

Dear Cousins and Family Members,

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR !

After our family reunion in Sonoita, Arizona on October 8, 2005, many of you asked for an English version of the family history that was prepared and presented by our First Cousin Rosa Albina Garavito Elías. Enclosed is your English copy of her store. I hope you enjoy reading it and take the time to share it with all of your family members.

We hope to see all of you at our next reunion in year 2007.

Regards,

**Lorenzo Alejo Romero Elías
(Luís)**

HISTORICAL DATA OF THE ELIAS *

The first reunion of First Cousins of the Elias family, a celebration at the Santa Cruz County, County Fair Building, Sonoita, Arizona, October 8, 2005.

Rosa Albina Garavito Elias

Mexico, D.F., September 20, 2005

This work is dedicated in memory of our Grandparents, Albina and Manuel and our aunts Hortencia, Angelita, Maria Luisa, Anita, our uncle Ernesto, our uncles that we did not have the opportunity to meet and know. Also, to our aunts Otila, Armida, Irma, Delia (my mother) and Norma. A special acknowledgement to our cousin Luis Lorenzo Alejo Romero Elias, who we owe our debt for this magnificent reunion.

TRANSLATION NOTE:

In doing this translation of Rosa Albina's original story in Spanish, I have not included all the reference pages as she did. If you are interested in doing some further reading you can order the book by James E. Officer, titled " Hispanic of Arizona – 1536-1856", at Barnes and Noble. The book was printed by the University of Arizona Press, Tucson, Arizona.

Lorenzo Alejo Romero Elias

Some historical data of the Elias

Rosa Albina Garavito Elias

Introduction

I want to tell you, before anything, to find myself with aunts, cousins that I left many years ago and others that I had not met, I am filled with happiness. Now let me tell you that last year my cousin Luis gave me a very interesting gift. He gave me the book written by James E. Officer, titled Hispanic Arizona, 1536-1856. James Officer was a historian at the University of Arizona. What I did not know is that this gift had a trick like we say in Mexico, because together with the invitation to the reunion, Luis asked me using this book to prepare a brief outline of the family history. Another words, our cousin put me to work before arriving here today.

For my part I am static, for me just like him, I like to investigate our roots, I have done some with the Garavitos. I think you will all agree that the families are very similar to our Grandparents, and to know the family tree and branches we will go to the roots of the family. Our genealogy tree takes shape, for the simple reason that it gives us our identification. It doesn't matter how far apart we may be, you will find that those branches and leafs will point to a common origin, which can serve as the base to continue cultivating other trees, just as strong.

To prepare the historical data of the Elias, I used the book that I have mentioned. I also used the diagram that Luis sent me and other data from the book by Krauze which I will cover later. I hope that after this reunion we can all contribute and expand our history, starting with our aunts. What I have been able to gather starts with the XVIII century and beginnings of the XIX, which is part of the studies Officer did.

I liked the book written by Officer because he is a member of the historical society of the United States that support the importance of the Hispanic era in the foundation of the nation, and not like the Saxon influence. In this sense, the Elias are part of this story, the construction of Mexico and the United States.

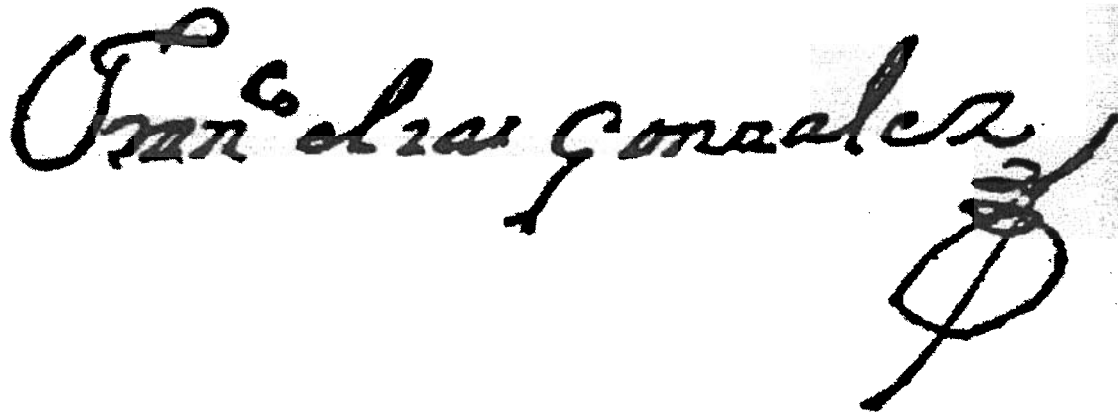
The founder of the Elias clan.

From the genealogy tree that Luis had sent, it was recognized that we are all children of Don Pancho. I am referring to Don Francisco Elias Gonzalez de Zayas who had arrived from Spain. In the same book I found a date that even goes further back. The Grandfather of Don Francisco, his name was Lorenzo Luis Elias Romero, almost the same as our cousin Luis. He was from the same region in Spain, and he lived approximately from 1600 to 1665. We then have to recognize that, our family history dates back to previous four centuries.

According to Armando Elias Chomina, author of "Abstract of historical data of the Elias family", the orally tradition of the Spanish and Mexican families support the fact that the origin is Jewish.

We will return to Don Francisco. He was born in 1704 in Soto de Cameros, La Rioja, Spain. He left that region in 1720 and arrived in Alamos, Sonora in 1729 where he had some family relatives. In May of that year he married Agueda Maria Campoy, a daughter of a very influential person living in Alamos. She died in 1740, or earlier, there is no data if they had any children in their marriage. In that year,

1740, Don Francisco financed a personal expedition against the Yaquis, that he conquered the presidio of Janos, to be designated as part of the Spain's military.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Francisco Gonzalez" in a cursive script. The signature is written on a light-colored background with a faint horizontal line above it. The final part of the signature is a large, stylized flourish.

Firma de Don Francisco Elías González de Zayas

Signature of Don Francisco Elias Gonzalez de Zayas

Don Francisco remarried to the Doña Maria Ignacia Diaz del Carpio, with who they had seven children. Maria Ignacia was the daughter of his commander. Lieutenant Elias was promoted to Captain in 1751, and very rapidly he supported his Father in Law and became commander of the presidio of Terrenate.

By 1762 Francisco Elias Gonzalez de Zayas had 22 years of service in the frontier presidios and ten years as the commanding officer of the presidio of Terrenate. He maintained that position until his retirement in 1770. He lived the

rest of his life in Arizpe where his in-laws lived. He died in 1790 in Paso del Norte, today is Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. This signifies that the founder of the Elias family in America was a man of longevity. According to Officer , “ his descendants were distant to be some of the most famous families of Sonora, and one of them become the President of Mexico.

From 1753 to 1770, Don Francisco fought against the Apaches, an activity that was the essence of the military foundation of the Elias, until they exterminated those tribes and assimilated the few survivors into a new culture.

Besides being the founder of the Elias family, Don Francisco was noted for the relocation of the “ sobaipuras”, from their pueblos on the banks of the San Pedro River where he built the community pima de Santa Cruz. For his part Francisco Kino said that when he arrived in 1692 in what it is today Santa Cruz (that he baptized as Santa Maria) and built the mission, the native town was called Suamca or Bugata, a branch of the Pimas.

To the north, after the mission that Kino built in Santa Cruz, the mission of San Xavier del Bac was built on the outskirts of what is known today as Tucson. For that period the territory of Sonora and southern Arizona were the “ Confines of Christendom”. In these confines was the pueblo of our Grandparents and around these confines you will find our roots.

We'll return to the history of the family. Among the seven children of Don Francisco, there was Jose Francisco Antonio, who is a direct descendant who lived from 1742 to 1816. This gentleman married Maria Rita Dolores Romo de Vivar who lived from 1747 to 1817. Like Don Francisco and his wife, they too had seven children.

The second of those children, was Jose Florentino Rafael Elias Gonzalez Romo de Vivar, who is our Great-great-grandfather. In the photo he appears with an elegant attire and nonchalant; you can notice his vest in squares (may be the fashion or his personal style?). This gentleman has three sons; in the tree constructed by Officer, the name of the third son does not appear, but according to the chart that Luis gave us, that third son could have been Jose Juan Elias Perez, according to the data that Luis gave us was born in 1803 and according to Enrique Krauze died in 1865, in a battle against the French forces. Don Juan was a liberal Colonel his nickname was “ el Chinaco”; he was the father of our Great-grandfather Abundio. After our Great-grandfather Abundio is much simpler in directly connection the branches of the genealogical tree, but your help is required.

In Officer's book, he does not give any dates of the family beyond the generation of Rafael, but this information is enough to illustrate the importance of the Elias family.

The origin of the importance of the Elias

The great economic and political influence that the Elias had, in which today we know it as Arizona and Sonora and it does include Mexico, it is explained in their military origin. When I said that Don Francisco replaced his father in law as commander of the presidio of Terrenate, it is to recall that Terrenate is very close to Santa Cruz. My father told me that there were a few trips that he made with our cousin Moises (son of our aunt Angelita) to take wheat to the mill at that presidio (around 1943). It was not only the influence of his father-in- law that accelerated Don Francisco to that position, but he also organized in Alamos and financed a group of 100 armed men to combat the Yaquis. Besides his military arms, Don Francisco had to demonstrate his "pure Spanish blood ", which was a requirement in order to accelerate to a higher military position within the Crown.

According to Officer, "the second half of the XVIII century the situation in the northern frontier of Sonora was firmed under the control of an elite representation by the families of Captain Elias. The majority were Creole, they had a firm ancestry-line with Spain and were very jealous of the " pure blood", and they even married among themselves. Because of them, the author notes that it was very common for cousin to marry among themselves. In the XIX century, Domingo Elias Pro, a Great-grandson of Captain Elias Gonzalez de Zayas, married a niece Dolores Elias Elias. After this marriage her full name became Dolores Elias Elias de Elias.

We'll return to the military campaigns that the Elias participated in. The commander of a presidio was not only responsible for the troops of soldiers who defended the population against Indian attacks, but the commander was also the authority of provisions, horses (stock), and arms. like Officer said, being a commander of a presidio signified being in the crown of a social pyramid . They determined what merchants were to supply the presidio, and that selection had a lot to do with the Godfather. They of course received compensation for that designation.

Also, the food consumed by the soldiers had to be purchased from the commander of the presidio, who sold the products at a lower price as authorized by the Spanish authority, he could buy the provisions at a much lower price as the market permitted. Also the contraband of horses and arms purchase. After the soldiers needs had been satisfied, any left over supplies could be sold to the general public at what ever price the commander of the presidio demanded.

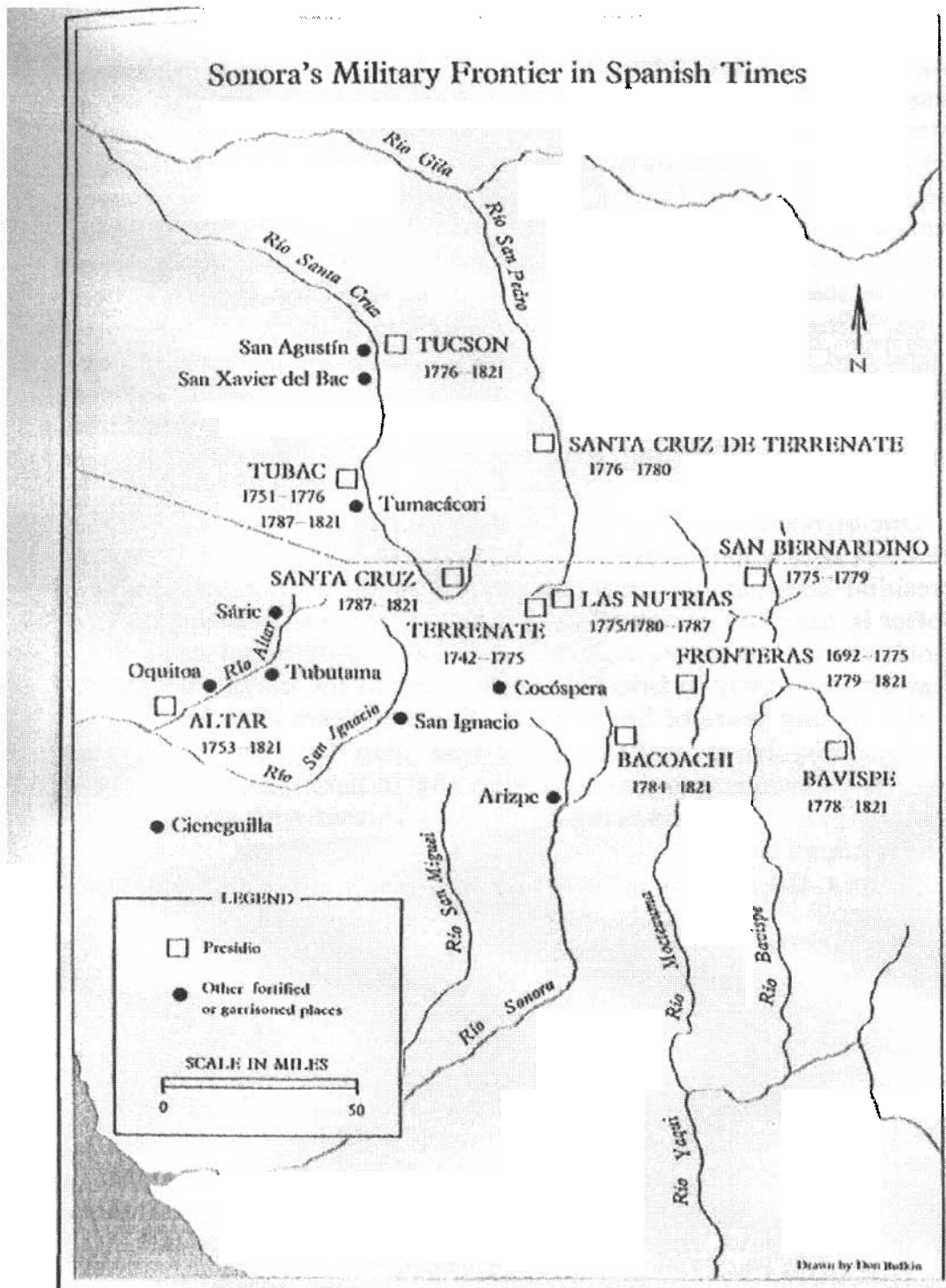
The economic theory, in this particular period was dominated by capitalistic merchants. From what we know, our ancestors accumulated their fortunes as capitalistic merchants. With their wealth they were able to invest in mining, ranches, good marriages and political favors from the representatives of the crown. In all, everything was done with the capital of the Elias.

Officer mentions a historian by the name of Pfefferkorn, who confirmed that the positions of commandants, more than they earned, they could be bought; and their price fluctuated from 12 million to 14 million pesos.

The majority of the large land parcels in Arizona were notably controlled by the Elias Gonzalez family, or families who were legally associated due to marriages like the Ortiz or the Perez. The proprietors lived on their ranches no more than twelve years due to the war with the Apaches, but it was sufficient time for them to accumulate vast numbers of cattle, that the general population depended on them for commercial beef, which included the gold miners traveling to California.

To give you an idea of how the land was controlled by a very few hands, the historian refers to the following data. What is know today the Anita neighborhood in Tucson, it was purchased by Comaduran and Sardina from the Apaches for two muskets, four blankets, one horse, sixteen pesos of tobacco and ten pesos in cash for a total of 100 pesos. Immediately after the independence, the members of the Elias family increased their titles of various lands in the Tucson area even though they lived in Arizpe, Sonora.

There is very little information about the children of Don Francisco, we are talking about the second half of the XVIII century. At the end of this century and the beginning of the XIX century, is when the grand children of Don Francisco appear being very active in the history of Sonora; including the sons of Jose Francisco Antonio and a son of Fernanco (Ignacio).



The grandsons of Don Francisco

In 1832, Rafael, son of Jose Francisco Antonio and grand father of Don Abundio (the father of our grand father Manuel), he was given the property deed to the Ranch of San Rafael of the Valley. We are speaking of the period in which Mexico had won its independence, and new land concessions were being made by the new government in Mexico. Rafael, had made his request in 1828; besides the ranch of San Rafael, he was also owner of the ranch in San Pedro. In 1837, he was named governor of Sonora, and before being named governor, he was the chairman of the committee who replaced the local legislature.

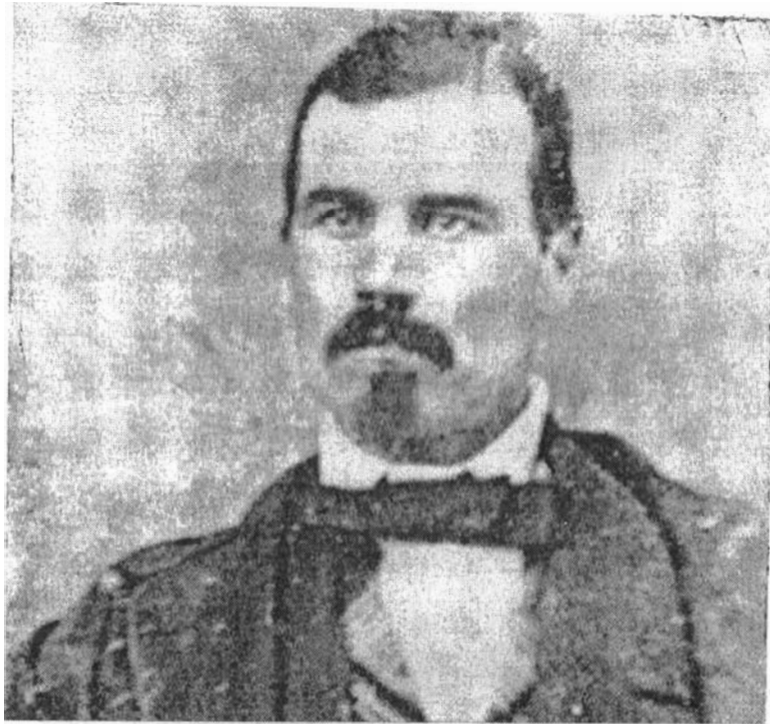
In those years there was a major economic depression that the soldiers even sold their arms to the general public. The shortages provoked revolts in 1832 and 1824 by the soldiers in Santa Cruz and Tucson. They were asking for help from the central government. Officer documented that Rafael issued a bulletin that advertised the consequences if residents bought arms from the soldiers.

The same historian, the decedents of Rafael constitutes the branch of San Pedro Palominas of the Elias family, which data confirms is the where we belong.

Another outstanding grandson of Don Francisco was Simon, older brother of Rafael and great, great uncle of our grandfather Manuel. In his service record in Santa Cruz, appears the Don that was used by decedents of pure Spanish blood. Simon started his military career in 1788 in the Tucson company. He stayed there until 1793, then he was sent as a cadet to Buenavista. In 1807, he was assigned as commandant of the Tubac presidio. In 1814, this assignment was given to Ignacio Elias Gonzalez, (son of Fernando and first cousin of Rafael and Simon).

Later on Simon was commandant of Santa Cruz, until 1820. Before 1811, he was military commander of the Villa de Chihuahua (today the state capital of the state of Chihuahua) and the integrator of the military court of the Spanish crown. He participated in giving the execution order of Don Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla. One event that we cannot rejoice in.

Due to these proceedings, on April 1, 1826, was named as First Governor, for being the “ most respectable and popular figure in Sonora”. In May of 1826, he sent a circular to all the mayors of the frontier presidios requesting information on all entering foreigners . In those moments the Americans were traveling on their way to California after the gold fever. Like Officer Notes, Colonel Simon Elias is the only person in history of Mexico that functioned as governor of two states simultaneously, he later became governor of Chihuahua.



Rafael, Grand father of Don Abundio

Juan Crisostomo, also a grandson of Don Francisco, and also great-great uncle of our grandfather Manuel, was another outstanding member of the Elias family. He was a parish priest in Arizpe, and when the second constitutional legislation of Sonora on the 21 of November 1835, a committee was installed to substitute and Juan Crisostomo participated.

Jose Maria Elias Gonzalez, was born in Arizpe on February 2, 1772. Also grandson of Don Francisco and same relation to Manuel Elias was commanding general of Sonora, from 1835 to 1850. He was the one who fought most with the Apaches. He was of the opinion that the Apaches "could not be considered as human socially and citizens. He would never permit that they live in a town, establish as land owners, work their land as it would be a "natural thing".

He proposed to the governor that a new pueblo be created in Sonora, nearby the presidios where the Apaches could establish themselves. He offered to take on some responsibilities and to provide them with tools and equipment and help them in other forms. Jose Maria interviewed with the Apaches in Santa Cruz (in 1835); they wanted the "El Pueblito" that was occupied by the Pimas. As an alternative he offered them Saric, but the Apaches where not interested. Finally the opted for the old pueblo of Sonoita. History story gets complicated, the owner of the land, Joaquin Vicente Elias, did not want to sell and the government did not expropriated. In 1857, Joaquin Vicente, sold the land to Antonio Crespo for 1950 pesos. It seems that finally an Apache reservation was formed (Under the control of the United States), here in Sonoita (where we are having our reunion tonight), but a very few Apaches took advantage. At the end the Apaches suffered under the Mexican government and under the United States government.

Jose Maria signed the peace treaty with the Apaches de Pinal on March 5, 1836. In 1835 he was promoted to Colonel. In consequences of the differences with politics in Chihuahua with the Apaches, in 1844 they invaded the state. The difference between neighboring states was that Chihuahua was a state of peace and Sonora was a state of extremist. Our family ancestors were very active in this extremist roll. the sonorenses would say that in Chihuahua they would trade arms for meat with the Apaches; arms that would be used against the sonorenses.



José Maria, Great, great uncle (second) of Don Abundio

When colonel Jose Maria Elias, invaded Chihuahua, during his expedition they killed eighty apaches in the presidio of Fronteras. I'll make a comment: I don't think just killing Apaches was the only form in gaining peace in this region. This area was always in high tension. In 1828, the testimony of a resident of Tucson, " we sleep with our rifles instead with our wife".



Ignacio, Great, great uncle (second) to Don Abundio

Jose Maria also participated with the war with the United States, with the results that we lost half of the territory. When he was governor, his plans were to combat with the Apaches with the soldiers from Santa Cruz, Tucson, Bavispe and Fronteras. For 250 soldiers they only had 200 horses, he had requested three horses per soldier. Another problem was how to supply the troops. He proposed using the bid system to acquire supplies. He did not proceed, even though General Urrea, who was governor of Sonora and supported him, he was politically disgraced and died in 1849 in Mexico City a victim of Cholera.

Without doubt, the years of Jose Maria's activities, was a period more intense of the war against the Apaches. Mexico had gain its independence but could not gain political stability. Even though the roll of the Catholic priests had disappeared and the expulsion of the Spanish in 1826.

It was in this period, in the year of 1843, when the residents of Santa Cruz suffered the most from the Apaches. The ranchers were in meeting in La Noria; when the Apaches arrived and killed 30 and stole a great deal of cattle. During this period, Concepcion Elias was kidnapped and held prisoner by the Apaches for two years. Approximately 20 years later, our Great grandfather Abundio was kidnapped by the Apaches, he was a six year old child. I hope our aunts can give us more details of this episode.

On September 11, 1845, Colonel Jose Maria Elias convened a meeting in Tucson to ask for authority to counter the forces that were holding him back from using the military to pursue the campaign against the Apaches. The document was directed to Governor Gaxiola and the military commander in Cuesta. It was signed by the representatives of Bacoachi, Bavispe, Fronteras, Arizpe, Santa Cruz, Hermosillo and Oposura (Moctezuma), Tucson and Tubac. Joaquin Comaduran signed for Santa Cruz.

There is existing data that the Apaches had plans to kill Jose Maria and attack Santa Cruz. There was also a very active document he had (1831) promoting the idea that Arizpe should be the state capital, not Hermosillo as was directed by the central government. As a result of the solicitation by the Elias and Jose Maria, the residents of Tucson and Tubac found themselves in the middle of the controversy on the state capital. The Elias and their supporters won their demand to transfer the state capital to Arizpe on the 25 of May 1832.

In 1835, Jose Maria formalized his peace plan with the Apaches and the Papagos. While the discussions were taken place the Apaches continue their excursions. 1832, in Cocospera, they organized a campaign called "La seccion Patriotica – The patriotic succession". Colonel Ignacio Elias Gonzalez, first commander of Tubac, traveled from his home in Arizpe to chair the reunion. In the reunion, Joaquin Vicente Elias, relative of Jose Ignacio was elected as the leader.

Days later, the militia traveled to Tubac to eliminate the Apaches, Jose Maria directed the troops. On the 4 of June of that year, he and his voleenters confronted a party of Apaches. Killed 71, captured 30 children, and 216 horses and mules. The Mexicans kept the Apache children. This was one of the most serious action along the frontier border.

Jose Maria also became the governor of Sonora in 1843. Officer also acknowledges that he was active in politics until his death in 1864. To finalize Jose Maria part, during those years, the leader of the Pimas tribe his name was Antonio Culo Azul or Antonio Blue Ass.

Ignacio Elias Gonzalez, son of Fernando, I have mentioned him before was a cousin of Rafael, Simon and Jose Maria. He was the owner along with his sister of Hacienda de Babocomari. They left the hacienda after an Apache attack in March of 1834. This hacienda still was in existence in 1980. Ignacio finished it in 1833 and he formally passed it on to the Brophy family in 1936. This hacienda helped Officer illustrate the Spanish influence in the architecture of Tucson.

Ignacio had a short military career in his youth, he was a resident of Rayon in 1827. From there he went to Valle de Altar as his permanent residence. His sister Eulalia resided in Arizpe and for more than fifty years was the head of the family. The decedents of the Elias refer Ignacio as the founder of the Rayon branch of the Elias family.

Our relationship with Plutarco Elias Calles

Plutarco Elias Calles was a first cousin to our Grandfather Manuel, he was our second grand uncle to us. In observing the genealogy family tree, Colonel Jose Juan Elias Perez (1803-1865) married Bernardina Lucero and they had five sons; including our Great, Grandfather Abundio and Plutarco the oldest one, who never married. He had a son by the name of Arturo with Lydia Malvido de Ures. Later with his relationship with Maria de Jesus Campuzano de Guaymas, Plutarco was born (September 25, 1877). Plutarco was left an orphan, his maternal aunt Maria Josefa Campuzano and her husband, Juan Bautista Calles, where he lived with them in Hermosillo where he got his basic education. From this political uncle he took the name Calles (his real surname was Elias Campuzano.)

Plutarco Elias Calles was governor of Sonora and President of Mexico 1924 – 1928. During these years his half brother Arturo was the Consulate General of Mexico in New York City. Plutarco passed onto the history of Mexico as founder of formal institutions as a result of the 1910 revolution. He also organized the political party PRI which ruled Mexico for 71 years, creator of the Bank of Mexico (equivalent to the US Federal Reserve Bank), and diverse economic organizations.

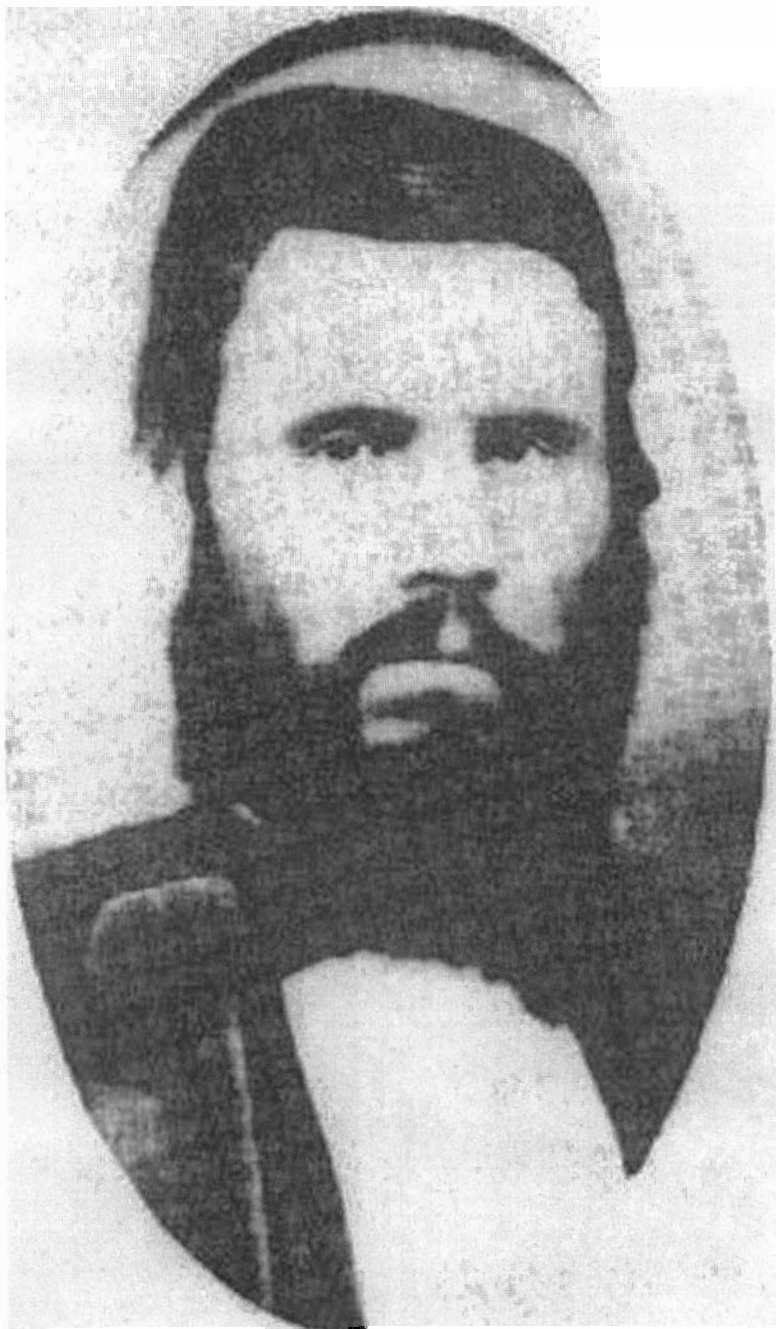
To terminate this part of the history:

We did not meet the grandchildren of Don Francisco, also our Great, grandfather, nor Plutarco Elias Calles; Without a doubt, the history of Sonora and the country during the XVIII, XIX, and XX centuries, cannot be recognized without acknowledging the roll that the Elias played. Even though it may seem long ago and they had nothing to do with our lives, you will be in agreement with me that a lot of that pioneer spirit was found in the house of our Grandparents in Santa Cruz. They did not have to defend against the Apache, but it was the same to resist the cold weather, the snow, flooded rivers, tending and guarding the cattle, and the farm fields. When I was born (March 7, 1947), my mother tells me, that my grandfather and Uncle Ernesto camped for three months while they and the crew fenced the entire ranch property. To wash my diapers, my mother would shovel snow in the wash tub for water.

In the environment of the pueblo, without the convenience of commerce, or department stores, to live everything had to be produced; each day life was reinvented in the kitchen, in the farm fields, on the ranch. Like in the times of the Grandchildren of Don Francisco, that every day they reinvented politics; the war; the State; the Nation; nothing was guarantee, everything was to be made and each morning was to be conquered. The same in Santa Cruz during our infancy, in the house of our Grandparents.

In order to recreate a hostile world we need a template, strength, intelligence. All of this I saw at the house in Santa Cruz and I recount in this part of the history of the Elias. I recall Santa Cruz, where many of us cousins were born. A pueblo almost hanging from the frontier border by the same river that comes from the north and like it retreats' it turns and flows north again crossing the border into the United States. A pueblo that felt very left out from the center of Mexico, that almost it did not recognize itself as belonging in that nation. Maybe, that's why our Grandfather would always say, "From the railroad tracks below, they are all homeless" The dislike of the "homeless" maybe this was their wish that their pueblo and its people, in their anticipation they had asked to live without a central government, defending the frontier with their personal strength. And with that astuteness and fortitude we recognize our Elias ancestors, also Don Manuel, Doña Albina, our aunts and Uncle Ernesto. The history of our family tree continues, and now I rest so I can reenter this land where our roots are. Thank you to our cousin Luis, and all who made this reunion possible.

20 September 2005



José Juan, alias el Chinaco; padre de Don Abundio



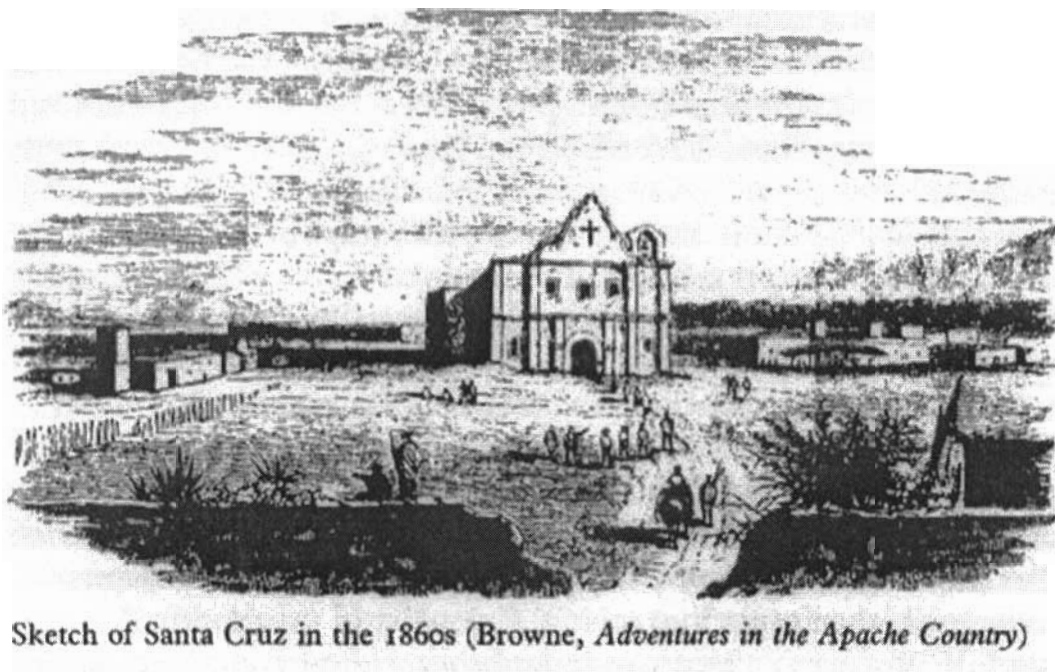
José Juan, alias el Chinaco; padre de Don Abundio



Bernardina Lucero, madre de Don Abundio



Valley leading to Santa Cruz, Sonora (Bartlett, *Personal Narrative*, volume 1)

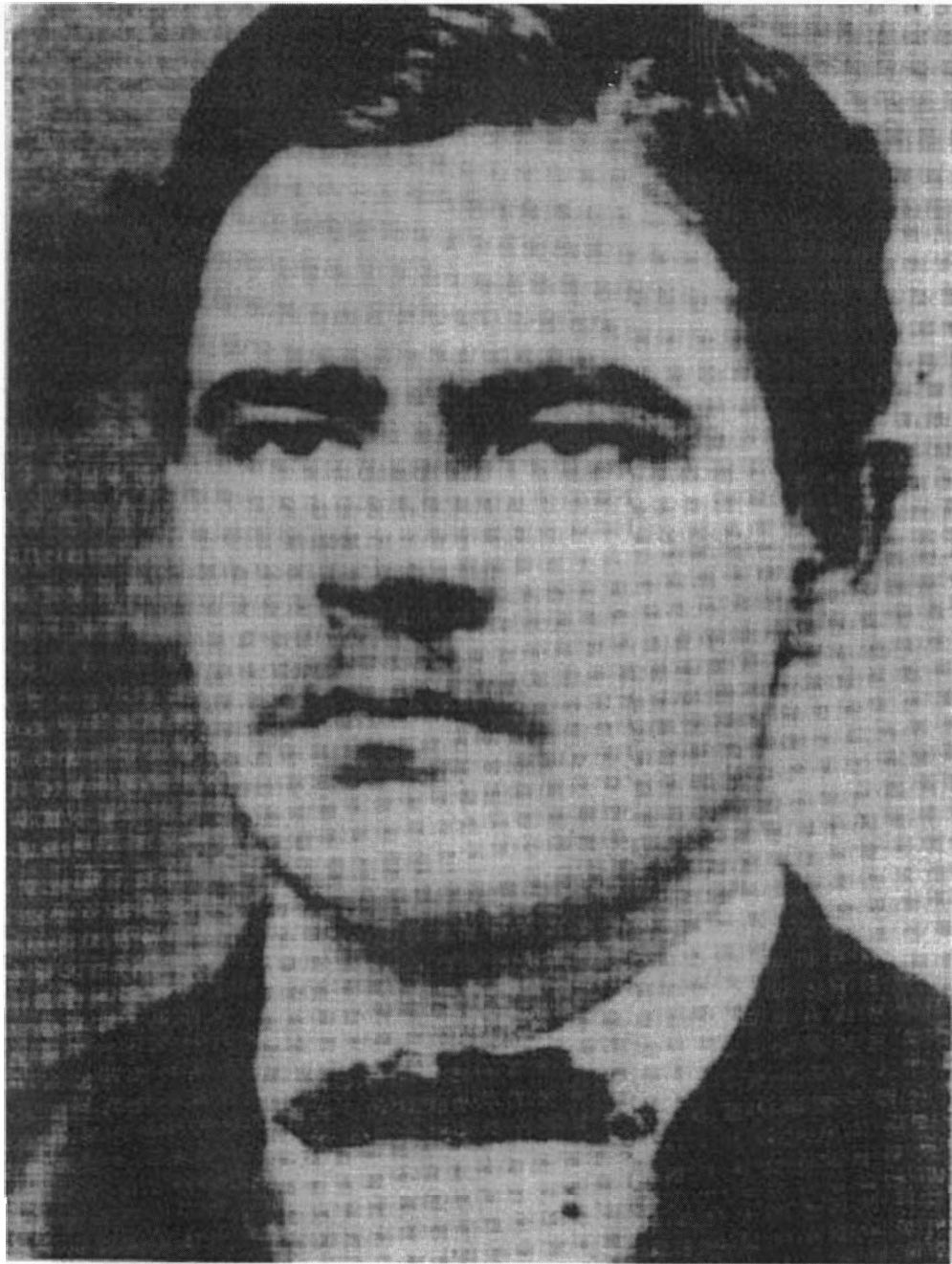


Sketch of Santa Cruz in the 1860s (Browne, *Adventures in the Apache Country*)

Imagen de Santa Cruz, Sonora, en 1860



Rafael Elías Lucero, hermano de Don Abundio



Manuel Elías Lucero, hermano de Don Abundio



Alejandro Elías Lucero, hermano de Don Abundio