



### The History of Querétaro

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Flag of Querétaro

Mexicans first declared their independence in Querétaro, one of Mexico's smallest states. Today, Querétaro's major cities are home to industrial complexes that produce metal goods, machinery, chemicals and processed foods.

#### History

Between the 3rd and 9th centuries A.D, the Otomí established cultural centers, such as Ranas and El Cerrito and built a pyramid near the present-day city of Corregidora. For centuries, the Otomí—and to a lesser extent, the Tarascan and Chichimeca—were the ruling tribes in the region. In the mid-13th century, the region was conquered by the Aztecs. Middle History In 1521, the Spanish arrived in Mexico, and soon conquered indigenous populations all over the country. Cristobal de Olid entered the Querétaro region the following year. Although the arrival of Spaniards was generally met with resistance by the indigenous cultures, the Otomí people aligned themselves with the Spaniards and fought beside them to defeat the Aztecs living in the Querétaro region. As a demonstration of loyalty, an Otomi leader named Conin converted to Roman Catholicism between the years 1522 and 1526, changed his name to Fernando de Tapia and founded the city of Santiago de Querétaro on July 25, 1531. Throughout the 16th and 17th centuries, the city grew and matured as an agricultural and commercial center. Its ethnically diverse population included Otomí, Tarascan, Chichimec and Spanish residents. Throughout the 17th and early 18th centuries, the city continued to grow. In 1736, the aqueduct at Santiago de Querétaro was completed. At 23 meters (75 feet) tall and 1280 meters (4200 feet) long, it remains an impressive feat of civil engineering. The aqueduct was designed to carry water to the city from nearby springs. In the early 19th century, revolutionaries in Querétaro began planning a rebellion against Spain, making the state the birthplace of Mexican independence. The Spanish city considered the city of Querétaro to be a critical seat of power and dubbed it “third city of the kingdom,” after Mexico City and Puebla, due to its strategic importance. On September 13, 1810, Spanish operatives learned of the plans for a rebellion, thus jeopardizing the success of the independence movement and compromising the safety of many key members. A supporter of the movement, Josefa Ortiz de Domínguez (known as La Corregidora), got word to the rebel leaders at San Miguel el Grande (now San Miguel de Allende) before the Spanish could attack their headquarters. The leaders of the local underground movement escaped unharmed, and three days later, Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a local priest, issued the famous Grito de Dolores (The Cry of Dolores) in the city of Dolores in the neighboring state of Guanajuato. The Mexican War of Independence had officially begun. Although Hidalgo was captured and shot the following year, his call to arms was answered by rebel forces throughout the land, and the struggle for independence continued. Forces loyal to Madero, Francisco “Pancho” Villa and

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Venustiano Carranza, fought for control of the government, supported by thousands of landless peasants who clamored for more rights and the fair distribution of land. Throughout this time, Querétaro served as a headquarters for the revolutionaries. Eleven chaotic years later, in 1821, the movement for independence succeeded when Spain signed the Plan of Iguala, which established Mexican independence, Roman Catholicism as the national religion, and equality for all of Mexico's people. For the next 20 years, the state, along with the remainder of the country, experienced political and social instability. Recent History Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1821; in 1824, Querétaro became a state despite never having been a province by virtue of its strong economy. Less than three decades later, the Mexican-American war erupted. In 1846, American troops invaded Mexico City. As a result, the city of Santiago de Querétaro became the temporary capital of Mexico. On May 30, 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ceded much of Mexico's northern territories to the United States, was signed in Querétaro. In 1863, French forces led by Emperor Maximilian I of Austria arrived in Mexico after the country refused to pay its foreign debts. France occupied and ruled parts of Mexico between 1864 and 1866. They eventually withdrew due to the intervention of the United States, who aided the Mexican government and ultimately demanded that Napoleon III withdraw his French forces. Maximilian I was taken prisoner by Mexican nationals and executed in Querétaro on June 19, 1867, on the Cerro de las Campanas (Bells Mountain), thus ending the French occupation. Throughout the country, the following decade was marked by civil and political strife. Porfirio Díaz came to power in 1877 and began a period of relative stability. By 1910, after Díaz had maintained power for 30 years, growing agitation among the marginalized indigenous and working minorities along with anger and frustration over the harsh tactics of the Díaz regime led to the Mexican Revolution. Querétaro participated by sending state troops to other parts of the country to fight against the government forces. Once the Díaz regime was ousted, various revolutionary factions struggled for power. Finally, in 1917, a constitutional convention was called in Querétaro, and leaders worked bring an end to the internal squabbling of the revolutionary parties. Shortly after the convention, Venustiano Carranza, one of the revolutionary leaders, was elected president.

### **Querétaro Today**

Manufacturing accounts for about 32 percent of Querétaro's economy, followed by trade at 19 percent, service-based companies at 18 percent, transportation and communications at 11 percent, finance and insurance at 11 percent, agriculture and livestock at 4 percent, construction at 4 percent, and mining at 1 percent. Most of the state's manufacturing companies are located in or around the city of Querétaro. Carnation and Purina are among the best-known food processing companies with facilities in the state, and numerous textile mills manufacture clothing made of wool, cotton and henequen (a type of tropical plant). One of the biggest employers in Santiago de Querétaro is Tremac, an auto parts manufacturer. One of the leading milk producers in the country, Querétaro farms also breed livestock and dairy cows. Leading cash crops are beans, cabbage, alfalfa, onions, lettuce and sorghum. Rich mineral deposits run through the state's mountains and valleys, yielding silver, iron, copper and mercury. Opal mining is another lucrative state resource.



### **Facts & Figures**

**Capital:** Santiago de Querétaro

**Major Cities (population):** Querétaro (734,139)

San Juan del Río (208,462) Corregidora (104,218)

El Marqués (79,743) Cadereyta de Montes (57,204)

**Size/Area:** 4,544.03 square miles

**Population:** 1,598,139 (2005 census)

**Year of Statehood:** 1824

Photo at left: Aqueduct of Santiago de Querétaro completed in 1736. It is 75 feet tall and 4200 feet long.

## President's Article - November

A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped make our Fall Festival a success! And there were a lot of people who worked diligently to do just that. I will leave it to Bruce to thank each of you individually. But may I say that I felt that the evening was beautiful, the food was delicious and the baskets were gorgeous!

Please join us for our General Meeting on Sunday, November 4 at 1:00 pm at the Canoga Park Women's Club. It will be a special meeting because we will be installing our new officers! Let's say goodbye to the "old Board" and hello to the "new Board!" Check out the flyer attached about the day. Jo is making up a delicious lunch for us at a bargain price. Thanks to Jo and her committee for taking this on!

Saturday, November 10 we have a wonderful event planned – An Australian Walk-About Boomerang Dinner at the Lamoreaux and Strelow houses! And make sure to follow directions of the flyer because we will be going from house to house and back again! Sound like fun? Please come and join us on this adventure!

Put our December Holiday Card Signing on your calendar – Sunday, December 2 from 2:00-4:00. Drop in and join us for appetizers and drinks and spend a little holiday time with us as we end our FOT year.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. Have a wonderful time with your family and friends. I wish you all health and happiness.

Love,  
Barb White



Barbara White

## Join Us As We Celebrate



# 75 Years of Oklahoma

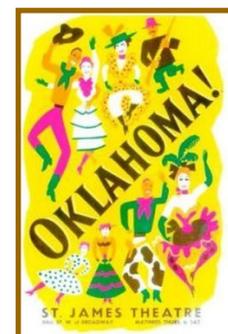


## January 19<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 PM

*At the home of Randy & Linda Lewis  
21305 Chase St.*

Wonderful Dinner - Includes Wine Parings  
\$20.00 per person

RSVP: Bobbie Strelow  
bobbiejoann2@gmail.com - (818) 388-7801



# Card Signing Party

## December 2 From 2 to 4 PM



Bobbie Strelow's Home - 20939 Lanark St., Canoga Park

We are giving back to the community again this year

**Please Bring A New Unwrapped Gift For A Child 1-18 Years Old**

RSVP to Bobbie Strelow  
By November 29<sup>th</sup>  
(818) 388-7801 or  
bobbiejoann2@gmail.com



Appetizers prepared by  
Your Officers  
Wine - Beer - Punch  
Only \$5.00 per signature



**RSVP Bobbie Strelow (818) 388-7801 bobbiejoann2@gmail.com**

### Calendar of Events 2018

- November 4    **General Meeting - 1:00 PM Luncheon**  
\$12.00        Canoga Park Women's Club - 7401 Jordan Ave.
- November 10    **Australia "Walk-About" Dinner - 6:00 PM**  
Lamoreaux & Strelow Homes
- November 17    **NO BOARD MEETING THIS MONTH**
- December 2    **Holiday Card Signing - 2:00 to 4:00 PM**  
\$5.00        Bobbie Strelow Home - 20939 Lanark St.
- December 8    **Joint Board Meeting (2018 & 2019 Board Members) - 10:00 AM Brunch**  
Lewis Home - 21305 Chase St.
- January 19    **Celebrating 75 Years of Oklahoma Dinner - 6:00 PM**  
\$20.00        Lewis Home - 21305 Chase St.
- January 27    **Board Meeting - 10:00 AM**  
Location TBD



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