



SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

Dear HSFF Member and Friend,

A new year of newsletter and four months of activities under our belts – the Historic Santa Fe Foundation is venturing into new territory in more ways than one. But let's discuss the one.

The Board of Directors has undertaken a major project of analysis and planning in order to refine the focus of the Foundation for the future. This was prompted by our sale of the Garcia House in December 2016 – a major decision and undertaking for this organization. We are blessed with a buyer, and new neighbor to our Vigil House, who is a good steward of the property and will maintain the provisions of the preservation easement placed on the house at the sale. You have noticed over the past several years our partnering with other organizations on specific projects and events – OSFA, New Mexico HPD, NPS Historic Trails, The Academy for the Love of Learning, etc. Those outreach, education and research initiatives are critical to our future planning. We span preservation, architecture, cultural landscapes, history and art (with our monthly exhibitions at El Zaguán) and need to refine our role in each of these areas of critical importance to the culture of Santa Fe.



As a result, we are not holding our annual Mother's Day Tour this year. Rather we are analyzing that event within the critical approach of the planning process. We are partnering with Cornerstones Community Partnerships and several other sponsors to hold four consecutive adobe brick making extravaganzas on the first four Saturdays in May, 2017, alternating between the Palace of the Governors courtyard and the front courtyard of San Miguel Chapel. This is hands-on, dirty fun that can involve anyone in the community or those visiting the city. As part of Preservation Month it is a month-long event, in addition to the annual Heritage Preservation Awards put on by the city, OSFA and HSFF on May 18 at San Miguel Chapel. We also are proud to have nominated the winning Heritage Publication Award presented by CPRC on May 12 to Maurice Dixon for his book *The Artistic Odyssey of Higinio V. Gonzales*. And, just because we are proud of it, we remind you that we have won the Lansing B. Bloom Award, which is given annually by the Historical Society of New Mexico for an outstanding publication in New Mexico or Southwest borderlands history and will have picked up that award in Flagstaff while this award-winning newsletter is being printed.

Adobe Brick Making, courtesy Cornerstones

We want your input as we move forward. Please let us know what you think about anything we do or should do. In the meantime enjoy this issue as we look at another change we have physically made at El Zaguán, our incoming summer intern, and two wonderful interviews focused on the history and importance of acequias in Santa Fe.

Heartfelt thanks for all your support.

Pete Warzel, HSFF Director



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Our Mission

is to preserve, protect, and promote the historic properties and diverse cultural heritage of the Santa Fe area and to educate the public about Santa Fe's history and the importance of preservation.

The Acequia de la Muralla

*An Interview and Tour with
B. C. Rimbeaux and Brad Perkins*

*Conducted and edited by Deborah and Jon Lawrence
December 5, 2016*

Santa Fe's acequias today are not simply about water. They are a social structure, an association, with a set of regulations that reinforce the necessity of living in harmony with each other and with the land. Indeed, the term 'acequia' refers not only to the physical ditch, but also to the system of community self-governance. The mayor-domo manages the acequia's irrigation system and is the caretaker of the ditch. He is considered to be the digno de confianza (worthy of being trusted) and el fiel del agua (faithful with the water). A parciante is an irrigator who owns water rights that is attached to his land.

DJL (Deborah and Jon Lawrence): How much of the Muralla ditch is still operable?

BP (Brad Perkins): It is operable from the headgate in Armijo Park to Joe Anaya's property at 1117 East Alameda.

DJL: Does the operable section of the Muralla maintain its historical integrity or has it been altered in significant ways?

BCR (B. C. Rimbeaux): As far as I know, it has not changed its course.

DJL: What are the major dangers threatening the ditch?

BCR: Lack of information that the ditch exists and is a useful, valuable resource. Even people who have a water right might see it simply as rippling water or as a nuisance. In that case they are not going to care about the acequia, and if they don't care, it won't be maintained. When water is running in the acequia and someone doesn't maintain his section, it can dam up, overflow, and go into a neighbor's yard. A Historic Santa Fe Foundation plaque could signal the acequia's importance to property owners along the ditch.

DJL: The ditch is operated by the Acequia de Muralla Association. How is it governed?



BCR: We have commissioners and we have a set of bylaws. Joe Anaya is the chairman, or president. I am the mayordomo. Joel Olson is the secretary, Courtney Mathey is the treasurer and Brad Perkins is the commissioner at-large.

DJL: *How many parciantes belong to the Acequia de la Muralla Association and how many of these people are active irrigators?*

BCR: There are 15 parciantes and 8 of them are actual irrigators.

DJL: *Does the acequia border or run through the property of all of your parciantes, or does the Muralla include laterals that bring the water to the property of parciantes who do not live directly on the ditch?*

BCR: Everyone lives on the ditch.

DJL: *What are your duties as mayordomo?*

BCR: The mayordomo's main responsibility is to manage the water and the distribution of the water from the ditch.

BP: I would add that, as the mayordomo, B.C. is the number one grunt. He does all the work.

DJL: *As an example of allocation, Brad, how often do you get water?*

BP: The mayordomo decides. There has to be enough water to rise up to the outlet of the headgate. There is a published schedule which lists how many hours or minutes each parciante gets on the day of the flow. Everyone is scheduled for between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. We've never had a case where someone who wanted it didn't get water. The person nearest the headgate gets the first shot; the person at the end of the acequia gets the last.

DJL: *Does the last person on the ditch get the same amount of water as the first person?*

BCR: Each individual gets the amount of water that he or she has a water right to. Since it can be hard to measure, we are just trying to approximate the amount. On my property, where we have three acres – almost all of it irrigable – we take it for two hours.

DJL: *How many gallons of water do you get in a two-hour stretch?*

BCR: A few thousand gallons, but not everyone uses it all. I think that only Stina Badger and I use all of our allotted water. Everybody else shunts some water, but they don't use it all.

DJL: *What if one of the parciantes neglects his responsibilities and doesn't maintain his section of the acequia? On the annual cleaning day when everyone has to clean his section of the ditch, what does an absentee parciante do?*

BCR: He pays the acequia, and we all pitch in to do his share. We have one spring cleaning, and at that time, if somebody doesn't show up, we will clean his section if we have time or I will call him later and ask him to either to do it or pay for us to do it. The money goes to the acequia.

BP: B.C. isn't telling you how much of the work he actually does. As I said, he's the grunt. He walks the ditch regularly. He does a lot of the cleaning on his own before the April cleanup day. And he does repairs, such as to the headgate.

DJL: *How often do you walk the acequia?*

BCR: I try to walk it every day when the water is flowing. I walk it once or twice during the winter.

DJL: *Do you, as mayordomo, really have to do the preliminary cleaning before April?*

BCR: I don't have to. I could hire somebody, but it's more trouble to hire and supervise someone than to simply get a shovel and clean it out. In the spring when we are getting ready for our annual cleaning, I like to get a head start. The beginning of the ditch, in Armijo Park, is on city land so no parciante is individually responsible for it. I like to start on that section myself. This also lets me show people the kind of cleaning that I would like to get done – people have their own ideas about cleaning the acequia.

DJL: *Concerning how the rights are allocated, what happens when there are two owners? Brad, you are a parciante. As co-owner of the property, is your wife a parciante too? Can both you and your wife vote at acequia meetings and are you both responsible for the maintenance of the ditch?*

BP: We do not have two votes.

BCR: The water rights go with the property. It is a single water right, so whoever owns the water right becomes the parciante. If two people have their name on the deed, they still have only one water right and one vote.

DJL: *Your property brings up another question. That home is on top of the hill, above the river bottom where the acequia lies. Does the property of the parciantes who live up above extend down below so that homeowners can take advantage of their water rights?*

BCR: The first two properties after the headgate are homes that are up on top, but the properties extend down to the bottomlands where the acequia water can reach them. Near the other end of Camino Pequeño, the acequia is actually located on four uphill properties that have no irrigable land below the acequia.

DJL: *Does that mean that they have the water rights?*



BCR: No, it doesn't; they were never granted water rights. It really is an example of how Santa Fe did things. The first surveyor said that the line was in one place, so that the acequia was on the downhill property. Fifty years later another surveyor came out and said, "No, the line is over here." That moved the acequia onto the uphill property, but the downhill property owners retained their water rights.

DJL: *We'd like to know how you became interested in the acequia. Brad, how long have you lived on the acequia? When you purchased your property, did you realize the ditch's significance?*

BP: We purchased our home at in 2000. We were not at all aware of the acequia. Fortunately we had a very thorough attorney get involved in it. When he presented us with the final package of documents about the property, he noted that there was an acequia. He had been down to the State Engineer's Office to confirm the validity of our rights to it. We went down to the State Engineer's Office to see

for ourselves. In the old historical records, which we pulled out of the files, "Muralla" was spelled the old Anglo way: "Muraya."

DJL: *B.C., when you purchased your property, did you realize that there was an acequia on it?*

BCR: Yes. I owned and lived in the first property on the acequia. I lived in the Purdy House. That was 10 years ago. While I lived in that house I became the mayor-domo.

DJL: *Were you elected?*

BP: He volunteered.

BCR: Well, someone volunteered me. There was a meeting and I was working on the river and the headgate is next to our property, so in some sense it was natural to have me be mayor-domo.



B. C. Rimbeaux (above right) is the mayordomo of the Acequia de la Muralla. Brad Perkins (above left) is a homeowner on the acequia and a parciante. Photo courtesy the interviewers; Other illustrations by B.C. Rimbeaux.

The Acequias of Santa Fe and the Map of 1912

Interview with Edward "Gonzo" Gonzales

Conducted by Deborah and Jon Lawrence

January 27, 2017

Edward "Gonzo" Gonzales descends from a long line of Santa Fe citizens, dating back to Vargas's reconquista. For nearly 30 years, he worked for the Hydrographic Survey in the State Engineer's office, and for another 13 years he worked as a contractor for federal attorneys to adjudicate water rights in the Southwest. He has served on Santa Fe's city council, on the Fiesta committee, and on the board of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation. For years he worked for the Guadalupe Historic Foundation which successfully preserved the Santuario de Guadalupe from disrepair. As a contribution to the 2012 celebration of the centenary of New Mexico statehood, Gonzales mapped the acequias of Santa Fe, as they existed in 1912, onto the King's Map of the City of Santa Fe.

DJL (Deborah and Jon Lawrence): *We want to ask you about your map, but first we want to learn about your background working with water as an engineer for the state.*

EG (Edward Gonzales): I worked for the State Engineer's Office; my section was the Hydrographic Survey. I don't have a college degree – I went to the College of Santa Fe – but I worked for so long in the engineering field that they had to classify me as an engineer because I was doing all of the work.

Apartment 2B Becomes the East Office

The portion of El Zaguán that now houses The Historic Santa Fe Foundation's offices was once the

center of the Johnson family's home. These rooms were living room, dining room, James and Maria Johnson's bedroom, and a likely detached but nearby kitchen to the east. In the early 1930s, when then owner Margretta Dietrich engaged Kate Chapman to remodel the building into apartments, that kitchen space was replaced with what was known as apartment 2B.



Apartment 2B was a small studio which in recent years had been primarily used to house the Foundation's summer interns. Because the apartment sat empty for most of the year with this arrangement, staff had begun to use it as a quiet retreat for focused work or meetings. With the offices ever overflowing, the decision was made to uncover the original exterior doorway that had led to the kitchen during the Johnsons' time, and connect the spaces.

Before punching a big hole in the wall, Foundation restoration specialists Bobby Wilson and Mara Saxer did some exploratory removal of finish material and drilling to determine whether the door framing had been left in place, as well as to estimate how much to worry about the wall falling in on them. It was discovered that the original entryway, with its deep threshold passing through multiple feet of adobe thickness, was intact. The danger of falling walls was minimal. Only one layer of adobe blocks had been laid to enclose it, which were removed by hand. Once demolition had been completed, the sides and top of the entry were reinforced with wood framing, insulated, and plastered over. As a finishing touch, a border of deep orange color was added to echo trim paint in the apartment.

With these changes, we have redubbed apartment 2B as the east office. It has given HSFF breathing room, and space for our archives. Volunteers have been working diligently to organize, enter in to a database, and properly preserve documents relating to important people and significant buildings in Santa Fe history. Researchers can now peruse the archives in this dedicated space.



I worked at the State Engineer's office from 1956 to 1983. I worked first as a draftsman and then as an aerial photo machine operator, doing three-dimensional maps. Because I can speak Spanish, I was sent out into the field to work with people on surveys, trying to get all of the right information.

DJL: *What did you do after you left the State Engineer's Office?*

EG: I put in 13 years as a contractor with the U.S. attorney doing surveys in New Mexico and Arizona, for the Navajo tribe, for the Hopi tribe.

DJL: *Can you give us an example of the work you did for them?*

EG: They were trying to establish water rights. When you don't use the water for a number of consecutive years without a valid excuse, your water rights can be challenged.

DJL: *Speaking of water rights, what happens when an owner who has water rights to the acequia subdivides his property into three lots and sells them to three separate owners? John Midyette subdivided a property on East Alameda such that only one of the new owners had property rights on the Acequia de la Muralla. Did the other two new owners get water rights?*

EG: The water right goes with the land unless Midyette severed it through the deed.

DJL: *Assuming that water rights were not addressed in the deed, then if the owners whose land was not right on the acequia failed to use the water, would they lose their rights?*



Caption: The acequias of Santa Fe, drawn as dark blue lines on the 1912 King's map by Edward Gonzalez. The map measures 42x52 inches. Red dashed lines near the boundaries show the 1912 city limits. Streets are shaded in brown. The original logo reads: "King's Official Map of the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1912" to which Gonzales added "King's Map of Santa Fe 1912. Donated by Pat and Edward L. Gonzales."

EG: Yes. The buyer who irrigates has the rights.

DJL: *With this as background, we want to turn to how you created the map.*

EG: How did you learn about the map?

DJL: *Our friend Mac Watson found the map in the archives at the Fray Angélico Chávez History Library. He knew that we were interested in the history of the Acequia de la Muralla, so he photographed sections of the map and sent them to us. Mac is the current chair of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation.*

EG: I was on the board of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation 40 years ago.

DJL: *Tell us how you went about creating this map of the acequias.*

EG: I got the first map from the city. I went down there one day and the maps were out on display. I was familiar with the King's map because the originals were filed at the State Engineer's Office.

The King's map was made with a plane table survey. The surveyor rigged a stadia rod about 16 feet high that

was graduated in feet. Wherever the lines on the instrument were would give you the distance so you could do your plotting.

When I saw the maps at the city, I asked a man where he got them. He said that he didn't know because he hadn't been there long. I think that what they did was take the originals, which were on a scale of 1 inch to 100 feet and they reduced them to 150 feet to the inch. I asked him if he could make me some prints, which he did. So I got four sheets and I put them together – they fit just right.

Then I had a copy made. They couldn't make it quite as big, so they reduced it; this is the largest map they could make. And then I plotted on it the course of the various acequias that were inside the

city limits. Next, I shaded the roads that I was familiar with so I could find my way around a little better. Then I decided to do another one, taking a little more time and adding and shading the roads in brown in order to make it more readable.

When I finished the map, I decided to make some prints and give them to anyone who was interested, especially government agencies. It was 2012, the 100-year anniversary of New Mexico statehood when I did this. I took a copy to the History Museum and one to the archives on Cerrillos Road.

DJL: *How did you actually determine where the acequias were?*

EG: I mostly relied on information from the surveys at the Office of the State Engineer. I was familiar with a lot of this area. After all, I grew up here.

DJL: *You mean the hydrographic survey from the 1970s?*

EG: Yes. There was also a survey done in 1914 that had more detail than the one in the 1970s. I used those surveys, the BLM section maps and field notes, and the aerial photographs I mentioned earlier to create my map. Have you ever seen the 1935 aerial photography of this area? That's where I got a lot of my information. On the photographs, you can see certain anomalies, so you can tell where the ditches went.

DJL: *You can actually see the lines of the acequias on the photographs?*

EG: That's right. I should also mention that the original King's map had dashes that I found out later corresponded to acequias.

DJL: *Did you use David Snow's report? (David Snow's "The Santa Fe Acequia Systems: Summary Report on Their History and Present Status, with Recommendations for Use or Protection" (1988))*

EG: Yes, I used part of that report. I knew David Snow earlier, he had come into the office a few times, and I knew about his work on the acequias.

DJL: *We note that the King's Map stops at the boundary lines of the city of Santa Fe, as they existed in 1912, so it doesn't include acequias such as the Cerro Gordo ditch. Nevertheless, there are many interesting details. For example, it shows the Acequia de la Muralla from the eastern city limit to the vicinity of Rosario Cemetery. It appears that the eastern city limit on Palace Avenue is at the location of today's La Vereda compound. In fact, the map shows the property there as belonging to A. B. Renehan, who bought property from the Fischer Brewery and built a house at what is now the southeast corner of La Vereda.*

EG: That's probably right, because you can see Alamo Street running into Palace Avenue right there at where La Vereda is today.

DJL: *What is this acequia that starts on the north side of the river on East Alameda?*

EG: Oh, that's the Bishop's Gardens Ditch. It starts at where the waterfall is today.

DJL: *You must have grown up here in Santa Fe? Do you remember any of the acequias actually being used when you were young?*

EG: I grew up right here on this piece of land. I lived in the front house. We used to irrigate the property here on Delgado from the Canyon Road Ditch. You can see a remnant of the diversion from the river as you drive up Alameda, right before Gonzales Road on the right hand side and across the river. The Canyon Road Ditch used to run right through the Compound. Then it went down to El Zaguán. It turned at the end of that property and came down. We had a lateral that came under this house. You can see it from here. My great grandfather, Fernando Delgado, owned all of this property.

DJL: *Was he related to the owners of the Delgado House, across from the New Mexico Museum of Art?*

EG: Yes, that was owned by my grandfather's brother. I come from a long list of people

connected to Santa Fe. Five generations past there lived a gentleman by the name of Juan Páez Hurtado. He was the lieutenant general to de Vargas. I get my name "Gonzales" from my great grandfather, Nazario Gonzales who owned El Rancho de las Golondrinas for 60 years.

DJL: *During what period?*

EG: From 1840 to 1910. On the other side of my family, my grandmother Fayette ended up living here on Otero Street, and the Acequia Muralla went right along the front of her property.

DJL: *Do you remember seeing the Muralla running there?*

EG: No. I am 81 and I only knew my grandmother until I was about 7. In 1942, she and her two daughters and her two sons moved to the Los Angeles area in 1942 to work in the defense plants, and I never saw her again.

DJL: So, you have the memories, the family background, and the professional experience that give you a special expertise to map the Santa Fe acequias.

EG: Yes. I am one of the few that have such a background. I worked all my life with water. I did everything from surveying to mapping and I know where to get all the data. That's why I was able to do this map. As I said, I made the map in 2012 for the 100th anniversary of statehood. That's why I took copies to the state agencies: "Here's how it was in 1912."



Caption: Showing the Gonzales property east of Delgado Street, and the Johnson property (today's El Zaguán) facing Canyon Road. The Canyon Road Ditch exits the river near East Alameda and Gonzales Street, runs through today's Compound (off the map to the east), along the north side of the Canyon Road, and through the Johnson property. A lateral, just east of Delgado Street, watered the Gonzales property. The ditch continued down Canyon Road, then emptied into the river at today's Paseo de Peralta.



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2017 Faith and John Gaw Meem Preservation Trades Internship

The Historic Santa Fe Foundation is pleased to welcome **Janell Keyser** as the 2017 Faith and John Gaw Meem Preservation Trades intern. She will be working with us from June until August. Janell is wrapping up an Associate of Applied Science in Building Preservation/Restoration at Belmont College in St. Clairsville, Ohio before joining HSFF in New Mexico. She holds a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University, and has worked on projects with the Marshall County Historical Society, Adirondack Architectural Heritage and Michigan Historical Commission.

The Meem Internship, in its 12th year, provides a unique opportunity for a student or recent graduate entering the preservation field to get hands on experience with adobe and other traditional materials, as well as insight into the workings of a historic preservation nonprofit. Past interns have worked on a variety of projects from adobe to painting, at many of the six Foundation owned properties.