

Manitos Community Memory Project

MCMP Spotlight Newsletter

June 15, 2022



This Month's Spotlight is on Kathleen Jimenez



Ruins of the elementary school in Trementina.

Kathleen says, "We are a family of teachers, preachers, social justice warriors and artists." She comes from Jimenez, Chavez, Candelaria and Jaramillo families who were influenced by early Protestant missionaries who arrived in New Mexico in the mid 19th century.

Ezequiel Jaramillo who was born in Trementina, NM married Gladys Crouch, the daughter of a Presbyterian minister from Texas. Ezequiel's family converted to the Presbyterian church where he was eventually ordained as a minister.

Antonio Jimenez who was from Monterrey, Mexico, married Ofelia Chavez whose great grandparents were Baptists and Methodists that migrated from Albuquerque to Socorro to Las Cruces. Raised a Catholic, he converted and became a Methodist minister, who worked in churches from Las Cruces to Placitas. A grandfather, her parents and many aunts, uncles and cousins attended Menaul High School, a Presbyterian boarding school in Albuquerque.



As part of her research as a Manitos archivist, Kathleen set out to document the 65 elementary schools that were established by Presbyterian missionaries when they arrived in the New Mexico Territory and southern Colorado after the Civil War. The schools became known as “plaza day schools” to distinguish them from elementary boarding schools established by other religious organizations.

Photo: Kathleen and cousin Daniel Estrada in Trementina

Kathleen is partnering with the Menaul Historical Library, located on the school campus in Albuquerque that maintains records of Presbyterian history in New Mexico and southern Colorado. Her goal is to document the schools, the students who attended them, the teachers who taught in them and the impact they had in rural New Mexico during the Territorial Period and early statehood, 1860-1930.



Tilford Hall, the old elementary school in Chacon still serves the community as a community center.

Kathleen's early years were shaped by her extended family in Las Cruces. When her family migrated to the Pacific Northwest, she started kindergarten, eventually graduating from high school and college in Oregon, and graduate school in California. Her work has always been a mix of education and religion with a focus on ethics and justice. Her first teaching job was in a school desegregation project in Portland, OR. She has taught English, History and Philosophy in middle school through university undergraduates; was the founding co-director of Plaza Resolana, a program center of Ghost Ranch in Santa Fe; and was a staff person for social justice and educational ministries for

Presbyterian Churches in the San Francisco Bay Area. She retired from teaching history in 2019 and returned to Santa Fe where she raised her family.



The "teacherage (home for the teachers" in Chacon, Mora County