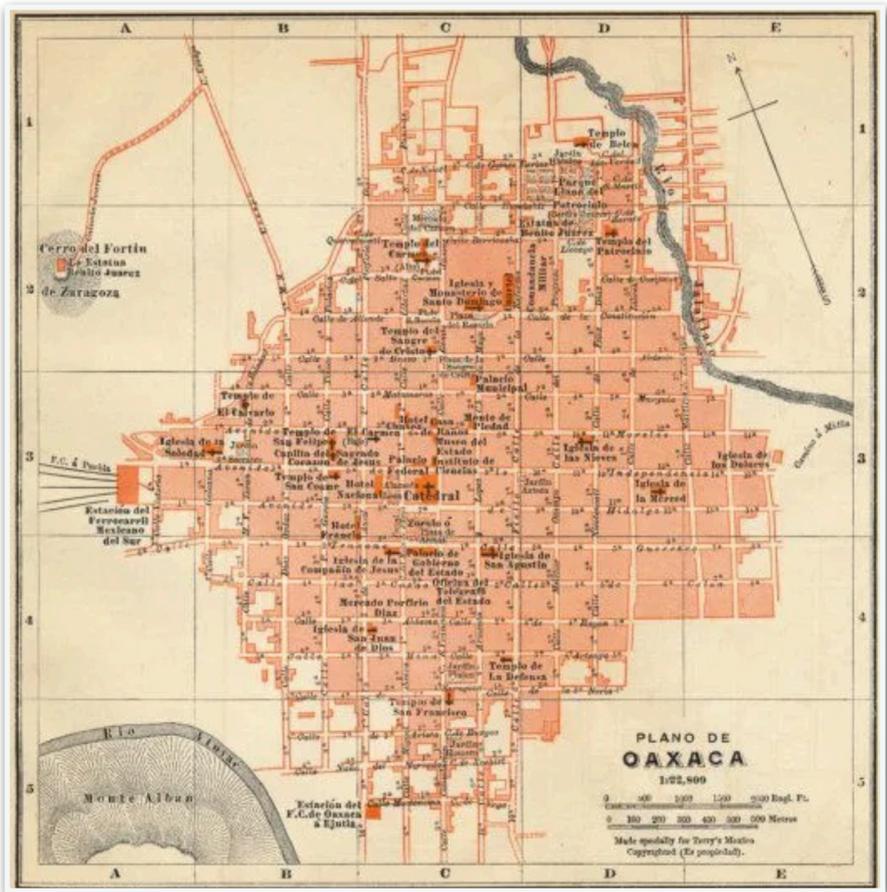


# The Streets of Oaxaca

*The Streets, Churches, and Plazas of Oaxaca  
and the Historical Figures for Whom They Were Named*



*Compiled and Edited by Robert P. Ogden*



# **The Streets of Oaxaca**

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They Were Named**



## Preface

My wife and I have been coming to Oaxaca since 2012, and because we don't own a car, we generally walk everywhere we need to go. Over time we have become very familiar with most of the city's streets, and their names have become second nature to us. But I've often wondered about those people whose names we know so well. Almost all of Oaxaca's residents know who Miguel Hidalgo, Benito Juárez, and Porfirio Díaz were, but who was García Vigil? And how about Berriozábal? And was Tinoco y Palacios one person or two?

What follows is brief biography of the people, and a few gods and other legendary figures, who have been honored with the name of a street, church, plaza, or park in Oaxaca. They are listed in alphabetical order according to the person's paternal surname. José María Pino Suárez, for example, is listed under "P." Saints are listed according their given names; Santo Domingo, therefore, is under "D."

Following the main section, there are a few pages which cover several other important historical figures whose names are conspicuously absent from Oaxaca's streets, including heroines like Josefa Ortiz de Domínguez and Juana Inés de la Cruz, as well as perceived villains like Hernán Cortés, Maximilian, and Antonio López de Santa Anna.

But first, to put it all in perspective, let's review a bit of Mexican history.

# Brief Chronology of Mexican History

## Principal figure(s):

### The Pre-Hispanic Era

(ca. 1600 BC - 1519)

Netzahualcóyotl (ruler of  
Texcoco, (1429 - 72)

Olmecas (ca. 1600 BC - ca. 350 BC)

Teotihuacanos (ca. 100 AD - ca. 900 AD)

Mayas (Classic Period ca. 250 AD - ca. 900 AD)

Toltecas (ca. 800 AD - ca. 1000 AD)

Zapotecos (ca. 1600 BC - 1527 AD)

Mixtecos (ca. 1500 BC - 1523 AD)

Mexicas & The Triple Alliance (ca. 1250 AD -1521)

### The Spanish Conquest

(1519-21)

Moctezuma II  
Hernán Cortés

### The Colonial Period

(1521 - 1821)

Antonio de Mendoza  
Bartolomé de las Casas  
Juana Inés de la Cruz

### The War of Independence

(1810-21)

Miguel Hidalgo  
José María Morelos  
Ignacio Allende  
Josefa Ortíz de Domínguez  
Juan Aldama  
Vicente Guerrero

### The First Mexican Empire

(1821-23)

Agustín de Iturbide  
(Emperor Agustín I)

### The First Republic

(1824-28)

Guadalupe Victoria

The Age of Santa Anna  
(1829-54)

Antonio López de Santa  
Anna

The Loss of Texas (1836)  
The First French Intervention (1838-39)  
The American Intervention (1846-48)

La Reforma (1855-62)

Benito Juárez

The Reform Laws (1855-62)  
The Constitution of 1857  
The Reform War (1858-61)

The Second French Intervention      Maximilian I  
and The Second Empire (1862-67)

The Restored Republic (1867-76)      Benito Juárez

The Porfiriato (1876 - 1910)      Porfirio Díaz

The Revolution (1910-20)

Francisco Madero  
Victoriano Huerta  
Venustiano Carranza  
Álvaro Obregón  
Pancho Villa  
Emiliano Zapata

Consolidation of the Revolution  
(1920-36)

Álvaro Obregón  
Plutarco Elías Calles

The Modern Era and the P.R.I.  
(1936 - 2000)

Lázaro Cárdenas



## The Historical Figures for Whom the Streets, Plazas, and Churches of Oaxaca Were Named

Mariano **Abasolo**, (1773 - 1816). Native of Guanajuato. A wealthy criollo who was one of the original independence conspirators. Served as a captain when the rebellion began, but more importantly, he provided much of the funding that financed the independence movement. He was captured but avoided execution because his wife was Spanish. He was taken to Spain where he died a prisoner in Cádiz.

San **Agustín**, (354 - 430). Born and died in present day Algeria. Berber theologian and philosopher whose writings influenced the development of Western philosophy and Western Christianity. He is viewed as one of the most important Church Fathers, founder of the Order of St. Augustine. La Iglesia de San Agustín is located on Calle Guerrero, one block east of the Zócalo.

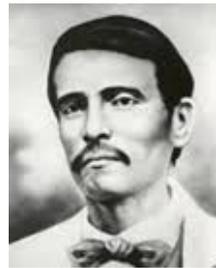
Macedonia **Alcalá**, (1831-69). A native of Oaxaca, he was an accomplished violinist and composer. His most famous composition, "Dios Nunca Muere," is Oaxaca's unofficial state anthem, and Oaxaqueños stand whenever it is played. Oaxaca's main pedestrian street and its theater are named for him.



Mariano Abasolo



San Agustín



Macedonio Alcalá

Juan **Aldama**, (1774 - 1811), One of Hidalgo's captains during the Mexican War of Independence. He was among the conspirators who met in Querétaro to plot the independence movement. The group included Allende; Abasolo; Hidalgo; and the hostess, Josefa Ortiz de Domínguez, the wife of the Spanish corregidor. Aldama was executed by the Spaniards six months after the beginning of the War of Independence. Calle Aldama is in the southwest quadrant of Oaxaca. There is another Calle Aldama in Jalatlaco.

Ignacio **Allende**, (1769 - 1811). The son of a wealthy trader, Allende was a trained army officer and one of the independence movement's conspirators. He fought along with Miguel Hidalgo in the first stage of the war. He was captured and executed in March of 1811, a mere six months into the war. The city of his birth, San Miguel el Grande, is now named San Miguel de Allende in his honor.

Joaquín **Amaro** Domínguez, (1889 - 1952). A native of Zacatecas, he was a general during the Revolution and military reformer afterward. He served as Secretary of War under three presidents. Chief among his reforms is the one which transformed the armed forces into an institution loyal to the civilian government rather than to itself. Calle Joaquín Amaro is the northern extension of Tinoco y Palacios, in the northwest quadrant of Oaxaca.



Juan Aldama



Ignacio Allende



Joaquín Amaro

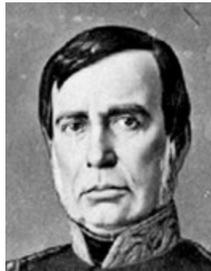
Fray Francisco de **Aparicio**. (1769 - ?) A native of Valladolid (now Morelia), Michoacán, he was a supporter of Mexico's independence. He became the abbot of the Santo Domingo monastery and later director of the newly created Instituto de Ciencias y Artes in 1827, which eventually became Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez de Oaxaca (UABJO). Calle Fray Francisco de Aparicio is a one-block street on the east side of the city.

Mariano **Arista**, (1802 - 1855) Native of San Luís Potosí. He was the commander of the Army of the North during the American Intervention of 1846 - 48. Arista was President of Mexico from 1851 to 1853 during which time the first telegraph line and the first railroad between Mexico City and Veracruz were built. Calle Arista is in the southwest quadrant of Oaxaca.

José María **Armenta** (1775 - 1810) and Miguel **López** de Lima (1772 - 1810). These two young insurgents from Michoacán were sent to Oaxaca by Hidalgo to begin the fight for independence in that city. They were caught, imprisoned in the monastery of Santo Domingo, and later executed in the quarry of Jalatlaco. Their bodies were eventually exhumed and transferred to Carmen Alto church.



Fr. F. de Aparicio



Mariano Arista

(Images not available)

J.M. Armenta  
and M. López

Ponciano **Arriaga**, (1811 - 1865). Native of San Luis Potosí. He was an early proponent of land reform and wealth redistribution. A supporter of Benito Juárez, he was the chief architect of the Constitution of 1857. Calle Ponciano Arriaga is a small street on the hillside west of Calle Crespo.

José María **Arteaga**, (1827 - 1865). Native of Mexico City. He was a soldier during the Mexican-American War and a general during the Reform War and the Second French Intervention. He was executed on orders of Emperor Maximilian in Uruapan, Michoacán. Calle Arteaga is in the southeast quadrant of Oaxaca.

Manuel **Ávila** Camacho, (1897 - 1955). A native of Puebla, he succeeded Lázaro Cárdenas as President of Mexico, serving from 1940 to 1946. His administration completed the transition from military to civilian leadership and made amends with the Catholic Church. Calle Manuel Ávila Camacho is in the southeast quadrant of Oaxaca.



Ponciano Arriaga



José M. Arteaga



M. Ávila Camacho

Felipe **Berriozábal**, (1829 - 1900). Native of Zacatecas. As a young man, he fought against the Americans in the Mexican-American War (1847). He was a colonel for the Liberals in the Reform War (1858-61), and a general under the command of Ignacio Zaragoza at the Battle of Puebla, May 5, 1862. He was Secretary of War under both Benito Juárez and Porfirio Díaz. Calle Berriozábal is in the northeast quadrant of Oaxaca, just west of Llano Park.

Miguel **Bravo**, (1767 - 1814). Insurgent from what is now the State of Guerrero. He was one of Morelos' generals who helped win the decisive Battle of Oaxaca (1812) during the War of Independence. He was the uncle of Nicolás Bravo, a future President of Mexico.

Fray Francisco de **Burgoa**. (ca. 1600 - 1681). Native of Oaxaca. He was a Dominican monk who learned to speak both Zapoteco and Mixteco. Prolific writer who, among other things, wrote a lengthy detailed history of Oaxaca from its founding through the 17th century. Calle Burgoa is a one-block street in the southeast quadrant of the city.



Felipe Berriozábal



Miguel Bravo

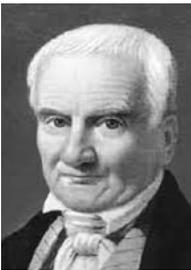


Fr. F. de Burgoa

Carlos María **Bustamante**, (1774-1848). Oaxacan journalist and historian who supported the independence movement. He was imprisoned for three years for his outspokenness against Spanish rule. Once independence was achieved in 1821, he was elected to Mexico's Congress as Representative for Oaxaca, but was again imprisoned by Agustín de Iturbide for opposing the latter's betrayal of the ideals of the Independence movement. Calle Bustamante is the main north-south street south of the Zócalo.

Manuel **Cabrera** Carrasquedo, (1885 - 1955). Cabrera was the governor of Oaxaca from 1952 until his death in 1955. Calle Manuel Cabrera Carrasquedo is a small street in the northwest quadrant of Oaxaca.

Miguel **Cabrera** (1695 - 1768). Outstanding painter of the Baroque period. During his lifetime he was considered the greatest painter in New Spain. He was a native of the village of Tlalixtac, now named Tlalixtac de Cabrera in his honor. His paintings can be found in over a dozen museums in Mexico, as well as several in the U.S. and Spain. Calle Miguel Cabrera is a north-south street south of the Zócalo, the continuation of Calle Flores Magón.



C. M. Bustamante



Manuel Cabrera



Miguel Cabrera

Lázaro **Cárdenas**, (1895 - 1970). A native of Michoacán, he was President from 1934 to 1940. He is best known for nationalizing the petroleum industry and the creation of Pemex. He also revived agrarian reform, expropriating large haciendas and distributing them to collective landholdings called "ejidos." Avenida Lázaro Cárdenas is the main east-west street on the east side of the city, an extension of Independencia.

Emilio **Carranza**, (1905 - 1928). Native of Coahuila. Pilot, often referred to as "the Mexican Lindbergh" who held various long-distance flight records. He died at the age of 23 in a plane crash after taking off from New York on his return to Mexico from a goodwill trip. He was the great-nephew of President Venustiano Carranza. Calle Emilio Carranza is one of the main streets in Colonia Reforma.

Jesús **Carranza**, (1863 - 1915). Native of Coahuila. A revolutionary and older brother of General (later President) Venustiano Carranza, he rose to the rank of general in the Army of the North, fighting against the dictator Victoriano Huerta. Calle Jesús Carranza is a two-block street immediately west of Carmen Alto Church.



Lázaro Cárdenas



Emilio Carranza



Jesús Carranza

Venustiano **Carranza**, (1889 - 1920). Governor of Coahuila who overthrew the dictator Victoriano Huerta to become President of Mexico. He was instrumental in writing the Constitution of 1917. After defeating Huerta, he defeated Villa and Zapata for control of the Revolution, and served as President from 1914 to 1920. Calle Venustiano Carranza is a small street on the west side of the city.

Fray Bartolomé de las **Casas**, (1484 - 1566) Native of Sevilla, Spain. One of the first Spanish settlers in the Americas, he was a priest, writer, and social reformer. As the beloved Bishop of Chiapas, he advocated for an end to slavery and for the humane treatment of the indigenous peoples. Buried in Basilica de Nuestra Señora de Atocha in Madrid. Calle Bartolomé de las Casas is one block south of the Zócalo.

Abraham **Castellanos**, (1871 - 1918). Native of Nochistlán, Oaxaca. Education reformer and founder of the Normal School in Oaxaca. Later in life he was instrumental in educational reform in various other parts of Mexico. Calle Abraham Castellanos is just north of the Mercado Sánchez Pascuas.



Venustiano Carranza



Fr. B. de las Casas

(Image not available)

A. Castellanos

Constantino **Chapital**, (1897 - 1943). Native of Oaxaca. He fought in the Revolution under Venustiano Carranza, achieving the rank of colonel. He held various military positions after the war, serving as the director of the Military Prison at Tlatelolco in Mexico City at his death. Calle Constantino Chapital is a small street in the northwest quadrant of Oaxaca.

Cristóbal **Colón**, (1451 - 1506). This is the Spanish name for Christopher Columbus. There are dozens of images of him on the Internet, and none of them appear to be the same person, so I'm not including any of them. Calle Colón is in the southeast quadrant of Oaxaca, an extension of Calle Bartolomé de las Casas.

Ignacio **Comonfort**, (1812 - 1863). Became President of Mexico in 1855 after defeating Santa Anna. During his administration there were feuds between Liberals and Conservatives, which ultimately led to the Reform War. He was deposed, and fled to the United States. Benito Juárez, as President of the Supreme Court, assumed the presidency. Calle Ignacio Comonfort is a small street on the hillside west of Crespo.



Constantino Chapital



Ignacio Comonfort

Cassiano **Conzatti**, (1862 - 1951). Native of northern Italy. When he was 19, his family emigrated to Veracruz. At the age of 29 he moved to Oaxaca where he later directed the Normal School. In 1910 he was named director of the Jardín Botánico and became one of Mexico's foremost botanists. The lovely Jardín Conzatti is named for him.

**Cosijoeza**, (1450 - 1529). Son of Cosijopí I. He assumed the throne as king of the Tehuantepec Zapotecos in 1487, and oversaw the construction of the fortress city of Guiengola. He formed an alliance with the Mixtecos which defeated the Aztecs, preventing them from occupying the Isthmus. He was succeeded by his son-in-law, Cosijopí II. Calle Cosijoeza is an east-west street, just south of Llano Park.

**Cosijopí II**, (1502 - 1562) The last Zapotec king of the Zaachila dynasty. He assumed the throne from Cosijoeza in 1529. He moved the capital from Zaachila to Guiengoa (near Tehuantepec), and later formed an alliance with the Spaniards when they arrived in the Isthmus. He reportedly adopted the Catholic faith and was baptized as Juan Cortés Sicasibí. Calle Cosijopí is an east-west street, east of Mercado Sánchez Pascuas.



Cassiano Conzatti



Cosijoeza



Cosijopí II

**Crespo.** See: Manuel **Sabino** Crespo.

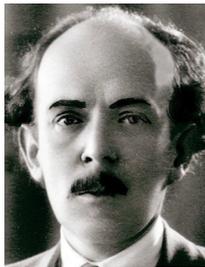
**Cuahtémoc**, (1496 - 1525). Aztec ruler from 1520-21. He succeeded his cousin Moctezuma II as Emperor of the Aztecs. He ruled Tenochtitlán when that city was under siege by the Spaniards and beset with a smallpox epidemic. The last Aztec emperor, he was tortured by Cortés, allegedly by holding his feet to a fire, in an attempt to force him to reveal the location of the Aztecs' gold. Calle Cuahtémoc is in the southeast quadrant of Oaxaca.

Jacobo **Dalevuelta**, (1887 - 1953). (Pseudonym of Fernando Ramírez de Aguilar). Oaxacan journalist who got his start at El Imparcial, and later covered the Mexican Revolution for the more prestigious El Universal in Mexico City. He is considered to be Mexico's first war correspondent. Calle Jacobo Dalevuelta is an east-west street just west of Llano Park.

Santos **Degollado**, (1811 - 1861). Native of Guanajuato. He was a close associate of Melchor Ocampo and became a general for the Liberals under Benito Juárez during the Reform War. Calle Santos Degollado is in the southeast quadrant of Oaxaca.



Cuahtémoc



Jacobo Dalevuelta



Santos Degollado

Porfirio **Díaz**, (1830 - 1915). Native of Oaxaca. General and politician who served seven times as President of Mexico, for a total of 31 years. The entire period from 1876 to 1911 is referred to as the "Porfiriato," and was a de facto dictatorship. His economic policies benefited foreign interests and large landowners. These policies became unpopular and led to the Mexican Revolution. He was overthrown by Francisco Madero, after which he went into exile in Paris where he died four years later. There is a Calle Porfirio Díaz in downtown Oaxaca, as well as the main thoroughfare Calzada Porfirio Díaz in Colonia Reforma. Oaxaca is perhaps the only state in Mexico that honors this man, its native son, with street names and statues, as he is viewed unfavorably by most Mexicans.

José María **Díaz Ordaz**, (1822 - 1860). Native of Oaxaca. He fought as a Liberal during the Reform War and served twice as governor of the state. He was a great-grandfather of the infamous President Gustavo Díaz-Ordaz whose term was 1964-70. Calle Díaz Ordaz is in the southwest quadrant of Oaxaca.

Heliodoro **Díaz Quintas**, (1878 - 1956). He was an interim governor of Oaxaca in 1912. Calle Díaz Quintas is on the west side of Jardín Conzatti.



Porfirio Díaz



J.M. Díaz-Ordaz

(Image not available)

H. Díaz Quintas

Manuel **Doblado**, (1818 - 1865). General for the Liberals during the Reform War, Governor of Guanajuato, and Minister of Foreign Relations under President Benito Juárez. In this latter capacity he negotiated, unsuccessfully, with France, England, and Spain for repayment of Mexico's Reform War debts. Said failure brought about the Second French Intervention. Calle Manuel Doblado is in the southeast quadrant of the city.

Santo **Domingo** de Guzmán, (1170 - 1221). Native of the Province of Burgos, Spain. Founder of the Dominican Order, originally called La Orden de Predicadores (The Order of Preachers), which emphasizes holistic education, the pursuit of truth, and the spreading of the Gospel. Santo Domingo Church, of course, is named for him.

Belisario **Domínguez**, (1863 - 1913). Native of Comitán, Chiapas. Physician and later senator from his native state. A lifelong Liberal and supporter of Madero, he was known for his moving oratory against the dictatorship of Victoriano Huerta. He was assassinated by the latter's forces. Avenida Belisario Domínguez is one of the major streets in Colonia Reforma.



Manuel Doblado



Sto. Domingo



Belisario Domínguez

San **Felipe** Neri, (1515 - 1595). Known as the Second Apostle of Rome, after St. Peter. He was an Italian priest noted for founding a society of secular clergy called the Congregation of the Oratory. Benito Juárez and Margarita Maza were married in this church, which is located on Independencia, two blocks west of the Cathedral.

Manuel Fernández **Fiallo** de Boralla, (1631 - 1708). Portuguese merchant and philanthropist who moved to Oaxaca (then Antequera) at the age of 34. He was the main benefactor for the construction of over twenty churches, convents, schools, and orphanages, including the churches of San Agustín, La Merced, and San Francisco. Calle Fiallo is in the southeast quadrant of the city.

Ricardo **Flores** Magón, (1873 - 1922). A native of Oaxaca, he was a prominent journalist and one of the first to write against the dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz. He was arrested, and upon his release emigrated to the U.S., where he continued to write against the Díaz regime. He is considered one of the first and most influential of the fomenters of the Mexican Revolution. Calle Flores Magón runs for two blocks south of the Zócalo.)



San Felipe Neri



Manuel F. Fiallo



R. Flores Magón

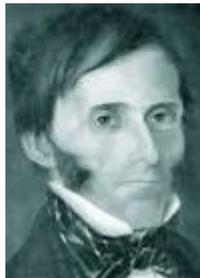
San **Francisco** de Asís, (1181 - 1226). Born and died in Umbria, Italy. Founder in 1209 of the Franciscan Order which emphasizes charity. Franciscans do not believe in living lavishly while others live in poverty and misery. La Iglesia de San Francisco, the major church on the south side of Oaxaca, is located on Calle Bustamante, four blocks south of the Zócalo.

Hermenegildo **Galeana**, (1762 - 1814). He was the son of a criollo hacienda owner in what is now Guerrero state. He joined the independence movement and was one of Morelos' generals, participating in many battles, principally in Guerrero, but also in the important Battle of Oaxaca in 1812. Calle Galeana is in the southwest quadrant of Oaxaca.

J. P. **García**, ( ? - 1812). His full name was José Perfecto García. He was a native of Oaxaca and was a captain under Gen. Miguel Bravo during the War of Independence. He was killed in battle near Tehuacán, Puebla. Calle J. P. García is two blocks west of the Zócalo.



San Francisco



H. Galeana

(Image not available)

J. P. García

Manuel **García** Vigil, (1882 -1924). A native of Oaxaca, he was a journalist and later general who supported Madero and then Carranza in the Revolution. After the war, he served as governor of Oaxaca from 1920 to 1923. He was executed in 1924 for breaking with Carranza.

Valentín **Gómez** Farías, (1781 -1858). Native of Guadalajara, Jalisco. He was five times President of Mexico, alternating with Antonio López de Santa Anna. He severely limited the powers of the Church, including forbidding clergy from participating in politics and banning the requirement that everyone tithe ten percent of their income to the Church. Calle Gómez Farías runs west from Llano Park in the northeast quadrant of the city.

Jesús **González** Ortega, (1822 - 1881). Native of Zacatecas. He succeeded Ignacio Zaragoza upon the latter's death at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. In spite of Mexico's victory in that battle, the French occupied Puebla, and González Ortega was ultimately forced to surrender the city for lack of munitions and food for his soldiers. After the French were finally driven from Mexico in 1867, he served under Benito Juárez during the Reform War and later served as President of the Supreme Court. Calle González Ortega is in the southeast quadrant of Oaxaca.



M. García Vigil



V. Gómez Farías



J. González Ortega

Nuestra Señora de **Guadalupe** is said to be the Virgin Mary who appeared several times before the indigenous farmer Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill near Mexico City in 1531. She is the patron saint of Mexico. The Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City is the most visited Catholic shrine in the world. Her feast day is December 12. La Iglesia de Guadalupe in Oaxaca is located on the north end of Llano Park.

Vicente **Guerrero**, (1782 - 1831). An Afro-Mexican from humble beginnings who became one of the leading revolutionary generals of the Mexican War of Independence. He and Agustín de Iturbide made a pact which was ultimately successful in defeating Spain, and they entered Mexico City victorious in 1821. He was the second president of Mexico and abolished slavery in 1829. His native state was re-named for him.

Adolfo C. **Gurrión**, (1880 - 1913). Native of Juchitán, Oaxaca. Politician, journalist, and legislator who was assassinated by the forces of Gen. Victoriano Huerta. Calle Gurrión is a one-block street on the south side of Santo Domingo Church.



N. Sra. de Guadalupe



Vicente Guerrero



Adolfo Gurrión

Miguel **Hidalgo** y Costilla, (1753 - 1811). Catholic priest, leader of the Mexican War of Independence and recognized as the Father of the Nation. From his church in Dolores, Guanajuato, he gave the first "Grito de Independencia" the night of Sept. 15, 1810, which began the struggle for independence. Hidalgo led a rag-tag group of peasants to fight against the much better trained and equipped Spanish army. He was captured, tried, and executed in July of 1811, a mere ten months after his "Grito." The state of Hidalgo is named for him. Calle Hidalgo is one of the three main east-west streets of Oaxaca.

Alexander von **Humboldt**, (1769 - 1859). German naturalist and explorer. He travelled extensively in the Americas and was the first to describe from a modern, scientific point of view the natural phenomena of the New World. He spent over a year (1803 - 1804) traveling throughout central and northern Mexico, and in the process coined the term "Aztec" (meaning "people of Aztlán") to refer to the Mexica people. Calle Humboldt runs west from Llano Park.

**Insurgentes.** The "insurgents" were the members of the peasant army and their leaders who rose up against Spain and fought for Mexico's independence. The most prominent were Hidalgo, Morelos, Allende, Aldama, and Guerrero. Calle Insurgentes is on the east side of Oaxaca.



Miguel Hidalgo



A. von Humboldt

Benito **Juárez** García, (1806 - 1872). Zapotec Indian from the Sierra Norte de Oaxaca. National hero and President of Mexico from 1858 to 1872). For three years (1864 - 1867) he fought against foreign occupation under the emperor Maximilian. He also brought about constitutional reforms to limit the powers of the Catholic Church and to create a democratic federal republic. It's difficult to overstate Mexico's devotion to his legacy, in spite of his being a strong opponent of the Catholic Church. There are streets named for him in practically every city and village in Mexico, not to mention airports, parks, universities, and even a major city. Statues of him are everywhere, particularly in Oaxaca.

Pelagio Antonio de **Labastida**, (1816 - 1891). A Conservative bishop, it was he who, after the French occupation of Mexico, proposed that Maximilian be its Emperor. When the Conservatives finally lost to the Juárez's Liberals, he was exiled to Rome where Pope Pius IX named him Archbishop of Mexico. He was later allowed to return to Mexico, and after Juárez's death he was able to dilute some of the Liberals' anti-clerical laws. Jardín Labastida is south of Sto. Domingo Church.

Antonio de **León** y Loyola, (1794 - 1847). Born near Huajuapán, Oaxaca. Defeated the Spanish in the final battle in Oaxaca of the War of Independence, and in 1834 became Oaxaca's governor. In 1847 he fought against the Americans at Molino del Rey, near Mexico City, and died trying to prevent them from reaching Chapultepec Castle. La Alameda de León is the plaza in front of the Cathedral.



Benito Juárez



P. A. de Labastida



Antonio de León

José **López** Alavez, (1889 - 1974). Native of Huajuapán de León, Oaxaca. Musician and composer, he wrote the nostalgic "Canción Mixteca" while stationed in Querétaro during the Revolution. This song is still immensely popular in Mexico, especially in Oaxaca where it is practically an anthem. Calle José López Alavez is the main north-south street of Xochimilco.

Ignacio **López** Rayón, (1773 - 1832). Native of Michoacán. He was Secretary of State under Miguel Hidalgo and took charge of the northern campaign of the war following Hidalgo's death. (Morelos was the general in the south.) López Rayón was responsible for the decisive victory in the Battle of Zacatecas. Calle López Rayón -- commonly called "Rayón" -- is in the southeast quadrant of the city.

Juan **López** de Zárate, (1490 - 1555). Native of Oviedo, Spain. In 1535 he became the first bishop of the Diocese of Antequera (now Oaxaca), and held that post for twenty years. During this time he oversaw the construction of Oaxaca's cathedral. Calle Zárate is a short street just east of Llano Park.



J. López Alavez



I. López Rayón



J. López de Zárate

Francisco **Madero**, (1873 - 1913). Scion of a wealthy Coahuila family, he was an ideologue and the leader of the Revolution that overthrew Porfirio Díaz. He was duly elected President of Mexico upon Díaz's defeat. His presidency lasted only 15 months, as he was overthrown and executed, along with his vice-president José María Pino Suárez, by General Victoriano Huerta. Calle Madero is the western extension of Av. Independencia.

**Mártires de Tacubaya.** The Martyrs of Tacubaya were the soldiers of Benito Juárez's Liberal faction who were captured and executed by firing squad on April 11, 1859, following their defeat at the Battle of Tacubaya during the Reform War. Calle Mártires de Tacubaya is on the east side of Oaxaca.

Mariano **Matamoros**, (1770 - 1814). Native of Mexico City, he was a priest who became a soldier and fought for Mexico's independence in Puebla and Oaxaca. He was one of Morelos' generals who helped win the Battle of Oaxaca in 1812. Was the leader of various other battles, as well, but in 1814 was captured by the royalists in Valladolid (now Morelia) and executed by firing squad.



Francisco Madero



Mariano Matamoros

Margarita **Maza** de Juárez, (1826-71). A native of Oaxaca who became the wife of Benito Juárez. She was twenty years his junior, and was the mother of their twelve children. She was from a well-to-do family of Spanish descent, whereas Juárez was a pure-blooded Zapoteco, so their marriage was very unusual. She was also highly educated and enjoyed discussing the events of the day, making her a remarkable woman for that time. Calle Margarita Maza de Juárez is one block north of Llano Park.

Nuño del **Mercado**. No historical figure by this name was found. However, one of the conquistadores of Oaxaca was Juan *Núñez* del Mercado. Calle Nuño del Mercado is on the south side of the city.

Manuel **Mier y Terán**, (1789 - 1832). Native of Mexico City. As a colonel in the War of Independence, he won most of the state of Puebla for the rebels, and was instrumental in the Battle of Oaxaca in 1812. He was promoted to general, and, in 1832, was a candidate for President of Mexico. Calle Mier y Terán is south of Soledad Church.

Francisco Javier **Mina**, (1789 - 1817). A native of Pamplona, Spain, who fought with the Spanish army against Napoleon's occupying forces. After helping defeat the French in Spain, he made his way to Mexico and joined the latter stages of the independence movement against what he considered to be the tyranny of his own king. In 1817 he was captured by Spanish forces and executed. Calle Mina is in the southwest quadrant of Oaxaca.



M. Maza de Juárez



M. Mier y Terán



Francisco J. Mina

**Moctezuma II**, (1466 - 1520). Emperor of the Mexicas, or Aztecs, when Cortés arrived in Tenochtitlán in 1519. Legend has it that he thought that Cortés might be the man-god Quetzalcóatl who had promised to return "from the east" one day. Moctezuma, immensely powerful, had greatly expanded the Aztec Empire, but he lost it to Cortés in 1521 and is therefore considered to be responsible for its downfall. Calle Moctezuma is a one-block street in the far south of the city.

Jose María **Morelos** y Pavón, (1765 - 1815). Native of Valladolid (now Morelia) Michoacán. He was a priest and revolutionary rebel leader who, after the execution of Miguel Hidalgo, assumed the leadership of the independence movement in southern Mexico, including the State of México, Puebla, Oaxaca, and the area now occupied by the states of Morelos and Guerrero. Among his many victories was the Battle of Oaxaca in 1812. The state of Morelos and his native city were named for him. Calle Morelos is one of Oaxaca's three main east-west streets.

José María **Murguía**, (1758 - ?). Native of Oaxaca, he was the President of the Congress of Chilpancingo in 1813, where Mexico's declaration of independence was written and signed. After the war, he served as Oaxaca's first governor, from 1823 to 1824.



Moctezuma II



José Ma. Morelos



José Ma. Murguía

Amado **Nervo**, (1870 - 1919). Native of the State of Nayarit, then a part of Jalisco. He was a poet, novelist, and essayist of the modernist movement. He served as Mexico's ambassador to Argentina and Uruguay, and died in Montevideo at the age of 48. Calle Amado Nervo is a one-block street just north of Conzatti Park.

**Netzahualcóyotl**, (1402 - 1472). ("Hungry Coyote" in Náhuatl). He was the king of the city-state of Texcoco who allied his people with those of Tenochtitlán and Tlacopan to form the Triple Alliance. In addition to being Texcoco's ruler, he was a scholar, philosopher, poet, architect, and engineer. He designed and build an impressive aqueduct system, as well as the dyke in Lake Texcoco that separated fresh from brackish water and which was still in use a century after his death. Calle Netzahualcóyotl is in Colonia Reforma, just north of the ADO bus station.

**Niños Héroes** de Chapultepec. Six teenage military cadets who died in 1847 defending Chapultepec Castle against the invading American army under Gen. Winfield Scott. Their names were: Francisco Márquez, Agustín Melgar, Fernando Montes de Oca, Vicente Suárez, Juan Escutia, and Juan de la Barrera. Several streets on the southwest side of Oaxaca bear their individual names, and the full name of Oaxaca's major northern thoroughfare is "Calzada Niños Héroes de Chapultepec."



Amado Nervo



Netzahualcóyotl

(Images not available)

Niños Héroes de Chapultepec

Melchor **Ocampo**, (1814 - 1861). Anticlerical governor of Michoacán, imprisoned by President Santa Anna, exiled in Cuba and then New Orleans where he met Benito Juárez. Together they planned the overthrow of Santa Anna. He held various cabinet positions in Juárez's administrations. Was the chief architect of "Laws of Reform," especially those regarding the separation of Church and State and the nationalization of Church properties. Calle Melchor Ocampo is the continuation of Avenida Benito Juárez.

Faustino **Olivera** Velázquez, (1886 - 1914). Native of Santiaguillo ETLA, Oaxaca. He was an elementary school teacher who joined the Revolution to fight for land reform in the ETLA Valley. He was captured and killed by Oaxaca state government forces. Calle Faustino Olivera is a few blocks north of Mercado Sánchez Pascuas.

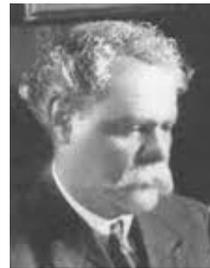
Dr. Ramón **Pardo** Galindo, (1871 - 1940). Native of Oaxaca, pioneer anesthesiologist who performed the first epidural (spinal) anesthesia in Mexico at the Hospital de la Caridad in Oaxaca in 1900. He served as the director of the Instituto de Ciencias y Artes de Oaxaca, later named UABJO. Calle Dr. Ramón Pardo is a one-block street in front of Iglesia de San Francisco in the south of the city.



Melchor Ocampo



Faustino Olivera



Dr. Ramón Pardo

Marcos **Pérez** Santiago, (1805 - 1861). Native of the Sierra Norte de Oaxaca. Distinguished lawyer, served on the State Supreme Court and as Governor of Oaxaca in 1860. Calle Marcos Pérez is a few blocks north of Mercado Sánchez Pascuas in the northwest quadrant.

José María **Pino** Suárez, (1869 - 1913). As a journalist, lawyer, poet, and governor of Yucatán, he was an outspoken opponent of the oppressive conditions of the henequén (sisal) workers in Yucatán. Later he aligned himself with Francisco Madero during the Mexican Revolution, and became Madero's vice-president after Porfirio Díaz was defeated. In 1913 their government was overthrown by the forces of Victoriano Huerta, and he and Madero were executed. Pino Suárez was Mexico's last vice-president.

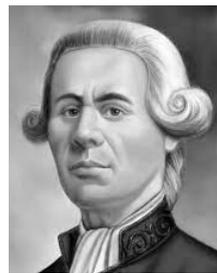
Francisco **Primo** de Verdad, (1760 - 1803). Native of Jalisco. Lawyer, politician, and student of the American and French Revolutions, he was one of the first proponents of Mexico's independence from Spain. He died in prison where he was held by the Spanish authorities. Calle Lic. Primo de Verdad is a short street east of Llano Park.



Marcos Pérez



J. M. Pino Suárez



F. Primo de  
Verdad

Nicolás del **Puerto**. No historical figure by this name was found. Calle Nicolás del Puerto is a short street near Mercado de la Merced.

**Quetzalcóatl**, (meaning "plumed serpent" in Náhuatl) is the Mesoamerican deity believed to be the creator of mankind. The Toltecs, and later the Aztecs, also considered him to be an actual person, a king of Tula, who lived between 999 and 1051. It is said that Moctezuma believed that Hernán Cortés might be the personification of Quetzalcóatl, who, according to legend, was light-skinned and bearded and had vowed to return one day "from the east." The confusion reputedly helped Cortés defeat the far more numerous Aztecs in 1521. Calle Quetzalcóatl is in the city's northwest quadrant.

Andrés **Quintana** Roo, (1787 - 1851). Native of Yucatán. He was one of the most influential men in the War of Independence, presiding over the drafting of the Declaration of Independence of 1813. He served in the Chamber of Deputies and the Supreme Court, and founded several influential newspapers. The State of Quintana Roo is named for him. Calle Quintana Roo leads south from Jardín Conzatti.

**Rayón**. See: Ignacio **López** Rayón

Manuel **Sabino** Crespo, (1778 - 1814). Native of Taniche, Oaxaca (in the Ocotlán Valley). He was a priest who, in 1812, joined Morelos in Oaxaca to fight for Mexico's independence. He was captured by the Spanish forces and executed by firing squad.



(Images not available.)

Andrés Quintana Roo

Quetzalcóatl

M. Sabino Crespo

Nuestra Señora de la **Soledad** ("Our Lady of Solitude"). A form of Marian worship commemorates the solitude of the Virgin Mary on Holy Saturday. Soledad, believed to be an embodiment of Mary, is the patron saint of Oaxaca, and her feast day is December 18. The *Basilica de la Soledad* is located on Independencia, five blocks west of the Cathedral.

Pino **Suárez**. See: Jose María **Pino** Suárez

Rufino **Tamayo**, (1899 - 1991). Oaxacan painter of Zapotec heritage. Internationally acclaimed artist known for abstract and surrealistic works. Calle Rufino Tamayo is the northern extension of García Vigil.

Felipe **Tinoco** and Catarino **Palacios**. Young Oaxacan insurgents, followers of Hidalgo. In 1811 they were publicly executed and decapitated, and their heads prominently displayed in cages.

Valerio **Trujano**, (1767 - 1812). Native of what is now the state of Guerrero. He was a colonel in Morelos' army and fought in Puebla and later successfully resisted the siege of Huajuapán, Oaxaca. This siege lasted 111 days, the longest in the war. He died in combat near Tehuacán, Puebla. Calle Trujano is in Oaxaca's southwest quadrant.



N. Sra. de la Soledad



Rufino Tamayo



Valerio Trujano

Dr. Aurelio **Valdivieso**, (1855 - 1925). Native of Juchitán, Oaxaca. He was a distinguished physician as well as a federal senator. After his political career in Mexico City he returned to Oaxaca and became the Director of the Military Hospital as well as Director of the University of Arts & Sciences (later named UABJO). Calle Valdivieso is a short street on the east side of the Cathedral.

Leandro **Valle**, (1833 - 1861). Native of Mexico City. He graduated from the Colegio Militar at the age of 14 and fought against the Americans during the Mexican War ("La Guerra de la Intervención Estadounidense"). At the age of 26 he was promoted to general for the Liberals under Benito Juárez during the Reform War, and at 28 he was captured by the opposing Conservatives and executed by firing squad. Calle Leandro Valle is in the southeast quadrant of the city.

Eduardo **Vasconcelos**, (1896 - 1953). Native of Oaxaca. Congressman, Secretary of Public Education, and Governor of Oaxaca from 1947 to 1950. The baseball stadium and the major thoroughfare on the east side of the city were named for him.



Dr. A. Valdivieso



Leandro Valle



Eduardo  
Vasconcelos

José **Vasconcelos**, (1882 - 1959). Native of Oaxaca. Writer, educator, and ally of Francisco Madero, he became Mexico's first Secretary of Public Education and Rector of the UNAM (the National University of Mexico). He rejected Porfirio Díaz's desire to "Europeanize" Mexico, in favor of building a modern society that took pride in Mexico's history and culture. There is a short street on the north side of the city named for him, but more importantly, the Universidad Vasconcelos on Calle Crespo bears his name.

**Vega.** This is a common Spanish surname, but the author could not find an historical figure for whom this street might have been named. "Vega" also means "plain" or "meadow," so perhaps in colonial times there was a meadow here. Calle Vega is on the south side of Oaxaca.

Lic. **Verdad.** See: Francisco **Primo** de Verdad

Guadalupe **Victoria** (1786 - 1843). His real name was José Miguel Fernández y Félix, but he legally changed it upon his promotion to general. He was a native of what is now the state of Durango. He served as a colonel under Morelos and fought with him in the Battles of Cuautla, Oaxaca, and Veracruz. After independence was won in 1821, Agustín de Iturbide proclaimed himself emperor, but two years later he was exiled to Europe and a constitutional assembly was established in which Guadalupe Victoria was elected as the first President of Mexico. Calle Guadalupe Victoria is in the southwest quadrant of Oaxaca.



José Vasconcelos



Guadalupe Victoria

**Xicoténcatl** (? - 1521) Tlaxcalan king who initially opposed Cortés, but later aided him in the conquest of Tenochtitlán. Later still, he was accused of treason by Cortés and was executed by him. Xicoténcatl (and Tlaxcalans generally) is at times considered a hero, at times a traitor to the native peoples. Calle Xicoténcatl is the continuation of Calle Pino Suárez.

**Xóchitl**, (? - 916). Náhuatl word meaning "flower." According to legend, Xóchitl was a Toltec queen, although her actual existence is questionable. She and her father were the reputed discoverers of pulque, the intoxicating beverage made from the honey of the maguey plant. Xóchitl has become a popular first name for girls. Calle Xóchitl is on the southeast side of Oaxaca.

**Xólotl**. The god of fire and lightning in Aztec mythology. He was commonly depicted as a dog-headed man and was a soul-guide for the dead. He was also the god of twins, monsters, misfortune, sickness, and deformities. A Chichimeca king by the name of Xólotl was said to be the founder of Texcoco in 1115 AD. Calle Xólotl is a one-block pedestrian street between García Vigil and Macedonio Alcalá, next to the Arquitos.



(Images not available.)

Xicoténcatl

Xóchitl

Xólotl

Emiliano **Zapata**, (1879 - 1919). Native of Morelos. Commander of the Liberation Army of the South during the Revolution. He fought for social justice and agrarian reform, and was known for his slogan "Tierra y Libertad." Along with Villa, he lost the struggle against Carranza and Obregón for control of the Revolution. Zapata has assumed near-cult status in recent times. There is a Calle Emiliano Zapata in the southeast quadrant of Oaxaca, as well as a major street by that name in Colonia Reforma.

Ignacio **Zaragoza**, (1829 - 1862). Born in what is now Texas (then Mexico). He fought against the Americans in the Mexican-American War, was a general under Juárez during the Reform War, and served as Juárez's Minister of War. He is best remembered as the hero of the Battle of Puebla, May 5, 1862, defeating the French, then considered the strongest army in the world. Calle Zaragoza is in the southwest quadrant of Oaxaca.

**Zárate**. See: Juan **López** de Zárate



Emiliano Zapata



Ignacio Zaragoza

## Streets honoring important dates in Mexican history

**16 de septiembre.** Miguel Hidalgo proclaimed Mexico's independence on this day in 1810.

**5 de mayo.** Mexican forces were victorious over the French army at the Battle of Puebla on this day in 1862.

**20 de noviembre.** The Revolution against Porfirio Díaz began on this day in 1910.

**5 de febrero.** A new Constitution was signed on this day in 1917.

## Streets honoring major events in Mexican history

La **Independencia.** The victory of Mexico over Spain in 1821 after eleven years of conflict.

La **Reforma.** A series of reforms, including the Constitution of 1857, which were enacted following the overthrow of José López de Santa Anna.

La **Revolución .** The uprising against the dictator Porfirio Díaz which began in 1910 and which involved many changes of government through the 1910s and 1920s.

La **Constitución.** There have been two major constitutions: the one enacted in 1857 during the Reform, and the one enacted in 1917 after the Revolution which remains in effect today.

## Major figures in Mexican history whose names are not on any of Oaxaca's streets (listed in chronological order)

**Hernán Cortés**, (1485 - 1547). Conqueror of the Aztecs in 1521, as well as other indigenous groups. Native of Medellín, Spain. Arriving on the Gulf Coast, Cortés allied himself with some indigenous peoples against the Aztecs. He also used a native woman, Doña Marina, a.k.a. Malinche, as his interpreter, and she became the mother of his first son. After he overthrew the Aztec Empire, Cortés was awarded the title of Marqués del Valle de Oaxaca, while the more prestigious title of Viceroy was given to a high-ranking nobleman, Antonio de Mendoza. In 1541 Cortés returned to Spain, where he died six years later of natural causes.

Antonio de **Mendoza**, (1495 - 1552). The first Viceroy of New Spain, serving from 1535 to 1550. During his term of office, Mendoza is credited with consolidating the sovereignty of the Crown throughout the Spanish conquests in New Spain and with limiting the powers and ambitions of the first conquistadores, including Cortés. Many of the political and economic policies he established endured throughout the entire colonial period. His administration did much to bring stability and peace to New Spain. He later became the Viceroy of Peru, where he died. Cape Mendocino in California was named in his honor in 1565.



Hernán Cortés



Antonio de Mendoza

Sor (Sister) Juana Inés **de la Cruz**, (1648 - 1695). Native of a village in the foothills of Popocatépetl. Writer, philosopher, composer, and poet, she was an extraordinary woman for her time. Self-educated in her grandfather's library, at 19 she entered a convent where she began writing on such topics as love, feminism, and religion. In addition to Spanish, she was fluent in both Latin and Náhuatl. Along with Cervantes and others, she is considered one of the major writers of the Spanish Golden Age.

Josefa **Ortiz** de Domínguez, (1768 - 1829). Born in Valladolid (now Morelia), Michoacán. She was one of the first conspirators in favor of Mexico's independence from Spain. As the wife of the *corregidor* (chief magistrate) of Querétaro, she held meetings in her home, ostensibly "literary discussions," whose true objective was to plot the overthrow of Spanish rule in New Spain. Also in attendance were the patriots Miguel Hidalgo, Ignacio Allende, and Juan Aldama, among others. Their conspiracy was discovered, and Josefa Ortiz spent most of the next ten years in prison, until independence was won in 1821.

Agustín de **Iturbide**, (1783 - 1824). Native of Valladolid (now Morelia). He fought most of the Independence War against the rebels, capturing and executing Morelos in 1815. He switched sides in order to form a coalition that finally achieved independence, with himself as Emperor. He reigned briefly as Agustín I until his exile in 1823. He is credited with designing the Mexican flag, the three colors representing his "Tres Garantías," i.e. freedom (from Spain), religion (Catholicism), and union (of the Mexican people).



Sor Juan Inés  
de la Cruz



Josefa Ortiz de  
Domínguez



Agustín de Iturbide

**Antonio López de Santa Anna**, (1794 - 1876). Native of Xalapa, Veracruz. First elected President in 1833, he served in that capacity for eleven non-consecutive terms over the course of 22 years. Considered responsible for Mexico's many losses: Texas in 1834, the "Pastry War" in 1838, the war with the U.S. from 1846 to '48 (resulting in the loss of most of what is now the southwestern U.S.), and the Gadsden Purchase in 1853 (essentially a gift to the U.S.) Mexico lost approximately half of its territory under his leadership.

**Maximiliano I**, (1832 - 1867). An Austrian archduke who, appointed by Napoleon III, reigned as the only Emperor of the Second Mexican Empire from April of 1864 until his execution in June of 1867. Residing in the Castle of Chapultepec with his wife Carlotta, his presence as emperor was never popular among most Mexicans, and as the last of the French troops withdrew from Mexico in 1867, Maximilian was arrested and executed by firing squad in Querétaro.

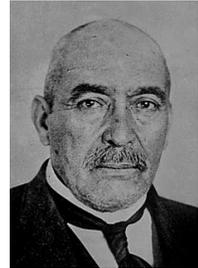
**Victoriano Huerta**, (1854 - 1916). A native of Jalisco, he was an army general under Porfirio Díaz who came to power by a coup against the democratically elected Francisco Madero. His violent seizure of power set off a new wave of armed conflict in the Mexican Revolution, leading ultimately to his defeat by the forces of Venustiano Carranza, Álvaro Obregón, and Pancho Villa. His presidency lasted only 17 months, from 1913 - 14. He is still vilified as an anti-Revolutionary in the eyes of most Mexicans.



Antonio López  
de Santa Anna



Maximiliano I



Victoriano Huerta

Francisco "Pancho" **Villa**, (1878 - 1923). His real name was Doroteo Arango. He was a revolutionary from Chihuahua who was instrumental in the defeat of the dictator Victoriano Huerta. He expropriated large haciendas in the north and distributed them to peasants and soldiers. Along with Zapata, he lost the struggle against Carranza and Obregón for control of the Revolution.

Álvaro **Obregón**, (1880 - 1928). Prosperous rancher from Sonora, he joined the Revolution after Victoriano Huerta's coup, serving as a capable general under Venustiano Carranza. After defeating Huerta and later the alliance between Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata, he was elected President, succeeding Carranza. His term, 1920 to 1924, was the first stable presidency since the beginning of the Revolution in 1910 and was known for education reform, land reform, and labor laws.

Plutarco **Elías Calles**, (1877 - 1945). Native of Guaymas, Sonora. He served under Venustiano Carranza in the Revolution and succeeded Álvaro Obregón as President of Mexico in 1924. He is most noted for founding the P.R.I., and for being the kingmaker of the three puppet presidents who succeeded him, each of whom served a two-year term. After this six-year "consolidation of the Revolution," every President has served a six-year term, beginning with Lázaro Cárdenas.



Francisco Villa



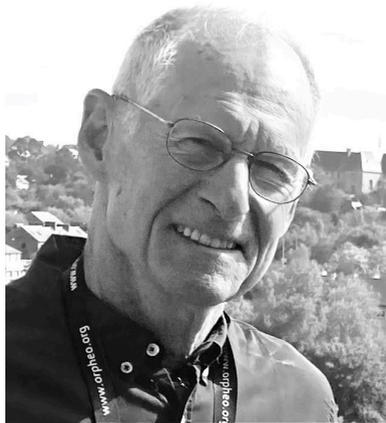
Álvaro Obregón



Plutarco Elías  
Calles

## About the author

Robert Ogden was born in Michigan, but lived in Mexico City between the ages of 9 and 18 where he attended a bilingual school. After graduating from Cornell University in 1970, he served in the Peace Corps in Peru and then worked for three years for an American firm in Spain. He later earned his master's degree in foreign language education from Syracuse University and was a Spanish teacher in a public school in Syracuse, NY, until his retirement in 2012. Since then, he and his wife Kathy spend six months per year in Oaxaca, true to his youthful vow that he would someday return to Mexico to live.



Those of us who live in Oaxaca -- Mexicans and foreigners alike -- let the names of the city's streets slide off our tongues without a second thought: Matamoros, Murguía, García Vigil. But who were these people, and why they have been honored with a street name? This guide provides a brief biography, and an image where possible, of the people whose names grace a street, plaza, park, or church in the city of Oaxaca.

Unlike cities which simply number their streets, Oaxaca has chosen to name its streets in recognition of its many heroes: from Aztec gods and Zapotec kings to Catholic saints; from patriots of the Independence movement to those who liberated Mexico from the French and American occupations; from Porfirio Díaz to the heroes of the Mexican Revolution and beyond. To stroll around our city is to be constantly reminded of Mexico's fascinating history; I hope this guide will enhance that experience for you.