

Jose Ubaldo Garcia and Maria Luz Gurulé

What is a marriage investigation?

And why are they important for genealogy?

Henrietta Martinez Christms

The marriage investigation is part of the Council of Trent and still exists today. When a couple wants to join in marriage, that result is a legal contract. The Church is wanting to know that the bride and groom are agreeing to this of their own free will. Each of them have their own witnesses who can testify to their character. The Groom's generally are done first and the Bride's second. The witnesses, under oath, make the sign of the cross and then are questioned by the Priest of that parish.

Marriage Investigation #1.

In this record, Antonio Gurulé is deceased, but his wife is not. The interrogation begins with the announcement of the marriage which is interesting as I have found more information in the original record. It begins, Xptvl (Cristobal) Ubaldo Garcia from this said villa. Maria de la Luz Gurulé, the daughter of Antonio Gurulé, deceased and Antonia Quintana, also from this said villa and resident.

In her testimony, dated May 23, 1767, Maria de la Luz Gurulé makes the sign of the cross. Asked if she voluntarily knows Xpvl Ubaldo Garcia, she states yes. Asked if she has been or is betrothed to another, she states no. Asked if she knows of any impediment of consanguinity or affinity, in order that they could not marry, she states no. She is 25 years old more or less. [AASF, Reel 62]

1767, May 23 (no. 22), Albuquerque. JOSE UBALDO GARCIA (30), mestizo, son of Marcial Garcia and Maria Griego, mestizos, and Maria Luz Gurule (25), d. of Antonio Gurule, deceased, and Antonia Quintana. —
Witnesses: Mateo Jose Pino, notary; Pedro Montaño (50), Manuel Velasquez (53).

Takeaway from this document. Her groom's name is Cristobal Ubaldo Garcia, she is Maria de la Luz Gurulé, about 25 years old. Her father is deceased and her mother is still living. I can now add to my genealogical records that Antonia Quintana died after May 1767 and use this document as a source.

Angela's comment: This daughter has not been included as a child of Antonio Gurulé and Antonia Quintana because she was not identified in Antonio's will of 1761. Is she really their daughter? Could there be another reason she wasn't included in the will? Maybe her father wasn't pleased with her marriage choice? Other than this investigation, no marriage record has been found, nor have any baptism records for children been found. Still a mystery.

Marriage Investigation #2.

In August 1761, Antonio Tafoya sought to marry Prudencia Gonzales. The abstract done by Fray Angelico Chavez and known as New Mexico Roots Ltd is shown below.

1722, Aug. 10 (no. 3), Albuquerque. ANTONIO TAFOYA (20), n. of New Mexico living in Sta. Cruz, son of Cristobal Tafoya and Isabel de Herrera, and Prudencia Gonzales (18) of Alameda, d. of Capt. Juan Gonzales and Maria Lopez. — Witnesses: Jose de Atienza, Sta. Cruz notary; Juan de Sandoval Martinez (63), n. of Mexico City, married, and Geronimo Martin (25), n. of New Mexico. Antonio de Silva, Albuquerque notary; Jose Sanchez (30) and Antonio Gurule (25). Pair married, Sept. 10, 1722.

In this abstract as compared to the original which is six long pages, the “meat” or goodies have been taken out. Don't we want to know what was asked of Antonio Guruley (written in document this way)?

After making the sign of the cross, he was asked how long he knew Prudencia Gonzales. His answer was since she was a small child. Did he know of any impediments? He replied, no. Did he know of an consanguinity (related by blood) or affinity (related by marriage)? No, he replied.

He attested to this, did not sign his name, and stated he was 25 years old. [AASF, Reel 61]

Takeaway from this document: This Antonio Gurulé, due to his age, would make him born about 1697. From official documents we know he was born in 1703. Is this close enough or is there another Antonio Gurulé in this period? After careful research, he is the only person with that name – the son of Elena Gallegos and Santiago Gurulé.

We also take from this record that he had a longstanding relationship with the Gonzales family out of Alameda. This was likely through his mother, as he had just been married one year in 1721, his wife's family comes from up north near Santa Cruz and Santa Fe. Hence, the Gallegos/Baca clan knew the Gonzales/Lopez people well.