

What's in a Name?

By Conchita Lucero



Examine the colonial records and review Webster's definitions, then ask yourself about the difference in wording used to describe or judge the Spanish settlers. An example of these differences is the terminology used to describe the St. Lawrence Day Massacre, or as some prefer, "The Pueblos Revolt."

Webster's defines REVOLT as:

- To raise up against the government
- To refuse to submit or accept authority or customs
- To rebel

Massacre is defined as:

- Indiscriminate, merciless butchery
- Slaughter
- Merciless killing of a number of human beings

The misuse of the word revolt promotes a different belief, creating a bias that is taught in our schools. Colonization by the Spanish is scrutinized yet the treatment of the Indians by eastern colonizer's is brushed over. Why are the Indian abuses and cruelty to each other ignored as well as their cruelty to the Spanish either disregarded or glorified? Shouldn't schoolbooks have balance and honesty?

Twenty-one Franciscan priests were not just killed they were tortured. Have you ever asked yourself how our ancestors died or who they were? Have you ever thought what it would have been like to be alive at that time? Imagine the terror that was struck in their hearts? They came to this New World to build a better life for themselves and future generations, yet the memory of their efforts has been lost. We haven't even asked what they endured.

According to researcher Rick Padilla, "Captain Diego Lucero de Godoy lost Thirty-two members of his family. Tome Dominguez de Mendoza said he lost thirty-eight members of his family (daughters, son-in-laws, Grandchildren etc.).

Tome's daughter Francisca, wife of Captain Franciso de Anaya, was found naked with her head crushed with a lance thrust into it, emerging from the

throat, and her child at her feet as though aborted." Yet this period of our ancestor's history is referred to as "**1680 Pueblo Revolt**".

Is this term used to ignore the merciless slaughter of the men, women and children, as well as the babies still in their mother's womb? Is this term used to lessen the magnitude of the destruction? "El Popé" a sorcerer from San Juan Pueblo said "the war god Montezuma told him to exterminate the Spanish sparing no man, woman or child, born or unborn." With the assistance of the demons Caudi, Tilini and Tleume the reign of terror was to begin on Saint Lawrence Day, Saturday August 10,1680.

The first Spaniard to be murdered was young Cristobal Herrera on August 9,1680. When studying history one has to examine all the known facts and realize that there were abuses on all sides and abuses still exist. Do not sit back allowing our ancestors to be judged unfairly or their suffering to be forgotten. The standards used should be the same for all cultures when writing history. Fiction should not be allowed.

Luis Brantdner researched and indexed the victims of this savage slaughter in the articles he wrote for the Hispanic Genealogical Research Center's "Herencia" April 1999 and October 1999 issues. How many of your ancestors were tortured or mutilated and murdered?

Was it a REVOLT OR MASSACRE?

A Saint Lawrence Day commemoration will be planned annually. How do you think we should commemorate our ancestors? Your suggestions and ideas are appreciated call Conchita Lucero 299-6726 - ConchitaLucero@NMHCPL.ORG



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