

Some majolica ceramics from Santa Cruz de Terrenate excavations, photo courtesy of Deni J. Seymour

Revisiting Santa Cruz de Terrenate Presidio

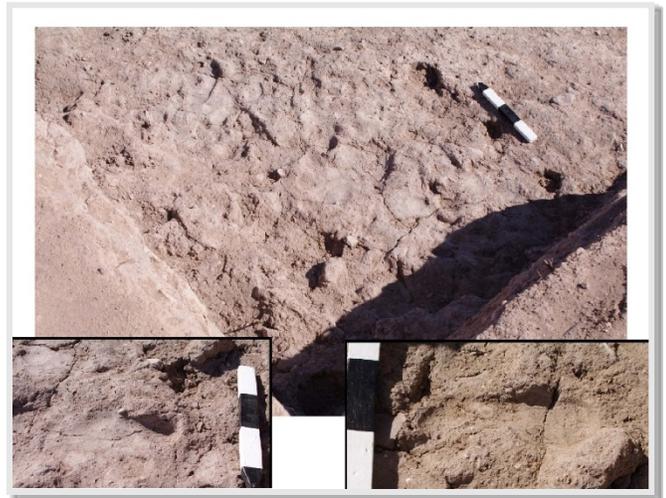
**Free Dinnertime Presentation
by Archaeologist
Deni J. Seymour, Ph.D.**

In 1775-1776 the government of New Spain created a series of frontier presidios along its northern frontier. Of the three of these located in Arizona, archaeologist Deni Seymour, Ph.D., conducted a multiyear field research program at what remains of Santa Cruz de Terrenate, located on the San Pedro River near Sierra Vista. The Santa Cruz presidio is the best preserved of all the Spanish period ones in the American Southwest.

Join Dr. Seymour for a discussion of the history of this adobe fortress, information about recent archaeological and ethnohistoric investigations, and revisions to interpretations of work carried out under the direction of archaeologist Charles Di Peso almost 70 years ago. New findings include 240-year old footprints, information relevant to the location of the Sobaipuri O'odham sites of Quíburi and Santa Cruz, and insights into hygiene, population, and status.

Santa Cruz de Terrenate is the best-preserved example of three presidios (forts) established in what is now southern Arizona by the Spanish colonial government. The objective was to provide the missions, settlers, and Christianized Native Americans of New Spain with military protection from Apaches and other mobile Natives by forming a line of presidios to enclose the area under Spanish control. The Santa Cruz presidio was founded on a steep bluff overlooking the San Pedro River on December 10, 1775 and was abandoned in March of 1780. The only other settlement on the river at the time was a Sobaipuri O'odham village called Quíburi that had moved far to the north from its Kino-period placement near where the presidio was later built.

The presidio housed soldiers, civilians, Ópata scouts, O'odham laborers, and domestic servants of a variety of origins. Originally excavated by Charles Di Peso, more recently Dr. Seymour carried out excavations there revealing quite a bit new information about the Spanish occupation, the earlier Sobaipuri O'odham village, and the nature of life at this remote outpost. As usual, with the addition of new data, her findings run counter to many of the "established truths" of this frontier region.



Footprints found in dirt floor of a house excavated at Santa Cruz de Terrenate, photo courtesy of Deni J. Seymour

Thursday October 15, 2020, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom: To register, go to this link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UPwKPkMyRQ-woMJkK5rgw

Visit [Zoom.US](https://zoom.us) to get a free Zoom account. (You will need your own Zoom account to register.)

Revisiting Santa Cruz . . .

This month's guest presenter Deni Seymour is an archaeologist, ethnographer, and ethnohistorian with a three-decade personal and professional investment in knowledge about and interaction with the indigenous tribes of the southern portion of the American Southwest. She is an acclaimed authority on the Spanish colonial period with special knowledge of the Protohistoric and Historic period Native American and Spanish colonial cultures of the U.S. "southern Southwest."

Dr. Seymour has a Ph.D. in anthropology and is a widely published award-winning author with over 100 scholarly refereed articles and 6 books. She applies information gained from the study of human behavior and diversity to understand the past and to inform and shape approaches to issues of concern to modern-day tribes.

Her current work focuses on various groups, including the O'odham, using multiple lines and forms of evidence to weave together information relevant to history, heritage, and identity. She is currently involved in several ethnographic projects and has multiple affiliations, her most recent as faculty with the University of Texas, El Paso.

***For more information contact
Old Pueblo Archaeology Center
at info@oldpueblo.org or 520-798-1201.***



*Photo of Deni Seymour
courtesy of Jornada Research Institute*



*Some Spanish colonial
artifacts found in
excavations at
Santa Cruz de Terrenate,
photo courtesy of
Deni Seymour*

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