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Flores - Diaz Family History

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

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SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

History of the Diaz and Flores family of Deming, New Mexico.

History of the DIAZ and FLORES

Family of Deming, New Mexico

by

Adolfo Flores Diaz

December 1, 1975

This history of the DIAZ family goes back five full generations and includes two more partial generations. Nine Great-Great Grandparents were from México, one from Spain, and possibly another one also.

LUIS RENTAS DIAZ was born in Cataluña, Spain in the year 1885 from unknown parents. In 1898, at the age of 13, he left Spain as a stowaway on a ship. According to family members, he left Spain because of dissatisfaction with the "hard life" in his country. Reportedly, he came to settle in Deming, New Mexico, via the Caribbean, Mississippi, and Denver, Colorado. LUIS married PAULA ARMENDAREZ, who was born on an unknown date in Asención, Chihuahua, México.

PAULA's father was JESUS ARMENDAREZ, born in 1865 in Valle De Allende, Chihuahua, México. Her mother was ANGELITA CASTILLO, born on August 2, 1875 in Río Florido, Chihuahua, México. They were married in August 1890 in Yanos, México. JESUS and ANGELITA had eight children, of whom PAULA was the oldest. The other seven children were MAGDALENA, JULIA, CONCHA, JESUS Jr., JOSE, MANUEL, and POLO. PAULA, JULIA, and POLO are deceased; CONCHA lives in El Paso, Texas; JOSE is in Deming, New Mexico; and MANUEL alternates between California and Deming.

LUIS and PAULA had nine children consisting of six boys and three girls. The oldest son, ENRIQUE ARMENDAREZ DIAZ (known as HENRY), was born on August 17, 1913. He was followed by LUIS in 1916, ELVIRA in 1918, MANUEL (known as NENE) in 1920, PEDRO MOLASCO (known as MONCIA) in 1920, CRISPULO in 1921, PAULA (known as PAULITA) in 1925, ANGELA (known as NANA) in 1927, and GUILLERMO (known as WILLIE) in 1929.

On the same year that LUIS RENTAS DIAZ began his life in Spain, JOSE SIGALA FLORES and LUCIA ORTIZ CARREON began theirs in México.

JOSE was born on September 15, 1885 in Chihuahua, México from the marriage of SEVERIANO FLORES and DAMACIA SIGALA. SEVERIANO and DAMACIA both were born in Bachamochi, México on an unknown date. They had three boys and two girls, of which JOSE was the oldest. The other children were: ANISETO, MARIA, FRANCISCO, and MAXIMIANA; all born in Ciudad Chihuahua. ANISETO was last heard of from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania around 1926. It is not known if he ever married, but he was considered to be the best looking of the family and was a ladies man. Supposedly, he worked in some steel or iron works. MARIA married INEZ PENA from El Paso and died on an unknown date. FRANCISCO never married and died in 1945 from what was

claimed by a doctor to be tuberculosis after he spent ten years in the New Mexico State Penitentiary. According to family members, FRANCISCO was accused of, and sentenced for, killing a *neighboring* rancher over an argument. The argument was over some sheep, belonging to FRANCISCO's widowed employer, crossing into the rancher's property. FRANCISCO was pardoned after serving ten years. He always claimed that he suffered from an injury sustained by a fall from a labor truck at the penitentiary and not from tuberculosis as was claimed. MAXIMIANA married ARCADIO SOTELO. ARCADIO is deceased, but MAXIMIANA presently lives in Ciudad Chihuahua. JOSE went to Ciudad Juárez in 1910 and crossed into El Paso, Texas. According to family members, JOSE was considered to be pro-Villa and pro-revolution, but it is not known why he left México during the revolution. While in El Paso, he met and married LUCIA ORTIZ CARREON in 1914.

LUCIA, the sixth child, was born on December 13, 1885 in Asención, Chihuahua, México out of the marriage of JUAN CARREON and ANDREA ORTIZ. JUAN was born in Santa Rita and went to México when Santa Ana came to power. His father was REFUGIO CARREON and his mother was MICARELA (last name unknown). Both were born in Gallana, México. JUAN died in 1906. ANDREA was born in Corralitos, México in 1853, grew up in Gallana, México, and died in 1928. ANDREA's father was

an Indian named ANSELMO ORTIZ. Her mother was named LUISA LEDESMA and was born in México. ANSELMO was killed in the Florida Mountains near Deming, New Mexico by Santa Ana troops. LUISA's mother's first name was LORENSA, but her maiden name is unknown.

JUAN and ANDREA first had five children who died at ages eight, nine, and ten. They were: SEVERIANA, MARIA, JUAN, DOMINGO, and VICENTE. Of the rest of the other children that followed, TIBURCIA was the oldest and died in 1955. MAXIMIANA followed her and died in 1957. JUAN, who died in 1942 in Palomas, México, was the third. He was followed by TOMASA, and then REFUGIO who died as an infant. LUCIA was the sixth child. She was followed by ALEJANDRO who died in February 1961 in California. JOSE was the eighth child. The next offspring was VICENTE, who was killed by Pancho Villa's troops while he slept. The last child was JOSEFITA, who unlike the others who were born in Asención, was born in Palomas Viejo on May 5, 1896. She presently lives in Deming, New Mexico with her daughter, Elsie Vega.

JUAN CARREON moved his family by wagon from Asención to Palomas, México and subsequently crossed the border into Columbus, New Mexico in 1912. The offspring of the family is presently located in the Deming-Columbus-Palomas-Asención area. LUCIA travelled to El Paso, Texas for a visit when she met JOSE SIGALA FLORES.

After JOSE and LUCIA were married, they moved to the Las Cruces-Mesilla area where their first child, JUANA CARREON FLORES, was born in 1916. Although JOSE and LUCIA owned a small farm in Las Cruces, they decided to move to Columbus, New Mexico because of LUCIA's longing for her mother. While in Columbus, the second daughter, AZUCENA, was born in 1920. In 1922, their first born son, ALFREDO REYNALDO came. Due to JOSE's lack of success in finding employment after working at the "Lecheria Nava" as a milker, the family moved to Deming where JOSE was employed at the Holy Cross Sanitarium as a "cow milker", plasterer, and carpenter. In 1927, GUADALUPE ELIZA was born. A baby was also born to JOSE and LUCIA in 1916, also named LUPE, but died seven months after birth as a "blue baby". LUCIA died on September 13, 1959 as a result of a kidney infection. JOSE Sr. soon followed her on September 20, 1960 of a natural death.

The DIAZ family of LUIS and the FLORES family of JOSE, united by the marriage of ENRIQUE ARMENDAREZ DIAZ and JUANA CARREON FLORES. ENRIQUE was also known as HENRY and JUANA as JENNIE. Both families resided in the town of Deming, New Mexico. ENRIQUE and JUANA were married in 1935 in Deming. In 1936, they had their first son, HENRY ALONZO. A year later, in 1937, ADOLFO DIAZ was born. HENRY is also known as LONNIE and ADOLFO as ADOLPH, BABY DEE, CHICA, and CHICO. In 1940,

ENRIQUE moved his family to El Paso, Texas Where he was employed with Darbyshire and Havey Company as a welder. He moved his family from Deming in order to earn \$8.00 a day in El Paso as opposed to \$4.00 a day in Deming with the New Mexico Highway Department. While in El Paso, the last child and only girl, CARMEN IVONE, was born in 1941. Soon after the attack of Pearl Harbor, ENRIQUE informed JUANA that he felt he should enlist in the Navy. JUANA did not want him to enlist since he did not have to serve because of his dependents. ENRIQUE was informed that he could enlist if he obtained JUANA's written permission. ENRIQUE was finally able to convince JUANA to let him join, but only after he gave JUANA permission for her to work at the Army Airbase in Deming, something which he didn't want to do. ENRIQUE moved his family back to their adobe home at 409 South Ruby Street, which had been rented to a friend while they were in El Paso. ENRIQUE reported for his physical examination but was rejected because of varicose veins. He subsequently had a doctor treat his veins and again reported for a re-examination. He was accepted and saw service with the Navy Seabees in the Pacific. After ENRIQUE's return from the Navy in 1945, he was able to buy a truck and welding generator through JUANA's savings from her employment at the Airbase. ENRIQUE was self employed as HENRY's MOBILE WELDING SERVICE until his death as a result of a car accident

in 1952 on the road between Columbus and Deming, New Mexico. In 1963, at the urging of her family, JUANA sold the house on Ruby Street and moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico. By that time, LONNIE was married and living in Las Cruces, ADOLFO was in the United States Army, and CARMEN was married and living in Deming. In 1964, JUANA married CHARLES JACK BADLEY and stayed in Las Cruces where she now lives. JACK, as he is known, was born on July 18, 1911 in Childress, Texas.

Three other families mingled with the DIAZ family to produce the present generation. The marriages between HENRY, ADOLFO, and CARMEN with members of the LOPEZ, LASSO, and BACA families produced eleven grandchildren for JUANA.

FELIPE CARLOS LOPEZ was born in 1893 in Mesilla, New Mexico. His parents, TRANQUILINO LOPEZ and CELERINA (maiden name unknown), were born in an unknown town in México. They had three other children: LORENCIO (1897-1974), SAVINO (1898-), and EUGENIA (1900-). TRANQUILINO was shot and killed in 1911 while serving as a Deputy Sheriff in Mesilla. FELIPE married PAULINE BERTHA HICKERSON. Soon after their marriage, CELERINA died in 1912 and FLORENCIO, SAVINO, and EUGENIA were reared by PAULINE. PAULINE was the oldest of the seven children of HAROLD HICKERSON and MARY REINHART. HAROLD's origin and date of birth are unknown, but he died in 1956. It is believed that Mary was of German stock, born in 1870,

entered the United States through México, and died in 1953. The HICKERSON's other six children were MAURGARITE, PHIL, DOROTHY, CHARLES, CORINE, and LEO. PAULINE presently lives in Las Cruces, PHIL died in 1968, DOROTHY in 1974, CHARLES in 1973, CORINE in 1955, and LEO in 1954. HAROLD's and MARY's children were all light complected with light brown hair, whereas TRANQUILINO's and CELERINA's children were darker with black hair.

FELIPE and PAULINE (born in El Paso in 1893) had nine children: LAMBERTO, born in 1913 in Salem, New Mexico; BENJAMIN, born in 1914 in Salem also and died nine months later from pneumonia; MARIA ERLINDA, born in 1915 in Salem; CARLOS, born in 1917, also in Salem; FELIPE TRANQUILINO, born in either 1921 or 1922 in Salem; CORINA CELERINA, born in 1926 in Salem; LEOPOLDO, born in 1928 in Salem; and MARGARET FRANCIS and PAULINE, who were twins born in 1935 in Las Cruces, New Mexico. One of the twins, PAULINE, married ENRIQUE and JUANA's oldest son, HENRY.

LONNIE DIAZ and PAULINE LOPEZ were married on May 1, 1960 in Deming, New Mexico. HENRY had just returned from serving four years with the Air Force. They had two children and adopted two. Their first born was RUSSELL ALONZO in 1962 after they moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico. ARNOLD JAVIER was then born

in 1970. On October 21, 1968, they adopted twin girls, LORRAINNE MICHELLE and KATRINE PAULINE, who had been born in El Paso, Texas. The twins' father was reportedly an Anglo-American who was in the Navy at the time, and their mother was a Chicana from New Mexico.

CARMEN IVONE DIAZ became part of the BACA family when she married MANUEL AGUILERA BACA in 1961. MANUEL was the sixth child of the ten born to JOSE MONTOYA BACA and MACARIA AGUILERA. JOSE was born on September 23, 1897 in Dwyer, New Mexico. His parents were NAHOR BACA and JULIANA MONTOYA. NAHOR's father and mother were JUAN ALBINO BACA and MARIA INEZ GARCIA. MARIA's mother was named MARIA GARCIA also. MACARIA was born on 24 August 1902 in Pueblo Nuevo, México. Her parents, CASIMIRO AGUILERA and MARIA ARIOLA, were born in México. JOSE AND MACARIA had nine children. EUALIA, who was born in 1925; FRANCIS, born in 1927; CAROLINA, born in 1929; JUAN, born in 1931; DORA, born in 1933; MANUEL, born in 1935; CARMEN, born in 1938; ESTER, born in 1940; ERNESTINA, born in 1942; and ERNESTO, born in 1944. All were born in Mimbres, New Mexico with the exception of ERNESTO who was born in Deming, New Mexico. All are light complected with black hair. JOSE and MACARIA still live in Deming.

CARMEN IVONE DIAZ and MANUEL AGUILERA BACA stayed in Deming

and had four children: CRISTOBAL HENRY, born in 1962; MARIA TERESA, born in 1964; DOLORES ELENA, born in 1968; and JOSE MANUEL, born in 1970. CRISTOBAL and TERESA are both very light complected with light brown hair and DOLORES and MANUEL are dark complected with black hair.

While stationed in the Panama Canal Zone with the United States Army, ADOLFO DIAZ met and married AIXA ELENA LASSO on October 15, 1966. AIXA was born in Panama on October 5, 1941. Her father, JOSE ISAAC LASSO, was born in La Chorrera, Panama on September 21, 1917. Her mother, CARMEN PINA, was born in David, Chiriqui, Panama, on March 24, 1921. Besides AIXA, ISAAC and CARMEN had another child, RIMSKY. In 1954, CARMEN and ISAAC were divorced. ISAAC stayed in Panama and CARMEN moved to the United States with RIMSKY where he changed his name to RICHARD COLVER. AIXA stayed in Panama with her grandmother, HELENA FERNANDEZ. ISAAC's father was JOSE RUBEN LASSO RIOS, born in La Chorrera, Panama in 1880 and died in 1966. ISAAC's mother, HELENA FERNANDEZ, was born on August 17, 1892. She died on January 16, 1967 in Panama City, Panama. RUBEN and HELENA never married, but they had four children, of whom ISAAC was the third. ODERAY HELENA LASSO was born on March 28, 1909 in La Chorrera, Panama. The second child, RUBEN JOSE LASSO, was born on March 29, 1913 in

La Chorrera. The last child was OLGA who was born on November 22, 1920. HELENA FERNANDEZ's mother was MARIA FERNANDEZ. JOSE RUBEN LASSO RIOS was dark complected and HELENA FERNANDEZ was very light complected with black hair.

CARMEN PINA's father was JOSE PINA and her mother is ISAURA CONTRERAS. ISAURA was born in 1900 in David, Chiriqui, Panama. After JOSE left ISAURA, she came to the United States and married JOSEPH TORSELLO in New Jersey, Newark. JOSEPH died in 1959 and ISAURA remained in New Jersey, where she presently lives. JOSE PINA and ISAURA had one other child besides CARMEN and named her IDDA MARIA. IDDA was born on August 3, 1922 in David, Chiriqui, Panama. JOSE PINA was very light complected with blue eyes and ISAURA was darker with dark brown hair. ISAURA's grandmother was an Indian from David. IDDA is dark complected and CARMEN is very light complected with hazel eyes. JOSE PINA was never heard of after he left CARMEN. JOSE was born in Cuba during a stop-over on that island by his Spanish parents on the way to an unknown destination from Spain, their place of birth.

ADOLFO and AIXA had three children. ADELIZA ELENA was born on September 30, 1967 in Corozal, Canal Zone. The second girl, ADYNA LUCIA, was born on October 7, 1970 in Baltimore, Maryland. The last girl, ARIANA AIXA, was born on 26 August

1974 in El Paso, Texas. ADELIZA and ADYNA are both brown in complexion whereas ARIANA is light. ADELIZA and ADYNA both had a spot at the base of their spine when they were born, but later disappeared. ADOLFO and his family presently live at 2304 Ken Venturi, El Paso, Texas.

This family history was compiled from personal interviews of JENNIE FLORES BADLEY, JOSEFITA FLORES BLUE, PAULINE DIAZ, CARMEN BACA, MACARIA BACA, and AIXA DIAZ. Family records and photographs were also utilized.