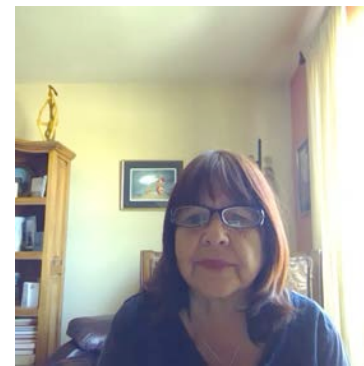




Cuerno Verde and Juan Bautista de Anza Decisive Battle, September 3, 1779

by Charlene Garcia Simms, Genealogy & Special Collections Librarian



Timeline: 1730 - 1789

The World

1772 Shoelaces invented in England

1775 Mozart at 19 was composing

1789 – French Revolution started

The United States

1732 George Washington born

1743 Thomas Jefferson born

1756 French and Indian War

1770 Boston Massacre

1775 Boston Tea Party

1776 Signing of Declaration of Independence

1789 George Washington 1st Pres.

Southwest

New Mexico had been colonized by Spain in 1598

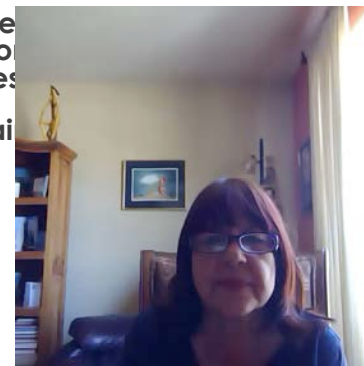
In 1680 The Pueblo Indian Revolt forced the Spanish back to El Paso

In 1692 New Mexico was reconquered

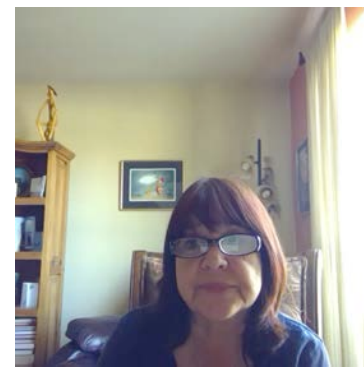
1700s - The Spanish and Pueblos learned to live side by side, but the plains Indians raided the villages and Pueblos and people lived in fear of attack. There were droughts and locust infestation, and everyone was scrambling for survival and division of resources.

July 1771 Father Junipero Serra founded mission in California and in 1775 Tucson, Arizona was founded as a Spanish Pres

Pueblo would remain part of New Spain until 1821



Pueblo, August 30, 31 September 1, 1779, History was happening right in our back yard! Exit 106





Comanches



Comanche Indians, courtesy: Palace of the Governors

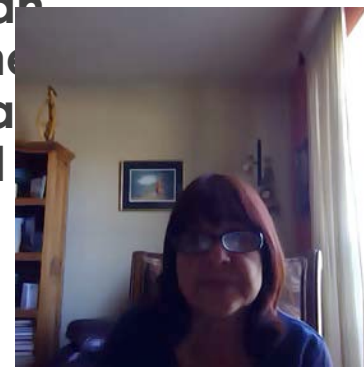
- ▶ Arrived in the Pueblo Indian world in early 1700s to acquire horses.
- ▶ Were known as the Comanche “Horse Lords” of the Plains and became the dominant group.
- ▶ Comanche raids struck terror to their enemies.
- ▶ Made Enemies of Apaches and Utes.

Buffalos and Horses

Comanche’s were part of the Shoshone family, but the band split into two groups and they assumed a different identity.

The buffalo was very important for food, teepees, blankets, lariats, tools, etc.

However, it was their horsemanship that distinguished them; disciplined from an early age to hone their riding skills. They had more horses than they needed, and the horse was a symbol of power and wealth.



Tabivo Naritgant aka Cuerno Verde II



- ▶ A battle in Ojo Caliente in 1768 set the stage for more hostilities. The Comanche's attacked Ojo Caliente and they lost. Among the casualties was their leader wearing a green-horned headdress. He was a heroic figure to his people. What would they do without him? They turned to his son Tabivo Naritgant. Most historians agree that he salvaged his father's green horned headdress and wore it with honor. Green was sacred to them.
- ▶ Cuerno Verde II swore he would get revenge and he pursued his vengeance against the Spanish with exceptional ferocity. Settlers nor Indians wanted to get captured by the Comanches under his cruel leadership. As they became the dominant force in the Plains area his attacks became more brazen. His attacks were relentless, and the Spanish wondered if they could survive.

The Southwest Under Spanish Rule

Tomas Velez Cachupin

- ▶ The governor, two terms prior to Anza, Tomas Velez Cachupin, gained insight into the Comanche's dual strategy of war and trade through trial and error. He understood they used war to define and preserve their collective sense of honor. It was Velez' diplomatic skills that allowed Spain to enter into a mutual relationship with the Comanche's. However, the next governor, Fermin de Mendinueta was not diplomatic and made things much worse so raid after raid occurred.

Not enough resources

After the first Cuerno Verde's death in 1768 at the hands of the Spanish there was a responsibility to avenge his death. But there was also drought and a shortage of food supply and Cuerno Verde II intensified his attacks on the Pueblos and Spanish people of New Mexico. The attacks wore governor Mendinueta out and he was relieved of his governorship in 1778. The new governor would be Juan Bautista de Anza.



Juan Bautista de Anza had Founded San Francisco in 1776 (240 people, 2000 miles)



The Anza Expedition

THE ANZA EXPEDITION 1775-1776

In 1776, while American patriots fought for their independence from England, Spanish Lt. Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza led more than 240 men, women, and children some 1,800 miles to establish a settlement at San Francisco Bay.

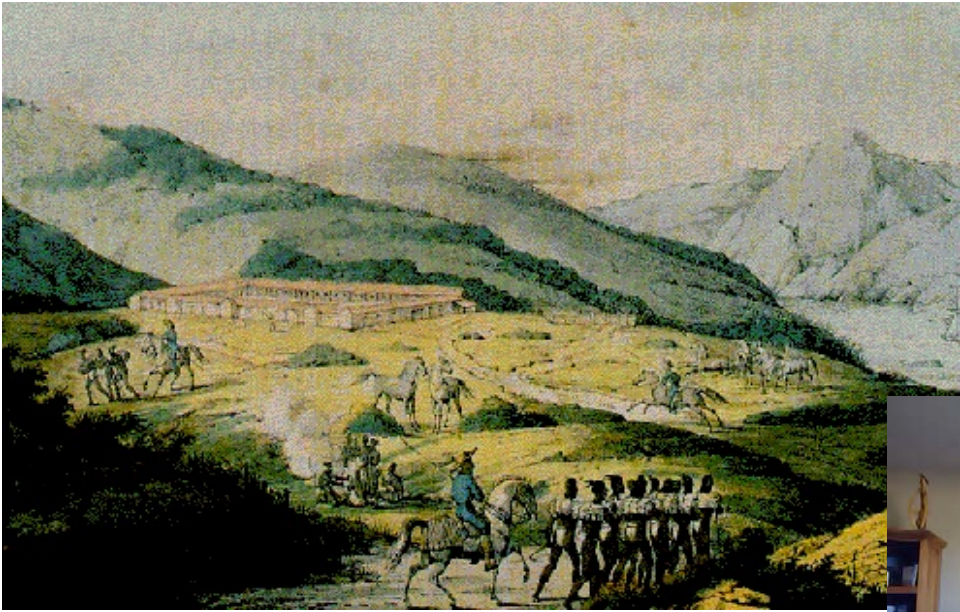
These families were the first colonists to come overland across the frontier of New Spain into present-day California.

Al mismo tiempo que en 1776 los patriotas angloamericanos iniciaban la lucha por su independencia de Inglaterra, el teniente coronel español Juan Bautista de Anza condujo a unas 240 colonos más de 2000 kilómetros para establecerse en Alta California.

Era la primera vez que se utilizaba la ruta terrestre de Nueva España para traer pobladores, en este caso los que habían de establecer el pueblo de San Francisco.

www.nps.gov/juba | www.anzahistorictrail.org | @AnzaTrailNPS

Founding of San Francisco, June 29, 1776



Juan Bautista de Anza



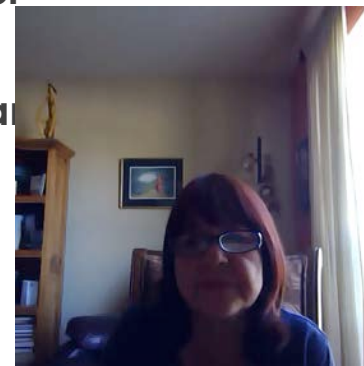
Anza's Heritage

Anza was Basque, son of Juan Bautista de Anza, who migrated to New Spain in 1712. The Basques who came to Mexico developed a network of merchants, bankers, silver magnates, administrative and church officials who tended to look after their own. They were very powerful.



Juan Bautista de Anza II

- ▶ Juan Bautista de Anza, the son of a military officer, was born in Fronteras, Sonora, New Spain, in July 1736. He enlisted in the army in 1752 and by 1760 he was a captain. In 1774, he was a Lt. Colonel.
- ▶ After founding San Francisco in 1776, he was appointed governor and settled in Santa Fe as governor of New Mexico in December 1778. He was the perfect choice.
- ▶ HIS Priority: to subdue the Comanche's and negotiate a trade agreement.





Comanche Campaign



Soldado de cuero, leather soldier

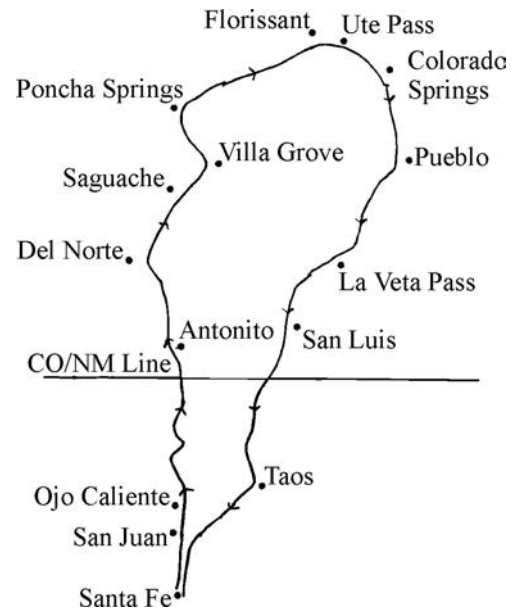
- ▶ Anza was an Indian fighter and strategist from way back. It didn't take him too long to assess the situation. It took him eight and a half months to plan and prepare. He had to get the men and the horses ready and the strength of his plan depended on the element of surprise. He was going to take a different route to get to Cuerno Verde. On August 15, 1779, the stage was set, the players were ready and at three in the afternoon the curtain was drawn on Anza's 1779 Comanche Campaign. He left with 600 men and over 1500 horses. 200 Utes and apaches would join him with their own horses. He had 1 chaplain, 1 drummer, 5 Captains, 5 lieutenants, 4 Ensigns, 1 cadet, hundreds of soldiers, militia, and Indians.
- ▶ Several of his men acted as scouts. There would be one casualty, Domingo Anaya, not battle related.

MAPS OF CAMPAIGN

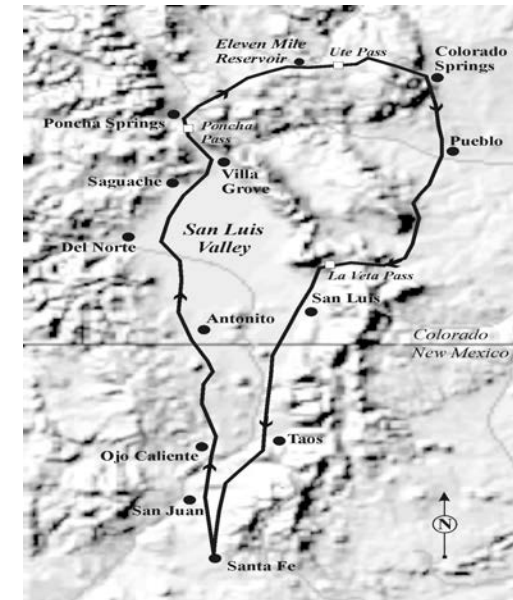
Bernardo Miera y Pacheco Map



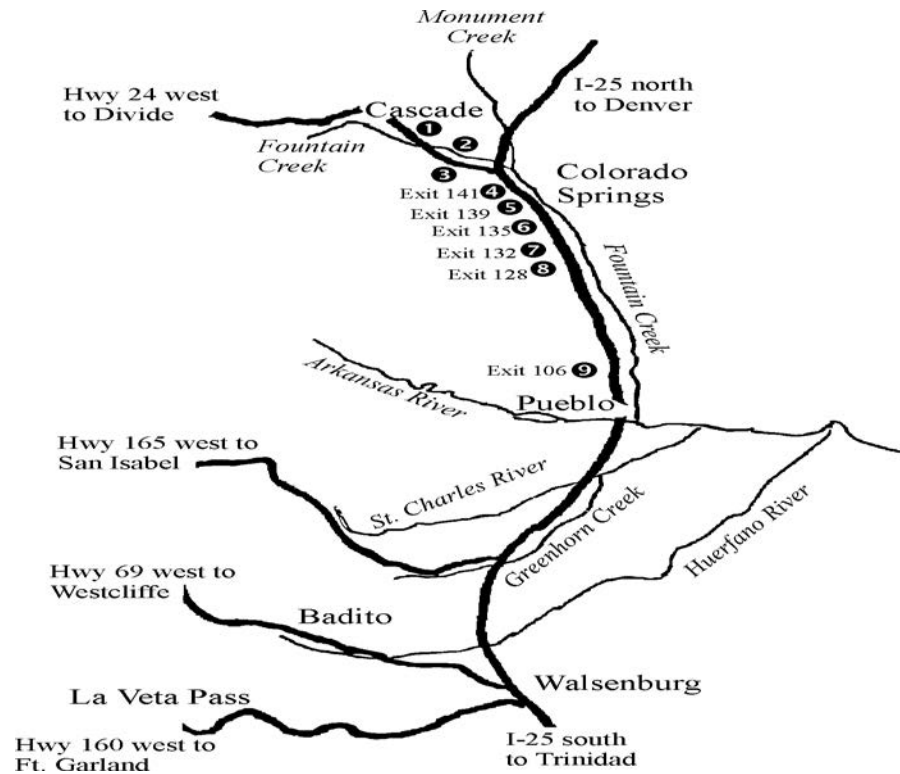
Attack plan Map



Topo Map

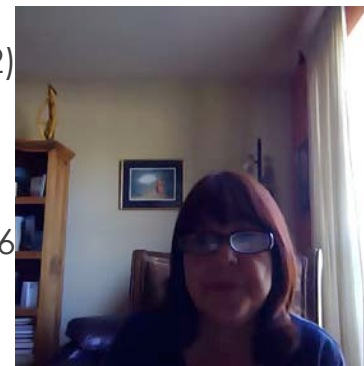


List of events from Colorado Springs – Pueblo -August 30, 31 and September 1, 1779 from Anza's Diary

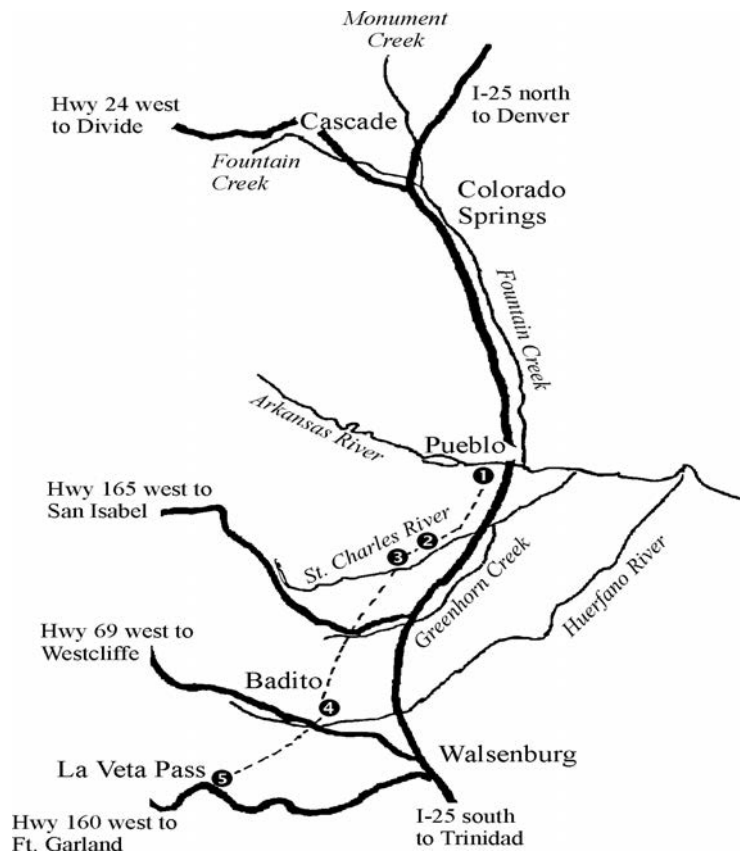
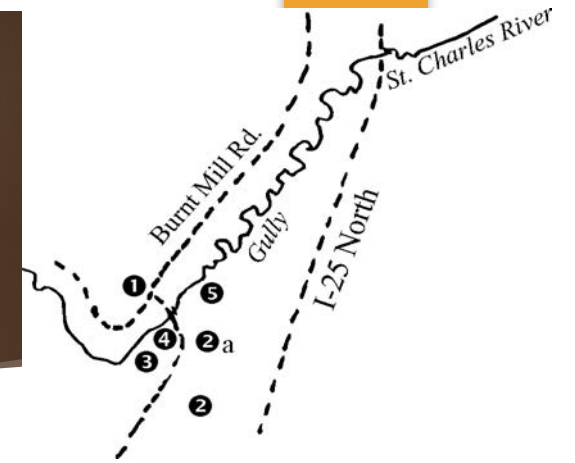


Cascade – Exit 106 on I-25

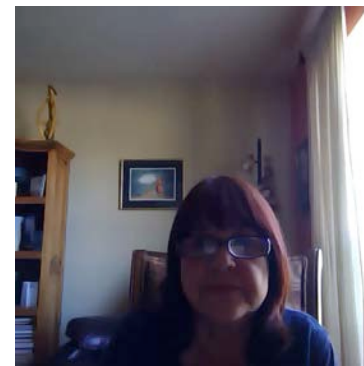
- ▶ (1) 8-30 Anza set up camp (Cascade)
- ▶ (2) 8-31 Anza moved closer (Manitou)
- ▶ (3) Moved within 1.5 miles of Com. Camp
- ▶ (4) Anza attacked camp but the warriors were on a raiding expedition in Taos. They fled. Exit 141
- (5 & 6) Anza pursued the Comanches, a running battle began & ended– Exit 139 – 135
- (7) Anza set up camp after dividing spoils (132)
- (8) 9-1, Anza found Comanche trail. Crossed Fountain at Exit 128
- (9) Camped 9 miles north of Pueblo at Exit 106



First battle – September 2
 Decisive Battle, September 3 – from Anza's Diary



- ▶ (1) 9-2 Anza crossed the Arkansas River
- ▶ (2) After 5 miles Anza stopped to rest horses
- ▶ (3) Anza moved 3 miles, told CV was coming
- ▶ (4) Anza crossed gully & attacked CV
- ▶ Fighting ceased for the day; Anza camped on the north side
- ▶ 9-3 Fighting resumed in a.m. CV was trapped in gully
 Cuerno Verde was killed before 10:30 a.m.
- (5) Anza left area to Badito and camped
- ▶ Anza crossed Sangres into SLV



Battlefield – Exit - Burnt Mill Road,
Near St. Charles River

Battle Field



Area where Anza may have crossed

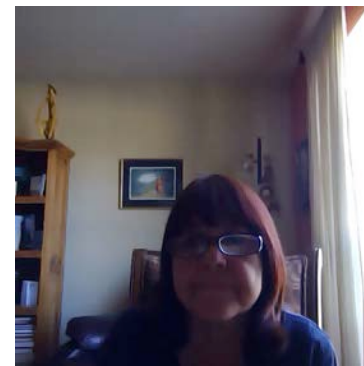
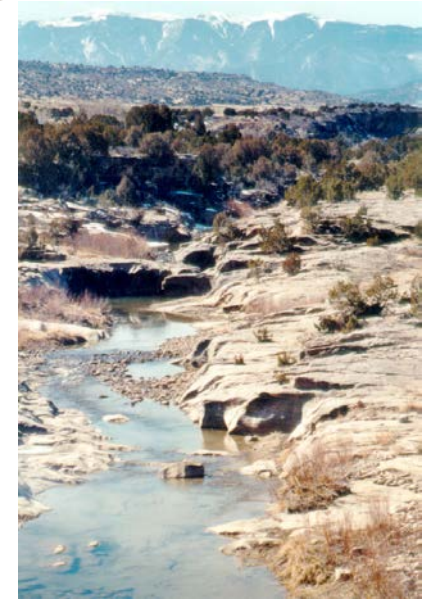


Definition of Zanja and Anza's Diary

- ▶ The word Zanja was mis-translated to "Bog" –Marsh, swamp
- ▶ The correct translation is "gully" – a water-worn ravine, canyon, gorge, gulch

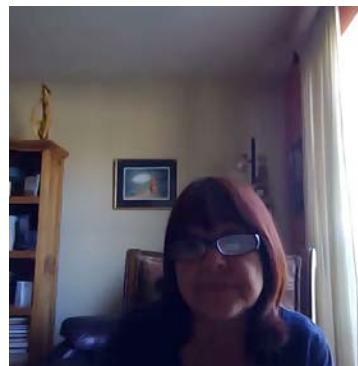
Dr. Wilfred Martinez' discovery that the word, "bog", should have been "gully" in the translation of Anza's diary was invaluable to finding where he felt 99.9% the battle took place. The gully was actually the St. Charles River in plain sight at the eighteen-mile mark mentioned in Anza's diary but had been overlooked because of the translation error.

- ▶ There are other theories but Dr. Martinez' has more credence. Many agree and those who don't are still trying to disprove his theory.



Importance of Cuerno Verde's Defeat

- ▶ The raiding by Comanches stopped. Arapaho and Cheyenne were able to move to the Plains and trade with people from Taos.
- ▶ Anza established peace between the Comanche and the Spanish. He refused to enter into peace talks until the tribe agreed on a single chief. That person was Chief Ecuercacapa and the peace was agreed upon in 1786. Anza left office in 1787 and died suddenly the following year in Sonora. The peace he executed lasted into the 19th century making the opening of the Santa Fe Trail in 1821 much easier.
- ▶ However, the battle with Native Americans for the land of their ancestors would last towards the end of the 19th century.



Roadside Marker, Greenhorn Meadows Park Colorado City, off the
of battle site

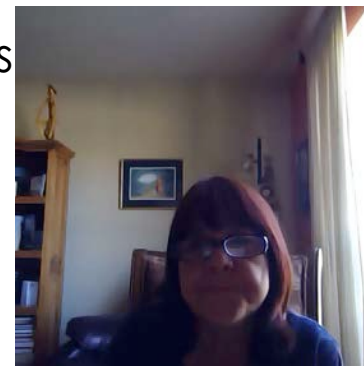


Colorado City near GH Library



Greenhorn Meadows Park

In this vicinity the Comanche Chief Cuerno Verde (Greenhorn) The Cruel Scourge was defeated and killed by the Spaniards under Gov. Juan B. Anza on September 3, 1779. The nearby mountain and stream take their name from the chief. Anza's was the first expedition through certain parts of Colorado. *Property of the State of Colorado.*



Roadside Markers



Vineland, Lane 36, East of Pueblo.



Inscription

Inscription. By 1700 Comanche's moved south from the northern Rockies onto the plains of southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. They raided the Apaches and Spanish settlements from the late 1600s until 1779 when the Governor of New Mexico, Anza, decisively defeated a large group, led by Cuerno Verde in a battle near the mountains to the southwest of here. The Comanche's signed a peace treaty in 1786, and a year later they asked for Spanish assistance to build a permanent farm village. The Spanish provided workmen, tools, farming implements, seed and livestock to help found San Carlos de los Jupes, but Comanche religious beliefs caused abandonment of the village within a year because a member of the tribe died there. It is believed San Carlos de los Jupes was built just west at the confluence of the Arkansas and San Carlos rivers.

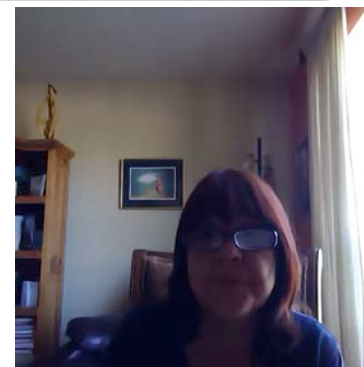
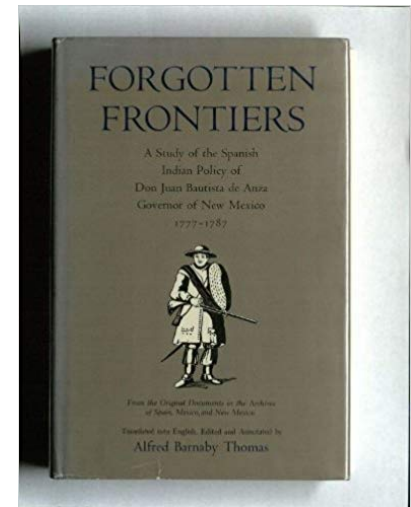


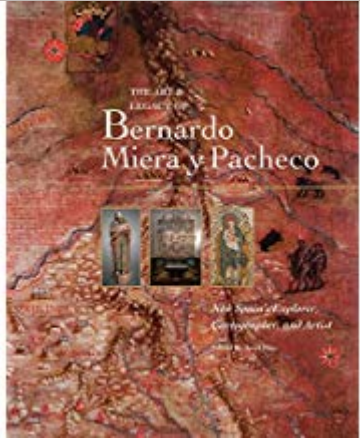
Greenhorn (Cuerno Verde) Valley, Greenhorn (Cuerno Verde)
Mountain, Greenhorn (Cuerno Verde) Valley Library



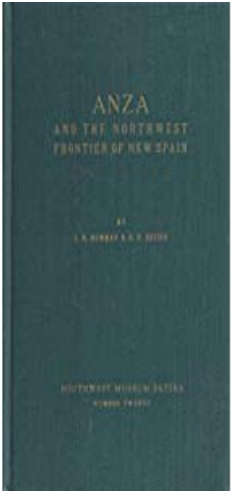
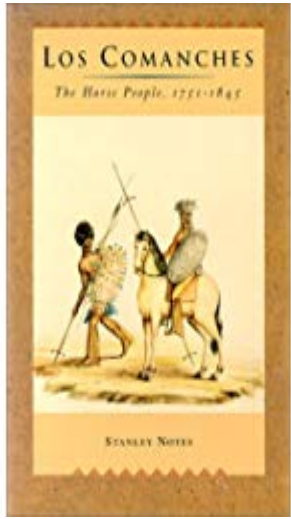
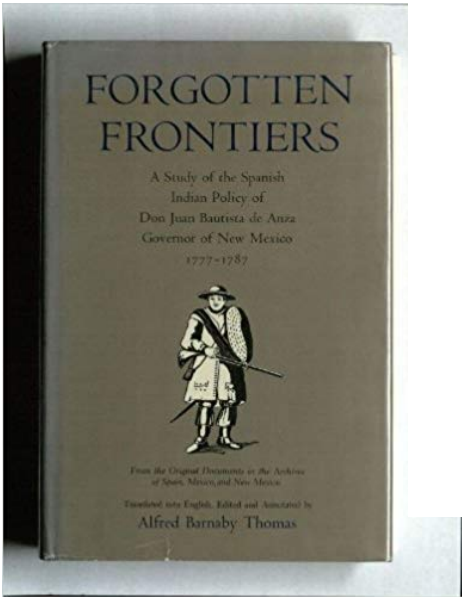
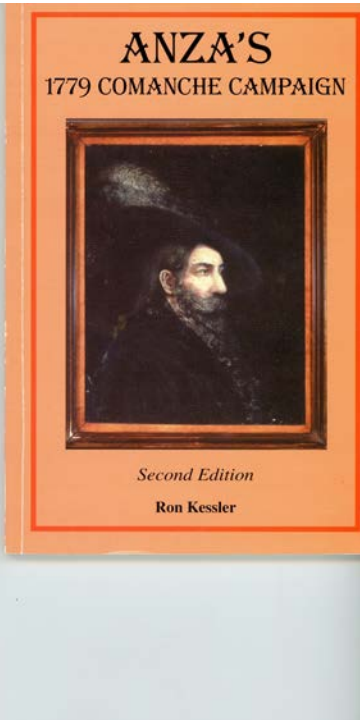
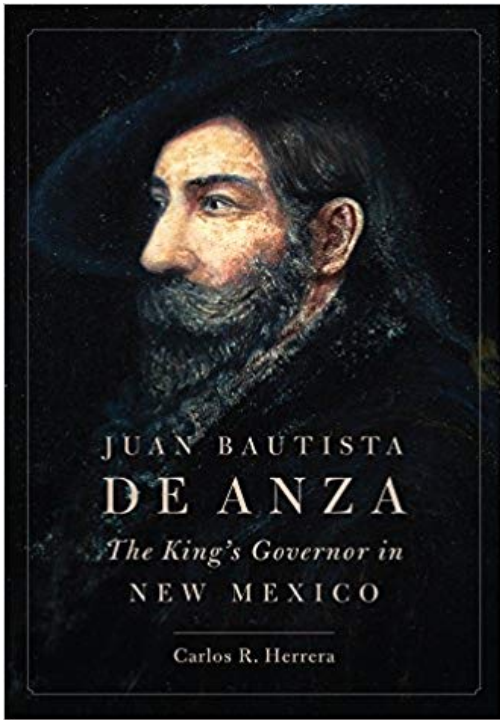
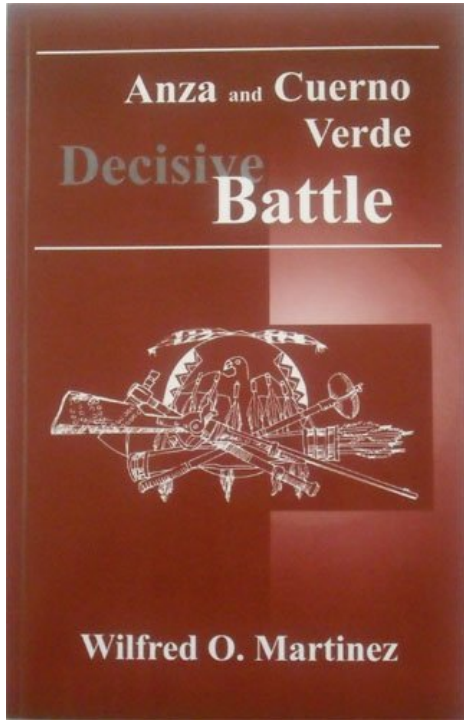
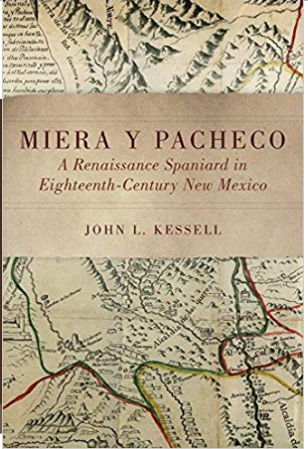
In Conclusion

- ▶ The history that I am sharing happened in our own back yard. Yet, how many people know who Cuerno Verde (Greenhorn) Mountain was named after and why?
- ▶ Some people may know who Cuerno Verde was, but how many know about Juan Bautista de Anza.
- ▶ The challenge of where the decisive battle took place is still being investigated even though Dr. Martinez feels 99.9% his theory is fact.
- ▶ The Anza Society has much more information about Juan Bautista de Anza on their website. Check it out.
- ▶ What happened to Cuerno Verde's headdress?
- ▶ There is much more to learn. I hope your historical appetite has been awakened and challenged to find out more.





Further Reading, available at Rawlings Library
Thank you!



Articles by Don Garate, Historian & Portrayer of Anza. (PCC 2001)

