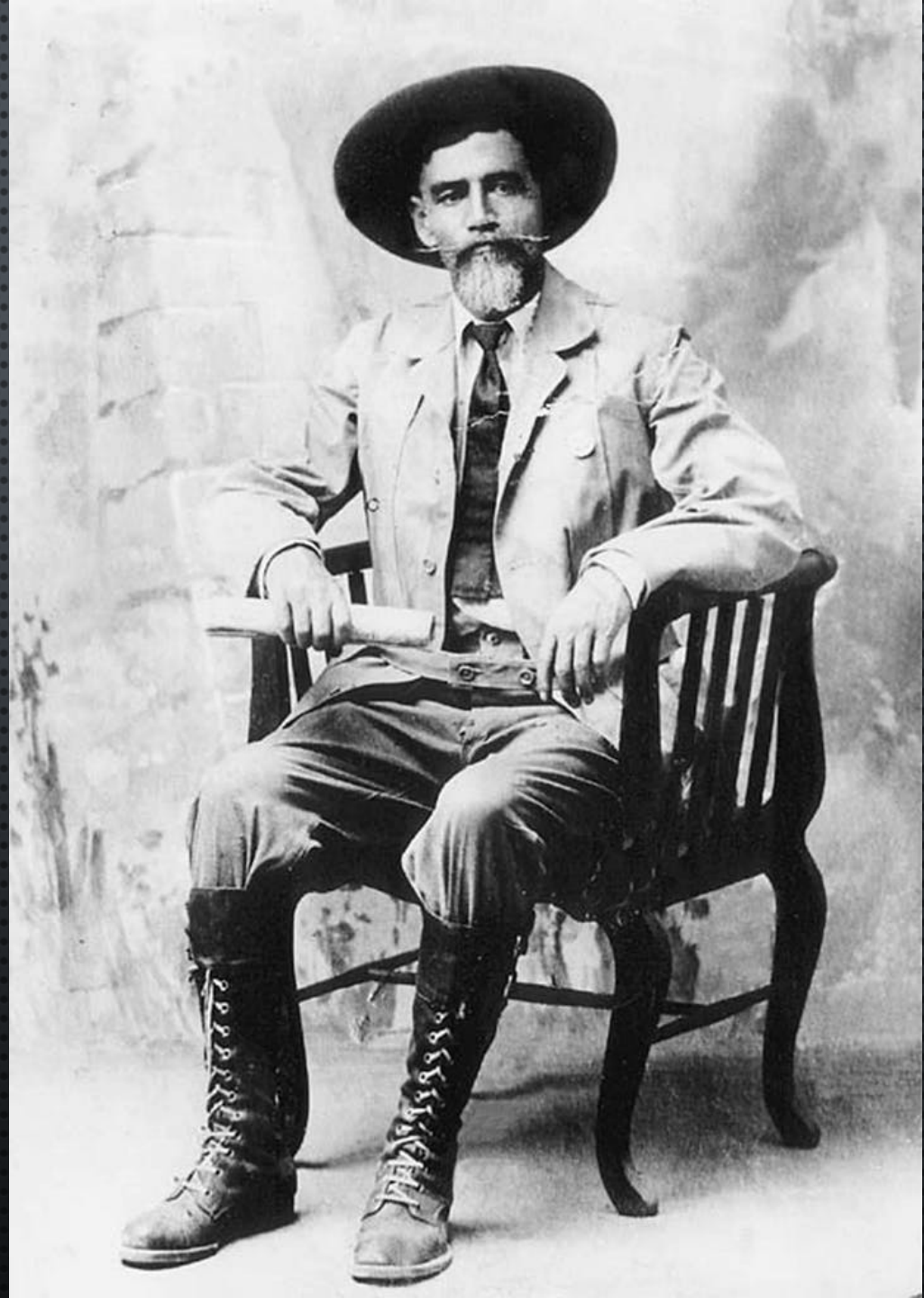


A Son of the People:

MÁXIMO CASTILLO AND THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION

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May 18, 2019



A Son of the People – Máximo Castillo

Understanding the Mexican Revolution and its Impact in Chihuahua:

1890s – Scattered Local Rebellions from the Guerrero District to Ojinaga
Local Control; Economy; Political; Resource Management (Land and Water); and Religion

Late 1900s – Rise of the **Magonistas** - Partido Liberal Mexicano

1908-1911 – Anti-Reelectionist Clubs/**Maderistas**/Local Fighting against Díaz (**Porfiristas**)- **Maderistas** Prevail

1912-1914 – Anti-**Maderistas** (**Orozquistas** [colorados] and **Huertistas**)/
Anti-**Huertistas**/**Villistas**/**Constitutionalistas**/**Vasquistas**/**Castillistas**

A Son of the People – Máximo Castillo

Understanding the Mexican Revolution and its Impact in Chihuahua:

1917-1919 – **Carrancistas** Prevail/**Villistas** Persist

1920's-1930's – **Sonoristas** in Power in Mexico (de la Huerta, Obregón, Calles, Cárdenas)

1920's-1930's – **First** and **Second Cristiada** (Cristero Wars) Catholic Church Weakened/Military Impact in Durango and Sonora

1929 – **Escobarista** Rebellion – Significant Impact in Chihuahua

A Son of the People – Máximo Castillo

Early Life of Maximo Castillo

May 11, 1864 – Maximo Castillo born in San Nicolás de Carretas, southwest of Ciudad Chihuahua. Living on the small family ranch until 1895 he observed early local unrest, such as that at Tomóchi.

June 28, 1881 – Maximo married María de Jesús Flores. As did most small rancheros, they struggled financially for most of their lives.

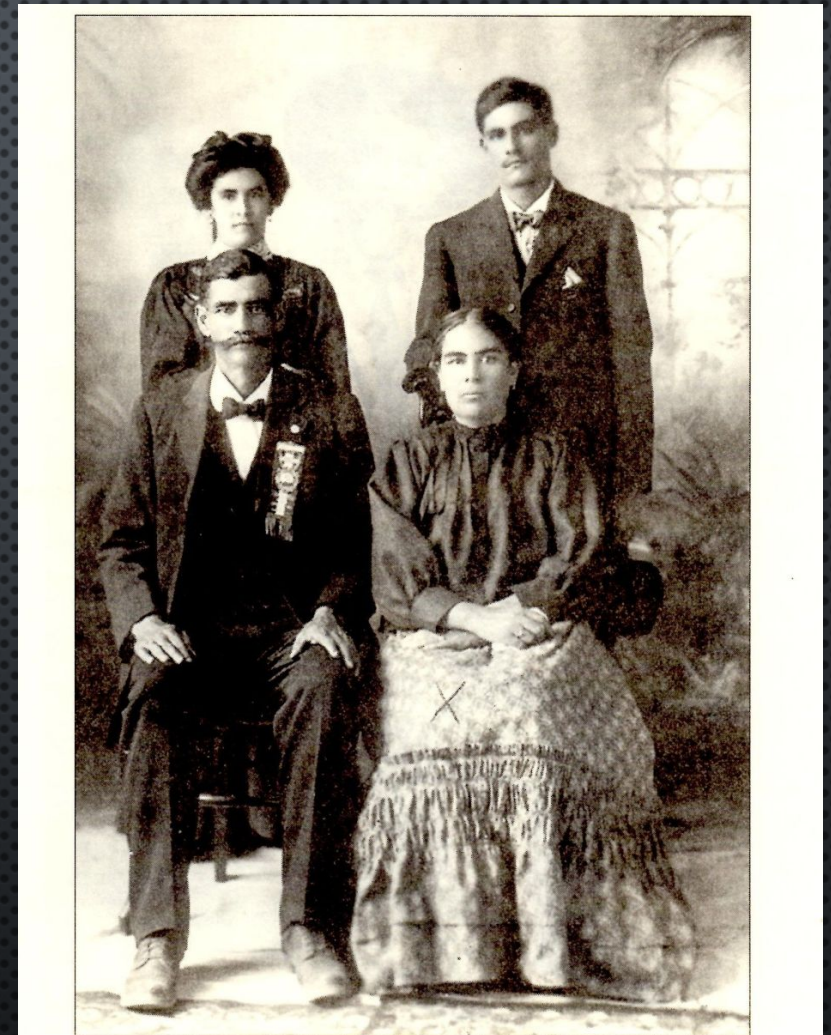


Foto 4. Don Máximo Castillo y doña María de Jesús acudieron a un estudio para que les tomaran una foto familiar con sus hijos Atilana y Félix Castillo Flores, en los primeros años de 1900.

A Son of the People – Máximo Castillo

Castillo worked for years to support his family. He saw firsthand the challenges of being a small land owner.

In his early 40's Castillo gained familiarity with the anti-reelectionist clubs that espoused the views of Francisco Madero. In late 1910, Castillo became a leader in the maderista cause in Chihuahua along with Abraham Gonzalez and Braulio Hernandez. On Nov. 20 1910 at 46 years of age, Castillo was in combat (at the side of Pancho Villa).

In a few months Castillo met Madero and fought with him in defeat (at Casas Grandes) and in victory (at Ciudad Juarez). Castillo was the Chief of Madero's security escort.



A Son of the People – Máximo Castillo

Scores of photos show him next to Madero through the summer of 1911. He followed Madero to Mexico City and on to Morelos where he met Emiliano Zapata and saw for himself the distribution of lands.

It appeared he found a home at Madero's side. It was not to be. For many of his followers, it seemed that Madero forgot them once he was in power.

Castillo signed the Plan of Empacadora in March 1912 and became an Orozquista

A Son of the People – Máximo Castillo

The orozquistas hope for success was done in by three defeats in a row in the summer of 1912. They were defeated by the federals in Bachimba on July 3, at Ojitos (close to the Sonora border) on August 1, and on August 16 at Ciudad Juarez.

The following February, Huerta had Madero assassinated. Orozco responded to Huerta's call to join together. Castillo refused to join, saying "I will never recognize a government that has tarnished the honor of the entire nation with its treason. It is better to lose the benefit of all of the sacrifices that we have made and remain in oblivion than to stain our own honor."

Soon thereafter Provisional President Emilio Vásquez Gómez awarded Castillo the rank of Brigadier General to assume command of his forces in the north as he expected Zapata to do in the south.

A Son of the People – Maximo Castillo

Castillo was now in charge of his own forces, basically reporting to no one.

He chose his targets and sought to pursue his dreams of “Land and Liberty,” a cry similar to that of Zapata.

He defeated the federal army at Pearson in June 2013, set up his headquarters at the Hacienda of San Diego and began a program of redistributing land to the “people.”

General Lucio Blanco, a constitutionalista is often considered the first to distribute land during the revolution. Actually, Castillo was the first, beating Blanco by several months.

A Son of the People – Máximo Castillo

Castillo maintained a loose affiliation with the Vasquistas, including Braulio Hernandez through 1913. He pledged not to fight against Salazar and avoided the Villistas. His primary goal was survival of his movement.

In January 2014 the Cumbre Tunnel was sabotaged with the loss of over 50 persons, including more than 20 US Citizens. Castillo was blamed for the disaster. He denied responsibility and within a year the blame shifted to Manuel Gutierrez, a former follower of Castillo. Chihuahuense historians such as Dr. Vargas Valdes and Francisco Almada agree with this conclusion.

In mid-January 2014 Castillo was arrested by US cavalry just south of Hachita. He was imprisoned at Fort Bliss in El Paso.

A Son of the People – Máximo Castillo

Along with four other Mexican revolutionary generals, Maximo Castillo was imprisoned at Fort Bliss, El Paso and Fort Wingate, NM from 1914 till 1916 or 1917 when he was exiled to Cuba by the US government.

He died alone in that country sometime in early 1919.



A Son of the People – Máximo Castillo

Just a few pages before his memoirs abruptly end, General Castillo said the following: “But we should neither give up nor lose hope to obtain our liberty some day; to return to serve our fatherland in some way; and to see our efforts crowned – the triumph of **our sacred cause.**”

General Castillo did not live to know that triumph. His descendants do however crown his efforts with their own tireless support of him as they honor that very same **sacred cause!**

