



NEW MEXICO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

From the President's Pen-

Fall is arriving in our sun-drenched New Mexico. We need rain, and I'd even welcome some snow this year. *Chile* is being roasted and *ristras* are hanging. Balloon Fiesta is next month and then it might almost be 2027. It is also a busy time for NMGS. This is more to catch up on events and deadlines before the next formal newsletter.

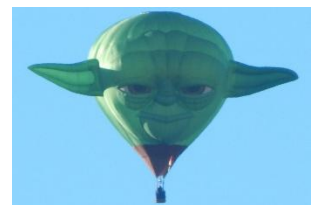
NMGS has tentatively scheduled the Annual Meeting for November 14, 2026, at 10:00 am, via a Zoom link. Once we know the exact agenda, we'll get that out to our membership.

We welcome Anita Sweeney as our new secretary. She has already taken on our board minutes and more.

September 30 board-recruitment deadline—if you are interested in being on the NMGS Board, please reach out to us at info@nmgs.org. Please include a short bio.

Thanks to Elain Montoya Herrera for donating her burial records. Thus far we've done Albuquerque (a game changer for researchers), Ysleta, a short book but full of material, and we are getting ready to publish Sandia, yet another book filled with great information. Then we'll move on to Socorro. Mary Peterson has been working day and night to edit and get them indexed for our members. Lisa Kindrick at the Main Public Genealogy Library in Albuquerque mentions them every time I go in, that people love these burial books.

Thanks for taking the time to read this. Keep cool and do research! Below is just more information. - Henrietta



Other news in NM

The Anza Society Conference is coming up at the end of October 2026. This year, the organizers will hold it in Las Cruces, NM. For more information, [click here](#). I attended last year in Tubac, and it was wonderful!

You Might Know!

Subject: Inquiry about surviving copies of Juan Bautista Ralliere's *Cánticos espirituales*

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Javier Marín-López. I am a Professor of Music History at the Universidad de Jaén in Spain and a Research Associate at the University of New Mexico, where I conduct research on the musical and religious history of New Mexico and the broader Southwest.

I am currently working on a study of *Cánticos espirituales*, an important collection of Spanish-language Catholic hymns associated with Father Juan Bautista Ralliere (1834–1915), who served as pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Tomé from 1858 until his retirement in 1913, nearly fifty-five years in the same community. He became affectionately known there as “El Padre Eterno” and played an important role in collecting and promoting music used by Spanish-speaking Catholic communities throughout the region.

The *Cánticos espirituales* circulated widely and appeared in several editions between 1877 and 1956. The earliest editions were printed in Las Vegas, New Mexico, by the press associated with *Revista Católica*; after the press moved in 1918, later editions were issued in El Paso, Texas.

Some editions contain only the hymn texts, while others include both words and music. Ralliere’s name does not appear explicitly in every edition, so surviving copies may be identified simply as *Cánticos espirituales* or *Colección de cánticos espirituales*, without any reference to him as compiler or collector.

I am currently preparing as complete a census as possible of surviving copies and tracing how these books circulated through parishes, missions, families, libraries, and private collections. I have already identified the publicly cataloged copies listed in WorldCat and in major New Mexico repositories, including the Center for Southwest Research at the University of New Mexico, the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, and museum libraries such as the Museum of International Folk Art and the Chávez Library.

My particular interest now is in copies that may survive outside major institutional collections: in private hands, family libraries, parish or mission archives, small local libraries without accessible online catalogs, uncataloged historical collections, or among devotional and liturgical books that have been preserved for generations.

The surviving volumes are quite small, approximately 16 to 20 cm in height, and often have very plain covers, frequently blue or brown. Because of their modest appearance and small format, they can easily go unnoticed among older religious books. Some copies may also lack Ralliere’s name entirely on the title page, which makes them even easier to overlook.

I am not seeking to acquire any copies. My purpose is entirely scholarly: to document their existence, identify the edition, record bibliographical characteristics and provenance, and better understand how these hymnals circulated and were preserved within Catholic communities of New Mexico and the broader Southwest.

If a copy is located, even a simple photograph of the cover, title page, index, or any ownership or provenance markings would be extremely valuable. Information about pagination, dimensions, printing place, date, previous owners, or present location would also be very helpful.

I would be equally grateful for any leads to local historians, musicians, collectors, parish communities, families, or small libraries that might remember or possess such a volume. Please feel completely free to forward this message to anyone who might help.

Any lead, however small, would be of great value to this research. With many thanks for your time and assistance,

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