

## **PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH ABREU CAMP PROFILE**

**Name:** Abreu (pronounced Ah-BRE-oh -- the e is as in the word "bet")

**Time Period:** Summer, 1912

**Theme:** New Mexican Homestead

### **Historical Significance of Camp Theme to American History:**

The history of the Southwestern part of the United States is unique in that it was explored and colonized by the Spanish before the settlement at Plymouth Rock. The descendents of the early New Mexican Spanish-speaking families that immigrated from Mexico were often of mixed Native American and Spanish blood and a colony of Spain. New Mexicans were only briefly citizens of Mexico (1821-1846) after the Mexican Revolution which overthrew Spanish rule. Though brief that period brought many changes to New Mexico as a result of increased trade with the United States via the Santa Fe Trail and immigration of "Americans" to New Mexico. As the term "Mexican" began to be used as a derogatory, racist epithet by all too many of the Americans, New Mexicans of Spanish descent preferred to be recognized for their heritage with Spain. New Mexico was claimed by the United States as a territory in 1846, but it has continued to have a distinctive character that dates back to its original Native American population and to the early as well as contemporary Spanish influences.

### **Characters:**

**Ramon Abreu** – Mid-20's Male head of family group at Abreu, son of Jesus Gil Abreu and Petra Beaubien Abreu of Rayado Settlement. Born at Rayado into bilingual (Spanish -English) family with Spanish New Mexican and French Canadian parentage. Hunter, fisherman, stockman, and home-builder.

**Gertrude Brown Abreu** – Mid-20's, Female head of family, born into family named Brown in Arkansas, married Ramon in 1906 in Springer, NM, where her family had settled and operated farm. She has many skills such as gardening, cooking, soapmaking, sewing, quilting, herbal medicine, home remedies and first aid, and parenting. Her descendents report that "Grandma Gertie" was also an excellent horsewoman and a keen shot with a rifle. She was a woman who enjoyed working outdoors at the ranch tasks that were usually considered "men's work" in that era. In 1912 she is the mother of four small children; Mabel, age 5, and Ramona, age 3, and Ernesto age 2, and Carlos Beaubien (Ban) age 6 months.

**Narciso Abreu** – Ramon's brother who was the general manager of the family ranch at Rayado settlement -- downstream from Ramon and Gertrude's homestead -- until it was sold last year (1911). Narciso was known as a steady, considerate man and a competent rancher.

**Sofia Abreu** – Ramon's older sister who lives in Heck Canyon, 3 miles south of Rayado settlement, with Narciso, their mother Petra Beaubien Abreu, and another sister Victoriana. Sophia was educated in Trinidad, Colorado, at St. Joseph's Academy. She returned to Rayado to teach school at the district schoolhouse there and to serve as the

local postmistress. She is known for her fun-loving nature. She once posed as a Mexicana maiden riding a burro for a photo postcard.

**Charles Abreu** – The eldest of Ramon's older brothers. Former Superintendent of Schools for Colfax County, he moved to Santa Fe after his young wife died from complications of childbirth in 1892. He has remarried to Carmen Sena from a politically influential family Santa Fe and has become active in the territory's, now the state's, politics. The years that he served in the legislature are not known at this time, but he is visiting this summer and helping out at Ramon's homestead.

**James (Santiago) Abreu** -- Another older brother to Ramon called "Jim". He is now working in Springer for a mercantile company and lives there with his wife and family.

**Nellie Piersen Abreu** -- Born in Elizabethtown where her father worked as a miner. Her parents had immigrated to the United States from Northern Europe, her father was Swedish and her mother Danish. She met and married James shortly after her first husband died.

**Jesus Librado Abreu** – (Name pronounced heh-SOOS) Another of Ramon's older brothers, who assisted Narciso in managing the ranch downstream. This man is not to be confused with his father, Jesus Gil Abreu, the patriarch of Rayado Ranch. He is now ranching near the community of Ocate where his wife's family lives.

**Amalia Mares Abreu** – Born on her family's ranch near the small New Mexico community of Ocate about 50 miles south of Rayado, Amalia married Jesus and assisted in operation of the household and family business at the Rayado ranch downstream until it was sold and they moved to Ocate to ranch. Over the years they have provided food and rest for stage passengers passing through Rayado settlement en route between railhead in Springer and Cimarron. They have also run fishing and hunting camps along the Rayado as another business venture. She is also the mother of four children; three sons (Frank 11, ?? 8, and Edward 2) and one daughter (age 5 named after her grand-mother Petra Beaubien Abreu). Amalia was known to be very direct and "feisty" for a woman of her day.

## **Historical Background of Camp:**

This part of Philmont was at one time part of a large and famous land grant in New Mexico that was originally the Beaubien-Miranda Grant. It was granted to a French Canadian immigrant from Taos named Charles (or Carlos) Beaubien and a partner Guadalupe Miranda by the governor of New Mexico during the time that New Mexico was a colony of Mexico. Beaubien was a resident of Taos where he was a supplier for the fur business and had married Maria Paula Lobato (or Lovato). When the United States claimed New Mexico in 1846, Senor Miranda moved to Mexico because he was not in sympathy with the American occupation. Mr. Beaubien however stayed and continued to prosper as a result. One of his daughters Petra married Jesus Abreu, Sr., and they settled at Rayado settlement in 1858 or 1859, after Lucien Maxwell and his wife, Petra's sister Luz, moved from there to Cimarron. Maxwell bought out Miranda's half of the land grant and eventually acquired Beaubien's half by purchase. It was known then as the Maxwell Land Grant.

The Abreu family had been in New Mexico since the 1700's and was a respected and prominent name in the Northern part of the state. The family's paternal grandfather was Santiago Abreu who served as a Governor of New Mexico from 1832-3 under the Mexican Republic. The family included Marcelino and Ramon Abreu -- brothers to the governor. That earlier Ramon was said to have brought the first printing press into the

state from Durango, Mexico, and was a territorial judge. There was also another Santiago Abreu who was Superior Court Judge for the Territory of New Mexico in 1886. They traced their lineage back to Spain where after the Crusades an Abreu who fought under the banner of Don El Urraca was generously rewarded with large parcels of land near the Pyrennes in Northwestern Spain and Northern Portugal. Here in New Mexico the family had residents in Santa Fe, Mora and Taos. They were proud of their heritage, status and family traditions. By Petra and Jesus's generation all family members were educated and literate in both English and Spanish.

Although prominent landholders, every member of the family still had to work hard to provide security. There were many perils and uncertainties to contend with. Stock may or may not prosper depending upon weather, disease, rustling, etc. Stock prices varied with fluctuating economic climate. Food production also depended on weather, rains, droughts, etc. Cash producing activities were fewer. Jobs as we know them now were limited.

In the year we are depicting, 1912, the family ranch at Rayado was sold in 1911 and Ramon and Gertie have just moved up from Rayado settlement to this site. The children are staying with their grandmother Petra and aunt Victoriana (called Vito) at their new home in Heck Canyon while the brothers, their wives, and sister have come up to Abreu for a while to help Ramon and Gertie get settled in their new home and do some summer work projects.

There would likely still be talk about the recent proclamation signed on January 6, 1912 by President Howard Taft that added New Mexico as the 47<sup>th</sup> state in the United States.

## **Relevant Dates and Events:**

### **Past**

- **1000-1700** -- Ponil People inhabit the area where the Plains meet the mountains, now Philmont. They are followed by the Jicarillo Apache, Moache Ute, and, the Kiowa, Cheyenne and Comanche peoples who hunt, camp and use the land seasonally into the mid-1800's.
- **1598** -- Don Juan Onate brought the first settlers to New Mexico from Mexico, then a colony of Spain.
- **1821**--- Mexico became independent of Spain – New Mexicans became citizens of Mexico. Trade with the United States began on the Santa Fe Trail from Independence, Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- **1846** --- General Steven Kearny and troops arrived in Las Vegas, New Mexico, and from a rooftop facing the plaza there claimed New Mexico as a territory of the United States.
- **1847** -- Rebellion against American occupation in Taos results in the assassination of the newly appointed governor Charles Bent and many of his family and friends among them
- Ramon Abreu's uncle.
- **1848** -- The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo transfers New Mexico to United States and guarantees that the United States will honor Spanish and Mexico land grants. Lucien Maxwell begins Rayado settlement.

- **1851** -- Fort Union established on Santa Fe Trail; it was a major supply center for the US Army in the SW and became a large factor in the economics of the area. Forage for animals, food for soldiers, drivers and tenders of stock, etc. created jobs and market for agricultural goods.
- **1857** -- Maxwell moves to Cimarron River settlement.
- **1861-1867** -- US Indian Agency established and maintained near Cimarron for the Utes and Jicarillo Apaches until its closing due to increased settlement and influx of gold seekers
- **1864** -- By this time Jesus Abreu and his wife Petra Beaubien Abreu (daughter to the original land grant owner and sister in law to Maxwell) took over the settlement at Rayado. This became a stop for traffic and travelers along the Santa Fe Trail. It provided safety, food, hospitality and camping. It was a ranch and agricultural operation that supported 20 or more families in the old patron/partido (landowner/worker-resident who received 50% share from the portion of land that was worked) system. During the next 20 years they had 6 children who are most of the characters at the Abreu Homestead/Camp. Ramon was the youngest.
- **1879** -- Santa Fe Railroad completed to Las Vegas, New Mexico. The closest stop to the Abreus at Rayado Settlement was in Springer.
- **1884** -- Hispanic political party *El partido del pueblo unido* (*The Party of the People United*) was organized in New Mexico and centered in Las Vegas; its newspaper was *La voz del pueblo* (*The Voice of the People*)
- **1897-1906** -- Miguel A. Otero's term as territorial governor -- the only native Hispanic to be appointed to that office since annexation by the United States.
- **1900** -- Jesus Gil Abreu, patriarch of the family, dies. Jesus Librado and Narciso take over the ranching operation without great success. Times are changing.
- **1906** -- Ramon Abreu and Gertrude Brown marry and set up housekeeping in Rayado settlement across the road from the main family ranch house (next to Kit Carson house).
- **1908** -- Rayado District School is closed -- the families who were working the land of the Abreus in exchange for a portion of the crops (the patron/peon system) had dispersed and the old system of patronage was disintegrating statewide.

## Current

- **1910** -- New Mexico was granted permission by US Congress to write a state constitution as the first big step toward becoming a state of the United States. The Abreu family was thoroughly bi-lingual/bi-cultural and had members of "American" and "French Canadian" descent as well as Spanish but wanted rights of Spanish citizens protected. Charles was particularly involved in the political developments. In the state constitution, voting and educational rights for Spanish speaking citizens were guaranteed unequivocally.
- **1911** -- Main Abreu Ranch at Rayado is sold to Colorado investors; Petra, Narciso, Sofia, and Victoriana move to a home built in Heck Canyon, 3 miles south of Rayado settlement. Gertrude and Ramon move up river to homestead at Abreu camp site.
- **1912** -- New Mexico became the 47<sup>th</sup> state on January 6.

### **Future (Not known to characters)**

- **1914** -- Petra Beaubien Abreu, matriarch of the family, dies.
- **1922** -- Ramon and Gertrude sell their homestead and ranch to Waite Phillips.
- **1928** -- Ramon dies at age 42 at the Heck Canyon home. Afterward, Gertrude moves to Springer and works as postmistress to support her children; later moves to Las Vegas.

### **Costumes and Appearance.**

**Women:** High necked or collared, loose workdresses with aprons; petticoats, low-heeled lace-up work shoes. Gibson girl blouses with gored skirts or dresses with gored petticoat, higher- heeled shoes or boots. Colors include lots of black, white; brown, dark reds, purples, green, teal blue and cream tones for dress. Prints and simple plaids in a variety of colors.

Accessories include: Shawls, wool for warmth and rain protection; Coats, 3/4 or full length "dusters"; Sunbonnets and/or wide brimmed straw hats are always worn for outdoor work; Jewelry, Locketts, cameos, crucifixes and crosses, wedding bands only. No contemporary beads or personal jewelry that looks modern. Pin or necklace watches; Handkerchiefs, fine cotton often trimmed with crochet or lace; Fans; Hairpieces and combs for ornament in gold, silver, or tortoise shell; Stockings, black or dark brown opaque tights for day, black or white for Cantina.

Appearance: Neat, clean and orderly even in work clothing; housekeeping is meticulous; hairstyles of the period and class are long hair drawn back into a bun or up on top of the head "Gibson girl" style; all women would have medium to dark brown hair and hazel to brown eyes, except Gertrude who could have lighter hair and eyes. No obviously dyed or colored hair, no buzz cuts or spiked hair styles.

**Men:** Henley knit shirts or cotton collarless shirts with button-fly trousers which were cut fuller in the period and made in heavy cottons, twill, gabardine and wool with button on suspenders and work boots for day; bib overalls (without the name tags), often worn with men's blazer jackets. Vests. Colors similar to the women above except more subtle in colors.

Accessories include: Handkerchiefs, white or subtle print, no bandanas; Pocket watches; Socks; Hats are a necessity, period narrow brim Western, straw styles. Jackets or cardigan sweaters for warmth..

Appearance: Neat, clean and orderly also as much as possible; dirty only as work has made you; barns, tools, etc. in order. Hairstyles of the period were short -- to the ears and above nape of the neck -- but without "buzzed" or shaved areas. All the men would have medium to dark brown hair and hazel to brown eyes. No obviously dyed hair colors.

### **Language:**

All characters would be equally comfortable in English or Spanish languages except Gertrude Brown Abreu, who knows some Spanish but speaks only English fluently and Nellie Piersen Abreu, who could speak Swedish as well as English and probably some

Spanish. The bi-lingual characters would speak English without an accent unless they wanted to "color" something in an interpretative way by using a Spanish accent in the soft musical way that many New Mexicans speak English. Spanish words and terms commonly used in New Mexico to best describe an object, custom or person would be mixed into English conversation in a very natural way as a matter of course. Many Spanish words and expressions have become a part of most New Mexicans vocabulary in this way. The correct pronunciation of these Spanish words as well as the names of all the characters, local people and places need to be learned, practiced and natural sounding. "Beverly Hillbillies" accents are not appropriate.

Speech in that era seems formal to us today. Married couples usually addressed each other as Mr. and Mrs. They also referred to friends and family members as Mr. and Mrs. rather than by first names unless saying "My brother, Narciso, who manages the family ranch....". Their father was known as Don Jesus -- Don is a Spanish term of respect and class distinction and was used widely until very recent years.

### **Props:**

Fountain pens with the look of the period, notebooks and ledger looking books reminiscent of the period (no electric colors, plastics, etc.); tools, implements and equipment for program activities; kitchen utensils and cookware; laundry tub, wringer, and board; knitting, crochet, quilting, embroidery, or just mending needlework plus yarn, thread, needles, embroidery hoop etc.; toys and cradle in the house though children down river at their grandmothers'.

### **Campers Role:**

Visitors and helpers for whatever task is being done upon their arrival as well as overnight guests.

### **Activities of the Homestead:**

Gardening	Stock raising
Laundry	Carpentry
Poultry raising	Adobe brick-making
Needlework	Soapmaking
Cooking	Candle making
Fencing	Hunting and fishing
Chopping wood	

### **Staff Roles and Responsibilities as Historical Interpreters.**

Greeting crews – First person interp, in character  
Check-in – Third person interp, in costume, out of character  
Home visits – First person, in character  
Leading homesteading activities – First person, in character  
Cantina and New Mexican Dinner – Third person, in costume, out of character

### **Thematic Goals:**

- To depict the contributions to this area that was made by the Abreu family and their connection to Philmont Scout Ranch
- To recognize and acknowledge the unique ways of doing things that were developed in New Mexico because by its Hispanic settlers; such as, laws and use of lands and water, religious values, language, foods, politics, and social customs
- To demonstrate adaptations that were made in New Mexico as the population became increasingly multi-cultural and interconnected with Native Indian population, *Americans* (US residents from outside the SW, mainly East), and European immigrants through business, religion, economic, educational and social needs
- To depict the homesteading practices and values that were likely to have been particular to this family as well as those that were common to homesteaders throughout the West at this period in time
- To make historical connections between the concerns of this family and the current events of the time and place that would have affected them

### **Positive Values:**

- Conscientious use of the land and water
- Teamwork between extended family members to fulfill work, educational, social and emotional needs
- Multi-gender and multi-generational roles that included each member of the household in maintaining the welfare of the homestead as a whole
- Commitment to the community of their area, county, quadrant, state and country
- Development of courage, resourcefulness, and tolerance for hard work necessary to succeed in this setting

### **Relationship to Scouting Goals:**

- To promote Scouts' appreciation of the values listed above
- To help them understand the influence that this lifestyle and time has had on our culture today
- To recognize the diversity of New Mexicans of that era

### **References:**

***Philmont: A History of New Mexico's Cimarron Country*** by Lawrence R. Murphy  
(See Chapters III-VI; X and XIII)

***Out in God's Country: A History of Colfax County, New Mexico*** by Lawrence R. Murphy (See Pages 16-56 especially; 9-72 for more)

***Translating Property: The Maxwell Land Grant and Conflict Over Land in the American West, 1840-1900***, by Maria Montoya

***The New Mexican Hispano*** by Carlos E. Cortes

***New Mexico: An Interpretive History*** by Marc Simmons

***New Mexico: A Brief Multi-History*** by Ruben Salaz Marquez

***New Mexico: A Pageant of Three Peoples*** by Erna Fergusson

***New Mexico: A History*** by Joseph P. Sanchez, Robert L. Spude, and Arthur R. Gomez.

**More work needs to be done on music and stories of the period sung and told among Bi-lingual New Mexicans.**

*Revised 5/15/2012 DWO*