

## *THE ANCIENT HISTORY OF THE DISTINGUISHED SURNAME "CHAVES" WHICH CAME FROM THE EARLY ROMAN EMPEROR FLAVIUS SABINUS VESPASIAN.*

From the diverse region of SPAIN come the distinguished family names that have carried the proud Hispanic culture worldwide. The name CHAVEZ was traced to its source in GALICIA in northwestern Spain. Although in comparison with other European surnames, most Spanish names have changed very little. The variation Chávez, Chavez, and Chaves, share the same heritage.

Around 3000 B.C., Iberians migrating from North Africa settled in the peninsula that is now home to Spain and Portugal. The Celts came southwest from Europe in the 14th century B.C. and settled in the north and west, in what are now the lands of Galicia, Spain and Portugal. . Phoenician and Greek traders visited the peninsula, followed later by the Carthaginians, from the 12th to the 7th centuries B.C.

In the 6th and 5th centuries B.C., Carthaginian traders supplemented the Greeks and pushed the Iberians farther inland. The 2nd Punic War, which began in 219 B.C., destroyed Carthage and gave Rome control of the peninsula. By this time, the Celtic and Iberian cultures had intermingled in the central tableland to form a Celt-Iberian people. The Celtic, Iberian, and Celt-Iberian tribes, whom the Romans encountered in the 3rd century B.C., were not a homogeneous group. The Lusitanian, Galician, Austrians, Cantabrians, Basques and the Pyrenean tribes had different languages and religions. It took the Romans over 200 years to pacify all of the peninsula's fiercely independent tribes. Rome encouraged its conquered land's people to adopt its language and customs, and many Roman colonists settled in the Iberian Peninsula. Over time, the people of Rome and Hispania merged to form a Hispanic-Roman culture. A long and close association with Rome, the foundation was laid upon which peninsular civilization developed.

FLAVIUS SABINUS VESPASIAN, born in Sabine Reate, near Rome in the year 9 AD and was the son of FLAVIUS SABINUS, a Roman knight who had been a tax collector. His mother was VESPASIA POLLA and had a brother who entered the Senate. Although FLAVIUS is said to have hesitated before following his brother into the Senate, his career was in no sense retarded; for, after military service in Thrace and quaestorship in Crete, he reached the praetorship in the earliest year allowed him by law, namely AD 39, the year in which his elder son TITUS was born on December 30 of the year 39 AD, in Rome. Flavius married one FLAVIA DOMITILLA, who bore his two sons Titus and DOMITIAN and a daughter, FLAVIA DOMITILLA, (later deified). Both his wife and daughter died before he became emperor. He then returned to an earlier mistress, called CAENIS, who had been a freedwoman of Antonia, sister-in-law to the emperor TIBERIUS; she too died before he did.

FLAVIUS ingratiated himself with the ruling emperor, CALIGULA (GAIUS CEAESAR); and in the next reign, that of Claudius, he won the favor of the powerful freedman Narcissus. He became commander of the Legion II Augusta, which took part in the invasion of Britain in 43 AD. After distinguished conduct at the crossing of the Medway River, he was given charge of the left wing of the advance; he proceeded to occupy the Isle of Wight and to conquer tribes as far west as Devon, capturing more than 20 "towns."

For these achievements he was awarded triumphal honors and appointed to two priesthoods, and in 51 AD he became consul. But, on CLAUDIUS' death in 54 AD, Narcissus, whose power had been waning, was driven to suicide; and for a time FLAVIUS received no further appointments. About 63 AD, he obtained the pro-consulate in Africa, where his extreme financial rigor made him so unpopular that on one occasion the people pelted him with turnips.

In the autumn of 66 AD he accompanied NERO to Greece. In February 67 AD he was appointed the command against the Jewish rebellion in Judaea, the scene of two disastrous Roman defeats in the previous year. The appointment was exceptional because Judaea had never before been garrisoned by a legionary army, and FLAVIUS was regarded as a highly competent general but one whose humble origins made it almost

inconceivable that he would challenge NERO'S government should he win victories. As long as NERO was alive, this diagnosis was surely right. FLAVIUS conducted two successful campaigns in 67-68 AD, winning almost all Judaea except Jerusalem. But on NERO'S death in June 68 AD, he stopped fighting.

This pause was surprising, and it was accompanied by the fact that at this moment, with his son, TITUS as intermediary, FLAVIUS settled certain differences he had had with the neighboring governor of Syria, GAIUS LICINIUS MUCIANUS. TITUS served as a military tribune in Germany and Britain and later fought under his father's command during the Jewish rebellion in Palestine.

After FLAVIUS became emperor in 69 AD, TITUS was left to command the Roman army in Palestine, and he brought the war to a close with capture and destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. To commemorate this victory in the Jewish war, his brother, Emperor DOMITIAN, later erected the ARCH OF TITUS. The ARCH OF TITUS is still standing at the entrance to the ROMAN FORUM. On the death of his father in 79 AD, TITUS became emperor. During his short reign, TITUS completed and dedicated, 80 AD, the FLAVIUS AMPHITHEATER, better known as the COLOSSEUM, begun by his father and built near the extensive baths that bear his name. TITUS died on September 13, 81 AD. His brother DOMITIAN, who became his successor as emperor, supposedly hastened his sudden death, at age 41. TITUS married twice, but his first wife died, and he divorced the second soon after the birth (circa 65 AD) of his only child, a daughter, FLAVIA JULIA, to whom he accorded the title AUGUSTA. She married her cousin FLAVIUS SABINUS, but after his death in 84 AD, she lived openly as the mistress of her uncle DOMITIAN.

The Iberian Peninsula was dominated successively by the Suebians (a German tribe) Visigoths, Arabs and Spaniards. Following the decline of the Roman Empire, in the 5th century A.D., the Suevians came to control the peninsula, followed by the Visigoths and then the Moors, in 711 AD. The Moors were Muslims of the mixed Berber and Arab people who inhabited Northwest Africa. Aside from a small area in the north, Muslim victory was completed by 718 A.D. At this time, the CHAVES contingency fled to Portugal. There, the name CHAVES was changed to CHAVEZ, since the Portuguese use the letter "z" at the end of most of their surnames.

In far Lusitania an ancient region and Roman province in the Iberian Peninsula corresponding generally to modern Portugal, a hydrothermal center was developed by the emperor FLAVIUS, circa 50A.D., and was named AQUA FLAVIS, which means the WATERS OF FLAVIUS.

The hydrothermal center continues to this day to attract people from all over the world with the hope that these thermal waters have a cure for what ails them.

It was apparent that the emperor FLAVIUS, left offspring's in Iberia, what is now known as Portugal. In Portugal, there is a town by the name of CHAVES, from the decedents of the emperor, and the inhabitants, to this day, call themselves FLAVIOS or FLAVIENSES. The city of CHAVES is in the distrito de Villa Real (district), which is in northern Portugal. It lies along the Tamara River, north-northeast of the town of Villa Real. Through popular etymology, which is the study of historical linguistic change, the name FLAVIUS was changed to CLAVES and then to CHAVES. CLAVES is the Latin word for keys, hence, the CHAVEZ coat of arms contain keys in the frontal part of the shield.

After 700 years of occupation, by the Moors, the Christian population expanded to the south. By the 13th century, the Christians had re-conquered all but Granada, which was finally taken in 1490, by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. By then, the CHAVEZ family which had returned from exile in Portugal and returned most of the name to its original form of CHAVES, settled mostly in Galicia, an important Christian kingdom of medieval Spain. However, many of the CHAVEZ family retained the Portuguese form of CHAVEZ, even after they returned to Spain. One of the earliest records of the name dates from the 14th century: the name JUAN DE CHAVES appeared in a legal document dated 1370. From Galicia, the family branched to other Christian regions in the north, particularly to Salamanca and to area to the south that were regained from the Muslims during the Reconquest, especially the province of EXTREMADURA. An important branch of the family was established in the

city of CACERES. As the conquest progressed, the family established in the major center of the south, including SEVILLA. Prominent among members of the family were DIEGO DE CHAVES, confessor to KING PHILIP II, who was king of Spain during the era 1589 to 1596.

The surrender of Granada freed King Ferdinand V and Queen Isabella, who ruled Spain during the era 1474 to 1504, to begin the work of territorial expansion. The year 1492 is the milestone in world history when Columbus voyaged to the west, beginning an era exploration, which brought Spain power and prestige. The captains of the conquest of New Spain, Cortéz, Pizarro, Valdivia, and Balboa, led the conquistadors to wealth and adventure. Some of the first settlers in the new world were members of the CHAVES family. Among the early explores was JUAN CHAVES, who served with PEDRO DE ALVARADO, who in turn was one of HERNAN CORTEZ' commanders when he conquered MONTEZUMA II. With PEDRO DE ALVARADO, JUAN CHAVES founded the settlement of GRACIAS A DIOS in 1533. Later, Captain JUAN CHAVES established the first Spanish VIZCAYA DE NUEVA ESPAÑA, in SANTA BARBARA, a northern city of what is now the state of CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO. Also of note was NULFO DE CHAVES, who voyaged to the New World with ALVAR NUÑEZ CABEZA DE VACA in 1542, and traveled extensively throughout South America, eventually settling in Paraguay.

DON PEDRO DURAN Y CHAVES was one of the first settlers into what is now the state of New Mexico. He was first mentioned in 1600 as the sargento of DON JUAN OÑATE'S troops. Here he was described as a well-built man of good features, "fifty" years old, the legitimate son of HERNAN SANCHES RICO Y CHAVES and DOÑA JUANA DURAN, and born in VALVERDE de LLERENA in the jurisdiction of the Grand Master of Santiago. (It appears that, at that time, this family used the surname of the mother and the father. Subsequent children continued, for several generation, to use the same surname). In 1602, he signed a petition to the Viceroy, asking that the infant colony be made a full "Republica" with a "Capital" and that large grants (encomienda) be made to the supplicants. Also, DON PEDRO DURAN Y CHAVES was mentioned in 1613 when, as a captain, was sent to Taos Pueblo to collect the Governor's tribute. By 1626, he was MAESE DE CAMPO, or Commanding General, of all royal troops in Nueva España, when he testified that he was sixty years old, a native of Llerena and one of the founders of the Villa of Santa Fe. DON PEDRO DURAN Y CHAVES was married to DOÑA ISABEL DE BOHORQUEZ BACA. His known children were FERNANDO, PEDRO II, and most likely, a daughter ISABEL

Valverde de Llerena is a village some ten miles east of the city of Llerena in Estremadura, once famous as the headquarters of the Grand Master of the Order of Santiago. At the present time, half of the population of Valverde is still named CHAVES and CHAVEZ and practically all of the folks in the neighboring hamlet of Verlanga. Llerena's famous citizen is DON LUIS ZAPATA DE CHAVES (1526-1594), a knight of Santiago who was once imprisoned as unworthy of his knighthood for being a Don Juan: he was caught in bed with the wife of another knight.

DON FERNANDO DURAN Y CHAVES inherited DON PEDRO'S encomienda and lost it later during a political fracas. He married MARIA HOLGUIN DE CARVAJAL and had three children; AGUSTIN, FERNANDO II and CRISTOBAL .DON FERNANDO is first mentioned in contemporary documents of 1638 when, as Lieutenant Governor of the Sandia or Rio Abajo, he testified that he had accompanied Governor Rosas in an expedition to the Apotlapihuas. Testifying many years later, in 1660, he gave his age as forty-three, therefore, he was born in 1609. He died in 1669.

DON AGUSTIN DURAN Y CHAVES is first mentioned when he accompanied DON FERNANDO in escorting Governor Guzmán from Mexico City to Santa Fe. For reasons unknown, he went to PARRAL, CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO, in 1665 and never returned. It appears that DON AGUSTIN left three children, in NEW MEXICO, before he went to PARRAL. These children were: FERNANDO, MARIA, and JUAN. In PARRAL'S catholic church, records were found indicating that GREGORIA PONCE, wife of DON PEDRO DURAN Y CHAVEZ, died on the 11th of October 1762. It is conceivable that this DON PEDRO was DON AGUSTIN'S son. It is also conceivable that DON PEDRO was the father of FRANCISCO XAVIER CHAVEZ, whose descendents are shown on the

following family tree, named THE CHAVEZ FAMILY TREE, since the years in which each individual lived correspond to each other.

The original haciendas consisted of SAN CRISTOBAL, LA CIENEGUILLA, and SAN ANTONIO DE SOMBRERETILLO. In 1804, DON PRUDENCIO CHAVEZ, left, in his testament, the total of \$100,000 pesos, which at that time was a fortune. The properties were partitioned as follows: the haciendas SAN CRISTOBAL and LA CIENEGUILLA and all of the annexes were inherited by DON PRUDENCIO'S two sons DON JOSE RAMON AND DON FRANCISCO JAVIER CHAVEZ (father of DON JESUS JOAQUIN CHAVEZ) by his first wife, DOÑA ANA MARIA FRANCO. The hacienda of SANTA BARBARA, that is located approximately between Santa Barbara and Valle de Allende, close to Sombretillo, were inherited by DON PABLO CHAVEZ, who was also DOÑA ANA MARIA FRANCO'S son; his children by DOÑA GREGORIA, and his other children by his second wife, DOÑA ANA MARIA SANTOS ESCUDERO. The priest PEDRO IGNACIO SALAZAR, who received his inheritance from his mother, Doña Petra Puente y Andrade, sold to DON FRANCISCO JAVIER CHAVEZ, the hacienda SAN ANTONIO DE SOMBRERETILLO, in 1830 and in 1833 the priest sold him the hacienda SAN NICOLAS DE SOMBRERETILLO. In 1837, DON FRANCISCO sold the hacienda SAN ANTONIO DE SOMBRERETILLO to his son JESUS JOAQUIN CHAVEZ, who in turn sold it to his son DON MANUEL VALDEZ CHAVEZ, in 1861. When DON MANUEL died, the hacienda SAN ANTONIO DE SOMBRERETILLO passed the hacienda to his children by his first wife, DOÑA CONCEPCION PRIMERO. Only a fraction of the 203 hectares (approximately 508 acres) were annexed to the hacienda SAN NICOLAS DE SOMBRERETILLO, which was inherited by his children with his second wife, DOÑA DOLORES AMPARAN.