



Vigil Family Chatter



Volume 1

December 2005

4th Vigil Family Reunion a Terrific Success!!!!!!

Primo! Prima! It seemed like everywhere you turned, we were surrounded by family. While the actual festivities were not scheduled to begin until Saturday, family began to gather on Friday... in the restaurant, foyer and the bar, pulling up chairs, shaking hands and sharing hugs. The kids met each other on their own terms – in the swimming pool. *Let the fun begin!!!!*

Everyone was greeted by the ever efficient chair of this year's event, John H. Vigil, his wife Joyce and



daughter Jackie. Over 300 people registered throughout the weekend. Name tags had 1 – 4 stars to identify how many reunions the person had participated in over the years. Vigil family members could be easily identified, wearing Vigil Reunion shirts and hats, reading the books that were available for resale (more about those later) and talking. Everywhere you could hear, “Have you met ____? This is your cousin ____”.

Saturday morning was the first formal opportunity to begin to renew friendships and kindle new ones. Almost 75 people joined for buffet breakfast. Oops!!!! We forgot to add green chile to the menu.

One of the main reasons for selecting Trinidad as the site of this reunion was to provide people with the opportunity to see where the homestead began. Those who still had property in the valley opened their homes. Mimi Vigil Sandoval led caravans through the homesteads. They stopped at the



Trujillo Creek Cemetery to locate the gravesite of Juan de Jesus Vigil and Maria Romana Bustos along with many other family members.



Anne Lucero shared stories of the history of the valley.

The only original homestead that continues to be owned by a Vigil member belongs to David Gallino. David operates a working ranch on the combined properties of his father (Dominic Gallino) and Celedon Vigil raising cows, horses and alfalfa. The homestead was purchased by Celedon Vigil in 1888.

Over 260 people gathered at the Quality Inn in Trinidad on Saturday evening, July 23, 2005 for the main event – the Vigil Reunion Dinner. Jan Lindgren, an oral historian, joined our family to gather stories from those willing to share their time. Kristin White was adopted by the family as she volunteered her time taking photos and scanning pictures that people had brought to share into a family archive. (Our sincere appreciation goes to Jan and Kristin for sharing their weekend with us. They are honorary members of the Vigil family.)

Thank you very much for the great privilege you gave me to attend the recent reunion.

I observed that indeed Juan de Jesus and Romana Bustos Vigil gave the land a special and wonderful family. I pray that God's blessings will always be upon this family. The reunion was one of the blessings.

Anne Lucero



The mayor of Trinidad, Joe Rorda, welcomed everyone to the reunion – acknowledging the contribution of the Vigil family over the past 150 years to the community.

John Vigil introduced the Vigil Reunion Committee, thanking everyone for their time and dedication. Committee members included: John Fransua; JoAnn Phillips; Carolyn Romero, Historian; Mary Romero; Carl Salazar; Rosemary Salazar, Treasurer; Mimi Vigil Sandoval; George F. Vigil, Vice Chairman; Richard Vigil; Robert

Vigil; Rose Theresa, Secretary; John H. Vigil, Chairman; Andrea Romero; and Tyler Elliott.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Anne Lucero in recognition of and appreciation for a lifetime of service, spiritual devotion, family values and sharing her gift of writing about the land of our fathers and mothers. Carolyn Romero was presented with a Distinguished Service Award for her dedication in documenting the stories of the Vigil family. Tyler Elliott (age 11) and Andrea Romero (age 12) were recognized for their enthusiasm – as these two had ignited their own flame to continue the Vigil legacy.



Other certificates presented included: Oldest living participant – D. Eloy Vigil at the age of 89; Youngest participant – Mason Joshua Phillips – only six weeks old; Diana Lewis traveled the greatest distance clocking in some 3,000 miles.

I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the reunion and was very glad that it was held in Trinidad. It was nice to visit the places my Dad grew up. I wanted to compliment you all on the great job you did and it was very well organized. I know you all put in a lot of hours and hard work. Thanks for the memories, the events and the books that were put together. It will be something I will always remember.

Debbie Lachner

There was a silent auction organized by Mimi Vigil Sandoval. Funds raised helped defray the costs of the mailings and hosting the Reunion.

Joyce Vigil, a tremendous water color artist, painted a picture of the Huajatollas and made prints and cards available for sale, generously donating half of her proceeds to the Juan de Jesus Vigil Family Foundation. (Thank You, Joyce.)

Along one of the walls was a picture of the family genealogy. Everyone had fun trying to find their name in the family tree.

The Keynote address was made by Carolyn Romero, our Family Historian. Carolyn completed a 311-page book compiling the Vigil genealogy she had researched over more than 20 years. Included in her

book entitled “*Living a Legacy...Descendants of Juan de Jesus Vigil & Maria Romana Bustos*” were the life stories of 30 descendants. During her keynote speech, she took the family back 11 generations. (A complete copy of Carolyn’s speech will be available on the Juan de Jesus Vigil Family website shortly.)

No one wanted the night to end. People adjourned to their rooms to continue talking into the wee hours of the night.

Sunday morning about 100 people joined together for breakfast. Some took trips into Trinidad or up to Aguilar. We all joined together at the Trinidad County Fairgrounds to continue the festivities.

(Excerpt from Carolyn’s Speech)

Tonight, our journey starts with Lucas de Vigil and Isabel de Vigil. They were both born around 1560 in Siero, Spain.

Juan Montes Vigil I was the son of Lucas de Vigil and Isabel de Vigil.

Juan Montes Vigil I was born around 1580 in Siero, Spain. Juan Montes Vigil I was “untitled nobility – an Hijo Dalgo. This refers to nobility that comes to men by lineage. Hidalgos were not necessarily wealthy. The legal rewards of an Hidalgo were (1) given places of privilege in church, (2) debts could not be collected by seizure of home or personal property (3) they were immune from royal taxes.

Juan Montes Vigil II was the son of Juan Montes Vigil I and Maria de Vigil. Juan Montes Vigil II was born in 1600 in La Feliglesia de San Martino de Siero in Spain.

Juan Montes Vigil II came to new Spain on June 20, 1611. Juan was described as tall and white. He came to new Spain with Bartolome Vigil who was his uncle and guardian. On February 20, 1609, Bartolome Vigil noted that Juan wished to be a “Hijo dalgo” – “son of somebody” as he was a direct and legitimate descendant of the manor house of Vigil, one of the most ancient and noteworthy of the Consejo de Sierra region. Every passenger to America had to obtain a royal license and register at the Casa de Contractacion – however, many came to America as “illegals”, stowaways, with forged papers, as sailors, etc.

Richard Vigil organized games for the kids. Don and Dennis Hattan donated almost 500 water balloons to help cool off from the hot day.

There was a live auction organized by Mimi and Rey Sandoval. People were generous with the items that they donated as well as with their bids. After all expenses were paid, the 2005 Vigil Reunion Committee set aside \$400 seed money for the next reunion – and donated almost \$2,000 to start the Juan de Jesus Vigil Family Foundation. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!!!!

The next reunion is being targeted for Taos, NM in 2009 or 2010. The family migrated from Mora, New Mexico in 1859, a short distance from Taos. This timing would be 150 years after the family’s move to Colorado. If you are interested in potentially serving on the next reunion committee, please contact Carolyn Romero.

Request for More Oral Histories

Since July 2005, we have obtained the oral histories for 14 more people including:

Al Vigil * John F. Vigil * Tina Vigil * Julia Madrid Vigil * Mary Hurtado * Anne Lucero * Robert L Vigil * Rosemary Salazar * Marcella Rimsnider * Tony Vigil * Stella Romero * Fred Vigil * Carlotta Apodaca * Rose Holland.

If you are over 50 and are willing to participate in this project, please contact Carolyn Romero at



*Descendants of
Juan de Jesus Vigil and
Maria Romana Cruz del Carmen Bustos
As of July 5, 2005*

	<u>Generation</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Children	2	16
Grand Children	3	79
Great Grand Children	4	135
Great Great Grand Children	5	326
Great Great Great Grand Children	6	343
Great Great Great Great Grand Children	7	109
Great Great Great Great Great Grand Children	8	11
Total		<u>1,020</u>

The 2005 Vigil Family Reunion

**The reunion begins and families arrive,
Happy to gather after a Colorado drive**

**Some live very close to here, while others come from afar
We greet each other in the hotel lobby and also at the hotel bar**

**We talk about old times gone and also the current times too
“I can’t believe it’s been so long since the last time I saw you”**

**A visit to the Trujillo creek cemetery, where we all pay our respect
It was truly a time to remember the past, and perfect time to reflect**

**Then a drive to Trujillo Creek, where we all go back in time a bit more
With dilapidated buildings still standing, with no one using them
anymore**

**However, times now are different, as we all can plainly see
But the beauty of the land remains, for viewing by you and me**

**Air conditioning, computer information, were simply not available then
It was a time of ruggedness and true grit, for both the women and the
men**

**The next day we had a large family picnic, and again shared time
together
Enjoying each others company once more, in the beautiful Colorado
weather**

**I was humbled after taking it all in, and very happy to share
The family heritage with our children, so that they too would care**

**Care about who we are, where we came from and where we are going too
Yes, I am very proud to be in this family and also to be related to you.**

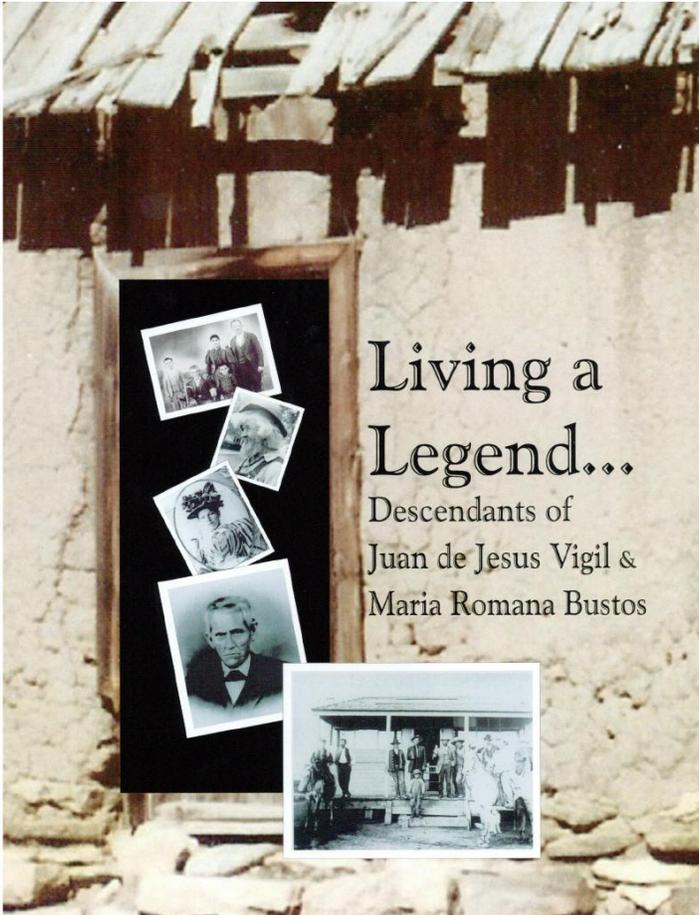
May God continue to bless the Vigil family members.

By: Dennis Hattan 7/26/2005

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You, for the outstanding Juan de Jesus Reunion in Trinidad. I can tell you I have not stopped talking about it since we returned to Wisconsin. I am proud of all of our cousin’s, old and new.

Gloria and Al Vigil

Order Your Copy of the Vigil Books while Copies Last



Living a Legacy...Descendants of Juan de Jesus Vigil and Maria Romana Bustos,
by Carolyn Romero

\$40 + \$5 shipping

Vigil Legacy, by Anne Lucero

\$6 + \$1.50 Shipping

, by John H. Vigil

Send your check payable to the **Juan de Jesus Vigil Family Foundation** to:

Carolyn M. Romero
7510 Devinney Ct
Arvada, CO 80005

Appeal for Juan de Jesus Vigil Family Foundation