

EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Donation of Historic Stone House A Milestone for EMHS

A year after the East Mountain Historical Society membership met and voted on Zoom to accept the donation of an historic property in San Antonio by owners Charles and Shelley Jackson, the project to restore the Campo Stone House has taken a major step forward.

On Feb. 21, 2023 Mr. and Mrs. Jackson signed a donation agreement to deed the property to EMHS within the next month. The donation agreement commits the EMHS to make significant progress in restoring the building within 5 years, and to maintain the property for the purposes of preserving and sharing the history and culture of the East Mountains. The Jacksons will have the right to take back the property if either of these conditions do not come to fruition.

On Feb. 4, 2023 the EMHS Board of Directors appointed a 10-member Planning Committee for the Stone House, with EMHS President Robyn Hoffman as Chair. The other members are Andre Larroque, Vice-chair (EMHS Historic Preservation Officer, architect); Rick Holben (EMHS Vice-president, vintage photos curator); Jeannie Place (EMHS Treasurer); Joel Darnold (EMHS member, engineer); Nicolas Kennedy (Ex Officio EMHS Board member, Village of Tijeras Clerk/Manager); David Engelman (EMHS member, real estate developer); Phil Leckman (EMHS member, archeologist); Amy Padilla (EMHS Board Member, archivist) and Charlene Pyskoty (EMHS member, former Bernalillo County Commissioner).

The goals of the Planning Committee for 2023 are to draft a 5-year plan for the project which results in a habitable building, identifying funding sources; obtain leaders for all of the task areas in the plan; obtain grant assistance from the New Mexico Department of Economic Development in connection with the Native American and Frontier Communities Initiative of the Main Street program; complete an archeological survey; and obtain community and public support for the project.

Robyn was able to find three experts in the restoration of historic buildings who are willing to serve as volunteer advisors to the project. Robert Brown of East Alstead, New Hampshire successfully completed the restoration of a mill dating from 1767 as a leader in his historical society. Larry Sheffield of Scottsdale, Arizona restored historic commercial buildings in the Alamogordo, N.M. area. And Martha C. Cutts of Washington, D.C. oversaw the \$17 million renovation of a mid-20th century building. David Campbell, Esq., the former Albuquerque City Attorney and former City Manager has also agreed to be a volunteer advisor.

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President's Message



BY: ROBYN HOFFMAN

Last month I returned from visiting my sister and her family in Switzerland for the holidays. It was my ninth Christmas in Switzerland, as my parents lived in Geneva when I was in high school and college. My sister Wendy lives in one of the oldest towns in Switzerland, the medieval town of Rheinfelden, established in 1130, right on the Rhein River outside of Basel. Wendy lives in a 560-year-old building, the restored Kommanderie, a national historic monument. It was originally the hostel and hospital of the Knights of St. John (Johanniterorden), the second iteration of the way station for these Knights of the Crusades. The original Kommanderie was established outside the city walls and provided care to the crusaders. But it was destroyed in 1448, and rebuilt inside the city walls in the mid-15th century. Then for the next century or two, it was a stop for pilgrims voyaging to Jerusalem.

In 1980, there were plans to demolish the remains of this stone building, but community advocacy defeated them. For twenty years, the property stood deteriorating without preservation. Then a developer began the years-long task of historic preservation and restoration, working through layers of government regulations of the town, the Canton and the Federation. Today it is a multi-family residence on a cobblestone courtyard next to the historic chapel and Tower, on a grassy hill overlooking the Rhein River with a view to the bridge across the river to Germany. It remains on the historic tour map of Rheinfelden, preserving the stories of the crusades and pilgrims of 7 centuries ago.

Also fascinating to me on this trip was seeing the Rheinfelden tradition started in 1541 by the Brotherhood of St. Sebastian to sing a song of thanksgiving at the fountains in the town on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. In 1541 the plague was raging, killing more than a third of the town's 1,000 people. When I was there, all of the lights in the town were turned off during the processional to the fountains by the 12 singers, dressed in black top hats and tails, and they sang the same song that they had sung since 1541. The town has continued this tradition for 480 years, with the exception of two years- 1918 and 2020- the two pandemic years. At the conclusion, the bright Christmas lights were turned back on. It was incredibly moving to be in the cold dark of night and remember all the souls who have perished in these years from pandemics, and brought to mind the connectedness of everything on our planet through the centuries.

We now have our own opportunity to preserve architecture and traditions here. This month the EMHS received the donation of the historic Campo Stone House in San Antonio from Charles and Shirley Jackson. Mr. Jackson is a descendant of Carlos Campo, who built the house in the late 1800s. We are thrilled that EMHS will have a permanent building to house our archives and to conduct our programs. The goal is to have a habitable building restored by 2028. Although the Board has appointed a ten-person planning committee for the restoration of the property, there will also be many opportunities for members to contribute to this community cultural asset. We hope you will join us in accomplishing the preservation of this historic treasure.



The Kommanderie prior to restoration.

Donation of Historic Stone House A Milestone for EMHS, continued

Through the good offices of former Bernalillo County Commissioner Charlene Pyskoty, EMHS obtained a grant of \$5,800 to be used towards start-up expenses. Current Bernalillo County Commissioner Eric Olivas stopped by the February meeting of the Planning Committee to indicate his support. New Mexico State Representative Stefani Lord and Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury have also indicated their willingness to help obtain funding and support.

Since 2022, EMHS Board members have been assisting the Tijeras Creek Cultural Corridor Project (TCCP), a collaboration of the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, the Village of Tijeras and the Carnuel Land Grant, to devise maps, plans, signage and educational materials for the project. The mission of the TCCP is to protect the living cultural landscape of the Tijeras Watershed for current and future generations by creating a sense of place through oral histories, landscape, and relationships between land, animals, water and people.

Information about the Campo Stone House was provided by EMHS to the TCCP for inclusion in its primary educational document, called the Storymap, and when completed, the Campo Stone House is envisioned to be a site for visitors following the paths on the TCCP trails system to learn about the region.

EMHS member Kathy Freas has volunteered to spearhead the acquisition of water and waste water treatment, and Phil Leckman is leading the archeological survey. Members of the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo have also offered their archeological knowledge and experience to help. Several areas are still in need of leadership: media and public relations, scribe to take meeting minutes, publications and graphics, grants and fund-raising, hospitality and gratitude acknowledgment/donor relations.

The Planning Committee meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month in Tijeras Village Hall. If you are interested in attending or volunteering, please contact Robyn Hoffman or Andre Larroque.

EMHS will finally have a permanent home in 2028!

NEWS AND NOTES

A hearty welcome to our newest members: ***Allison Barnes family, Cheryl Meyer of Edgewood; Sharon Marks and David Engelman family, Nancy Holt family, Phil and Mary Mercier family of Sandia Park; Brenda Sanders family of Tijeras, Michael Rohrbacher family, Steven and Donna Rospopo family of Albuquerque; Jay Blackwood of Rio Rancho; and David Gutierrez of Camarrillo, CA.***

Welcome also to our honorary members voted in by the Board: ***Sandra Crespín Lucero of Sandia Park; Maria Linda Herrera of Carnuel.***

EMHS needs tech-savvy volunteers to lend their expertise in web-site design and maintenance, cloud-based document management services such as Google Drive, and on-line payment processes services like PayPal and Square. If you or someone you know is familiar with these areas and would be willing to help, please contact Webmaster Hallie Brown at halliejanebrown@gmail.com

A Tribute to Albert Noyer

Albert Noyer, longtime East Mountain artist, author and one of the founding members of EMHS, passed away in November 2022. Noyer took minutes at the first official EMHS meeting in 1993 and spent two years on the EMHS board. Significantly, he designed the original EMHS logo, which the organization used in all its literature, materials and on the original website; it continues to be used today in an updated form. Noyer also helped EMHS launch its first fundraising effort when he created and donated a wood-cut piece of artwork of the Tijeras historic church, which EMHS printed on notecards sold at events. Albert and his wife, Jennifer Noyer, founded the non-profit volunteer Mountain Arts Community Center group in the 1990s which advocated for the construction of an East Mountain Community Center dedicated to the performing and fine arts. Their efforts led to the development of the Vista Grande Community Center in Sandia Park. He and Jennifer served on the Board of the Route 66 Arts Alliance for more than a decade, helping support local artists and community theater. He was a member of Holy Child Parish. Funeral services were held in December at San Antonito Catholic Church.



Original East Mountain Historical Society Logo design by Albert Noyer

2022 Annual Meeting held at Carnuel Land Grant Hall Nov. 13, 2022

Thanks to the Carnuel Land Grant Association for opening their hall for the EMHS 2022 Annual Meeting. This was the first in-person annual meeting since the Covid pandemic. The EMHS members elected two additional Board members, Bev Neville, prior President returning as a Board member after a year's hiatus, and Amy Padilla, who served as the original EMHS Archivist under the New Mexico Humanities Council grant. The other 10 Board members are continuing in their second year of their two-year terms. A technical amendment to the Bylaws was also approved by unanimous vote.

After presentations by the President and Committee Chairs of the activities and accomplishments of 2022, the highlight of the afternoon was the panel discussion by three experts in historic preservation who encouraged EMHS to move forward with the restoration of the Campo Stone House. Thanks also to Debbie Post (Program Committee) and Robyn Hoffman (President) for organizing the event, Hallie Brown (Social Media, Website, and Budget) for selling our calendars and books, Rick Holben (Vice President) and Dick Brown for transporting books and calendars from our storage unit and setup, Jeannie Place (Treasurer) and Maria Dresser for refreshments, Jeannie for signing up membership renewals, and volunteers Caroline Hess and Kathy Freas for help with setup and cleanup. And thanks to all volunteers who lent a helping hand!



Attendees at the 2022 Annual Meeting. Photo Credit: Sandra Lee.



Hallie Brown selling 2023 calendars, there is still time to purchase yours! Photo Credit: Sandra Lee.



Panelists Larry Sheffield, David Engelman, and Will Powell. Photo Credit: Sandra Lee.

Jesus Maria Baca and other Early Settlers of Cedar Grove

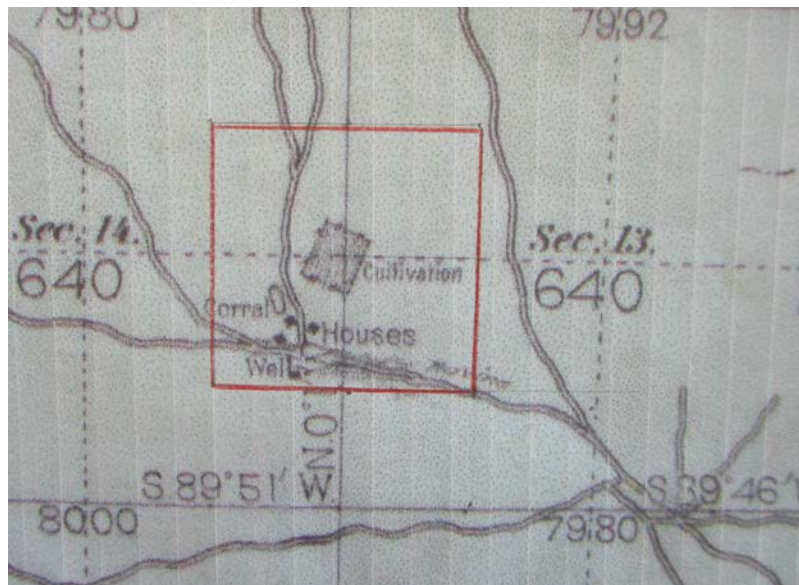
BY: RICK HOLBEN

An article in the Nov. 29, 1903 Albuquerque Weekly Citizen relates a story of Abel Baca, who was discovered lying at the bottom of a placer mine in San Lazarus Canyon (near today's Oro Quay Road and N.M. 344), where for nearly 48 hours he suffered from hunger and a broken leg. Abel had been watering his father's goats when he accidentally fell 15 feet into the pit. The article said Abel's bone protruded through the skin and he was in serious condition, adding that "his recovery is doubtful." He he must have made a full recovery, however, because in 1910 he married Anita Chavez, also of San Pedro, raised a family and lived until 1964. Baca was the son of Jesus Maria Baca.

Baca's story surfaced when I began researching the history of my own property and that of my neighbors in the Cedar Grove area, wondering who had lived on this land prior to me. My research focused on Jesus Maria Baca, the first homesteader. He and other homesteaders populated the vast majority of the Estancia Valley prior to the early 20th century.

My land is in the southeast quarter of the 160-acre homestead patented to Jesus Maria Baca in 1909, issued under the authority of the 1862 Original Homestead Entry Act, which required claimants to occupy and improve the land for five years. This shows Baca had lived on the property since at least 1904, but other evidence indicates he may have settled there even earlier.

Born in 1844 in Santa Fe, Jesus Maria Baca was tied into the wealthy Ortiz family through his mother Rita Tafoya, daughter of Francisco Ortiz y Tafoya. 1870 and 1880 census records show him living in Santa Fe as a "farmer" with first wife Guadalupe and children Alejandro, Francisca and Rosaria. By the 1900 census he was in San Pedro with second wife Maria and four additional children: Jacobo, Ignacia, Abel and Guadalupe. The youngest, Abel, was born in 1889 in Santa Fe, but an obituary says Jesus' wife died in May of 1895 "at San Pedro", narrowing his arrival to the area to the early 1890s.



A 1907 U.S. survey of Township 11 Range 7 by surveyor W.W. Corbet includes a detailed sketch of Jesus Maria Baca's claim straddling Sections 13 and 14. Improvements included three homes, a well, corral and cultivated land.

A stagecoach road established in 1857 by Edward Fitzgerald Beale passes east to west less than half a mile to the south of the Baca claim, ruts of which are still visible on Google Earth, extending from the Cedar Grove area northeast past Stanley. (A modern landmark and good way to view these ruts are by locating the Walkin' In Circles Horse Rescue Ranch – the ruts can be seen on the eastern fence line of their property). Maps from the 1870s-80s show a road branching off Beale's road heading north to Galisteo and Las Vegas, which would have passed near or perhaps even through Baca's homestead. Northeasterly rows of trees and ruts show evidence of what may have been the path of this road, which would have intersected Beales road near what is now Packer Road and Highway 344, crossing the northwest corner of Baca's claim.

Jesus is listed in the 1900 census as a "freighter" and these roads would have made easy access for whatever he was hauling. These would have been important routes in the late 19th century, prior to the homestead era and creation of modern roads that generally follow section lines.

In addition to farming and freighting, Baca also apparently ran a sawmill. The Feb. 19, 1902 Albuquerque Daily Citizen notes that "Jesus Maria Baca is one of the oldest wood contractors of the Santa Fe Gold & Copper Co.," saying he recently was contracted to supply the Santa Fe Central Railroad with railroad ties, telegraph poles and pilings for tracks being built between Ortiz and Michael Moriarty's Ranch.

A 1907 U.S. survey of Township 11 Range 7 by surveyor W.W. Corbet includes a detailed sketch of Jesus Maria Baca's claim straddling Sections 13 and 14. Improvements included three homes, a well, corral and cultivated land. The map also includes sections of roads and trails that were likely important to local commerce and travel at the time. Several from the northwest converge at Baca's ranch, one of which connects directly with the homestead of Joseph Sandoval Black, Jesus' future grandson-in-law, who held the second patent issued in the area on Nov. 8, 1909.

One road leading southeasterly from Baca's ranch connected to the old Beale's wagon road less than a half of a mile to the south, and followed a ravine that crosses the lower section of 40 acres purchased in 1972 by Ralph Raymond Davies, most of which is now my property. An interesting feature along this ravine is an earthen dam, likely constructed to collect water for irrigation or watering livestock, remnants of which remain to this day. The age of the dam is unknown but it could certainly date back to when Jesus Baca was using the land. A 1954 USGS topographic map shows the dam as holding water.

The 1910 census records show Jesus Maria Baca still living with Maria; a son George; and daughter Guadalupe with her husband Desiderio Nieto. Jesus Maria Baca died in 1917 and is buried in the San Pedro cemetery.

A patent on 80 acres north of Jesus Maria Baca's homestead was obtained in 1922 by Teresita Black and her siblings Jose and Herminia Baca. Teresita, Jose and Herminia were children of Jesus' son Alejandro. Teresita was born in 1900 to Alejandro and Agueda Cunningham. Agueda was born in 1880 in San Pedro, the daughter of goldsmith Miguel Cunningham. Teresita married Joseph Trevino Black, son of Joseph Sandoval Black and Maria Enginia Montano. Joseph's homestead is located at the end of what is now Sandoval Road, less than a mile from Jesus Maria Baca's ranch. His was the second homestead issued in the township after Jesus Baca's. Joseph Sandoval Black was born in 1877 to Clarence Black, an English immigrant who arrived in the U.S. in 1869, and Francisquita Sandoval, born at San Juan Pueblo in 1855.

In 1919 Francisquita Black received a patent for 160 acres adjoining Joseph Sandoval Black's claim on the south. Joseph's main occupations were farming and cattle, but his WWI draft card indicates he owned a store and his 1937 death certificate shows he had been a practicing chiropractor in Albuquerque for the seven years before his death. News articles from the early 20th century show that before moving to Albuquerque he was involved with local San Pedro/Cedar Grove precinct politics, school board positions and was even road supervisor in 1906.

Joseph's son Joseph Trevino Black and Teresita Black applied for a post office in 1925 by the name of "Carnahan" at what is now Lone Mountain Ranch on the Ortiz Land Grant. The office opened in 1927 and closed in 1930. It is unclear why they opened the post office; neither acted as postmaster. The 1930 census lists them living in San Pedro, with Joe's occupation as "miner". Business directories of the same era show them having an address in Albuquerque on south Second Street and running a store.

The 240 acres adjoining Jesus Maria Baca's claim on the south and southeast was patented to Miguel R. Montano in 1921 under a 1909 Enlarged Homestead Entry act that allowed claimants up to 320 acres for lands considered "desert or non-irrigable." Miguel was born in 1888 in Casa Salazar, N.M., near Placitas. It appears the family had residences in both Placitas and San Pedro. The 1900 census shows the family within several dwellings of both Joseph Black and Jesus Maria Baca, perhaps indicating they occupied the land Miguel later received a homestead patent for in 1921. Miguel's 1917 draft registration shows him married with four children, living at San Pedro as a farmer. A September 1917 notice in the Albuquerque Morning Journal reports 34 men from Sandoval County's 2nd Contingent of the U.S. Army departing on a special Santa Fe train, including "Miguel Montano of San Pedro".

160 acres adjoining the northwest corner of Jesus Maria Baca's claim was acquired by Libertita Trujillo in 1919. The 1910 San Pedro census lists her as a 55-year-old widow living with three young children and her mother. Libertita and her eldest, 16-year-old Anita, did laundry work. The 1920 census shows the family living in Albuquerque on High Street. The oldest son Max is listed as head of household and a rancher owner, indicating they were working East Mountain land they had acquired the year before. In 1930 the family was still living in Albuquerque but on North Broadway, with Libertita as head of household living with two daughters-in-law and three sons listed as unemployed miners.

Background image: Remnants of an old earthen watering dam for irrigation and livestock remain to this day on the writer's property in Cedar Grove. The age of the dam is unknown but it could certainly date back to the early 1900s when Jesus Baca was using the land. Photo by Rick Holben

On the east side of Jesus Maria's claim was a 320-acre parcel patented in 1921 to Frank Seth, 25. Seth was born in Missouri and lived in Oklahoma before arriving in New Mexico. His 1917 draft card shows he was single and a self-employed farmer living in Hyer, N.M. In 1918, Seth married 16-year-old Ruth May Eden of Barton, N.M. and the 1920 census lists them living in San Pedro near Joe and Teresita Black. By 1930, they had moved to Albuquerque's San Jose neighborhood, with Frank working as a pipe fitter for the Santa Fe Railroad until his death in 1964.

The present addresses 988C and 988D on N.M. 344 belong to two private residences contained in a 40 acre tract of land that was purchased in 1972 by Ralph Raymond Davies. Davies was born in 1923 in Taiban, N.M. and grew up near Fort Sumner. After serving in the South Pacific in WWII he married Jimmie Skipworth in 1946. They moved to Albuquerque, where Davies began work at Sandia Corporation/Labs in 1953 and remained employed for 31 years. Shortly after Davies purchased the 40 acres near Cedar Grove, he began construction on the home that is now 988D on N.M. 344, where he lived until his death in 2008. In 1990, Davies' daughter and son-in-law built what is now 988C on a six-acre tract in the northeast corner of the 40 acre tract that includes most of my land. I live in Davie's original home.

Rick Holben wrote many stories in Timelines of the East Mountains and has continued to conduct research since its 2020 publication. Readers are invited to clip or print this 2023 article to add to the book's Homesteaders section.