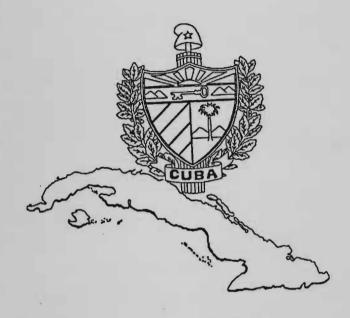
# REVISTA



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#### REVISTA

#### **CUBAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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#### **EDITOR'S LETTER**

This issue has the genealogy of Vasco Porcallo de Figueroa, a well known figure in the history of Cuba, and one whose descendants are as numerous as any one can imagine.

One of the recognized descendants was Don Faustino Caballero de Miranda, Figueroa y Calona, who was Regidor Perpetuo of Puerto Principe. By Royal Decree dated May 21, 1821 he was given the title of Marques de Santa Ana y Santa María. The title was passed tohis descendant, Doña María de las Mercedes Adán y Galarreta, Castillo y Caballero, in the years 1921. She was married to Don Martin Arturo de Aróstegui y Castillo. Their daughter, Doña Isabel de Aróstegui inherited the title after her mother.

But many not so titled, but just a righteous descendant can be found all over the island up to the present time.

Vasco Porcallo de Figueroa is said to have fathered many children who are not documented as of yet.

If you can trace your Cuban genealogy to this legendary figure, you can now add to it the genealogy here published.

I like to thank Alan Perry for his invaluable help in editing and contributing to this article.

Mayra Sanchez-Johnson CGRS
President

## Patriots (Part 4)

#### Taken from Cultura Cubana - Matanzas By Adolfo Dolleto

Translated by Mayra Sánchez-Johnson

Gómez y Días (Clemente) - The General Clemente Gómez is one of the most pure figures in the history of the Cuban independence. He was born in Pedro Betancourt, on January 7th, 1867, an died on December 4th, 1917.

He joined the uprising on December 24th 1895 in the ranch La Sirena, in Jagüey Grande and started his military career with the rank of sublicutenant, reaching the status of Brigadier General of the Liberation Army and becoming Coronel of the National Army after the war ended.

He demonstrated his valor in the battles of Jicarita, Madamita, Camariaco and Rio del Agua among others, under the orders of Mayia, Maceo and other Chiefs no less distinguished, until July 27, 1897 when he took the command of the North Brigade no. 4 in Matanzas.

The General Clemente Gómez was the first Cuban Mayor of Jovellanos, where he served for many years, until Maximo Gómez called him to take the post of Commander of the Rural Guard.

The General deserves a special note for his undeniable honesty and generosity. The revolution was not for him a step to fame and fortune.

Gómez y Ferrer (Juan Gualberto) - He was delegate of Martí, in the province of Matanzas, in the year 1895 and later delegate of the Cuban Revolutionary Party in the island.

In the municipality of Sabanilla, I was assured that even though Don Juan Gualberto appears to be born in Santa Ana, since he was baptized in that parish, he was born in the sugar mill Vellocino that belongs to the town of Sabanillas.

He had a very important participation in the Independence of Cuba.

González y Torres (Plutarco) - Born in 1822 in Corral Nuevo, Matanzas, he died on October 22, 1898. Many were his revolutionary contributions. During the conspiracy of N. López, J. Agüero and Isidro Armenteros, he was force to take refuge in the Unites States and returned to Cuba in 1858. When the Yara movement took place he returned to the United States where he was a member of the Junta Revolutionaria in New York during the Ten Year War.

He wrote articles in The New York Herald and the Transatlantic Magazine of London. He also wrote for the Encyclopedia Britanica.

His son Rafael gave his life for the Cuban cause.

González (Tomás) - He was one of the conspirator that in 1825 signed the Manifest of the Cuban Junta for the freedom of Cuba in Mexico. It is supposed that he is the same that is mentioned in the writings of Vidal Morales, as going to Colombia to solicit help from Simón Bolivar.

González y Rufin (Ambrosio José) - Born in 1818 in Matanzas, he died in New York on 1893. He was the son of an educator of the same name and the father of the present Minister of the Unites States in Cuba. He conspired with Narciso López, Cirilo Villaverde, Juan

Manuel Macias, etc and formed the first Cuban Junta in New York in 1849. He worked diligently for the expedition that Narciso López took in 1850 and was wounded there. It is believed that he was the first man wounded by Spanish troops. The Governor commended him to death and González stayed in the Unites States where he formed a family, and later took part in the war of secession as a Coronel.

Gould (Alfredo) - Nicked named El Inglesito, he was a valiant Coronel in the Liberation Army, born near La Unión, to an American father. He fought under the orders of General J. Lacret Morolt, in the district of Matanzas, and was wounded several times.

A man of legendary valor, he sacrificed his life for the freedom of Cuba in San Nicolás, near the sugar mill Jobo. He died heroically.

Guiteras y Gener (José Ramón) - A young patriot, son of Antonio Guiteras. He died on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1870 executed for having taken part in two expeditions and even though he was young, only 17 years old, he demonstrated the character of a hero.

Guiteras (Juan) - A great patriot as well a an eminent man of science. He wrote <u>Los Estados Unidos y Cuba</u>, about the intervention of the Unites States in the colonies of Latin-America.

He translated to English the work by Gonzalo de Quesada <u>Free Cuba</u>. He always demonstrated his love for Cuba and the cause of independence by working towards it's fulfilment.

He took active part in the campaign of Santiago de Cuba, as Military Medic of the North American Army, with General Schafter in command.

Hernández Madruga (Manuel) - Conspirator of 1823, he was one of the Cuban Deputies that signed the Manifesto of the Junta for the Liberty of Cuba in 1825.

He was condemned to death for taking part in the conspiracy of Aguila Negra in 1831 as was José Teurbe Tolón. He took advantage of the amnesty of 1832 and died in Matanzas shortly after.

Hernáudez (José Elías) - He was Mayor of Matanzas, and took part in the conspiracy of Narciso López. He died in Nassau in 1878.

Hernández (Juan José) - Active conspirator with the group Soles de Bolivar in 1823. A fighter and an orator, Dr. Hernández was one of the members of the Secret Society of Caballeros Racionales. He was a friend of José Teurbe Tolón.

His son; José Manuel, (1806-1856) was also a patriot that conspired with Narciso López and was one of the five Cubans that participated in the expedition of the vapor ship Creole in 1850. He died in Nicaragua.

Hernández Morejón, (Pedro) - He born on October 23, 1810 in the city of Matanzas, and died in the same city on June 12, 1873. He was one of the most distinguished men in the public life of Matanzas, a good lawyer and a patriot.

He studied law in Madrid, returning to his natal city afterwards. He was a man of means and enterprise: one of the initiators of the rail road in Sabanilla, of the theater Teatro Esteban (today Sauto) and of other businesses that flourished in Matanzas.

He also occupied public post as Judge, Councilman, etc and was for a long time President of the Liceo, where his generosity was felt in its progress.

He took direct part in the conspiracies of the times for the liberty of

Cuba: in the conspiracy of López and Pinto and contributed with his capital to the so called Emprestito Patriotico, where Gaspar Cisneros Betancourt was President, Porfirio Valiente was Secretary, and Goicuría was Treasurer.

In 1868 he returned to Matanzas from Saratoga, United States, where he was residing due to his health and contributed to the political program of Céspedes.

Hernández Huguet, (Alfredo) - Son of Don Pedro Hernández Morejón, he was born in Matanzas in the year 1850, and received is degree in law in 1872 in Seville. In this city (where he also did journalism) he founded the Society of Abolitionist, where he serve to bring about his aspirations of liberty and independence. These aspirations that he brought with him to Matanzas in 1872.

Hernández conspired actively for the cause of Cuba, working and sustaining with his means the revolution initiated in Yara.

In 1876, with the association of priest and patriots of Cabezas and Santa Ana, he tried to bring about the uprising of Matanzas, but failed in his efforts.

He was condemned to death along with others, but was able to escape by sailing to the United States residing in New York until after the Paz del Zanjón.

## Assembly of the University of La Habana-1874

## Extracted from Almanaque Mercantil de La Habana 1874

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Professors of the Faculty of Medicine in Habana from the time of the founding of the University to the reform of 1872-from an unpublished work of Dr. D. Rafael Cowley.

- 1728 April 7—D. Luis Fontaine—Anatomy— He was French and his name appears in the act of the founding of the University.
- 1728 October 1-D. Jose Arango y Barrios-Pathology-He was Dr. in Theology and Philosophy-Died in 1774
- 1729 July 30-D. Jose Aparicio-Therapeutics
- 1730 September 3- D. Ambrosio Medrano-Physics-Mexican Clergyman-Died on September 12, 1753
- 1735 January 31-D. Esteban Vazquez--Anatomy.
- 1742 D. Julian Recio de Oquendo-Anatomy-Resigned the post-Died July 19, 1794.
- 1743 D. Agustin Sanabria—Anatomy—He was Dr. in Philosophy—Died December 8, 1793
- 1751 D. Matias Canto-Anatomy- Was Regent Doctor and Dean in
- 1794-Died September 15, 1797
- 1755 D. Juan Alvarez Franco-Philosophy
- 1765 February 26, D. Domingo Barrios-Philosophy-Dr. In Philosophy-Died December 3, 1771
- 1766 May 14, D. Carlos Ayala-Anatomy-Died June 1, 1775

- 1771 February 13, D. Blas Machado-Philosophy
- 1775 April 2-D. Gregorio J. del Rey-Therapeutics-Resigned-Died January 27, 1798
- 1775 June 7- D. Nicolas del Valle-Pathology-was Regent Doctor.
- 1777 May 15- D. Jose Caro-Philosophy
- 1780 Jun4 4-D. Roque Oyarvide. Therapeutics
- 1781 May 21-D. Jose Julian de Ayala-Anatomy
- 1781 July 4-D. Jose de Jesus Mendez-Pathology-Resigned. Was regent Doctor and Dean in 1818. Died October 2, 1819.
- 1783 August 4-D. Lorenzo Hernandez-Philosophy-Was Regent Doctor and Dean.
- 1786 September 3-D. Luis Machado-Therapeutics-Resigned-Died September 18, 1792
- 1787 August 25-D. Felix Gutierrez--Anatomy--Resigned on November 19, 1791-Died on July 4, 1793.
- 1791 December 24-D. Tomas Romay-Pathology-Dr. in Philosophy and Professor do this faculty in 1785. Dean until the reform of 1842-Died on March 30, 1849
- 1792-July 21-D. Jose Perez Bohorquez-Therapeutics.
- 1793 June 14-D. Diego Silveira-Anatomy.
- 1798 March 9-D. Juan Francisco Pachon-Pathology.
- 1798 August 31-D. Jose Maria Perez-Therapeutics
- 1801 November 7-D. Fernando Viamonte-Anatomy-Resigned on March 5, 1806
- 1801 December 4-D. Benito Morales-Physiology
- 1803 October 27-D. Roque de Jesus Oyarvide-Therapeutics. Resigned on February 28, 1807.
- 1804 June 6-D. Bernabe de Vargas-Pathology-Resigned on November 26, 1808
- 1806 July 9--D. Jose Antonio Bernal-Anatomy-Resigned on January 11, 1809
- 1806 July 27-D. Francisco Ignacio Soria-Physiology
- 1807 Marco, 28-D. Marcos Sanchez Rubio-Therapeutics
- 1808 December 22-D. Nicolas Vicente del Valle-Pathology-Died on

- October 18, 1859.
- 1810 February, 2-D. Pedro Andreu-Anatomy-Died December 10, 1859.
- 1812 March 4-D. Antonio Viera-Physiology-Doctor of Law and Rector in 1822.
- 1813 April 14, D. Simon Hevia-Therapeutics-Died on November 10, 1849.
- 1815 February 28-D. Pablo Marin-Pathology-Resigned on May 26,
- 1820-Died on April 11, 1846
- 1816 February 27-D. Antonio Machado-Anatomy-Resigned on January 17, 1820.
- 1819 May 29-D. Bernardo Riesgo-Anatomy
- 1820 July 21-D. Agustin E. Abreu-Pathology-Died November 23, 1854.
- 1824 May 19-D. Antonio Viera-Physiology-Died on September, 1834.
- 1824 August 5-D. Fernando Gonzalez del Valle-Surgery
- 1825 July 14-D. Angel Jose Cowley-Therapeutics-Doctor on Philosophy
- 1827 June 22-D. Bernardo Riesgo-Anatomy
- 1829 January 29-D. Agustin E. Abreu-Pathology-Resigned on May 29, 1829
- 1830 April 30-D. Nicolas Jose Gituerrez-Anatomy-Resigned on 1835
- 1834 December 15-D. Agustin Encinoso Abreu-Physiology
- 1835 September 21-D. Nicolas Jose Gutierrez-Pathology
- 1837 December 20-D. Vicente A. Castro-Anatomy-Died May 12, 1869.
- 1838 June 15-D. Angel J. Cowley-Therapeutics.

#### Faculty of 1842

1842 Oct 24-D. Jose Lletor Castroverde-Legal Medicine, Toxicology and Medical Bibliography-Dean

- 1842 Oct 24-D. Angel J. Cowley-Therapeutic, Medical Arts. Was Dean and Vice Rector-Died on October 5, 1859.
- 1842 October 24-D. Nicolas Jose Gutierrez-Descriptive Anat omy-Resigned.
- 1842 October 24—D. Fernando Gonzalez del Valle-General Clinic and External Pathology
- 1842 October 24-D. Joaquin Guarro-Obstetrics and Pediatrics
- 1842-October 24-D. Vicente A. Castro-Medical Clinic and Internal Pathology
- 1842 October 24-D. Julio J. Le Reverend-Physiology, Hygiene and General Pathology-Died on April 7, 1864
- 1842 October 24-D. Jose Benjumeda-Anatomy-after the resignation of Dr. Gutierrez.
- 1846 June 2-D. Isidro Sanchez-Obstetrics-after the resignation of Dr. Guarro-Died on November 1859.
- 1849 August 15- D. Ramon Zambrana-Legal Medicine-after the resignation of Sr. Castroverde-Died on March 18, 1870
- 1851 June 22-D. Manuel S. Bustamante-Anatomy-after the resignation of Dr. Benjumeda.
- 1857 May 28-D. Antonio Oliva-Therapeutics-after the death of Dr. I. Sanchez
- 1860 December 8-D. Cristobal Darun-Obstetrics-after the death of Dr. Le Riverend
- 1862-D. Federico Horsthman.

#### Faculty of 1863

Dean D. Fernando G. del Valle-External Pathology.

Dr. Jose G. Morillas-General Pathology.

Dr. Ramon Zambrana-Legal Medicine

Dr. Juan N. sanchez Bustamante-Anatomy

Dr. Antonio Oliva-Therapeutics.

Dr. Cristobal Suran-Obstetrics

Dr. Felix Giralt-Clinical Medicine

Dr. Federico Horsthman-Clinical Surgery

Dr. Rafael Cowley-Physiology and Medical History

Dr. Antonio Mestre-Internal Pathology

Dr. Pedro Martinez Sanchez-Director of Dissections-Legal Medicine after the death of Dr. Zambrana

Dr. Luis Maria Cowley-Public and Private Hygiene

Dr. Raimundo Castro-Surgical Anatomy,

Dr. Felipe Rodriguez-Director fo Dissections ans General Anat omy-after resignation of Sr. Zayas.

Dr. Juan Babe-Clinicla Surgery-after the absence of Dr. Horsthman

Dr. Santiago Regueira-Clinical Medicine-after the absence of Dr. Giralt.

Dr. Francisco Rivero-Therapeutics-after the absence of Dr. Oliva.

Dr. Pablo Valencia-Director of Dissections-after the transfer of Dr. Rodriguez to General Anatomy.

Dr. Serafin Gallardo-Therapeutics-after the resignation of Dr. Rivero

## Camagüey: Notes from History Part One

Taken from <u>Apuntes de Camagüey</u> by Jorge Juárez y Cano

Extracted and translated by Mayra Sánchez-Johnson

It was May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1509 when, from Valladolid, the king Fernando el Catolico ordered the Almirante Diego Colón to colonize the island of Cuba.

Almirante Diego Colón named Captain Diego Velazquez to head the expedition and named him Governor of the island of Cuba. With 300 men and 4 ships, Diego Velazquez arrived at Salvatierra de la Sabana on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1511. After 2 days of navigation by the coast of the island, he disembarked at a place near Punta Maisis.

Captain Velazquez established the first town on Cuban soil, La Asunción de Baracoa, some time after arriving. He distributed land among the Spaniards and commenced to make plans to colonized the rest of the island.

The establishment of the first group of Spaniards was seriously opposed by the Cacique Hatuey, but his efforts were in vain against the fire, iron, and dogs that were used against the Siboney people. Hatuey was taken prisoner and burned alive in Yara, near Baracoa.

The occupation of the island was underway during the following years and in 1513, with the surrender of the Siboney people in the Eastern

part of the island, Governor Velazquez started the conquest of the region that belonged to the Cacique Camagüebax. He sent Captain Panfilo Narvaez with 100 armed Spaniards and about 1000 Indians. With them came Fray Bartolomé de las Casas who went ahead to make the announcement that the expedition was coming in peace and to prepare for their stay. They were welcomed by the Caciques of Guaímaro, Sibanicú, and Camagüey with the best they could provide, and the Spaniards responded with the same arrogance that they displayed elsewhere.

As the expedition was going from Camagüey to Caunao, they stopped to rest mid-way in the journey. As the food was being prepared the Spaniards sharpened their swords. Once the journey resumed, they arrived at the important Indian village of Caunao, where more than 100 bohios with about 2,500 inhabitant were established. This was the biggest village the Spaniards had encountered on the island. The Siboney of Caunao were waiting for the expeditions and had prepared an area for them to settle in with provision of food, water, wood and other necessities.

As the Spaniards were arriving, one of them started to kill the Siboney as he meet them. Others started to imitate him and soon a horrible slaughter was taking place. Some Siboney ran for protection in their houses, others took to the wilderness in a panicked effort to save their lives. Fray Bartolomé de las Casas, indignant about the inexcusable behavior, tried to put an end to it, but since Captain Navaez was not making his men stop, the Spaniards continued until they were exhausted

The expedition rested in Caunao among the dead and frightened Siboney and the next day they started to look for a place to establish a new town. They visited Puerto del Principe and found the cross that Cristobal Colón had felt there when he disembarked on October 28, 1492 by the mouth of the river Máximo. After searching around the

area, Captain Navaez decided that the best place to establish a town was Puerto del Principe.

Due to the slaughter that the Siboney had experienced, most of them abandoned the village of Caunao and went into the wilderness with everything they owned. Soon the Spaniards had no provisions or anyone to serve them as guides and only then did Navaez realized the error and consequences of the treatment they had given the Siboney population of Caunao.

Governor Velazquez was in Jagua, modern day Cienfuegos, when he received the report of Captain Navaez about the occupation of Camagüey. He gave orders to Diego de Ovando to go with 15 men to Mayanabo and to establish a town in Puerto del Principe with a city government and a parish church.

On February 2, 1514, Diego de Ovando and his men arrived to Guincho, Nuevitas, and moments later arrived the contingent of men ordered by Velazquez to be the founders of the new village. Immediately the customary ceremonies started with the lecture of declaration by the Governor, read by Ovando, in the name of the King, establishing the city government with one Alcalde (mayor), two Regidores (councilmen), and an Alguacil (constable), and one Escribano (public notary or secretary).

In May of 1516 the ship Osado, coming from Seville, arrive at the port with 66 Spaniards - men, women, and children - that were sent to stay and aid in the colonization. Pedro Diaz de Tabares convinced the families to settle in Cuba instead of going to Jamaica where they were headed, promising them land and Indians to help them.

With them, they brought everything, from soap to seeds, to make their stay comfortable and productive. These were the first founding families of Puerto del Principe, since the first 55 men that started the

village were single men, soldiers of fortune who left the town in search of other adventures and never returned to the village. The ship Ave Maria, coming from Jamaica, brought all kinds of animals - cattle, pigs, horses, etc.- which were the first to arrive in this area of Cuba. It also brought sugar cane, oranges, and tools of farming, smithing, carpentry, etc.

These men were experienced farmers that recognized that the soil in this village was not going to give them the results they needed. In addition, they found no water and no pasture for the animals. Their combined opinion about the place convinced Diego de Ovando to move the village to the area of Caunao, where the "famous slaughter had taken place." The families moved to the new settlement, leaving behind 9 men to protect the erected bohios that they were abandoning. This move took place at the end of March 1516 according to the manuscript of Balboa Troya. The number of people arriving to Caunao were: 51 adult men, 23 adult women, 16 minor males, and 7 minor females - a total of 97 Spaniards.

On arrival in the village of Caunao, the Spaniards took over the best bohios of the Indians and sent them on their way. They named the place Santa Maria de Puerto del Principe and started to be known as Puerto Principe in the legal documents of the time.

Once the establishment of the new village was underway, Diego de Ovando started to distribute the Siboney Indians as slaves to the residents, according to their status in their society. The entire Indian population of more than 3,000 became enslaved to the residents of the new village and they were "encomendados" to the Spaniards. Each Spaniards received from 100 to 300 Indians, depending on his status. The farming of yuca, corn, viandas (eatable roots), wheat, sugar cane, oranges, figs, and grapes was all done in great quantities. They also started the collection of gold from the river beds. They built corrals for the cattle and pigs and other animals. But problems started when

they encomenderos wanted to have more productivity from the slaves than was physically possible. The Siboney once more started to escape into the wilderness where they were hunted by the dogs and killed. The Siboney, in desperation, would make suicidal pacts and whole villages would turn up dead hanging from trees instead of submitting to the brutal treatment that the encomendores would make them subject to while working as slaves.

The village farming prospered until the news of the discovery of Mexico came to them and the spirit of adventure awaken again in the residents of Puerto Principe. Many of them moved to Sancti Spiritus, Bayamo, Trinidad and Santiago de Cuba ready to embark on a new adventure in the discovered continent. In Caunao only a handful of men were left dedicated to the cattle ranges.

Diego Velazquez expected the resident that stayed to help support the men in the expedition with provisions. This taxed the village's progress until 1524 when it started to have relative comfort again.

In 1528, an Indian rebellion almost became the end of the village and its residents. The rebellion started in the hacienda Saramaguacán, where the rebels attacked the encomenderos, killing seven. One encomendero escaped and ran on this horse to Caunao to give the news and alert them. Diego de Ovando immediately left with 20 horsemen to Saramaguacán to find the hacienda burned down and every Spaniard dead. He went looking for the rebels in Cubitas and Banao, but found none. On the 5th of January the Indians attacked Puerto Principe, but the residents were alerted and defended the village. The Siboney, even though were more in number, could not survive the gun and lead balls of the Spaniards. The Siboney decided to burn the village to make the Spaniards run and the entire village was destroyed in half a day.

The Spaniards ran to Cacique Camagüebax, who was a vassal of

Vasco Portallo de Figueroa, and who was at peace with the Spaniards and paid his tribute to them in order to be left independent and free of slavery.

All night they marched while being attacked by the Siboney, who were intent on eliminating them from the face of the earth. Ovando's men protected the group on their journey until they arrived the next day at the village of Camagüey where they were received with kindness and were offered land to reconstruct their village.

The arrival of the Spaniards to Camagüey was received with kindness by Cacique Camagüebax, who extended to them generous hospitality by giving them the eastern part of his domain for reconstruction of their village. They accepted the offer noting that the new location was well placed on the road to Bayamo and Sancti Spiritu. In this unpredictable way, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January of 1582, was the village of Santa María de Puerto del Principe transferred from the historic Caunao to the Indian village of Camagüey, the place where the city now stands.

Soon the number of cattle, pigs and horses grew to become a profitable business again and the Spaniards, in a brief time, were enjoying a prosperous existence.

The Siboney continued to rebel and Vasco Porcayo de Figueroa continued to defend the settlements by searching for them in the wilderness and taking them prisoner. The able men were given as slaves to the encomenderos; the elderly were killed; and the women and children were taken to haciendas to live as servants of the Spaniards.

The mistreatment of the Indian slaves, the continued killing of rebels and an epidemic of small-pox united to diminish considerably the Siboney population, and they started to be substituted by slaves from Africa. The first group of African slaves to arrive were 8 men, 2 women and 12 children that Porcallo bought at Bayamo. The group went to his hacienda.

In 1534, the village had about 100 inhabitants, with many illegitimate unions between Spaniards and Indian women, mestizos with Indians or African slaves, and African slaves with each other, that were not counted in the official figure of 100 inhabitants.

In 1538, the village was asked to contribute to the expedition of Hernando de Soto to Florida with many men, more than a hundred horses and huge amounts of provisions. This drained the village's resources greatly, not only for the loss of materials, but because the men never returned to the village. That year Jácome de Avila was assigned to settle an area to the west of the village that was named San Antonio de la Palma, which was the origins of the present city of Ciego de Avila.

The next year, the village was asked again to contribute to an expedition that Vasco Porcallo de Figueroa wanted to conduct in the continent, accompanied by his sons Gómez Juárez de Figuero and Vasco Porcallo. The contribution was done under the despotic orders of Porcallo, since no one wanted to contribute voluntarily. Of this expedition only a handful of men came back with multiple mutilations, including Vasco Porcallo, the son, who later became regidor and alcalde of the village.

By 1544 the village had 14 white families, 160 slaves and many illegitimate families. The Siboney had all but disappeared and this year the encomiendas were suspended for the lack of able Siboney men. In the general area, the other villages in existence were Nuevitas and Jigüey to the north and Santa Maria or Vertiente to the south. They were small settlements composed of a few armed men to facilitate the communication with the interior of the island and to

protect the shipment of goods.

Vasco de Porcallo died in the village in 1550 and he was buried under the altar of the parish church, which was located in what today is the corner of General Gómez and Goyo Benítez. He left his inheritance to his children Lorenzo Gómez Juárez, Gómez Juan de Figueroa, Vasco Porcallo, Leonor de la Cerda, Teresa de la Cerda Casamayor y Casenda, wife of Captain Esteban de Lagos Mexias, and María Porcallo, married to Juan de Argote, a Siboney of Camagüey, son of Cacique Camagüebax.

In 1553 the Royal Courts of Santo Domingo, to which Cuba was subjected, ordered the Governor General Doctor Gonzalo Pérez de Angulo and his successors to reside in San Cristobal de La Habana, at which time it became the capital of the island. The Governor ordered the encomenderos to execute the Royal disposition of absolute freedom for the Siboney Indians and by decree of the governor, many men and women were declared free and given their liberty. In August of 1553, Pérez Angulo signed a document ending in Cuba the slavery of Indians and the regime of encomiendas, which had been initiated by Cristobal Colón on November 12, 1492 in the Indian village of Mayanabo, present province of Camagüey.

The Indian population, which was a small number by this time, settled in a village near Tinima as a town of their own.

The year 1555 brought to the village the first attack by pirates. Jacques Sores, Samuel Sarmientos, and Juan del Plano ransacked the village for its provisions, killed the men and mistreated the women, who were found on the island of Cayo Coco by men from Jigüey after the pirates had left.

Due to the increased number of pirate attack, by 1568, the population of Puerto Principe asked the King for ammunition and arms to defend

themselves. The supplies did not arrive until 1574 and each man payed for what he received. That year the parish church of Jigüey was finished, only to be totally destroyed by pirates in 1580.

The neighbors Jácome de Quesada and Roque da Silva received authorization to settle with their families and anyone that wanted to go with them, in Guanaja and Tana respectively. Those who went to Guanaja were the following families: Roque, Olazábal, Sánchez, and other principal families of the area.

On May 7th 1583, the local government gave to Alonso Juárez Figueroa, grandson of Vasco Porcallo de Figueroa, the corral Sabanalamar del Sur, today belonging to the Municipality of Santa Cruz del Sur, and on April 30th 1593, he was given the land from Sancti Spiritu to Vegas de Mabuya, making him a very wealthy landlord.

In 1602 the island was divided into two governments - one in Habana and the other in Santiago de Cuba, but Puerto Principe was still considered an independent entity, since it was governed by a Lieutenant Governor and also had a Town-house. That year the pirates destroyed the harbor of Santa Maria in Vertiente.

At this time the Indian population lived in their own village near Puerto Principe, and they were mostly Indians from Yucatan, who started to migrate back to the main land. These Indians lived as free men, but in a lower social status than the Spaniards. The parish registers kept separate books for the Indian population that were not to be confused with the books for the slaves. With the new century came a more relaxed association among the whites, the Indians and the mestizos, which brought economical prosperity and a mixing of their families. These new associations did not include the black population, which was still considered the lowest on social status.

1616 is one of the saddest years that Camagüey can remember. The prosperous village of Tana, founded by Roque da Silva in 1582, was completely destroyed by the river's overflowing waters. More than 200 people died in that flood that left nothing standing, not even the foundation of the buildings made of bricks. The village was never rebuilt.

Several slaves of the Sancti Spiritu and Trinidad plantations rebelled against their masters in protest against their inhumane treatment and, after killing many landlords and burning haciendas, they ran and took refuge in the wilderness of Camaguey. They united with other fugitive slaves called cimarrones, already living in the hills, and they attacked the town of Porcallo located between Puerto Principe and Vertiente. There, they took the arms of the Spaniards and, after killing them, they burned the houses. They were joined by other local slaves and Indians and together they starter their way to Najasa, where the head quarters of the cimarron group was located. From there they communicated with the slaves in Camagüey and tried to convince them to join the rebellion. But the slaves refused since they were being treated fairly.

One morning the cimarrones attacked the village and killed several men. After recovering from the surprise attack, the villagers defended themselves against the aggressors causing a great loss in their numbers. The cimarrones retreated, and in midday they set fire to the village at its four corners. The dryness and the wind did the rest of the job and by the afternoon the village was totally gone. The only survivors were the great cross on the middle of the plaza, the bell in the Town-house, and the chapel of Ntra. Sra. de la Merced, which was outside of the urbanized area.

The rebels were persecuted and killed by the men of Puerto Principe, but they were left without homes or any personal possessions and many were financially ruined. The majority of the families went to

the coast and embarked to Trinidad, Bayamo, Santiago de Cuba, Baracoa and La Habana. They did not think of coming back and reconstructing the village since none of them had the resources to do it.

The fire destroyed the municipal archive and the parish that were founded in 1528. Lost were the accumulated riches of so much sacrifice. Pieces of Colonial and Indian art collected by Silvestre Balboa, Troya, and Quesada that were destined to go to the museum of Escorial in Madrid were also lost.

In 1617, the villagers started the reconstruction of their old town. They started from the cross in the old Plaza and made a straight road from that point to the river Hatibonico. They constructed again the new plaza with the Town-house where today stands the store La Gran Antilla. The parish was built where today we find the store 20 de Mayo and, on the other sides of the plaza other important buildings were built. The convent of San Francisco was built on land donated by the Siboney Catalina Carmona near the Calvario, where today the school Las Escuelas Pias stand.

The fabrication of the famous Camagüey "tinajones," (clay jars with a wide mouth) took place in a tile kiln owned by Simeón Recio, father of Jacinto Recio y Sotolongo, who later was the mayor of the village. Simeón Recio supplied the tiles and jars for all the construction that was taking place. The houses were being built of tiles and bricks, clay and palm tree branches, or tiles and clay with roof of palm tree boards.

In 1620, the village of Santa Maria, in Vertiente was also rebuilt and was incorporated into the government of Santiago de Cuba, ending the independence that it had enjoyed previously.

By 1629, the village was again prosperous and the governor became afraid that it would be attacked again by pirates, so he asked for cannons of bronze, arms, and ammunition to be stocked in the village in case they needed to defend themselves. In 1631 the government organized a militia and, in 1635, the Inquisition asked the parish church to contribute provisions for the sustenance of their officers.

On March 27<sup>th</sup> 1640, the Municipal Ordinance was ordered and the city government had authority to give land for settlements. This gave way to much abuse and privileges among the regidores and their families that were given the majority of the lands in the jurisdiction. In 1642 the Royal Court of Santo Domingo ordered the books of censuses to be restored, after their lose in the fire of 1616.

Don Bartolomé Jimenez asked for land in the area of Chambas, jurisdiction of Morón, in March of 1650 and it was granted to him. This proves the existence of the Indian area of Chambas and its antiquity.

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1611, the King of Spain declared that the title of Don could only be used by Bishops, Counts, Hidalgos and their wives and children. Many residents of Puerto Principe, having presumptions of nobility, insisted with the local government to expedite proofs of hidalguia in order to petition the King for the title of Don. Many petitions were refused and many others never were resolved favorably, until July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1664 when it was established that those who wanted to use the title of Don could purchase such privilege by paying 200 reales for a life time, 400 for two life times and 600 for its use perpetually. Many rushed to send the 600 reales to the Royal Courts and with the title came the privilege of receiving lands and increasing their fortune. This was the origin of the use of the title Don by the principal families of Puerto Principe, inheriting it from the ancestors that purchased it for perpetual use.

The famous pirate Henry Morgan, with 12 ships and 600 men, arrived at Vertiente on March 28, 1668 and occupied the village. One of the

residents escaped and went to Puerto Principe to give the news. The men went to the rescue of Vertiente, and met the pirates on their way to Puerto Principe. The battle was brutal for the disorganized militia and about 100 men perished. The pirates continued their march to Puerto Principe and found resistance in the village also. But after finding themselves with no more ammunition or strength, they surrendered under the pact of having their lives and haciendas saved.

Once in charge, Morgan incarcerated all the inhabitants in the parish church, the chapel, and the convent while his men destroyed and ransacked the village. Many men were tormented, in order to have them tell where their jewelry was. When there was nothing else to take, Morgan set fire to the church, the town-house and the houses. The chapel of La Merced was not burned because it had prisoners in it.

The loot was placed in the valley Padre Porro. There, they took the bell of the church, the cannons and the possessions of the resident. When Morgan left the village, he made the residents carry all the loot, including 500 cattle that had been slaughtered and salted, to Vertiente, where his ships were. It is calculated that Morgan stole about 50,000 pesos of gold and silver, the sacred ornaments of the church and 12 bells of the parishes, 2 cannons of bronze, and all the corn, cheese, cotton, tobacco, and flour that the village had stored, leaving the village in the worst misery and destroying once again, the registers of the parish and the city government.

The village recovered promptly and by 1672 it was again prospering from the illegal trade with the English. They traded salted beef, cheese, leather, lard, wood and other products for cloth, arms, shoes, clothing, and other articles that paid a high import tariff and were sold at a high profit in the rest of the island.

That year the Captain Fernando Agüero y Agüero arrived at the village and established the notorious hidalgo Agüero family of Camagüey.

Due to the attacks of the Jamaican pirates the village decided in 1674 to organize a militia of armed men to defend the coast. Men with experience in previous attacks joined the militia and ammunition was stocked in the Town-house.

The French pirate Francisco de Grammont, with 600 men, disembarked in Guanaja on February 22, 1679 and occupied the town, constructed garrisons by the sea and guided by resident started his journey to Puerto Principe arriving in the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Presbyter Don Francisco Galcerán, who lived in Matanza, saw them coming in the early morning hours and ran to the village to alert them shouting, "English men by Matanza and its say by Father Galcerán."

Immediately the militia took their arms and went to the garrison, and the neighbors ran to the Town-house and joined the militia in defending the village. When the pirates arrived at the Main Plaza, they were received by the fire of the militia that was waiting for them. The alcalde, Benito de Agüero, and a group of men took over the parish church and attacked the pirates from the back. Grammont retreated from the plaza and started to ransack the houses.

By midday the pirates had accumulated most of their loot in the field by the lake that existed by the village, today's block surrounded by the streets Estrada Palma, Finlay, Lope Recio, and Republica. From the spot the could not move, since the militia and the neighbors had the surrounded all afternoon and evening. In the early hours of the next day, Grammont left a few men there and started to move the loot and the men to the coast by Entrada de Cubitas, where he was met by the rest of his men, and they stayed there during the night.

The Alcalde Agüero, who was a valiant man, organized a group of 300 men, several on horses, and marched after the pirates via short cuts that they knew and waited for them near Entrada de Cubitas in a strategic place. On the morning of the 25th the two groups battled and since the pirates were greater in number, they opened their way through the Spaniards, but lost 70 men in doing so. The Spaniards did not give up the battle and when the pirates arrived in Guanaja, they had to embark on their ships in a hurry to save their lives, leaving behind the loop, more dead men and the wounded, who were killed when they were taken prisoners

The villagers' losses were 69 men, including the brave Alcalde Benito Agüero and the neighbors Francisco de la Torre, Francisco de Varona, Alonso de la Torre, Alonso Beloso, Juan de Zayas, Jerónimo de Socarras, Juan Alvarez, Juan Díaz, Lucas Guerra, Juan de Molina, Diego de Molina, Francisco Girón, Francisco Castilla, Leonisio Muñoz, Juan Pascual Díaz and Francisco Díaz.

The damage the pirates did was repaired in due time and the neighbors again enjoyed a normal life. Having learned from the experience, they organized a better militia and mounted a better defense system. They started to build the homes only from tile and brick or tile and clay, to make them less subject to fire in case of further attacks.

In 1692 the government of the island recommended the cultivation of wheat. In Puerto Principe, wheat had been grown for a long time and they already had mills and bakeries where they made "bizcocho," and sold them to the ships that stopped in Nuevitas, Guanaja and Vertiente.

A ferocious hurricane passed by the village on October 23 and 24 of 1692 causing great damage, ruining the Town-house, and destroying

the parish church, recently constructed of tile and clay, with a stone floor, on the land that today has the Hotel Habana., on Cisnero Street and in front of the Plaza Mercado.

In 1697, the chapels of Soledad and Santa Ana were built in the same place where today's parish churches of these names stand. The villages of Sibanicú and Guáimaro and the parish church of Guanja were already built at this time.

The end of the XVII century had commenced an era of prosperity, progress, and tranquility in the Villa de Puerto Principe and its jurisdictions.

To be continued.....

#### Vasco Porcallo de Figueroa

By Mayra F. Sánchez-Johnson CGRS

There are many legends and theories about the historical figure Vasco Porcallo de Figueroa, who was a founder of several town in Cuba.

There are also many confusing stories that intermingle the lives of Vasco Porcallo de Figueroa and a relative, also named Vasco de Porcallo, who lived most of his life in Mexico. This Vasco de Porcallo was a founder of Monterrey and his descendants resided in that town for generations.

His adventurous life is documented in the Archivo de las Indias, as he accompanied Hernán de Córtes in the conquest of Mexico. He died in the city of Mexico on December 8, 1539, and was buried in the monastery of San Francisco. He was married to Leonor de Zuñiga, daughter of Don Luis de la Cerda, and he had two legitimate children, Lorenzo de Ulloa Porcallo and María de la Cerda. After the death of Vasco Porcallo, these children were sent to Valladolid, where they lived with their mother.

The Vasco Porcallo de Figueroa who settled in Cuba was a descendant of a very prestigious lineage in Spain. He was born in Cáceres, in the year 1494, the son of Gutierre Porcallo de Sotomayor and Aldonza Manuel de Figueroa. Please see corresponding ancestry chart for a complete list of his ancestors.

He arrived on the island of Española on April 5, 1502, accompanied by Fray Nicolás de Ovando, who was named governor of the island. In the year 1511 Porcallo went with Diego Velazquez de Cuellar to the island of Cuba. He went to Bayamo and helped Manuel de Rojas to encourage the population in that village. He joined Panfilo de Narvaez in an expedition that explored the island and was present at the slaughter of Caunao, but it seems that he did not participate. At the end of 1513, he spent several days in the Indian village of Carahate, near the river Tesico, which became the present town of Remedios.

The place enchanted him, especially the mines in the vicinity and he chose the land to found a village. Velazquez consented to his plans and authorized the land grant. Vasco also received huge land grants in the region of Sancti Spiritus and Puerto Principe, after having taken them by force. With this system he soon became the wealthiest landlord in the island.

The Villa of Puerto Principe was his main residence and his wife, who was the daughter of Cacique Camagüebax, resided there with her children in a beautiful house constructed in front of the main plaza, near the town hall and the parish church. But Vasco liked spending most of his time in Remedios, where he had his famous horses and where he was visited by dignitaries of the time.

The ferocity of Porcallo toward the Indians was well known in the area, and it came to the point that a judicial investigation was conducted. He was not only accused of excessive punishment, but also of inhumane deaths and horrible mutilations. In 1522 he went to court for his behavior and the accusations were proven, resulting in a fine......

In 1518 Velazquez commissioned him to go to Sancti Spiritus to settle a dispute between the residents provoked by the self-proclamation to Alcalde of Hernan Lopez. Here Porcallo again demonstrated his violent character and his quick decision making. He went with twenty armed men to Sancti Spiritus, entered the town hall and demanded the resignation of Hernán López. López intended to take his sword out,

but Porcallo took his knife out first and killed him. The regidors, who supported López, were taken prisoners under the care of Judge Alonso Zauzo, who disapproved of the action and freed them.

As the Lieutenant General of the Army, he went with Hernán de Soto to conquer Florida on May 31st, 1539. He later returned to Cuba, due to his frail health. Even thought he always had an active life in the outdoors, Vasco de Porcallo was obese and he aged rapidly. He died in 1550 in Puerto Principe at the age of 56 and was buried beneath the main altar of the parish church of Puerto Principe.

The children that Vasco de Porcallo had in Cuba are many and so are the theories as to which were had with his legitimate wife Eliva de Mendoza and which were illegitimate. In the book Apuntes de Camagüey the children mentioned as heirs to Vasco de Porcallo are the following:

1. Vasco Porcallo, who became alcalde of Puerto Principe.

2. Lorenzo Gómez Juárez, who went on a de Soto expedition to Florida. He was Captain of Infantry and Lieutenant Governor.

3. Gómez Juan de Figueroa, resident of Remedios.

4. Leonor de la Cerda

- 5. Teresa de la Cerda Casamayor, who married Captain Esteban de Lagos Mexias
- Maria Porcallo who married Juan de Argote, a son of Cacique Camagüebax.

Other children that are known are the following:

 Elvira Lasso de la Vega, who married Martin de Rojas, son of Manuel de Rohas and Magdalena Velazquez

2. Isabel Lasso de la Vega, who married Tomás Guerra.

3. Cristobal Porcallo de Figueroa, who was Captain of Infantry in Habana and Puerto Principe.

#### Prominent ancestors of Vasco Porcallo de Figueroa:

#### The Porcallo lineage

#### Gutierre Porcallo de Sotomayor

Married in Badajoz with Aldonza Manuel de Figueroa, who belonged to the illustrious house of the Condes and later Duques de Feria.

#### Vasco Porcallo de la Cerda

He was servant to the Reyes Catolicos, that is Ferninand and Isabel of Spain. He took active part in the civil war between the families of Alcántara and Monroy, and in 1452, with 300 men, besieged the fortress of Monroy. He owned the Tower of Gaitán, the Atalaya and the Arenal of Porcallo. He was present with his father at the solemn act of the reading of the Constitution of Cáceres, before the Queen Isabel, on July 9, 1477.

#### Gonzalo Porcallo

He was servant to the King Juan II and Enrique IV of Castile and the Governor of the Castle of Alburquerque in the province of Badajoz.

#### Vasco Porcallo

He was commander of the Order of Avis in Portugal, having under his charge the castle and fort of Villaviciosa. During the war between Juan I of Castile and Don Juan, grandmaster of the Order of Avis, for the throne of Portugal, Vasco was on the Castilian King's side, defending the fort of Villaviciosa. When the battle of Aljubarrota was lost, (August 14, 1385) Vasco moved to Spain and established himself in Cáceres, having in his charge the estates of Cortas de los Rizos, Peña Quemada, San Gimon and Palomares.

#### The Figueroa Lineage

#### Gómez Suarez de Figueroa

He was bishop of Badajosz. He and Beatriz Manuel were the parents of Aldonza Manuel de Figueroa.

#### Gómez Suárez de Figueroa y Mesía

He was Lord of the House of Figueroa and Gallinato; the governor of the Castle of Villanueva de Barcarrota and Badajoz; captain general of the fort of Andalucia; first nobleman and counselor to King Juan II and first steward to Queen Doña Catalina de Lancaster. He took part in the wars with Portugal and in Antequera and died in 1429.

#### Lorenzo Suárez de Figueroa

He was Lord of the Tower of Montuerque and of the House of Figueroa. He was mayor of León, grandmaster of Santiago in 1387, and one of the governors of the kingdom during the infancy of King Don Enrique III. He distinguished himself in the war with Portugal, and at Setenil, Ronda, Zahara, and Ortegicar. On February 28, 1394, he was called by King Enrique III, to be the first Señor of Feria, Zafra, La Parra, Oliva, El Rincón and Villalba. He assisted in the coronation of King Juan II of Castile. He founded the convent of Santiago in Seville, where he was buried. He died in Ocaña at age 75, the 19th of May of 1409 surrounded by friends.

#### Gómez Suárez de Figueroa

He was Señor of the House Figueroa and Gallinato and grandmaster of the Order of Santiago during the reign of King Alonso XI. He died in the field of Arabiana fighting against the loyal forces of Don Enrique de Trastamara.

#### Suer Fernández de Figueroa

He inherited the houses of Figueroa and Gallinata from his father Ruy Suárez de Figueroa.

#### Fernán Ruiz de Figueroa

He was a nobleman to King Fernando II.

#### Ruy Suárez de Figueroa

The Figueroa lineage of Cáceres comes from the House of Figueroa, established by Ruy Suárez de Figueroa who was royal judge of Galicia and served King Alfonso VIII. He was the son of Suer de Figueroa, Ricohombre of Castilla.

#### The Manuel Linage

#### Beatriz Manuel

She was the illegitimate daughter of Pedro Manuel de Villena

#### Pedro Manuel de Villena y Sousa

He was heir to his father, Enrique Manuel, even thought he was an illegitimate son, because there were no legitimate children to inherit them. Nobleman and Lord of Montealegre and Meneses. His legitimate daughter, María Manuel de Villena y Manrique de Lara, married Lorenzo Suárez de Figueroa, second Lord of Feria, Zafra, La Parra, Nogales, etc, who became the first Duke of Feria.

#### **Enrique Manuel**

He was the illegitimate son of Juan Manuel Infante de Castilla and Inés de Castañeda. He lived in Portugal, where he was Count of Ceia and Sintra, and according to some authors, the Count of Coimbra and Mayor of Chaves in Spain. He was also the Lord of Montealegre and Meneses, later Count of

Montealegre. He was tutor to King Juan II of Castile and he governed the kingdom when Fernando de Antequera left to take the throne of Aragón. He married Elvira Alonso de Sousa in Portugal, but they never had any children.

The information was compiled from several sources, as follows:

Historia de Remedios, by Manuel Martínez Escobar.

<u>Enciclopedia Heráldica y Genealógica de Apellidos Españoles</u>, by Alberto Garcia Carraffa

Estudio Histórico Sobre Algunas Familias Españolas, by Alfonso de Figueroa y Melgar.

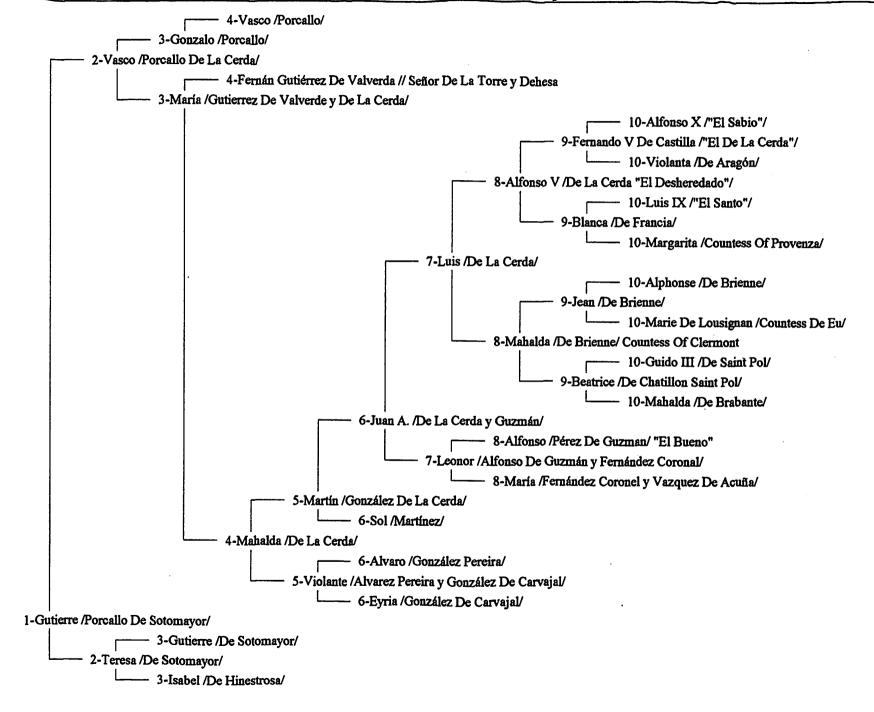
Collection of David Masnata y Quesada in the Cuban Collections of Richter Library

História de Familias Cubanas, by Francisco Xavier de Santa Cruz

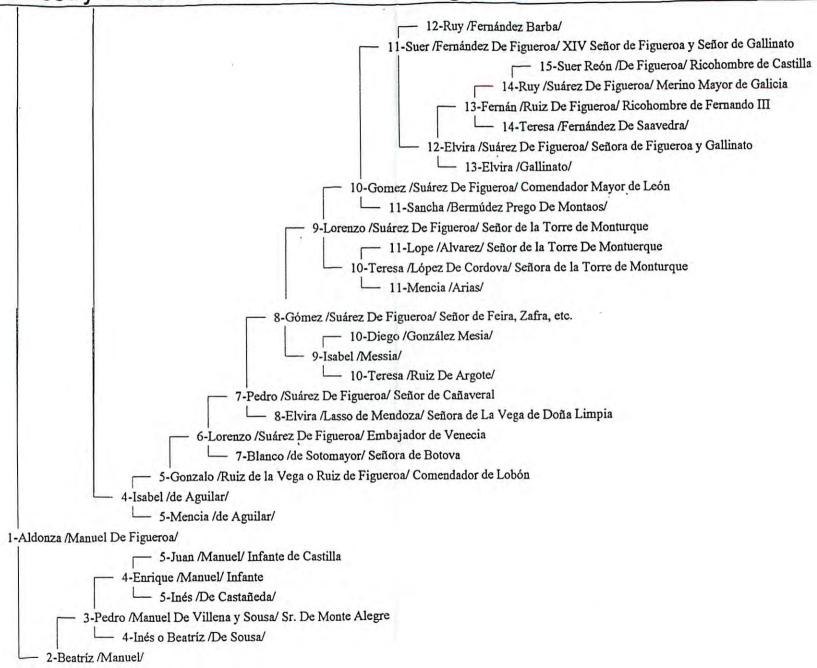
Apuntes de Camagüey, by Jorge Juarez y Cano

The following Ancestry Charts are of Gutierre Porcallo de Sotomayo, father of Vasco Porcallo de Figueroa and of Aldonza Manuel de Figueroa, his mother.

### Ancestry Chart of Gutierre Porcallo De Sotomayor



## Ancestry Chart of Aldonza Manuel De Figueroa



## Ancestry Chart of Aldonza Manuel De Figueroa

