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The Moyas of Agua Mansa

By Denie A. Nelson

In 1977 when I learned the maiden name of my 2nd great grandmother **Ma. Josefa Moya Young** from a newly found cousin in Coltonⁱ, whose research indicated that Ma. Josefa's father was "Juan de Dios Moya" born in Pennsylvania, I became fascinated with the Moya family, neglecting the research I had planned to do on Josefa's daughter, **Mariana de Jesus Young Romero**, my great grandmother. Instead I began gathering all the information I could find on the Moyas in California, Colorado, and New Mexico. It is a distinctive name and I eventually discovered that Juan de Dios Moya was Josefa's uncle and not her father. I could not have accomplished so much if I had not had the assistance of Mary Lewis, whose extensive files on families in San Bernardino County provided many of the clues I needed.

Josefa's father was **Jose Ygnacio Moya**, a brother of several Moyas who settled in Agua Mansa (now part of Colton, CA) with their wives and children. Jose Ygnacio and his family arrived at Agua Mansa ca. 1843-1845, probably with a second group of New Mexico settlers from Abiquiu, NM, who were promised land by the Bandini family in California in return for fighting the local Native Americans. I still can't figure out how Pennsylvania got connected to this family, but in time perhaps that mystery will also be solved. The following is a brief history of this family:

The patriarch of the family was **Antonio Jose Moya**, b. ca. 1771-1772, who, with his wife **Ma. Nicolasa Armijo**, b. ca 1773-1774ⁱⁱ, were the parents of the male Moyas who were with both the first settlers of Agua Mansa in 1842 and a second wave of settlers who arrived within the next 2-3 years. Antonio and Nicolasa were married 19 April 1786 at the San Francisco de Asis Cathedral in Santa Feⁱⁱⁱ. They had eight known children, six baptized in Abiquiu^{iv}. These were: **Ma. Joaquina Moya**, b. 20 Mar 1787; **Ma. Gertrudis de Jesus Moya**, b. 17 June 1789; **Ma. Rita Moya**, b. 22 Oct 1793; **Jose Joaquin Moya**, b. 18 August 1796; **Ma. Guadalupe Moya**, b. 10 Aug 1799; and **Juan de Dios Moya**, b. 8 Mar 1808. I have identified **Jose Ygnacio Moya**, b. ca. 1802-1807^v and his brother **Juan Jose Moya** as children in this family based on the baptismal records of their children born in Abiquiu, who have the same paternal grandparents.

Of the original Moya children, the following were settlers of Agua Mansa: Jose Joaquin Moya and his son **Jose de la Luz Moya**, who arrived in



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1846^{vi}; Juan de Dios Moya, who is listed as arriving in 1843^{vii}; and Jose Ygnacio Moya, who arrived in either 1843-1844^{viii} or 1845^{ix}. Apparently only Juan Jose Moya remained in Abiquiu with his parents and sisters. However, in the Agua Mansa records and/or federal census records, there are two other male Moyas: **Quanta Moya**, b. about 1804, who may have been another brother, but is most likely Juan de Dios Moya. This is based on his age, his second wife's name and the names of his children, which reappear in the naming of the other Moya children born in Abiquiu to the known Moya siblings. On 22 February 1866 a **Joaquin Moya**, age 100, is reported deceased in the San Salvador Parish records. He is old enough to be a brother to Antonio Jose Moya and therefore an uncle to the Moya brothers in Agua Mansa. However, this person requires more research because I have found no other records for "Joaquin Moya" in this age range.

Of the three known brothers in Agua Mansa, all their wives had the last name of **Martin/Martinez**. I know of no wife whose name was "Josephine/Josefa Molina" as reported in articles by other Agua Mansa researchers. The following is known: Jose Joaquin Moya m. **Ma. Antonia Martin**, b. about 1814-1815, daughter of **Jose Martin** and **Ma. Dolores Archuleta**. They had 11 known children. Six of these children were born in New Mexico, probably Abiquiu, including: **Ma. Francisca Moya**, born about 1840, and **Francisco Manuel Moya**, who was born 20 May 1843^x. Beginning with son **Jose Ygnacio Moya** (named for his uncle), born about 1845, the children were born in California. How does this affect the later claims that Jose Joaquin Moya arrived in 1843? Would he have traveled with his wife? If he did, could she have been part of the later group which included his brother Ygnacio Moya? If not, how long was this trip, and could Joaquin Moya and his family leave Abiquiu after Francisco's birth in May 1843 and still arrive in Agua Mansa before the end of the year? Jose de la Luz Moya, his eldest son, would have been about 13 at that time. Their other children were: **Ma. Ysidora**, born 26 November 1832, **Ma. Encarnacion**, b. 7 December 1834; Jose Maria, b. 15 March 1837 who married **Catalina Velarde**; **Ma. Francisca**, b. about 1840-1841, m. **Francisco Velarde**; Francisco Manuel (noted above) m. **Brigida Velarde**; Jose Ygnacio, (noted above); **Ma. Andrea**, ca. April 1848, m. **Thomas Montoya**; **Ma. Isabel** m. **Emanuel Quintana**; **Maria**, b. June 1854; and **Ma. Dolores**, b. December 1856, married **Casimiro Rivas**. All of these marriages took place in the San Salvador Parish in San Bernardino County, CA^{xi}.

Juan de Dios Moya (or Quanta Moya) kept a low profile in Agua Mansa. His first wife was **Ma. Concepcion Garcia**^{xii}, as noted when they were godparents to a nephew in August 1841 in Abiquiu. They were godparents again in June 1855 and in June 1858 in the San Salvador Parish^{xiii}, but her surname appears there as "Martin/Martinez". After

Ma. Concepcion Garcia (or Martin/Martinez)'s death in May 1864^{xiv}, Juan de Dios Moya immediately married **Merced Roldan** in June 1864^{xv}. I have been unable to verify any known children of his first marriage, and believed Juan de Dios Moya is actually the "Quanta Moya" who appears in the 1880 U.S. Census aged 65 with a 27 years old wife, "Mercy" and five children, ages 9 years to three months.

My 3rd great grandparents were: Jose Ygnacio Moya (b. 1802-1807 and d. about 1880) and his wife **Maria Rufina Martin**, b. 1810-1817, the daughter of **Pablo Martin** and **Ma. Gertrudis Lopez (Gallegos)**. Ygnacio Moya served as the first *alcalde* or mayor of Agua Mansa. When he resigned Don Louis Rubidoux succeeded him^{xvi}. It is unlikely that this family arrived at Agua Mansa before 1844. Of their 13 known children, five were born in New Mexico. The last one born about 1843-1844. Their children were: **Ma. Juana Gertrudis**, b. April 1833, m. **Jose Gregorio Atencio**; **Jose Ysidro** b. May 1835, m. **Ma. Basilia Tapia**; **Jose Antonio**, b. May 1838, d. November 1863; **Ma. Josefa**, b. May 1840, d. September 1933, m. **Jose Joaquin Young**; **Jose Alvino**, b. December 1842 (all in Abiquiu)^{xvii}; **Jose Paulo**, b. about 1843-1844, NM, d. before 1857; **Ma. de Jesus**, b. December 1847, m. **Tomas Jaramillo**; **Ma. Agapito**, b. 1848; **Ma. Juliana de Jesus Nazarena**, b. January 1851 m. **Julian Sanchez**; **Ma. Jarrilita**, b. 1851-1852; **Ma. Adelaida**, b. 1853, m. **Juan Bautista Valdez**; **Kenio**, b. 1854; and **Jose Paulo**, b. August 1857^{xviii}. Several children of this family either died young, disappeared or had no known issue (Jose Antonio, Jose Alvino, Jose Paulo, Ma. Agapito, Ma. Jarrilita, Kenio, and the second Jose Paulo). The remainder married into other Agua Mansa families: Atencio, Tapia, Jaramillo, Sanchez, and Valdez.

Ma. Josefa Moya, my 2nd great grandmother did not disappear, instead she married the descendant of an American Revolutionary hero. Records show that **Isaac "Cristobal" Slover** and his wife **Ma. Barbara Aragon** arrived in Agua Mansa with the second group of settlers^{xix}. Slover, an American trapper, or "mountain man", and his wife may have lived in Taos earlier, are listed as godparents in Abiquiu in June 1834^{xx}. They know another American trapper, **Ewing Young**, who left Taos in 1831 shortly after his son, Jose Joaquin Young, was born and eventually settled in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. In about 1854 Joaquin Young arrived in Agua Mansa with his maternal uncle **Juan Cristobal Tafoya** from Taos. They were en route to Oregon to claim the estate of his father Ewing Young, who had died without leaving a will in about 1841. In Agua Mansa Joaquin Young obtained a statement from Barbara Aragon to add to the other statements he had from Taos establishing proof of his paternity – his parents had never married – then with his uncle, proceeded to Oregon. His inheritance would not be settled for another 10 years, and Joaquin Young returned to Agua Mansa in time to marry Ma.

Josefa Moya in February 1855. Records of this marriage were obscured by the fact that the Spanish records listed his surname variously as “Yon” or “Gion” and translators mistakenly converted the name to “Jones” until I recognized his true identity in 1990.

Although I have managed to make contact with descendants of almost all of Jose Joaquin Young and Ma. Josefa Moya’s children who had issue, I only recently located other Moya descendants. In 1994 while attending the SCGS Genealogical Jamboree, Pamela Koppel came to the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America – Southern California booth. Her husband’s family were Moyas! Later I received a batch of pedigree charts and family group charts from her. And so I continue to follow the “paper trail” of other Moyas who took that long trip to Agua Mansa from Abiquiu.



This is the second article in a series on the Spanish and American families of Donie Nelson. Ms. Nelson is a past president of the Los Angeles Westside Genealogical Society and the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America – Southern California. She has been researching since 1980.

ⁱ Evelyn Dunihue Atherton Letters and Notes

ⁱⁱ Birth dates, 1790 Census Abiquiu, Plaza de Guadalupe

ⁱⁱⁱ IGI Batch #M506521, Sht. 1149

^{iv} *Abiquiu Baptisms 1754-1866*, ed. Thomas D. Martinez, extractions of the Archives of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe by Members of the Genealogical Society of NM, San Jose, CA: 1992, pg. 263

^v Birth date based on age given in U.S. Census for Los Angeles County of 1850 and for San Bernardino County 1860 and 1870

^{vi} Vol. XXI, No. 1 and No. 2, Fall 1973, San Bernardino County Museum Assn.; *Agua Mansa and the Pioneer Memorial Park*; Placentia, CA: reprint by Las Brisas Publishing, p. 28

^{vii} *Ibid.*

^{viii} L. A. Ingersoll, *Ingersoll's Century Annals of San Bernardino county, 1769 to 1904*, Los Angeles, 1904, p. 640

^{ix} George William Beattie and Helen Pruit, *Heritage of the Valley*, pg. 111

^x *Abiquiu Baptisms 1754-1866*, ed. Thomas D. Martinez, extractions of the Archives of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe by Members of the Genealogical Society of NM, San Jose, CA: 1992, pg. 264

^{xi} San Salvador Parish Marriage Records

^{xii} *Ibid.* pg. 265

^{xiii} San Salvador Parish Baptismal Records

^{xiv} San Salvador Parish Death Records

^{xv} San Salvador Parish Marriage Records

^{xvi} Rev. Father Juan Caballeria, *History of the San Bernardino Valley 1810-1851*, pg. 103

^{xvii} *Abiquiu Baptisms 1754-1866*, ed. Thomas D. Martinez, extractions of the Archives of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe by Members of the Genealogical Society of NM, San Jose, CA: 1992, pg. 264

^{xviii} San Salvador Parish Baptismal and Death Records

^{xix} Rev. Father Juan Caballeria, *History of the San Bernardino Valley 1810-1851*, pg. 103

^{xx} *Abiquiu Baptisms 1754-1866*, ed. Thomas D. Martinez, extractions of the Archives of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe by Members of the Genealogical Society of NM, San Jose, CA: 1992, pg. 83

The French Canadian Corner

By Doug Miller and Ann LeBlanc

The last quarterly meeting of our French Canadian Workshop was held in November and it was also the occasion of our annual Christmas party. This was, perhaps, the largest workshop we have ever had. We had 59 people in attendance and always welcome more. People came from as far away as Banning, Los Osos, Oceanside, Dana Pointe, and Bakersfield.

The researching was hot and heavy. Many new lines were added to family trees that day. As the day progressed, researching gave way to eating and socializing for some of us. A gigantic feast of goodies brought in by the members made the backroom a favorite stopping place during the day.

One of the highlights of the day was Raymonda Motil's great presentation of the subject "The Stories Behind the Names", a dissertation on the evolution of the many variations of the surname Hus.

Certificates of Merit were awarded to Raymonda Motil and Gene Frank for the outstanding efforts they put forth on behalf of our workshop during the past year.

Doug Miller was recognized with the Award of Merit by the National Federation of Genealogical Societies in recognition of his "meritorious service and distinguished work in the area of genealogy and family history". Doug was nominated for this award by Dick and Anjeanette Staley of the Demontbrun Society.

Our fundraising efforts began with a donation from Richard Lemaire of the 15 volume work of Francis Parkman, which we auctioned off. After some ferocious bidding, Barbara DeMase walked off with the set in exchange for a tidy sum. Additional donations resulted in a total for the evening of over \$500.00 raised for French Canadian books for our library. This amount was the crowning star in a banner year of workshops that saw our members contribute in excess of \$2000.00 toward our book fund. On behalf of all of us of French Canadian descent – we thank you!

The members voted to spend some of this money on about 30 volumes of records from the parishes in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. We should have these available for the March workshop.

Maria Josefa Moya Young: A California Pioneer

By Donie A. Nelson

My great, great grandmother, **Ma. Josefa Moya Young**'s greatest honor took place in September 1930, when at the age of 90, she was selected by the Upland Chamber of Commerce as the "pioneer of pioneers" of California to lead the celebration of their Pioneer pilgrimage. This was a statewide search for the oldest living California pioneer¹. At that time she had outlived 10 of her 17 children. During the pilgrimage she placed a wreath of flowers at the foot of the statue of the Madonna of the Trails (Euclid Ave. and Foothill Blvd. in Upland, CA). Numerous pictures of that day survive, most of them with Josefa and her many daughters and granddaughters. Almost 60 years later I visited that statue and smelled the roses still blooming there.

Josefa was petite, under five feet tall, fond of sewing and accustomed to waking early every morning to sew until noon on quilts which she had learned in her girlhood. She never wore glasses. Pictures show her to have bright, inquisitive eyes, yet there is a serenity about her and my older cousins remember her as "Little Grandma". She enjoyed movies and automobiles, often motoring to Santa Ana or Los Angeles to visit relatives. Until she lost her hearing she was a radio and phonograph fan. She had no recipe for a long life, merely saying, "God is not ready for me yet". She never smoked during her lifetime and took no stimulants, and she was able to sew until she suffered a paralytic stroke in July 1932. She was always fond of dancing and in her younger years was an able horsewoman².

She was the fourth of thirteen children born to **Jose Ignacio Moya** and **Ma. Rufina Martin/Martinez** on May 12, 1840, Abiquiu, New Mexico³. In about 1845 Josefa Moya, five years old, rode into the San Bernardino Valley on horseback, sharing one saddle with two brothers and a sister⁴. Her family made this trip across the plains and desert from New Mexico in an oxen drawn "carreta", the principal transportation medium of the day, at the request of one of the wealthy landowners in San Bernardino, who invited 20 New Mexican families to settle on his land and keep the

¹ Newspaper article

² Ibid

³ Abiquiu baptisms

⁴ Newspaper article

natives off. In return, the families would receive land of their own. And this is how the California branch of my Hispanic family line began. Their ranch was located on what is still Agua Mansa Road in Colton, CA.

In 1930, Josefa Moya Young remembered that she was either 12 or 14 years of age when she married handsome, blue eyed **Jose Joaquin Young**, only son of the Tennessee mountain man **Ewing Young** and his common law wife **Maria Josefa Tafoya**, in 1855⁵. Several times during their marriage she rode horseback to Colorado and New Mexico to visit relatives. In a newspaper interview it states that her first baby was born after one of her first long horseback trips. On one return trip, a son was born while the party stopped at the roadside. On another trip, that took several months, their caravan was attacked by a band of Navajo in Colorado, but repulsed after a few moments skirmish. Of their reported 17 children, records are found of 14, most of whom were born in California.

By 1875 the Youngs settled down in Southern California. In June 1880⁶ they are living in Azusa Township, California, where Joaquin Young is a 44-year-old farmer, and Josefa is 33 and keeping house. By June 1888 they own a home on Georgia Street in Colton⁷ and Josefa became a parishioner of the Church of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary⁸. By the time Maria Josefa Moya Young died on September 9, 1933, in Colton, California⁹, at the age of 93, the world had vastly changed. She was survived by 6 of 17 children, 36 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, and 10 great great grandchildren. Her gravesite is well marked – though the dates are incorrect – in the Young family plot at the Agua Mansa cemetery, now a memorial park located off Agua Mansa Road between Colton and Bloomington, California. Maria Josefa Moya Young's life spanned Indians and life on the frontier to airplanes, automobiles, and wireless communication.

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

⁵ San Salvador Parish marriage records, Diocese of San Bernardino

⁶ US Census

⁷ City directory

⁸ Church directory

⁹ Death certificate

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