

# Vila Lineage

When ALBERTO ROGERO took for his bride a daughter of the VILA house, they bestowed upon you a great heritage. The VILA family is a very ancient one, dating back to at least 1599 in Minorca.

*(The Archivero de Menorca, Rev. Fernando Marti, certified these early dates for me on 9/3/1958.)*

The origin of the name was JAIME VILA and his wife ANTONIA. They lived in the town of Ciudadela, Minorca, one of the two most important towns on the Island. They were ANTONIA's (wife of ALBERTO ROGERO) four times great grandparents.

JAIME and ANTONIA had a son, MATEO VILA. He married twice in his lifetime. The first time was in 1599 and the second time was in 1605 to your ancestress JUANA FERRER. The record of their marriage is on file in Ciudadela. They were ANTONIA's three times great grandparents.

One son of MATEO and JUANA was MIGUEL VILA, born and baptized in Ciudadela. He was christened there January 15, 1612. He married FRANCESCA PONS in Ciudadela on 9/11/1633. They were ANTONIA's twice great grandparents.

MIGUEL and FRANCESCA had a son named ANTONIO VILA, baptized 3/31/1648 in Ciudadela. He was married twice; first in 1672 and a second time on 11/28/1681 to JUANA QUINTANA (whose mother was a SABATE and her late husband was a CANOVA). JUANA and ANTONIO were ANTONIA's great grandparents.

JUANA and ANTONIO's son was FRANCISCO VILA, Senior, baptized 1/9/1685 and married to ANTONIA PON. (Her mother was also a VILA and related.) They were ANTONIA's grandparents.

During all this time they were still in Ciudadela, Minorca. They named their son FRANCISCO VILA, JR. He was baptized 10/27/1724 and married MARIA FERRER on 2/10/1754.

FRANCISCO VILA and MARIA FERRER came with the colony in 1768 to New Smyrna. After the rebellion and trek to British Augustine in 1777, FRANCISCO and MARIA took up residence on Spanish Street. There they stayed, rearing their three daughters, JUANA, MARIA, AND ANTONIA. FRANCISCO was a small farmer with only four acres to farm and asked for no more. He and his wife lived very comfortably until her death on 1/19/1791. She had lived long enough, however, to see some of her grandchildren. FRANCISCO died 4/10/1811 and was buried the following day in the Parish Cemetery.

ANTONIA VILA wed ALBERTO ROGERO in 1782 in British Augustine. They lived on the corner of Cuna and Spanish Streets, just up the street from her parents. Their children were the first ROGERO generation to be born in this country. JUANA VILA married FRANCISCO PELLICER in 1783, also in British Augustine. MARIA VILA married JUAN LORENZO. All three families lived close together.

Spain regained the province in 1784. The children of ALBERTO and ANTONIA saw many changes and many stirring sights. Some of the renegade Indians used to come into town and get drunk, scaring the populace half to death. Soldiers were stationed there for a time, too. American emissaries came to look the place over when it became an American territory. Pirates raided the coast near Fernandina and St. Mary's and kept people in a state of anxiety. Easter Festivals were joys to the Minorcans. The new church was their pride. In 1821, the United States formally obtained Florida from Spain. This new American territory began to attract the Yankees. Protestants flocked in and the churchgoers among them wanted their own place of worship. It was a changed community.

On January 26, 1826, FRANCISCO CRISTOBAL ROGERO, one of ALBERTO's son, posted a bond and married JUANA POMAR.

CATHEDRAL PARISH RECORDS: Burials: NO. 195

### Maria Ferrer

*On the ninth day of January, 1791, Maria Ferrer died, native of Minorca, legitimate daughter of Pedro Ferrer and Maria Moll and wife of Francisco Vila, age 64 years.*

*She died in communion with holy mother church, having received the sacraments and made no will. Whose body was received by Don Thomaso Hassett, priest, vicar and Ecclesiastical judge of the parish and province of St. Augustine, Florida, (east). Given burial the day following in the parish cemetery.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Hassett

Maria Ferrer was Mrs. Francisco Vila, resident of Spanish Street and mother of Antonio Vila who became the wife of Alberto Rogero.

She was born in Minorca about 1736, married Francisco Vila 2/10/1754 and came to Florida in 1768 with her family, including three daughters.

In addition to MRS. ROGERO, one of her daughters was MRS. FRANCISCO PELLICER. Another was MRS. JUAN LORENZO. Both of the latter were grandmothers of BISHOP PELLICER and BISHOP MANUCY, respectively. So, Maria Ferrer had two great grandchildren from Church hierarchy.

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CATHEDRAL PARISH RECORDS: Baptisms: NO. 135

### Francisco Cristobal Magino Rogero

*Saturday, November 21, 1801. I, Don Miguel O'Reilly, Priest, Vicar, Ecclesiastical Judge of The Parish and Province of St. Augustine, in Florida, baptized and placed Holy Oils upon a child born on the 16<sup>th</sup> of the present month and year, legitimate son of Alberto Rogero, native of Ciudadela, Isle of Menorca, son of Ramon Rogero and Catalina Llina, and his wife Antonia Vila, native of the said Ciudadela, daughter of Francisco Vila and Maria Ferrer.*

*During the sacred ceremonies of the Church, I gave the name, Francisco Cristobal Magino.*

*God parents; Juan Leonardy and Catalina Rogero, residents of the city, whom I advised of their spiritual parentage and other obligations.*

*I sign, same day, month, year \_\_\_\_\_  
Miguel O'Reilly*

