



From the Office of Certified Genealogist & Researcher

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A Study on the Valenzuela Lineage of Anthony Morales (b. 1947)

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By Lorraine Escobar, CG/NAL

Preface

It has been my professional observation far too many people are seriously misled by erroneous and imperfect genealogical methods employed by the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, first in 1928, then in 1950 and then again in 1969. [While this report does not include such background for this statement, a report is available upon request.] It is amazing how many people, who find relatives who were enrolled in the California Indian Jurisdictional Act (1928), ***do not do their homework and take it for granted the Bureau of Indians have done it for them.*** So now there are people whose ancestors appear the rolls but whose genealogy is disproven by modern genealogical methods. One cannot help but wonder how some people make up the stories they do. It is one thing to try to make sense of your family’s history but it is quite another to spin a yarn just to have it all unravel when it counts the most. It is my hope Mr. Morales will understand his mistake and attempt to make things right – not just for himself, but for the real Gabrieleno Indians.

Introduction

At the request of Chairman Andrew Salas, Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians [Kizh Nation], in response to the claims Anthony Morales makes regarding his Valenzuela relatives, I agreed to conduct a genealogical investigation on the facts of this lineage. After an in-depth and lengthy research effort, the results are conclusive – ***none of Morales’s Valenzuela ancestors possessed any California Indian heritage.***

Acronyms for the Footnotes and Citations

- B = Baptism
- BP = Santa Barbara Presidio (Santa Barbara, California)
- C = Confirmation
- CIJA = May 18, 1928 Congressional California Indian Jurisdictional Act
- CME = California Mission Extracts, as compiled by Thomas Workman Temple II, Cindy Buglio, Marie E. Northrop, et al.
- D = Burial
- ECPP = The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project database, 2006
- LA = La Plaza Church (Los Angeles, California)
- LPC = Mission La Purisima de la Concepcion (Lompoc, California)
- M = Marriage
- SB = Mission Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara, California)

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SFR = Mission San Fernando Rey (Los Angeles, Mission Hills District, California)
SG = Mission San Gabriel (San Gabriel, California)
SLR = Mission San Luis Rey (near Oceanside, California)
SI = Mission Santa Inez (Solvang, California)
SBV = Mission San Buenaventura (San Buenaventura, California)

Morales's Erroneous Claim re: Valenzuela Side Relatives were Full-Blood Gabrielino

The following excerpts, from the book, *O, My Ancestors*, are included herein as evidence of Morales's claims about his ancestry regarding the Valenzuela side:¹

- AM [Anthony Morales] ... She [Ruby Jimenez] and ***Grandma Modesta*** used to go to the meetings in Santa Ana. ... She was about five, six years old, and the ***grandmother, who was full-blood Gabrielino*** from San Gabriel, would travel to Santa Ana ...” [Emphasis added]
- AM ... Our land grant didn't really come through him, it came through the ***Valenzuela side because they were full-blood Gabrielino***, and also involved. I'm speaking about my dad's side—"Captain" would have been my great-great-grandfather. He was active, in the church records. ***Then on the other side—we have Gabrielino on both sides—the Valenzuela side***, they were always very active—all indicated by the land grant issued to my great-great-grandfathers.” [Emphasis added]

It takes several generations but all of Modesta's lineages are traced to Mexico. A pedigree chart is included in this report to assist the reader in tracking every generation as it is discussed.

Morales's Paternal Grandmother – Olegaria Modesta [aka Maude] [nee: Valenzuela] Morales (1878-1958)

According to her baptism certificate, ***Olegaria Modesta Valenzuela*** was born ***January 6, 1878*** and baptized at Mission San Gabriel on March 8th of the same year.² Her parents were identified as ***Fr[ancisc]o Valenzuela*** and ***Ge[r]trudes Quinteros***. There was no indication anyone in this family was Indian.

Modesta Valenzia [Valenzuela] was enumerated, at ***20*** years old, in the 1900 U.S. federal census, living in the San Gabriel Township, with her parents – ***Francisco Valenzia*** [Valenzuela] and ***Gertrude***, his wife – and six siblings.³ The family was identified as ***W[hite]***.

¹ Jurmain, Claudia & McCawley, William, *O, My Ancestor*, “A Conversation with Anthony Morales” (Berkeley: Heyday, 2009), pp. 273-77. Photocopy not provided.

² Valenzuela, Olegaria Modesta (1878), baptism certificate issued by Mission San Gabriel (San Gabriel, California), 1 Feb 2010; electronic photocopy provided by Andrew Salas.

³ Francisco Valenzia household, 1900 U.S. census, CA, Los Angeles Co., San Gabriel Township, SD 6, ED 125, sheet 25 A, dwelling 532, family 585; online at www.Ancestry.com, image 66.

According to the marriage record of **David Morales** and **Matti (Modesta) Valenzuela**, she was married on **January 20, 1906**, at Mission San Gabriel.⁴ Her age was given as **25** and her parents were identified as **Fran[cis]co** [Valenzuela] and **Gertrudis Quintero**. There was no indication any were Indian.

In the 1910 census, for San Gabriel Township, **Modesta Morales** and her family were identified as **Other** rather than White, as previously recorded.⁵ However, in the 1920 and 1930 censuses, **Maude** [Modesta] **Morales** was again identified as **White**.⁶ The 1930 census further indicated she was **Spanish**.

Despite not having any modern identification as Indian, in 1954, **Olegaria Modesta** [nee: Valenzuela] **Morales** successfully enrolled in the California Indian Jurisdictional Act.⁷ This acceptance was based on two circumstances, neither of which relied on reliable data:

1. If any relative was listed on the previously established 1933 California Indian Judgment Rolls; and,
2. If there was any evidence presented to support the claim (i.e. letters of support).

In response to the enrollment for the Congressional May 1928 California Indian Jurisdictional Act [CIJA], three of Modesta's relatives applied and were accepted for the 1933 California Indian Judgment rolls:

- Julian Valenzuela, Nephew, roll #23415
- Bernardino Valenzuela, Nephew, roll #23416
- Anita Valenzuela Urtasun, Niece, roll #23376

All of these persons were the children of Modesta's brother – Julian Valenzuela – and his part-Indian wife, Feliciana. **Feliciana (nee: Perez) Valenzuela Verdugo** enrolled, in 1928, with two children she had from Julian Valenzuela (brother to Modesta) and other children she had from her last husband, **Inez Verdugo**.⁸ [Anita completed her own application.] Feliciana claimed her father – **Francisco Perez** – was a full-blood Indian and that her

⁴ SG-M (20 Jan 1906), David Morales & Matti Valenzuela; CME.

⁵ Household of David Morales, 1910 U.S. federal census, California, Los Angeles County, San Gabriel Precinct, District 326, Old El Monte, Dwelling 139, Family 155; Sheet 7B; source: Ancestry.com, 1910 U.S. federal census, California, Los Angeles, San Gabriel, image 14.

⁶ 1) Household of Dave Morales, 1920 U.S. federal census, California, Los Angeles County, San Gabriel Township, District 571, Sheet 21B, La Mesa Drive, Dwelling 553, Family 559; source: Ancestry.com, 1920 U.S. federal census, California, Los Angeles, San Gabriel, image 42; and 2) David B. Morales household, 1930 U.S. federal census, CA, Los Angeles Co., San Gabriel Township, ED 1437, SD 18, sheet 5B, 738 South Earle St., dwelling & family 127; source: www.Ancestry.com, 1930 U.S. census, CA, LA, SG, district 1437, image 11.

⁷ Morales, Olegaria Modesta; 1954 CIJA application; 5 pages; electronic photocopy provided by Chairman Andrew Salas.

⁸ Verdugo, Feliciana Valenzuela; 1928 CIJA application #11213; RG 75; National Archive of Records Administration; electronic photocopy provided by Chairman Andrew Salas.

mother – **Francisca Elisalde** – was not Indian.⁹ And, although she does not mention her first husband – **Julian Valenzuela** – by name on her application, she indicated he was a full-blooded Indian through the total claimed Indian blood-quantum of her two Valenzuela children – Julian and Bernardino. The tribe she claimed was **Mission Indian San Gabriel**.

What is unusual about Feliciana's 1928 application is absolutely no information was provided about Julian Valenzuela or his lineage. However, as the evidence will bear out, he possessed no Indian blood whatsoever. But, due to the less-than-perfect evidentiary requirements of that enrollment process, this lack of proof was overlooked. And, due to the piggy-back nature of the second and third CIJA enrollment events (reliant on the 1928/1933 enrollment), even more mistakes were made and continue to be made today.¹⁰

Further exacerbating the lack of good genealogical evidence and methodology, in 1951, Thomas Workman Temple II, a scribe very familiar with the California Mission record, had written a support letter for Modesta:

*This is to certify that an authority on the genealogy of the California families in this area, I know that the bearer, Olegaria Modesta Valenzuela de Perez Morales, has been known to me for the last thirty years, and is a direct lineal descendant of Maria Dominga Alvitre, #9 on chart I attached hereto, who was a San Gabriel Mission Indian, to the best of my knowledge and belief ...*¹¹

As the evidence will also bear out, Dominga Alvitre, and her husband, did not possess any Indian blood whatsoever. Temple may have had significant exposure to the mission record but he certainly demonstrated no ability to properly assess the records he saw.¹²

So, in 1954, Modesta enrolled and was approved for the CIJA claim. She claimed her Indian ancestors were her parents – **Francisco Valenzuela** and **Gertrude Zuintero** [Quintero], her paternal grandfather – **Jose Valenzuela** – and her maternal grandmother – **Maria Rita Burmudes** – all whom lived in San Gabriel. [Residency is not evidence of an aboriginal Indian heritage from the same place. And, the blood of her sister-in-law did not run in her veins, her brother's veins, or her children's veins. That is simply the law of biology.] The evidence tells a very different story and refutes Modesta's claims about her heritage.

⁹ As a note, this statement is based on completed research on the Perez lineage which is not the focus of this report and therefore is not discussed or cited. If necessary, the related evidence can be produced upon request of Chairman Andrew Salas, who hired me to do the research.

¹⁰ For example, Isabel (nee: Valenzuela) Perez also applied and was accepted in the second CIJA enrollment event – no doubt because of the assumption made about her brother, Julian Valenzuela, on Feliciana's 1928 CIJA application. For example, see Morales, Vivian; Relationship Chart for Persons Born after May 18, 1928 (1953), relative to the 2nd CIJA enrollment; electronic photocopy provided by Andrew Salas.

¹¹ Letter To Whom It May Concern, from Thomas Workman Temple II, re: Olegaria Modesta Valenzuela de Morales, dated 12 Mar 1951; electronic copy provided by Andrew Salas.

¹² This author has personally investigated seen four letters, written by Mr. Temple, stating his facts as truth but were proved in error when compared to the evidence and improved genealogical proof standards.

Modesta Olga [Olegaria] **Valenzuela Morales** died on **June 21, 1958**, in Los Angeles County.¹³

Modesta's Father – Francisco Antonio Valenzuela (1851-1927)

The Mission San Gabriel baptism record for **Fran[cis]co Antonio Valenzuela** indicated he was baptized on December 15, 1851.¹⁴ The record also stated he was the legitimate son of **Jose Valenzuela** and **Soledad Duarte**. He was likely a day or two old at the time of his baptism. There was no indication any member of that family was Indian.

On December 26, 1874, **Francisco Valenzuela** married **Gertrudis Quintero**, at Mission San Gabriel.¹⁵ His parents were identified as **Jos[e Valenzuela]** and **Soledad Duarte**. There was no indication in this record any of the wedding parties or relatives was Indian.

While living in **San Gabriel Township**, Francisco **Valenzia** [Valenzuela] was enumerated in the 1900 and 1920 U.S. federal censuses, with his wife, **Gertrude**, and various children and grandchildren. In both censuses, he and his wife were identified as **W[hite]**.

According to his daughter, Modesta, Francisco Valenzuela died on **March 1, 1927**.¹⁶

Modesta's Paternal Grandparents – Jose [Casimiro de Alta Gracia] Valenzuela (1825-bef 1863) & Maria Soledad Duarte (abt 1826-1863)

Jose Valenzuela, as we know him through the records of his son's baptism and marriage, was identified as **27 years old** (born approx 1824) in his marriage record to **Maria Soledad Duarte**.¹⁷ That marriage took place on **March 26, 1851**, at Mission San Gabriel. He was identified as being a native of Santa Barbara and his parents were named as **Jose Antonio** [Valenzuela] and **Dominga Alvitre**.

The marriage record indicated **Jose Valenzuela** was born in approximately 1824. However, no baptism record could be found this ego born in 1824. However, there is a baptism record for **Jose Casimiro de Alta Gracia Valenzuela**, at Mission Santa Barbara, baptized March 4, 1825.¹⁸ His parents were identified as the same parents mentioned in the marriage – **Jose Antonio Valenzuela** and **Maria Dominga Albitre**. It is highly likely the

¹³ Modesta Olga Valenzuela Morales (1958), California Death Index, 1940-1997; source: Ancestry.com.

¹⁴ SG-B 9197 (15 Dec 1851), Fran.co Antonio Valenzuela; FHL microfilm 2644.

¹⁵ SG-M 326 (26 Dec 1874), Francisco Valenzuela & Gertrudis Quintero; CME.

¹⁶ Morales, Olegaria Modesta; 1954 CIJA application.

¹⁷ SG-M (26 Mar 1851), Jose Valenzuela & Maria Soledad Duarte; CME.

¹⁸ BP-B 684 (4 Mar 1825), Jose Casimiro de Alta Gracia Valenzuela; *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006*. Only transcript provided.

recording priests made a slight error in recording his age at the time of his marriage.¹⁹ None the less, these parents are the same parents.

In the marriage record for Jose Valenzuela and the baptism record for Jose Casimiro de Alta Gracia Valenzuela, there was no mention of any of the individuals or family members as Indian. Rather, the baptism record indicated that the parents were *razon* [taken from the term – *gente de razon*, literally *people of reason* – used to describe non-Indians].

As for Maria Soledad Duarte, her marriage record infers she, along with her parents, were native to Loreto, Mexico. Accordingly, no baptism record can be found for this individual in the California Mission record although she was born around 1826. At the time *Soledad Duarte* died, in February, 1863, she was already the *widow* of *Jos[e] Valenzuela*.²⁰ No additional information could be located on his death, but it can be safely presumed he died before she did.

Jose Valenzuela's parents – Joseph Antonio de Jesus Valenzuela (1793-after 1850) & Dominga Alvitre (1805-after 1850)

According to the baptism record for *Joseph Antonio de Jesus Valenzuela*, he was born on or before September 20, 1793, the day he was baptized at Mission La Purisima (located in present day Lompoc, California).²¹ His parents were identified as *Joseph Manuel Valenzuela*, a soldier of the Company of the *Santa Barbara Presidio*, and *Maria Concepcion Armenta*. There was no indication that the child or his parents were Indian.

When *Jose Antonio Valenzuela* married *Maria Dominga Alvitre*, on January 14, 1818, at Mission San Gabriel, the abstracted record indicated he was native to *Santa Barbara*.²² His age was not given but his parents were erroneously recorded as *Pedro* [Valenzuela] and *Dolores Parra*.²³ The reference to Santa Barbara was, no doubt, in reference to the

¹⁹ Each parish priest normally researched the baptism information for marriage candidates but when the baptismal church was not the same as the church, where the wedding was held, this research could not be done so easily. There are many instances where the priests left blank spaces to be filled in later or entered incorrect information likely due to an unfamiliarity with that individual's history and/or family.

²⁰ LA-D 895 (20 Feb 1863), Soledad Duarte; CME.

²¹ LPC-B 651 (20 Sep 1793), Jose Antonio Jesus Valenzuela; CME.

²² SG-M (14 Jan 1818), Jose Antonio Valenzuela & Maria Dominga Alvitre; CME.

²³ This marriage record is not found in the Early California Population Project [ECPP] database as created by the Huntington Library. No such persons were entered into that database on that date. However, this abstract was created long before the ECPP was made. Many years prior to the ECPP project, the team of Thomas Workman Temple II, Cindy Buglio and Marie Northrop, et al., were allowed to extract records from the actual mission sacramental books. Since that time, it is possible that this page went missing before the ECPP project commenced which may explain why this record is not included in that database.

Secondly an error was made in recording the parents of Jose Antonio Valenzuela in this marriage. It is not known who made this error – the priest or the California Mission Extract team. However, if it was the priest, it is likely the SG priest did not have access to the mission baptism record at Mission La Purisima and/or he confused another individual who was also known by the name *Antonio Valenzuela* [SG-B 4064 (1806)]. *His* parents were indeed *Pedro Valenzuela* and *Maria*

groom's father – Jose Manuela Valenzuela – who was known as a soldier of the Santa Barbara Presidio Company.²⁴ [This family was a military family traveling from Mission Santa Barbara Presidio (1781, 1784, 1789, 1791, 1795, 1798, and 1799), Mission San Buenaventura (1786), and Mission La Purisima (1793).] ²⁵ The bride's parents were identified as **Sebastian Alvitre** and **Rufina Hernandez**, from Rancho Santa Gertrudis.

[Maria Dominga Alvitre's information will be discussed after the Valenzuela lineage is completed]

The family unit of [Jose] **Antonio Valenzuela** and **Dominga Alvitre** was enumerated twice in the early Mexican *padrones*:

1836 Los Angeles Padrón, Rancho Santa Gertrudis²⁶

Antonio Valenzuela, age: 40, residence: Santa Gertrudis, **origin: Santa Barbara**

Dominga Alvitre, age: 34, residence: Santa Gertrudis, origin: [Los] Angeles

Longina Valenzuela, age: 17, same info as mother

José Valenzuela, age: 9, same info as mother

Salomé Valenzuela, age: 13, same info as mother

M[ari]a Siriaca Valenzuela, age: 8, same info as mother

1844 Los Angeles Padrón, Mision Viejos²⁷

Antonio Valenzuela, age: 47, residence: Mision Viejos, origin: [Los] Angeles

Dominga Alvitre, age: 34, residence: Mision Viejos, [Los] Angeles

José Valenzuela, age: 15, same info as mother

Neither census indicated this family was Indian.

There is no record of death for **Jose Antonio Valenzuela** prior or up to 1850 included in the ECPP database. Clearly, he did not die prior to 1844 and, presumably, prior to 1850.

[Dolores] **Parra**. And, when he married at SG, in 1826, the priest referred to him as **Jose** Antonio Valenzuela [SG-M 1781 (1826) Valenzuela & Feliz]. Further, the date of the original extracts is unknown but Marie Northrop, part of the extraction team, published a second volume of her book *Spanish-Mexican Families of Early California: 1769-1850*, Volume 2, page 297, wherein she offered corrections to her first book as well as added families omitted from her first book. In that second volume, she accurately connects Jose Antonio de Jesus Valenzuela, the son of Jose Manuel Valenzuela and Maria Concepcion Higuera Armenta, as the groom in the marriage to Dominga Alvitre.

²⁴ LPC-B 651 (20 Sep 1793), Jose Antonio Jesus Valenzuela.

²⁵ Northrop, Marie E., *Spanish-Mexican Families of Early California: 1769-1850*, V 2 (Southern California Genealogical Society, Burbank, CA 1987), pp. 296-9.

²⁶ Antonio Valenzuela family; 1836 Los Angeles Padrón, California, Los Angeles, FHL microfilm #913156; page 711.

²⁷ Antonio Valenzuela family; 1844 Los Angeles Padrón, California, Los Angeles, FHL microfilm #913156; page 784.

The Parents of Jose Antonio de Jesus Valenzuela – Jose Manuel Valenzuela (abt 1745-1816) & Maria Concepcion Higuera Armenta (abt 1761-1799)

According to research conducted by Marie E. Northrop, **Jose Manuel Valenzuela** was born about 1745 at Villa **Sinaloa**, Sinaloa, Mexico, enlisted there as a leather-jacket soldier in the 1781 expedition to San Gabriel, and was a soldier at the Santa Barbara Company.²⁸ His parents were identified as **Francisco Valenzuela** and **Rosalia de Lugo**. Also, Northrop's work shows **Maria Concepcion Higuera Armenta** was born around 1761, also in the Village de **Sinaloa**, Sinaloa, Mexico. Her parents were identified as **Jose Maria Higuera** and **Maria Josefa Armenta**. She died on **July 14, 1799**, at the Santa Barbara Presidio, during childbirth.

On April 27, 1801, at Mission San Gabriel, Jose Manuel Valenzuela married again to **Maria Josefa Alvina Alvarez**, a Mexican-born immigrant.²⁹ The records of their eight children indicate this family settled in the area of San Gabriel. [Jose] **Manuel Valenzuela** died and was buried on March 19, 1816, at Mission San Gabriel.³⁰

In conclusion of this Valenzuela lineage, the evidence is clear – while it is likely these persons were of a Spanish heritage and settled in the San Gabriel area, there is no California Indian heritage whatsoever associated with these lineages.

Dominga Alvitre (1805-aft 1850) & her parents: Felipe Sebastian Alvitre (about 1750-1817) & Maria Rufina Hernandez (abt 1780-aft 1817)

Maria Dominga Alvitre was recently born when she was baptized at Mission San Gabriel on March 22, 1805.³¹ Her parents were identified as **Sebastian Alvitre** and **Maria** [Rufina] **Hernandez**. There was no identification of any person in the family as Indian.

When **Jose Antonio Valenzuela** married **Maria Dominga Alvitre**, on January 14, 1818, at Mission San Gabriel, the abstracted record identified her parents as **Sebastian Alvitre** and **Rufina Hernandez**, from Rancho Santa Gertrudis.³²

Dominga Alvitre had at least five children with Jose Antonio Valenzuela:³³

1. Longinos Valenzuela, baptized at Mission Santa Inez (1819)
2. Juan Thomas Valenzuela, baptized at Mission San Gabriel (1820)
3. Salomea Valenzuela, baptized at Mission San Fernando Rey (1822)
4. Jose Casimiro de Alta Gracia Valenzuela, baptized at Mission Santa Barbara (1825)

²⁸ Northrop, *Spanish-Mexican Families of Early California: 1769-1850*, Vol. II, p. 296-9.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ SG-B 3940 (22 Mar 1805), Maria Doming Alvitre; CME.

³² SG-M (14 Jan 1818), Jose Antonio Valenzuela & Maria Dominga Alvitre; CME.

³³ 1) SI-B 1080 (1819), Longinos Valenzuela, *Razon*; 2) SG-B 6569 (1820), Juan Thomas [Valenzuela], *Rason*; 3) SFR-B 2514 (1822), Salomea Valenzuela, *Razon*; 4) BP-B 684 (1825), Jose Casimiro de Alta Gracia Valenzuela, [*Razon*]; and, 5) SLR-B 4780 (1827), name is missing; *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006*.

5. Maria Siriaca Valenzeula, baptized at Mission San Luis Rey, (1827)

The family unit of [Jose] **Antonio Valenzuela** and **Dominga Alvitre** was enumerated twice in the early Mexican *padrones*:

1836 Los Angeles Padrón, Rancho Santa Gertrudis³⁴

Antonio Valenzuela, age: 40, residence: Santa Gertrudis, **origin: Santa Barbara**
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Longina Valenzuela, age: 17, same info as mother
José Valenzuela, age: 9, same info as mother
Salomé Valenzuela, age: 13, same info as mother
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1844 Los Angeles Padrón, Mision Viejos³⁵

Antonio Valenzuela, age: 47, residence: Mision Viejos, origin: [Los] Angeles
Dominga Albitre, age: 34, residence: Mision Viejos, [Los] Angeles
José Valenzuela, age: 15, same info as mother

There is no record of death for **Maria Dominga Alvitre** prior or up to 1850 included in the ECPP database. Clearly, she did not die prior to 1844 and, presumably, prior to 1850.

According to Northrop, Felipe Sebastian Alvitre was born around 1750, in the Village of **Sinaloa**, in Mexico.³⁶ His origin is corroborated by his Mission San Gabriel burial record (1817) and marriage record (1824) for his daughter, Maria Florentina Calistra Alvitre.³⁷ Regarding Sebastian's life events, Northrop wrote,

“Felipe Sebastian Alvitre: *Soldado de Cuera* [leather-jacket soldier] of 1769
Portola Expedition: settled at San Jose de Guadalupe in 1783; Bancroft names him
an *incorrigible scamp*; at Pueblo de Los Angeles in 1790.”³⁸

Based on the evidence presented thus far and the likelihood that Sebastian was a soldier in the Spanish army, **there should be no misconceptions about his ethnicity – he was not an Indian, not a California Indian, let alone a Gabrieleno Indian**. However, Northrop's information about his wife, Rufina Hernandez, appears to be in error.

According to Northrop, Maria Rufina Hernandez, was born around 1750, in Loreto, Baja California, Mexico, and probably married in 1795, in Loreto. These conclusions were likely based on the fact that their eldest son, Jacinto Maria Alvitre (born around 1796),

³⁴ Antonio Valenzuela family; 1836 Los Angeles Padrón, California, Los Angeles, FHL microfilm #913156; page 711.

³⁵ Antonio Valenzuela family; 1844 Los Angeles Padrón, California, Los Angeles, FHL microfilm #913156; page 784.

³⁶ Northrop, *Spanish-Mexican Families of Early California: 1769-1850*, V. I, pp. 24-6.

³⁷ SG-D entry 3841(2 Feb 1817), Sebastian Alvitre; CME; and, 2) SG-M 1711 (24 Sep 1824), Manuel Antonio & Maria Florentina Alvitre; CME.

³⁸ Northrop, *Spanish-Mexican Families of Early California: 1769-1850*, V. I, pp. 24-6.

was identified as a native of the *Loreto Presidio*, in his Mission San Gabriel marriage to Maria Lugarda Moreno.³⁹ However, further research indicates three points can be disputed and corrected: 1) her birth year, 2) the place of her birth, and 3) the place of her marriage.

Regarding Rufina's birth year, her last child was born in 1814.⁴⁰ If she was born in 1750, she was 64 years old when she had this last child, which does not agree with normal female biological cycles. Due to the custom of very young girls being given in marriage, at that time, she was more likely a teenager when she married Sebastian; therefore, her birth year was more likely between 1778 and 1782. If she was born in 1780, she married at age 15 and had her last child at age 34. [In that time frame, give or take a couple of years, all events are reasonable.]

Regarding Rufina's birth place, Sebastian Alvitre's history of his travels in and out of *Alta California* sheds some important light on her origin. Northrop's style of writing did not include specific citations for each point she made in these types of declarations. While she included the data for all of the California Mission records for him and his family in her books, she did not provide record numbers. But, the information is generally verifiable (although not perfect) by comparing her notes to the actual written record or various extracts of those same records. On the other hand, Harry Crosby, author of *Gateway to Alta California: The Expedition to San Diego, 1769*, referenced actual letters from the various military and government personal who dealt with Alvitre, which offers more specific information. Following is a partial excerpt from his book about Sebastian Alvitre:⁴¹

- “With Rivera to San Diego; went on to San Francisco with Portolá
- Unmarried soldier at the presidio of San Diego, 2 September 1770
- Transferred from jurisdiction of Loreto to that of Alta California, 1 January 1773
- Godfather at San Antonio de Padua, 22 Jan 1773
- In April 1773, accused ... by both San Diego missionaries of the rape of two very young Indian girls at La Soledad [today Rose Canyon], just before reaching San Diego – one of the girls dying from her injuries. Formal charges were pressed and Alvitre and Avila were kept in irons and at hard labor, largely in Monterey, for over two years awaiting a verdict from authorities in México. On 10 July 1775,
- Captain Rivera ordered the two men, still in irons, taken to San Diego guarded by eight soldiers under Sergeant José María Góngora, there transferred to Sergeant Mariano Carrillo, who would take them under guard to Velicatá to be

³⁹ SG-M entry 1323 (22 Feb 1814), Jacinto Maria Alvitre & Maria Lugarda Moreno; CME.

⁴⁰ SG-B 5495 (23 Mar 1814), Maria Dolores Alvitre; CME.

⁴¹ Crosby, Harry, *Gateway to Alta California: The Expedition to San Diego, 1769*, p. 143; an E-book found on-line at <http://books.google.com/books?id=aozaguafweIC&pg=PA171&lpg=PA171&dq=Sebastian+Alvitre+Portola&source=bl&ots=bfv2fLYBic&sig=JOk19Fe7HIqksPCej2POwoSvlio&hl=en&sa=X&ei=WtEuUfGVCrCNigK3-YGAAg&ved=0CD0Q6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=Sebastian%20Alvitre%20Portola&f=false>. Note: This excerpt was not copied verbatim; to examine the references used in this book, please go to the website herein provided.

turned over to Lieutenant José Velázquez Velázquez [sic], in turn, sent Alvitre and Avila in the custody of Sergeant José Gabriel Arce to be delivered to newly appointed Governor Felipe Neve, the transfer completed in Loreto in November. Eventually all three men were “sentenced” to become settlers Alta California pueblos. Nevertheless, a letter from José Velázquez describes Alvitre at liberty on the road north from Velicatá to San Diego.

- By 1783, Alvitre was an early settler of Los Angeles, his plots of land mapped, but he was expelled for bad conduct in 1786.
- Pedro Fages in 1791 write of Alvitre as “an incorrigible rogue,” and Bancroft wrote of him after he moved to Los Angeles that he “and Francisco Avila of San Jose were usually in prison, in exile, or at forced work for their excesses with Indian women or the wives of their neighbors...”
- *In the 1790s*, Alvitre *returned* to the peninsula and perhaps the mainland. In any event, he married a *woman from his birthplace, Villa de Sinaloa, indicated in the baptismal entry* when he and his wife acted as godparents at *Misión de Santa Gertrudis, 14 March 1797* [Mexico]. They returned to Los Angeles with son Jacinto María, and proceeded to have eight more children baptized at San Gabriel, 1798-1814.” [emphasis added]

The Mission San Gabriel baptism record verifies Alvitre’s behavior which likely led to his expulsion from California in 1786 – the baptism of *Pedro Alvitre*, the *hijo espurio* [illegitimate son] of *Sebastian Alvitre* and an Indian woman, Maria Gertrudis, from Mission Santa Clara (in the pueblo of San Jose, California).⁴² As the story is told through the notes of various Spanish army officers, Alvitre needed a wife to fulfill his “sentence” to become a settler in *Alta California*. It is in these notes that we can confidently understand just when and where he found Maria Rufina Hernandez – in Sinaloa, around 1795.

Following is a list of the children, of Sebastian Alvitre and Maria Rufina Hernandez, which were tracked for this project:

- Jacinto Maria (b. 1796)⁴³
- Juan Joseph Maria (b. 1798)⁴⁴
- Joseph Gabriel (b. 1801)⁴⁵
- Jose Antonio (b. 1803)⁴⁶
- Maria Dominga (b. 1805)⁴⁷

⁴² SG-B 1350 (20 Oct 1786), Pedro Alvitre; CME.

⁴³ SG-M entry 1323 (22 Feb 1814), Jacinto Maria Alvitre & Maria Lugarda Moreno; CME.

⁴⁴ 1) SG-B entry 2960 (1 Sep 1798), Juan Jose Maria Alvitre; CME; and, 2) SG-M entry 1456 (9 Oct 1817), Juan Maria Alvitre & Tomasa Alvarado; CME.

⁴⁵ SG-B 3254 (25 Mar 1801), Joseph Gabriel Alvitre; CME.

⁴⁶ 1) SG-B 3495 (16 Apr 1803), Jose Antonio Alvitre; CME; and, 2) SJB-M entry 835 (27 Jul 1823), Jose Antonio Alvitre & Maria de la Concepcion Amezquita; CME.

⁴⁷ 1) SG-B entry SG-B 3940 (22 Mar 1805), Maria Dominga Alvitre; and, 2) SG-M entry (14 Jan 1818), Valenzuela & Alvitre.

- Josef Vicente (b. 1807)⁴⁸
- Maria Florentina Calistra (b. 1808)⁴⁹
- Jose Claudio (b. 1811)⁵⁰
- Maria Dolores (b. 1814)⁵¹

In seven baptism records for their children, the child was declared as a *razon* [non-Indian]. In the five marriage records for their children, all of them were declared as a *razon*. None of these records referred to Maria Rufina Hernandez as an Indian.⁵²

In conclusion for the Alvitre lineage, the evidence is clear – while it is likely these persons were of a Spanish heritage, there is no California Indian heritage whatsoever associated with these lineages.

Modesta's Mother – Maria Manuela Gertrudes Quintero (1857-1922)

The Mission San Gabriel baptism record for *Maria Manuela Gertrudis (Quintero)* indicated she was born October 1, 1857 and identified her parents as *Julian* and *Rita B.*⁵³ Her birth status was considered illegitimate. Then, in 1874, *Gertrudis Quintero* married *Francisco Valenzuela*, at Mission San Gabriel.⁵⁴ That marriage record identified her as native to *Mision Vieja* [Mission San Gabriel] and her parents as *Julian* [Quintero] and *Rita Bermudez*. Neither record identified Gertrudis or her parents as Indian.

As the wife of Francisco Valenzuela, *Gertrude* [also *Gertrudes*] was enumerated in San Gabriel Township in both of the 1900 and 1920 censuses with various relatives, including her children.⁵⁵ Both records identified her, her husband and children as *W*[hite].

According to her daughter, Modesta, *Getrude Quintero* died on July 2, 1922.⁵⁶

⁴⁸ SG-D entry 5370 (23 Sep 1818), Josef Vicente Alvitre; CME.

⁴⁹ SG-B entry 4234 (16 Oct 1808), Maria Florentina Calistra Alvitre; CME.

⁵⁰ SG-B 4690 (7 Apr 1811), Jose Claudio Alvitre; CME.

⁵¹ 1) SG-B 5495 (23 Mar 1814), Maria Dolores Alvitre; CME; and, 2) SG-M 1711 (24 Sep 1824), Manuel Antonio & Maria Florentina Alvitre.

⁵² The CME compilers did not copy the *razon* identifier as their intent was to collect data on all non-Indian families and to omit full-Indian families. However, the original record, as found in the mission pages do indicate when a person was considered a *razon*. For further verification, all entries can be found in the index of the The Huntington Library, the Early California Population Project Database, 2006, found on-line at <http://www.huntington.org/Information/ECPLogin.htm>.

⁵³ SG-B 9728 (3 Oct 1857), Maria Manuela Gertrudis (Quintero); CME.

⁵⁴ SG-M 326 (26 Dec 1874), Francisco Valenzuela & Gertrudis Quintero.

⁵⁵ 1) Francisco Valenzuela household, 1900 U.S. census, CA, Los Angeles Co., San Gabriel Township; and 2) Francisco Valenzuela household, 1920 U.S. census, CA, Los Angeles Co., San Gabriel Township, SD 8, ED 582, sheet 20 B, 501 El Monte Street, dwelling 456, family 453; online at www.Ancestry.com, 1920 U.S. federal census, California, Los Angeles, San Gabriel, district 582, image 39.

⁵⁶ Morales, Olegaria Modesta; 1954 CIJA application.

Modesta's Maternal Grandparents – Julian Quintero (abt 1834-????) & Maria Rita Bermudes (1824 -????)

Born on June 25, 1824, **Rita Maria Bermudes** was baptized at Mission San Gabriel two days later.⁵⁷ She was identified as **Razon** and her parents were identified as **Juan Bermudes** and **Ana M[ari]a Lugo** who lived at Mission San Gabriel.

In 1845 and 1848, Rita Bermudes had two children out of wedlock with **Jose Valenzuela** – Bartolome Jose Valenzuela and Francisca Lorenza Romualda Valenzuela.⁵⁸ In Francisca's baptism record, the priest noted both parents were single; therefore, there was no marriage for this union. Again in 1850, she had another illegitimate child with **Jose Fontes** [possibly Fuentes] [SG-B (1850, Lugardo Dolores Fontes)]. Finally, in 1857, Rita had another illegitimate child – **Maria Manuela Gertrudes Quintero**.⁵⁹ The father was only named as **Julian**; her surname was written in later – likely after the marriage of her parents.

On August 6, 1858, at Mission San Gabriel, **Julian Quintero** and **Rita Maria Bermudez** were married.⁶⁰ That marriage record stated he was native to **Villa del Fuerte Mexico** [sic] but had been living in California since 1850. It also identified her parents as **Juan Hilario Bermudez** and **Ana Maria Lugo**, both deceased. That marriage record eliminates Julian Quintero as possessing any California Native American heritage. As well, there was no identification of any of the families as Indian.

Rita Maria Bermudes's Parents – Juan Hilario Bermudes (1775-1828) & Ana Maria Lugo (1785-bef 1858)

Born on July 26, 1785, **Ana Maria Lugo** was baptized August 28th, at Mission San Buenaventura, California.⁶¹ Her parents were identified as **Manuel Ygnacio Lugo, a leather-jacket soldier from Santa Barbara**, and **Gertrudis Limon y Sanchez**. There was no verbiage that indicated any of this family was Indian.

Then on January 27, 1799, **Anna Maria Lugo** married **Juan Hilario Bermudez**, at Mission Santa Barbara.⁶² That marriage record identified the groom as a native to the **Presidio of Santa Cruz, in Sonora** [Mexico] and his parents as **Andres Bermudes** and **Maria Rita Zamora**. The bride's parents were identified as **Manuel Ygnacio Lugo** and **M[ari]a Gertrudis Sanchez**. There was no verbiage indicating any of the wedding party was Indian.

⁵⁷ SG-B entry 7197 (27 Jun 1824), Maria Rita Bermudes; FHL microfilm 2644.

⁵⁸ 1) SG-B entry 8816 (25 Aug 1845), Bartolome Jose Valenzuela; FHL microfilm 2644; and, 2) SG-B entry 8960 (10 May 1848), Francisca Lorenza Romualda Valenzuela; FHL microfilm 2644. Scans, transcriptions and translations by Lorraine Escobar, CG/NAL. Note: Due to a lack of marriage, there is no easy way to determine which "Jose" Valenzuela was the father of Rita's first two children. In any case, the identity of this individual is not paramount to the question at hand.

⁵⁹ SG-B 9728 (3 Oct 1857), Maria Manuela Gertrudis (Quintero).

⁶⁰ SG-M 5 (6 Aug 1858), Julian Quintero & Maria Rita Bermudez; CME.

⁶¹ SBV-B 137 (28 Aug 1785), Ana Maria Lugo; CME.

⁶² BP-M 29 (27 Jan 1799), Juan Hilario Bermudez & Anna Maria Lugo; CME.

Juan and Ana had at least eight children – all born and baptized in Missions San Gabriel, San Diego, and Santa Barbara. One was born in Mexico. In their baptism records, none were identified as Indian.⁶³

On August 13, 1828, **Juan Hilario Bermudes** was buried as a result of a fatal fall from a horse he was riding at Rancho Santa Gertrudis.⁶⁴ His death record confirms his origins and parentage as stated in the marriage record. Northrop added this information about him,

“Juan Hilario Bermudez: Came as a child in 1781 to Mission San Gabriel with his mother and stepfather Juan Ignacio Valencia, a *Soldado de Cuera* for the Santa Barbara Presidio; soldier of the Mission San Gabriel *Escolta* and a *vaquero*; his body found at Rancho Santa Gertrudis after having been thrown by his horse.”

No record of death was found for Ana Maria Lugo. However, by the time her daughter – Rita Maria Bermudez – married Julian Quintero (1858), she was already deceased.

Rita Maria Bermudes’s Maternal Grandparents – Jose Manuel Ignacio Lugo (abt 1761-1836) & Gertrudis Limon y Sanchez (abt 1751-aft 1783)

According to Northrop’s research, **Jose Manuel Ygnacio Lugo** was born around 1761 at Villa *Sinaloa*, Sinaloa, Mexico and his parents were **Juan Salvador Lugo** and **Maria Josefa Francisca Espinosa**.⁶⁵ He had enlisted at Sinaloa for the 1781 Expedition to Mission San Gabriel with the Los Angeles Pueblo *pobladores* [settlers]. His wife, **Gertrudis Limon** was born about 1751, also at Villa *Sinaloa*. **Gertrudis** [Limon y] **Sanchez** died and was buried at the La Plaza Church burial grounds on June 22, 1831.⁶⁶ **Manuel Ygnacio Lugo** died and was also buried at La Plaza on May 1, 1836.⁶⁷ Both of their death records confirm Northrop’s findings – both were from Sinaloa, Mexico. And, none of these records or references indicated any of these persons were California Indian or even Indian at all.

Conclusion

Let there be no doubt, Morales’s “Grandma Modesta” was **not** Indian. Also, his Valenzuela lineage was **not** Indian either. No doubt the flawed California Indian Jurisdictional Act enrollment was the blame for misleading Morales [and plenty of others] about these ancestors. Many non-Indian, California-born, Spanish immigrants from Mexico applied, and were approved, for inclusion on the 1933 California Indian Judgment rolls even though they were not California Indian. This happened because the proof requirements did not demand reliable evidence – only the word of two affiants, who may or may not have been knowledgeable or reliable witnesses as to the heritage of these applicants. In light of better genealogical methods and evidence accessibility, it is now

⁶³ Northrop, *Spanish-Mexican Families of Early California: 1769-1850*, V. I, pp. 66-7.

⁶⁴ SG-D burial 5359 (13 Aug 1828), Juan Hilario Bermudez; CME.

⁶⁵ Northrop, Marie E., *Spanish-Mexican Families of Early California: 1769-1850*, V 2, pp. 152-3.

⁶⁶ LA-D burial 124 (22 Jun 1831), Gertrudis Sanchez; CME.

⁶⁷ LA-D burial 275 (1 May 1836), Manuel Ygnacio Lugo; CME.

possible to shed proper light on these claims and finally set the record straight for future generations.