

# GUADALUPE, PETRA & VICTORIA



*Atanacia, Guadalupe and Petra*

Benj and Kimball just left Reno yesterday (18 Feb 2003). They spent Saturday with Craig and me out fishing on Lake Tahoe and then on Monday the boys went to the Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco (Sam Hughes' old stomp'n-ground). Benj caught the largest fish, a 9 pound Mackinaw, but Kimball caught the most fish. Craig's fought the hardest, from 400 feet down. When we were out fishing, I was reminded that at Meg's Tucson reunion a few months ago, when we were at Petra's gravesite, the boys asked why 3 women were buried together. I want to answer their enquiry.

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, Guadalupe Santa Cruz is one of the most highly revered matriarchs in our family. She was one of the most kind and generous women who ever lived on the Spanish frontier. The family loved her very much and many depended on her in their times of serious grief and misfortune. And, Guadalupe always rose to the occasion. She was much like the Savior; she gave love and compassion and physical sustenance without reservation or hesitation. If there was ever a "Saint" in our family, it was Guadalupe.<sup>2</sup>

I was reminded of this fact as we all visited the J. Knox Corbett home in Tucson. During the last 8 years of Sam's life, he became less and less involved in business. As a result, family had to step in and help provide for him and Atanacia. Much of that love and help came from Ruth's Corbett family; Lizzie Hughes. Aunt Liz, Aunt Sis, my Grandma Black, my Mother, and many other grandchildren and great-grandchildren lived with Atanacia in the Hughes home, from time to time, during the quiet years of her life, and much of that was made possible because of the generosity of Lizzie's family. When I heard Ruth giving the family a tour of the Corbett home, telling how she lived there during the summers she attended the U of A, I was reminded of the stories Aunt Sis used to tell me about when she lived in that beautiful home as a young adult. The rest of the family owes the Corbetts a sincere expression of gratitude for their many kindnesses and love over many years. Guadalupe died and then at Maggie's demise, Frank moved to Benson. Lizzie's family stepped-up and provided the caring and support to the extended family that Guadalupe had so generously given all of her life. Our dearest Ruthie...Thank you!

As Mom Stratton and I walked around the grounds of the Corbett home, she reminded me of the large aviary that used to be in the side/back yard. As a young girl, she

remembered the aviary as being very large, and the beautiful birds all singing and chirping at each other in a loud, boisterous choir. I was reminded of another era. Behind the Corbett home, just east of Court Street, there were two cemeteries to the north of the first San Augustin Church; see map. It was where the original Spaniards buried their loved ones. I was told that both of those cemeteries were located just south of the Frank and Maggie Treat home on Meyer Street. In those cemeteries is where Guadalupe saw her parents, her brother (our Juan Maria Santa Cruz) and so many of our original, extended family interred. Losing loved ones was a serious component of life on the Spanish frontier; they were sad times for Guadalupe. Later, some of the deceased were removed to the cemetery marked #29 on the map, but, because of the lengthy time that had elapsed, not all of the original settlers' bodies were found and moved. As we walked around the Corbett home and then the Treat home, I felt as though I was walking on sacred ground. Literally, some of our ancestors, including Modesto Hilario Santa Cruz and Mariana Gonzalez, are still buried under those buildings. Then, when Mom and I moved to the front yard, we looked a few hundred yards down Main Street (south). El Camino Real is where Guadalupe played as a child. That is where the children of the three families that Guadalupe raised, also played the games of youth, watched the wagons going out of town, and strained to see inside the windows of the stage coaches with their passengers in unusual and fascinating garb. First it was Juan, then Guadalupe and Juan Maria, then Petra and Atanacia, then Victoria and Juana, and finally Eliza. Five generations of our family played on that street, where a century ago, Sam and Atanacia sat on their front porch in the evenings and greeted their friends as they left the city. And, many more of our family have also played on that street, even until the present generation; Grandma Black, Lizzie and Maggie Hughes, Mom Stratton, Ruth, and others

Anyway, back to our narrative. Because Guadalupe was born in the untamed, desert wilderness we now call New Spain, there aren't many records on her. However, because she was so special to our family, we have strong remembrances of her in our rich, oral, family history. I will tell you what I know, and document as much of it as I can in the bibliography. Kimball and Benj were correct. Guadalupe and Victoria had been buried in two different graveyards, representing two different eras. When the Holy Hope Cemetery opened in 1907, Petra purchased her plot and then had Guadalupe and Victoria removed from their original sites and interred next to her. The headstones were gone, but she knew where they were. They had brought her great peace in this life, and she wanted to rest in peace, with them, until the resurrection. Now, Guadalupe, Petra and Victoria.....Enjoy!

## Guadalupe's Youth



*Map of Tucson*

Guadalupe was born on 15 Feb 1807 in Tucson, Sonora, New Spain<sup>1</sup>. She was probably born inside the walls of the Tucson Presidio, since her brother, Juan Maria, was born there in a small home attached to the west or north/west side of the presidio wall. She was the baby sister to our Juan Maria Santa Cruz who was 7 years older than her. Family tradition says that he took good care of her as she played and grew to adulthood. Part of her youth was spent in the Juan Santa Cruz home, her father's home, located just outside the main gates of the presidio (see map and picture of the Buckley House.) Her brother had purchased the property with the estate of her grandfather, Modesto Hilario Santa Cruz, at his demise. The lives of our Tucson families centered around this home, then the Sam and Atanacia home, and finally, around the Corbett home, for several generations. Guadalupe's father was Juan Santa Cruz, a Spaniard, and her mother, Petra Alcantar, was the daughter of a Pima Indian. We have traced Guadalupe's Santa Cruz line back to San Sebastian, Spain<sup>2</sup>.

One of the young men Guadalupe played with as a child, and flirted with as a young adult, was Luis Martinez. He was about 5' 8" tall, had reddish hair and a wide nose. His father was an officer in the Spanish military, stationed at the Tucson Presidio. Luis was born in 1803 and was raised at Tucson. When he was 12 years old, like his father, he joined the Spanish military. When he was 13 years old, we find him in the military census as a new recruit "attending school", where he learned the basics of reading and writing, and the art of war against the Apache and against any future anglo invaders from the United States<sup>3</sup>. Four months later, we find him "standing guard" when the next roll was taken<sup>4</sup>, so his education probably wasn't very extensive. When she was about 16 years old, Guadalupe fell in love with her childhood sweetheart, and they were married in the first San Augustin Church, within the walls of the old presidio; #15 on map. Luis moved into the Santa Cruz home. In 1831, in Household #11 we find Luis and Guadalupe the head of the household (ages 28 and 24, respectively) with her adult brothers, our Juan Maria and Hilario living with them.<sup>5</sup> Ygnacio lived just a few doors down with his new wife and small family. Our Bojorquez families, including Luisa and her 7 children, also lived close (see attached Descendancy Chart). Both Ylario and Luisa had servants<sup>6</sup>, so the Santa Cruz and Bojorquez families were in a comfortable, financial environment.

## Cholera

Guadalupe and Luis were not blessed with children. It was the Spanish custom that couples without children could offer to help those families with children, during times of

great distress. Jim Officer summarized the character and strength of our New Spain ancestors with this: "...a small handful of people had the resolution, the strength, and the wisdom to survive for a remarkably long time against odds that can only be described as extreme."<sup>7</sup> A cholera epidemic swept through Mexico in 1849, so Guadalupe knew it was only a matter of time before it reached Tucson. In 1850 -1851 cholera carried away over a thousand residents in the Altar Valley, and then it hit Tucson. Nearly a quarter of Tucson's total population succumbed to the disease,<sup>7</sup> including Guadalupe's brother, our Juan Maria. It was a natural thing for Guadalupe to love her little nieces and nephew, so eight years later when Juan Maria's wife, Manuela Bojorquez, also passed across the veil, Guadalupe raised her first family; Petra (age 15), our Atanacia,<sup>2</sup> and for a time, Filomeno. Sadly, Guadalupe, now age 51, had lost Luis several years before, so she raised the children alone. Guadalupe may have been married for a short time, earlier, since Guadalupe Santa Cruz Burruel is listed as a godparent with Juan Bojorquez for an Apache named Jesus Maria.<sup>16</sup> I have also heard that she married Louis Pansona. I have no solid evidence of either marriage. If she was married a second time, there was no issue from the marriage. At this time, however, she assumed her maiden name, Santa Cruz, so that it would be more comfortable for the children.

### Petra and Hiram



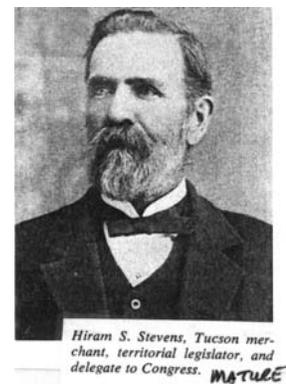
*Hiram & Petra*



*Petra*



*Hiram with Mustache*



*Hiram*

Hiram Stevens was an anglo who came to Tucson in 1855. He was a young, handsome, sporting man, a trader and a speculator. Atanacia said that everything he touched turned into gold. Hiram recounted to a newspaper reporter his initial reaction to Petra, "Hiram had all that he could need until he met Petra Santa Cruz. Petra was the thirteen-year-old niece of the woman who did his laundry (Guadalupe). He fell in love with her and asked for her hand in marriage. He was, however, denied by the aunt, not only because he was an American but also because he was non-Catholic. Three years of persistence and a trip to a priest to be baptized into the Catholic Church and the aunt finally agreed. Now with a new wife and a fortune at his hands, he decided to go back to his home in Vermont in 1861. Petra did not adjust to east coast life and was unhappy,

so the couple moved back to Tucson....Hiram went right back to making money..."<sup>8</sup> Petra loved Hiram very much, but like Guadalupe and Luis before them, she and Hiram were not blessed with children. Hiram centered his whole life on his career, and Petra focused all of her attentions on Hiram. Petra became the dutiful, Spanish wife. She never needed to learn to read and write English, because Hiram took charge of everything. (Atanacia was just the opposite, she learned to read and write in Kansas, and helped Sam keep his business books.) Petra's whole life was focused on Hiram. And, what a life it was! Petra always had man- and maid-servants, she dressed in the finest clothes (attached pictures), and, for a woman of that era, traveled quite extensively. She always enjoyed wearing the finest jewelry and had several rings she would exchange and wear from 2 to 4 at a time; front picture. (Atancia also wore 2 or 3 rings at a time, they all looked the same, like wedding bands; Ruth has them today.) Petra's hair was always meticulously perfect.

Hiram became active in politics in the Arizona Territory very early in Arizona history. The first Arizona capital building, where the Territorial Government met, was "in the adobe building belonging to Hiram S. Stevens, located on Main Street...It is said that the lawmakers filed their papers in crevices which they carved with pen knives between the adobe bricks. Certainly, the meeting rooms were not elegant, but neither was Tucson at that time. There were no sidewalks, no lawns, no paving and few trees; buildings were placed flush with roads."<sup>21</sup>

Hiram "settled on a ranch near Sentinel Peak. There was scarcely anything to which he did not turn his hand in those early days, and apparently everything that he touched prospered. For years he was a post trader; he realized large returns from hay and beef that he supplied to the government and made much money; he stocked his ranch with fine cattle and secured an abundant flow of water from the mountain side; he made loans at 2 per cent a month; and he engaged successfully in mining....In 1865 he, in partnership with his brother-in-law, Sam Hughes, stocked what was known as the Mariposa store; from 1866 to 1872 he did a large and profitable business as post trader at Fort Huachuca and Camp Crittenden; and, at about the same time, he invested \$6,000 in a sheep-raising enterprise in Colorado that brought him good returns....By 1876 he was one of the richest men in the territory...in 1882 he was worth \$150,000 – a considerable fortune for that period and regime....Hiram took an active and conspicuous part in public affairs. He was a member of the lower house of the fifth legislature that met in Tucson in November, 1868, and of the upper house of the sixth legislature in 1871."<sup>9</sup> At age 38, he declared himself "financially retired". In the 1870 census, only two other men showed greater financial worth than Hiram.<sup>10</sup> In 1874 he was elected to his first term as Arizona Territory's delegate to Congress. He and Petra went via San Francisco to Washington, D.C. In 1876 he was re-elected to Congress. Petra loved being in the nation's Capital. There were several women who spoke Spanish, and she liked her friends and her husband's political power, but, when all was said and done, she missed Guadalupe and Atanacia and her family and her life in Tucson. When Hiram lost the election in 1878, she was very happy to be home again.

While Hiram served in Washington, D.C. he was a very effective representative of the Arizona Territory. "In most respects Stevens had the aura of a native son. A Tucson

merchant with limited education, he had been a resident of the territory for nearly twenty years...During his four years in Washington, D.C., as delegate, he showed his 'home rule' inclinations by securing the passage of a law enabling the elected territorial legislature to pass a measure over the federally appointed governor's veto, by a two-thirds vote. And in recognition of Arizona's growth in population to about 40,000 in 1878, he succeeded in getting congressional approval for an increase in the size of the territorial Council...and House."<sup>21</sup> Although he was not a great orator, he took care of the "business of his constituents."<sup>21</sup>

For our immediate family, it is interesting to note that in 1878, Hiram was defeated for a third term in Washington by John G. Campbell. Technically, Campbell was an actual resident of Scotland and hence served his single term, illegally as delegate to Congress. Mom and Dad Stratton raised us kids in our home at 314 Campbell Ave. in Winslow, Arizona. Our street was named after John G. Campbell.

### **Hiram – A Man of the West**

I cannot leave this time of Petra's life without telling you a couple of stories. Hiram wore a large, bushy mustache, see picture, and always played the role of "a man of the wild west". Petra's life was always full of excitement and uncertainty. "When Stevens did things, he did them in what one historian described as 'a big, breezy, Western way.' Like the time he invited a parade into his home for refreshments...in November 1874...Stevens, just elected to Congress, was returning home from an election canvass...A delegation of about 200 people with a band of music went out as far as the nine-mile station to meet him, where there was a general greeting and congratulations. There were about 30 carriages and vehicles and some 70 or 80 on horseback...with flags flying, music playing and anvils firing...After the procession reached the residence of Mr. Stevens, he gave a general invitation to enter and partake of refreshments, after which all dispersed to their homes."<sup>10</sup> It was not unusual for Hiram and Petra to hold large parties at their home, next to Sam and Atanacia's, on Main Street. Often the parties would go until 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning. Petra used to tell the story of how her husband got elected to Congress by the Arizona gamblers. Lockwood notes, "Stevens knew the power of 'the gentlemen of the green cloth'...who were a numerous and powerful fraternity. So that 'Man of Nerve' Stevens came up with \$25,000 in cash as his 'campaign fund'. He sent an agent, \$25,000 in hand, to call on all the 'prominent gamblers' in the Arizona Territory. 'Bet one, two, three thousand dollars on Stevens to win,' the agent told the various gamblers. 'If you win, return the amount wagered and keep your winnings'. The gamblers knew a good thing when they saw it – especially if it meant cash in their money belts...When the results were tallied, Stevens had 1,442 votes, Republican Bean had 1,076 and Smith trailed far behind with 571 votes...poker player Stevens...went to Washington."<sup>10</sup> Hiram enjoyed being "The Honorable H. S. Stevens."

Later in life, Hiram and Petra accepted the invitation to raise a young man named Thomas. Thomas was born in 1878. According to family history, he was either Thomas Martinez, a member of the family of Guadalupe's deceased husband, or the son of one of Petra's servants. I have searched the records, and have not been able to identify his

surname. Hiram really loved his young son. A newspaper article says, "Young Tom Stevens, adopted son of Mr. Stevens, fifteen years old, has shown considerable ability in the handling of stock and the ranch management, and is an object of Mr. Steven's pride."<sup>12</sup>

### Hiram Stevens' Demise

On 21 March 1893 a very tragic event happened. A few days before, Petra told Atanacia that Hiram was acting very strange and that she was afraid of him. I will let Petra tell what happened. It was at 2:45 in the afternoon. "The story told by Mrs. Stevens:....yesterday...she was lying on the bed, suffering with headache, her back to Mr. Stevens. They exchanged sympathies, she telling Mr. Stevens that he was the more ill of the two and to try and rest. Stevens in a kindly manner passed his hand over her forehead and the next she knew, there was the report of a pistol, and she felt a burning sensation on her head. She raised up, saw his eyes, as she put it, 'big as saucers,' and cried: 'For God's sake! What are you doing?' At the same time she grabbed for the revolver, a forty-four calibre bulldog and it went off again, the ball passing through her hand. Then in further struggles the gun went off again, passing through the bedding without doing more harm. Stevens then hastily went to another pistol, a large affair, a forty-five Colt he had in the army, an old favorite gun with him, turned it on himself and fired. Instantly he fell to the floor. The horrified woman saw him lying there, powder marked and blood rushing from his forehead, and ran to the yard screaming. Neighbors rushed in, who put a cigar box under his head, and a moment later he was laid on the cot."<sup>13</sup> He died two hours later, never regaining consciousness. According to family history, the bullet was deflected by a Spanish hair comb in the back of Petra's hair, and saved her life. "Mrs. Stevens was operated on yesterday for the removal of the bullet. It was found flattened...and imbedded slightly into the skull, which had a crack three inches long. She was under chloroform three quarters of an hour and stood the operation very nicely...her condition is critical...she did not know that she was shot till afterwards..."<sup>13</sup> The bullet in her hand had gone through the flesh between her thumb and index finger. Petra's wounds eventually healed completely. "The coroner's jury today held the inquest on the death of Hiram S. Stevens and rendered a verdict to the effect that the deceased had taken his own life while laboring under temporary insanity."<sup>14</sup> According to family history, Hiram went against Sam's advice and purchased several bulls and cows from England and France, of a special variety, to improve his herd. A drought caused most of them to die, even with great care from Hiram. He thought he was in financial ruin. I have researched this out, and he underestimated his worth. After all his bills were paid, he left Petra with a reasonable estate; several thousand dollars. Much of it was in his businesses with Sam Hughes. He specified that his ranch, cattle and all associated personal properties, valued at over \$1,000, be left to Eliza. We will never know if the event was premeditated. Petra described him in a violent rage, but he had made out a new will a few weeks before the event. He went to his attorney's office but he was out of town. "So impatient in the matter was he, that he did not await the return of Mr. Heney, but at once went to Frank Hereford, who drew up the document."<sup>13</sup> In his will, he left property in the east, to a daughter he had in Washington, D.C.<sup>15</sup> I have never been able to identify her. Petra chose not to be buried

next to him. She loved him and she had dedicated her entire life to him, but he had emotionally wounded her beyond reconciliation.

### Victoria Bojorquez



25	182	182	Stevens Juana S.	38	M	77	Retired Merchant	40000	100000	Vermont	
26			Petra	25	F	77	Keeping House			Arizona	
27			Santa Cruz G. Guadalupe	60	F	77				"	
28			Bojorquez Juana	14	F	77				"	
29			Victoria	12	F	77				"	

1870 Census, Tucson: Victoria & Juana with Guadalupe & Petra

*Guadalupe & Victoria Grave stone 1870 Census showing Victoria living with Petra*

In the attached picture of Guadalupe's grave stone, you can see that at one time it had a cross on the top, Guadalupe's name and dates, and another person's name and dates, which are now mostly illegible, due to the ravages of time. I went to the cemetery office, but only Petra is listed. Although Kimball and Benj and I guessed at the name, we really didn't know that it was Victoria. When I returned to Reno, I contacted one of the very elderly gentlemen who used to work at the grave yard and who kept written records of the gravestones, Mr. Fred McAninch. He gave tours and told stories about the early Spanish/Anglo settlers buried there. He pulled out his records and told me that the name is "Victoria Bjo. de Ruelas", born "June 3, 1858" and died "March 15, 1882". Then it all made sense. After Petra, Atanacia and Filomeno became established with their own families, Guadalupe's natural, loving instincts would again be used to love the children of her extended family. Her second family came from her mother's Bojorquez side. Look on the attached Descendants of Juan Santa Cruz and Descendants of Ignacio Maria Bojorquez, to see your relationship with Guadalupe, Petra and Victoria. Victoria and Eliza descend from Juan Baptiste Bojorquez, after whom Atanacia named her first, still-born son in 1864. In 1870, Guadalupe, now at age 63, was invited to raise Victoria and Juana Bojorquez.

I will let Henry, our Bojorquez cousin who was also in attendance at the Hughes reunion, tell the story. Henry descends from Lazaro, Victoria's older brother. "According to the Tubac census of 1860, Juan (Baptiste) Bojorquez returned from assisting in the delivery of Mexican troops and armaments to Imuris and settled in Tubac with his wife Encarnacion and four children. By 1864 the family had moved to Tucson (census 1864) and in between 1860 and 1864, their daughter, Serafina died....In 1866 the family is still in Tucson, except Juan's two daughters, Juana and Victoria have moved in with the Sam Hughes and Atanacia's household....in 1867 the two girls are now with Hiram Stevens and Petra's household" with Guadalupe. "I surmise that Juan's economic state is very poor or has continued to be poor since presidio days and has needed to farm out

the girls to his relatives to help his finances...In 1870-1880, Tucson begins to decline in population and economically. The railroad came in and the reliance on Sonora trade has declined. Tucson was accustomed to the use of the peso as a medium of exchange with Sonoran suppliers, but now the railroad is bringing goods and materials from the east...so merchants do not accept the peso. Many merchants are caught with large quantities of pesos and have had to close their doors of business. Consequently, the peso has devaluated and Tucson has plunged into a severe depression. Jobs are available in Mexico and some people migrate to those jobs. Some people left Tucson for the Salt River Valley where agriculture was expanding, some people left for the copper mining communities, others try their hand at ranching and others left to farm at the Rillito and San Pedro River areas. In 1870 the Bojorquez's have moved to the Rillito and Juan is listed as a farmer in the census...His two girls are still in town"...with Guadalupe (in 1874 Petra leaves for Washington, so Guadalupe takes over alone). "In 1880 Juan is elected Justice of the Peace..in San Pedro. He remains there at a place close to Tres Alamos and has some success as a farmer...The family remains there as farmers, contending with the Apache menace. My father used to relate that he kept a horse inside the confines of the house to keep the Apaches from stealing it and also to break out and get help from neighbor farmers ....In about 1901 Lazaro returns to Tucson and by 1903-08 they all return except Raymundo, son of Lazaro...The family remained in Tucson for the remainder of their lives. Mostly all lived at 373 So. Main St."<sup>11</sup>

Guadalupe raised Victoria and Juana from ages 12 and 14 respectively, until they were married. Victoria married in 1878 at age 20. Victoria's father was Juan Baptiste Bojorquez, her mother was Encarnacion Lucas Ramirez, and she married Placido Ruelas. Remember, Atanacia lived with Petra after the death of her mother, even though Guadalupe raised her. Likewise, Victoria and Juana spent most of their young lives in Petra's home, under Guadalupe's guidance. Indeed, Petra played a major role in the lives of Atanacia, Victoria and Juana. According to family tradition, after Guadalupe and Hiram's demise, Victoria added "Stevens" to her name, in honor of her aging "Aunt Petra"; thus her full name is "Victoria Bojorquez de Ruelas Stevens". Like Petra and Atanacia before them, Victoria and Juana always loved their "Aunt Guadalupe", involved her in their married lives, and taught their children to love and respect her. Guadalupe died in 1891, before the Bojorquez family returned to Tucson. How beautiful, that Petra wanted to be buried with Guadalupe and Victoria, and to rest with them, in peace.



lived into adulthood, and she had enjoyed many years of loving and caring for family. The Arizona Daily Star reported, "Gone, at Last. Died, in Tucson, Arizona, May 21, 1891, at the residence of H. S. Stevens, 212 North Main Street, Senora Guadalupe Santa Cruz, aged 84 years. The funeral will take place today from the Catholic Church at 8:30 o'clock a.m. Deceased was the aunt of Mrs. H. S. Stevens and Mrs. Samuel Hughes, and has lived in Tucson all her life. For a month past she has been ailing, but her illness did not assume a dangerous turn until about two weeks ago, when she began to fail and breathed her last yesterday morning, honored and beloved by all who knew her. In addition to the above, it may be said that the deceased's father was an artist of no mean ability, and that it was he who did all the fresco painting in the old San Xavier church, now so much admired by all that visit that relic of Spanish civilization, and the wonder of eastern tourists. "<sup>17</sup> Remember, from Atanacia's life history, Guadalupe's father and Atanacia's grandfather, Juan Santa Cruz, helped the master artists paint the "faces of the saints" on the main murals in the chapel and probably painted the large mural in the sacristy after the artisans left."<sup>2</sup>

From the Arizona Daily Citizen, "Tucson's Oldest Inhabitant Gone. Last night one of the oldest inhabitants of the city—probably the very oldest—died at her home...Guadalupe Santa Cruz...the old lady was dearly loved by all knowing her and the corner where she sat day after day absorbed in quilt making, her favorite occupation, will seem lonesome with her gone. She was in keeping with Tucson as an old city, having been here back in the fifties, when it was a walled town, closed at night for protection from predatory hordes of Indians. An old man so aged as to lie helpless tells of her a married woman with a family when he was a boy roaming the streets in the city. She has lived under three flags and rulers numerous. Spain, Mexico and the United States have in their turns been her home...The funeral was largely attended."<sup>18</sup>

### **Demise of Petra Santa Cruz Stevens**

I recently wrote my sister, Megs, "We don't get to pick our tragedies in this life...The Lord just gives them to us and we have to deal with them as best we can. So it was with Petra. She didn't ask to be infertile and she certainly didn't know when she was 16 that Hiram was later going to go crazy. She didn't know that her sweet, innocent Victoria was going to die in child birth or that her little Eliza was going to be physically abused by her husband and would return to live with her, in her advanced age, with 4 small children. Petra certainly got more than her fair share of tragedy and heartbreak. But, once the tragedies came, she dealt with them as best she could...just like we all do. I hold Petra in extremely high esteem. Her strength in the face of adversity is exemplary. I long to see her again, to give her a big hug, and to thank her for her strength. It is not personal weakness to have tragedy happen; the event is beyond our control. It is only weakness if we let the tragedy affect our testimony of Christ...and she did not; she was always positive about life and faced the unknown with a sincere resolve to do good. She even went to great lengths to make sure that she can rise in the resurrection with two of the women she loved most in this world; Victoria and Guadalupe...what strength!!...what resolve!! I love and admire Petra."

Both Petra and Atanacia chose to live the mature years of their lives, quietly, and centered around family. Numerous children from extended families came and lived with them from time to time. They both remained quite healthy. Petra asked family to provide her with a funeral and burial “appropriate for her station in life.” In the summer of 1916 Petra went to California to live with Elizabeth Hughes and her family. From the Tucson Citizen, 29 July 1916, “Petra Stevens, 73 years of age and a native of Tucson, died in Los Angeles last night....Deceased was born and reared in this vicinity. For many years she lived in the city of Tucson and she had watched the present city grow from a small one-street village...A sister, Mrs. Samuel Hughes, and a brother, Phil Santa Cruz, survive. Both are residents of Tucson. Deceased had many friends and acquaintances in this city and Pima County.”<sup>19</sup> In her will, Petra left assets to Eliza and Tom. How fitting, that her home now (Feb 2003) is a part of the Tucson Museum of Art, and houses a beautiful pre-Colombian exhibit, since Petra was generally related to the Mayan royalty of Central America.<sup>2</sup>

### A Conclusion

And so it is, that three of our beloved family, Guadalupe, Petra and Victoria, are all resting together. And we remember them...as family...together, forever!

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

<sup>1</sup> Guadalupe’s grave stone and several US federal census records in the possession of CJS.

<sup>2</sup> *Life History of Sam Hughes and Atanacia Santa Cruz*, written by CJS for Megs’ reunion for the 75<sup>th</sup> Celebration of the Sam Hughes School, in Tucson, Oct. 2002. Written 12 Sept 2002, revised 5 Dec 2002. Both printed copies and on CD are available from family members who attended the celebration or at the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, AZ.

<sup>3</sup> *Tucson Presidio Monthly Roster: August 1816*. [www.rio-nuevo/people/records/tucson](http://www.rio-nuevo/people/records/tucson).

<sup>4</sup> *Tucson Presidio Monthly Roster: December 1816*. [www.rio-nuevo/people/records/tucson](http://www.rio-nuevo/people/records/tucson).

<sup>5</sup> *1831 Census of Tucson*. In the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson.

<sup>6</sup> *Fray Pedro de Arriquibar’s Census of Tucson, 1820 (1797)*. The Journal of Arizona History. Spring, 1970. vol. 11 (1): pp. 14-22.

<sup>7</sup> James E. Officer. *Hispanic Arizona, 1536-1856*. The University of Arizona Press. 1987.

<sup>8</sup> Stevens House. [www.library.arizona.edu/images/eng102/corbett/stevens1.htm](http://www.library.arizona.edu/images/eng102/corbett/stevens1.htm).

<sup>9</sup> Frank C. Lockwood. *Who Was Who in Arizona: Early Arizona Characters*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

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<sup>11</sup> Henry Bohorquez. *Bohorques*. Private publication. Henry lives at 3325 E. Edgemont, Tucson, AZ 85716; (520) 326-5410. (2/19/2003)

<sup>12</sup> Tom Stevens. *Arizona Daily Star*, Tucson. 3/31/93.

<sup>13</sup> *Hiram S. Stevens Commits a Terrible Deed*. *Arizona Daily Citizen*. Tucson. 3/21/1983, 3/22/1983.

<sup>14</sup> Coroner's Jury Report. *Arizona Daily Star*. Tucson. 3/14/1893.

<sup>15</sup> Will of Hiram Stevens. *Arizona Daily Star*. Tucson. 3/28/1893.

<sup>16</sup> Guadalupe Santa Cruz Burreuel. *Magdalena Church Records*, University of Arizona Library, Microfilm 811, Roll 1.

<sup>16</sup> *Mrs. Hiram S. Stevens (Petra Santa Cruz)*. Plaza of the Pioneers, dedicated Nov 6, 1982 at the Tucson Museum of Art. p. 12.

<sup>17</sup> Guadalupe Santa Cruz obituary. *Arizona Daily Star*. May 22, 1891.

<sup>18</sup> Guadalupe Santa Cruz obituary. *Arizona Daily Citizen*. May 21, 1891.

<sup>19</sup> Petra Santa Cruz Stevens obituary. *The Tucson Citizen*. July 19, 1916.

<sup>20</sup> Albert R. Bushman, ed. *Arizona Album*. Copy in Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, AZ.

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