

# LOS GENIZAROS DE NUEVO MEXICO (THE GENIZAROS OF NEW MEXICO)

BY

**George A. Sanchez**

First, let me tell you what a "**Genizaro**" is. Fray Angelico Chavez, the godfather of the genealogy of New Mexicans, gave this name to the Native Americans who were captured by Navaho, Ute, Comanche, Apache, and Kiowa tribes and were then traded to the Spanish colonists for horses and other merchandise. Most of these captives were young adults and many were male and female children. The Spanish Colonists used them as servant (slaves?) in their households. This happened early in the seventeenth century to about the middle of the nineteenth century when New Mexico became part of the United States. These servants grew up in these Spanish households, acquired the names of their Spanish owners, had children, and, in many cases, even married into the Spanish population. While many genizaros who were brought into servitude by birth or by purchase to work for Spanish families eventually earned freedom at adulthood, many others would remain working for the same families that they served for the rest of their lives because under the Spanish colonial caste system, genizaros and mestizos, were unable to secure land.

**Dr. Moises Gonzales**, an Associate Professor at the University of New Mexico and **Dr. Enrique LaMadrid** are writing a book entitled "*Genizaro Nation: Ethno Genesis, Place, and Identity in New Mexico*" (to be released by UNM Press in 2018). The book is about the genizaro settlements that were first established by Governor Tomas Velez Gachupin in the 1740s, and continued by his successors, to serve as a buffer zone between the nomadic tribes and the principal Spanish settlements of Santa Cruz, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque as well as many of the Pueblo communities.

Why would any individual volunteer to establish a settlement that was at risk of constant attack by nomadic tribes? The reason for genizaros, as well as some mestizos, establishing buffer settlements was a way to become landowner and gain social status and escape the domination and servitude by the Spanish ruling class. Colonial officials conceived a policy of settling genizaros on the frontier of the colony, granting them land in return for their building of fortified villages and serving in the frontier militia. Eventually, from 1740 to the 1790s, several towns were established. One of the first was part of the land grant of *Nuestra Senora de Dolores de Belen* in 1746 which is just a few miles south of Albuquerque.

There followed *Santo Tomas Apostol del Rio de Las Trampas*, *Santo Tomas de Abiquiu*, *San Miguel de Lored de Carnue*, and *San Miguel del Vado* as genizaro buffer settlements.

The reason that the first, *Nuestra Senora de Dolores de Belen*, is important to me is because I am a *descendant* of one of the petitioners for the land grant, *Antonio Gurule*. Two others are Antonio Padilla and Francisco Baca. When I was doing the genealogy of my great grandparents *Gaspar Gurule* and *Maria Altagracia Trujillo* from Tecolote, New Mexico, I discovered that Maria's mother was *Graciana Gurule* and right away I thought here is another male ancestor marrying a cousin! But no, when I did *Graciana's genealogy* I found that her father was *Salvador Gurule* and that his father is *Antonio Gurule*. Now, for the interesting and most important genealogical find, *Antonio Gurule's mother* was an *Indian Crida (servant)* of *Antonio Gurule (son of the Frenchman)* and his wife Antonia Quintana. The Crida's name was "*Rosa*" and the name of another of their Indian servants was "*Bernadina*", who is the mother of the *1819 Carnue* land grant petitioner, *Juan Cristobal Gurule*!

*Antonio Gurule*, the owner of *Rosa* and *Bernadina*, is the one and only son of the *Frenchman Jacque Grolet*, whose name became *Santiago Gurule* when he married *Elena Gallegos*. (This complete article can be found in *Angela Lewis's* web site *gurulefamily.org* in an article entitled "*Which Antonio Gurule Married Theresa Gallegos?*" which I wrote with Angel's help regarding the misinformation by many genealogist at the time, including *Fray Angelico Chavez* in his "*Origins of New Mexico Families*".)

**Dr. Moises Gonzales** is a genizaro heir to both the Canon de Carnue land grant and the San Antonio de Las Huertas land grant. When I told him who I was and that I too am a genizaro he gave me a copy of an article he wrote and at the top wrote "**To George Sanchez, Primo Genizaro**"! In the book that he and Dr. LaMadrid are writing one of the important things to me is the work that they are doing to find out why and if genizaros can get some of their land grant lands back that the government gave to the U.S. Forest Service.

Finally, after I find a line of male descendants of the Genizaro Antonio Gurule, I would like to contact Miguel Torrez, the DNA expert for the New Mexico Genealogical Society, to see if they have the same Y-DNA as the son of the Frenchman Antonio Gurule. Angela Lewis wrote an article about the Y-DNA of his descendants. So if the male descendants of the Genizaro Antonio Gurule have this Y-DNA, then we still have the Frenchman's blood!

**UPDATE! Angela Lewis** has informed me that Rosa's Gurule descendants carry the same Y-DNA as the main Gurule branch from the Frenchman's son Antonio Gurule. So to me that means that he is the father of Rosa's children! This Gurule Y-DNA can be found in Angela Lewis's article "Who Crossed The Border?" available from the NMGS. Angela tells me that their Y-DNA is Spanish Chavez, among others, so the Frenchman Jacque Grolet might not even be the father of his son Antonio Gurule! Angela also informed me that she has someone in La Rochelle, France, the place where Jacque Grolet is from, trying to find male ancestors of Jacque Grolet, to see what the Frenchmen's Y-DNA is. This answers all my questions.