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Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6s0196nk>

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Publication Date

2015-07-02

**Cristóbal de Oñate, Acting Governor of New México,
Exiles Juan López Holguín from the Pueblo of San Gabriel**

December 1, 1604

**Archivo General de la Nación, México
Provincias Internas, tomo 34, expediente 1**

**Transcribed by Jerry R. Craddock
Translated by John H. R. Polt**

University of California, Berkeley

**Published under the auspices of the Cibola Project
Research Center for Romance Studies
Institute of International Studies
University of California, Berkeley**

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Preface

While his father Juan de Oñate, governor of New Mexico, was seeking a trail to the Pacific Ocean (see Caso et al 2014), Cristóbal de Oñate was entrusted with the government of the colony at its headquarters in the pueblo of San Gabriel. We know of no other document signed by the acting governor at this time, and this one seems to have escaped the attention of George P. Hammond and Agapito Rey, compilers of the monumental collection of Oñate documents in English translation (1953).

The document is an undoubted original, with the signature and rubric of Cristóbal de Oñate as well as those of the governor's secretary, Juan Martínez de Montoya, but also the signatures and rubrics of the 22 vecinos who sponsored the petition, at the behest of the Franciscan commissary of New Mexico, Fray Juan de Escalona. Just how Juan López Holguín offended Padre Escalona is not stated, in fact, the acting governor takes pains to assert that López Holguín “no ba desterrado | ni por delito ninguno.” One major question is how the document came to be where it is now located. Very few originals of Oñate documents survive, scholars having had to be content with copies extant primarily in the Archivo General de Indias, Seville, or, very few in fact, in the Archivo General de la Nación, as in the present case. An anonymous note appended to the document explains that the document is presented as an instance of the ecclesiastical tyranny exercised by the Franciscan Fathers in New Mexico, and indeed it introduces the remaining documents of the expediente, which give voice to the complaints of the inhabitants of New Mexico against their allegedly over-zealous clergy (dated 1617 in Bolton 1913:92). For a notable early example of religious arrogance in New Mexico one may consider the activities of Fray Isidro Ordóñez, who went so far as to imprison the governor Juan de Peralta in 1614 (see Hidalgo Strolle and Polt 2013).

The transcription is paleographic, but abbreviations have been tacitly resolved. Punctuation, word division, and the use of capital letters have been modernized. Uncertain readings have been highlighted in yellow. Any assistance with deciphering them would be greatly appreciated.

Update 6 January 2023. Steven D. Perez resolved the readings of two of the signatures which we found uncertain, and caught two typos in the introduction. His message of January 5: “I think I may have found the two names that are highlighted as uncertain. The first one highlighted is ‘Bartolome Rostro’ -- there was no Bartolome Rostro among the Oñate colonists, but this may be ‘Bartolome Herrera’ - he was listed at the Salazar inspection in Todos Santos on January 6, 1598 and he knew how to sign his name (see Hammond and Rey, *Don Juan de Oñate Colonizer of New Mexico*, vol. v, p. 285). One would have to compare his original signature on the Salazar inspection manuscript to be sure. The second highlighted name is ‘Juan Gisto Sicciojil.’ I believe this name is actually ‘Juan Gil Toribio Gil’ - a little strange that he signed his name that way, but Juan Gil went to NM with the group of settler reinforcements in September 1600 and he stated that he was the son of Toribio Gil (see Hammond and Rey, *Don Juan de Oñate Colonizer of New Mexico*, vol. v, p. 572).” There can be no doubt of the second identification; the first is left highlighted as not yet completely verified.

References

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<http://escholarship.org/uc/item/6gv962r9>

[fol. 1r]

†

~ En la villa de San Gabriel de la Nueva Mexico, ante el señor Xpistobal de Oñate, tinjente de gouernador, en primero dia del mes de diçienbre deste año de mjl y sejsçientos y quatro se presentaron los contenidos y se leyo:

~ Todos los que aqui firmamos en nonbre de la billa pedimos y suplicamos al señor don Cristobal de Oñate teniente de gouernador y capitan general deste egersito que en el entretanto que el señor gouernador don Juan de Oñate su padre viene que para la quietu desta villa y egercito pedimos y suplicamos sea serbido de despachar y echar desta billa a Juan Lopes Olguin al pueblo de San Felipe que es el gusto de nuestro padre fray Juan de Escalona que sea alli y no en otra parte y para que coste que asi lo pedimos lo firmamos.

Juan Medel	Bartolome	el regidor Gonçalo Hernandez {rubric}
Alonso Uarela	Romero	Juan Rodrigues
Pero Rodrigues {rubric}	Bartolome de Montoya	Vellido
Gregorio Lopez	Juan Lujan {rubric}	Xpistoval Lopez
Mederos {rubric}	Bartolome Herrera	de Abilez {rubric}
Alonso Martin	Juan Fernandez	Juan Fernandes
Uarba		de Tapia {rubric}
Alonso Perez	Laçaro Garçia	Juan de Medina
Blas de Valençia	Juan Gil Toriuio Jil	Mateo Montero
Hernan Martin Gomez		Hernan Martin {rubric}

†

30 ~ El dicho señor teniente de gouernador dixo que pues

[fol 1v]

que con tanto encareçimiento se lo piden qu'el dicho Juan Lopez se vaya desta villa que debe de conbenir y qu'el probeeria vn avto sobre el caso y asi lo probeyo, mando y firmo

5 Don Xpistoual
de Oñate {rubric}

Passo ante mi
ss Juan Martines de Montoya
secretario

[fol. 2r]

†

~ En la villa de San Gabriel de la Nueva Mexico a dos dias
del mes de diciembre deste año de mjl y se-
cientos y quatro el señor don Xpistobal de Oñate, tenj-
5 ente de gouernador, capitan general de la dicha Nueva Me-
xico por su magestad, dixo que por cavsas bastan-
tes que a ello le mueben y por la quietud que
dello espera rresultara que mandaba y
mando a mj el cappitan y secretario de gouernaçion Juan
10 Lopez Holgin y le notifique ante testigos que
que luego yncontinjente el dicho dia que se le hiçie-
re la dicha notificaçion en todo el dicho dia sal-
ga desta villa dicha y bia rreta baya sin bolver a-
15 tras al pueblo de San Filipe adonde le man-
da este hasta tanto que el ylustrisimo señor
don Juan de Oñate, gouernador, capitan general
y adelantado su padre y señor benga de
la jornada de la Mar del Sur y en el caso
20 probea otra cosa en contra e por el dicho
señor tenjente de gouernador le sea mandado otra co-
sa acerca de lo susodicho y que no benga a es-
ta dicha villa sin espresa liçençia suya firma-
da de su nonbre ni pueda pasar ni pase
25 del pueblo de Santo Domingo a este par-
te sino fuere cosa de vn tiro de arcabuz
desta parte del dicho pueblo de Santo Domjn-
go en sus pies ni agenos ni por la otra
parte del rrio ni desta ni de njnguna suer-
te, forma ni manera so pena de la vida
30 en que desde luego le da por condenado
lo contrario haçiendo y que si el mui rreb[er]endo
padre frai Juan d'Escalona comjsario quisiere y fue-

[fol. 2v]

re su gusto y boluntad que se este con el haçien-

dole escolta en el dicho pueblo de Santo Domingo
pueda estar y este con el dicho padre fra[y]
Juan d'Escalona guardando el orden dicho
5 de no passar de esta parte del dicho pue-
blo de Santo Domingo mas que cosa del dicho
tiro de arcabuz poco mas a menos
y qu'el dicho Juan Lopez que no ba desterrado
ni por delito ninguno salbo por
10 lo que dicho tiene y asi lo probeyo y mando
y firmo

Don Xpistoual
de Oñate {rubric}

por mandado del señor teniente
15 ss Juan Martínez de Montoya
secretario

†

~ En la villa de San Gabriel de la Nueva Me-
xico en dos dias del mes de dicien-
bre deste año de mjl y seyscient[os]
20 y quatro yo el cappitan Juan Martinez de Montoya
secretario de governaçion destes rre[i]-
nos y probinçias de la dicha Nueva M[e]-
xico por su magestad lej y notifique el a-
vto arriba pronunçiado por el señor
25 tinjente de gouernador a Juan Lopez Holgin
en su persona a lo qu'el rrespon-
dio qu'el esta presto de haçer lo que por
el dicho señor tenjente de gouernador le es mandado

[fol. 3r]

como leal basallo de su magestad siendo
testigos el alferez Bartolome de Montoya
e Alonso Perez, Alonso Barela y Juan Lujan
y lo firmo de su nombre. Ba enmendado
5 “dos” balga.

{rubric}	ante mj
Juan Lopez	ss Juan Martinez de Montoya {rubric}
Holguin {rubric}	secretario

[fol. 3v]

[vertical text]

Pedimiento que hizieron los vezinos desta villa para que
 fuese desterrado della Juan Lopez Holguin vezino
 de dicha villa por ser gusto del padre fray Juan
 de Escalona sin dar ni aver otra causa y el
 5 tiniente de governador hijo de don Juan de Oñate lo ad-
 mitio y mando saliese (^a voz) a cumplir dicho
 destierro. Va para que se vea quan
 antigua cosa es la mano poderosa que tienen
 los religiosos en el Nuevo México y asi por esta[s]
 10 cosas se despacho en (^e)la Real Audiencia vna prouision
 sobre lo susodicho y otras cosas deste genero por lo
 qual dizen los religiosos que no entendieron
 el señor virrey y oydores la dicha prouision como va
 prouado en las ynformaciones que con esto se remite
 15 y asi todo lo que no es tener esta mano pode-
 rosa lleuan mal y si se les contradize forman
 pleitos y disgustos, diziendo ser enemigos de la
 religion de San Francisco y haçen calumnias de
 que son ereges los gouernadores y vezinos como hiçieron
 20 con el gouernador don Pedro de Peralta para su prision
 que hizieron, lo qual asimismo se remite.

Va en tres foxas.

**Archivo General de la Nación, Mexico. Provincias Internas 34,
expediente 1.**

[fol. 1r]

+

In the town of San Gabriel in New Mexico, before Lieutenant Governor Cristóbal de Oñate, on the first day of the month of December of the current year 1604, there appeared those named below, and the following was read:

In the name of the town, all the signatories request and entreat Don Cristóbal de Oñate, lieutenant governor and captain general of this army, that pending the return of his father, Governor Don Juan de Oñate, for the tranquility of this town and army we request and entreat that he be pleased to send away and expel Juan López Holguín from this town to the village of San Felipe, as Father Fray Juan de Escalona wishes it to be to that place and no other; and as evidence of our so requesting we affix our signatures.

Juan Medel	Bartolomé Romero	Councilman Gonzalo Hernández
Alonso Varela	Bartolomé de Montoya	{rubric}
Pero Rodríguez {rubric}		Juan Rodríguez Vellido
Gregorio López Mederos	Juan Luján {rubric}	Cristóbal López de Avilés
{rubric}	Bartolomé Herrera	Juan Fernández de Tapia {rubric}
Alonso Martín Barba	Juan Fernández	
Alonso Pérez	Lázaro García	Juan de Medina
Blas de Valencia	Juan Gil Toriuio Jil	Mateo Montero
Hernán Martín Gómez		Hernán Martín {rubric}

The said lieutenant governor stated that since [fol. 1v] they were so earnestly requesting that the said Juan López leave this town, he had to give his consent and would issue a decree concerning the matter, and he did issue it, so ordered, and signed.

Don Cristóbal de Oñate {rubric}

Done before me.
Juan Martínez de Montoya
Secretary

[fol. 2r]

+

In the town of San Gabriel in New Mexico, on the 2nd day of the month of December of the current year 1604, Don Cristóbal de Oñate, His Majesty's lieutenant governor and captain general of the said New Mexico, stated that moved thereto by sufficient reasons and for the sake of the tranquility that he expects to result therefrom, he would and did order me, Captain and Secretary of State Juan Martínez de Montoya, to go to the residence of Juan López Holguín and notify him before witnesses that he should immediately, in the course of the said day on which he received the said notification, leave this said town and proceed directly and without turning back to the village of San Felipe, where he is to remain until his lord father, the Most Illustrious Don

Juan de Oñate, governor, captain general, and *adelantado*,¹ returns from the expedition to the Southern Sea and orders otherwise in the matter, or the said lieutenant governor orders otherwise concerning the aforesaid, and that he should not come to this said town without explicit permission signed by him, nor shall he pass or be permitted to pass in this direction beyond the village of Santo Domingo more than a harquebus shot from the said village of Santo Domingo, either on foot or mounted, neither on the far side of the river nor on this side, nor in this or any way, form, or manner on pain of capital punishment, to which he is hereby condemned should he do otherwise. And if the commissary, the Very Reverend Father Fray Juan de Escalona, should wish and [fol. 2v] should it be his will and pleasure that he remain in the said village of Santo Domingo to escort him, he may be allowed to stay and may stay with the said Father Fray Juan de Escalona, provided that he obey the said order not to pass in this direction beyond the said village of Santo Domingo more than the said harquebus shot more or less. And the said Juan López is not being banished for any crime but for the reason given.

And thus he ordered and commanded, and he signed.

Don Cristóbal de Oñate {rubric}

By order of the Lieutenant [Governor],
Juan Martínez de Montoya
Secretary

+

In the town of San Gabriel in New Mexico, on the 2nd day of the month of December of the current year 1604, I, Captain Juan Martínez de Montoya, His Majesty's secretary of state for these kingdoms and provinces of the said New Mexico, read to Juan López Holguín, before Ensign Bartolomé de Montoya, Alonso Pérez, Alonso Varela, and Juan Luján as witnesses, the decree promulgated above by the lieutenant governor, directly bringing it to his attention, to which he replied that as a loyal vassal of His Majesty he is ready to do as ordered by the said lieutenant governor; [fol. 3r] and he signed his name.

{rubric}
Juan López Holguín {rubric}

Before me,
Juan Martínez de Montoya {rubric}
Secretary

[fol. 3v]

[vertical text]

+

Petition by the residents of this town that Juan López Holguín, resident of the said town, be banished from it because that was the wish of Father Fray Juan de Escalona, no other reason being alleged or existing; and the lieutenant governor, the son of Don Juan de Oñate, received it and ordered him to leave in compliance with the said banishment. We forward this to show of what long standing is the power that the

¹ This title, entailing administrative and judicial functions, was given to the leader of an expedition to explore and conquer a territory.

religious exercise in New Mexico; and because of these things the Royal Audiencia approved a decree concerning the above and other matters of the sort, because of which the religious, as shown in the reports attached hereto, say that the Lord Viceroy and the members of the audiencia did not understand the said decree. And so they chafe at anything contrary to their power; and if contradicted they start lawsuits and quarrels, saying that one is an enemy of the Franciscan Order and falsely denouncing the governors and residents as heretics, as they did with the imprisonment of Governor Don Pedro de Peralta engineered by them, which we also forward.

Contained in three sheets

359. et

N. Lo. Lq. 18, 38, 39.

44. 50.

Núm. 1.

Núm. 27 de los Expedientes
del Sup. de Gov. 500

34

Diferentes Autos. & molestias
Hechas a los Veris. de Lanu^a Mex
Por los Religiosos. y Casob
vania Conque Usan & sum^{on}

N.

Secretario Luis de Souargo dinez

Expediente n.º 1.
Folios — 30

plave es gabriele e cance bame...
don xpobae de pmatimentero...
pumerosia e comes de dia...
cho de merser e ciensy que aho e adrefen
torone ut contenti des p feler o

Y todo lo que aqui firmamos en nombre de la villa pedimos
y suplicamos al señor don fernando valderrama de tenien
te de goberna don y capi zangeneral de las yegerrito.
que el en dize de an to que se no go vermad on don
pido on a re supra de v ient gu parala quieru
de sta villa y egerci to pedimos y suplicamos sea
serbido de despachar y echar de sta villa a p lo
pe lo quin al pueblo de san felice que es el que se
pido ad re fray pido de cal na que se a alij no en
o tra parte y para que sea de que a si lo pedimos y firma
mos.

limesel	caizelome	segrego gonzalo fier
alvarez	romeo	andres
perovrotri	carmede montoya	juan rodriguez
giles		veledu
Jilopez	ju lu san	expodalopez
mederos		de abila
al martin	ju fernandez	si fernandes
varba		de zapias
alperu	lazarogarcia	juan de medina
blas de va	ju yto	mateo mora
lencia	licio il	zero
		hernandez

Y todo lo que aqui firmamos en nombre de la villa pedimos y suplicamos al señor don fernando valderrama de teniente de goberna don y capi zangeneral de las yegerrito que el en dize de an to que se no go vermad on don pido on a re supra de v ient gu parala quieru de sta villa y egerci to pedimos y suplicamos sea serbido de despachar y echar de sta villa a p lo pe lo quin al pueblo de san felice que es el que se pido ad re fray pido de cal na que se a alij no en o tra parte y para que sea de que a si lo pedimos y firmamos.

[Faint handwritten notes and signatures on the left page, including a large circular mark.]

de contra n en farea m^o se la p^o i deno h
que los es se la p^o a e sta n^o q^o de be ve f^o
beniri q^o uo be si a n^o a n^o h^o f^o b^o e
e f^o q^o uo z a si l^o uo u b e r i u m^o y firm^o

Don aptual
de Lonate

de p^o a l^o a e t e m^o
de u m^o n^o d e m^o s^o e
de f^o e t^o

de la d^o e s f a b r i e e l e a n u e b a m e p a d i s t r i a l
e e m e s e d i a s n b r e e e e e a n o d e m e r t e
y a e n t o s i y q u a t r o e s d o n x p b a e d e e n a t e t e m
e n t e d e g o l e f a p p s e n e r a e e e a d a n u e b a m e
x^o u o s i e m a s s i x o s d a c a r s a e b a e t a n
t e e p a e l l o e m u e b e n y p o r e a g u i e t e d o
e e l l o e e d e r a r e g u e t a r a q m a n d a b a z
m a m e e f a p p r e s e r e t i e e g o v e r n a a o n f u
m n d e m e n t i a y b a z a a e a e l a p a e u e f u
e o p e r s o l g i n z e n o t i f i c a t e t e b n i s o f
e l e e e g n e u n t i m e n t e e e d i a e e e e d i a e
e e l a d e a n o t i f i c a o n e n u e l o e e d i a g a e
p a d e e t a r d e z b i a r e t a b a z a s i n b o l e a
n a e a e p e e b l o d e s f i e i z e a d o n d e e e m a
e a e b t e s a l t a t a n o e e e e b t i s i m o s
e o n z u d e p n a t e g o u e f a p i t a n g e n e r a e
y a e e e a n a d o s u p a d i e y s b e n g a e
e a j o r n a d a d e l a m a r d e e g u r e n e e f a s o
e u e b e a e t a f o s a f o n t a e p a e e g o
s t e m e n t e d e g o u e e f o m a d a c h o e t a f o
s a a e e f a e e t o s u s u d o y e n o b e n g a a e o
t a d a r s i n e b p r e s a e e e n a s i e y a f i r m a
e a e e s u n o n b r e m i p u e d a p a f a m i d a e
e e p u e b l o e s a n t o d o m i n o a e b t e d a r
t e s i n o f i e r e a s a d e p t i u o e a r f a b u r
e e t a d a r t e e e e p u e b l o e s d o m i n
s u e e p e e b p i e b n i a f e n o s m p a e a e h a
p a t e e e e r u o m e e t a m d e m p u e n a s u e r
t e f i r m a m i m a n e r a g o p e n a d e e a b i d a
e n q d e e d e e e e e e e d a p a n d e n a d o
e o c o n t r a r i o s a e n d o y i s i e m u i e b e n d o
e f i a i j u d e o b a l o n a f o m s q u i s i e r e f i e
e

