Islenos
and
Malaguenos
of
Louisiana
Part 1

Louisiana Historical Background
1761 – 1763

- Spain sides with France in the now expanded Seven Years War
- The Treaty of Fontainebleau was a secret agreement of 1762 in which France ceded Louisiana (New France) to Spain.
- Spain acquires Louisiana Territory from France 1763
- No troops or officials for several years
- The colonists in western Louisiana did not accept the transition, and expelled the first Spanish governor in the Rebellion of 1768. Alejandro O'Reilly suppressed the rebellion and formally raised the Spanish flag in 1769.

Antonio de Ulloa  
Alejandro O'Reilly
1763 – 1770

• France’s secret treaty contained provisions to acquire the western Louisiana from Spain in the future.  
• Spain didn’t really have much interest since there wasn’t any precious metal compared to the rest of the South America and Louisiana was a financial burden to the French for so long.  
• British obtains all of Florida, including areas north of Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Maurepas and Bayou Manchac.  
• British built star-shaped sixgun fort, built in 1764, to guard the northern side of Bayou Manchac.  
• Bayou Manchac was an alternate route to Baton Rouge from the Gulf bypassing French controlled New Orleans.

• After Britain acquired eastern Louisiana, by 1770, Spain became weary of the British encroaching upon it’s new territory west of the Mississippi.  
• Spain needed a way to populate it’s new territory and defend it.

• Since Spain was allied with France, and because of the Treaty of Allegiance in 1778, Spain found itself allied with the Americans during their independence.
Part 2

The Canary Islanders

“Isleños”
Canary Islands located west of Morocco

Canary Islands, 1747
• During the 1300s, controlled by the Portuguese, Genoese, Castille and Aragon.
• Between 1402 and 1479, Spain worked on the conquest of the islands.
• In 1492, Columbus uses the islands as a waypoint before heading to the Americas.

• Since the late 1600s, Spain had encouraged the Canary Islanders to move to the Caribbean colonies.

• By 1700s, the sugar-based economy of the islands faced stiff competition from Spain's American colonies.
• Madeira and Portuguese wine production soared killing profits from the islands.
• Government couldn’t lure enough immigrants from the mainland.
• Years of abandonment and lack of resources were the main causes of desperation.
1770 – 1778

Louisiana, 1770
1778 – 1779

• On August 15, 1777, Spain ordered a second battalion be formed in Louisiana. It looked to the Canary Islands for 700 recruits. It tried to get married recruits so that they could not only defend the area, but also populate it.
• Families were gathered from Tenerife, Gran Canaria, La Palmas, La Gomera and Lanzarote
• All families were assembled in Santa Cruz, Tenerife
• The recruits were required to be from 17 to 36 years old, healthy, without vices, and at least 5' 1/2" tall. Butchers, gypsies, mulattoes, and executioners were not permitted to sign up.
• Though it wasn't in a written agreement, they understand that they were going to stay in Louisiana permanently.
• The recruits were to receive 45 reales upon signing up and 45 more upon arrival in New Orleans. They also got 1/2 peso a day while waiting to leave. People were also paid for finding these recruits; in fact, they were paid according to the height of the recruits. The payment was: 15 reales if at least 5' 1/2", 30 reales if at least 5' 2", and 45 reales if at least 5' 3"
1778 – 1779

• Five of the island sent recruits to Louisiana: Tenerife (about 45%), Gran Canaria (almost 40%), Gomera, La Palma, and Lanzarote. The 700 recruits brought their families, bringing the total number of immigrants to 2,373.
• The following ships brought the Islenos to Louisiana
  • Santisimo Sacramento - 264 passengers - departed July 10, 1778
  • La Victoria - 292 passengers - departed October 22, 1778
  • San Ignacio de Loyola - 423 passengers - departed October 29, 1778
  • San Juan Nepomuceno - 202 passengers - departed December 9, 1778
  • Santa Faz - 406 passengers - departed February 17, 1779
  • El Sagrado Corazon de Jesus - 423 passengers - June 5, 1779
• Another ship with the last group of 100 recruits (and their families) were delayed because of the war between England and Spain. They had to stay over in Cuba for the duration, where a number of them died. They finally arrived in 1783.

• Several families traveled between Havana, New Orleans and Pensacola after 1783 until 1800.
1778 – 1779

Spanish Frigate - Nuestra Señora de la Concepción, 1690

Spanish Frigate - San Felipe, 1690
Iglesia de San Juan Bautista de Telde
Teror, Gran Canaria
1778 – 1779

- Arrived in New Orleans between 1779 and 1783
- Settled in 4 primary locations: Galveztown, Valenzuela (Donaldsonville), Barataria Bay, Terre aux Boeff (St. Bernard) with the help of Gov. Bernardo de Galvez
1779 - Galveztown

- Originally settled in 1777 by Anglos escaping the ravages of war. Due to gratitude given to Galvez, they names the town after him.
- Located at the junction between Amite river and Bayou Manchac. Provide defense to the British territory above the bayou and the Manchac waterway.
- 1779, several Canarian families settled here.
1779 - Galveztown

• Settlement didn’t last long. Town was ravaged by several hurricanes. Homes were built and destroyed. Area was flooded many times, washing away any crops. Government help was inconsistent.
• By 1783, Spain acquired all of east and west Florida, relieving any need for the defense post.
• By 1803, realizing Louisiana was going to be sold to the US, many families fled to the Spanish controlled Baton Rouge. There, the officials of the town carved out the first neighborhood called “Spanish Town” for these people.
• By 1806, a few families moved further south with less flooding. The town was named Galvez which still survives today.
• Since there wasn’t a church for very long, many families can trace records to the nearby St. Gabriel church.
1779 - Galveztown

Today, the Galveztown is host to an archeological team searching for artifacts from the settlement.
1779 - Valenzuela

• Across the Mississippi river from the Acadian settlements.
• Became very successful and thrived.
• Located between Donaldsonville and Plattenville.
• Did not suffer the same hardships as Galveztown.
• Located at the river fork to defend against southern invasion.
• Lots of intermarriage between Acadian and Canarian families.
• Men from all 4 settlements assisted Galvez during the American Revolution to take Fort Bute.
Belle Alliance Plantation
1779 - Barataria

- South of New Orleans to protect against a southern river attack.
- In 1779, very few settlers arrived.
- Settlement lasted until about 1782.
- Most families deserted the swampy, unforgiving territory.
- Many left for St. Bernard settlement across the river.
- Nothing remains today.
1779 – St. Bernard

• Originally called Terre aux Boeuf.
• Protect the eastern coast of New Orleans from attack.
• Most well preserved of all the settlements.
• Vibrant language and culture with New Orleans economy for support.
• A few elderly still speak some Canarian Spanish in the community.
• Language is dying out.
• The “Los Islenos” organization keeps the culture alive.
• Today, each year in March, the area holds the “Islenos Fiesta”.
• Canarians come from across the Atlantic to show off food, dance, and music.
• In New Orleans, a new restaurant has opened up with Islenos inspired dishes called “Borgne Restaurant”
Borgne Restaurant
Islenos Fiesta
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<td>Francisco,</td>
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Hello everybody and a happy Canary Islands Day. Maybe this pic could represent all the feelings in this day, an old house in the village of Icor at Anzio Municipality (South Tenerife), mainly ruins but spirit still remains into the simplicity of its stones. This is a special tribute to those who left the Canaries in the hope to come back any time.
Part 3

The Spaniards from Malaga

“Malagueños”
1779 – Malaga, Spain

• Before departure, the Alhaurin colonists had to sign a contract with the Royal Commissioner, the priest José de Ortega y Monroy, wherein they promised to settle themselves in Louisiana.
• Upon their arrival, they were promised to have a house built, to be assigned land and to be provided with cattle, necessary utensils and tools for cultivating the land, and the government would bear the cost of the first planting and would provide subsistence until the first harvest.
• On June 1st in 1778, sixteen families, comprising eighty-two persons, boarded the San Josef, a brigantine having two masts and a crew of thirty-five, under the command of Captain Antonio Caballero.
1779 – New Iberia

• Arrived at Puerto Rico, Havana, New Orleans, then Spanish Lake area.
• “Nueva Iberia” is the only extant town in Louisiana to be founded by Spaniards during the Colonial Era.
• Gálvez, himself a Spaniard, approved a settlement for the Malagueños on Bayou Tèche in the vicinity of present-day Charenton.
• Bouligny, who originally wanted to settle the Malagueños someplace along the Ouachita River near The Arcs (Arkansas) Post, Gálvez compromised on the Teche.
• Many of the Spanish families began to move out onto the nearby prairies, particularly those to the south and west of a small lake which came to be called Spanish Lake.
• Bouligny settled them there, along with 75 slaves, 32 pairs of oxen, 20 cows, and 12 horses.

• By 1779, when Lieutenant Colonel Francisco Bouligny arrived with 16 families of Spaniards from the provinces of Málaga and Granada, the local population numbered no more than 900.
• Only about 60 actually made it to Louisiana, others remained in Puerto Rico and Cádiz, Spain from illnesses.
1779 – New Iberia

• When Bouligny and a handful of the families arrived further upstream at a bluff and bend in the Teche (part of present-day Bouligny Plaza in downtown New Iberia) as a result of 6 feet of water in their original encampment, Bouligny paid François Prévost 400 pesos for a track of land 30 arpents deep by 8 arpents width facing Bayou Teche and there resettled the families that had followed him.

• In June 1779 another 9 Malagueños relocated from the original encampment near Charenton. When Bouligny left the new site in August of 1779, he reported that the Malagueños at the new site had planted 75 arpents of corn and 35 at the original encampment. Additionally, they had cultivated 25 arpents of rice, 6 arpents of potatoes and a small amount of tobacco.

• Some of these families at the new site relocated in the 1780s to the outskirts of New Iberia and settled on Lac Flamand, which later became known as *Lac des Espagnols*, or Spanish Lake, for them.
ROUTE TAKEN BY THE MALAGUENO SETTLERS
FROM NEW ORLEANS TO NEW IBERIA

[Map showing the route taken by the Malagueno settlers from New Orleans to New Iberia, including major rivers and landmarks like the Atchafalaya River, Bayou Teche, and the Mississippi River.]
1779 – New Iberia

• Of the 10 children born to Francisco de Paula Joaquim de Segura and María de Prados (natives of Málaga), 4 married local francophones, the other 3 married Romero siblings and 3 married Villatorro siblings.
• Raphaël Segura, the eldest of the sons of Francisco and María above, married to María Carmelita Romero, was by far the most economically successful and well known of the 1st generation of Malagueño-Louisiana Creoles. He owned a plantation on the banks of Spanish Lake in an area later called Segura precisely for him.
• Raphaël and Carmelita produced a family of 6 children. Only 1 married a son of Malagueños, the others married local francophones.
• The grandchildren of the Malagueños were nearly all francophone and marrying francophones – a good indication of why very few vestiges of Spanish language exist in the New Iberia area today.

Villatoro (Viator)
Garrido (Gary)
Romero
Ibanez
Miguez
Lopez
Moreno
Artacho
Segura
Riveros
Aguilar
Blanco
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Prepared by
Wade Pagnon
124 North Mary Lake Rd, Duson, LA 70529
Telephone © 877-821-6109
Date prepared: 10 Jul 2012
Welcome to Colonial Spanish Families of Louisiana.

Introduction
The first place to visit when researching Louisiana Spanish family genealogy/ancestry. This forum allows you to view personal research of Louisiana Spanish family trees, especially the Falcon family, and submit information about individuals or families. Includes both Canary Islander families (Ilsenos) and Malaga families (Malaguenos).
The Falcon family tree v6.0 has been updated as of 10-1-2009.

“New” in 2009
New families have been added as well as updated information on all trees. Keep in mind due to privacy issues, any individuals considered living will be marked as so.

1804-1810 Lafourche Map - I have run across an old map which was published in the Louisiana Genealogical Register, December 1998, which shows families living around the Donaldsonville area right after the Louisiana Purchase. This map is invaluable to those researching Ilsenos history. It shows the land plots given to both the Ilsenos and the Acadians in Louisiana. Feel free to share with others.

History
Before I began this, 4 years ago I decided to work on my own family tree. I spent a good part of my summer researching everything I could. As I accumulated more and more information, I needed a place to archive the information. Since then, I’ve amassed a great deal of information about my family and other Canary Islander families in Louisiana. I started by releasing my entire Falcon family tree online and today, I’ve decided to release all my information on many Louisiana Spanish families I’ve researched. I hope this site helps those who are working hard on their tree as I have done on mine.

The information presented on this site is by no means guaranteed. The accuracy is up to the researcher to verify its contents. I work on over 40 family names and have over 10000 names in my database which leaves plenty of room for error. By all means, welcome those who have found inaccurate or incomplete information to submit the changes to me and I will do my best to keep the site updated.

I have had a lot of responses to the family tree so please take some time to examine it thoroughly online. Feel free to email/call with questions. I would love to spend some time with each family to make sure the tree is full and correct.

Falcon History
In 1508, Diego Falcon came to Gran Canaria and became Mayor of Telde. Since then, many Falcons have lived on the islands and prospered. In 1750, Cristobal Falcon Jr. was born to Cristobal Falcon and Antonia Mexias in the town of Los Llanos in Telde, Gran Canaria. Both he
The Odyssey of the Canaries in Texas and Louisiana

Jose Balbuena's book "Odyssey of the Canary Castilian Texas and Louisiana", is not only a publication about facts of this historical epic of the Canarian colonial America, but also serves as a picture of their offspring born in this large American territory, which have expressed pride, heritage, have been able to convey generosity. Its author is a well known and excellent journalist who joined the newspaper The Province in 1972, writing many interesting features, interviews and chronicles of travel, making it one of the first journalists of the Canary islands in the dissemination of specialized tourism issues.

See: http://www.anoart.com/catalogo/227 (Spanish)

Index to the Vicente Sebastián Pintado Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress.

Surveyor general of Spanish West Florida. Correspondence, bills of sale, court transcripts, testimonies, surveys, notebooks, plats, land grants, maps, petitions, and other papers
Thanks

- Google Street View – Virtual tours around the cities
- Meet with families
- Additions/Corrections?
- Healthy discussions on historical accuracy
- Extremely excited!

- wade@louisiana.edu
- http://www.facebook.com/groups/canaryislanders/
- http://www.facebook.com/groups/malaguenos.of.louisiana/
- http://colonialspanishofla.blogspot.com/