Presbyterian Mission Schools In Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico
BISHOP
JEAN
BAPTISTE
LAMY

Arrived in Santa Fe 1851
• Religion and the Bible were important in New Mexico. Spanish Conquistadors had, after all, taken possession of New Spain in the name of the Crown and the Cross.

• For most of the Spanish settlers, life was very difficult. Few could read or write, and only the very wealthy were educated. The Bible was possibly the only book of which they were really aware. It was taught from the pulpit by priests, but laypersons were discouraged from reading it themselves even if they could read.
When New Mexico became a U.S. territory, the governance of the Catholic Church for New Mexico, which had been in Durango, Mexico, was replaced by the governance in Cincinnati, Ohio. At that time a bishop was dispatched to New Mexico. Bishop Lamy, a Frenchman, became the American Catholic authority in New Mexico, replacing the Spanish.

1813 Studied For Priesthood
Friction arose between the Bishop and Spanish priests, of whom one of the most prominent was Padre Jose Antonio Martinez of Taos who left the Bishop’s fold. He encouraged education, and had a school in his home. He published books with his own printing press, including portions of the Bible. When he left the Catholic church, many of his parishioners followed him. He taught some of them to read the Bible.

In the late 1800’s there was a gradual incursion of English speaking settlers. Concern was expressed by Army Chaplains at Fort Union and other forts about the lack of worship and educational opportunities for both Spanish and English speaking residents. Protestants, including Presbyterians, took up the challenge.
• There was a hiatus until the Civil war was over. By this time Padre Martinez was deceased and many of his parishioners felt abandoned. Many of Padre Martinez’s followers joined other faiths including the Presbyterian Church. Interestingly enough one of the Padre’s sons, Vicente Romero, was ordained an elder when Taos Presbyterian Church was organized in 1872.
TAOS PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

1872-1916
• All of these factors coincided with the general Protestant religious fervor in the eastern United States in the 19th century when church missions felt compelled to advance their mission field. Rev. Sheldon Jackson was one such missionary who was instrumental in establishing 100 churches and mission schools west of the Mississippi.
This coincided with the interest in Women’s Missionary Societies, which funded Spanish mission work in Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico, as well as a number of missions among Native Americans.

Arrived in Santa Fe 1851
Some communities had schools but no churches. Most communities had both, often occupying the same building. These were called “chapel schools.”
• The Rev. David McFarland arrived in Santa Fe on November 22, 1866. He and his wife Amanda began a church and school in 1867. This school was known as the McFarland Missionary School and later the Santa Fe Industrial and Boarding School for Mexican girls. The first teacher was Miss Charity Ann Gaston. This school was later named Allison School after its first-time principal, Matilda Allison. The Allison School occupied several temporary facilities in Santa Fe until 1890 when it became a boarding school and moved to a new campus near Catron Street and Grant Ave.
McFarland

Arrived in Santa Fe 1866
MATILDA ALLISON

Served 1881-1901
Served 1897-1909

The Mary E. James School for boys started in 1908 and closed in 1913, at which time the boys were sent to Menaul Boys School in Albuquerque which opened in 1881 as the Albuquerque Indian School. The Allison and James Schools were consolidated in the James School campus to form the Allison-James School for Girls.
THE ORIGINAL ALLISON-JAMES SCHOOL BUILDING - ABOUT 1870
SANTE FE, NEW MEXICO
Allison Building and School House, Allison-James School, Santa Fe, N. Mex.
John Annin arrived in Las Vegas in 1869 to organize a church and school with the assistance of a local Hispanic man, Jose Ynez Perea, who later became a Presbyterian Minister. Here are some of the churches and schools growing out of the initial mission work in Las Vegas: El Rito, Ocate, Buena Vista, Las Luz, Trementina, Clayton, and Bethel.
REV. JOSE YNEZ PEREA

Became a Presbyterian Minister
The Rev. James Roberts, with the aid of a number of Hispanic evangelists and many dedicated female missionary teachers, were responsible for churches and schools that grew out of the Taos mission. Some of these schools were: Rincones, Dixon, Ranchos de Taos, Cuba, Chimayo, Truchas, Ranchito, Chama, Cordova, and Penasco.
CHACON/EL RITO

1875-1958
LAS VEGAS 1869
DIXON 1887
RANCHOS DE TAOS

1884-1958
TRUCHAS

1903-1972
Around this time a number of Southern Colorado churches and schools were established in the San Luis Valley.
MAESTRA MOLLIE CLEMENTS

Served from 1895 to 1922
ADA WILSON

Served

1890-1892
SAN RAFAEL CHURCH
(COLORADO HISTORICAL SITE)

MOGOTE, COLORADO

Without Bell Tower 1895

With Bell Tower
ALBUQUERQUE INDIAN SCHOOL

1884
• On the heels of Rev. Sheldon Jackson’s activity in 1880, Rev. James Menaul arrived in Albuquerque in 1881 and organized First Presbyterian Church. In 1881 Presbyterians began a “contract school” for the U.S. Government to house, clothe, and educate Indian children. This school was the Albuquerque Indian School which was operated by the Presbyterians for the government.

• When the government began managing its own school in 1886, the Presbyterians purchased 200 acres at what was later named Menaul Blvd., operating a separate Indian school until 1890 when it was closed.
In 1895, James Menaul succeeded in getting funds from the General Assembly to reopen this same campus as a school for Spanish-speaking boys, with a core student body brought down from Las Vegas by head teacher Anna B. McNair. This is the present day Menaul School.
• All of this Presbyterian activity was initiated by ministers and teachers from the East. However, the existence of these schools would not have been possible without the dedicated work of many Hispanic people who worked hand in hand with them. Many of the local men studied for the ministry at the College of the Southwest in Del Norte, Colorado.
Del Norte College opened in 1884 in Colorado, with a faculty of five and a student body of more than thirty-five. The college’s special role was to reach Spanish-speaking people in the Southwest and to prepare Spanish Evangelists to serve in missions in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. In addition to theology, there were liberal arts courses and even astronomy courses and a telescope. The first class graduated in 1895. The school closed in 1900.
The Presbyterians established their presence in New Mexico and Southern Colorado in the late 19th century by establishing churches, schools, hospitals, and medical clinics. Some of the medical facilities were: Embudo at Dixon, New Mexico; Sangre de Cristo Clinic in San Luis, Colorado; and Mora Valley Clinic in Mora, New Mexico.
MEDICAL FACILITIES

Sangre de Cristo, San Luis, CO 1960

Embudo, Dixon NM 1914

Mora Clinic, Cleveland NM 1957-1979
THE END

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