Spanish Research—You Can Do It!

To Begin
- Look at the Family Search Wiki
- Go to www.familysearch.org and click on the search option on the bottom
- Then click on the Wiki tab
- In the search box, type in Mexico or Spain or any other topic about which you want to know
- There is a drop down menu that will give you many options
- You will learn how to research, what records are available and where they are available

Other Resources
- *Finding Your Mexican Ancestors* by George & Peggy Ryskamp is a good resource
- www.worldgenweb.org has resources for many countries, including Spain and some South American countries
- Google "country name" "genealogy" (without quotes) and you will get a lot of information regarding history and resources
- For New Mexico research, access the Greater New Mexico Pedigree Database (http://www.hgrc-nm.org/gnmpd_portal.html)
  - The information is not always 100% accurate but, in looking at the genealogies, you can get ideas for origins
  - I get better information by going into the old database

What Do I Need To Do Spanish Research?
- Understand
  - The history of the area
  - Jurisdictions, political divisions, and parishes
  - Civil and Church records
  - Format for records
  - "Castas"
  - Naming conventions
  - Abbreviations
  - Some words in Spanish
  - Reading the old handwriting

First: How Do I Discover Where They Are From?
- Look at Bible records, documents, pictures, items brought from the old country for clues
- Don't forget family stories
- Other sources in the U.S.:
  - Border crossing manifests
    - Familysearch.org has records from 1903-1957
    - Ancestry.com has records from 1895-1964
    - Records include different time periods for different border crossing points
    - Look at record description to get specific dates for a crossing point
- Other sources in the U.S.:
  - WWI Draft Registrations
    - 3 registrations, eventually including all men ages 18-45, citizen or alien
    - Available at Ancestry.com and at NARA
  - WWII Draft Registrations
    - Ancestry.com and NARA
  - US Alien Draft Registrations, 1940-1946
    - All males (citizen or alien) between ages 21 and 35 residing in the U.S.

- **NARA has records for all states**
- **Military service records**
  - **Many found at FOLD3**
- **Naturalization records**
  - **NARA, ancestry.com and other subscription sites**
- **Social Security records**
  - **Social Security Administration**
  - **Social Security Death Index available on familysearch.org   and ancestry.com**
- **Railroad pension records**
  - **Google for where to find or try NARA**
  - **These records are diversified all over and not held in one place**
- **U.S. vital records**
  - **The state and county who has jurisdiction**
  - **Many indices available online**
- **Catholic Church parish records in the U.S.**
  - **Go to parish directly or to diocesan archives for   older records**
  - **Many have been filmed**

Brief History of Mexico
- **Spain first set foot in Mexico in 1502**
- **When Cortez arrived in 1519, Spanish culture became predominant in the area**
- **Evangelization began in the mid-1520s**
- **The encomienda system of forced labor was introduced**
- **1650-1810: Mexico was part of the Viceroyalty of New Spain, which included Cuba, Puerto Rico, Central America as far south as Costa Rica, the southwestern U.S., including Florida and the Philippines**
- **1807-1810: Mexico became independent from Spain**
- **The United Mexican States (Estados Unidos Mexicanos) was established on 4 Oct 1824**
- **Texas declared independence from Mexico on 2 Mar 1836 and, in 1845, they became a state**
- **1846-1848: The Mexican-American War**
- **It ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in which Mexico was forced to sell its northern territories to the United States**
- **1861-1867: France was on the throne of Mexico**
- **There were constant wars in Mexico over the years**
- **The economy was poor most of the time**
- **Many people left during the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1929; others who stayed were killed, especially Catholics**
- **Today, its cultural problems with drugs, etc. indicate that Mexico might not be the safest place to visit at this time**

Civil and Church Records
- **Civil records began in Mexico in the 1860s**
- **The earliest parish records were from:**
  - **The Cathedral in Mexico City—1536**
  - **The Cathedral in Puebla—1545**
  - **Different parish records began in different years**
    - **Check collection for dates**
- **99% of all pre-1900 parish records have been filmed**
  - **Many have been digitized and are on www.familysearch.org**
  - **However, most have not been indexed—they have to be browsed**
- **Parish registers—known as *registros parroquiales*—include baptisms *(bautismos),* marriages *(matrimonios),* deaths *(defunciones)* and burials *(entierros)***
- **Larger cities encompass multiple parishes, and sometimes records show up in adjoining parishes**
  - **Civil registrations of an ancestor might be in one town and church records in another**
- **Administrative boundaries shifted frequently in Mexico**
  - **https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Mexico_Maps**

- Also, seek out premarital documents *(información matrimonial)*
  - If the bride and groom were related closer than 4th degree of consanguinity, you may find evidence for a dispensation (special permission to marry)
  - These dispensations often have genealogical data going back several generations
  - In Mexico, many of these are available by browsing on http://www.familysearch.org
  - In New Mexico, these are available online at: http://repository.unm.edu/handle/1928/14546
- Other church records to consider:
  - Confirmation registers *(confirmaciones)*, ecclesiastical censuses, wills and testaments, records of the Inquisition
    - The Inquisition records often contain detailed genealogical information the accused provided to prove their pure Hispanic-Catholic origins
    - Some of these are available on Internet Archive or on Google Books

Format of Records-Baptismal
- The name of the parish and the priest's name are given
- Baptismal records first give the date of baptism
- Then they often give the date of birth
- The name of the child is given
- The child is indicated at "legitimo/a" (sometimes abbreviated "h.l.") or "natural"
  - "legitimo/a" is legitimate (born within a marriage)
  - "natural" means the child was born to parents who weren't married
- The parents' names are given
- Sometimes, the grandparents names are given
- The godparents' names are given and it is indicated that they agree to fulfill the obligations for godparents

Format of Records-Marriage
- The name of the parish and the priest's name are given
- It's indicated whether there was a dispensation and whether banns were posted
- The name of the groom is given and his status
  - "soltero" (single); "hijo legitimo" (or "adoptivo" or "natural"); "viudo" (widowed) with name of first spouse often indicated
- His parents' names are given and whether they are deceased
  - After the name of the parent, it will say "difunto" or be abbreviated "dif"
- The name of the bride is given and her status
  - "soltera" (single); "hija legitima" (or "adoptiva" or "natural"); "viuda" (widowed) with name of first spouse often indicated
- Her parents' names are given and whether they are deceased
- Witnesses' names are given

Castas
- A term used in the 17th and 18th centuries in the Spanish colonies to describe as a whole the mixed race people of the Post-Conquest
- There were at least 16 different designations based on birth, color, race and origins
- This system was more than socio-racial—it also impacted economics and taxation
- In many early Spanish records, a person is identified with their casta designation
- Castas were fluid and often changed through marriage and subsequent births

Most common "castas" found on records:
- Españole = person of Spanish descent
- Indio = person descended from original inhabitant of the Americas
- Mestizo = person with 1 Spanish parent & 1 Indio parent
- Castizo = person with 1 Spanish parent & 1 Mestizo parent
- Coyote = person with 1 Mestizo parent & 1 Indio parent
- Mulatto = person with 1 Spanish parent & 1 Black parent

Civil Registration
- Usually has much more genealogical information, including
  - Names of parties involved

- **Parents' names and whether deceased or not**
- **Ages and/or birth dates**
- **Where event took place**
- **Where parties lived and for how long**
- **Names, ages, occupations, and residences of witnesses**
- **Grandparents (and occasionally great-grandparents)**

Naming Conventions

- **Often the same first names are used, ie., María for girls and Juan or José for boys**
- **Children then go by their middle name**
- **Women usually keep and/or go back to their maiden names**
- **Last names can be spelled several different ways**
- **Sometimes, last names are abbreviated**
- **At times, the name in parish records can be hard to discern as priests tended to conserve paper by writing small and using abbreviations, thereby using every inch of space**

Some Common Abbreviations

- **J^u for Juan; M^a for Maria; J^e for José**
- **h.l. for hijo/a legitimo/a**
- **solt for soltero/a**
- **dif or D for difunto**
- **PP for padrinos (godparents)**
- **7bre for September; 8bre for October; 9bre for November; 10bre for December**

Reading the Old Handwriting

- **Sometimes, the best way is just by reading it over and over again**
- **Look for words that you know and see how they are written**
- **Find a letter or combination of letters in another place in the document and compare**
- **http://immigrants.byu.edu**
    - **Has Spanish handwriting guide which will also familiarize you with Spanish parish records, as well as including an index of given names, surnames, abbreviations, and a glossary of Spanish terms, occupations, and racial designations**

Websites

- **General**
    - **http://www.familysearch.org**
    - **http://www.ancestry.com**
    - **http://www.rootsweb.com**
- **Mexico**
    - **http://biblio2.colmex.mx/bibdig/dicc_cubas/base3.htm**
        - **Geographical Dictionary (gazetteer) written by Antonio Garcia Cubas that may help you to be able to find nearly any place in Mexico and its political jurisdictions during the 19th century**
- **Spain**
    - **http://www.genealogylinks.net/europe/spain/**
        - **Click on numerous links**
    - **http://www.mcu.es/archivos/index.html**
        - **Provincial archives: archives include wills, land and property sales, death inventories, marriage contracts, etc**
            - **Genealogical records from the 15th to the 19th century are at *Archivo Historico Nacional (http://www.mcu.es/archivos/MC/AHN/index.html)***
            - **Military and land discoveries from the New World (colonial Mexico) and surrounding areas are at *Archivo General de Indias (http://www.mcu.es/archivos/MC/AGI/index.html)***
    - **http://www.conferenciaepiscopal.es/diocesis/**
        - **Above is diocesan archives**
        - **Each diocese has an archive with parish records older than 100 years old plus any diocesan records**

- • Diocesan records include: marriage dispensations, ecclesiastical personnel records, judicial materials, pastoral visits and confirmations
- **New Mexico**
    - **http://www.hgrc-nm.org/**
        - • **Hispanic Genealogical Research Center of New Mexico (HGRC)**
        - • **Go into "Greater New Mexico Pedigree Database"—has almost 150,000 names**
    - **http://pages.prodigy.net/bluemountain1/beyondorigins.htm**
        - • **Beyond Origins of New Mexico Families**
    - **http://www.newmexicohistory.org/search.php?**
        - • **New Mexico Office of the State Historian**
    - **http://www.nmgenweb.us/**
        - • **New Mexico GenWeb**
    - **http://www.nmgs.org/index.htm**
        - • **New Mexico Genealogical Society**
- **Central and South America and Cuba**
    - **http://www/cyndislist.com**
    - **http://www.cubagenweb.org/**
    - **http://www.familysearch.org**
- **Central and South American Archives**
    - **Google for information**

Usted Puede Hacerlo!

Adios!

Border Crossing Ports

Arizona			Texas				
	Aros Ranch			Brownsville			
	Douglas			Del Rio			
	Lochiel			Eagle Pass			
	Naco			El Paso			
	Nogales			Fabens			
	San Luis			Fort Hancock			
	Sasabe/San Fernando			Laredo			
California				Los Ebanos			
	Andrade			Presidio			
	Campo			Progresso			
	San Ysidro			Rio Grande City			
New Mexico				Roma			
	Columbus			San Antonio			
				Yseleta			
				Zapata			

Mexico's 31 Federated States and its Federal District (officially not a state)

Chihuahua			Campeche				
Sonora			Sinaloa				
Coahuila			Quintana Roo				
Durango			Yucatán				
Oaxaca			Puebla				
Tamaulipas			Guanajuato				
Jalisco			Nayarit				
Zacatecas			Tabasco				
Baja California Sur			México				
Chiapas			Hidalgo				
Veracruz			Querétaro				
Baja California			Colima				
Nuevo León			Aguascalientes				
Guerrero			Morelos				
San Luis Potosí			Tlaxcala				
Michoacán			Mexico City (Federal District)				

Mexican Ecclesiastical Provinces (with # of dioceses in each)

Acapulco (3)			Monterrey (7)				
Antequera, Oaxaca (5)			Morelia (4)				
Chihuahua (5)			Puebla de los Angeles, Puebla (3)				
Durango (4)			San Luis Potosí (3)				
Guadalajara (7)			Tijuana (3)				
Hermosillo (2)			Tlalnepantla (6)				
Jalapa, Xalapa (7)			Tuxtla Gutiérrez (2)				
León (3)			Yucatán (3)				
Mexico (4)							

Common Words in Spanish

parbula = child	con = with
nació/nacido = born	de/del = of, from, of the
cura = priest; iglesia = church; parroquia = parish	despues de = after
bautismo = baptism	el/la = the; los/las = the (plural)
bautizé/bautizó = baptized	en = in
hija/hijo = girl, boy	éste/ésta = this
legítimo/a = legitimate	hoy = today
natural = illegitimate	mismo = same
adoptada/adopto = adopted	último = last
abuelos = grandparents	según = according to
padrino(s) = godparents	fue/fueron = was, were
casé y velé = married and veiled (blessed)	paterno = paternal
soltero/a = single	materno = maternal
viuda/o = widow/er	esposo/esposa = spouse
difunto/a; finado/a = deceased	nombre = name
testigo(s) = witnesses	y = and
	yo = I
año – year	uno, un, una – 1
mes – month	dos – 2
día – day	tres – 3
enero – January	cuatro – 4
febrero (febro) – February	cinco – 5
marzo (mco) – March	seis – 6
abril – April	siete – 7
mayo – May	ocho – 8
junio – June	nueve – 9
julio – July	diez – 10
agosto (agto) – August	once – 11
septiembre (7bre) – September	doce – 12
octubre (otte, 8bre) – October	trece – 13
noviembre (nove, 9bre) – November	catorce – 14
diciembre (dice, 10bre) – December	quince – 15
mil – one thousand	veinte – 20
	treinta – 30