

## THS 2026 Spring Newsletter

### Dispatches from the President's Desk

I want to welcome the new Board of Directors and I want to thank those members that agreed to a new term. I'd like to offer a heartfelt thank you to Dimity Hammon and Andi Miritello for their involvement and leadership over the last few years and for caring deeply about the organization.

THS's website administrator discovered frequent hacking attacks on our website. She recommended that we strengthen our website security by selecting new website software that has stronger security features, and recommended the website software by Wix. This software also has numerous features that are easier to use than our current software. At its January 28 meeting the THS Board approved a plan to convert to the new website software. This is an unanticipated opportunity to re-design and update our website. This should take place during the next month or two.

We continue our planning to offer tours of the South "Barrio" 10-acre archaeological site, just south of the Presidio. This Tubac Pueblo is owned by the Archaeological Conservancy of Albuquerque, and several THS Board members are site stewards for this site on behalf of the Archaeological Conservancy. Plans are for Phil Halpenny, a THS member, to do several tours a year. He did these tours a few years ago, so is the perfect person to resume them.

Plans continue to update the THS library through improved organization and acquiring additional relevant books. Contact Dan if you are interested in helping with this project.

I am working to strengthen relationships between THS and several of its partners, such as the Presidio, other area historical societies, the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area, genealogy groups, *etc.*

A new initiative that should be of great interest to THS members is to start a regular printed history publication. Current plans envision this as a short, printed magazine, perhaps published several times a year that will feature brief articles and illustrations on various Tubac and Upper Santa Cruz River historical events. As a parallel feature, longer and more-detailed companion articles will be posted on the THS website.

The "voices" of our history are among the most important aspect of collecting Tubac history. We continue our strong and very successful oral history program, thanks to the diligent work of Kathleen Vandervoet, Karen Wilson, Susan Beaton and Grace Alegria.

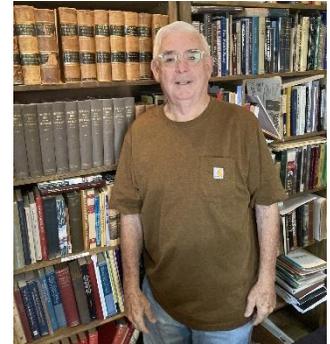
We are working toward member fieldtrips each year, to nearby areas of historical interest. We will post information as soon as details are finalized.

Work continues on a 3D video featuring Tubac through time showing the village change through the years, and from unique and creative viewpoints. I think this is going to be a real eye-catching way to visualize our history.

We encourage folks to get involved in the many different THS projects, and with library work, writing, research, presentations, and field-trip planning and logistics. We also need help with more-routine maintenance matters such as photocopying, scanning, mailings, envelope stuffing, fund-raising, filing, and such. We're also looking for photographers for a new set of photos in Tubac, at the Presidio, at Tumacácori, and the Upper Santa Cruz Valley to make our newly designed website even more engaging and exciting.

As the THS president, I plan to keep focused on our mission to "Support research on the history of Tubac and the Santa Cruz River Valley, preserve that history, and share with the public."

*Dan Judkins, President*





## January Annual Meeting and New Board

The annual THS Member Meeting took place on January 8. A President's Report summarizing the 2025 THS activities and accomplishments was presented by outgoing President Dimity Hammon. Chuck Galloway gave a Treasurer's Report. Kathleen Vandervoet reported that 11 oral histories were added this past year so we now have about 150 in our collection. All oral histories are accessible to members and the public at the research center. Three Board members reached the end of their term and were willing to continue for another term. The three were re-elected to the Board for another two-year term – Rick Collins, Brenda Camou, and Dimity Hammon.

Immediately after the Member Meeting, the annual special board meeting took place, to elect 2026 officers. Dan Judkins was elected as the president, and the three other officers were re-elected for 2026: Diane Brooks as Vice President, Chuck Galloway as Treasurer, and Grace Alegria as Secretary.

*Dan Judkins, President*



## Tubac Historical Society Events

The fall 2025 – spring 2026 event season started off with THS engaging the community in support of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Anza's departure from Tubac for San Francisco. November brought an afternoon wine and cheese in the Presidio schoolhouse featuring a question-and-answer session with archeologists, Dimity Hammon and Dr. Christopher Doyle.

January and February brought Tubac Festival of the Arts and our Annual Meeting. March, being Women's Day month, will have two events celebrating two women in our area's history. The first will be a coffee hour at the Presidio schoolhouse with Dan Judkins talking about the very interesting *María Rosa Bezerra Nieto*, "Anza's Mom." Phil Halpenny will discuss the fascinating story of *La Valentina* who fought in Mexico during the revolution. Dates and details for both will be on the THS website, and are listed below.

The THS "Potluck-on-the-Patio" is scheduled for 4pm on April 13. This will be in place of our annual THS off-site picnic. This will be a potluck dinner for members. Please sign up on the THS website so that we can anticipate attendance. The signup includes the "category" of dish that you will bring to the potluck (such as salad, entrée, desert, *etc.*). Reserve this date on your calendar.

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE

**February 26, 2026, 3:30-5:00 PM** at THS, 6 Burruel St. **FREE**. Bring your own drink, and a small snack to share.

**"Tubac History on a Thursday Afternoon: history discussion group led by Dan Judkins, "open topics" group discussion, concluding with the "focused-topic" discussion of the "Palo Parado" Indian village archaeological site.**

**March 12, 2026**, 10-11AM at Old Schoolroom at Tubac Presidio. **\$15.00 fee**, with advanced registration strongly encouraged at THS website: <https://ths-tubac.org/>.  
“**Doña María Rosa Bezerra Nieto, 1740-1760: 6 Ranches, 6 Children, 3 Mines, and a Store,**” by Dan Judkins.

**March 18, 2026**, 5:00PM at Tubac Center for the Arts, 9 Plaza Rd. **FREE**. (donations encouraged)  
“**Sonoran Revolutionary Female Militia,**” a 30-minute presentation by Phil Halpenny, followed by a showing of the movie *La Cucaracha* about Valentina Ramírez Avitia. Valentina hot sauce and chips will be served, and maybe some popcorn and drinks.

**March 26, 2026**, 3:30-5:00 PM at THS, 6 Burruel St. **FREE**. Bring your own drink, and a small snack to share.  
“**Tubac History on a Thursday Afternoon: history discussion group led by Dan Judkins,**” “open topics” group discussion, concluding with the “focused-topic” discussion of “Apaches Mansos Living at Tubac in the 1840s.”

**April 13, 2026**, 4 PM at THS, 6 Burruel St. **FREE**. **Please bring a dish. Sign up on the THS Website.**  
“**Potluck on the Patio,**” a potluck dinner gathering at THS.

**June 25, 2026**, 10-11 AM at Old Schoolroom at Tubac Presidio. **\$15.00 fee**, with advanced registration strongly encouraged at THS website: <https://ths-tubac.org/>  
“**Spain and the American Revolution – Looking Back at State Secrets from 250 Years Later.**” A fascinating part of history you may have never heard of before, including Anza collecting a “donativo” throughout New Mexico in support of the American Colonists, Franklin’s Glass Armonica musical instrument, Ben Franklin’s secret negotiations with Spain in Paris, many shiploads of military arms and equipment, and Bernardo de Gálvez.

*Diane Brooks, Events Committee Chair*

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## NEW SIGNAGE AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY HQ

The “Customs House” which serves as the headquarters for THS got new signage, correcting the “Customs” misnomer and with the correct history-that is was a Border Patrol Station and not a Customs House. The famous Tubac building was built in 1917. It served as a second store for the Garrett family. The original Garrett store, located on the Tubac Presidio property, was a combination store and house rented by the family when they arrived in 1914. The family built the first two story house in Tubac and built a store on Burruel Street. The store was leased to the government as a Border Patrol station in 1926. Later it would serve as a barracks for a military school for boys from both sides of the border, a residence, an art gallery, and now THS command central.



**The two-story house can be seen on the left and the Border Patrol station is on the right**

## *HISTORY BITS*

### *Los Nogales...“The Walnut Trees”*

Everyone in Arizona knows, or should know about the town of Nogales, but few know why it is named “the walnut trees”. If there is any thought given to the name it is simply brushed off by saying that it is derived from walnut trees that grew along the wash running through the center of Nogales. In fact it is now possible to pinpoint the location of the trees, and to understand why they were where they were.

Frank Oury (son of the somewhat notorious William Oury of Tucson) surveyed the boundaries of a land grant claim that included what is now the twin towns on both sides of the Arizona-Mexico border for a land grant claim put forth by a famous Sonora family. The claim was titled “Los Nogales de Elías” after the Elías family who claimed to have established it in 1841 and obtained a title in January 7, 1843 [*municipiodenogales.org/English/history/1841, pp. 1-2.*]

Oury’s complete map of the land grant claim showed all of the boundaries:

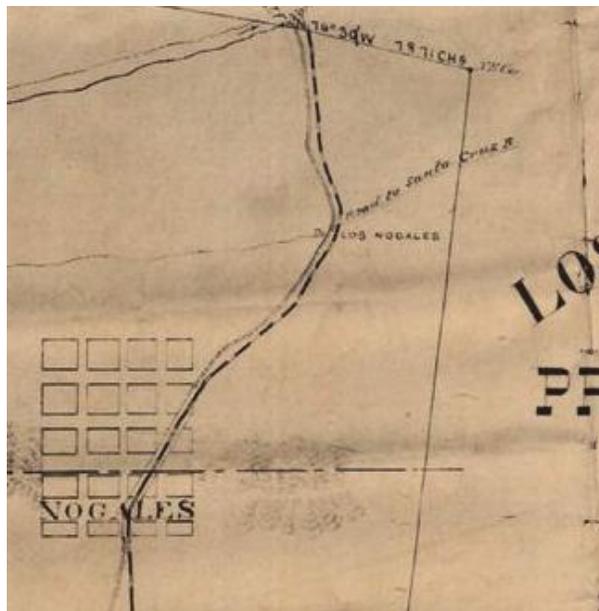


[Arizona Memory Project website.]

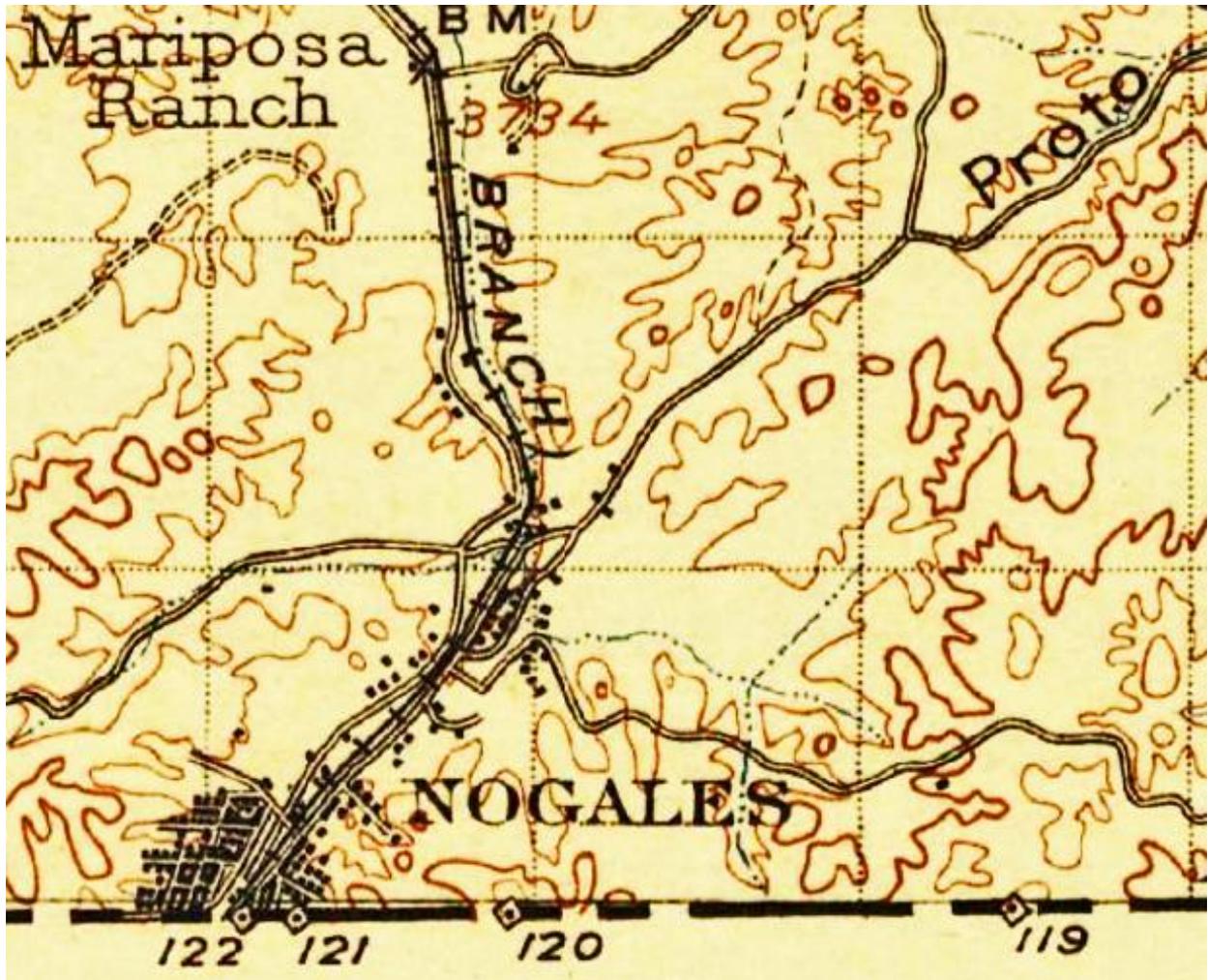
The International Boundary cuts through the upper center of the map: the Claim extended across both countries. The town of Nogales is shown straddling the boundary in the east center of the map.

What is more interesting however are the details shown just northeast of the town, which can be seen in the enlargement:

Here “Los Nogales” are shown northeast of the town, opposite a stream coming from the west. The “road to the Santa Cruz R(iver)” starts from Los Nogales and goes in a northeast direction. Alberto Suarez Barnett, the Nogales Sonora town historian notes that this was the Elías family’s headquarters for the Grant, and that it is approximately where the Patagonia Road overpass is today [*municipiodenogales,ibid.*].

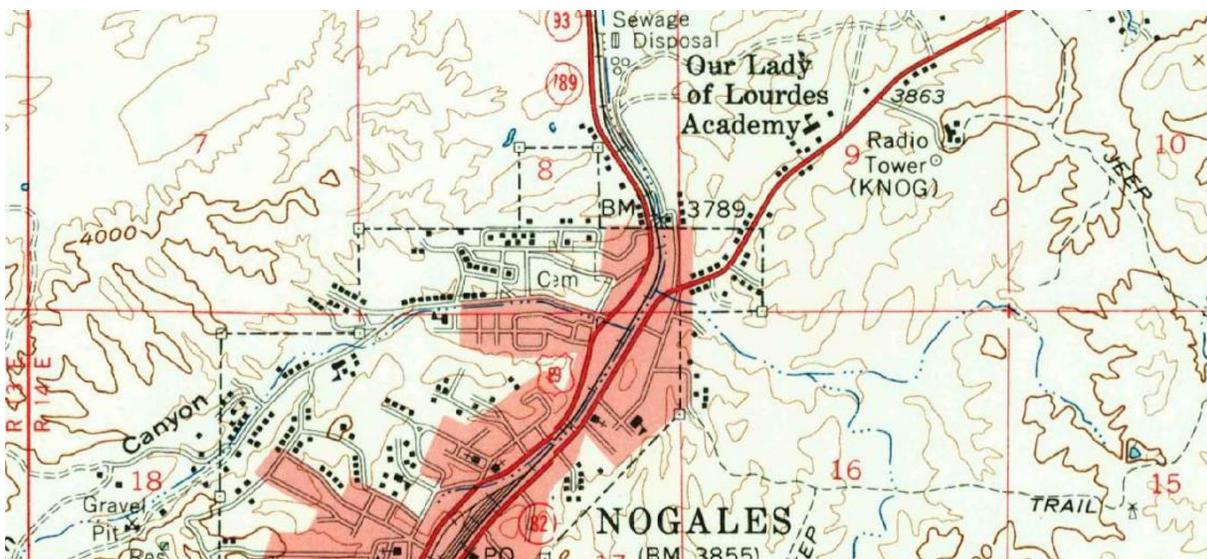


The 1905 USGS map shows the roads more clearly.



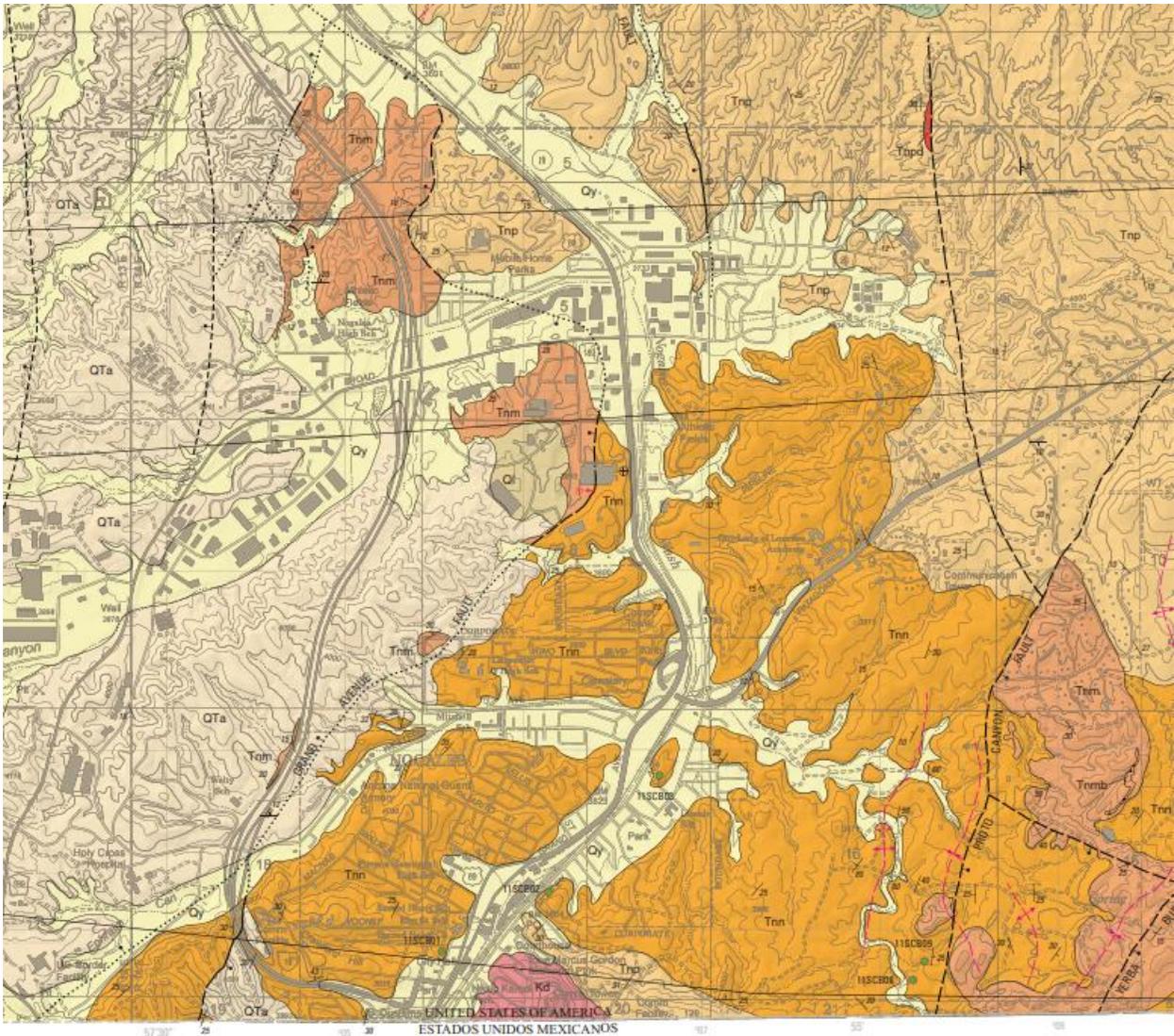
The Patagonia Road goes northeast through Proto Canyon, while a road and stream come from the west, Ephraim Canyon. There are other streams coming from the southeast.

The 1958 map (USGS Nogales 15-minute quad) shows the drainages more clearly. Western Avenue comes from the west through Ephraim Canyon (it is possible that the land for the cemetery was donated by Leopold Ephraim: *Jewish Museum of the American West, 2013, Leopold Ephraim exhibit*) while the Patagonia Road (Highway 82) goes northeast past the Academy.



The geologic map makes clear why this site was “Los Nogales”. From the border north the valley is extremely narrow, but at the confluence of Ephraim Canyon and Proto Canyon the valley widens slightly: the minor drainages from the east all converge toward the confluence.

Thus, this is a place where there is bottom land which can accumulate sediments, where underflow from the ephemeral streams supply water and where occasional floods also contribute to an undersurface water supply not available in the narrow, rocky upstream area. Of course, even farther north are the larger valleys of Mariposa Wash and, even further north, the Potrero wetlands and ponds (“Las Lagunas”) off the north edge of the map.



[U.S. Geological Survey W. R. Page, et. al., 2016 Scientific Investigations Map 3354.]

Los Nogales was of considerable significance apart from being a rancho. Lt. Emory established a main camp here when delineating the International Boundary in 1855. He held an important meeting with the leaders of groups along the Gila River who had come to ask him about the implications of coming under U. S. rule.

[U.S. and Mexican Boundary Survey, 1857, Report of William H. Emory, U. S. Commissioner, Vol. I, 34<sup>th</sup> Cong. 1<sup>st</sup> Sess., House Executive Document No. 135, p. 96.]

In the sketch of the boundary monument on the Line, the title is “near Los Nogales” which indicates Los Nogales was not at the Boundary Line. [*ibid.*, sketch No. 32.]

Lt. Micheler, who was a part of Emory’s party, had to travel to meet Emory at Los Nogales, leaving the Santa Cruz Valley at Calabasas:

Leaving the Santa Cruz river at the rancho, and following up the pretty little valley of Los Nogales for several miles, brought me to the camp of the United States commissioner. It was a gratifying sight, and refreshing to the senses, as I traversed these valleys, to see them clothed with rich green verdure, and contrast them with the bleached barrenness of the Colorado and Gila.

[*ibid.*, p. 118].

And Micheler, when leaving the area, had this to say:

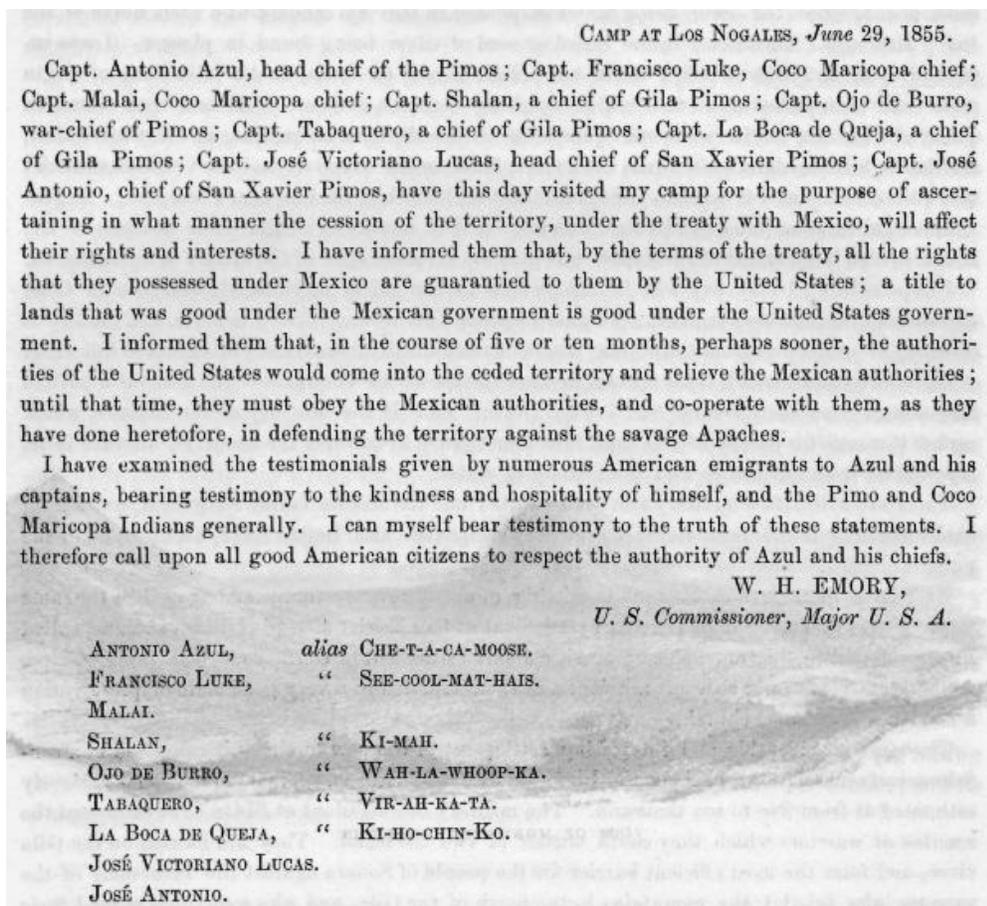
Leaving the “Potrero” in the valley of Los Nogales, where my party had been encamped for a few days, we started for the monument at the intersection of the parallel 31° 20', and the

[*ibid.*, p. 119.]

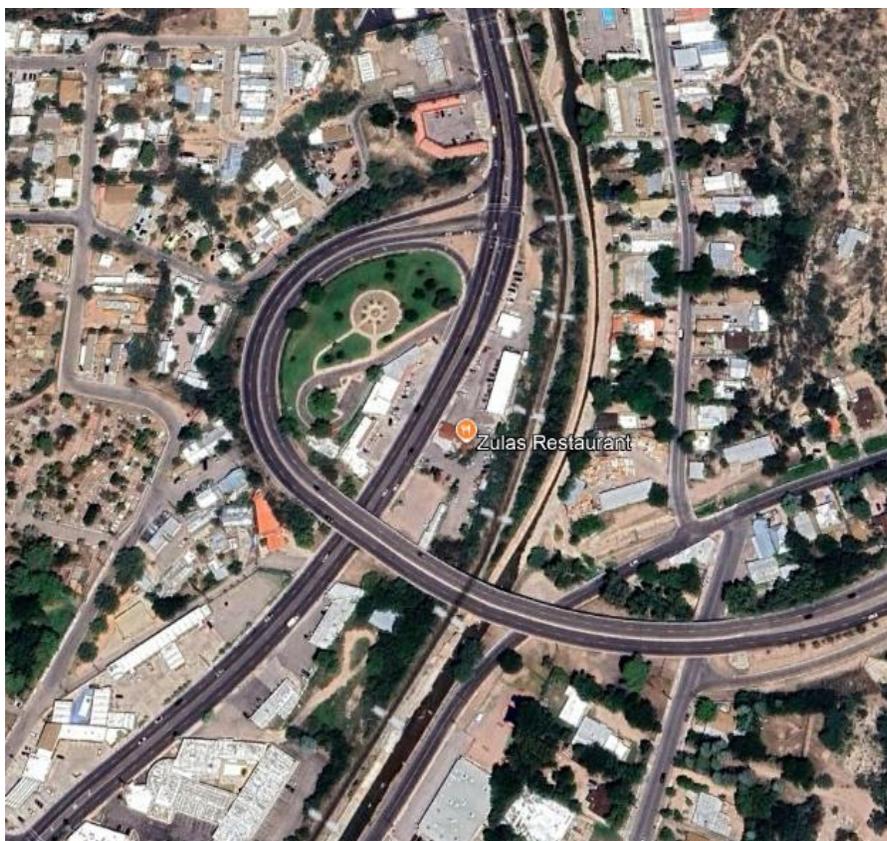
Presumably the “Potrero” refers to the Potrero Marsh (Las Lagunas), but it is interesting that the valley is identified as “Los Nogales” rather than Potrero.

After the railroad was completed in 1882, the railroad crossing at the International Boundary became the center of economic activity and so the locus of the town shifted to the Border. “Los

Nogales” as a site was no longer significant. Availability of water and grazing for animals became irrelevant, although the first municipal water system was developed by Leopold Ephraim just north of the Los Nogales site at Ephraim Canyon.



All that is left of “Los Nogales” today is a little park inside the circle of the Highway 82 (Patagonia Road) overpass. Zula’s restaurant, long a fixture of the Nogales landscape, overlooks it.



## Membership:

**Have you renewed your membership in the Tubac Historical Society?** Your membership helps preserve Tubac's incredible history and even its art! Your membership also helps to keep our research center open and digitize our collection for researchers and genealogists. A quarterly newsletter informs our members about things past and present, and sometimes the future, in Tubac's history.



Send a check to: **Tubac Historical Society** PO Box 3261, Tubac, AZ 85646 or complete the online membership form at: Support/Membership on our website ([ths-tubac.org](http://ths-tubac.org)).  
Extend your membership for two years and receive a discount. Join/Renew ONLINE Today!



## Olden Day Recipes

### Bannock Bread (made in a frying pan)

Bread can be a laborious process. Bannock gives you the great taste of bread without the long process. Bannock can be made on the grill so you don't have to heat the house in summer (*which will be here faster than we care to think*)

- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- Water



**Mix dry ingredients. Add just enough cold water to make a stiff dough. Working the dough as little as possible, form a one to two-inch thick cake. Lay the cake on a greased, pre-warmed skillet. Brown the bottom of the cake, lightly, and flip or turn with a spatula to brown the other side.**

Once both sides are lightly browned, prop the skillet on the stove (or fire) and let it bake. Test for doneness by thumping the cake. A hollow ringing sound indicates doneness. You can also stick a toothpick into the loaf.