

Filipino Descendants Attending St. Malo Marker Unveiling

Los Islenos Museum Complex

November 9, 2019

Rhonda Richoux is a descendant of Felipe Madriaga.

Felipe Madriaga arrived in Louisiana in 1849. He was a crewman on a ship that came through Dublin and Liverpool; he met Bridgette Nugent on the trip to New Orleans, and they fell in love. Bridgette's parents did not approve, and they and her brother went on to New York, disowning their daughter. Felipe settled at St. Malo, but St. Malo was predominantly occupied by men, and was a rough place for a family. Felipe moved his wife to a village along Bayou Bienvenue, which was more accessible and family friendly. Their family moved around, renting houses in New Orleans and living in the fishing villages during shrimp season.

Bonnie Roldan Ramey is a descendant of Cayetano del Carpio and William Roldan.

John Schackai is a descendant of Cayetano del Carpio.

Cayetano del Carpio arrived in Louisiana around 1873 when St. Malo was thriving. He may have spent some time in the village before settling his family in the Filipino community on Bayou St. John. Cayetano's daughter Cecelia (Bonnie's grandmother) married William Roldan. Historical records show a Filipino fisherman named Roldan surviving the 1893 storm that nearly destroyed St. Malo.

Ricardo Pustanio is a descendant of Sebastian Pestano.

Sebastian Pestano arrived in Louisiana sometimes prior to his marriage in 1873 to Pauline Laborde. Little is known about Sebastian. Oral history has him dying at sea or returning to the Philippines. His son, Atilano Pustanio, was raised on Bayou St. John by Pauline and Cayetano del Carpio.

Randy Gonzales and **Rhonda Gonzales Voiselle** are descendants of Miguel Guillera and Enrique Gonzalez.

Carolyn Madhay Thiel is a descendant of Miguel Guillera and Jose Umadhay.

Miguel Guillera was drawn to New Orleans by its large Filipino population. Miguel joined the US Navy in Cavite in 1908. After initially settling in Philadelphia, Miguel moved his family to Louisiana in the 1920s. Miguel was a community leader who owned the Filipino Colony Bar and spearheaded the community's involvement in the 1935 Mardi Gras parade.