



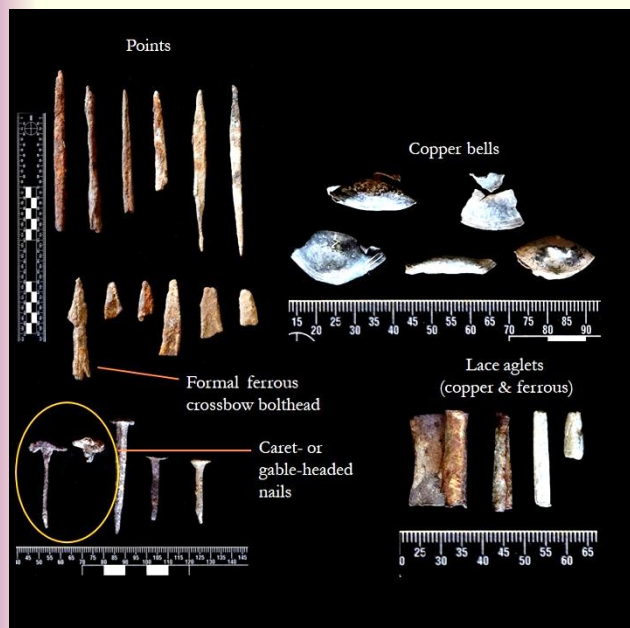
# An Expedition Torn Asunder: O'odham Responses to the Coronado Expedition

A Zoom Presentation by Archaeologist Deni J. Seymour, PhD

Dr. Deni Seymour's research on the Coronado expedition has revealed that the O'odham of southeastern Arizona were a key to how and where the expedition moved across the landscape. Usually focus is on how disruptive the expedition was to Native populations, but this presentation explores how effective forms of culturally specific O'odham resistance negatively affected the expedition. Impacts clearly were reciprocal but the role of the O'odham has been underestimated.



*When he observed and was hosted by Sobaípurí O'odham in 1539, Spanish priest Fray Marcos de Niza described them as "splendid people" who were irrigation farmers (Image of painting by Bill Singleton)*



*Coronado-era copper and iron crossbow-bolt points and aglets, copper bells from horse trappings, and caret-head nails from various Coronado expedition sites in Arizona (Image by Deni Seymour)*

In her previous presentations and articles Dr. Seymour has laid out an initial framework for interpreting documented events using new data. Further revelations are now available on the resistance mounted within O'odham and expeditionary contexts. In this presentation she will delve even deeper into the circumstances of the first series of contacts between the Sobaípurí O'odham and the Coronado expedition.

In this Third Thursday talk she will focus on how and why O'odham attitudes toward the Spanish changed from friendly in 1539 to adversarial later, the battle at Chichilticale in the winter of 1539-1540, the decisive O'odham revolt in 1541 at Suya (San Geronimo III), and how that uprising kept the Spanish out of southern Arizona for the next 150 years.

Thursday November 20, 2025

7 pm ARIZONA/Mountain Standard Time

*To register for the Zoom program click on this link:*

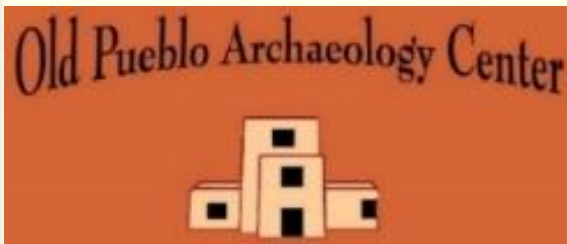
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For more information contact Old Pueblo at [info@oldpueblo.org](mailto:info@oldpueblo.org) or 520-798-1201.



Archaeologist Dr. Deni Seymour displaying the first of two bronze cannons encountered in her excavations at the Coronado expedition archaeological site of Suya (San Geronimo III) (Photo courtesy of Deni Seymour)

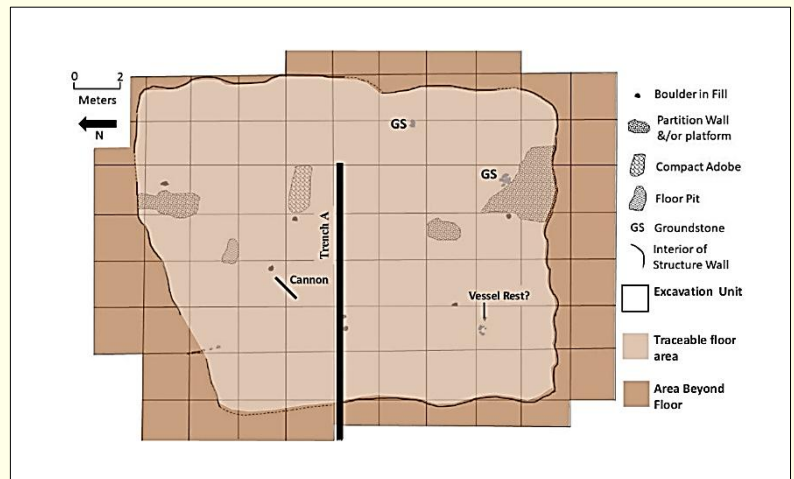
Right: Plan view of a stone-and-adobe-walled structure built for the Europeans at Suya (San Geronimo III), the first European townsite in the U.S. Southwest (Drawing by Deni Seymour, colors added by Old Pueblo Archaeology Center)



## An Expedition Torn Asunder . . .

**Deni J. Seymour, PhD** is a professional archaeologist and award-winning author who has published seven books and over 120 professional journal articles, many of which are on the Coronado expedition. She is recognized for her ability to draw on data from multiple sources to find and investigate archaeological sites associated with people and events mentioned in historical documents.

Among these places she has found are the site where Apache Chief Juh ambushed U.S. Army Lt. Howard B. Cushing in 1871; the original Sobaipuri O'odham settlements of Chukshon (the namesake of the city of Tucson); Anza Trail encampments; dozens of Sobaipuri O'odham settlements visited by Father Kino including San Pablo de Quíburi, San Cayetano del Tuma-cácori, and Los Santos Ángeles de Guevavi; and now several archaeological sites of the Coronado expedition in five Arizona river valleys.



For more information about this month's program or other activities, contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at [info@oldpueblo.org](mailto:info@oldpueblo.org) or 520-798-1201.

**The Third Thursday Series:** Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's Third Thursday Food for Thought Zoom webinars on the Third Thursday evening of each month feature presentations about archaeology, history, and cultures.

If you would like to be added to Old Pueblo's list of persons who receive semimonthly email announcements about Old Pueblo's Third Thursday and other activities (and other southwestern archaeology organizations' activities), go to [www.oldpueblo.org](http://www.oldpueblo.org), scroll down to the "Subscribe" box, and enter your name and email address there. One can unsubscribe from our emailing list at any time.

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center Third Thursday Food for Thought Lectures						
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