

# Hernandez

by Eleanor Philips Barnes

**H**ernandez Lineage — On the Isle of Minorca, HERNÁNDEZ dates back to the year 1550. DIEGO HERNÁNDEZ and his son DIEGO HERNÁNDEZ, JR. were part of the military troops guarding the Castle de San Phelipe outside Mahón, Minorca. They were considered to be Castellanos. Thus begins our record of the HERNÁNDEZ family history.

The first DIEGO was married to a girl with a Grecian name, PETRA. They lived in Arrabel de San Phelipe, specifically in the Villa Carlos.

DIEGO HERNÁNDEZ, the junior, often at first spelled ARNANDEZ, was in the Artillery of the Fort of San Phelipe. In 1591, he wed CATALINA CONTRERAS, one of the girls from the Isle of Menorca, and they had ten children.

DIEGO HERNÁNDEZ, III, was born in 1606 and grew up in San Carlos. In 1626, he wed MARGARITA VILLAR, another pretty Minorcan lass. One of their sons, JUAN HERNÁNDEZ, was born in 1641 and married CATALINA MORALES in 1667. They had eight children and continued to live in San Phelipe. (Documented evidence, records as authentic as our own, were provided by REV. FERNANDO MARTI, ARCHIVERO DE MENORCA.)

One of JUAN'S sons was named JUAN, II, but he also had the name DIEGO and was sometimes called DIEGO, IV. He married ANA CANOVAS in 1695. JOSE HERNÁNDEZ, their son, was born in 1714. He married MARTINA VICTORI in 1740. JOSE, the younger, as he was often called, is going to become the founding father of all those who came to this country in 1768.

JOSE, the YOUNGER, one of JOSE'S eight children, came to America in 1768 at the age of 22. He married MARIA MIER in New Smyrna, probably in 1774. They had their first child in 1775. She was christened MARTINA PAULA HERNÁNDEZ, and married JUAN POMAR, thereby, becoming MATRIARCH of the POMAR clan.

One of their daughters, JUANA POMAR, became the wife of ALBERTO ROGERO'S son FRANCISCO.

**J**ose Hernandez — Late in the afternoon, July 2, 1768, the ocean is a sheet of glass. Standing on the deck of the Brigantine *New Fortune*, looking pensively out to sea, is JOSE HERNÁNDEZ. His thoughts are back home in the valley Arrabel de San Phelipe on the Island of Minorca. His dreams, however, are of the new land that is drawing closer each day.

As if mirrored in that sea of glass was the life of both joy and sorrow that Jose was to share with the others. He would see MARIA MIER, his future wife, who someday would give birth to one child in *Les Mesquites*, and ten others in San Augustin. MARIA MIER was at this moment asleep on the deck of the scow "*Friendship*," not too far away from his own ship and blissfully unaware of her destiny. MARIA, just seven years old, was traveling with her mother, CATALINA PONZ, and father, GARRIEL MIER, en route to the new world.

The glow of the setting sun, like a ball of fire, reflects on Jose's parents; strong, silent JOSEF HERNÁNDEZ, and quiet, calm, little MARTINA PRIETO. Old Josef was busy now weaving his shrimp net, while Martina patiently darns their worn clothes.

JUANA HERNÁNDEZ, a cousin, makes fine handwork. As the light grows dim, she pauses to look at her son leaning on the rail. RAFAEL is so impatient to see the towers.

Also on board is JOSEF HERNÁNDEZ y CARDONA, another close cousin, standing with MICHAELA and CATALINA, and their brother, DIEGO, with his pretty young wife, VICTORIA VIVAS. All of them are from the little valley of Arrabel.

Then from Mahón, of which Arrabel of San Phelipe is a suburb, is old GASPER HERNÁNDEZ. He is with his wife, MARIA, and those two dashing young sons, JUAN and MARTIN. Martin now strums the guitar and hums a Latin love song. Perhaps DOROTEA FOMILA might slip across the deck if her mama is not watching. He hopes to someday marry Dorotea.

JOSE thinks of the day of departure from Mahón and remembers the wild excitement of the few very young and the tears of the many as kinfolk were left behind. He remembers the lap of the water against the docked ship, the babble of voices, the confusion of bags and bundles and chests, the bright April sun and the last look at Menorca. All are etched on his memory for all time.

The sun has set. JOSE does not move. Tomorrow is another day. Perhaps it will be a day when he will sight the land. The watch tower of the great Castillo must be very near now. Eight tiny specks on the gray Atlantic Ocean nose southward.

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CATHEDRAL PARISH RECORDS: BAPTISMS: NO. 493

### **Juana Ricarda Gracia Pomar**

*Sunday, February 10, 1799, I, Don Miguel O'Reilly, priest, vicar, and Ecclesiastical Judge of the parish and province of St. Augustine in Florida, baptized with holy oils, a child born on the 7<sup>th</sup> of the present month and year, legitimate daughter of Juan Pomar, native of Ciudadela Minorca, son of Jose and Juana Lina and Of his wife Martina Hernandez, native of this Province, daughter of Jose and Maria Mier.*

*During The ceremonies of the Church, I gave the name, Juana Ricarda Gracia.*

*Godparents; Jose Hernandez Cardona and Maria Gracia Perpal, residents of the city whom I informed of their spiritual parentage and other obligations.*

*I Sign \_\_\_\_\_  
Miguel O'Reilly*

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*\* The godfather of the child, Jose Hernandez, was the stepfather of Juan Pomar.*

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CATHEDRAL PARISH RECORDS: BURIALS: NO. 135

### **JUAN POMAR**

*Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1819 died, Juan Pomar, native of Mahón (Isle of Minorca) son of Jose (Pomar) and Juana Lina and husband of Martina Hernandez, of 51 years of age.*

*Died in communion with Holy Mother Church, having Received the Holy Sacraments of Penance, Communion. Whose body, I, Don Miguel Crosby, priest, vicar And Ecclesiastical Judge of the parish and province of St. Augustine, Florida, gave burial the day following in the Parish Cemetary.*

*I sign \_\_\_\_\_  
Miguel Crosby*

This man, born in Minorca, fatherless from New Smyrna, lived with his mother and step-father, the other Josef Hernandez y Cardona, right along side Hernandez' cousin, Josef Hernandez y Victori and his family. Both places were on Cuna Street.

Here, he wooed and won young Martina Hernandez and married her in 1789. They were the parents of JUANA POMAR, who became the wife of FRANCISCO ROGERO.

Juan Pomar's grandmother in Minorca belonged to the well-known ALBA family, a very distinguished family of Spain. It is thought that he might also be a cousin of ALBERTO ROGERO. Both mothers were of the Linana or Llina family.)

*Eleanor Philips Barnes*