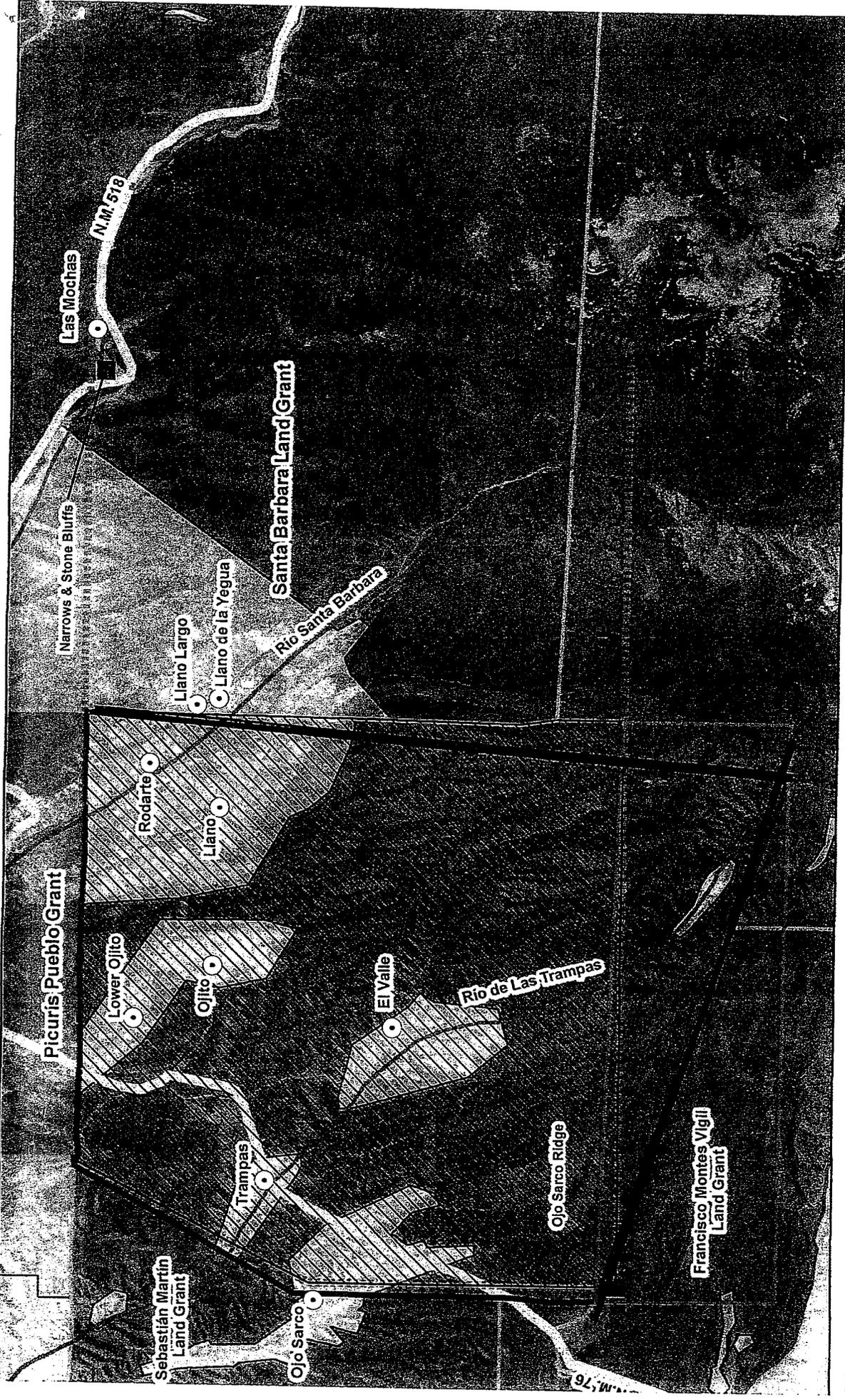


Figure 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



Miles



UNM LGSP
6/15/2012

1876 Survey
1881

Ownership Classes

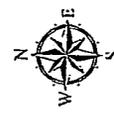
	USFS
	Private
	Tribal
	BLM

Boundaries and Features

	1891 Survey Patented Bound. (28,127ac.)
	1876 Survey (46,457ac.)
	Revised Historic Bound. (24,955.10 ac.)
	Hist. Bound. Acknowledged After 1891 (8,597.4 ac.)
	Boundaries of Patented Land Grants
	Water Channel
	Road
	Historic Landmark
	Populated Place

Santo Tomás Apostol del Río de Trampas was founded in 1751. A portion of the grant was ceded to a daughter grant, Santa Bárbara. The estimated historic boundaries (shaded area) follows the petition description, adjusted for the subsequent cession to the daughter grant.

SHAPE Files



Santo Tomas Apostal del Rió de las Trampas Grant

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History & Opinion by Bert Lucero --Draft

INTRODUCTION:

On July 1, 1751, Juan De Arguello, a retired Spanish soldier, and 11 other family heads (related to him by blood or marriage), were given approximately 80 square miles (2 leagues x 3 leagues -- Approx 5 miles X 7.5 miles) of land by the King of Spain (in current day counties of Taos and Rio Arriba in northern New Mexico). These people were a mixture of "presidio" Spanish soldiers and Tlascalan Indians called "genizaros", then living in the Barrio de Analco region of Santa Fe.

Joseph de Aragón

Juan De Arguello

(Born 1691, married to Juana Gregoria Brito, Tlascalan Indian)

Juan José De Arguello

(son of Juan De Arguello)

Salvador Baca

Antonio Domínguez

Juan García

(married Joaquina Rodríguez, dtr of Pedro Philipe Rodríguez)

Luis Francisco De Leyba

(married Juanna Gertudis Arguello, dtr of Juan De Arguello)

Eusibio Leyba

(father of Luis Francisco De Leyba, son of the "maes del campo")

Melchor Rodríguez

(son of Sebastian Rodríguez, Diego de Vargas' African drummer)

Pedro Felipe Rodríguez

(son of Melchor Rodríguez)

Vicente Lucero

Ignacio Vargas

This Grant was given "...to colonize..." and "...to protect the lower Rio Grande settlements from Comanche raids", as a buffer community. (DeBuys & Ebright). This was a community land grant that was given by the Spanish Sovereign IAW (in accordance with) Spanish law and tradition. It is one of the better-documented grants. It is known as the "LAS TRAMPAS GRANT" (US Patent Grant #27). In this grant, the King of Spain provided for a "Tax Free" status:

"...to the aforesaid citizens all the royal and personal title he (the king) had to the said lands, granting the same to them (the twelve families) free of all tax, tribute, mortgage, or other encumbrance, for which neither himself, his children, heirs, or successors will enter suit, dispute, or complaint against them..."

(Las Trampas Grant: Twitchell Translation -- Archive 975)

FORM OF OWNERSHIP:

TENANCY IN COMMON: The entire Grant was private property. It was used --

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Co... and they, immediately filed, first (Ebright) In that case, Mr. Catron portrayed the Tramperos as "squatters". Twenty-two months later, Mr. Catron filed the Defendants Response and Answer to the Quit Title Suit, wherein he claimed the Tramperos were "Fee Simple" owners by right of "adverse possession", rather than the owners by grant. And of course... Mr. Catron... **Lost the Case!** (see also USA vs. Tierra Amarilla).

The United States Court System allowed the common lands of Las Trampas Land Grant to be sequestered and sold, before the United States of America delivered the Patent (confirmed by the United States Congress on 21 June 1860 and approved 3 March 1869) to it's rightful owners, the Tramperos. The Tramperos never saw the "Patent" signed by President Theodore Roosevelt on 26 Jan 1903. This Grant was recorded in Santa Fe on 13 February 1913 and hand receipted to Franklin Bond on 14 February 1913. The United States Court System allowed the appointment of a Special Master to sell the common lands. The Tramperos were not allowed to participate in the selection of this "Special Master". The Tramperos were not even aware of all the legal proceedings, and as such, they never agreed to permit the United States of America to auction the common lands for them.

Never-the-less, on 7 Feb 1903, Special Master, Ernest Johnson (silent partner of Alonzo B. McMillan), created a deed to Frank Bond for the 27,481.67 acres of "common lands", of the Las Trampas Grant, for \$17,012.00. And on the 14th of February 1914, one day after the official copy was received and recorded in Santa Fe, Mr. Bond signed a receipt to the US Surveyor General of New Mexico for the original, signed, patent in the form of a "Quit Claim Deed" from the United States of America to the "Town of Las Trampas" Patent for 28,131.67 acres. He claimed to be one of the present owners of said grant (NM Archives, SANM II, roll 16, frame 437). The Tramperos retained 650 acres or 4.328% of the Grant, land (later confirmed to be 6980 acres).

In violation of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the law of the Indies and the law of international conquest, the Tramperos lost all but 8.18 square miles of the original 80 square mile grant given them by the King of Spain in 1751. Lands upon which they depended upon for survival, food, grazing, firewood, lumber, water, hunting, etc., etc.. And in addition, they were given a court order to "Quit Claim" 1/4 of their remaining land to the lawyers "..., for services rendered" (another 1745 acres). Prior to this court order, Alonzo B. McMillan had acquired 10.6 %, (approximately 2,913 acres) of the common lands. David Martinez, somehow, now owned 18.3% or about 5148 acres while the other 273 defendants owned the rest!!! Francis O. Wood, another attorney, eventually, "owned" more than 2,464 acres.

Of great significance, in the final court order, Judge McFie ordered **only** the **partitioning** of the **common lands** and not the cultivated lands, estimated to be 650 acres which were later confirmed to be about 6,980 acres (Quitclaim deed Book A-36, page 621). This indicates that the Grant was not completely partitioned; and as such the cultivated lands are still the remains of the "Las Trampas Grant", thus retaining all the rights granted in 1751 and as confirmed by the US Congress on 21 June 1860.

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The first piece of evidence is a court order signed Judge John R. McFie, Eighth District Court, 19 Sept 1901, Cause 594, David Martinez, JR, et al Vs David Rodriguez, et al:

"..., the court being fully advised in the premises, doth order, adjudge and decree that the said premises, to wit, the Santos Thomas Apostal del Rio de las Trampas Grant..., " ..., less six hundred, fifty acres of land, a portion of said grant, comprising of the following, Ojo Sarco 150 acres, Canada de los animas 50 acres, El Valle 50 acres, Chamisal 50 acres, and El Llano 200 acres..., " ..., be sold at public auction at the front door of the Court House in the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico, to the highest and best bidder for cash.

Secondly, we note the "Quitclaim Deed" signed by 259 Tramperos; when they lost the Ejido by the men that Amado Chavez had promised to protect them... from in Nov. 1913:

"..., THIS DEED, made and entered into this 26th day of November, 1913, by and between the undersigned..., " ..., WITNESSETH, that the said parties..., " ..., for the sum of one dollar to each of them..." have sold and conveyed. and by these presents, do sell, convey and quitclaim..., " ..., all the Trampas Grant..., " ...,except the towns, settlements and segregation's of Ojo Sarco, Cañada de los Alamos, Diamante, Trampas, Valle, Llano, Chamisal, sometimes called Ojito and the possessions along the Santa Barbara river..." (not signed by 12 defendants mentioned in the Answer to Complaint - Cause 840)

And again, wherein the Trampero's counter claim was denied, and signed by Judge Thomas D. Leib, Eighth District Court, 16 April 1914, Cause 840, Las Trampas Lumber Co. Vs Juan B Ortega, et al.

"..., on the 16th day of April 1914..., " ..., entry of a decree in favor of the plaintiff, with certain exceptions..., " a fee simple estate in the said Las Trampas Grant, so called, except as to the said towns, settlements and segregations, and said ditches against the defendants..., " ... are hereby barred and forever stopped from having or claiming any right or title in or to the said premises, except as to the said towns, settlements or segregations, and the rights of way for such ditches adverse to the plaintiff."

The Trampas Grant was sequestered, partitioned and left as waste by unscrupulous men, lawyers, judges and other fortune hunters through fraud and deceit. Las Trampas Grant was but one victim of the notorious "Santa Fe Ring": A.B. Renahan, Thomas B. Catron (NM Senator), Charlie Catron, Alonzo McMillan & S.B. Elkins and others (See article by Malcolm Ebright). Even the Judge McFie, Territorial Judge, erred when he appointed a Special Master/Referee without the consent of the Defense Counsel..., for the Tramperos had no legal representation!!! (see Newcomb Vs Wood, 97 USC 581) In fact, the US government had no business interfering with the affairs of the Trampas Grant (see US Vs Joseph 94 USC 614 and USA Vs Lucero 88 USC 422).

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Fraud cases may be brought to court "...where there is concealment...", "...such actions may be brought within the time limited, after the discovery of the cause of action."
(Wood vs. Carpenter, 101 USC 135),

Juan B. Ortega was tasked to assist the opposing attorney, Mr. Renehan and Mr. Bond acquire the "quit claims" in compliance with the Court Order (another 1750 acres) for the lawyers, including: Francis O Wood, Charlie Catron and Alonzo B. McMillan.

TAXATION:

TAX FREE STATUS: How did this alter the "Tax Free" status of this community land grant? In fact, when did the United States of America begin taxing property in New Mexico? Aside from the fact that "...*in rem tax on pieces of real property...*" "...*was the most important single source of in the US tax structure until the 1930's*" (Musgrave & Musgrave); I've not yet found any evidence of any taxation on property having taken place in regards to the Trampas Land Grant until 1902 and then it applied only to 1893 when the Grant was finally approved (Cause 840 and NM Dept of Taxation, Delinquent Taxes).

I did, however, find the 1881, 1882 & 1883 Head Tax Rolls in the documents donated to the University of New Mexico by the great grand children of Senator Thomas B Catron. Should they have not been in the Taos County Archives or in the Santa Fe Archives? Why did Catron have public tax records in his possession? Was this another attempt to hide the fact that Tramperos had indeed paid taxes on the Trampas Land Grant; but he didn't want any prospective buyers... "to know"... that the "Squatters" were actually legitimate (see attachment)?

In USA Vs Lucero, S.B. Elkins convinced the courts, who determined that the Cochiti Indians were not "wards of the government". The Cochiti Indians were granted land on the same basis as every other Spanish or Mexican Land Grant - as "equal citizens" with full property rights -- not as savages (USA Vs Juan Jose Lucero, 1867).

All land grants given by the King of Spain and Mexico were given to citizens irrespective of whether they were Spanish, Native Indians or whatever. And since the Trampas Land Grant was given to "Genizaros" (native Tlascalan Indians, Spanish presidio soldiers and a few of African decent), ought they, not have had, the same "property rights" as those "other" Indian land grants? Did the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo not convey these to groups of peoples the same property rights as every other US citizen?

What about the "Tax Free" status of the Trampas Land Grant? Didn't it transfer over from the old sovereign to the new sovereign when the US Congress approved the Grant in 1860, or confirmed it in 1893 or when the President Theodore Roosevelt of the United States of America signed the patent in 1903? Did not the international law of

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conquest apply in all these cases?

"Grant & Royal Possession ...," (by) "...His Majesty..." (wherein) "... he grants, donates and conveys, according to law, to the above mentioned citizens, a piece of land from his possessions..." "...to have, use and cultivate it for themselves, their children heirs and successors, and carter, sell and dispose of the same, for which purpose he assigns and transfers to the aforesaid citizens all the royal and personal title he had to said lands, granting the same to them free of all tax, tribute, mortgage, or other encumbrance, for which neither himself, his children, heirs or successors will enter suit, dispute or complaint against them..."
(Archive 975 -- Twitchell Translation of Las Trampas Land Grant, 1751).

What about the US Congress Act of 1897, wherein the US Congress granted "Tax Free" status to all "community land grants"? In this Act, community land grants were given five years to incorporate, to become corporate municipalities. By doing so, they would be exempt from taxation and from partitioning laws.

So why didn't the Tramperos, incorporate? Why didn't their Lawyer, Charlie Catron, help them to do so? Surely he knew about the new law..., his father and law partner was the soon to be..., "Honorable" Senator Thomas B. Catron representing New Mexico! Or did this Act not apply because the patent had not yet been signed (until 26 Jan 1903 - one year after Act expired)? Or, did it matter that the signed patent was not received until the day after the "Ejido" was sold to Frank Bond. Surely, it was applicable when Congress approved the Grant in 1893? The application of county property taxes, were... so why not the Act of 1897? Did the Honorable New Mexico Senator Thomas B. Catron and his son, the Trampero Defense Attorney, Charlie C. Catron have any thing to do with this???

Or did the Act of 1897, passed by this same governmental entity, conferred the status of "corporate/municipality" to all other community grants..., except this one? Besides, why did it take ten years for the President to sign the Patent? I can understand thirty (30+) of survey after survey after survey, but ten (10) years to sign it? I suspect that this vital information was withheld instinctually... from the general public, which includes the Tramperos... so that the "Santa Fe Ring" could foreclose on yet another Land Grant (see also *Las Vegas Grant - Priest v. Town of Las Vegas, 16 NM 692 1911*).

Up to this time, there was one owner, the Tramperos, (the descendants of the Tlascalan Indians and Spanish soldiers, genizaros). There was only one document conveying title to this land, and that was a "Tax Free" land grant from the sovereigns of Spain and Mexico. A land grant that underwent fifty-five (55) years of governmental scrutiny by the United States of America. These were the people, who chose to become "citizens" of the United States of America by virtue of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and their own free choice as per the Constitution of the United States.

No taxes had been paid during this time, because no owner had yet been approved. And when the process was finally completed..., the day after the signed patent

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was received..., Frank Bond was the “new owner”, and the Tramperos lost their livelihood! The lawyers, in my opinion, withheld vital information from the Tramperos. The Federal Territorial judges, also, did not insure that justice and property rights were preserved. Because, the signed patent was not received until after the automatic expiration date of the Act of 1897, the Tramperos were even denied the right to incorporate and protect their lands. In fact, the Tramperos were even denied the right to go to court..., the opposing lawyers, Charlie Catron and Alois B. Renehan, “settled out of court” (DeBuys & Ebright) (see also US Vs Vigil, 77USC 423)

Not only had Judge John R, McFie ordered the Tramperos to PAY the lawyers an additional 1/4 of their remaining property, but on 18 June 1903, he denied the motion by the County of Taos for unpaid taxes to be taken from and paid by the proceeds of the sale (of the Ejido). Taxes assessed against the Trampas Grant from 1893 through 1902, paid for by the proceeds of the sale of the Ejido, were limited to \$800.00. The Tramperos had to pay the remaining \$2,454.10 on July 10, 1903 to redeem the remaining lands -- For a patent that they never received and now only less than 5% of the entire grant! (Book B, page 442-443).

In 1935, New Mexico instituted a new Tax Law. However this author believes and asserts that it does not apply to the towns, settlements or segregations of the Las Trampas Land Grant; because they were not partitioned and because they still belong as one unit to one owner, the Heirs of the original twelve Tramperos. These lands were not declared in any document (so far located) to be “fee simple” lands (See document signed by Judge Thomas D. Leib, Eighth District Court, 16 April 1914.

“..., on the 16th day of April 1914...,” “..., entry of a decree in favor of the plaintiff, with certain exceptions...,” “ a fee simple estate in the said Las Trampas Grant, so called, except as to the said towns, settlements and segregations...”
(Cause 840, Las Trampas Lumber Co. Vs Juan B Ortega, et al)

Therefore the Taos county clerk erred, when she sold parcels of property to the State of New Mexico for unpaid property taxes dating back to 8 December 1935. Individuals were taxed, based upon the 1941 Reassessment Survey. Taxes, if any, ought to have been assessed against the entire land grant (even though now acknowledged to be (5% of original grant) considerably less than 7000 acres. Chapter 27, Section 24 of the 1934 Tax Laws of the State of New Mexico,

“..., no person shall be permitted to question the title acquired by deed of the treasure, without first showing that he, or the person under whom he claims title to the property had title thereto at the time of sale, or that title was obtained from the United States...”

The Trampas Land Grant (Grant #27) was submitted to the US Congress on 23 July 1859, IAW the provisions of the Private Land Claims Act of 1854 and the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo of 1848. It was confirmed as a valid grant by the third section of that Act on 21 June 1860 and approved by Congress 3 March 1869 IAW the

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second section of said Act. After numerous surveys and many modifications, a down sized patent for 28,131.6672 acres (US Patent 114066) was finally given and granted to the Town of Las Trampas in 1893. But, when the Trampas Land Grant Patent was finally signed on 26 January 1903 it was a "...quit claim or relinquishment on the part of the United States". It was signed by the President of the United States, Teddy Roosevelt. But it was never delivered to any heir of the grant; Frank Bond signed for the Patent in 1913 after the Ejido had been sequestered. What happened that this process took over 50 years. And where was there any "Due Process" afforded to the Heirs of the Las Trampas de Tomas Apostal del Rio de las Trampas??? We therefore assert that all quitclaim tax deed sales are invalid and therefore void.

".., in all cases where the owner of the land sold for taxes shall resist the validity of such tax title, such owner may prove fraud committed by the officer selling the said lands, o in the purchaser, to defeat the same, and, if fraud is established, such title shall be void."
(Chap 27, Section 24 of the 1934 Tax Laws of the State of New Mexico)

ROADS: PRIVATE PROPERTY OR PUBLIC ROADS

When Frank Bond became the "private owner" of over 95% of the Trampas Land Grant, claiming the Ejido as his private property, all passageways and roadways ceased to retain whatever classification they had. The remaining "unpartitioned" portion of the Las Trampas Land Grant, however, still retained the same characteristics as when granted by the Kingdom of Spain in 1751. Mr. Bond, immediately placed his "fee simple" common lands "for sale". Meanwhile, the Tramperos, still unaware of the change of ownership, continued as if they were still the legal owners of the Trampas Land Grant and continued to use the Grant as per tradition.

Then, in 1906, Mr. Bond sold the former Ejido to a group of investors (part of the Santa Fe Ring) for it's lumber value. They incorporated into the Trampas Lumber Company (deBuys). The new owners, (of the now strictly private property IAW US Real Estate Law), did not allow the Tramperos access for lumber, hunting, or grazing. When the Tramperos, learned of their loss, they in turn, did not allow the Lumber company to traverse over Trampero Roads.

These roads were no longer inter-community trails, they simply ended at Mr. Bonds "private" property line. Logically, the passageways reverted back to the original owners of the land over which they traversed. All roads ceased to be inter-community access ways. This concept was enforced by action of the Tramperos, when they restricted the use of the access ways by the Trampas Lumber Company. And thus, open, public access was adamantly denied. The roads, through the common lands, that had existed up to 150 years, were simply private passageways within the same Grant. But, according to U.S Laws, they ought to have been classified as "Public":

***Prescription**, is a "...manner of acquiring property by a long, honest and uninterrupted possession or use during the time required by law". It "..., presumes a grant before the time of*

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legal memory when the party claiming by prescription ..., have had adverse or uninterrupted possession of the property or rights claimed by prescription” (dictionary by John Bouvier).

However, when the Trampas Lumber company assumed ownership of the Ejido, they violated their own law; and restricted use of those roads to themselves only. But, conversely, they protested when the Tramperos barred employees of the Trampas Lumber company from traversing through & over the roads within the unpartitioned portion of the Grant. They assumed those roads and passageways as “Public”:

Acquiesce, is “...,to give implied consent to a transaction, to the accrual of a right or to any act, by one’s mere silence, or without express assent or acknowledgment”. It assumes “..., to assent inferred from silence with knowledge or from encouragement and presupposes knowledge and assent” (Black’s Law Dictionary).

The question then crystallizes: are the roads “private” or “public”? To the Tramperos, these roads were the exclusive property of the Trampas Land Grant Heirs. They were not “Public” because they were used exclusively by the heirs of the original twelve families. None of the roads belonged to any other entity, including the County of Taos, County of Rio Arriba, nor the State of New Mexico, nor the greater “public” in general.

This is evident in the deeds; that were created (after this lawsuit), in an attempt to live up to the new concept of “fee simple”. They do not mention these roads, as if they never existed:

Fee Simple: *“...absolute estate in devisee...” “...limited absolutely to a person and his or her heirs and assigns forever without limitation or condition...” “...in which the owner is entitled to the entire property, with unconditional power of disposition during one’s life, and descending to one’s heirs and legal representatives upon one’s death intestate. (Black’s Law Dictionary)*

One such example is the so called Trampas Road (county road C-038). This road was used to traverse through the Ejido from Llano de San Juan to Ojito and on to the Town of Trampas. Taos county, just assumed that it was a “Public” road when it conducted the 1939 and later the 1941 Reassessment Survey. But did Taos County, follow the laws for proclaiming a certain road as “Public”? Were the Tramperos notified of this action? Were they reimbursed with a fair market value cash or other purchase? This was done for a road through the Santa Barbara Land Grant, why not for a road through the Las Trampas Land Grant? Besides, if a road is “Public”; does this not imply that the “Public” (Taos County) is to maintain that road?

Then again, what does “maintain” mean? On occasion, Taos county employees will grade a dirt road or two. They didn’t do it for the Trampas Road. Also, why are there less than three (3) miles of paved roads within the entire exterior boundaries of the Trampas Land Grant (partitioned and unpartitioned)? (Ref: CV 98-355 -- Deed D)

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In a letter dated July 6, 1998, to Neal Thelke from the current Llano Acequia Water Commissioners, it states that

"..., The Las Trampas Road has always been a public access road..." "...We owned the land that you now own, and we never sold the road to anyone, therefore that road remains the same it was when our ancestors traveled through there on business or running away from the Indians at that time, or traveled to visit relatives in Las Trampas, NM" (Taos Case #M-0053-MR-9800234, July 1998).

Although, they used the term "public", they did stress that "...we never sold the road to anyone...". Did the Taos County Assessor assume that the county owned all the roads within the private property of the Tramperos land grant when they surveyed the land in 1941 (Survey 15). If so, was the county presuming ownership by "prescription" or acquiescence"? Did they notify or reimburse the Tramperos for that land?

THE COUNTER SUIT: AN APPEAL FOR REVERSAL

The Tramperos sent a delegation to Santa Fe, in search of a lawyer, still with no patent in hand; and they found Charlie Catron. (Juan B. Ortega, Nicolas Romero, Jose de Gracia Fresquez, Jose de Gracia Lucero and one other) Mr. Catron chose not to represent them as the heirs of the original owners but rather a "squatters". In our opinion, he failed to represent them, the Tramperos; in addition, he dealt with them "deviously" and with his own interests being paramount. The case (of course) was lost and all Tramperos were "court ordered to pay the lawyers a portion (1/4 - 1/3) of their remaining "unpartitioned lands" for "services rendered".

Six years later, New Mexico was granted statehood of the United States of America 1912. But that did not stop the injustices received by the Tramperos??? (for example: Thomas B. Catron, father and law partner of Charlie Catron, became New Mexico's first U. S. Senator (whom I believe influenced the affairs of the Las Trampas Grant until Frank Bond signed for the US patent in 1913 as the self declared "rightful owner". The rest we discussed, above.

In 1927, after extracting all the value that they could out of the former "Ejido" and since their lumber business was a dismal failure..., the owners of the Trampas Lumber Company (of which Mr. Bond now owned 25% of its Stock) negotiated a Lumber/Land Trade with the United States Forest Service for \$72,000.00 (see also Frank Bond Vs Tome Grant). In this transaction, obvious attempts were made to deny the Tramperos any use of the former "Ejido", including water rights, mineral rights, lumber rights, grazing rights, etc., etc. For example: in trying to secure clear title to the former "Ejido" The Trampas Lumber Company allegedly supplied each Tramperero signed document allowing certain privileges to the Tramperos. However, this document was covertly not registered (to render it non-enforceable) and overtly not included, nor mentioned, in the prospectus provided to the U.S.F.S. (Ebright).

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In addition..., the removal of case files from the Taos County Archives, is also suspect. In particular, the countersuit (cause 540 -- Trampas Lumber Company Vs Juan B. Ortega, et al, 1903) protesting the fraudulent sale of the Ejido, was in the possession of Francis O. Wood from 1916 until after 1941. When Frank Bond and the Trampas Lumber Company were unable to pay the taxes on their "fee simple" partitioned common lands of this and other land grants, which they had sequestered (See Tome Grant, Baca Grant, Ramon Vigil Grant - Renehan - Gilbert Papers, NM Archives, File 5, case 5850), the land was sold to George E Breece (DeBuys).

Therefore, when the sale to the U.S. Forest Service was being negotiated, there was no evidence in the County Archives to indicate that the sale (to Mr. Bond or the Trampas Lumber company or to George E. Breece) was anything but legitimate, This issue was not mentioned in the prospectus provided to the US Forest Service (DeBuys). The former Ejido, is now a part of "Kit Carson" National Forest. And for these two reasons just stated, the U.S. Forest does not recognize any special rights afforded to the Tramperos (United States of America Vs Jose P. Lopez, CN 81-180, 1972).

I suspect that any existing roads through the Ejido were also not mentioned. If they had been, would not all access ways through the Ejido be considered "Public Roads"? The Trampas Lumber company, considered roads through out the Ejido as "Private"; therefore, would not the access ways within the remaining "unpartitioned" lands also be "Private"? If this is correct, then we understand why the Taos County nor State of New Mexico nor the United States Governments have not improved these roads, nor created an infrastructure to service electricity, water, sewer, etc., etc.

RETURN OF THE LAND TO THE PEOPLE

Returning to the time when Frank Bond and the Trampas Lumber Company were unable to pay the taxes on their "fee simple" partitioned common lands and because the Trampas Lumber company was a dismal failure (DeBuys). A three way business arrangement was made between the Trampas Lumber company, George E. Breece and the United States Forest Service. In an effort to disencumber the transaction the Trampas Lumber Company deeded its border lands to Francis O Wood:

Book A-35
Page 621

Quit Claim Deed
19 April 1927

Receiver: William H. Powell, Jr.
Grantee: Francis E. Wood
grant of 2,464 acres of land within Las Trampas
Grant -- adjoining and surrounding settlements
(Thomas F Myers Survey -- 6,980.18 acres)

On 8 August 1939, Mr. Wood inquired of Taos County, for a map..., so that he could locate the property which he owned. Apparently, they had not been registered. The county clerk, replied, stating that the entire file had been loaned to "his office" in 1916, and if he would please return them (see Taos communications, also US Vs vigil 77

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USC 423). Then in 1942 William H. Powell and Francis O Wood, decided "... to return the land to the people" and created indentures with nine Trustees to return 2,495 acres. And, although the return of land surrounding Llano de San Juan, is not specifically named; Otoniel Lopez, was most likely the Trustee assigned to resolve those issues:

Book A-36 Page 611-612	Grantor: Trustees:	Francis O. Wood & Francis E. Wood Amador Romero Eliseo Ortega Jacobo Romero "...for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of El Valle & Diamonte -- land lying between villages the the US Forest Service"
Indenture		

Book A-42 Page 463-464	Grantor: Trustees:	Francis O. Wood & Francis E. Wood Telespor Lopez José C. Romero Prajeres Pacheco "...for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of Las Trampas -- land surrounding Village of Las Trampas"
Indenture		

Book A-36 Page 507-608	Grantor: Trustees:	Francis O. Wood & Francis E. Wood David Fresquez Leopoldo Garcia Otoniel Lopez (Taos Commissioner 1945) "...for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of Chamisal & Ojito, as well as the inhabitants of other villages of said grant -- land between villages and US Forest Service" (This may include village of Llano de San Juan.)
Indenture 9 March 1942		

The first indication of a roads emerged with the 1941 Survey (#15). But not before Taos County sold many parcels of land, in 1940, to the state for unpaid taxes per 1934 Tax Law. These acres were part of the unpartitioned cultivated lands excluded from the partitioning suit. This property was most likely those that had been given as Quit Claim deeds to the attorneys (including Alonzo B. McMillan and Francis O. Wood), for "services rendered".

The threat of sale of property to the State for unpaid taxes, may have been the motivation for Mr. Wood to inquire (8 Aug. 1939) of the Taos County Records Department for copies of the map and case files for Cause 840. Apparently Mr. Wood had failed to register all of his quit claim deeds and needed a map to help identify their location. Soon thereafter, a decision was made to return the property "back to the people"(per conversation with Taos County Mapping employee).

So, since Mr. Wood never registered his deeds, according to state law, the sale of property turned over to the State for delinquent taxes, is offered first, to the owner of record..., before it was lost, in this case, The Tramperos (per conversation with State Delinquent Taxes - Stanley Garriety).

For example, in Tax Deed 2112, sold back by the State of New Mexico to a

Santo Tomas Apostal del Río de las Trampas Grant

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Trampero, in itself, is not clear, in that, it states boundaries as follows: North: Public Road, South: Trampas Grant, East: J.F. Vigil & West: J.F. Vigil. Which "Public Road" is it referring to..., Picuris Road, Camino Del Medio or Trampas Road? And, what boundary is identified by Trampas Grant..., the top of mountain as given to the attorneys for "services rendered" or as given to Francia Wood or the line set by the US National Forest in 1927 or that which was reset by the Carson National Forest in 1965 (A. Quintana: acequia commissioner circa 1965)?

The Trampas Road was not recognized, nor mentioned on his deed, nor any other deed, therefore we can only conclude that the "Trampas Road" must be considered a private passageway. And since the entire property is surrounded by and within the Trampas Grant, that description also is unclear (see CV98-355).

Did the official representatives of Taos county and the State of New Mexico fail to realize that the remaining five percent (5%) of the Trampas Grant was still the private property of the Tramperos (taxpayers of private property)? Or did they, by other legal maneuvering continue the sequestering of private property as did the lawyers 100 years ago? Why, then, is there no record of this transaction (at least none, that I could find)? Were the landowners paid or did they Quit Claim the roads, also? Were the land owners informed of the claim made by the County for those roads? Did the County ever pay the landowners for the private passageways? I would like to see any evidence that the county may have regarding any of my ancestors turning over private property without objection. I do not believe that any such records exist to validate the transfer of land to the County for any reason other maybe, another "forced" action, such as a Court Order.

CONCLUSION

In this summary, I have tried to express the injustice recieved by the heirs of the Las Trampas Land Grant. I acknowledge that this is not a scholarly presentable history, but never the less, due to time restrictions and the amount of data to be reviewed, analyzed and placed into a suitable format; this is all I have to offer at this time.

The Tramperos sincerely feel impressed..., to urge..., the Congress of the United States of America to take these issues into consideration and to create the the proposed Commission. The Tramperos are not secure enough financially to take these issue to Court and thus we se this Commission as a chance to finally present our case, with minimal expenses.

We have recently organized to form a provisional government in a coailition with the heirs of the Santa Barbara Land Grant and hope to ally with the heirs of the Picuris Land Grant. We will file for incorporation 1 July 2002 and hope to be fully operational by 1 July 2003.

Our request (and plea) is for the return of the Ejido ("Tax Free' and with all rights