona Library Website

- Regarding the San Miguel Chapel:
- *“It was more important to build a church for the Indians than for their own countrymen, and so these Tlascalan Indians took precedence in this matter, even of the Spanish officials themselves.”*

New Mexico Office of the State Historian Online

- Malcom Ebright claims that the genízaros replaced the Tlascalan Indians in Analco and thus attributes Analco as the “*first Genízaro community.*”
- “*During the 1680 Pueblo Revolt, the Pueblos burned the church of San Miguel and almost wiped out the Analco settlement on the first day of the revolt, unleashing particular fury there. This may have occurred due to Pueblo Indian jealousy over the special treatment the Spaniards accorded these Indians from New Spain, some of whom are said to have had Pueblo servants.*”

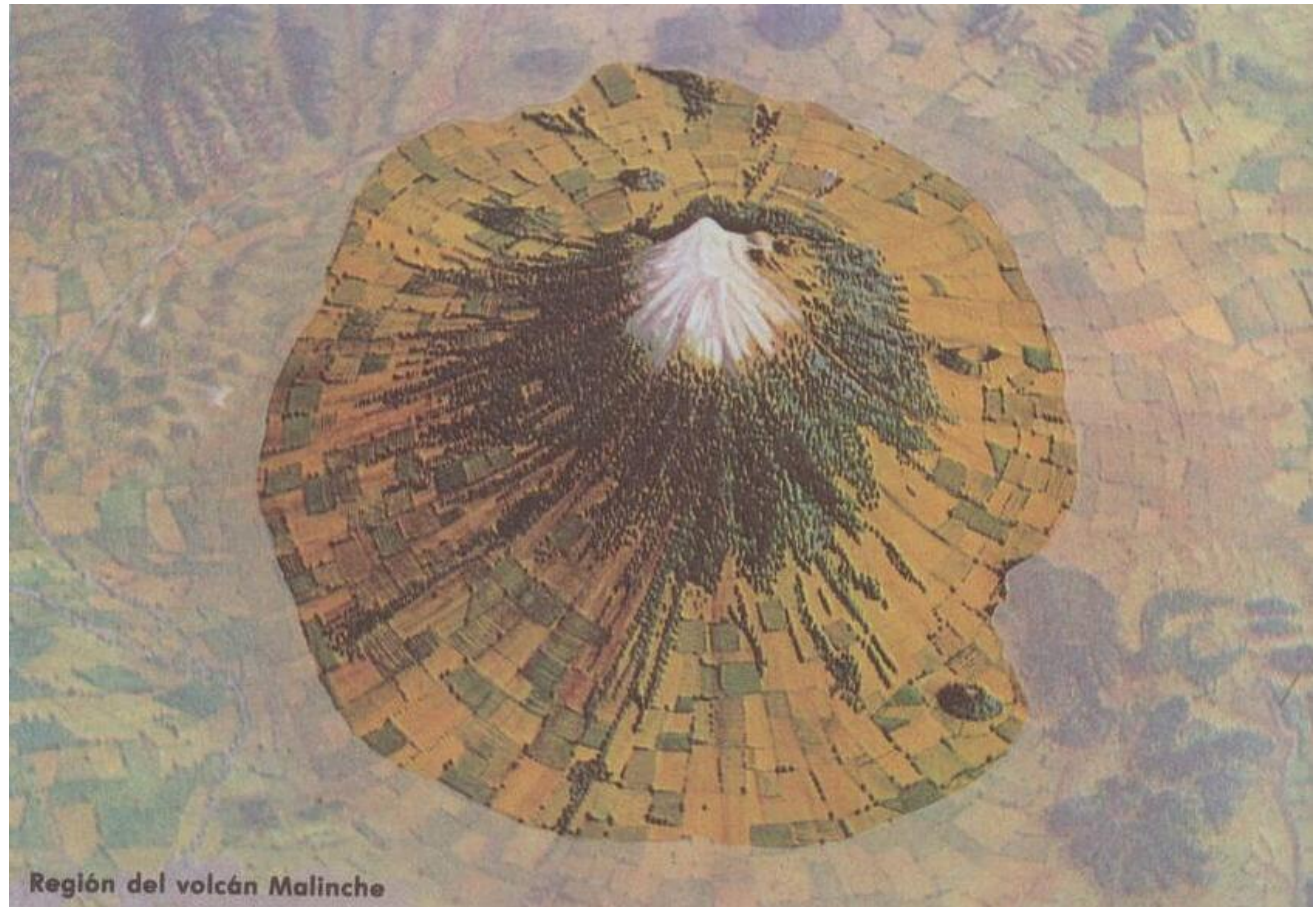
1680 Pueblo Revolt

- The Tlaxcalans went with the Spaniards to Guadalupe del Paso
- The Tlaxcalans returned to the Analco district in 1693 and helped rebuild the San Miguel Chapel.



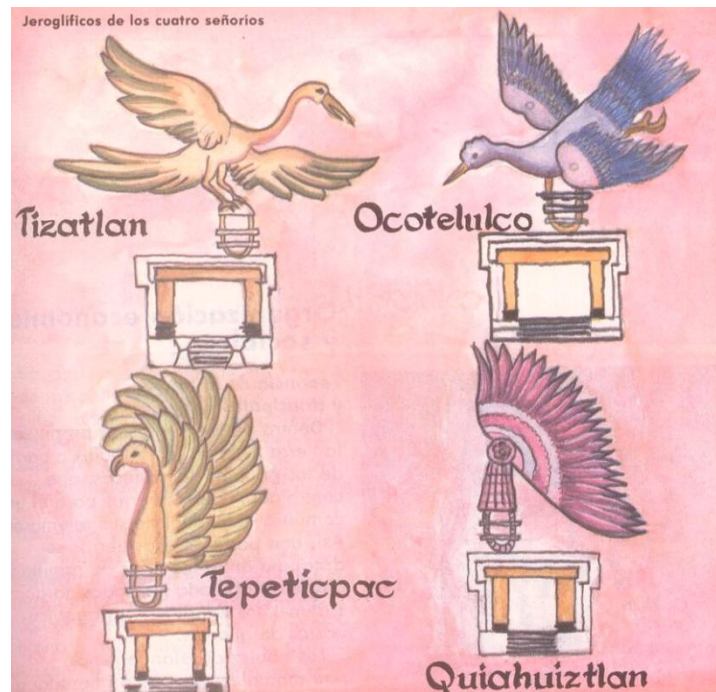
Twitchell, 1914, p. 36

- “*The Britos were Tlascalan Indians.*”



Fray Angelico Chavez, 1992, p. 13

- “Juan Brito and his wife, Antonia Ursula Duran, had lived in Santa Fe before the Rebellion.”



Fray Angelico Chavez, 1992, p. 149-150

- *Juan Deleon Brito, son of Juan Brito and Antonia Ursula Duran, had married Sebastiana Madrid at Guadalupe del Paso in 1692.*
- *At Santa Fe, on January 10, 1694, Brito, now a widower, married a Maria Granillo, of unknown parentage.*
- *He and a Diego Brito made adobes for the reconstruction of San Miguel Chapel in Santa Fe in 1720.*
- *Brito's ancestral property was in the Analco section of Santa Fe.*

Fray Angelico Chavez, 1992, p. 348

- “*Juan De Leon Brito (NMF, 149, 150), Mexican Indian and “poblador” of Analco in Santa Fe, and his wife Maria de los Reyes Granillo.*”



Twitchell, 1914, p. 67

- *Santa Fe, November 25, 1713*
- Juan de Leon Brito and his wife Maria Granillo sold their house: “... to Juana de la Cruz, widow of Joseph de la Virgen.”
- *Refers to a house standing in 1713 in the Barrio of Analco, Santa Fe.*

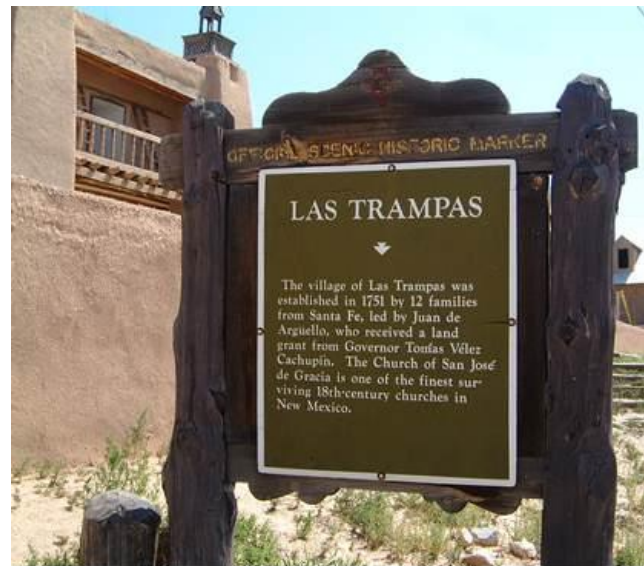
Britos and Arguellos

[Roybal, 1997, p 19]

- Juana Gregoria Brito,
- Daughter of Juan de Leon Brito and Maria de los Reyes Granillo
- Married Juan de Arguello
- 26 May 1715 in Santa Fe.

Hillerman, 1993, p. 31

- Regarding Trampas Land Grant
- In 1751, Juan de Arguello “*led his sons-in-law and their families from Santa Fe to establish this lonely and dangerous new outpost.*”



Las Trampas Church



Twitchell, 1914, pp. 289-293 and Arguello, 1994, p. 13

- The Santo Thomas Apostol del Rio de las Trampas Land Grant
- Awarded by Governor Thomas Veléz Cachupín on July 1, 1751 to twelve families:
- Juan de Arguello, Juan José de Arguello, José de Aragón, Salvador Baca, Antonio Domínguez, Juan García, Eusebio Leyba, Luis Francisco Leyba, Vicente Lucero, Melchor Rodríguez, Pedro Felipe Rodríguez, and Ygnacio Vargas.

My Trampas ancestors

- My grandfather, Manuel de Atocha Quintana, was born in Trampas to Juan Estevan Quintana and Maria Librada Leiba
- The Leibas are descendants of the Arguellos and the Britos.

My mother gave me a turquoise necklace so that I “would never forget who I am.”



What do you think?

- Were the Tlaxcalteca Indians in Analco?
- Did the Tlaxcalteca Indians mine turquoise near Santa Fe?
- Did some descendants of the Tlaxcalteca Indians found Las Trampas?
- Why was the c. 1870 Rio Grande blanket found in Las Trampas?