



# The Kingdom of New Mexico, Its Colonization and the Story of El Rancho de las Golondrinas

*Shirley Barnes*

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The story of the colonization of Northern New Mexico and one of its leading *parajes* (El Camino Real campsite) will fascinate anyone interested in the history of the American Southwest. For example, what cultures were there when the colonists arrived in 1598? What military genius defeated Cuerno Verde, the firebrand Comanche chief, and in 1786 executed a long-lasting peace treaty? Why was Juan de Onate sent to establish the first permanent European settlement in the United States in 1598, nine years before the settlement of Jamestown and twenty-five years before the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock? And why did New Mexico fail to attain U.S. statehood until 1912? How did the Battle of Glorieta Pass help turn the tide during the American Civil War? What herbs were in the *curandera's* (traditional healer) medicine cabinet? Why were marriages arranged? What function do the Penitentes still play in New Mexico's Catholicism? Did Miguel Vega y Coca and his family play a role in New Mexico's re-colonization? And finally, what is an *acequia*? The answers to these questions, and more, are to be found between the covers of this book.

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