

Timeline

**Wednesday, Feb. 18, 1903, at 2:30 p.m.:** Thirteen freight cars, one baggage car and three passenger coaches arrive at the Rock Island Train Depot in Mangum, Oklahoma Territory. Colonists loaded household goods, furniture, farm implements and livestock into the train cars in the bitter cold.

**Friday, Feb. 20, 1903, at 3:00 a.m.:** The first group of colonists leave for Mexico. Two hundred-four individuals board. They traveled from Mangum to Chickasha and on to Fort Worth, Texas. In Fort Worth they add a sleeper car to the train.

**Saturday, Feb. 21, 1903:** From Fort Worth, Texas, they traveled to San Antonio, Texas, by way of Houston. There the livestock was unloaded at the stockyards, watered and fed. The women and children went sightseeing.

**Sunday, Feb. 23, 1903:** From San Antonio, Texas, they travel to Eagle Pass, Texas, where U.S. Customs inspected all of their belongings.

**Wednesday, Feb. 26, 1903:** Three days after beginning customs inspections, colonists crossed the U.S. border on a 310 yard long iron bridge to Ciudad Porfiro Diaz, Mexico. There Mexican Customs inspected their belongings.

**Saturday, Feb. 28, 1903:** They left Ciudad Porfiro Diaz for Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

**Sunday, Mar. 1, 1903:** From Monterrey they traveled to their final train destination, the depot at Escandon, Tamaulipas.

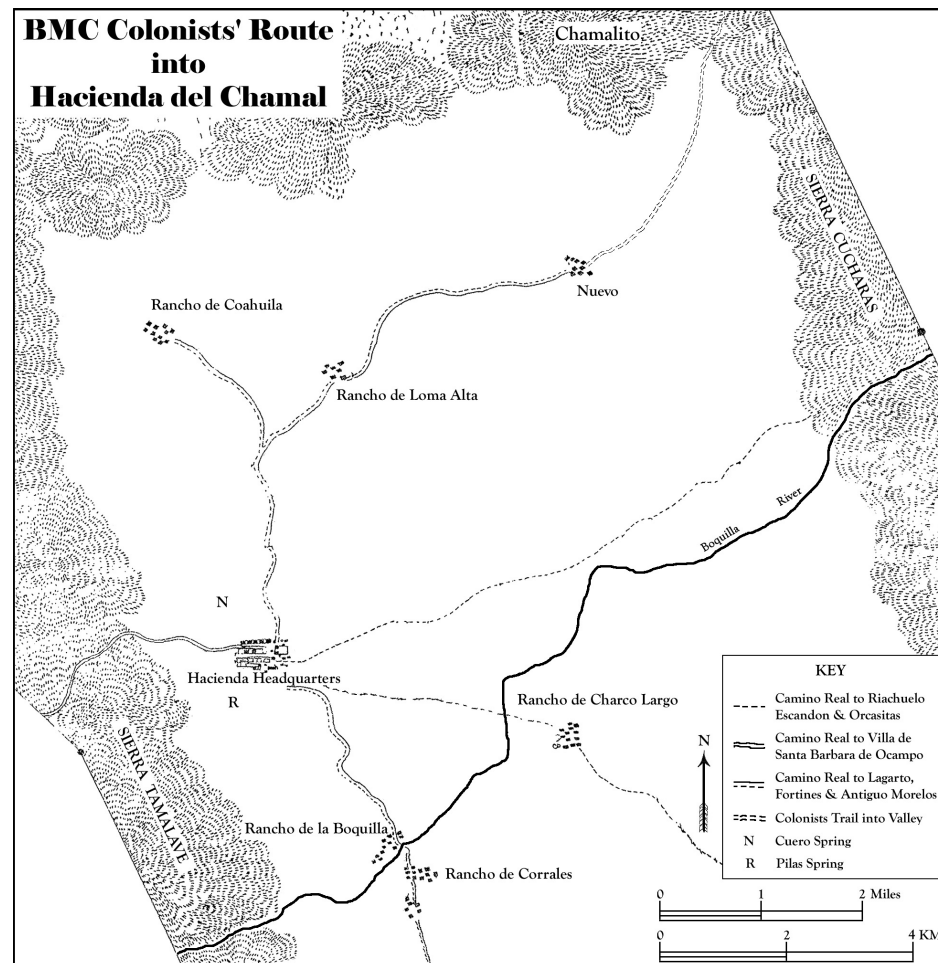
**Monday, Mar. 3, 1903, at five p.m.:** The colonists arrived at Escandon. They had traveled about 1500 miles and now had to unload, make camp, and begin to reload their wagons.

**Friday, Mar. 6, 1903:** The first contingent of colonists left Escandon overland for Hacienda del Chamal.

**Saturday, March 7, 1903:** The first contingent arrives at the hacienda headquarters and Sarah Gorham prepares dinner on the plaza using her “four eye” wood-burning stove. As other colonists arrive they use it also.

**Sunday, March 8, 1903:** The first colony child, Jewel Forlorn Snell is born to W.W. Snell and his wife Clementine as they camp by the Forlorn River. Colonists, one family to a room, occupy all hacienda buildings and some elected to camp by the Boquilla River two miles farther south from the headquarters. The colonists, living in temporary shelters, began exploring their new surroundings.

**BLALOCK MEXICO COLONY Reunion**  
**November 29, 2014**  
**San Antonio, TEXAS**



“...their wagons rolled up the eastern mountains, the Sierra Cucharas. As the first detachment reached the pinnacle of the mountain range they were able to see their promised land, the vast palm covered plain sprinkled with fields of cane, cotton, corn, and orchards. Onward the wagons rolled down into the valley of Chamal chaperoned by men riding on horse or mule. They entered the valley from the northeast corner with the lone extinct volcano, the Chamalito, rising to their right.” Excerpt from *The Blalock Mexico Colony: Searching for the American Dream in Chamal, Tamaulipas, Mexico*

# 2014 BMC Reunion Agenda

<b>10:00 AM</b>	Registration begins, Silent Auction opens; BMC hats and mugs on sale
<b>11:00</b>	History Center & Scanning Station open
<b>11:45</b>	Welcome, announcements & prayer
<b>12:00 – 1:30</b>	Lunch: Bill Miller BBQ
<b>1:30</b>	Recognition of special guest; Bertha del Avellano de Cárdenas, former First Lady of Tamaulipas, Mexico  Remembrance of those who have passed away, Recognition of oldest person and person traveling the greatest distance  Reading from Neppie's Crossroads  Overview of First Emigration of BMC Colonists
<b>3:00</b>	Performance by Mariachi Extravaganza Vocal Competition Finalists, Silent Auction closes
<b>3:50</b>	Live Auction, Silent Auction winners announced, Payment and pickup of auction items begins
<b>4:00</b>	Family Group Photos under the Chamal Banner
<b>5:00 – 6:00</b>	Dinner: Las Palapas
<b>6:00</b>	Business Meeting: Blalock Mexico Colony Reunion Report & 2015 Reunion plans
<b>6:30-7:00</b>	Closing & cleanup; Please help us by picking up any trash; Make sure you have all your items

**Children must be supervised during the reunion.**

# THE BLALOCK MEXICO COLONY PROJECT

In 1902, the Blalock Mexico Colony formed a stock corporation, sold stock to individuals and then purchased 176,515 acres in Tamaulipas, Mexico, called Hacienda del Chamal. Many of the original investors came from Greer County, Territory of Oklahoma. More than 100 American families moved to Chamal with most of their worldly goods to live as colonists in Mexico.

The Blalock Mexico Colony Project is a collaborative effort by Rick and Liz Newcomb and Bill and Carol Ward, to construct a detailed history of the Blalock Mexico Colony. Visit [www.blalockmexicocolony.org/](http://www.blalockmexicocolony.org/). An e-book is being written, chapter-by-chapter, as the research for each period is completed. The project is a work in progress and will take years to complete. The Blalock Mexico Colony Project goals are:

1. To reconstruct the epic saga of the Blalock Mexico Colony's formation, emigration, colonization & resettlement.
2. To pull together previously disconnected information found in archives, museums, historical societies, & private collections.
3. To document this extraordinary colonization undertaking by digitally archiving, for future generations, the information that tells this incredible story.
4. To make the story available in sections starting with the formation of the colony & continuing to the present.

## Part II. The First Emigration of Blalock Mexico Colony Colonists

“The colonists are learning very fast and I have good reason to expect great things as they will be well prepared to appreciate the great change in their surroundings. The contrast will be so great and so sudden from snow, mud and close confinement to sunshine, flowers and everything to please the eye and fill the heart with joy and gladness, and I will not allow myself to doubt but every heart will warm with love and gratitude to the Giver of all good. To my mind everything is very encouraging and those who come after us will have an easier time and fewer things to annoy, but I doubt whether their gain will, in the end, be found greater than ours, who have been so severely tried on this two weeks' journey.”

“S.C. Talley”, *Mangum Sun-Monitor*, March 12, 1903.