

Through The Eyes of a Mexican

It was a time of hardship for some of the Mexican families in the California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado area (Northern Mexico Territories). In 1848, after the Mexican American War, some of the American pioneers, settlers, and frontiersmen were invading the conquered land of Mexico and illegally taking what they wanted. Some of the American soldiers, settlers and prospectors killed, raped, and cheated the Mexicans out of their land. "Volunteers committed and repeated the same sort of atrocities as the regulars with the same sorts of justifications, ruling out explanations of these crimes as compulsive or random."¹ Some of the American army volunteers felt it was their right to rape and plunder the Mexican people. They also married into wealthy Mexican landowning families, exploiting the existing paternalism to manipulate the families from their land.² According to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, American soldiers were supposed to protect the inhabitants in California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado, but they violated these provisions. The government of the United States and some of the military intimidated the Mexican people out of their land.

Some of the Mexicans had to protect their land and families. They were known as guerrilla fighters.³ The Espinosa family, in the Northern Mexico Territories, fought in this way. Filipe Espinosa and his brothers were considered folk heroes⁴ by the Mexican people in New Mexico and Colorado because they were fighting against the Americans

1 Paul Foos, *A Short, Offhand, Killing Affair Soldiers and Social Conflict during the Mexican American War* (The University of North Carolina Press Chapel Hill and London, 2002), 113.

2 Foos, 139.

3 Foos, 139.

4 Gerald Archuleta, "Old West Tracker, Scout Lived Brave, Brutal Life" *Denver Post*, April 8, 2001.

for taking their land. The Espinosa's were considered killers and bandits by the white residents in these states. American perceptions and ideas of Filipe Espinosa and his brothers were flawed, because there are many sides to the story. The Espinosa brothers simply wanted to bring justice for the Mexican people. The purpose of this paper is to investigate the truth of "*The terror of the whole mountain region*"⁵ through the eyes of Mexicans in that period and later. As a historian, I will compare news articles and stories with an interview of a descendent of the Espinosa brothers to determine if the Espinosa brothers were outlaws, heroes, guerrilla fighters, or all three. Mexican families passed down their stories, wanting to preserve the truth. The Americans had a different biased story of the Espinosa family.

It all began in 1840 for the Mexicans. The United States had a doctrine, "Manifest Destiny" – a phrase used by leaders and politicians in the 1840s to justify continental expansion by the United States. It revitalized a sense of 'mission' or national destiny for Americans."⁶ Americans believed that it was their God-given right to expand and conquer a people who were not capable of self-government, similarly the Indians and other people from non-European countries. It was a time to expand westward. To have more land meant more power, and no one was going to stop American frontiersman and settlers from getting what they wanted. "Their proclivity for racist, religious, or nationalist rationales for their crimes took up the language of manifest destiny, suffusing their criminal activity with heroism and comradeship implicit in that cause."⁷ In 1844,

5 Colonel Henry Inman, *The Old Santa Fe Trail, The Story Of A Great Highway*, (Minneapolis, Minnesota, Ross & Haines, Inc. 1966), 358.

6 The U.S. Mexican War 1846-1848, Prelude To War

http://www.pbs.org/keramexicanwar/prelude/md_introduction.html (accessed February 9, 2009)

7 Foos, 113.

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

Americans elected James K. Polk as President of The United States. His reputation and his legacies generated mixed opinions. He was one of the strongest commanders-in-chief transforming this country to a continental power and increasing America's reputation overseas. Other countries considered him a narrow minded and aggressive expansionist who bullied a neighboring nation and provoked a war.⁸ While citizens of the United States were planning for their mission related to the Doctrine of Manifest Destiny, Mexico had other dreams. Mexicans had just won their independence from Spain in 1821. This new found freedom would soon be lost for the Mexicans, because lurking next to them was a country which wanted and needed to expand its borders.

Mexico's vast northern territories were hard to maintain. There were very few people who were willing to move to the North because of hostile Indians. It was simple for the Americans to take over the New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, California and Colorado territories. There were about 70,000 people in New Mexico. General Sterling Price presided over New Mexico with 255 regulars and 2,902 volunteers;⁹ the interest was for the purpose of bringing stability to northern territories. War was declared with Mexico in 1846 and ended in 1848. The Mexican people who were left behind by the Mexican government in California, Nevada, Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico were about to learn how a conquering nation treated their captives. There are many stories of Mexican men trying to fight for what was right. Americans considered them bandits, but the Mexicans simply wanted to be treated fairly.

⁸ The U.S. Mexican War 1846-1848, Prelude To War
http://www.pbs.org/keramexicanwar/prelude/md_introduction.html (accessed February 9, 2009)
⁹ Foos, 151.

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

The Mexicans had to make adjustments in their culture and their language to please their conqueror, who then promised them citizenship. By helping the Americans, Mexicans were allowed to live and be protected. There is a story of hardship and pain of a people who were left behind when their nation lost the Mexican War. One such story is about a family, the Espinosas, who lived about fifty-five years in New Mexico before the Americans came. The Espinosas lived among the Indians and had an agreement with them and shared their resources with the Indians. But their way of life was about to change in 1846, as it was about to change for all Mexican families and Indians who lived in the New Mexico and Colorado area. There are many stories of the Espinosas portrayed as bandits and killers (by the Americans) while Mexicans of the conquered territories considered them heroes.

One story of the Espinosa brothers was told to me by my grandfather, **Rumaldo Sais**. My grandfather was of Jewish, Hispanic and Mexican background. He stood about six foot and two inches tall and was a solid man. He lived on his father's ranch near La Veta, Colorado and was born in 1908. My grandfather told me that they had a good life on his father's ranch raising cattle and sheep. When he was about twenty, he married a woman named Ulalia Balles. They lived on their ranch in Gardner, Colorado, which was given to him by my great-great-grandfather Balles (who was half Indian and Spanish). Rumaldo later moved to Pueblo, Colorado, and built his home there.

It was in August 1967 and when I was only 14 years old, that when he told me about my great-great-great Grandfather Filipe Espinosa and his father. The story was told to Rumaldo by his mother **Escondina [Espinosa] Sais**. He told me that Filipe's father had a ranch in the New Mexico/ Colorado area. At that time, the region belonged to Mexico.

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

Filipe's father had a large family with many sons and daughters. He was a wealthy land owner with horses, cattle and sheep, and his wife was an Indian. Rumaldo said, "It was a good marriage because being married to an Indian woman help bring peace for them against the Indians in that area." He then told me of a war that broke out with America in 1846 and that the American government told the ranchers that if they would help them against Mexican General Santa Ana, they would get to keep their land. It was a good idea for the Mexicans to give their allegiance to the Americans because Santa Ana's army was so far away and he was never around to help them. "These Mexicans helped the American Army as they went through Mexican land", as related to me by Grandfather Rumaldo.

During the war in 1847 the Mexicans were selling their cattle and sheep and other supplies to the Americans. But the Mexicans were hearing stories of the Americans' atrocities which were being committed against the Mexican people. The soldiers were raping women and killing men and children. They were also robbing the churches and taking whatever they wanted. In Daniel Harvey Hill's diary, he writes, "The American troops adopted the practice of rifling every house from which a shot came and killing every armed Mexican found on the street. 'This stern course...corrupted our men most fearfully. Many of them were perfectly frantic with the lust of blood and plunder. In order to sack rich houses many soldiers pretended that they heard firing from them.'¹⁰

Resistance to this violence was continued from some significant sectors of the population. The guerrilla tactics were a way to show the American forces that the

10 Foos, 126.

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

Mexicans were not going to lie down in light of these atrocities. It forced the United States to send troops back to the Northern Territories.¹¹

It was a time of change for the Mexican families in New Mexico and Colorado area. In 1848, during the war, soldiers came through the land and took what they wanted. At that time Mexicans were forced to take a stand. Americans would go to their ranches and steal their cattle to antagonize the Mexican and thus would provoke them to bear arms against the Americans. It was considered a revolution to the American people. Colonel Stephen W. Kearney was the military governor in the Northern Territories and on August 22, a proclamation was issued which stated:

as military governor in which he spoke of the military power of his forces, stating that “he has more troops than is necessary to put down any opposition that can possibly be brought before him, and therefore that it would be but folly or madness for any dissatisfied or discontented persons to think of resisting him.” And he ordered those who had taken up arms against the United States troops to return home “or else they will be considered enemies and traitors, subjecting their persons to punishment and their property to seizure and confiscation.”¹²

After the war the **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo** was signed. It promised protection for the Mexican people, but Americans overlooked these provisions. **ARTICLE VIII** of the treaty states:

Mexicans now established in territories previously belonging to Mexico, and which remain for the future within the limits of the United States, as defined by the present treaty, shall be free to continue where they now reside, or to remove at any time to the Mexican Republic, retaining the property which they possess in the said territories, or disposing thereof,

11 Foos, 132.

12 Stephen Watts Kearny, **New Mexico** Office of the State Historian, Clarke, Dwight L. Stephen Watts Kearny: Soldier of the West. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press (accessed March 18, 2009) <http://www.newmexicohistory.org/filedetails.php?fileID=550> (accessed February 9, 2009)

and removing the proceeds wherever they please, without their being subjected, on this account, to any contribution, tax, or charge whatever.

Those who shall prefer to remain in the said territories may either retain the title and rights of Mexican citizens, or acquire those of citizens of the United States. But they shall be under the obligation to make their election within one year from the date of the exchange of ratifications of this treaty; and those who shall remain in the said territories after the expiration of that year, without having declared their intention to retain the character of Mexicans, shall be considered to have elected to become citizens of the United States.

In the said territories, property of every kind, now belonging to Mexicans not established there, shall be inviolably respected. The present owners, the heirs of these, and all Mexicans who may hereafter acquire said property by contract, shall enjoy with respect to it guarantees equally ample as if the same belonged to citizens of the United States.

ARTICLE IX

The Mexicans who, in the territories aforesaid, shall not preserve the character of citizens of the Mexican Republic, conformably with what is stipulated in the preceding article, shall be incorporated into the Union of the United States. and be admitted at the proper time (to be judged of by the Congress of the United States) to the enjoyment of all the rights of citizens of the United States, according to the principles of the Constitution; and in the mean time, shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty and property, and secured in the free exercise of their religion without; restriction.¹³

It was intended to protect the safety and property of the Mexican citizens in the transferred area. Many of the Mexican Hispanics were bitter with the way the government and the American people were treating them. Their women and daughters were being raped by some of these settlers and prospectors who were coming through their land, and nothing was being done to bring justice. They had to protect their families and land by using guerrilla tactics.

One such story of Mexican families that had to fight for justices comes from Rumaldo Sais and according to him:

¹³ Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Treaty with Mexico (February 2, 1848)
<http://www.chicanostudies.org/guadhida.html> (accessed February 9, 2009)

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

Filipe Espinosa lived on his ranch in Redwing, Colorado, with his wife and two daughters. He was a fair man and religious Catholic. He would help his neighbors and family when they needed him. In 1856, he did a lot of trading with his cousin Tom Tobin. He sold and traded cattle, sheep, hides and pinion nuts. Tom was married to fifteen year old Maria Pascuala Bernal, daughter of Filipe Espinosa y Bernal and Maria Candelaria de Herrera. Thomas Tate Tobin was twenty-one years old and a son of Francisco Ortivi and Serafina Abeita.¹⁴ Maria Pascuala Bernal was the first cousin to Filipe Espinosa who was 16 years old at the time of Maria and Thomas's wedding. He was the nephew of Filipe Espinosa and a brother to Don Pedro Ignacio Espinosa.¹⁵ Filipe was named after his Uncle Filipe y Bernal Espinosa. It was in October 1860 when Filipe contracted a deal with the Army at Fort Garland to sell them some cattle, horses, and grain. He was travelling over La Veta Pass when a snow storm hit. He had to protect the cattle and the horses and he had to feed them. He was forced to feed them some grain so that they would not get sick. When he reached Fort Garland the colonel asked what had happened to some of the feed. Filipe told him that he had to give some of the feed to the animals so that they would not die. The Colonel told him he had no right to give it to them so he confiscated the horses, cattle, and feed. Filipe was then forced to walk back to his ranch. When he finally reached his place, he was very upset regarding what the army did to him. When his wife saw how mad he was, she told him, "Don't worry husband, God will judge them", then hugged his wife kissed her and then he hugged his daughters.

In the fall of 1861 two cowboys and army soldiers came through Filipe's ranch.

One of the cowboys asked him if they could stay there because it was getting late and that

¹⁴ James E. Perkins, *Tom Tobin Frontiersman*, (Monte Vista, Co.: Adobe Village Press, 2005), 33.

¹⁵ Perkins, 33.

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

it was snowing on the pass, so he let them stay in the barn. Filipe went into the house and asked his wife to cook something up for the three men; she did. Filipe asked the cowboys into their home and they went in and ate. Afterwards, he was accompanying them back to the barn when the three men jumped him, beat him and then tied him up. They dragged him into the house, grabbed his wife, beat her, and raped her right in front of him. Filipe's wife fought hard, but she was overcome by the men. Then they turned toward the two girls. One girl was about twelve and the other about fourteen. The men raped both of them. All Filipe could do was to cry as he saw his young babies being raped by these men. At the same time, they were hitting him and degrading him in front of his wife and daughters. He was half dead. It was about two days before Filipe recovered. His fourteen year old girl was cleaning her father wounds and taking care of him, her mother and little sister. When he saw this, he broke down and started crying and began hugging his daughter. After he came to his senses, he helped his daughter by checking on his wife and his younger daughter. His wife was in very bad shape; she was unconscious and barely breathing. He helped his daughter by helping to clean up her mother. Then he went to his little girl because she was crying. The little girl was bleeding because of what the men had done to her he cleaned her and hugged her. Four days later his wife died and Filipe was devastated by her death. His older daughter helped her father and her little sister as he mourned for his wife. It was about two days later when Filipe buried his wife. As he kneeled next to her grave, he swore that he would avenge what the "gringos" did to them. A month later he packed up and took his daughters to Texas (to one of his uncle's homes). His fourteen year old daughter had become pregnant as a result of the rape. Because they were Catholic, they did not believe in abortion; they decided she would have the child.

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

When he was leaving, he instructed his daughter to tell his story to her baby and to let their families know what had happened. He checked with the younger daughter to make sure she was going to survive. The doctor told Filipe the younger daughter would never be able to have children. Filipe then hugged his daughters and blessed them. He told them he was going to find the men who did this. He was going to his father's ranch in New Mexico, because his uncle told him that the family was having trouble with Americans.

As Rumaldo Sais recounts, Filipe reached the ranch and found that American soldiers had taken it over. He then went to a friend's ranch who knew where to find his family. They told Filipe what happened and that American soldiers had raped his sister. They told Filipe that when Jose, Filipe's brother, heard her screaming, he came into the room and killed the soldier. Jose left the ranch so that his family would not have to pay the consequences for what he had done. The soldiers came to the ranch and killed everyone as revenge for a soldier who previously killed there. The soldiers took passion of the ranch and confiscated all their possessions. After the news of the deaths in the Espinosa family, Jose Vivian and Julian Antonio Espinosa (brothers to Filipe) and their cousin decided to avenge their family in New Mexico by fighting the American soldiers. Filipe asked them if they knew where the family might be hiding. They told Filipe that they were in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, (Blood of Christ) and that some other families had taken food and provisions to them. He asked them who was helping his brothers. He was told where the family lived and Filipe rode up to their ranch. Filipe found the Mexican family who was helping his brothers and asked them where they might be hiding. He knew the area and reached the place where his brothers were and was then greeted by them. Filipe told them what had happened to his family and Jose and

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

Julian told him what had happened to their family. All of them were overcome with sadness. Time had come for retribution and for war with the Americans.

The Espinosas initiated their revenge by travelling through La Veta, Redwing, Gardner and then through Wetmore, Colorado. They were intent on searching for the cowboys and soldier who killed Filipe's wife and raped his daughters. As they were travelling through the area, they ran into some more Mexican families who had just been beaten and thrown off their land. The Espinosas proceeded to go to areas where families ranches were and killed the people who had over taken these families ranches. They gave the land back to the Mexican families who then became very happy and excited. Murder and expropriation of Mexican land occurred all over New Mexico and Colorado. Later Espinosas were headed toward Canon City when they saw a ranch and spotted a man who looked like one of the rapists. My grandfather said that they snuck up to him and to make sure it was the cowboy who had raped and killed his family. They grabbed the man and Filipe asked him "do you remember me?" The cowboy recognized Filipe and that when Filipe hit the cowboy with an axe and then proceeded to shot him.

There were two more men whom Filipe had to find and whom had killed Filipe's wife and raped his daughters. The soldiers who killed his father and mother. At this point they again took off in search for revenge. The group proceeded to rob and kill whites from La Veta to Colorado Springs, but no one really knew who was doing the killing because the Mexican people would share information with the Americans. John Evans territorial governor then issued a bounty for these men.

Filipe and his brothers were near La Veta Pass when they robbed a stagecoach. There was a Mexican lady on board who was married to a Frenchman. She pleaded to the

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

Espinosa brothers for her husband's life but they told her that all whites must die.

Espinosa then killed the Frenchman. The Mexican woman was so devastated that when she got to Fort Garland, she told the fort's commander who had killed her husband and robbed the stagecoach. The Fort Garland soldiers went after the Espinosas but could not find Filipe and his brothers. The Espinosas headed toward Florence because they heard of a shipment of gold coming from Cripple Creek. They then robbed the stagecoach and killed the men on it, taking the gold and money.

I asked my grandfather, "Why did they do that? He told me that the Americans were taking money, land and killing the Mexican people. The Americans were also stealing from the churches; it was an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." My grandfather went on to say that Filipe and his brothers were in a valley when a sheriff and his men found them. The posses were spread out on a ridge. One of the men shot Jose in his side and Jose died. Julian and Filipe took off on their horses, leaving their brother there. They rode around the posse and snuck up to watch what was being done to their brother. The sheriff and his men went to Jose's body and they were kicking the body. They then decapitated Jose's body and as the men started to kick the head around, Filipe took his rifle out and shot one of the men. Filipe and his brother then took off with the posse chasing them toward the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The Espinosas hid the gold in one of the lakes in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and went back to New Mexico and told their families what had happened to Jose. Julian, his nephew Jose and a cousin went with Filipe back to Colorado to fight the Anglos.

Filipe, his brother, nephew and cousin went on a rampage of killing Americans. The Colonel of Fort Garland issued a reward for the capture or the death of the

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

Espinosas. There was a trapper and scout for the Army of Fort Garland whose name was Tom Tobin, Espinosa cousin. Tom told the commander that he could track the Espinosas down and that he could capture them or kill them. The Colonel agreed with Tom and sent him with some men to find the Espinosa brothers. The Colonel did not know that Tom used to be good friends and was a relative of the Espinosas when he was younger. Tom Tobin lived with the families and Indians in the New Mexico area. Tom even traded with Filipe and had dinner with his family on their ranch when he was travelling through to Fort Garland. Tom knew where the Espinosas would be hiding because he hunted with in the mountains of La Veta.

Tobin took the soldiers up the mountain toward the Spanish Peaks. He told the Army soldiers that he would go alone and track them. Tom went into the mountains where he found Filipe, his nephew and cousin camped in a canyon. Julian was not there; he had gone to New Mexico to get some more supplies. Tom yelled at Filipe telling him who he was. The three men were excited to hear from their old friend and relative. Filipe invited him into the camp, and explained to Tom what had happened to his family and their reasons for killing the Americans. Tom offered them some whiskey and they all started drinking. They continued until the Espinosas passed out. Tom pretended to be drunk and was laying there next to the fire. Filipe's nephew was in the forest using the bathroom and when he returned, he saw Tom Tobin cutting the Espinosas throats. Tom Tobin cut the heads off and put them in a gunnysack. He returned to where the soldiers were and told them a "battle" had just taken place and explained how he had killed the Espinosas. Tom returned to Fort Garland to claim the reward for the execution of the Espinosas. Tom hid the Espinosa heads, by a tree. While Tom was at the fort, another

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

frontiersman saw Tom hiding the heads took them, and claimed the reward. The head of Filipe was placed in jar for displayed at Fort Garland. The head was later transferred to a History Museum in Denver, Colorado. Filipe's nephew returned to New Mexico, found Julian and told him what had happened. Julian then went to Texas and told his niece (Filipe's daughter) what happened to their father. My grandfather said, "What Filipe did was wrong; but, "Filipe felt he had to have revenge for the atrocities committed against his daughters, wife and family." This is the story related to me by my Grandfather, Rumaldo Sais. However there are other versions of the story.

There is a popular version of the story of the Espinosas which is widely believed by the Americans. Tom tells the story of his life and how he tracked the Espinosa gang. It begins on November 3, 1844 when the priest, Antonio Jose Martinez married fifteen year old Maria Pascuala Bernal, daughter of Filipe Espinosa y Bernal and Maria Candelaria de Herrera to twenty-one-year-old Thomas Tate Tobin, son of Francisco Ortivi and Serafina Abeita.¹⁶ Maria Pascuala Bernal, was a first cousin to Filipe Espinosa, who was sixteen years old at the time of Maria and Thomas's wedding. He was the nephew of Filipe Espinosa and brother to Don Pedro Ignacio Espinosa.¹⁷ As a wedding present, Maria's parents gave Tom and Maria a piece of land and an adobe house. The home was located on the eastside of the plaza in the town of Dolores. Dolores was a gold mining town in New Mexico.¹⁸ During this time the priest Antonio Jose Martinez was teaching the Espinosa brothers and other Spanish children how to read and write.¹⁹ Father Jose

¹⁶ James E. Perkins, *Tom Tobin Frontiersman*, (Monte Vista, Co.: Adobe Village Press, 2005), 33.

¹⁷ Perkins, 33.

¹⁸ Ghost towns of New Mexico, <http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/nm/nmsantafe.html>

¹⁹ William H. Wroth, Antonio Jose Martinez (1793-1867), Courtesy of the State Records Center and Archives, <http://www.newmexicohistory.org/filedetails.php?fileID=296> (accessed February 9, 2009)

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

Martinez was a well known priest who performed many marriages and funerals. He was a non-violent activist who became politically and socially involved with the Mexican people who inhabited the New Mexico and Colorado regions. The Espinosas and the Herreras were very wealthy Spaniards. It must be noted that Tom Tobin (who was the one that cut the heads off the Espinosas) discloses another story.

There are several texts that portray the Espinosas as either poor or wealthy. The book *Tom Tobin Frontiersman* states that the Espinosas were small subsistence farmers who grew some crops, raised a few sheep and chickens, and owned a burro or two.²⁰ However, *The second William Penn: A True Account of Incidents That Happened Along the Old Santa Fe Trail/Ryus*, written by William H. Uncle Dick Wooten, indicates that Don Espinosa was a Mexican aristocrat and was called “Don,” claiming descent from the nobles of Cortez’ army.²¹ *The Old Santa Fe Trail, The Story of A Great Highway* by Colonel Henry Inman brings out a similar story of the Espinosas. He states:

At the time of acquisition of New Mexico by the United States, Espinosa, who was a Mexican, owning vast herds of cattle and sheep, resided upon his ancestral hacienda in a sort of barbaric luxury, with a host of semi-surfs, known as Peons, to do his bidding, as did the other “Muy Ricos,” “the Dons,” so called, of his class of natives.²²

In correlation with Wooten’s statement and Colonel Henry Inman, my Grandfather Rumaldo also stated that Espinosa’s father was a rich Spaniard who had a large hacienda with vast herds of cattle and sheep.”²³ Note the way each story portray Filipe’s father being an aristocrat and a powerful man. Why does Tom Tobin story vary so much? Don

20 Perkins, 127.

21 Ryus, William H., *The Second William Penn A True Account of Incidents That Happened Along the Old Santa Fe Trail*, 2003-10-20, Publisher Project Gutenberg, chapter 16 <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/9805> (accessed February 9, 2009)

22 Inman, 358.

23 Rumaldo Sais, Personal interview by Edward Martinez, August 1967.

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

Pedro Espinosa married an Indian woman, Maria Chaves, whom he loved very much. Don Pedro Espinosa had five children whose names were Jose Vivian, Felipe Niero, Maria Tomasa, Julian Juan Antonio, and Maria Juana Espinosa.²⁴ This marriage brought stability and protection for the Espinosas due to the alliance which was made through the marriage to an Indian women (Filipe's mother). When the American Army came in 1846, an American officer asked Don Pedro Espinosa if he would help the Army by providing provisions for the troops as they fought against Mexican General San Ana and his men. It was proposed that Don Pedro Espinosa agreed to help the Americans, he and his family would be permitted to keep their land, animals, and property. Espinosa agreed to the terms, knowing if he did not, he would lose everything. He allowed the Army to take some cattle and sheep so that they could march to fight San Ana.²⁵

There is yet another story by Colonel Henry Inman. He said that an adventurous American, who was attached to the "Army of Occupation" met Don Pedro Espinosa's sister who was seventeen and quite beautiful; he fell deeply in love. This American soldier had a large amount money with him. The soldier told the Espinosas about the money. One night, while the soldier was sleeping, Espinosa snuck into his room and was taking the gold and silver from the soldier. The soldier woke up and he caught Espinosa with the money. Espinosa then killed the American soldier.²⁶ However this was not the case; how many American soldiers have a large amount of gold and silver, when they are fighting a war? Also Mr. William Ryus, *The Second William Penn A True Account of*

24 Perkins, 299.

25 Rumaldo Sais, Personal interview

26 Inman, 359.

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

Incidents, That Happened Along the Old Santa Fe Trail, brings out a similar story.²⁷ The soldier was at the home of Don Espinosa where he met his daughter and a sister to Filipe. Don Espinosa forbade outside marriages because of the current war in New Mexico. The American soldier then went to the home of the Espinosas and raped Don Pedro's daughter. The brother Jose killed the American which then brought the army to the family's home. The soldiers then killed Don Pedro and wife and confiscated the ranch.²⁸ The brothers Jose and Julian proceeded to kill the American soldiers throughout New Mexico. There is yet another story told by Kenneth Jessen, a modern writer, who wrote of a pioneer named Joseph Lamb and his story of the Espinosas. Joseph Lamb hunted Texas steers and serial killers. Three of these serial killers whom Lamb hunted were the Espinosa brothers.²⁹ Mr. Jessen's article states,

In the meantime, the Espinosa family of New Mexico was growing disastrously discontented. Anglos were pouring into their homeland, and the Espinosas claimed some had settled on their property, were running off their sheep, and had even killed one of their children. In the early 1860s, two Espinosa brothers, Vivian and Jose, started stealing horses.³⁰

Mr. Jessen indicates that Americans were entering the region. The Americans were taking what did not belong to them and even killed one of the Espinosa children. Was it the daughter of Don Espinosa or was it when his daughter was raped by the American soldier? Why did Mr. Jessen bring out that the Espinosa started stealing horses? Was he being biased or was he giving cause to why Vivian and Jose were killing the soldiers.

27 Ryus, William H., *The Second William Penn A True Account of Incidents That Happened Along the Old Santa Fe Trail*, 2003-10-20, Publisher Project Gutenberg, chapter 16

[HTTP://WWW.GUTENBERG.ORG/ETEXT/9805](http://WWW.GUTENBERG.ORG/ETEXT/9805) (accessed February 9, 2009)

28 Rumaldo Sais, Personal interview

29 Kenneth Jessen, *Local History* –April 2007-Colorado Central Magazine-No. 158-page 3, <http://www.cozine.com/archive/cc2007/01580331.html> (accessed February 9, 2009)

30 Kenneth Jessen, *Local History* –April 2007-Colorado Central Magazine-No. 158-page 3, <http://www.cozine.com/archive/cc2007/01580331.html> (accessed February 9, 2009)

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

Which brothers was he talking about? The text says Vivian and Jose, as though there were two separate individuals involved; however according to Tom Tobin's genealogy,³¹ it is one brother, Jose Vivian Espinosa. Was Mr. Jessen applying that the Espinosa's were rebelling against the Americans for running off their sheep and killing one of the children? Whose child did they kill? Rumaldo brings out they killed Filipe's wife. Are they getting the stories mix up with Filipe's families and his father's? Filipe was not in New Mexico when his family was killed. There is still another story, told by William H. Ryus:

Espinosa living with his beautiful sister in his isolated farm house among his vast herds of cattle, sheep, goats and other animals lived a life of luxury. There was a government contractor living in his vicinity buying beef cattle for the consumption of the soldiers. Espinosa came to believe that he was losing beef steers and thought that the contractor was getting them, and when this contractor was shot and killed by an unknown at Fort Garland it was generally supposed that Espinosa had murdered him.³²

Is this the same story as Mr. Jessen or was he talking about which family in New Mexico? Where was Felipe Espinosa? He was in Redwing, Colorado, with his family. Mr. Ryus indicated that Espinosa was working with a government contractor from Fort Garland and Redwing is about 25 miles away. Rumaldo did say that Filipe was selling and trading with the soldiers of Fort Garland.

Mr. Jessen also indicates that Anglos were settling on their land. They must have had a lot of land for the settlers to settle on it. Mr. Jessen also mention of the vast herd of sheep being runoff. Mr. Ryus said, Espinosa had a contract with a contractor from Fort

31 James E. Perkins, *Tom Tobin Frontiersman*, (Monte Vista, Co.: Adobe Village Press, 2005), 299.

32 Ryus, William H., *The Second William Penn A True Account of Incidents That Happened Along the Old Santa Fe Trail*, 2003-10-20, Publisher Project Gutenberg, chapter 16
<http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/9805> (accessed February 9, 2009)

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

Garland selling cattle sheep and horses. According to Tom Tobin, the Espinosas were poor and they had very little land. That is why Don Pedro Espinosa and other ranchers went to Governor Bent in Taos, New Mexico in 1847, to ask for protection of their land but nothing was done.³³ They all united to drive the Americans off their land. The Americans called the people of New Mexico “dissenters” (rebels).³⁴ All of the Dons, Mexicans, and Indians attacked the Americans that were trying to take their land, and as a result, Bent and many others were killed. Tom Tobin was in Taos, New Mexico, visiting Governor Bent when the revolution occurred; Tom Tobin was captured by the Mexicans, but was later let go because of his relation to the Herrera and Espinosa families. When Tom left the scene his story changed. Tom’s story was that he fought hard and his tracking skills saved him from sheer death. He was the only one to escape.³⁵ The rebellion in Taos was uprising of the Mexicans and Indians because of taking of their land. There was only one American that survived the massacre in Taos. According to Tom Tobin he was the only survivor. That he saved himself. Now there are two different stories. According to William H. Wroth, said, “During the Taos Rebellion Martinez provided sanctuary for at least one endangered American, and he confronted the mob of rebels, warning them of the futility and wrong of their actions.³⁶ My grandfather said that Father Martinez remembered Tom Tobin because he had married Tom into the Espinosa family.³⁷

33 Rumaldo Sais, Personal interview

34 Lawrence Clark Powell, Southwest Review, <http://www.smu.edu/taos/fortburgwin.asp> (accessed February 9, 2009)

35 Perkins, 55-56.

36 William H. Wroth, Antonio Jose Martinez (1793-1867), Courtesy of the State Records Center and Archives, <http://www.newmexicohistory.org/filedetails.php?fileID=296> (accessed February 9, 2009)

37 Rumaldo Sais, Personal interview

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

Tom left Taos then joined a detachment led by Captain Ceran St. Vrain to search for the men who led the uprising.

Filipe was not involved in what was taking place in New Mexico, where his father and brothers lived. Filipe was 19 years old at the time and was just married. His ranch was in Redwing, Colorado north of Fort Garland, according to Rumaldo Sais.³⁸ However, Tom Tobin said that Filipe was 19 years old at the time when the 1847 Taos revolt took place. Tom said that Filipe certainly knew some of the conspirators and maybe some of the men that were hung. Filipe was hostile and irrational and his hatred grew for all Americans. He was like a loaded gun ready to go off. Tom said that in 1854, at the age 26, Felipe decided it was time to get married. Filipe had a hard time finding a wife. The Mexican people in the area would call him a wild man.³⁹ A wild man! Rumaldo Sais said that Filipe Nero Espinosa was a kind and just man taking care of his wife and two daughters. He would help his neighbors and family.⁴⁰

Filipe was registered with the 1861 Colorado Territorial Election-Voter-Conejos District.⁴¹ According to author Buck Conner,

Felipe Nerio Espinosa and Vivian Espinosa moved to the San Luis Valley from New Mexico in the early 1860s, and in 1863 they started illegal activities in the area, as they had done in New Mexico, by robbing a teamster, tied him to the back of his wagon and whipped his horses, he barely escaped being dragged to death.⁴²

The dates from 1860 to 1863 indicated by Conner do not comply with the date of Filipe's registration to vote in 1861 and the contract with soldiers in Fort Garland. According to

38 Rumaldo Sais, Personal interview.

39 Perkins, 127.

40 Rumaldo Sais, Personal interview

41 Early San Luis Valley Residentes, <http://www.ghostseekers.com/SanLuisValley/sanluisvalleyD-G.htm>. (accessed February 9, 2009)

42 Thomas Tate Tobin, <http://klesinger.com/jbp/ttobin.html>. (accessed February 9, 2009)

Conner, Filipe and his brother came to Colorado and started to rob and kill Americans as they were doing in New Mexico. Note that Jose and Vivian were already fighting the American soldiers at this time. Compare Tom Tobin and Kenneth Jessen in what took place in New Mexico. Here are two different stories and the third one by Mr. Ryus told a similar story to Jessen. Which story is the truth? Why did Filipe register to vote in the 1861 Colorado Territorial Election if he was a wanted man for performing crimes in New Mexico and Colorado? Why would Filipe be selling cattle and other goods to the soldiers of Fort Garland? Filipe Espinosa would have been too scared to register in Fort Garland or selling anything knowing that he would have been caught for the illegal activities that he was accused of having committed.⁴³ Why would Filipe's family leave New Mexico when they had a large ranch? The only reason Filipe's brothers left was because their ranch was taken away from them. The death of their father and mother and the rape of their sister enraged Filipe's brothers and brought forth vengeance against the Americans.

Filipe started killing Americans in late 1861 and his brothers start killing Americans about 1859. No American knew who were killing soldiers, prospectors, settlers, and ranchers in the Southern Colorado Area. The Mexicans hid the Espinosas from the Americans because the Espinosas were fighting for the Mexicans and their families, trying to retrieve back what was taken from them. The Espinosa "brothers headed north, killing a sawmill operator on Hardscrabble Creek⁴⁴," he was one of the men who raped his wife and daughter.⁴⁵ They traveled throughout Colorado, taking revenge

43 Early San Luis Valley Residentes, <http://www.ghostseekers.com/SanLuisValley/sanluisvalleyD-G.htm>. (accessed February 9, 2009)

44 Kenneth Jessen, Local History –April 2007-Colorado Central Magazine-No. 158-page 3, <http://www.cozine.com/archive/cc2007/01580331.html> (accessed February 9, 2009)

45 Rumaldo Sais, interviewed by Edward Martinez, Personal, August 1967

for what the Americans were doing to the Mexican people. There was no justice for the Mexican people in Colorado.

In the spring of 1863, the Soldiers of Fort Garland received information who were killing the Americans. A stagecoach was going over La Veta Pass when the Espinosas robbed it. All the Anglos were killed except for a Mexican woman whose French husband was murdered on the stagecoach. This woman wanted the Espinosas to pay for what they did to her husband. She therefore told the officer at Fort Garland that the Espinosas killed him. Colonel Chivington, who lead the Sand Creek Massacre and Lieutenant Colonel Tappan⁴⁶ asked Tom Tobin to track the Espinosas; he also offered Tom men and supplies to accompany him. Though Tom said, "He would go alone. Tappan, however, was insistent that a few soldiers should go along."⁴⁷

Tom Tobin knew the Espinosas and he knew where they might hide. He took the patrol of soldiers to find the Espinosas. Once he reached the area where he believed the Espinosas were hiding, he told the soldiers that he would scout the area alone. Going alone into the forest, Tom saw some men in the clearing. Tom stated that,

he saw the back of a man's head. At that moment the man turned around and saw Tom. Felipe made a grab for his pistol. Before he had turned fully around, Tom pictured the front sight against the man chest and squeezed the trigger.⁴⁸

Tom Tobin shot Filipe in the chest. He was still alive when he, "drew Filipe's head over a fallen tree and cut it off."⁴⁹ It was told by Tom Tobin, of his experience with Espinosa gang.

However, there is another account, Tom and Kit Carson were friends; Tom's daughter, Maria Pascuala Tobin and Kit Carson's son, William Carson were married. The story is told by Kit Carson to Tom Tobin's grandson:

46 Roster of the First Cavalry of Colorado, As Mustered for Pay, February 28, (1863), <http://www.fortgarlandmuseumfriends.com/Cavalry.html> (accessed March 18, 2009)

47 Perkins, 160.

48 Perkins, 163-164.

49 Perkins, 164.

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

The older Espinosas had rolled out of the fire and had pulled his pistol, but his eyes had been burned in the fire and he couldn't see when grandpa walked up on him. His face looked horrible, being burned in the fire, even his hands had suffered - now looking more like animal claws according to Mr. Carson. Being blind from the fire he didn't see grandpa take his knife and end his life by cutting his head off. He retrieved the other Espinosas head, putting them both in a gunnysack for proof that they were really dead. At this point the soldiers hearing the shots appeared at the scene in time to bury the bodies. (some accounts claim Tobin made the older brother dig the holes before killing him).⁵⁰

There was no older brother there to dig the hole. Filipe was the oldest. It was his nephew and cousin that were with Filipe. His other brother Jose was killed by the sheriff between Canon City and Colorado Springs. Yet, there is another story, *The Old Santa Fe Trail* by Colonel Henry Inman, he brings out that in 1864, the Espinosas had ten years of unparalleled outlawry. Tom Tobin killed this bandit. Inman said that Tom was tracking them for a long time.

Tom crept up to the grove on his belly, Indian Fashion, and lying behind the cover of friendly log, waited until the noted desperado stood up, when he pulled the trigger of his never-erring rifle, and Espinosa fell dead. A second shot quickly disposed of his companion, and the old trapper's mission was accomplished. To be able to claim the reward offered by the authorities, Tom had to prove, beyond the possibility of doubt, that those whom he killed were the dreaded bandit and one of his gang. He thought it best to cut off their heads, which he deliberately did, and packing them on his mule in a gunny-sack, he brought them into old Fort Massachusetts, afterward Fort Garland, where they were speedily recognized; but whether Tom ever received the reward, I have my Doubts, as he never claimed that he did.⁵¹

Note the date he says it was in 1864. The other stories from James E. Perkins and Kenneth Jessen say he was killed in 1863. Inman also brings out that Tom wanted the bounty of the

50 Kenneth Jessen, Local History –April 2007-Colorado Central Magazine-No. 158-page 3,
<http://www.cozine.com/archive/cc2007/01580331.html> (accessed February 9, 2009)

51 Inman, 361.

Espinosa, while Perkins says that the money was not important that it was the right thing to do. Inman also brings out how Filipe died by Tom. He killed Filipe and his cousin in two shots. There is third story told by Mr. Ryus. He states:

About two weeks later Wooten was hunting and he heard a shot ring out on the air, and decided he would go in the direction of the shot and see what was up. He got on his stomach with his rifle fixed so he could shoot any hostile intruder and stealth-fully crawled up to within a few yards of where he had discovered a small camp smoke. There he espied Espinosa in company with a small twelve-year-old boy, ripping the hind quarter out of a beef steer he had killed. Wooten kept watching and crawling nearer-- Espinosa unsuspecting of the watch of the old trapper, prepared to cook his supper and had beef already over the fire cooking, answering the many questions of the hungry lad near him, when Wooten, getting a sight on him, sent out a shot that ended the life of the fearless and revengeful Mexican bandit, the terror of the Mexican and Colorado border, Espinosa. The boy hid under a log, but after being assured by Wooten that he would not be harmed came out and answered Uncle Dick Wooten's inquiries. The child said he was a nephew of Espinosa. When asked what the notches on the gun of the bandit denoted, he told him they denoted the number of men killed by his uncle, for whose life he had paid the forfeit by his own at the hands of Dick Wooten, the famous trapper of the Rocky mountains and keeper of the toll-gate of the Santa Fe Trail. Uncle Dick, a kind-hearted old fogie, in spite of the fact that he had just killed a bandit, gently pacified the little lad and finished cooking the supper. When it was all ready they both ate ravenously of the beef, bread and coffee; then Uncle Dick cut off the head of Espinosa and placed it in a gunny sack, took the rifle of the beheaded robber and placed the little boy on his horse behind him and started for the toll-gate; from there they went to Denver and collected the ransom. Besides the \$1000 reward for the potentate of the Rocky mountains which Uncle Dick received, he was also the recipient of a very fine rifle, mounted in gold and silver, and a small diamond. This rifle was said to be worth \$250. Uncle Dick showed the "fire-arm" to me and I considered it a very beautiful instrument of its kind. Old Uncle Dick proudly invited inspection of his beautiful "fire-arm," but woe to the man who criticized its wonderful mechanism. I do not know of Espinosa's being on the Santa Fe Trail but twice during my travels.⁵²

52 Ryus, William H., *The Second William Penn A True Account of Incidents That Happened Along the Old Santa Fe Trail*, 2003-10-20, Publisher Project Gutenberg, chapter 16
<http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/9805> (accessed February 9, 2009)

Which of these stories are true? These stories agree that Espinosa was killed by Tom Tobin or was he killed by someone else. Kenneth Jessen says that Tom went by himself and he tracked the Espinosa's to their camp. Tom shot Filipe and he fell in the fire and his face and hands were badly burned and he could not see who shot him. Tom came from behind him and cut his throat and then removed his head. James E. Perkins brings out that there were five of them and Tom told them to wait. There were three soldiers, Juan Montoya, and Tom. James' story brings out a man that was a great frontiersman that had his powder horn ready and bullets in his mouth. He shoots his first shot mortally wounding Filipe. Then Tom yells and says, "I've got him." He then put powder in his rifle and put a bullet in it. As Filipe's nephew, who name was Jose, ran and the three men fired at him and missed. Tom drew his gun and at first sight fired his gun and Jose fell. His back was broken. Tom walks up toward Filipe where he was laying against a fallen tree. Tom asked Filipe if he knew who he was. If Filipe realized that Tom, his distant cousin by marriage, had killed him he would have not known. Tom then grabbed the hair of Filipe then pulled his head back and cut the throat of Filipe and removed his head.⁵³ This story seems to be ugly family quarreled, a story of the old west.

Colonel Henry Inman has another story. It was in 1864 the bandit was killed by Tobin. He said that Tom was waiting for the opportunity to get the drop on them. When the opportunity came, he shot Espinosa, and he fell dead. A second shot quickly disposed his companion. To claim his reward he had to cut the heads.⁵⁴ There is a story from *Us Army Frontier Scouts 1840-1921* brings out their story. That Tom had four troopers with him as he stealthily crept up on the Espinosa. Tobin opened fire and wounded Espinosa,

⁵³ Perkins, 164.

⁵⁴ Inman, 361.

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

who dived behind a makeshift log breastwork. At this point Tobin shot a young boy as he tried to run away. Filipe fired his gun and was shot with many balls and died instantly.

There is still another story by Mr. Ryus saying that Uncle Dick Wooten kept watching and crawling nearer--Espinosa unsuspecting of the watch of the old trapper when Wooten, getting a sight on him, sent out a shot that ended the life of the fearless and revengeful Mexican bandit, the terror of the Mexican and Colorado border, Espinosa. Mr. Ryus is saying that Uncle Dick Wooten killed the Espinosa. Was he the frontiersman that got the heads of the Espinosa and claimed the reward?

The last story is from the Mexican side. Tom knew where Filipe might be hiding. He was accompanied by a small regiment. Tom told them that he would scout the area to see if he can find some fresh signs. Tom finds the Espinosa's and gets them drunk and then sliced their throats and cut their heads off to claim the reward.⁵⁵

If Filipe Espinosa's face was badly burnt then why the burns were not visible when his head was being exhibited at Fort Garland? How did Filipe reach for his guns if his hands were so badly burned? Why did some stories say that there were soldiers with Tom and some says he was by himself? Some stories say that Tom did not do it for the reward and other stories said he did. The Mexican version brings out a completely different story. In the evidence is the exhibition of the head of Filipe Espinosa's. His head was not burned. After the death of Filipe, Tom Tobin lived in his ranch in Redwing and furthermore, why did Tom Tobin's ranch happen to be in the same area of Filipe Espinosa's ranch? When did he purchase this ranch? Many Mexican Families in the San Luis and Fort Garland area lost their land to the Americans. Tom Tobin said, "That the

⁵⁵ Rumaldo Sais, Personal interview

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

Espinosas were not like by the Americans and the Mexicans.” There is an article that was brought out in the *Weekly Commonwealth*, Denver, Colorado, Wednesday, 30 December, 1863, Page 2. That tells an interesting story:

Major E. W. Wynkoop informs us that an express rider arrived in town last evening, bringing news of "a Rise" on the part of the Secesh portion of the New Mexicans near Fort Garland. They had besieged the Fort, and declared their purpose to avenge the death of the Espinosas and other Mexicans who were killed during the summer.⁵⁶

Why did the Mexican people attack Fort Garland, if Espinosa was a hated by everyone?

They declared their purpose to avenge the death of the Espinosas because they were considered heroes. *The Old Santa Fe Trail* says:

That the Espinosa had a sufficient number of cut-throats and renegades from justice to enable him wholly to defy the authorities; but at last he succeeded in rallying a strong force to his standard of blood, and became the terror of the whole region, equaling in boldness and audacity the terrible Joaquin, of California notoriety in after years.⁵⁷

The Espinosas were considered by Colonel Henry Inman as Joaquin Murietta, who also fought against the Americans in California. His story is similar to Filipe Espinosa's.

Joaquin Murietta, *The Bandit of the Goldfields* retold by S. E. Schlosser:

Joaquin Murietta and wife Rosita lived with his older brother Carlos in California. The three Mexican immigrants were living on a small, successful farm and the men were also working a claim near Hangtown. However, the other miners living nearby tried to run them off, telling them that it was illegal for Mexicans to pan for gold or hold a claim. The Murietta brother's ignored their threats and continued to live peacefully on their farm and work in the gold-fields.

Enraged by this flagrant disregard for the American laws, a drunken mob attacked the little family late one night, shooting Carlos, and then ravishing and murdering Rosita while Joaquin was forced to watch. The mob bound the Mexican to a stake in the yard, where they beat him with a whip. He strained angrily against his bonds, but finally his wounds

⁵⁶ Unknown, "Exciting News From Fort Garland," *Weekly Commonwealth*, Denver, Colorado, Wednesday, 30 December, 1863, Page 2.

⁵⁷ Inman, 361.

overcame him and he slumped senseless against the post. The mob left him for dead, but when a few sober citizens came the next day to help the Mexican family, Joaquin was already gone.

Travel in the goldfields was made nearly impossible by the threat of Joaquin Murietta and his gang, so California's governor hired a group of rangers to track down and kill Joaquin. Led by a Captain Love, the rangers ambushed Joaquin and his men, and shot the Mexican bandit and his horse to death. Captain Love decapitated the Mexican bandit and put his head into a jar filled with alcohol, which he paraded through the streets of San Francisco. The head was finally placed behind the bar of the Golden Nugget Saloon in San Francisco, where it leered at the folks who came there to drink until the saloon was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake.⁵⁸

In conclusion, why did Colonel Henry Inman say that Filipe Espinosa was like Joaquin Murietta? Did he really know the truth? Filipe Espinosa was wealthy and he had land. The Americans did come to the west to homestead. Mexicans did fight for their land and lost. There are many stories that have different meanings of heroes, bandits, and guerilla warriors. What is the truth? It is from history that we look for facts. We search to find the truth. He or she is the one who has the opportunity to tell his story. If a person were a guerilla warrior the victors would call you a terrorist; if a person were on other side, a hero. The United States was planning for their mission of Manifest Destiny to conquer and they did.

For the historian, one's goal is to remove the bias and find the facts that support his or her claim. The story of the Espinosas unveils the hardship and the terror that they faced when the soldiers, frontiersmen, pioneers, and settlers came, after the Mexican and American war. This is the case not only for the Espinosas, but also for the Mexican families that lived in a conquered land. Mexicans had to adjust their life, culture, and ways in order to fit into the "new" world. It was a new way of life for the Mexican

58 S.E. Schlosser, Joaquin Murietta, The Bandit of the Goldfields, American Folklore.
<http://www.americanfolklore.net/folktales/ca10.html> (accessed March 20, 2009)

Edward Martinez
History 499
Professor Paul Harvey

families. If the Espinosas were bandits, guerilla fighters and killers, let the truth be known. If the Espinosas were fighting for justice, let it be known. The Espinosas could even have been heroes. But, for myself, I am the proof, for it was my great great grandmother that was raped; I would have not been here to write this Senior Thesis if it was not for the men who raped her. History opens a way for the truth to come out. Let History find the way and the truth of freedom.