September Cluff

B7

Colonial Journal

January 10, 1680

 Today, ten fugitives were brought into our town. Word has been going around that the reason they were brought was because they were planning revolt against our colony. A captain and a few others were sent to go get them a couple days ago, and they all arrived safely. Once they came into the town, and the captain had told that all his men were safely home, a sigh of relief came from everyone watching. That is what worried most people the most; that the soldiers wouldn’t all make it back safely, especially if they were family members. The fugitives were shown to the governor, who is keeping them as prisoners for now. Every day, one of them will be tried to see if they are guilty, and anyone can come to see what happens. I believe some of them practice another religion-paganism, which, many of our people say, is of the devil. People think very harshly about them, but I don’t know what to think yet. None of them were fighting back, and they didn’t seem harmful. I suppose I will go to the first trial tomorrow, and see how it turns out.

 ~Mary Stevens

January 11, 1680

 So, as I said, today I went to the first trial. Many people were there to see what the charges were against this man and the others. The man who was tried went by the name of Popé, and he lived in the pueblo of Taos. It was a very peculiar sight. There proved hardly any evidence against him, and the governor released him-just like that! Without hardly any defense, the governor simply freed the man. Many were unhappy. They would rather see them die or be sent to Zacatecas, the mines to be sent as slaves, and never see their family or home again. Everyone was confused, and there were many wandering faces looking at each other. Did I hear right? Why did the governor release him? Will he release the governor tomorrow as well? What was the reason? Well, only time will tell.

 ~Mary Stevens

 January 12, 1680

 Today there was another trial. This time, the man’s name was Pablo Cantú from the Cochiti pueblo. There was a very large crowd assembled, probably to see if the governor would release the prisoner today. The charges were read, and the prisoner plead guilty. The crowd was then filled with whisperings. Did he just admit to begin guilty? Then he stated, “In our conversation we would decide what to do when your soldiers came to take our corn and blankets. We did not plan to make war.” Everyone was silent when he finished speaking. Does he speak the truth? Then, another man, Fernando Chávez he says his name is, spoke up. He stated that he knew the man on trial, and that he had been very kind to him. He sounded like he was speaking the truth. And then, the governor released him as his prisoner, and said that the good outweighed the bad. I believe a pattern might just be starting.

 ~Mary Stevens

January 13, 1680

 Once again, there was a trial today for another man supposedly caught planning revolt against our colony. I went again. This man’s name was Alonso Catiti from the Santo Domingo pueblo. The governor quickly went through the trial, saying the man should be released. He announced that the Apaches had stolen some sheep, and they were going to catch the thieves. Then he rode away, and it was over. Everyone has been confused. Why would the governor be releasing all of these prisoners? There has also been a rumor going around that the governor has been talking to one of the prisoners each night, and that the prisoner is telling him stories. But nobody knows for sure. It’s very peculiar. Nothing else has really been happening, but the weather is still very bitter from the cold winter. I truly hope it will be over soon, because it has been very cold, and feeding my family and keeping everyone healthy has been quite a challenge this year. But it’s so much easier in the summer, when there is more food, and the kids aren’t freezing. We must see what the trial tomorrow will have in store.

 ~Mary Stevens

 January 14, 1680

 Life has been fairly boring for the past couple weeks. There was another trial for the fourth prisoner today, and once again, like everybody expected, the governor released him. I’m still wondering why he is just letting these people go, without the smallest punishment at all for any of them. But he did say that the evidence was based only on hearsay, that there is no proof. So I suppose it would make sense for him to let them go. I am not sure whether to believe the rumors or not. I still am just not sure.

 ~Mary Stevens

January 15, 1680

 As soon as he could, the governor released the fifth prisoner. Then, without further talk, he rode away on his horse. The pattern is established. He hasn’t even talked to us about it, and why he is releasing all of them. He just says that we should have mercy. I’m not quite sure what to think still.

 ~Mary Stevens

January 16, 1680

 Once again, the prisoner got released, although the crowd was much smaller today because many were out hunting or gathering wood because of the good day. The rest of the day went fine, but I feel I may be getting sick. I do not feel good.

 ~Mary Stevens

 January 17, 1680

Today I was unable to go to the trial for another prisoner. I’m afraid I am sick, although maybe I should just get some fresh air. However, my son went, and told me about it. Of course it was the same as it has been this whole time. The governor released the prisoner, and some in the crowd actually cheered! Also, it has started raining today, and everyone is in high spirits, hoping the January drought may be ending soon.

 ~Mary Stevens

January 20, 1680

It has been a few days, and I have been getting better. All of the prisoners have been able to leave so far. Almost all of the prisoners are released and back with their families. I think it was right for the governor to release them. After all, no one can really prove that they were planning revolt against us. They do not deserve to be killed or hurt in any way. This is truly amazing.

 ~Mary Stevens

January 22, 1680

Today, the last prisoner was tried. It was actually a woman. Nobody suspected that. She said she was helping her dad, but he was not imprisoned. Her name is Serafina. She is a very beautiful young lady. Fray Mateo wanted to take her with him, but the governor would not let him. For the first time through all of these trials, the governor did not release this prisoner. He decided to keep her as prisoner to keep her safe, and I believe he made the right choice. The governor is a good man. Who knows what will happen next?

 ~Mary Stevens