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Declaration of Hernando Barrado, 1582

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DECLARATION OF HERNANDO BARRADO, 1582.¹

AFTER the foregoing, in the said city of Mexico, on the 20th day of the month of October, 1582, the said Señor Viceroy stated that whereas he was informed that the Indians who were discovered in this new land had killed the religious who had remained with them to teach and instruct them in matters pertaining to the holy Catholic faith, in order that his Majesty might be informed of everything he ordered that new testimony relative thereto be obtained; and to this end oath was administered in legal form to Hernando Barrado, a Spaniard who, it is said, went to the new land with the other soldiers who went to it. He took the oath in the name of God our Lord and of Holy Mary His Mother, making the sign of the cross with his right hand, under charge of which he promised to tell the truth.

And being asked in regard to the foregoing, this witness said that what he knows of the matter is that he is one of the eight soldiers who went into the interior with the leader, Francisco Sanchez Chamuscado, in company with Fray Agustín Rodríguez, of the order of San Francisco, and two other religious; that they succeeded in seeing all the settlements of the Indians which are referred to in the declaration of the two soldiers,² his companions, which has been shown to him; and that he knows that what they said and declared about the matter is the truth, and so happened, because he was a witness to it all.

At the time when this witness went into the interior, he took in his service an Indian named Geronimo, of the Concho nation, from near Santa Bárbola, of the kingdom of Nueva

¹ Pacheco and Cárdenas, Col. Doc. Inéd., XV. 95-97.

² The reference is to the declarations by Bustamante and Gallegos. See pp. 139, 142–149.

Vizcaya, and when they agreed with the said leader and the other companions to return to this New Spain to report what they had seen and discovered, the said Indian, with two others, called Francisco and Andrés, and a mestizo and some Indian boys, remained voluntarily with the religious in the settlement which they call Puaray. And after having returned to Santa Bárbola, of the said kingdom of Nueva Galicia [sic], this witness being in the convent of the said pueblo, some three months ago, he saw there the said Francisco, one of the Indians who had remained with the religious. Being surprised at this, he spoke to him, and asked him how he happened to be there, and to have returned from the new land where he had left him. He replied that the Indians of that land of Puaray had killed Fray Francisco Lopez, the guardian, and that he had seen him buried. On telling Fray Agustín, his companion, of it, they became excited, and without waiting to see more he and the other two Indians, Andrés and Gerónimo, came away, through the Concho country, coming roundabout by almost the same route as they had gone. When they came away they heard many outcries and a tumult in the pueblo, wherefore he believed that they had killed the rest of the religious and the Indian boys who remained there and had been unable to come with them. The one of his companions called Andrés had been killed by certain Indians in a settlement which they came upon between those of the Concho nation and the Tatarabueyes,² and only the Indian Geronimo, who had been a servant of this witness, had escaped with him.

And this witness, coming afterwards through the mines of Zacatecas, came across the said Indian Geronimo, who was being brought to this city by the other soldiers, companions of this witness; and he talked with him, and learned the same as what the other Indian, Francisco, had told him. From the said mines they all came together to this city of Mexico, and the said Indian saw his Excellency and spoke with him. A

² The Patarabueyes, or Jumanos, who lived on the Rio Grande near the junction with the Conchos River. See p. 172, below.

¹ For the different versions of the death of the missionaries, see Bancroft, Arizona and New Mexico, p. 79, note 7; Bandelier, Final Report, II. 227-228. See also p. 148, note 2, and p. 168, note 3.

few days ago he disappeared, and the witness has not seen him since, but he understands that he has returned to his own country. He says that this is the truth by the oath he has taken; and he affirmed, ratified, and signed it. He said he was more than fifty years old.—Hernando Barrado. Before me, Juan de Cueva. Copied and compared with the original which is in my possession. Joan de Cueva. There is a rubric.