



Saturday, January 17, 2026
Virginia Sanchez: Finding History in Archives and Attics
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The Virginia Sanchez will make a presentation at the CSHG meeting on January 17 titled: “Finding History in Archives and Attics,” She will share stories about how she found history in various locations such as with oral histories and military records. Her stories bring the researching experience alive as she shares several “aha” moments.

Such research, resulted in her first published book, *Forgotten Cuchareños of the Lower Valley*, in 2010, which led her to an unknown Hispano-run stage relay station that was not on any Colorado territorial maps. Additional research led her to the numerous enslaved Indigenous persons, whose names and experiences now appear in a chapter of *Nación Genízara: Ethnogenesis, Place, and Identity*, published by the University of New Mexico Press in 2019. An article she co-authored with University of New Mexico Professor Phillip Gonzales, won the Gilberto Espinosa Prize for the best article appearing in the *New Mexico Historical Review* in 2018. That article, “Displaced in Place: Nuevomexicanos on the Northern Side of the Colorado-New Mexico Border, 1850-1875,” explains why New Mexico lost much of its northern area to Colorado in 1861. Her book: *Pleas and Petitions: Hispano Culture and Legislative Conflict in Territorial Colorado*, was published by the University of Colorado Press in 2020. It discusses

the cultural impact on the 7,000 Hispanos displaced when the U.S. Congress created Colorado Territory.

She has been researching a historic acequia in Mora County, New Mexico, of which her forthcoming book "La Cebolla Valley, A History" is about. This book will be distributed this summer. She researched about 300 documents held in a private collection and discovered that the people of this valley built a lake from a small pond using no mechanized machinery. This lake is now Morphy Lake State Park.

The Doors will open about 10 a.m. There will be a CSHG Board Meeting. The Presentation will run from about 11:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m.