

MIGRANTS

*Exploring the Colors
of my Family History*

PREVIEW VERSION

ROGER MENDOZA

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To my mother – Carmen.
She called me to this life and nurtured and cared for me.

Acknowledgments

I have been inspired to write the story of my family's history by many people throughout the years. I am so thankful for all of the experiences - both positive and negative that added so much diversity to my life. Of course, I'm grateful to my mother, Carmen Garcia Mendoza, who inspired me to learn about my past. She spoke on camera about her family as well as about my father's family. My father, Enrique Mendoza, offered precious anecdotes and stories from his early days in Mexico. Both of them told me fascinating stories that piqued my interest. This prompted me to want to record everything I could find about their past.

I'm grateful to my cousin Mary Lou Gomez-Rettie for editing this manuscript and correcting or filling in some information that she had heard from her mother, Matilde Escobedo, and from other family members. Her help was incredibly appreciated.

My cousin Olga Gomez Espinosa told me stories about her mother, Matilde Escobedo, and other family members. She sent me detailed emails with recollections about her mother.

My cousin Yolanda Mendoza Rodriguez told me stories and let me copy her family pictures.

My brother Richard facilitated a trip to South Texas in 2007 that included him, my sister, Minnie, her husband, Eddie Alejandro, and me. I video-recorded interviews from my aunts and uncles (Margarita Elva Mendoza Trevino, Marcolfa Escobedo, and Anselmo Longoria Jr. ("Chemo")). Each of them talked about their family history on camera.

My cousin, Anselmo Longoria, Jr. ("Chemo"), one of my mother's favorite cousins, gave hours of detailed information about his family's early life in McAllen. Additionally, he allowed me to

scan his countless photograph albums that preserved loving memories of his long life. Chemo sent me a letter a few weeks later with a very detailed map of the Longoria's and Mendoza's homes from circa 1930.

I thank my brothers and sisters who provided their recollections of La Familia Mendoza history from so long ago. My four older siblings: Henry, Minnie, Irma, and Richard shared their recollections, stories, and photographs from the time when my grandparents, Encarnacion and Margarita, lived. The rest of my siblings: Mary Carmen, Rose Mary, Ramie, Bobby, and Margaret shared their stories, precious photographs, and other puzzle pieces from our past.

There are too many to list, but I want to thank all those relatives and friends that offered little tidbits of information that helped me to add some spice to these stories.

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The Mendoza Family Tree

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Introduction

On January 5, 1983, Enrique Mendoza (73) and his wife, Carmen Garcia Mendoza (69), sat with their eighth son, Rogelio Mendoza (27), in the living room of 139 Aganier Avenue in San Antonio, Texas. Rogelio recorded the interview on his recently purchased J.C. Penney VHS Video Recorder. The recorder had a huge, bulky camera that sat on a tripod across from his parents.

During the interview, Enrique and Carmen talked about their lives growing up in the 1930s and before. They went on to tell about how they met, were married, and raised their children. Carmen offered accounts of events that had happened to her from when she was eleven and older. Her earlier memories, for some reason, were lost to her. The memories that she shared were full of color and imagery. She knew quite a bit about Enrique's family too. Carmen had learned so much from her closeness to her husband's family. Carmen loved to chat with them over coffee and cake. She had spent years with Enrique's family discussing the lives of her "comadres" (Enrique's sisters, sisters-in-law, and cousins). Carmen was close to them all and knew many deep-down secrets that they had discussed with her. She rarely revealed any of those confidences while we were recording the interviews. Her memory was sharp and refined. Enrique told a few stories about his life

growing up in Mexico and the tidbits of his life. His mind was not as sharp as Carmen's. However, he used practical methods to record his life experiences. He loved taking pictures, taking 8mm films, making audio recordings, and saving important documentation from his life. Enrique kept papers and photographs that had belonged to his parents. Carmen and Enrique had both amassed a considerable collection of pictures, family documents, and mementos from decades of living. Most of those have been digitized and used in recording the family history.

I likely inherited my father's knack for recording the family's history through movies, pictures, and books. My memory is certainly not as sharp as my mother's. I had interviewed them many times before 1982 and afterward, too. I took meticulous notes, taped them on my various cameras throughout the years. My parents were very supportive of my passion to preserve their history.

I lived in Southern California and usually had two weeks off from work each Christmas and would take my recording equipment and picture camera home to San Antonio to take pictures and conduct my interviews. I also had a darkroom where I processed the film I had taken and made prints from them. My parents let me borrow the treasure trove of their photographs and negatives. I used my Yashica SLR film camera (that I had bought from my brother Henry for \$25) to photograph their pictures and used their negatives to generate prints. When the cost of film scanners dropped to an "affordable" price, I bought it. It was a professional scanner that cost \$1,700. With that scanner, I was able to scan the hundreds of film and slides from my parent's collection of photos.

As time went on, my parents and other family members helped me collect more information about my family. In 2007, my brother, Richard, lived in Northern California. He also was interested in preserving our family history. He suggested that we should vacation

in San Antonio at the same time and go to South Texas to interview our Cousin Chemo Longoria (Carmen's cousin), Aunt Margarita Elva Mendoza (Enrique's sister), and Aunt Marcolfa Escobedo (Carmen's sister). Soon after, I drove to San Antonio in my Honda Pilot. A day or two later, Richard, along with our sister, Minnie, and her husband, Eddie, drove down to McAllen, Texas, where Cousin Chemo Longoria lived. It was a leisurely visit, and we stayed there for a couple of days. Chemo graciously answered all of our questions about our family's past in front of the camera. He and his wife Mary Alice, brought out a dozen or so family albums full of pictures, letters, and other precious memories. Chemo was kind enough to allow me to digitally capture quite a bit of his collection. During breakfast the next morning, he drew a map on a napkin where his parents had lived in 1930. My parents had lived on that property too. He later sent me a letter with a more detailed map drawn professionally on a sheet of paper.

Next, we traveled to Roma, Texas, where Aunt Margarita Elva lived. We visited together for a few hours while my camera recorded her. She shared heart-warming stories of her early life, her parents, and her brothers and sisters. She left nothing out. She talked lovingly about them as well as her husband and children. She shared the story about taking the love letters that Enrique wrote to Carmen when she was about ten years old.

We traveled to Weslaco, Texas, and visited with Aunt Marcolfa. Again, I set up the camera as mostly, Minnie, Eddie, and Richard asked questions. Marcolfa shared her memories from long ago. She was about four years old when she lived with her family in McAllen, and she couldn't remember much about her mother, Estefana. But she told stories about what she'd learned about her from her older sisters. Surrounding her were loving pictures of her mother, her older sister, Maria Luisa, and of course, her children.

Much of the information gathered to prepare these family

biographies came from documents and pictures handed down from parents and grandparents. This information was crucial in creating the family biographies and histories for this book. Additionally, census records, newspapers, and a plethora of historical documents added voluminous amounts of information about each of the family members. Additionally, Ancestry.com provided numerous tools to assimilate this information into a coherent, integrated fashion. The use of Ancestry.com, a sophisticated family tree management system, provided an easy way to organize all of the family tree information. To add a refined dimension to this data, Ancestry.com integrated seamlessly with its AncestryDNA databases and provided a tool to automatically find members in the tree who shared DNA with others. Of course, AncestryDNA folks have indicated that their tools are not foolproof. In any case, both Ancestry.com and AncestryDNA.com helped me to find my mother's father.

Enrique and Carmen's lives, as well as their relatives, continue to speak through the stories expressed in this book.

Photographs, documents, stories, and recordings have helped to produce a robust and rich history of my parent's families. Currently, the "La Familia Mendoza" archives contain thousands of photographs, documents, films, videos, and audio recordings about my family.

In writing this book, I have made every effort to capture the history of my family accurately. There are very few events that I write about in my family's past that are not crystal clear because of conflicting recollections or missing records. In those rare instances, I write about the events as they likely happened, and then I'll present the alternate timeline of events as a note. Regardless, the events recorded from different sources in the "La Familia Mendoza" archives, help to weave a rich story of life from the late 1800s to 1959.

The colorful story of my family history begins in Mexico.

1 - Estefana up to 1910

Matamoros, Tamaulipas, is in the Northeast corner of the beautiful country of Mexico. Seventeen miles further east at the Gulf of Mexico was the long-gone port city of Bagdad. Up until 1865, Matamoros benefitted significantly from the export of cotton to Europe through the Bagdad port. At that time, Matamoros was a thriving city of 30,000 inhabitants with a robust economy.

After the end of the American Civil war, the economy of Bagdad/Matamoros began to falter. Another twenty years of destructive hurricanes followed by a major one in 1889 that transformed the once-prosperous Bagdad port into a pristine sandy beach. Gone was the thriving agricultural economy of Matamoros, along with half the population who left to more profitable regions to the north. In the aftermath of the violent destruction of the hurricane that befell the residents, the townspeople would have been wanting for something better.

In March of 1892, Estefana Longoria was born in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Her parents, Alejandro Longoria and Estefana Martinez, were indeed elated to welcome their newest baby girl. Baby Estefana had two brothers: Guillermo (8) and Benjamin (2)

and two sisters: Luisa (4) and Matilde (3). Excitement must have filled the air in the household of seven. Her father probably would have wanted another boy to help with the farm work. Her mother, on the other hand, celebrated another daughter that she could dote over as she had done with her other two daughters. Over the next few years, the children would each learn to read and write as they came of school age. Although, Guillermo would undoubtedly have had a head start on them.

By December of 1899, Estefana was eight. She had fair skin and was taller than the other children in her school. Her hair was light brown, not black like many of the other children from her small town in Tamaulipas, Mexico. Her eyes were brown with flecks of lightness, almost blue, or maybe an ashen gray with hints of brown. She was no longer the baby of the family. Now Estefana (8) had two younger siblings: Anselmo (5) and Alejandro Jr. (3) and four older siblings: Guillermo (15), Luisa (13), Matilde (11) and Benjamin (9).

Luisa had completed school and helped her mother with the sewing, cooking, and other such duties. Luisa was proficient at needlework. Her mother had likely taught Luisa how to sew and attend to other household duties that she would use later in life when she got married.

Estefana must have felt safe in her small, loving world. Her mother and older siblings would, no doubt, have insulated her from the harshness of life.

Her father, Alejandro Longoria, would likely have had a different view about his family's well-being. It was getting more challenging to provide for his family. The economy of Matamoros was nowhere near where it had been when he was younger.

He had considered moving from Matamoros to Brownsville, Texas, in the United States. Matamoros was across the Rio Grande River from her sister city of Brownsville, Texas. Across the border,

he would be able to give his family a better life, and the citizens of both countries traveled easily between the two cities. The Brownsville Herald, the newspaper from the United States, was distributed in Matamoros. The paper talked about cheap farmland in Brownsville. Alejandro probably imagined that on the farm he could plant crops, raise chickens, keep goats, and so much more. In his eyes, the United States offered him a chance to raise his family in a land of opportunity and safety.

About January 1, 1900, the Longoria family moved to Brownsville, Texas. Alejandro surmised that he could bring his family back to Matamoros if things didn't go well here. The family moved into a house in the rural area adjacent to the city center of Brownsville. The population of Brownsville in 1900 was 6,305 people¹.

The Longoria family had begun a new life in the United States in the first few days of the emerging century. Alejandro and his eldest son, Guillermo, worked the land of their new residence.

At eight years old, Estefana was too young to know why they moved to the United States. At that age, she probably would have happily played with her doll and clothed it with a pretty dress that her mother might have made for it. She would have enjoyed hand-me-downs from her two older sisters. She was still her mother's baby girl. Also, she must have enjoyed playtime with her two younger brothers, Anselmo (6) and Alejandro Jr. (4).

Six months later, the 1900 United States Census started.² When the census taker came to Alejandro's house on June 11, 1900, he supplied the required information for the census taker for each family member. When the census taker wrote Estefana's name, he mistakenly put the brother's, Benjamin (10), statistics on the same line. Benjamin's name was missing from the 1900 census.

Benjamin's birth³ and baptismal⁴ certificates ensured that Benjamin would not be a forgotten member of the family. One

tragic note regarding the 1900 census revealed that Estefana Martinez Longoria had nine children, of which only seven were alive. Although in those times it was not uncommon to lose a child either during or shortly after childbirth, it was none-the-less tragic, especially for the mother.

The census also showed that the second oldest child, Luisa, could read and write, and needlework was her occupation. No doubt she learned that skill from her mother. Perhaps that was another source of income for the family.

Guillermo, the eldest child, and his father were both listed as day-laborers (a hint that they were the breadwinners for the family).

In all, Alejandro (41) and his wife Estefana Martinez Longoria (33) had four boys: Guillermo (16), Benjamin (10), Anselmo (6), and Alejandro Jr. (4). And they had three daughters: Luisa (14) and Matilde (13), and Estefana (8). The older children and their parents were literate in Spanish, and none of them could speak English.

Life seemed to be good for the Longoria family. Alejandro and Estefana welcomed another baby boy, Cristobal, on January 18, 1901. The family had now grown to eight children.

In 1903, in Monterrey, Mexico, Alejandro's father-in-law, Esteban Martinez, reported the tragic death of Alejandro and Estefana Martinez Longoria's son Benjamin. On the death certificate, Estefana's father, Esteban, stated that at 4:00 am, on the morning of November 19, 1903, twelve-year-old Benjamin died.⁵ Benjamin's mother, Estefana Martinez Longoria, would most likely have been visiting her parents in her childhood town of Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Perhaps, Matilde (15) and Cristobal (1-1/2) had gone with her to Monterrey, Mexico. Cristobal would have been too young to leave behind. The family would have felt the pain of losing a young son and brother.

Each week the local newspaper, The Brownsville Herald, published a list of "Uncalled for" letters in the post office. In 1905,

two letters addressed to Alejandro Longoria were held in the Brownsville, Texas post office for pickup - one from October 14⁶ and the second from October 28.⁷ It's unclear if they were intended for nine-year-old Alejandro Jr., or to his father.

Two months later, another letter was waiting for 19-year-old Señorita Luisa Longoria on November 18, 1905.⁸ Another hint that this letter came from Luisa's mother in Mexico as it appears, she often traveled there to visit her parents.

On March 25, 1907,⁹ a letter addressed to 13-year-old Anselmo Longoria was listed in the paper.

Who sent those letters to the Longoria family? Both of the parents could read and write. One possibility is that Estefana Martinez Longoria, their mother would likely have stayed with her family in Monterrey, Mexico. She had just lost her son, Benjamin, at the end of 1903. In any case, circumstances had cast a terrible and tragic shadow over the Longoria family. Not only had Estefana Martinez Longoria lost her 12-year-old boy, but it appeared that the move to Brownsville, Texas, had begun to splinter the family.

By mid-1909, 25-year-old Guillermo had met the love of his life, Juana Anaya (17). Estefana was also 17 years old. Estefana was a reserved but very independent young lady. She was a beautiful, small-framed woman that stood 5'7" tall. She would undoubtedly have caught the eye of some young man, just as Juana Anaya had.

On July 13, 1909, the Brownsville Herald newspaper published a list of "Uncalled for" letters.¹⁰ "Mrs. Estefana Longoria de Garcia" was listed under the "Ladies" heading. Under the Gentlemen's title was recorded: "Manuel Garcia." This letter from 1909 was the last one addressed to the Longoria's published in the Brownsville Herald. Years later, on the census form from 1930, she stated that she was first married at age 15 (that would be about 1907 as she was born about 1892). Years later, her death certificate said that her husband was "Manuel Garcia." Had Estefana been married to

Manuel Garcia in 1909? No marriage certificate was found for Estefana Longoria and Manuel Garcia.

By 1910, life was good for the Longoria family. The preparations were underway for the marriage of Guillermo and Juana. They were undoubtedly thrilled beyond words with their upcoming union.

On February 19, 1910, Guillermo and Juana were married.¹¹ The whole family was bursting with excitement. The days were a comfortable 74 degrees F, and the nights were a chilly 55 degrees F.

Then, the unthinkable happened. On March 23, 1910, Luisa Longoria passed away at the age of 23. She would no longer be doing her needlework, of which she had been so proud (and which may have contributed to the family income).

Luisa had used strychnine to end her life. It was a devastating blow to the family. For several excruciating hours that it took for Luisa to die, her family would not have been able to bring her back from the brink of death. Her father, if he were there, would have been speechless, his eyes wide with grief as he watched his daughter writhing in pain. Her mother, if she were there, would have cried as she pleaded with God to save her daughter's life. Estefana would have quietly stood in shock, trying to hold back her tears as Luisa's body fought the poison. And all of Luisa's siblings would have felt their hearts ripped from their hollow chests as they stood helpless to stop their sister from leaving her problems behind. Guillermo, in particular with his wife, had instantly gone from sheer happiness in his new wondrous married life to devastation. The guilt and the horror that her family felt must have been tremendously overwhelming.¹²

It was 17-year old Estefana, who reported the death of her sister to the authorities. Perhaps she'd learned English well enough to recount the terrible details to the record-taker. Ten years before, she only knew how to speak Spanish. She may have attended school for a couple of years after arriving in the United States.

Perhaps she had friends who spoke English. In any case, she was able to muster up enough strength to tell the record-taker that her beloved sister had committed suicide. The document revealed Luisa's parent's names had been written in a different handwriting style than the rest of the document. A handwriting expert would have noted the downward slant of the scrawl for the name of the father, Alexandro Longoria. The mother's name, Estefana Martinez, was written almost perfectly horizontal. The writing of the birthplace of Mexico progressed happily upward. On the righthand side of the form, the doctor recorded the cause of death in large blotchy, technical handwriting (which was nowhere near as delicate as the handwriting on the rest of the document): "Suicide with Strychnine."

The family had splintered into tragic pieces after Luisa's death. Her mother, Estefana Martinez, left for Mexico (if she wasn't already there) and left her husband, Alejandro Longoria Sr. behind in Brownsville.

The 1910 United States Census¹³ had some errors. Guillermo (25), his wife, Juana Anaya (18), his brother, Alejandro Jr. (13), and his sister, Estefana (17), were still living on the family farm established by his father in Brownsville, Texas. The two brothers were laborers at that time. It incorrectly stated the details for Alejandro Jr. and Estefana. Guillermo was probably still in shock from Luisa's death when he attempted to explain to the census taker the members of his household. His sister, Luisa, had just died, and the rest of his family was gone. He probably felt the burden of the world on his shoulders as he talked to the census taker. He misreported that his brother Alejandro Jr. was 27 and that his sister "Estefanita" was his three-year-old daughter. Guillermo was probably nervous as the census taker asked him, "Didn't you tell me that you just got married? How could you have a three-year-old daughter?"

Guillermo might have said, “Oh, I was married before.”

Is that the reason that the census taker had written that Guillermo had been married twice on the census form? Also, the census taker wrote an oddly shaped “3” for Estefanita’s age, as if he wrote it with uncertainty. Of course, it's possible that Guillermo had a daughter named Estefanita, but unlikely.

The horror of the death of his sister, Luisa, would undoubtedly have continued to weigh heavily on the family’s hearts. It’s a mystery why Estefana might have been married at the time and also living with her brother Guillermo. Perhaps, a record yet to be found would answer that question. In any case, life continued for the Longoria’s, despite the catastrophic assault on their family.

Growing up in Brownsville, Alejandro Jr. worked with Guillermo to provide for the new family. Their sister, Estefana, was sure to have continued to milk the goats or cows, collect the eggs, and feed the animals. Certainly, Estefana, along with her sister-in-law, Juana, would have taken care of cleaning the clothes, cooking, and other household chores. Many years later, Estefana’s daughter, Carmen, said that her mother was skilled at cooking, caring for the chickens, cows, goats, and other sources of food for her family. These tragic events had taught her to develop an empathetic and compassionate character.

Estefana Martinez and her daughter Matilde were not recorded on the United States census from 1910 in Brownsville or the surrounding communities. It’s entirely plausible that they both went back to Monterrey to stay with the parents of Estefana Martinez.

Alejandro Longoria Sr. had stayed behind and continued to work the fields. (Alejandro Sr. would later move in with his son, Anselmo in Pharr, Texas).

The missing pieces of the Longoria family tale continued with Estefana Longoria, daughter of Alejandro Longoria Sr. and Estefana Martinez Longoria. Was Estefana Longoria now Mrs.

Estefana Longoria de Garcia, wife of Manuel Garcia (as was indicated on the Brownsville Herald Newspaper from July 13, 1907)? Years later, Anselmo Longoria Jr. ("Chemo"), said that his father Anselmo was attending school in Brownsville. Perhaps, Cristobal (9) was also in school. Even though the Longoria family had fractured, the two youngest boys may have been able to receive a formal education. This must have come at a great sacrifice for a family that depended on the income of farm labor.

2 - Encarnacion & Margarita up to 1910

The Republic of Texas had declared its independence on March 2, 1836, from Mexico, and it became its own country. After nine years as an independent republic, on December 29, 1845, the Republic of Texas agreed to become part of the United States of America. It was annexed into the United States and admitted into the union. Of course, Mexico never acknowledged Texas's independence and thus began the Mexican American War from 1846 to 1848. After the United States won the war, they paid Mexico 15 million dollars for the lands that would later become Arizona, California, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, portions of Colorado, and Wyoming. Mexico also gave up its claims to Texas¹⁴.

At some point, there were flags of six different countries flown over Texas: Spain, France, Mexico, Republic of Texas, Confederate States of America, and the United States of America.

It would make sense that many descendants of early Texas would have bits and pieces of DNA from more than one of those countries. Two such families are the Ybarbo and the De La Garza families.

Juan de la Garza was born about 1843 in the state of Nuevo

Leon, Mexico. By 1880, he was living in Floresville, Texas, in Wilson County with his wife, Margarita Lopez. They had five children: Eugenio (10), Virginia (9), Juan (5), Margarita (2), and Salomon (3 months)¹⁵. Sometime after 1880, after Salomon was born, Margarita Lopez disappeared from Juan's life. It is assumed that she died. Soon after, Juan met Mariana Ybarbo.

In 1890, Mariana (41), a 5'4" tall, brown-eyed woman, was from a wealthy family that owned vast swathes of land in West Louisiana and East Texas. She owned over 2,000 acres of land in the town of Nacogdoches in East Texas. Her brother, Vital (b. 1848), was a confederate soldier. Her great-great-grandfather was Antonio Gil Ybarbo (b. 1729, d. 1809)¹⁶.

Mariana's siblings Regina Ybarbo (5), Teresa Ybarbo (46), and Ben Ybarbo (47) were born in Texas. Her brother, Vital (57), and her mother, Alafonsa Flores Ybarbo (69), were born in Louisiana. Alafonsa Flores Ybarbo was a descendant of French immigrants on her mother's side.

By 1899, Juan de la Garza and Marianna Ybarbo had three children, Clarita (6), Guadalupe (2), and Margarita (4). It's unclear what happened to Guadalupe and Clarita because the only record that remains of them is a picture postcard. On the back of the postcard was written, "Here I put the names of my children, the older is named Clarita; the one in the middle is a boy who is named Guadalupe, and the other girl is Margarita¹⁷." Margarita de la Garza was born on February 22, 1895, in Floresville, Texas.

By 1900, many of Margarita's half-siblings: Virginia (29), Juan Jr. (25), and Salomon (20) had moved to General Teran, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. By that time, Margarita's half-brother, Eugenio (30), had been married to Florinda Maldonado (27) for nine years, and they lived in or near Seguin, Texas.

Margarita was about 15 years old when a famous Mexican composer, Fernando Medina, composed a song for Margarita.

Perhaps it was for her “Quinceañera.” That is the celebration of a young girl’s coming of age 15th birthday. Years later, the composition played as a beautiful, whimsical melody. Imagine what it was like for Margarita to have her very own song composed for her.¹⁸

By 1902 Juan de la Garza and his wife, Mariana Ybarbo, and their daughter, Margarita (15), had moved to General Teran, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Juan died about two years later.

On April 25, 1906, a baby who was named Virgilio was born. It was a sad story in which Margarita (21) took the baby as her own because the parents had either died or were unable to care for the infant. In those days, it was a scandalous affair for a young, unmarried woman to adopt a baby. Of course, her mother, Mariana Ybarbo, would have helped her raise Virgilio.

Margarita was living in Montemorelos, Mexico. She was an energetic, attractive woman, 5’4” in height, dark hair, a somewhat dark complexion. A small, fashionable mole adorned her upper lip. She likely enjoyed the life of a daughter who had a wealthy mother. However, Margarita benefitted immeasurably from the richness of the love of her extended family on both her parent’s sides. Her relatives on the De La Garza side of the family were living all around her - in General Teran, Monterrey, Mexico, and scattered throughout Texas. Likewise, the Ybarbo relatives lived in some of those same places, too, but many more lived in East Texas around Nacogdoches.

Sometime between 1906 and 1907, Margarita met Encarnacion Mendoza, the young man that she would eventually marry. Perhaps, she had met Encarnacion in Monterrey when she and her mother visited family there. Alternatively, they could have met in General Teran when Encarnacion traveled there to sell his bakery products or to operate the Loteria.

Encarnacion was born on March 25, 1882. Various legal

documents stated other birth years, like 1879, 1880, and 1882. However, most of the documents agree that he was born on March 25. He was born in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Some of the later records indicated that he was born in General Teran, which is a small town about 44 miles from Monterrey. In any case, he was most likely born on March 25, 1882, in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico¹⁹.

His parents were Jesus Ramirez Mendoza and Maria Guadalupe Garcia. They lived in the state of Nuevo Leon and eventually moved to General Teran. Years later, Encarnacion's son, Enrique, couldn't remember much about his grandfather, Jesus, except that he worked as a train conductor of sorts. Enrique said that his Grandfather Jesus was rarely home, and that was the reason he didn't know much about him. He remembered his grandmother Guadalupe affectionately and visited her often in the summer. He enjoyed the large bowl that she kept filled with candy. Enrique also noted that his father, Encarnacion, had a sister named Maria Mendoza.

"She had a beautiful singing voice," Enrique later said.

In 1906, Encarnacion was living in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. He was a handsome, single 24-year-old, and 5'2" tall. Encarnacion was a very energetic young man. He had dark, olive skin, brown eyes, and black hair.

He was a "commerciante" [merchant] with his own business located on Veracruz Street, No. 4, in the heart of Monterrey. His parents likely supported him financially and with good parental inspiration. As a self-starter, he was most certainly exploiting his natural entrepreneurial skills. He was very self-assured and very successful in his endeavors. In a business journal from 1907, Encarnacion had recorded listings of items purchased for the Loteria, such as crystal vases, crystal cups, and other prizes. Loteria was like a bingo stand that one might find at a carnival²⁰.

Encarnacion also included recipes for various Mexican pastries like “Polvorones, Pastel, Reposteria, Panque, Cucas, Ojarasca, and Moyette.” He likely operated a Loteria, which was a game very similar to bingo, where people won prizes by filling out a “bingo” card with numbers or symbols called out by Encarnacion. He was quite successful in this business.

By June of 1907, the business must have been going very well for him. Encarnacion filed paperwork to acquire more property on his same street, No. 24 and No. 25 on Veracruz Street²¹. It’s unknown if he was successful with this transaction. It’s most likely that he was not able to obtain that property because he left Monterrey shortly after that. Perhaps after meeting the love of his life.

Margarita and her mother, Mariana Ybarbo, were living in the Zaragosa neighborhood of General Teran. Margarita’s half-brother, Salomon de la Garza, was living nearby. Margarita must have been thrilled when she got the news that her half-brother, Juan, and his wife, Juana Saenz, had given birth to a son named Manuel ("Meme") Garza on February 13, 1907. Margarita was extremely close to her half-siblings and other relatives, both those near her in Mexico and those in Texas. "Meme's" birth date on his baptismal certificate stated his birth year was 1907²², and his U.S. draft card, many years later, noted that his birth year as 1908²³.

On April 4, 1908, in the Nuevo Leon, Mexico, Civil Registration Marriages Journal, there was an entry for a license for the marriage of Encarnacion Mendoza (24) and Margarita de la Garza (20). The license, recorded at Montemorelos, Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, stated that a notice would be published so that if anyone objected to the marriage, they could respond to the civil court. Encarnacion’s parents (Jesus Mendoza Ramirez and Maria Guadalupe Garcia) were both deceased. Mariana Ybarbo was a widow (her deceased husband was Juan de la Garza). Years later, according to Encarnacion’s son, Enrique, his grandparents Jesus and Maria

Guadalupe were still alive when he was a child. It appears that the marriage record incorrectly lists Jesus and Maria Guadalupe as deceased²⁴.

By April 28, 1908, no one had responded in the negative to the marriage license that Encarnacion and Margarita had filed. On that day, Encarnacion Mendoza married Margarita Garza in the city of Montemorelos. According to the license, Margarita was a previous resident of Wilson, Texas. The record also stated that Encarnacion was from Monterrey. As stated earlier, Mariana and her daughter were born in Texas - Mariana in Nacogdoches about 1848, and Margarita in Wilson County in 1885.

Encarnacion welcomed Virgilio as his son and officially recognized him as Virgilio Mendoza. Soon after, Encarnacion, his wife Margarita, and Virgilio moved to General Teran, which was less than 12 miles away.

There is no reference to the Monterrey businesses after Encarnacion Mendoza moved to General Teran. He did, however, keep the many business friends that he had in Monterrey like bank managers and other business associates. It would make sense that Encarnacion had sold his interests in the Monterrey business and poured his resources into a new business in General Teran. But now he would move powerfully forward in his business venture with his wife, who would work cooperatively with him towards greater success. Moreover, they would both find love in each other that grounded them in a beautiful, spiritual union.

A few months later, Margarita was pregnant with their first child. The happy couple indeed rejoiced as they began their family together in their new home in General Teran.

On March 20, 1909, Encarnacion and Margarita had their first baby, Jose Enrique Mendoza. The beautiful couple could not have foreseen what would happen next to them. Their baby died. The heart-wrenching event would have been devastating to them.

Migrants: Exploring the Colors of my Family History

Starting a family was not going to be quite as natural or comfortable as they might have expected. However, Margarita's mother, Mariana, and other close family members would be there to support her. Encarnacion would also be there to support her, and his parents would be there to help him.

3 - Encarnacion & Margarita 1910 to 1919

By June 19, 1910, Encarnacion (28)²⁵, a pregnant Margarita (23)²⁶, Mariana Ybarbo (61)²⁷, and Juan Saenz (8)²⁸ traveled from their house in General Teran to Seguin, Texas. Young Juan Saenz was the son of Margarita's brother Juan Garza and his wife, Juana Saenz. It appeared that Margarita had wanted her son, Enrique, to be born in the United States.

Mariana's hair had grayed, but she was as energetic as ever. The group continued to Seguin and stayed at Eugenio de la Garza's house. Eugenio, Margarita's half-brother, was married to Florinda Maldonado. When they arrived, Florinda might have said to Margarita, "My goodness! You're ready to have your baby at any moment. Margarita was pregnant with her second child.

On July 8, 1910, Margarita gave birth to a beautiful baby boy (their second child) that they named him Enrique²⁹. A mid-wife delivered him. The mid-wife was a black woman, much beloved by the de la Garza family. The midwife joked with Margarita and Encarnacion, "When you for Mexico, for me, the baby." She meant that when the family left, they should leave baby Enrique with her. Years later, when Enrique recounted the story about what the

midwife had said, he laughed with glee. His mother had told him that story. A few weeks later, Encarnacion, Margarita, Mariana, Enrique, and Juan Saenz traveled back to their home in General Teran. Happiness returned to the family. Encarnacion was thrilled with his new boy. Margarita felt a sigh of relief as she experienced the joy of motherhood.

On November 22, 1910, Enrique Mendoza was baptized as Jose Enrique Mendoza at their church, *Nuestra Señora de la Soledad*, in General Teran, Nuevo Leon, Mexico³⁰. According to United States law, Enrique was considered a U.S. citizen. Perhaps, Margarita in her wisdom, believed that someday, they might all return to the United States.

On July 13, 1911, Miguel Garza, a relative of Margarita, registered the Texas birth of Enrique Mendoza in the Mexican birth registry in General Teran, Nuevo Leon, Mexico³¹. Perhaps the registration was necessary for Enrique to ensure that he could live in Mexico as other Mexican citizens could. There's no way to know for sure why Miguel Garza registered the birth of Enrique, except that it would make sense to have an official Mexican government birth record to comply with Mexican law. The Mexican Revolution was in full swing at that time.

On December 9, 1911, Encarnacion and Margarita had their third child at 6:00 pm³². He was born in the Hidalgo section of General Teran. They named him Encarnacion Jr. Later his nickname would become Canacho.

How wonderful Encarnacion and Margarita must have felt that their family was growing. Encarnacion was thrilled to have two boys (three if you count Virgilio). Margarita was thankful to God for the beautiful gifts that he had bestowed upon her family.

On February 10, 1913, Encarnacion and Margarita had their fourth child at 5 pm³³. They named him Heriberto (nicknamed Beto). Encarnacion registered his son's birthdate with the local

authorities in General Teran. Years later, Heriberto would put January 26, 1913, on his draft card.

On November 6, 1913, the Spokane Chronicle of Washington State reported that rebels took the Mexican cities of Montemorelos and General Teran (and other cities). The newspaper reported that the rebels burned and looted indiscriminately throughout the towns. By the next day, the rebels were “repelled” and the Federal troops “reoccupied” the towns. However, the rebels had done much damage to the city³⁴.

On March 25, 1914, Encarnacion and Margarita had their fifth child at 3:30 pm. They named her Consuelo Guadalupe Mendoza³⁵. She died three months later on June 29, 1914³⁶.

On April 15, 1916, Encarnacion and Margarita had their sixth child, Jesus Mendoza (nicknamed Chuy), at 12:00 midnight³⁷. Later, Jesus would enter April 2, 1916, as his birthdate on his U.S. draft card³⁸.

At the start of 1917, Encarnacion and Margarita’s growing family lived in General Teran. Encarnacion owned a meat market, a general store, a theater, and a bakery. Encarnacion (35), and his wife, Margarita (31), had five children: Virgilio (10), Enrique (6), Encarnacion Jr. (5), Heriberto (3), and Jesus (1).

Surely by January of 1917, Margarita found that she was expecting her next child. That was good news to her, she loved children. Perhaps she worried about the revolution and how it might affect her family.

By February of 1917, the revolution continued unabated in Mexico. The president of Mexico at that time was Venustiano Carranza. Fortunately, the tiny town of General Teran with only a few hundred people was far enough away from the violence to be affected adversely by it (aside from the occasional rebels that would pass through the town). It was “protected” by the forces of Carranza³⁹.

Encarnacion was well known as a kind and considerate man. Years later, his son, Enrique, said, “Encarnacion was once the mayor of General Teran and very influential in the town.”

Enrique went on to describe his father’s business and some stories that he remembered. In addition to his well-established businesses, Encarnacion ran a “Loteria.” The Loteria was a game of chance similar to bingo where customers played for prizes. At times, he would have it constructed and operating next to his other businesses. At other times, it provided entertainment for the residents of the city and the neighboring towns when he traveled with the tented enclosure to the nearby towns.

One day, some men on horseback arrived in town looking for supplies. They were rebels loaded with weapons, ready and willing to use them if necessary. The insurgents were precisely in search of places like Encarnacion’s retail establishments.

Several horseback riders rode up to the town center, where Encarnacion’s retail establishments stood predominantly. It would have been a frightening spectacle to see large numbers of soldiers with guns, riding up thunderously. Enrique and his siblings were playing outside the home, perhaps not aware of the danger.

Encarnacion had urged his children to go inside. Some ran and hid in a place where they could watch, while the younger ones might have run inside the house. Encarnacion talked with the rebel men. The family story claimed that it was Pancho Villa (Mexican revolutionary) who rode up with his men and demanded supplies from Encarnacion. The exchange was peaceful, and Encarnacion provided supplies (beans, rice, and other staples) to the rebels. Eventually, the insurgents left without harming anyone in the town.

An article of the time almost matches Enrique’s account of the above incident. The difference was that instead of Pancho Villa, it had been Pedro Gonzalez and the Felicistas who visited the Mendoza’s. The rebels were followers of General Felix Diaz

(nephew of Porfirio), an enemy of Pancho Villa and then President, Venustiano Carranza⁴⁰. General Felix Diaz was the leader of the National Reorganizer Army (Ejercito Reorganizador Nacional):

On February 4, 1917, Sunday, Page 3 of The Laredo Weekly Times reported another incursion of General Teran by the rebels⁴¹:

**DEFEATED CARRANCISTAS THEN
TOOK GENERAL TERAN, BUT
FELICISTAS ONLY STAYED LONG
ENOUGH TO GET SUPPLIES.**

While in Possession of Small Town, They
Incidentally Captured Horses, Arms, and
Ammunition.

According to information by an American
arriving yesterday afternoon, the Felicistas under
the leadership of Pedro Gonzales who crossed the
Rio Grande into Mexico at a point not far from
Laredo on New Year's night, won a victory at the
little town of General Teran on last Monday, when
they attacked and defeated the garrison of
Carranza soldiers there and then entered the place
until they departed at their own pleasure.

The American says that the Felicistas appeared
on the outskirts of General Teran and were
immediately engaged by the Carrancistas. A lively
battle ensued for a while, and then the defenders
of the town were repulsed with heavy losses, being
driven back into the nearby country. The Felicistas
then entered General Teran, replenished their
supplies of provisions, captured a number of
horses and a number of arms and ammunition
belonging to the Carrancistas and spent several

hours leisurely in the town mingling with the people, whom they treated most cordially and showed no intention of harming in any way. When the Felicistas assaulted General Teran, says the American, they had orders not to destroy the railroads or damage public property, and these orders were strictly adhered to in every respect.

After spending several hours in the town, the Felicistas unceremoniously took their departure, and a short time after that, the Carrancistas who had fled returned to the place, finding the people of the place safe and unharmed by the invaders and speaking of them in laudatory terms. It appears that everywhere the Felicistas under Pedro Gonzales have appeared, they have not resorted to the usual tactics of Mexican soldiers of looting, murdering and committing indignities on women and children, but on the other hand, go as soldiers into a place rather than bandits or raiders. The town of General Teran is seventy kilometers of Monterey on the railroad line in the direction of Victoria and has only a few hundred population.

It is entirely plausible that Encarnacion's generosity towards the Felicistas would have appeared to the Carranzistas as supporting the enemy. That was a problem for successful tradespeople like Encarnacion that chose non-violent methods to suppress violence.

"Either you're with us, or you're against us," each side might say.

Encarnacion was not inclined to take sides. Encarnacion was a savvy businessman who was an influential member of his small town. It's highly likely that, in this case, he would have wanted to provide provisions to a potentially hostile and dangerous rebel

army so that they could be on their way and cause no harm to his town.

As the article from the Laredo Weekly Times showed, Encarnacion made the right decision - at least in the eyes of rational folk. The city was utterly defenseless, and Encarnacion's only option would have been to act with kindness, generosity, and compassion to protect his family and his city.

Pancho Villa might have similarly visited General Teran at another time. Encarnacion would have provided beans and rice to those rebels too. In any case, the opposition would have viewed his generosity as willfully supporting the enemy.

Another newspaper article reported a similar incident in General Teran. On April 29, 1917, Sunday, Page 10 of the Laredo Weekly Times reported another incursion of General Teran by the rebels⁴²:

SOUNDS LIKE A CHAPLIN PLAY

The Capture of Town of General Teran, Mexico, by Rebels, Furnishes Good Plot for a Comedy.

There are some great soldiers down in Mexico, as is illustrated by the following story brought to the border by a passenger who arrived from Monterey yesterday afternoon.

On Sunday night, a party of eight revolutionists of the Felipe Rodriguez affiliation entered the little town of General Teran, between Monterey and Victoria, at midnight, went to the church there, and began ringing the bells. Immediately the Carranza garrison, which consisted of fifteen or twenty men, lined up and surrendered to the rebels, presumably believing that there was a big rebel force attacking the town. The revolutionists

disarmed the Carrancistas, took their rifles, ammunition, and food supplies, and on the next morning, unceremoniously took their departure. The Carrancistas could have captured the handful of rebels if they had exercised their heads instead of their feet.

After each of these “incursions,” everyday life returned to General Teran.

On August 6, 1917, Encarnacion and Margarita welcomed their seventh child, Jose Armando Mendoza⁴³. He was baptized on January 19, 1918⁴⁴.

On May 6, 1918, Margarita Garza de Mendoza got a *Declaration of Alien About to Depart the United States*⁴⁵. On the form, she indicated that she planned to buy clothes and visit with her family in Seguin, Texas for three weeks. On May 14, 1918, Margarita presented the “Declaration” form along with a letter from Romulo Elizondo (inviting her to Seguin) to the border agent (at the United States border).

Margarita was admitted into the United States via the footbridge on her way to Seguin, Texas⁴⁶. Her mother-in-law, Guadalupe Mendoza, a 56-year-old widow, accompanied Margarita⁴⁷. At that time, Guadalupe was living in Monterrey.

On June 5, 1918, Jose Armando Mendoza (10 months) died⁴⁸. On the Mexican Civil Registration Deaths journal, it stated that Sr. Julian Jaso, a married laborer, reported the death. Jose Armando had died at midnight the previous day from a high fever. Encarnacion and Margarita had identified the body.

The death of their son was another devastating blow to Encarnacion and Margarita. Margarita was about six months pregnant at the time. Had Margarita traveled with her ten-month-old infant to Seguin, Texas? The border crossing hadn't

indicated that Margarita was traveling with an infant. Had Margarita left the infant behind when she went to Seguin, perhaps to give birth to her next baby there? In any case, she had returned home to General Teran when she and Encarnacion identified their son's body. It must have been particularly rough for Margarita since she needed to preserve her strength for the upcoming birth of her next child.

For both Encarnacion and Margarita, this was the third child that they had lost (Jose Enrique in 1909, Consuelo Guadalupe in 1914, and Jose Armando in 1918). They drew strength from each other to move forward through the pain, not only for themselves but for their four living children: Enrique (8), Canacho (7), Heriberto (5), Jesus (2).

On August 2, 1918, Encarnacion and Margarita welcomed their eighth child at 8:00 pm⁴⁹. They named her Maria Consuelo Mendoza. Shortly after that, in September of 1918, 8-year-old Enrique started school.

On September 25, 1919, Encarnacion and Margarita welcomed their ninth child, Margarita Elva Mendoza.⁵⁰ Her baptismal certificate (dated January 8, 1921) from Nuestra Señora de la Soledad Catholic Church stated that she was eight months old when she was baptized.⁵¹ These types of discrepancies were common in these sorts of records. Perhaps the document should have stated that she was 13 months old. Her Godparents were Gaspar Cantu Garza (b. 1879) and his wife Juliana (b. 1879). Gaspar Cantu Garza was a close relative of Margarita through her father. A few years later, Gaspar Cantu Garza would be heavily involved in the management of Encarnacion's and Margarita's properties.

There is an unusual handwritten notation on one of the corners of Margarita Elva's birth record that stated: "Matrimony was in San Antonio, Texas on December 21, 1908; the birth date was

September 23, 1919.” Could this notation have suggested that her parents, Encarnacion and Margarita, had been married in San Antonio, Texas, instead of in Montemorelos as the Marriage record stated? It’s not likely, but it could be a hint that years later, Margarita Elva might have suggested that to the record keeper.

Now with six children, Encarnacion was successfully operating his business, and Margarita was busy maintaining the household and was deeply involved with the Catholic Church (Nuestra Señora de la Soledad). They had survived rebel incursions into their town, the loss of three young children, but they forged ahead.

Thanks for reading the first three chapters. You can get the complete book at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), [Barnes & Noble](https://www.barnesandnoble.com), and [Rgstore.com](https://www.rgstore.com).

The Longoria Family Tree

Alejandro Longoria Sr. married Estefana Martinez

- Guillermo Longoria
- Luisa Longoria
- Matilde Longoria
- Benjamin Longoria
- Estefana Longoria
- Anselmo Longoria, Sr.
- Alejandro Longoria, Jr.
- Cristobal Longoria

Anselmo Longoria married Ofelia Montalvo

- **Estefana Longoria and Manuel/Canuto Garcia**
 - Maria Luisa Garcia
 - Carmen Garcia
- **Estefana Longoria married Crisanto Escobedo**
 - Matilde Escobedo
 - Marcolfa Escobedo
 - Alejandro Escobedo

Alejandro Longoria Sr.

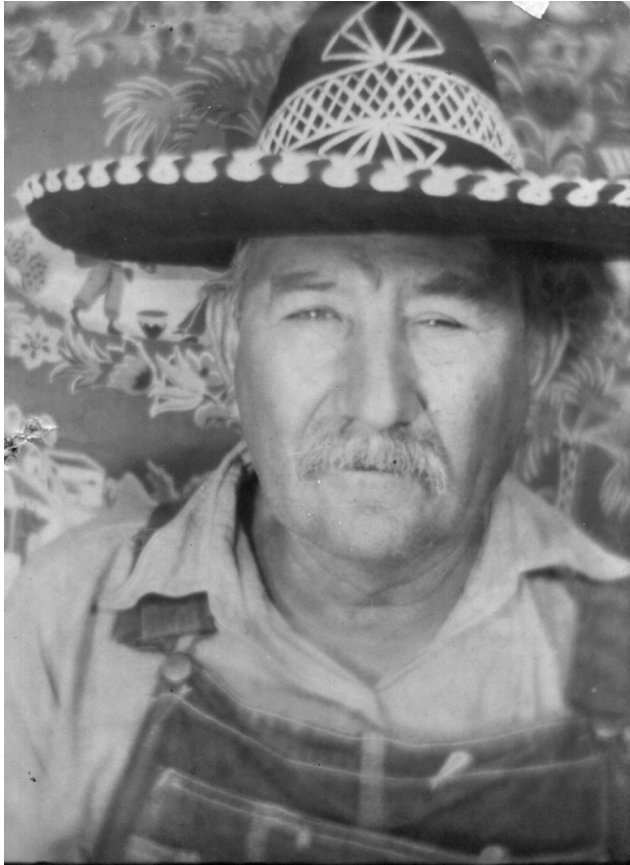
When Alejandro Longoria (father of Estefana Longoria) was born in April 1859 in Mier, Tamaulipas, Mexico, his father, Abato, was 35 and his mother, Matilde, was 30. He married Estefana Martinez on April 26, 1883, in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico. They had eight children in 16 years (Guillermo, Luisa, Matilde, Benjamin, Estefana, Anselmo, Alejandro Jr., Cristobal). He died somewhere around 1926 at about the age of 67. His granddaughter, Carmen said that he was already dead when she was a young girl.

Estefana Martinez

Estefana Martinez (mother of Estefana Longoria) was born in 1861 in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico, the daughter of Mariana and Esteban. She was baptized on December 30, 1858. She married Alejandro Longoria on April 26, 1883, in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico. They had eight children in 16 years (Guillermo, Luisa, Matilde, Benjamin, Estefana, Anselmo, Alejandro Jr., Cristobal). She died somewhere around 1926 at about the age of 65. Her granddaughter, Carmen said that he was already dead when she was a young girl.

Guillermo Longoria

When Guillermo Longoria was born on February 10, 1884, in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, his father, Alejandro, was 24 and his mother, Estefana, was 23. He married Juana Anaya on February 19, 1910, in Cameron, Texas. They had four children during their marriage. He died on December 20, 1941, at the age of 57.



Estefana Longoria

When Estefana Longoria (mother of Carmen Garcia) was born in Ranch Los Cuates, Matamoros, Mexico about March 1892, her father, Alejandro Longoria, was 32, and her mother, Estefana Martinez, was 31. In 1900, her family moved to Brownsville, Texas. Estefana had two children with Canuto Garcia. Although, It's possible the eldest had a different father. Canuto Garcia disappeared from her life soon afterward. Estefana married Crisanto Escobedo about 1917 and had three children with him. Her husband, Crisanto died on September 14, 1929 from Lobar Pneumonia. Her brother, Anselmo moved her family to his home in McAllen, Texas a few weeks later. She died from pneumonia on December 24, 1931, in McAllen, Texas, at the age of 39.



Crisanto Escobedo

When Crisanto Escobedo (step-father of Carmen Garcia) was born on October 27, 1890, in La Ascención in Aramberri, Nuevo León, Mexico, his father, Donaciano Escobedo (b. 1858), was 32 and his mother, Anastacia Valdez (b. 1860), was 30. By 1917, he married Estefana Longoria (b. 1892). He had one son and two daughters with Estefana Longoria between 1922 and 1927. He was a farmer and a day-laborer. He died on September 14, 1929, in San Benito, Texas, at the age of 38 from Lobar Pneumonia.

Anselmo Longoria

When Anselmo M Longoria (sister of Estefana Longoria, father of Anselmo Jr., “Chemo”) was born on April 21, 1894, in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, his father, Alejandro, was 35 and his mother, Estefana, was 33. He married Ofelia Montalvo on December 19, 1918, in Hidalgo, Texas. They had seven children in 11 years. He died on November 27, 1936, at the age of 42.



Ofelia Longoria

When Ofelia Montalvo (mother of Anselmo Jr., “Chemo”) was born on March 22, 1900, in Guerrero, Tamaulipas, Mexico, her father, Evaristo, was 41, and her mother, Beatriz, was 35. She married Anselmo M Longoria on December 19, 1918, in Hidalgo, Texas. They had seven children in 11 years. She died on December 15, 1959, in Hidalgo, Texas, at the age of 59.

Alejandro Longoria Jr.

When Alejandro Longoria was born on July 5, 1896, in Mexico, his father, Alejandro, was 37 and his mother, Estefana, was 35. He had one son with Rosa Jasso in 1925.



Cristobal Longoria

When Cristobal Longoria was born on January 18, 1901, in Brownsville, Texas, his father, Alejandro, was 41 and his mother, Estefana, was 40. He married Clementina Laveaga on May 26, 1940, in Mexico. They had one child during their marriage. He died on January 6, 1941, in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, at the age of 39.



The Mendoza Family Tree

Jesus Ramirez married **Guadalupe Garcia**

- Encarnacion Mendoza

Juan de la Garza married **Mariana Ybarbo**

- Margarita Garza

Encarnacion Mendoza married **Margarita Garza**

- Enrique Mendoza
- Encarnacion “Canacho” Mendoza
- Heriberto Mendoza
- Jesus Mendoza
- Maria Consuelo Mendoza
- Margarita Elva Mendoza
- Ruby Luz Mendoza
- Leslie Mendoza

- Enrique Mendoza married **Carmen Garcia**

- Enrique Jr. (“Henry”)
- Minerva (“Minnie”)
- Irma
- Ricardo (“Richard”)
- Maria del Carmen (“Mary Carmen”)
- Rosa Maria (“Rose Mary”)
- Ramiro (“Ramie”)
- Rogelio (“Roger”)
- Roberto (“Bobby”)
- Margarita (“Margaret”)

Jesus Ramirez Mendoza

Jesus Ramirez Mendoza (father of Encarnacion Sr.) was born in 1852 in León, Guanajuato, Mexico, the son of Maria Antonia Ramirez and Nicolas Mendoza. Jesus married Maria Guadalupe Garcia in Mexico. They had at least three children (including Encarnacion Mendoza) during their marriage. His grandson, Enrique Mendoza (son of Encarnacion) didn't remember meeting his grandfather. He was told that his grandfather was a train engineer in Mexico and was rarely home traveling through the railway lines. Jesus Mendoza died sometime before 1918.

Guadalupe Garcia

Maria Guadalupe Garcia (mother of Encarnacion Mendoza Sr.) was born on October 14, 1861, the daughter of Maria Margarita Garcia and Gregorio Garcia. She was baptized on October 18, 1861 in Santiago, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. She married Jesus Ramirez Mendoza (b. 1852) and they had at least two children during their marriage. Her father passed away in March 1889 at the age of 49. Her mother died about the same time. Guadalupe's husband passed away sometime before 1918. She had traveled to the United States on May 14, 1918 to accompany her daughter-in-law, Margarita Garza Mendoza to Seguin, Texas. Guadalupe died on August 26, 1920, in General Teran, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, at the age of 58 from "Tuberculosis Pulmonia."



Juan de la Garza

When Juan Jose De La Garza (father of Margarita Garza) was born about 1843 in Mexico, his father, José, was 32, and their mother, Maria, was 22. He had three sons (Eugenio, Juan, Salomon) and two daughters (Virginia, Margarita) with Margarita Lopez. He then married Mariana Ybarbo and they had a daughter (Margarita). He died on April 26, 1904, in Ciudad General Terán, Nuevo León, Mexico, at the age of about 61.

Mariana Ybarbo

When Mariana Ybarbo (mother of Margarita Garza) was born in 1848 in Nacogdoches, Texas, her father, Juan, was 33, and her mother, Maria, was 27. She married Juan Jose De La Garza in 1883. They had a daughter (Margarita) during their marriage. In 1901 Mariana, her husband, and her daughter moved to General Teran. Mariana died on November 19, 1930, in McAllen, Texas, at the age of 82.

Encarnacion “Chonito” Mendoza

When Encarnacion Mendoza (father of Enrique Mendoza) was born on March 25, 1882, in Ciudad General Terán, Nuevo León, Mexico, his father, Jesus Ramirez Mendoza, was 30 and his mother, Maria Guadalupe, was 20. At 26 he married Margarita De La Garza on April 28, 1908, in Montemorelos, Nuevo León, Mexico. They had 12 children in 17 years. He and his wife immigrated to the United States before March 2, 1927 and lived with his family in Donna and then McAllen, Texas. He died on September 3, 1954, in San Antonio, Texas at the age of 72, and was buried there at the San Fernando cemetery No. 2.

Roger Mendoza



Margarita de la Garza

When Margarita De La Garza (mother of Enrique Mendoza) was born on February 22, 1885, in Floresville, Texas, her father, Juan de la Garza (b. 1843), was 42, and her mother, Mariana Ybarbo (b.1848), was 37. By 1904, her father had died at the age of 61 in General Teran. She and her mother lived together there until, Margarita married Encarnacion Mendoza on April 28, 1908, in Montemorelos, Nuevo León, Mexico. They had 12 children in 17 years. She moved with her family and mother, Mariana, to the United States before March 2, 1927 and lived in Donna, Texas and then McAllen, Texas. Her mother, Mariana passed away on November 19, 1930 in McAllen, Texas at the age of 82. By the end of 1932, Margarita and her family were living in San Antonio, Texas. She died on January 7, 1948, in San Antonio, Texas at the age of 62, from carcinoma of the lung and was buried at the San Fernando cemetery No.2 in San Antonio.

Roger Mendoza



Enrique Mendoza

When Enrique Mendoza was born on July 8, 1910, in Seguin, Texas, his father, Encarnacion, was 28 and his mother, Margarita, was 25. He married Carmen Garcia on July 24, 1932, in Hidalgo, Texas. They had ten children in 23 years.



Carmen Garcia

When Carmen Garcia was born on September 19, 1914, in Robstown, Texas, her father, Canuto, was 34, and her mother, Estefana, was 22. She married Enrique Mendoza on July 24, 1932, in McAllen, Texas and soon after moved to San Antonio. They had ten children in 23 years.



About the Author

Roger Mendoza lives in San Antonio, Texas, the seventh-largest city in the United States. In 2014, he moved back to his birth town of San Antonio from Parker, Colorado, where he had lived for fifteen years. Living on the outskirts of San Antonio, he still enjoys the taste of the rural life that he loves so much and the conveniences that the big city provides.

He worked most of his life as a Software Engineer in the defense industry, where he cultivated his passion for computer programming but is now retired. Along with writing novels, Roger is also a professional photographer and can often be seen toting his camera looking for photo opportunities in and around town. He loves to capture nature photography and beautiful scenery.

He was born eighth in a family of ten children. There were five boys and five girls with an age span of about twenty-three years. With a fascination for his family history, he has spent years gathering his parent's family photographs and documents. He has cataloged the family's collections and digitized them all. He loves keeping the family tree database updated with new family members as they are born. Roger loves to review the thousands of family photographs and documents while imagining what these people – these relatives and their stories were like.

Roger has always had an interest in understanding the philosophy of life, why people behave the way they do, and how we all fit into the grander scheme of life itself. He still believes in “happily ever after endings” even though life, on occasion, gets in the way of that outcome.

He's always had a fascination with unusual phenomena – the most being the drama of life itself. It still amazes him why so much

drama fills the life of his friends and family. Perhaps it is observing that drama that sparks his imagination and gives his characters life.

¹ 500176; June 11, 1900; 12th Census of U.S. 1900 Census, Cameron County, City Precinct no. 3, Enumeration District No. 20, Street no. 9

² 500176; June 11, 1900; 12th Census of U.S. 1900 Census, Cameron County, City Precinct no. 3, Enumeration District No. 20, Street no. 9

³ 500470; September 17, 1890; Birth certificate for Benjamin Longoria.

⁴ 500469; April 19, 1981; Baptismal certificate for Benjamin Longoria; Ancestry.com

⁵ 500348; November 19, 1903; Death certificate for Benjamin Longoria

⁶ 500472; October 14, 1904; The Brownsville Herald, Brownsville, Texas,3; "Called-for" letters list

⁷ 500473; October 28, 1904; The Brownsville Herald, Brownsville, Texas,1; "Called-for" letters list

⁸ 500475; November 18, 1905; The Brownsville Herald, Brownsville, Texas,3; "Called-for" letters list

⁹ 500471; March 25, 1907; The Brownsville Herald, Brownsville, Texas,1; "Called-for" letters list

¹⁰ 500474; July 13, 1909; The Brownsville Herald, Brownsville, Texas,3; "Called-for" letters list for Mrs. Estefana Longoria de Garcia

¹¹ 500476; February 19, 1910; Wedding license from State of Texas for Guillermo Longoria and Juana Anaya.

¹² 500416; March 23, 1910; State Board of Health Death Certificate for Luisa Longoria in Texas

¹³ 500477; June 9, 1910; 13th Census of U.S. 1910 Census, Cameron County, City Precinct no. 3, Enumeration District No. 29, Street no. 28A

¹⁴ TBD **Missing reference**

¹⁵ 500478; June 17, 1880; U.S. 1880 Census, Wilson County, Texas, Justice Precinct no 8, Enumeration District No. 147, page 24.

¹⁶ Many books have been written about Antonio Gil Ybarbo, and a statue of him stands on the east side of the square in downtown Nacogdoches.

¹⁷ 301161; Abt. 1899, picture of Clarita (6), Guadalupe (2), and Margarita (4)

¹⁸ 500137; Music composition by Fernando Medina, Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

¹⁹ 500146; May 1, 1918; Birth affidavit for Encarnacion Mendoza Sr., b. March 25, 1882.

²⁰ 500???; 1907; Journal containing notes and recipes for pastries, and accounting of Loteria prizes for Encarnacion's businesses.

²¹ 500348; June 1907; Request to acquire more property for Encarnacion's business.

²² 500379; February 13, 1907; Manuel "Meme" Garza's baptismal certificates.

²³ 500377; October 16, 1940; U.S. Draft registration card for Manuel Garza.

²⁴ 500357; April 4, 1908; Wedding certificate for Encarnacion and Margarita Garza in Montemorelos.

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- ²⁵ 500390; June 19, 1910; Border Crossing for Encarnacion Mendoza
- ²⁶ 500386; June 19, 1910; Border Crossing for Margarita Garza
- ²⁷ 500398; June 19, 1910; Border Crossing for Mariana Ybarbo
- ²⁸ 500388; June 19, 1910; Border Crossing for Juan Saenz
- ²⁹ 500063; July 15, 1942; Birth affidavit for Enrique Mendoza, b. July 8, 1910.
- ³⁰ 500184; November 22, 1910; Baptismal certificate for Enrique Mendoza
- ³¹ 500061; June 1, 1910; Registration of birth of Enrique Mendoza in General Teran, Nuevo Leon, Mexico
- ³² 500352; December 9, 1911; Birth certificate for Encarnacion (“Canacho”) Mendoza Jr.
- ³³ 500063; February 10, 1913, Birth certificate for Heriberto Mendoza
- ³⁴ 500351; November 6, 1913; The Evening Chronicle, November 6, 1913,9
- ³⁵ 500355; March 25, 1914; Birth certificate for Consuelo Guadalupe Mendoza, Nuevo Leon, Civil Registration Births.
- ³⁶ 500483; June 29, 1914; Death certificate for Consuelo Guadalupe Mendoza in General Teran
- ³⁷ 500354; April 15, 1916; Birth announcement for Jesus Mendoza in Mexican Registry
- ³⁸ 500363; October 16, 1940; U.S. Draft Registration for Jesus Mendoza for WW II.
- ³⁹ Michael C. Meyer and William L. Sherman, *The Course of Mexican History*, [New York: Oxford University Press, 1995], iv
- ⁴⁰ Michael C. Meyer and William L. Sherman, *The Course of Mexican History*, [New York: Oxford University Press, 1995], 545
- ⁴¹ 500394; February 4, 1917; Laredo Weekly Times, February 4, 1917,3
- ⁴² 500395; April 19, 1917; Laredo Weekly Times, April 29, 1917,10
- ⁴³ 500138; August 6, 1917; Birth certificate for Jose Armando; also 500349 records from Mexican registry
- ⁴⁴ 500082; January 19, 1918; Baptism of Jose Armando Mendoza
- ⁴⁵ 500084; May 6, 1918; Declaration of alien to depart for the U.S. for Margarita Mendoza
- ⁴⁶ 500414; May 14, 1918; Border crossing into the U.S. for Margarita Mendoza.
- ⁴⁷ 500417; May 14, 1918; Border crossing into the U.S. for Guadalupe Mendoza
- ⁴⁸ 500086; June 6, 1918; Funeral notice for Jose Armando. (d. June 5, 1918).
- ⁴⁹ 500050; August 14, 1918; Birth registration in General Teran for Maria Consuelo Mendoza (b. August 2, 1918)
- ⁵⁰ 500???; September 25, 1919; Birth certificate for Margarita Elva Mendoza
- ⁵¹ 500???; January 8, 1921; Baptismal record for Margarita Elva Mendoza