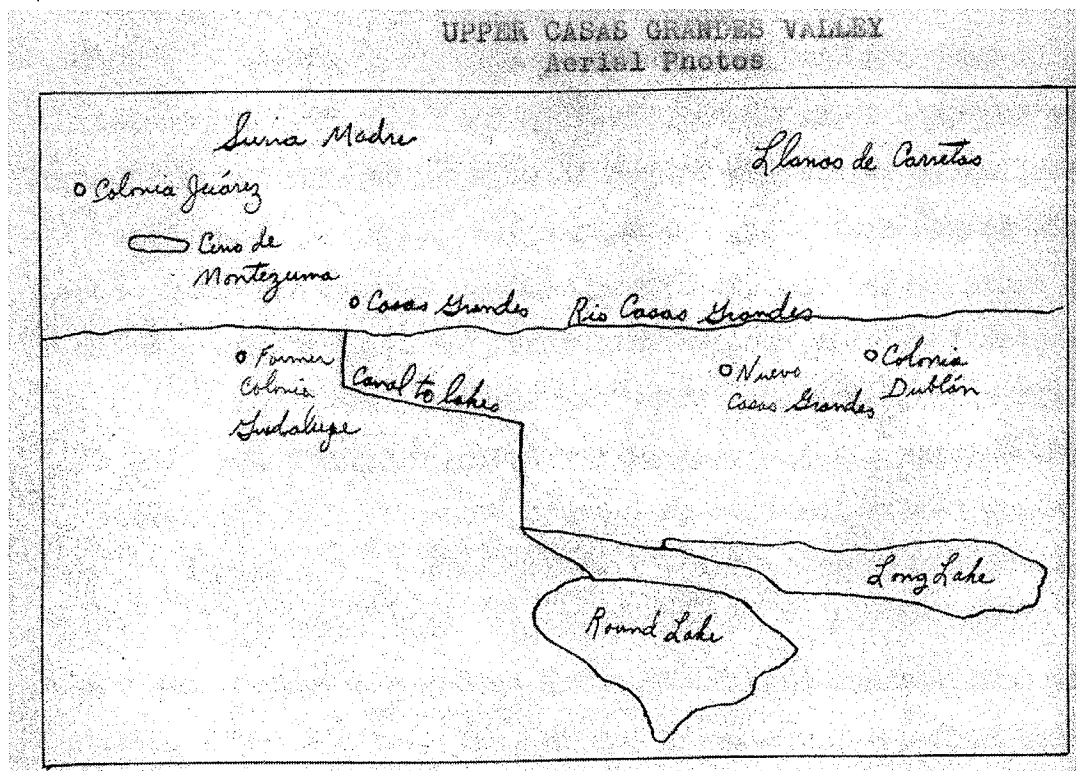


Grandes. All the small farms have been combined into one large farm, which is owned and farmed by Mr. Albert A. Wagner, at present living in Colonia Dublán.



Figure 28: Upper Casas Grandes Valley Aerial Photo



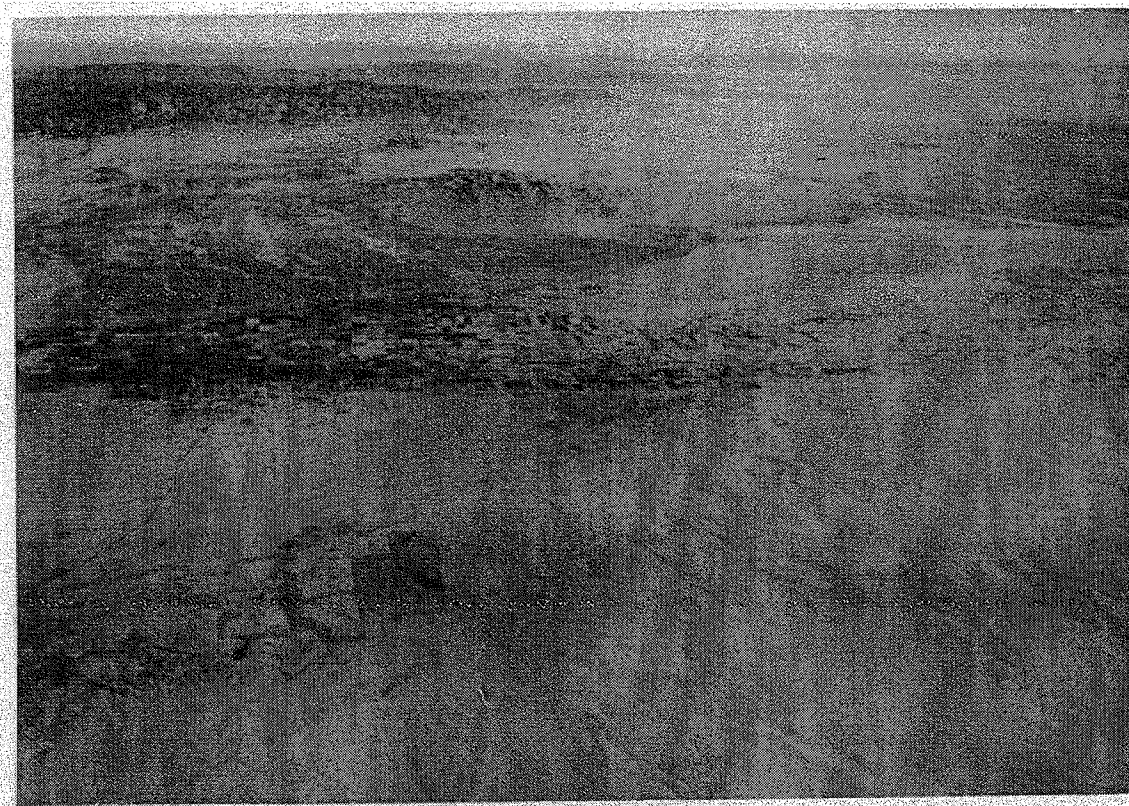
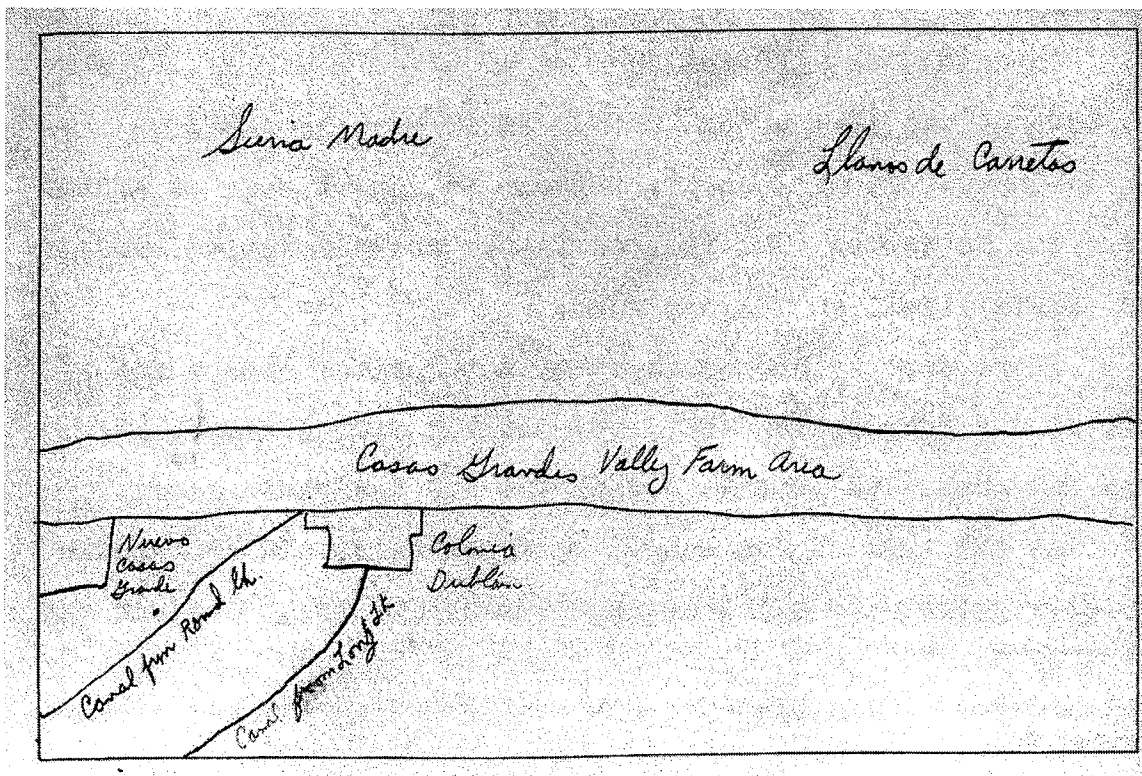


Figure 29: Upper Casas Grandes Valley Aerial Photo



Mountain Colonias

The mountain Colonias were alike in many respects. They were located in the Sierra Madre Occidental, from approximately 6,000 to 8,000 feet above sea level. The whole area was thickly covered with pines and oaks. The livelihood of the settlers depended a great deal on beef cattle, cheese and lumber.

Soon after the first group of colonists began to move into the mountains, a road was built up San Diego canyon to the summit, then down into the valley of the Río Piedras Verdes. It was impossible to build a road up the river bed of the Río Piedras Verdes from Colonia Juárez, due to the narrowness of the canyon, and the great distance to be covered due to the meandering nature of the canyon. All the mountain settlements except Chuichupa were located on the Río Piedras Verdes or its tributaries. Chuichupa was located on a branch of the Río Bavispe, which drained to the Pacific Ocean.

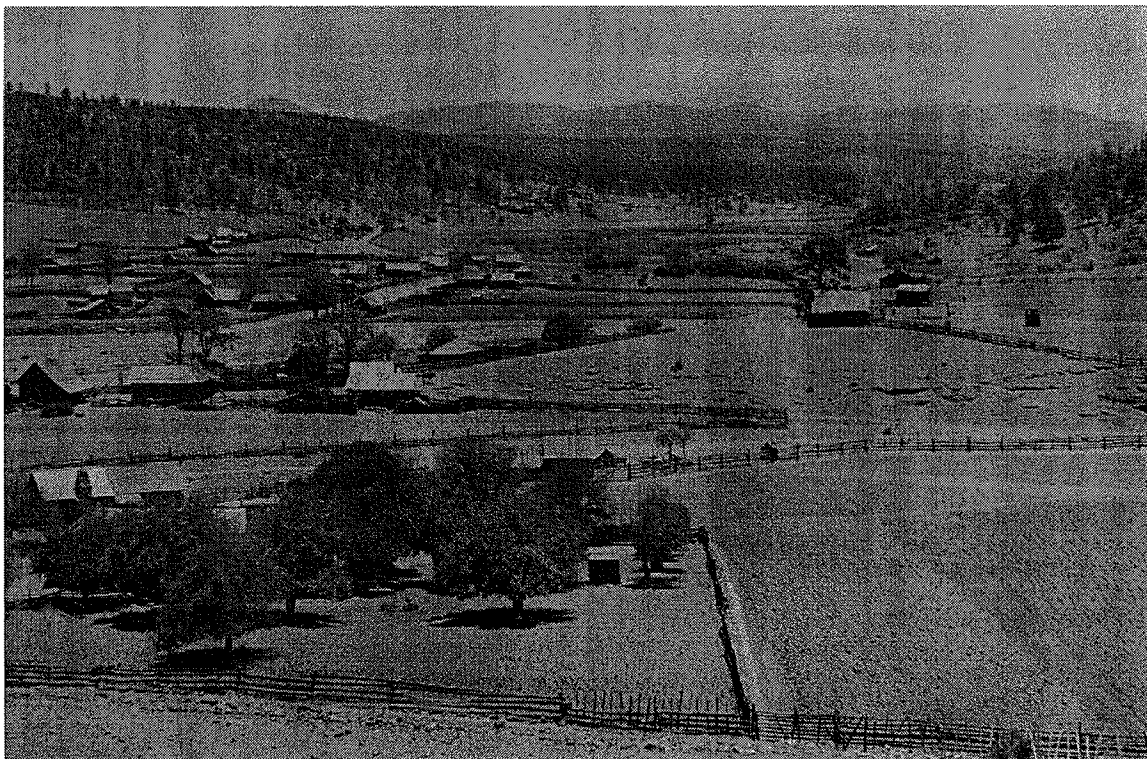


Figure 30: HOP VALLEY: Hop valley was occupied by the Mormons for a short time before the Exodus in 1912. A few brick homes were built, several are still standing. Since the Exodus no Mormons have lived in the settlement. It is located about 5,700 feet in elevation between Colonia Pacheco and Colonia Garcia.

The three principal mountain settlements which have lasted to the present time are Colonia Pacheco, García, and Chuichupa. A settlement in Cave Valley lasted only a few years after its establishment in 1887. Another settlement, Hop Valley, which had only a few families, was located between Colonia Pacheco and García on a tributary of the Río Piedras Verdes. Another settlement, Mound Valley, which was seven miles south of Colonia García, also had a few Mormon families. Both of these small settlements never amounted to more than a few families, and were not resettled by Mormons after the Exodus.

Colonia Pacheco

The Corrales basin, in which Colonia Pacheco is located, was first visited by Mormons on one of their early expeditions to Mexico. It was visited again on a second expedition in 1885. In 1886 the Mexican Colonization and Agricultural Company bought 60,000 acres in and around the Corrales basin.³⁷ There was little farm land available in this basin, as for the most part, the area was thickly timbered with pine. A number of meadows, which lead back in the tributary canyons, were cultivated.

The first settlers came in the spring of 1887. Not long after their arrival, the tillable areas were surveyed into units of 3½ and 5 acres. Soon after the survey, water from the river was brought by ditch to the farming areas, but it was not long after this that the settlers were told of a much better location down stream, at Cave Valley. The Colonists decided to move from Colonia Pacheco to Cave Valley. Soon three families had to move back to Pacheco, and from then on the Colonia grew.³⁸

The first settlers located about 1½ miles up the river from the present town site. Due to the shift from Colonia Pacheco to Cave Valley and then back to Colonia Pacheco again, there were few crops planted the first year. On May 3, 1887, there was an earthquake that caused new springs to flow, and increased the flow of the stream, making

³⁷ Jensen, *op. cit.*,

³⁸ Romney, *op. cit.*, p.109

it possible to irrigate additional land. The next year a good crop of corn and potatoes was raised.

In 1889 the present town site was surveyed. The new town was located on a bench overlooking the stream. One of the first buildings to be constructed was the school, which was built of lumber. The next year the school burned, which caused the citizens of the Colonia to take care that a similar event did not endanger the whole town. Lots were cleared of grass and other combustible material. It was fortunate that these precautions had been taken, since later during the same year a forest fire nearly destroyed the few buildings the colonists had built on their new town site. The fear of a forest fire consuming the town continued to trouble the settlement as long as they remained in Colonia Pacheco.

By 1894 the town consisted mostly of wooden houses and barns. The population was 342. Besides a sawmill, there was a corn cracker, using home-made burrs, and a small store. Some of the settlers continued to live near the original settlement at Corrales.³⁹

In the years to follow, brick homes replaced many of the wooden structures. In 1908 a new church and school were built. The economy of the Colonia was based mostly on range cattle, cheese and lumbering. The limited acreage was planted mainly to hay and potatoes. There were also a few hogs raised for sale. Another business that began about 1909 was that of furnishing camping equipment and professional guides to hunters from the United States.

In July 1912, the same time as in the other Colonias, the people gathered what little they could carry and left by team and wagon for Pearson, to catch the train for El Paso. Some of the men stayed behind to drive what little stock they could to the border.

³⁹ Jensen, *op. cit.*,

Cave Valley

Cave Valley was located about seven miles north of Colonia Pacheco. It was first settled in 1887. The settlement was located off the main canyon of the Río Piedras Verdes in a side canyon through which ran a small stream. The town was laid out in two main streets. The blocks were 16 by 24 rods, with three lots per block. Ditches were dug from the stream to the different streets so that water for culinary purposes could be obtained.⁴⁰

The farm land was located in the bottom of the Piedras Verdes canyon, which measured from 50 yards to about a half mile in width, and there was enough water in the river to irrigate all the cultivatable land.

The first group of settlers brought in a pair of burrs, which were attached to a sawmill to provide them with power. In 1891 a separate grist mill was build for the burrs, and the next year a shingle mill was attached to the grist mill.⁴¹

Due to its inaccessibility it was not long before the settlers were leaving Cave Valley for Colonia Pacheco, though the land grew excellent crops. By 1894 there were only ten families with a total population of 81. In 1900 there were only two or three families remaining. It was not many years after this that these remaining families also moved.

At the Cliff ranch, four miles north-northwest from Cave Valley, at the junction of Pratt creek and Río Piedras Verdes, a few Mormon families lived from 1888 until 1892. They left this location because of an Apache Indian raid.

⁴⁰ Jensen, *op. cit.*,

⁴¹ Romney, *op. cit.*, p.109

Colonia García

The first Mormon family settled on the García site March 1, 1894. They located at the eastern edge of a large circular meadow, which was surrounded by a forest of pines. The new site was about ten miles south of Colonia Pacheco, at an elevation of about 6,400 feet above sea level.

It was not until 1898, when there were just over 100 people living on the site, that the land was finally purchased from Telesforo García, of Mexico City, by the Mexican Colonization and Agricultural Company.

The main businesses were cattle, lumbering and the manufacture of shingles. Much of the grazing land was rented from the Ferrocarril Noroeste de Mexico, which owned most of the forest land around García. The lumber and shingles were freighted to Colonia Juárez, Dublán and Díaz, and to Pearson for shipment by rail.⁴²

The meadow land was cultivated mainly for oat hay and corn, which were used for winter cattle feed. Home lots were used to raise the needed vegetables.

The town site was about a mile long with one Main Street and two side streets. Most of the houses were adobe or wood, or a combination of the two materials, with a few of fired brick.

By the time of the Exodus there were over 300 people settled at Colonia García. As in the other Colonias, the people of Colonia García had to leave nearly all their possession behind when they left.

⁴² Romney, *op. cit.*, p.110-111.

Colonia Chuichupa

The first Mormon settlers in Chuichupa, April, 1894, found a shallow basin on top of the Sierra Madre Plateau. The meadow was covered with tall grass and surrounded by pines. The small stream flowed into the Bavispe river, which in turn flowed into the Río Yaquí, then to the Gulf of California. The Valley was about three miles long, and averaged about one and one-half miles wide. The elevation was approximately 8,000 feet above sea level.

The first name given the Colonia was Mariano, but soon it was change to Chuichupa. This land as the land at Colonia García, was purchased from Señor Garcia by the Mexican Colonization and Agricultural Company. The total purchase was 6,250 acres.

In 1896 there were 80 people living in Colonia Chuichupa. This was the year the log school and meeting house were built, and the townsite and farm lands were surveyed. The townsite was surveyed into five acres blocks, four lots to a block. And farms were surveyed into 100 acre blocks.⁴³

The agricultural enterprises in Colonia Chuichupa were much the same as those in the other mountain Colonias. Oats, oat hay, corn and potatoes were the staple crops. But the main occupations of the colonists were the raising of range cattle, making of cheese, and lumbering.

The only irrigated land in Colonia Chuichupa was in the town gardens, the field crops depending entirely upon summer rains for their moisture. Ditches from the stream led into town, bringing water for the gardens.

⁴³ Jensen,

During the spring thaw and summer rains the stream flowing next to the town was prone to overflow. The town people, within two years of the founding of the Colonia, build dikes and ditches in an attempt to keep the water out of town.

At the time of the Exodus the population was about 275 people. Most of the buildings were of adobe and wood. The lots were fenced with pickets or boards. On July 31, 1912, the Colonists went to Chico, about 20 miles east of town, there taking the train for El Paso. Some of the men stayed behind for a few days and then left by horseback, crossing the boarder at Dog Springs, New Mexico.

An agricultural report of the mountain Colonias, written just before the Exodus, is quoted, as it seems to depict the type of agriculture in the Colonia just prior to the Exodus.⁴⁴

Due to the relatively small amount of tillable land in comparison with the amount of range land and the climatic conditions existing in the mountain colonies of Chuichupa, García, and Pacheco, their agriculture naturally centers around cattle raising. They have found by experience that a type of cattle that will produce beef on the market and if feed conditions are right the cows will put milk in the pail. With that in view, bulls of the milking short horn breed have been used with their common range cattle until fair strain of duo purpose cattle has been developed. These cattle are run on the range during the rainy season when feed is abundant the cows that are in milk or about to freshen are corraled and milked and cheese made from the milk. Naturally the number of cows milked and amount of milk produced depends largely on the season, feed being abundant much milk is produced, feed scarce little milk produces, most of the range these cattle are pastured on is not owned by the colonists but is leased, lumber companies own most of it.

Attempts have been made to use a more specialized type of dairy cattle and milk them the year round instead of 3-5 months only. These have failed due to the difficulty of producing sufficient hay and cheap grain for winter feed. An

⁴⁴ Martineau, op. cit.,

abundance of high carbohydrate feed can be produced, but they will not produce milk without some protein feed to balance the diet.

They are experimenting with field peas at present and if they grow successfully these colonies will undoubtedly concentrate more on dairying, the only other agricultural products of commercial importance are oats, corn, potatoes, bacon, ham, lard and cheese.

A few fruit trees have been set out in each of the Colonies but are of no commercial importance yet. Most of the people raise their own vegetables.

A table included in this report gave the following information on cattle, horses, hogs, and farm land:

	Cattle	Horses	Hogs	Farm land
Colonia Chuichupa	2,122	191	Local use not for sale.	278 acres.
Colonia García	1,595	329	142	218 acres.
Colonia Pacheco	1,868	204	46	200 acres.

Sonora Colonias

The Sonora Colonias were organized a few years later than most of those in Chihuahua. The population consisted mostly of people from the mountain Colonias, where securing a living was very difficult during the early years of colonization.

The first group of settlers coming to Sonora had a long, difficult trip. There were no roads, though the Spanish had used the same route in the 17th and 18th centuries, when salt was carried from Sonora to the mines at Parral.⁴⁵ From the Chihuahua side of the Sierra Madre mountains, in the vicinity of Pulpit pass, the grade to the top of the pass was gradual, with few difficulties encountered, but from the top of the pass down into the Sonora lowland, wagon travel was very difficult. Dugways were constructed and it was necessary to attach logs to the rear of wagons, to act as brakes in these dugways. It took them almost one month to travel 150 miles from Colonia Juarez to the bottom of Pulpit

⁴⁵ Brand, op. cit., A more detailed history of the Spanish period in Northwestern Chihuahua can be found in this work.

pass in Sonora. A large part of the distance to the pass was on the southern part of the Llanos de Carretas.

Colonia Oaxaca

The first settlers arrived at the bottom of the Pulpit pass in Sonora, on March 14, 1892. The land on which they were to settle had been purchased previous to their arrival. It consisted of nearly 200 square miles of land along the Río Bavispe. Of the total amount of land purchased, only about 1,800 acres were suitable for cultivation, the major portion being grazing land. The high mountains on either side of the valley, and the meandering river cut the purchased land into 13 sections.⁴⁶

The first group settled about five miles up the river from the future permanent townsite. The settlers immediately went to work building a dam and irrigation ditch on the west side of the river, after which they plowed and planted the land. In August, just before harvest, the river rose, washing away the dam and destroying the crops, except for a small amount of corn and vegetables. A move was then made to another temporary site and the following year a successful crop was raised. By this time, 141 people resided in the temporary camp. Finally, in the latter part of 1893 the permanent townsite was selected. The site was surveyed into blocks of five acres, with four lots to the block, the streets running in north-south, east-west directions.

The new settlers found Sonora much different from that area to which they had been accustomed in Chihuahua. Due to the lower elevation the growing season was extended to almost 10 months. The winters were mild and the summers hot. May and June were found to be the hardest time of the year, the feed being scarce and the Río de Bavispe only the size of a brook. In July the summer rains began, alleviating the heat and scarcity of feed and water.⁴⁷

⁴⁶ Romney, *op. cit.*, p.116-118

⁴⁷ Ibid, p. 119-120

Up to 1905 the settlers prospered. On their town lots they had built mostly brick houses. The population had increased to about 325. The land was rich and produced grain, corn, vegetables and fruit trees in abundance. The cattle business was probably the most important agricultural enterprise. The Colonia was about 75 miles from Douglas Arizona, where there was a market for their cattle.

In 1905 a big flood occurred. It swept away more than 40 brick houses and most of the crops. Much of the farm land was buried under a large amount of silt. The Colonists decided it would be easier to move to another location and start again, than to stay and try to clear the silt from the flooded land. Some moved to Colonia Morelos, and some started the new settlement of San Jose. At the time of the Exodus, there were 64 people still in Colonia Oaxaca. They left for the United States on August 30, 1912.⁴⁸

Colonia Morelos

The Mormons, in 1898, were still looking for places to colonize, as shown by a letter published in the Desert News, from A. W. Ivins, President of the Juarez Stake. He stated that the country in the area of the Batepito valley offered "fine opportunities for colonization." A few months after the published letter appeared in the newspaper 9,000 acres were purchased by the Mexican Colonization and Agricultural Company for \$15,000 (United States currency), for the establishment of a new Colonia.⁴⁹

The purchased area was located at the confluence of the Rio de Bavispe and the Río Batepito. The whole area was covered with large mesquites, catclaw and sacaton. Up the valley of the Río Batepito was an easy route to Douglas, Arizona, 60 miles away.

The first settlers arrived during the winter of 1898-99. During 1899 a canal was dug to water the farm land. The town site and farm land were not surveyed until late 1900.

⁴⁸ Jensen, *op. cit.*,

⁴⁹ Romney, *op. cit.*, p.121

In 1905, the flood which practically wiped out Colonia Oaxaca swept down the river, causing a great deal of destruction to the farms of Colonia Morelos. It was estimated that 1,000 acres of farm land were destroyed. Also, a few homes in the town were washed away. After the flood, the Colonists set to work clearing new farm land across the river in the valley of the Batepito, and canals were dug from the Río Batepito to the new farms.⁵⁰

There was very little business activity in Colonia Morelos except for farming. There were two small stores, and a flour roller mill. The population at this time was about 475. The main crops were the same as in the other Sonora Colonias, and cattle were also important in the economy. Much of the surplus farm produce could be sold at the not too distant American owned mining camps to the south of the Colonia.

The last year that the Colonia was occupied (1912) a great crop surplus was harvested. Over 50,000 bushels of wheat were threshed and 300 acres of alfalfa cut for hay. But on August 30, 1912, they had to leave this huge harvest and go to the United States. The settlers had learned that the same rebel army that had forced the Mormon Colonists in Chihuahua to leave their homes was marching toward Sonora by way of Pulpit Pass. A Group of 25 to 30 men stayed for about two weeks, then joined the others across the border.

San Jose

This little settlement was started by the members of Colonia Oaxaca after the flood had ruined their town and farm land. It was located about nine miles north of Colonia Morelos on the Río Batepito. At the time of the Exodus in 1912, there were about 200 people living in San Jose. As in all the other Mormon settlements they also went to the United States because of the Mexican revolution.

⁵⁰ Jensen, *op. cit.*

REVOLUTION

The beginning of the Mexican revolution in November, 1910, was also the beginning of the disintegration of the Mormon Colonias. During the next ten years they faced the destruction of their homes, crops, and material possessions; finally they were forced to leave Mexico, some for a short time, and others forever. Those who returned after the Exodus were almost continually having demands made upon them for supplies by the rebels, until the very end of the revolution in 1920.

The revolution began in Mexico at several places, all about the same time. Sometime after Díaz was re-elected to the Presidency of Mexico several uprisings occurred in Jalisco, Tlaxcala, the Federal District, and southern Chihuahua. All but the one in Chihuahua were suppressed. Soon Pascual Orozco and Pancho Villa controlled all of southern Chihuahua and when other uprisings began to spread into practically every state of Mexico, President Díaz's Federal troops were unable to control them. By October, 1911, the rebels of the north had captured the City of Mexico and set up their leader, Francisco Madero as President of the Republic.

Even with the seizure of the government the revolution continued. First one group of revolutionists fought against a second group, then the second group against a third group. The people favored one side, then the other, depending on the strongest force. Finally when Alvaro Obregón became President in November of 1920, the rebel leaders had either been killed or silenced with bribes, so that peace finally came to Mexico.

The Mormons, until July 1912, had gotten along with the rebels remarkably well. There were a number of instances where Mormons were arrested, held for ransom, or large demands were made for supplies, but considering that the rebel groups were against the large land owner and the foreigner, it is remarkable that the rebels were as lenient with the Colonists. General Salazar, at Casas Grandes, issued a statement, on February 6, 1912, to all of the soldiers of the Liberal Party, that the Mormons were neutral during the

revolution, and that they were not to be molested in any way. Even with this paper in the hands of the Army, the Mormons found it impossible to keep the various rebel groups that were moving through the towns from looting stores, houses, and taking what horses they could find. Horses and guns were of prime importance to the rebels. Practically every group which passed through the various Colonias demanded horses and guns, but usually they could find only a few horses and no guns. The Mormons hid their best guns in case a fight should occur in which they would have to defend themselves and protect their families. Many of the horses were taken into the mountains for as long as a month at a time, when it was reported that rebel troops were approaching the settlements.

On July 26, 1912, General Salazar ordered all the Mormons, through Junius Romney, Juárez Stake President, that they would have to turn in all their arms and ammunition. Romney protested that it would be dangerous to do so, since many of the rebel forces had not adhered to the General's orders in the past, in regard to making no demands upon the Mormons, and that the rebels could more easily do as they pleased when they entered the Colonias if they knew the Mormons had no guns. The request was repeated so the order of General Salazar was complied with by the Mormons. On the day of the order, Colonia Dublán turned over to the rebel leaders 81 rifles and 15 pistols, and some ammunition. On July 27th messages were sent to the other Colonias that they were to comply with General Salazar's order, and that the Colonists of Colonia Juárez had decided to send the women and children out to El Paso as soon as possible. Guns were turned over to the rebel forces at the designated places in each of the Colonias, but the guns were usually so ancient that ammunition was unavailable, or they were broken and useless. The good rifles and pistols were hidden by the Mormons in case they were needed to protect themselves.⁵¹

During the time that the guns were being collected, the women and children were preparing to leave. Many expected to be gone only temporarily. It made little difference as to how long they expected to be gone, since no one could take more than one trunk. The rest of their possession had to be hidden or left in the homes. On July 28th the

⁵¹ Romney, *op. cit.*, p.175-177

women and children from Colonia Juárez went to Pearson and were loaded on the train. At Colonia Dublán the women and children also were put on a train for El Paso. The Colonist from Colonia Díaz left on the 28th by team and wagon, crossing into the United States at the closest point. The residents of the mountain Colonias left two days later for the closest railroad points.

The men remaining at the various Colonias found it difficult to keep the rebels from looting the homes and stores, especially since they, the Mormons, could show no guns. Finally, on August 1st, the men from Colonia Juárez and Dublán took leave of the settlements, going to the mountain to hide at a prearranged location until the men from the mountain Colonias arrived. On August 7th the entire party started for the United States. Three days later they crossed the border at Dog Springs, New Mexico.⁵²

There were only two families left in the Chihuahua Colonias. One family that had arrived in Colonia Dublán from Galeana after all the others had left, stayed in the Colonia. The other family stayed in Colonia Pacheco.

The Sonora Colonias fared no better than those in Chihuahua. More than 1,000 rebel soldiers camped in Colonia Morelos, taking all they needed or wanted from the Colonist. With reports that General Salazar was heading toward the settlement, the women and children were sent by team and wagon to the border on August 30th. Before a week had passed the men could do nothing to protect their property, so they too, left for the United States. On September 12th, the towns were looted by General Salazar's forces. Later the same month, a number of Mormons returned to find every place looted, and all that could not be carried away had been destroyed. The Sonora Colonias were never to be settled again, except for a few months during the first part of 1913, after which they were abandoned to the Mexicans.⁵³

⁵² Romney, *op. cit.*, p.192-194

⁵³ Romney, *op. cit.*, p.196-200

The Colonists had neither money nor many possessions upon their arrival in El Paso. Soon after their arrival, an abandoned lumber yard was opened to them. The government, the Church, and private citizens gave a great deal in funds and equipment for their aid during the forced stay of the Colonist in El Paso. During the winter of 1912, the United States government offered to pay the transportation costs of any of the Colonists to any place in the United States where they might wish to settle. In a short time a great many had left for other places in the United States, as they felt it would be impossible to return to Mexico for some time, but some did stay on in El Paso in hopes that they could soon return to their homes in Chihuahua.

In September, 1912, several reconnaissances were made to the Colonias to determine if it was safe to return, and to see what damage had been done to their property. They found rebel forces still roaming in the vicinity, and a great deal of destruction to their homes. The homes had been looted of everything that could be carried off. Those things that could not be easily removed were broken or destroyed, as had been the case in the Sonora Colonias. Even the walls and ceilings had been greatly damaged, to see if things had been hidden in or behind them. At the end of September, another group went to Colonia Díaz to see what could be recovered and taken to the United States. They found all the homes looted, but were able to bring out some household goods and 887 head of cattle.⁵⁴

In February, 1913, the rebel forces burned Colonia Díaz, leaving it in such ruin that there was no reason for the former settlers ever to return. It was not long after this that some of the Colonists returned to Colonia Juárez and Dublán, but the mountain Colonias were still considered unsafe for resettlement.

Some of the houses and farms were found to be in fair condition in the Colonias of Dublán and Juárez. This was because some of the Mormon families had left Mexican families who had worked for them before the Exodus, in their homes to care for the

⁵⁴ Jensen, *op. cit.*

farms. By 1914, there was a population of 623 returned colonists, 214 in Colonia Dublán and 409 in Colonia Juárez.

A second Exodus took place in April, 1914 at the request of the President of the Church, in Salt Lake City.⁵⁵ It was felt that the Colonists were again in danger of the rebel forces in northern Chihuahua. This interval of vacancy lasted only a few months, and by 1915 there were 713 colonists back in the Colonias of Juárez and Dublán.



Figure 31: COLONIA DIAZ: The main street of Colonia Diaz today, looking south. Only part of two brick houses are standing. Most of the trees that lined the streets have been cut for fire wood, only the stumps indicated the old streets. The mesquites have moved out into the roads, leaving only trails in places. The houses shown are occupied by Mexicans at the present time.

The next crisis for the returned settlers developed from the defeat of Pancho Villa's forces by Obregón, at Celaya. As Villa was driven north in defeat after defeat by Obregón's forces, Villa's army became smaller and smaller. In October, 1915, the Carranza government was recognized by the United States government, which stopped the flow of munitions from the United States to Villa. This, in turn, made Pancho Villa

⁵⁵ Ibid.

furious with the United States and all Americans. He stopped a train at Santa Ysabel, Chihuahua and shot 16 American engineers. Then in February, 1916 two months after the incident at Santa Ysabel, Villa led his troops in a raid on Columbus, New Mexico, in which 16 Americans were killed.⁵⁶



Figure 32: COLONIA DIAZ. One of the walls of an old Mormon house. In this location the mesquite has taken over the main road, only the tree stumps give one an idea as to its former location.

The raid on Columbus caused the Mormon colonists to fear that Villa, on his return from the raid, would come through the Colonias, destroying them and the Colonists. They had heard that Pancho Villa had said he would return through the Mormon Colonias, kill all the Americanos and burn their towns. Upon his arrival at Corralitos, but 25 miles from Colonia Dublán, Villa had several members of the Blanco family killed, because they had worked for and were in sympathy with the Americans. The people of Colonia Dublán were all packed and ready to leave, yet they dared not go

⁵⁶ Parkas, Henry B., A History of Mexico, Boston, 1938, p. 353-356.

for fear of running into Villa's forces. It was decided by the men of the community that they would stay in their homes and await the outcome. Fortunately for the Colonists, Villa and his troops passed about five miles east of Colonia Dublán, without sending any troops to the Colonia.

The raid on Columbus angered the United States government into sending troops into Chihuahua under the leadership of General John Pershing. He was to search for and capture, if possible, Pancho Villa. General Pershing's troops left Columbus March 15, 1915. The expedition reached Colonia Dublán on March 17th. They camped and made their general headquarters for the expedition about 1 ½ miles north of the Colonia. With the arrival of the American troops, the Mormons were assured of protection as long as the troops remained in the vicinity.

During Pershing's stay in Chihuahua, a road was built by the Army from Columbus, New Mexico, to the Headquarters camp. It was greatly needed by the wagons and automobiles used to transport the expedition supplies. Pershing had under his command four regiments of cavalry, the 6th Infantry, two batteries of field artillery, the engineers, the quartermasters and the Foulois Aero Squadron.⁵⁷ A great many of these troops were kept near Colonia Dublán as long as the American forces were in Mexico.

During the stay of the American troops, the Colonists were able to take some advantage of the situation. They sold all their surplus crops at a good price to the Army. American horses were pastured on Mormon farms at twenty-five cents per day for each animal. The people that sold to or served the Army were paid in United States currency. The use of American money continued in the area for some time after the United States had withdrawn its forces from Mexico.

The American forces began to withdraw on January 30, 1916, after many fruitless chases over the state of Chihuahua, looking for Pancho Villa. They crossed into the United States on February 5th, and with them came a great many of the Colonists and

⁵⁷ Toulmin, H. A. , With Pershing in Mexico, The Military Service Publishing Co., 1935, p. 116-121

others who were afraid of the return of revolutionary raiders as soon as the American Army left. They brought all the belongings they could carry in their wagons. It was not long before many of those who had gone to the United States with the American troops were on their way back to the Colonias.

By 1917 it was decided by some of the former members of the mountain Colonias that it was again safe to resettle them. Colonia García was the first to be occupied. The former residents found their homes in poor condition. Immediately they set to work repairing the houses and plowing the fields, and soon the sawmill was operating again.

It was not until 1918 that Colonia Pacheco was reoccupied. Most of the houses had been destroyed by fire. It was not known whether the rebel forces had fired the town, or whether the grass that had grown up during their absence of more than five years had caught fire from the numerous forest fires. In 1919 Colonia Chuichupa was again settled by the former Mormon residents. All but about six houses had been burned. There was nothing to do but start over where they had begun when they first entered Mexico.

Agriculture was greatly hindered at times by the rebel forces. They tore down fences, letting their horses into the fields to eat. They stole many of the Mormon's horses and cattle were killed wherever they could be found. The Mormons did not fare as well as the surrounding Mexicans, since they were foreigners, and since they had so much more than the Mexican farmers.

The first thing the Colonists did upon returning to the Colonias was to gather together what cattle were left, drive the stock to the United States and sell it. The money from the sale of the livestock belonging to those who were not returning to Mexico was sent to them to help them start again in the United States.

Some of the Colonists were short of horses and could not farm their total acreage. In 1915 a steam tractor was brought into Colonia Dublán. It was used to pull six plows and furnish power for threshing. About 1916 a stationary steam engine was bought and

also used in Colonia Dublán for threshing and for pumping water from the river. This same year the first power baler was used.

After the American troops left, the revolutionary forces came occasionally, demanding and taking what they could from the Colonists. By 1919 the revolution was nearly over and the Colonists were almost entirely left to themselves from then on.

The Mercantile store played an important part during the revolution. Most of the farmers had little or no money to buy what they needed. The store had built up such a good reputation with the El Paso wholesale houses that it was allowed a great deal of credit. The farmers in turn were allowed to borrow on a year's crops or barter the crop for merchandise at the store.

Before the revolution, the train service into this part of Chihuahua had been excellent. There were two passenger trains a day going through Colonia Dublán, one going south, the other going north. The revolution completely disrupted the train service. The rebel forces controlled the railroad most of the time during the revolution and there were no scheduled trains. The whole rail line practically fell into ruin during this period. The rebels were in no position to repair the track, bridges or car damage, nor were they much interested in doing so, since Federal troops at any time might recapture the area.

The end of the revolution came in 1920 with the election of Obregón to the Presidency of Mexico. Pancho Villa was bribed into refraining from further fighting by accepting an hacienda in Durango. The Zapatistas from Morelos were promised the land which they had taken in Morelos. Two men, Pablo Gonzáles and Jesus Guajardo led a rebellion at this time in southern Mexico; Guajardo was shot and Gonzáles went into exile.⁵⁸ The revolution for all practical purposes had ended. By 1920, 774 Colonists had returned to live in the five remaining Colonias.

⁵⁸ Parkas, *op. cit.*, p. 366-367.

RECONSTRUCTION

With the revolution over, the Mormons could now turn all their energy to rehabilitation of their homes and farms. For many, it was necessary to start almost from the beginning, as they had done when they first came to Mexico, 35 years earlier. In 1912, the Mormons numbered over 4,000 in the Colonias, now, in 1920, the population was only 774, never again to rise above 1,300. And out of the twelve Colonias originally settled by the Mormons but five remained.

After the revolution the government was faced with a new group of revolutionary leaders every few years. In 1927 and 1928 there occurred local revolts within the State of Chihuahua, but these were quickly quelled. In 1929, the last revolt the Mormons were to experience started in Vera Cruz and ended in the State of Sonora. Northwest Chihuahua was one of the paths of the retreating rebel forces. Again the Mormons were required by the revolutionary forces to donate some of their crops and animals, but the rebel forces retreated with such haste that there was no great amount of destruction to the property of the Mormons.

The depression that came in the early 1930's had little effect on the economy of the Mormon colonists, as they had virtually been in a depression since the Exodus. When this depression struck they were just beginning to recover from the effects of the revolution. A few more years of economic hardship were nothing to alarm them, but as conditions improved these folk were ready to take advantage of better times, and they began to raise their standard of living. Toward the end of the thirties the beginning of greater prosperity was in sight for a great many of the Colonists.

Mountain Colonias

The mountain colonist always found it difficult to make more than just a living, except when lumbering was their business. A lumber mill near each of the mountain settlements was of great help in providing work for the Colonists. The farming still

consisted mainly of the growing of oats and oat hay for winter cattle feed. The little milk produced by the range cattle was being made into cheese.

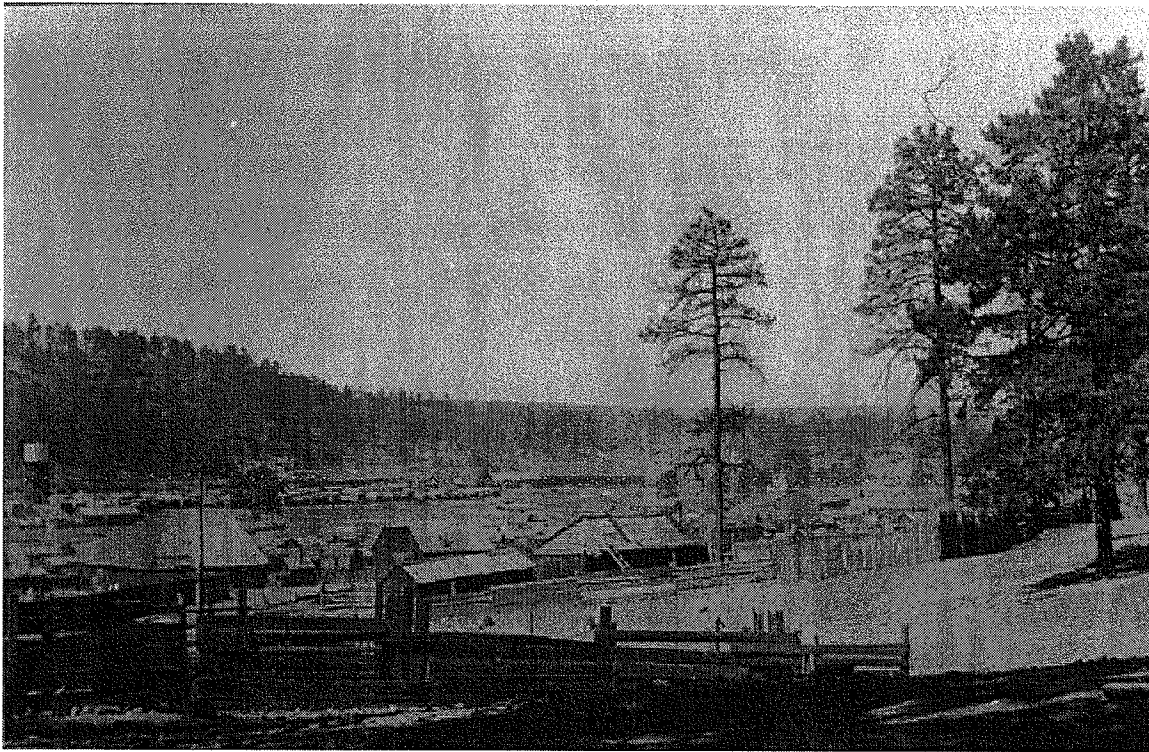


Figure 33: LUMBERING IN THE SIERRA MADRE MOUNTAINS. The lumber town of Largo. At one time the camp was operated by Americans. The signs on some of the buildings are still in English. Now the town is entirely of Mexicans.

The forests around the Colonias, during this period, were greatly changed in appearance. Lumber companies, some American owned and managed, began invading the interior sections of the Sierra Madre mountains. The large mills at Madera reopened in 1921, but the mills at Pearson never reopened. Many of the new lumber companies operating in the mountains used small portable mills. The forests were being cut over in much the same manner as the forest of the United States during the early days of lumbering. Slash littered the ground after a company had cut through an area, and any tree that had marketable lumber was cut. With increased logging temp came many more forest fires, which nearly destroyed the mountain Colonias, several times.



Figure 34: LUMBERING IN THE SIERRA MADRE MOUNTAINS. The saw mill at Largo. The logs are pulled into the saw shed by chain and skids.

Stake reports for the mountain Colonias of the early 1930's indicated that lumbering was still the largest and most profitable business. The fruit from the orchards sold well, but there were few trees planted. In 1931 Chuichupa harvested a good crop from their apple trees, but this amounted to only four or five tons. The effect of the depression is noted in the Stake report of September, 1931, when cheese and cattle were selling "at about half the usual price." In 1933 there was one hopeful enterprise begun by the Juárez Mercantile Company of Ciudad Juárez, at Colonia Chuichupa. The Stake report stated that, "The Juarez Mercantil Company of Ciudad Juarez, a large mercantile establishment, is furnishing the people of the colony 12 tons of seed oats, free, and agrees to purchase the entire output of oats in the fall at the price of seven centavos per kilo. This firm manufactures oatmeal and is endeavoring to produce their oats in this country instead of having to import them."⁵⁹

⁵⁹ Jensen, *op. cit.*,



Figure 35: LUMBERING IN THE SIERRA MADRE MOUNTAINS. At points along the road the slash is piled in the stacks. This is the required by law, but is only cared out here and there. The road is wide enough for two trucks to pass and is well graded.

A business which continued good up to the entrance of the United States into the war of 1941, was the outfitting and guiding of American hunting parties into the Sierra Madre mountains. Fishing and hunting were still good in the vicinity of the mountain Colonias when the settlers returned after the Exodus. But as the years passed, the game near the Colonias and around the lumber operations decreased rapidly. The only game that did not seem to decrease was the wolves. As the other wildlife in the vicinity of the Colonias diminished, the wolves began to prey increasingly upon the cattle herds of the Colonists.