

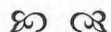
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Account of the Journey
to the Salines, the Xumanas,
and the Sea, 1599

by Juan de Oñate

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ACCOUNT OF THE JOURNEY TO THE
SALINES, THE XUMANAS, AND
THE SEA, 1599¹

*Account of the Journey which they made to the Sea and of the
Visit to the Salines and the Xumanas.*²

On the 6th of October in the year of '98 the governor set out from this pueblo of San Juan, province of the Teguas.³ On the first day we travelled four leagues, to the first pueblo of the Cañada⁴ de los Teguas; on the next day six leagues to San Marcos;⁵ on the following day six leagues to the Pueblo del Tuerto;⁶ on the next, two leagues to the first pueblo over the mountain, last pueblo of Puaray; next day five leagues to the first pueblo of the salines;⁷ next day four leagues

¹ "Relaciones que envió Don Juan de Oñate de algunas jornadas," ff. 7-10 (manuscript in Lowery Collection).

² Villagrà gives an account of this journey in his *Historia*, canto XVIII.

³ Tewa, Tehua.

⁴ Apparently one of the Tewa pueblos in the group to which Santa Cruz de la Cañada belonged. But as Santa Cruz is only some four miles southward of San Juan, the pueblo reached by Oñate would seem to be farther south. See Hodge, *Handbook*, II. 458; Bandelier, *Final Report*, I. 82-83.

⁵ Shown on the Martínez map as no. 27. The ruins of San Marcos are eighteen miles south-southwest of Santa Fé. The place here mentioned may have been the same. See Hodge, *Handbook*, II. 448.

⁶ The town of the Crooked or Twisted. This name is still borne by the Rio Tuerto, a small stream entering the Rio Grande opposite San Felipe, and by mountains in the same general region. Rio Tuerto affords a pass through the mountains through which runs an old trail from Albuquerque to Galisteo. In this pass along the trail was the place called Tuerto. For a discussion of pueblo ruins about Galisteo see Bandelier, *Final Report*, I. 100-106.

⁷ The salines lie near the Manzano Mountains, in eastern Valencia County. To the southeast of them is the Mesa de los Jumanos. The saline country was inhabited in the early seventeenth century by Tigua, Piro, and Jumano villages (see Hodge, *The Jumano Indians*, pp. 8-9; Bandelier, *Final Report*, I. 167). The salines are evidently the same as those visited by the Chamuscado party.

to the last pueblo of the salines, or Gallinas.¹ We remained there three days and visited the salines which lie to the east five or six leagues from there. They consist of white salt; there are many very large and good ones, and they are seven or eight leagues in circumference. Next day we went three leagues to the pueblo of Abbo,² and the next day four leagues to the Xumanas.³ There are three pueblos, one of them large like Cia⁴ and two small ones. The said pueblos of the salines and the Xumanas all rendered obedience to his Majesty.

From this point his lordship decided to go to the sea, and therefore on the following day we came from there to the second pueblo of Abbo, a league and a half. The next day we returned to the last pueblo of the said Gallinas and then to the first pueblo of the Gallinas or salines; next day to the pueblo of the Porteguelo; next day seven leagues to the pueblo of Father Claros,⁵ where we remained two days.

From there we set out for the pueblo of Acoma⁶ towards the west, going four leagues to the Torrente de los Alamos. Midway is the Arroyo de los Mimbres. Next day seven leagues to the Manantial de la Barranca; next day two leagues to Acoma,⁷ a pueblo of five hundred houses, where the Indians received him very well with maize, water, and turkeys, and rendered obedience to his Majesty. This place is almost im-

¹ The railroad station of Gallinas and Gallinas National Forest still preserve this name in the same general region.

² Abo was a Tompiros pueblo located in Arroyo del Empedradillo, in the southeastern corner of Valencia County. The ruins of the mission of San Gregorio, founded in 1629, are still there. Hodge, *Handbook*, I. 6.

³ The direction from Abo to the Xumana pueblos is not clear. There were four instead of three Jumano pueblos in this region. See Hodge, *The Jumano Indians*, p. 8; *Doc. Ind.*, XVI. 123-124.

⁴ Sia.

⁵ Father Claros was assigned to the pueblo of Chiguas. See Ytinerario, entry for September 16. According to the "Relacion de como los Padres de San Francisco se encargaron de las Provincias de la Nueva Mexico," the province of the Chiguas extended from Puaray to the Queres. That they set out west from Puaray, located near Bernalillo, is shown by the Ytinerario, entry for October 23, 1598.

⁶ See Ytinerario, entry for October 23; Villagr , *Historia*, canto XVIII.

⁷ Acoma is about sixty miles west of the Rio Grande. If the pueblo of Father Claros was on the Rio Grande, the estimate gives about five miles to the league. In the assignment of the pueblos to the missionaries, Tziaas, Tamaya, and Acco were grouped together ("Relacion de como los Padres," etc.).

pregnable, for except by climbing over the very rocks by holes which they have made one cannot ascend.¹

We rested one day, and on the next we set out for the province of Zuñi, going to the head of the river which is called De la Mala Nueva;² next day four leagues, camping for the night in a forest, without water; next day to the Agua de la Peña, four leagues. It snowed furiously, the horses stampeded, and some were lost for good. Next day four leagues to a spring which flows to the province of Cuni.³ We saw three ruined pueblos. The following day, which was the feast of All Saints,⁴ three leagues to the first pueblo of the people belonging to the province of Zuñi, which consists of six pueblos. The Indians received us with a large quantity of maize, tortillas, and rabbits. Remaining here one day, on Tuesday we went three leagues to visit the last pueblo, which they call Cibola, or by another name, Granada,⁵ where Francisco Vazquez Coronado nearly sixty years ago had the encounter with the Indians. They received us very well with maize, tortillas, gourds, beans, and quantities of rabbits and hares, of which there are a great many. They are a very amiable people and all rendered obedience to his Majesty.

In all these pueblos we found crosses which the Indians reverence and to which they are accustomed to make the same offering as to their idols, which consist of flour, small sticks painted with different colors, and turkey feathers. The Indians speak a few Mexican words, as two of Coronado's Indians, now dead, had remained there. One of them, called Gaspar, left two sons. We saw the one named Alonso.⁶ He spoke a few Mexican words but understood none. Each house there gave us a *manta* of *istle*,⁷ very good cloth.

We remained there until the 8th of November of '98 and during that time the governor sent Captain Farfan to see a saline which we heard was nine leagues from there. He returned on the third day, convinced that it must be the best saline in the world, and truly its salt would indicate this, for

¹ See Hodge, *Ascent of the Enchanted Mesa* (1898).

² Bad news.

³ Zuñi.

⁴ November 1.

⁵ This was the pueblo of Hawikuh. See Hodge, *Handbook*, II. 1017.

⁶ See the Espejo documents, p. 184, above, for references to these men.

⁷ *Yxtle*, a fibre produced from a species of pine in Mexico.

besides being exceedingly white and of marvellous grain he said the saline was a league around, and that in the centre of it there was a spring from which the saline is engendered, and therefore is very salty; that it has a depth of over a spear's length, and that in all this depth the salt forms a hardened¹ crust, so that in order to extract the salt it is necessary to use a bar or pick-axe. Of all this, lengthy testimony was taken.²

During these days Captain Villagran arrived,³ being brought in by three soldiers who had gone to round up the horses which the snow-storm had scattered and had found him almost dead at El Agua de la Peña, without horse or arms, and not having eaten for two or three days, for he had lost everything near Acoma by falling into a pit, and only the mercy of God prevented his perishing as his horse had done. He was coming from the country of New Spain.

From there, on the said Sunday, the 8th, we set out for the province of Mohoqui,⁴ or Mohoje, going four leagues without water. It snowed all the time, for it was mid-winter. Next day, after travelling five leagues, we came across water near the road in a marsh. We camped for the night without water. Next day five leagues to some springs to get water, which was small in quantity. After travelling six leagues we camped for the night without water. On the following day we went five leagues to Mohoqui, and on the road only the men drank at a small spring which was underneath a rock. After going two leagues, at the first pueblo of Mohoqui or Mohoce they came out to receive us with tortillas, scattering

¹ *Oxaldrada*.

² On November 8, at the pueblo of Zuñi, Farfán made a sworn statement regarding the saline. It was eight leagues westward of Granada, or Zuñi, round in shape, twelve or more leagues in circumference, and composed of fine, white, crystallized salt. Near the edge of the saline the crust was a span thick, and at the centre "a good spear's length"; wagons might travel over it without breaking the crust. Farfán was "certain that neither in all Christendom nor outside of it is there anything so grand, nor has the king anything to equal it" ("Relacion del descubrimiento de las salinas de cuni"). This statement would place the saline well into Arizona. The Ytinerario states that it was east of Zuñi.

³ See Villagrà's *Historia*, canto XIX. The Ytinerario (p. 274) mentions this incident as happening to Captain Marqués instead of to Villagrà.

⁴ Moqui.

fine flour upon us and upon our horses as a token of peace and friendship, and all of those provinces, which are four pueblos, rendered obedience to his Majesty and treated us very well.

We rested there one day. Next day we travelled three leagues to another small pueblo. On the following day we spent the night at the last pueblo, four leagues distant, having passed through the third one. In all of them they received us as in the first. We rested for one day and on the following day we retraced the same ground, returning to the second pueblo of the said province. Next day we went to the first, where we rested three days.

From there on Friday, November 17, because of the reports of the rich mines, the governor sent Captain Marcos Farfan de los Godos with eight companions to make the exploration. Then, on Saturday, we set out on the return, by the same marches and places, to the province of Cuni, where we awaited the said explorers of the mines for seventeen days; and at the end of twenty-one days from their departure Captain Farfan and Captain Alonso de Quesada returned, having left the other seven companions in Mohoqui, as the animals were worn out. They brought flattering reports¹ of the good mines discovered thirty leagues from the said province of Mohoqui, and they brought very good ores from which silver was later extracted by many and divers very rich assays,² by means of mercury. This infused new life into over a hundred lifeless residents of this camp. They are ores which can be smelted. The description of their route is in a separate report, on which I rely.

The said Captain Farfan having returned, and the governor seeing the great delay of the thirty men who had gone with his *maese de campo*, Don Juan de Saldivar, and who were to overtake him in order to make the said journey to the South Sea, he having sent for them to the camp which he had established in the province of Teguas, he determined to return to the said camp to celebrate Christmas, which was near, so that immediately after Christmas he could make the journey

¹ They are printed hereinafter, pp. 239-249.

² The details concerning these assays are set forth in "Relacion de los ensayos que se hicieron de ciertas minas," etc.

to the sea with all the soldiers necessary.¹ Therefore, on the twelfth of December we left Cuni and camped for the night in the first pueblo of that province; the following day at El Agua de la Peña, where we found Ensign Bernabe de las Casas, with six companions, who was going in search of his Lordship with the sad news of the occurrence at Acoma, and of the death of the above-mentioned *maese de campo* and other captains and soldiers.²

Next day, from that point his Lordship sent Don Tomas, Indian interpreter, who was the one who had remained in the country from Castano's expedition and who has been of great service, to inform the seven explorers who remained in Mohoqui of what had happened and to warn them not to come by way of Acoma, but to follow our trail, so that they might arrive safely at the camp. We made our journey directly to the said camp, which we reached in seven days, may God be praised. Amen. DON JUAN DE OÑATE.

¹ See Villagr , *Historia*, canto XIX.

² See Ytinerario, entry for January 7, for additional data regarding this incident.