

See by hand  
Spring as Sonora

thor of Sonora, Descrip. Geog., 493-4, in 1764, also writes: 'Creo que no me engañaré si me inclino á pensar que por lo mucho que ha sonado en Mexico y aun en Europa su prodigiosa riqueza se haya merecido el nombre de Sonora.' 'Sunora, as the Indians say, or Sonora as the Spaniards call it.' Niel, Apunt., 79. Mowry, Arizona, 41-2, supposes that Sonot or Senot was the native name for señora, or madam. Velasco, Sonora, 17, and ~~Madrid~~ Id., in Soc. Geog., viii, 216, admits the derivation from sonot, but thinks the word was merely a native attempt to say señora. Crozco y Berra, Geog., 337, expresses no opinion. In Beaumont, Crón. Mich., v. 806, it is printed 'Tzonora,' but not so in the MS. p. 1104."

The present writer ~~is inclined to~~ believes that we have our best authority in Ribas, whose "Triumphos" was <sup>"completed in 1644" and</sup> published in 1645, soon after the <sup>Sonora Valley missions and the</sup> town of San Juan de Sonora <sup>was</sup> founded; that the original native name was Sonora, (or possibly Sunora, as stated by Niel); and that "Señora" was but a play upon the word.

I think it has been stated - but I can not recall where - that the native name, Sonora, means "spring place" or "place of springs." That the ~~two~~ syllable, son, is abbreviated from sonac or sonata, <sup>meaning "spring" or "springs,"</sup> seems probable. \* Bancroft XV, 235

Antigua Señora de la

\* The "s" and "o" ~~are~~ merely dialectic ~~variations~~ in sound, among different tribes of the Piman linguistic stock, <sup>in many words,</sup> seen today between the Pimas, the Tolton, and the Papagos. <sup>The</sup> eighteenth century mission <sup>of Santa Cruz River north of Santa Cruz, Sonora, is similarly spelled either "Sugued" or "Socueda" or "Socued"; and similar to an San Agüelmo and "Agüelmo."</sup>

Just where, in the valley of Sonora, Captain Arriano established the town of Señora, our chroniclers do <sup>directly inform us</sup> not ~~say~~; but that he located it in the southern half of the interval between el Puertecito and Arispe, where were the broader and more fertile vales, and in which, ~~about~~ a century later, <sup>(1639)</sup> were established ~~by~~ the Jesuits the first ~~missions~~ missions of <sup>the north-to-south segment of Sonora</sup> ~~the north-to-south segment of Sonora~~ River, - ~~namely~~ namely those of San Pedro Aconchi, San Lorenzo Huespaga, and Remedios Banamichi, and by Spanish officers and miners (1641) the "fort of Sonora" and "mining settlement of Sonora" (San Juan Bautista de Sonora)\*

<sup>earlier</sup> The only mission ~~founded earlier~~ on Sonora River was San Miguel Ures, in the valley of Corazones, separated from Sonora Valley proper by the Ures Cañon; it was founded in 1638, - <sup>102 years</sup> ~~102 years~~ after Cabeza de Vaca passed through its valley, ~~giving it and the town of~~ ~~three contiguous villages~~ <sup>giving to it and to its native</sup> settlements of three contiguous villages the name of Corazones. The missions of San Ignacio Sinciquipa and Asuncion Arispe were not founded until 1646 and 1648, respectively. The dates of these missions are ~~mentioned~~ mentioned according to Zapata's Relacion, as quoted ~~in~~ in the Works of Bancroft, XV, 245, 246.

(1638

For the history of the town of San Juan Bautista de Sonora, see ~~the~~ ~~works~~ Early Far West Paper, No. 4.

Footnote

is virtually certain, since the valley of Señora, separated by only 10 or 12 leagues from that of Ures-Corazones, extended northward for only "6 or 7 leagues, a little more or less," and because Arellano removed the town to this valley to secure better support for both town and army, and would have been likely to locate it in the part capable of sustaining the largest settlements.

Being a central spot in this Señora Valley, and the only special point therein to which the name, Sonora, is known to have been applied subsequent to the time of Coronado's expedition, it would at first seem that San Juan de Sonora, of 1641 and later, might best claim to have been the place upon or near whose site San Hieronimo No. 2, or the Spanish town of Señora, ~~was located a century earlier.~~ ~~The Spanish and native signs from the valley of the Grandditch and its vicinity~~ had been located a century earlier. But a close consideration of the other available data, seems to show that the town of Señora was at or near Babiácora.

We shall show elsewhere that the Traslado de las Nuevas' "350 long leagues," is the most accurate estimate given by any of the chroniclers for the distance from Culiacan to Cibola, "the way they [Coronado and his army] had to go." We therefore adopt it in advance. Subtracting from it the 150 leagues which all the chroniclers give as the distance from Culiacan to ~~Corazones~~ <sup>Corazones</sup>, and the 80 leagues that separate Chichilticalli from Cibola, we have 200 leagues for the length of Coronado's route ~~from~~ between Corazones and Cibola, and 120 leagues ~~for~~ for that between Corazones and Chichilticalli.

(Continued on page 25a)

Speaking of the "San-Hieronimo" that was founded in Suya Valley, Bandelier, in "The Gilded Man," says it should be looked for "north of

~~Bandelier~~ Pages 175 and 183.

Bacuachi," and "near the ruins of Mututicachi." He makes no mention of the town of Señora, and in fact ignores both of the locations of the Spanish San Hieronimo that preceded the one in Suya valley; but he places the Indian habitat, Valley of Hearts, south of Batuce; and from that premise he draws the conclusion that "Coronado therefore probably reached the <sup>Rio</sup> Sonora in the vicinity of Babiácora."

We assume the essential accuracy of Bandelier's conclusion that the San Hieronimo of Suya valley, — the third San Hieronimo, the town of Suya, — should be sought near Mututicachi; for the site of ~~the~~ the latter is in the most northerly vale of agricultural consequence on Sonora <sup>other</sup> River, and the <sup>known</sup> data are consistent with such a position.

Making due allowance for its numerous small sinuosities, ~~the~~ the road from Mututicachi-Suya to Chichilticalli will measure about 66 leagues. We have already seen that the distance between the towns Señora and Suya was 40 leagues. These distances indicate the vicinity of Babiácora, <sup>about</sup> 186 leagues from ~~Babiácora~~ <sup>Cibola</sup> and about 14 from Ures-Corazones, as the location of the town of Señora.

A position as southerly as this, is favored also by the circumstance that in a punitive expedition made from the town of Señora in <sup>The early summer of</sup> 1541 (as described farther on), the Spaniards had native allies from the valley of <sup>Ures</sup> Corazones; and in any event, the true position of that town, if not identical with this, can hardly have been far from it. As a

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datum-point for farther reckoning in our present study, we shall therefore ~~place the~~ <sup>place</sup> ~~identify~~ the town of Señora ~~with the~~ ~~site~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~town~~ ~~of~~ ~~Señora~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~vicinity~~ ~~of~~ ~~Babiacora~~.  
in the vicinity of Babiacora.

Although ~~mentioned~~ <sup>is</sup> mentioned by Castañeda <sup>Spanish</sup> under its ~~more~~ more distinctive alternative name "Señora", preferable because less confusing, it nevertheless still retained ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> original town name, San Hieronimo de los Corazones, as is shown by subsequent <sup>abbreviated</sup> references <sup>(Corazones, "San Hieronimo")</sup> of the several chroniclers to it; and indeed, in the very next paragraph after that <sup>in which he first mentions "the town of Señora,"</sup> ~~from which the last above quotation is taken,~~ he refers to it as "the new town of Corazones", saying, "About the middle of the month of [September, 1540] Captains Melchior Diaz and Juan Gallego

<sup>Footnote</sup> \*The text here has "October", but <sup>Castañeda's</sup> ~~the~~ ~~text~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~next~~ ~~paragraph,~~ and other available data (such as the date of ~~the~~ ~~letter~~ ~~of~~ ~~August~~ ~~3,~~ which Coronado sent to the viceroy by these Captains) shows conclusively that September is ~~the~~ ~~correct~~.

came from Cibola, Juan Gallego on his way to New Spain and Melchior Diaz to stay in the new town of Corazones, in command of the men who remained there."

Of Coronado's ~~previous~~ <sup>earlier (late May, 1540)</sup> and Diaz' ~~previous~~ <sup>experience</sup> experience in this valley of Señora, the former writes in his ~~g~~ letter to Mendoza, referring <sup>first</sup> ~~previously~~ to the valley of the Corazones Indians, which he ~~calls~~ ~~the~~ ~~Valley~~ ~~of~~ ~~Hearts~~, "In this Valley of Hearts we found more people than in any other part of the country which we had left behind, and a large extent of tilled ground. There was no corn for food among them," (that is, no <sup>mature</sup> ~~ripe~~ ~~corn~~,) ~~all the corn along the way having been found green or early in the season,~~ "but as I heard that there was some in another valley called Señora, which I did not wish to disturb by force, I sent Melchior Diaz with goods to exchange for it, so as to give this to the friendly Indians whom we brought with us, and to some who had lost their animals along the way and had not been able to carry the food which they had taken from Culiacan. By the favor of Our Lord, some little corn was obtained by this trading, which relieved the friendly Indians and some Spaniards."

It was probably in the second week in September that Captains Juan ~~Gallego~~ Gallego and Melchior Diaz came from Cibola: the former on his <sup>south</sup> ~~way~~ <sup>way</sup>

~~of some Portuguese. The Army under Lieutenant Arellano arrived a few weeks later. At this place (near present Urep) Arellano <sup>began to establish</sup> founded a <sup>Spanish</sup> town, and named <sup>\*</sup>San Hieronimo de los Corazones; but it was found that a location in the Valley of Señora, <sup>10</sup> leagues up the river, would afford a better food supply. The army therefore remained in the Corazones Valley only till the rainy season ended, and then proceeded to the Valley of Señora, where a second town named San Hieronimo de los Corazones was established, which <sup>sometimes also</sup> was called the town of Señora. Hither, probably a little before the middle of September, came Captains Juan Gallego and Melchior Diaz from Cibola; the former on his way to~~

~~Spain~~ with a letter of August 3rd from Coronado to the viceroy; and the latter to take command of the town of Señora, to which 80 men were assigned, <sup>and</sup> commissioned also to go along the coast region with part of these men in search of the ships of Alarcon. ~~We shall~~ ~~assume~~ ~~see~~ ~~how~~ Diaz executed this commission and, while returning, lost his life. The command of the town of Señora thereafter devolved on Diego de Alcaraz, who had been placed in charge of it by Diaz when the latter departed to seek for Alarcon. Also about mid-September, the <sup>near</sup> army, except these 80 men, left Señora, under Arellano.

When Diaz's party returned to Señora, early in 1541, reporting the loss of their leader, Alcaraz sent messengers to Coronado, <sup>who was then at Tiguex</sup> informing him of it, "and also that some of the men were ill disposed and had caused several mutinies, and that he had sentenced two of them to the gallows," but they had escaped. "When the general learned this, he sent Don Pedro de Tovar to that city to sift out some of the men.

He was accompanied by messengers" to the viceroy, reporting occurrences and the alluring news of "Quivira" obtained from "the Turk."

"When Don Pedro de Tovar arrived" at the town of Señora, "he found that the natives of the province had killed a soldier with a poisoned arrow, which had made only a very little wound in one hand. Several soldiers went to the place where this happened, to see about it, and they were not very well received. Don Pedro de Tovar sent Diego de Alcaraz with a force to seize the chiefs and lords of a village in what they called the Valley of the Knaves (de los Vellacos), which is in the hills. After getting there and taking these men prisoners, Diego de Alcaraz decided to let them go in exchange for some thread and cloth and other things which the soldiers needed. Finding themselves free, they renewed the war and attacked them; and as they were strong and had poison, they killed several Spaniards and wounded others so that they died on the way

Juan Gallego had been one of the messengers who would probably have been mentioned in the passage which is to have been sent on a errand to Mexico by Coronado.

near present, Camallillo, New Mexico

It is certain that these messengers bore also a letter dated April 20, 1541, from Coronado to the King.

which was probably about the 9th of June 1541

back. They retired from the town, and if they had not had Indian allies from the country of the Hearts, it would have gone worse with them. They got back to the town, leaving 17 soldiers dead from the poison. They would die in agony from only a small wound, the bodies breaking out with an insupportable pestilential stink.\*

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\*The earliest <sup>published</sup> notice of this poison is that in Cabeza de Vaca's "Naufragios," edition of 1542, and which, as translated by Mrs. Bandelier in A. S. Barnes ~~and~~ & Company's The Trail-Makers series, is as follows: "They have a poison, from certain trees of the size of our apple trees. They need but pick the fruit and rub their arrows with it; and if there is no fruit they take a branch and with its milky sap do the same. Many of these trees are so poisonous that if the leaves are pounded and washed in water near by, the deer, or any other animal that drinks of it burst at once." These observations related to the Village of the Corazonos and adjacent country, visited by Cabeza de Vaca in 1536. Of the same village, as observed by Coronado's expedition a ~~number of~~ few years later, Jaramillo says: "There is a poison here and, according to what was seen of it and the effect that it produces, it is the worst that can be found; and we understood it to be the milk of a small tree like the mastic tree, and it grows in gravelly and sterile soil."

In the Rudo Ensayo, written in 1762, Father Mentuig says (page 161 ~~Mentúig~~ of Guiteras' translation), "Mago, in the Opata language, is a small tree, very green, luxuriant and beautiful to the eye; but it contains a deadly juice which flows upon making a slight incision in the bark. The natives rub their arrows with it, and for this reason they call it arrow grass; but at present they use very little." Again (ibid., page 187), writing of the Jovas, a rude, southeastern, barranca-dwelling subtribe of the Opatas, he says, "The poison they use for the point of their arrows is so deadly that it kills not only the wounded person, but also him who undertakes the cure by sucking the wound as is customary with all the Indians." The "mago" of the Opatas, would seem to be the "yerba de la flecha (arrow-wort)" of Lieut. R. W. H. Hardy's "Travels" (page 299), and of which Mr. McGee (Bu. Eth. Ann. XVII, 259\*) gives "yerba mala (Sebastiania bilocularis?)" as an alternative name. *But McGee questions the deadly quality of this plant.*

In "A Study of the Route of Cabeza de Vaca," published in 1907, in Volume X of the Texas State Historical Association Quarterly, Mr. James Newton Bassett ~~was the first to announce~~ has announced a positive identification of this arrow-poison tree of Sonora. In a note of which the following is a part (p. 324), he says, "the poison tree in Sonora which Cabeza and the Coronado writers mention as so fearfully fatal was identified by ~~Dr. J. N. Rose~~ Dr. [F. H.] Knowlton with the aid of Dr. J. N. Rose (and is, so far as I know, here first set forth) as the Sebastiania palmeri. This is of the order of Euphorbiaceae (the Spurge-worts), as Mr. Winship had hinted—a group of plants of varied form, all having a milky sap which is more or less poisonous. Croton oil of the pharmacies is the most virulent poison of those familiar to us, and the action of this arrow poison, as described by the Coronado chroniclers from their actual experience, was similar to that of this drug—though many times more intense."

~~back. They retired from the town, and if they had not had Indian allies from the country of the Hearts, it would have gone worse with them. They got back to the town, leaving 17 soldiers dead from the poison. They would die in agony from only a small wound, the bodies breaking out with an insupportable pestilential stink.~~

"When Don Pedro de Tovar saw the harm done, and as it seemed to them that they could not <sup>safely</sup> stay in that city, he moved 40 leagues toward Cibola into the valley of Suva," where he located for the third time the town, or established the third town, of San Hieronimo de los Corazones, also called the town of Suva.\*

Footnote

\*Castañeda, from whom the above account is taken (see Winship's Translation in 14th Rep. B.A.E., p. 502), is sometimes a little difficult to follow, because he refers at times to this place by the shorter form of name, Corazones, or Hearts; so that, when one reads "Corazones" in his narrative, one must consider the chronology or the context in order to be sure which of the three Spanish locations (plus one Indian location) of that name he refers to. But in one instance (l.c., pp. 465 and 540) he makes himself clear by speaking of this third Spanish location as "la villa de los corazones o por mejor decir de Suva," (i.e., the town of the Corazones, or, to speak more properly, of Suva); and in other cases he refers to it as Suva, which is of course unequivocal.

This was ~~in June 1541~~ and apparently about the middle of ~~June~~ <sup>but there may have been some unavoidable delay in the removal, making at San Hieronimo of Señora, somewhat months later.</sup> The men whom he had been sent to sift out, or at least those whom he later did sift out, — he finally took from the new town of San Hieronimo of Suva, and conducted them to Tiguex, leaving Alcaraz in command of the remainder at Suva. But the men that Tovar was selected to go north, about 40 in number, were not the "rebels and seditious men" ~~who~~ who had caused the trouble, but "the most experienced ones and the best soldiers — men whom he could trust — wisely considering that he ought to have good men in order to go in search of his general in the country of the Indian called Turk." Thus Alcaraz was ~~not~~ left at Suva with ~~a small~~ <sup>only a small</sup> and very inferior force.

We will now farther anticipate, in order to conclude here the history of Suva, or San Hieronimo de los Corazones, No. 3.

With these 40 men whom he managed to "sift out" so much to his own advantage and so little to that of Alcaraz and the town of Suva, Tovar got ~~back to Tiguex before Coronado, October 20th~~ <sup>back to Tiguex</sup> ~~until after the general had returned thither from Quivira;~~ <sup>in the latter half of September,</sup> ~~which seems to have been about the middle of October.~~ <sup>from Quivira; which seems to have been about the middle of October.</sup>

"Although they found the army at Tiguex when they arrived there, this ~~did not please them much, because they had come with great expectations, believing that they would find their general in the rich country of the Indian called Turk." (Winsh. Transl. Castañeda, 14th B.A.E., p. 530).~~ "After Francisco Vasquez reached the river [Tiguex], where he found the army that had ~~been~~ sent back there under Captain Arellano, ~~the general~~ Don Pedro de Tovar came with half the people from the Hearts [Suva]. (Winsh. Transl. Relacion del Suceso, l.c., 578).

Footnote  
According to Castañeda; I think Coronado took 40 days to return from Tiguex to Quivira; the latter part of August, according to Castañeda, but after the middle of August, according to the former.

Footnote  
back to Tiguex before Coronado, October 20th

Footnote

i.e. from

(Continued on page 32)