

An Expanded Study on the Gurulé Family
Correcting Erroneous Information on the Internet
By Angela Lewis

I've been working on the Gurulé families since 1998 -- that's when I got bit by the genealogy bug. My grandmother, Rafaela Gurulé (born in 1891 in Albuquerque), was easy to trace and I really lucked out as the Gurulé family was well documented in the church records. I fell in love with genealogy; however, I think I went a little crazy. I started extracting every single Gurulé record that I could find. I just knew sooner or later that they would all just match together, like one huge puzzle.

Since I was so new, my ears were open to all the advice I could get. I always remember one researcher telling me, "never trust what you find on-line. You don't know if the person who posted the information knew what they were doing." So one of my earliest lessons in genealogy was to obtain and note source material.

That brings me to Juan Andres Gurulé. You see, Juan Andres Gurulé is one of millions of entries in the Mormon Church's database (<http://www.FamilySearch.org>). This database is the biggest collection of on-line records, but many people don't realize that it contains errors.

I love helping people, and every now and then somebody contacts me who traces back to Juan Andres Gurulé. Oh no, here we go again. I already know what's going to happen because I know where the error is found -- it's in the Mormons' database.

The record, submitted by Richard Marquez of Rio Rancho, NM, shows that "Andres or Juan Gurulé" was born in 1773 in Belen, NM, went on to have a long life married to Pasquala Griego. This record also shows that Andres Gurulé was the son of Serafin Gurulé and Maria Gertrudis Aragon. Serafin was the grandson of Jacques Grolet (aka Santiago Gurulé) -- see genealogy report.

This record doesn't match my records which show that Juan Andres Gurulé died as a baby and did not leave a family.

This past year, I decided to contact Mr. Marquez to try to correct the records. Trust me; it's not easy to tell someone that their genealogy research is wrong. The submitter was really nice, but basically told me, "Prove me wrong." I told him that if I did, would he retract the error from the Mormons' database? He said yes. Below is the baptism record for Juan Andres Gurulé, and then his death record 8 days later.

Inestadria. Baptismo. Juan Andres según se mil
 español hijo de me de Serafin Vrullem y de Maria Getrudes de Aragon. Se bautizó en la Iglesia de San Juan Bautista de la ciudad de Santa Fe de Bogotá el día 10 de Mayo de 1789. Fue padrino el Sr. Don Juan de los Rios y la Srta. Doña Juana de los Rios. Fue bautizado en el nombre de Dios Padre Hijo y Espíritu Santo.

Murio

Juan Andres, español, baptism record, but noted under left margin, “murio” (died).

Juan Andres, español, hijo de Serafin Vrullem y de Maria Getrudes de Aragon. Murió el día 10 de Mayo de 1789 en la ciudad de Santa Fe de Bogotá. Fue sepultado en el Cementerio de San Juan Bautista.

Juan Andres, español, died, parbulo son of Serafin Vrullem and Maria Getrudes de Aragon.

My efforts to correct this error have proved fruitless. Months later, I can only say that the Mormons refuse to change their database. Their response to me has been “submit another tree with the correct information.” This doesn’t help with the incorrect record that’s in their database. Unfortunately, it also means that I’m going to get contacted in the future, again, by the next person who finds this Juan Andres Gurulé. I can’t tell you who he was as I never found his parents, but I know who he wasn’t.

If I find an error in other databases such as the Great New Mexico Database, it is easy to contact the webmaster, point out the error, present the new evidence, and the error is corrected.

I’ve got a beautiful website that was built in 2000 by Leon Moya (a Gurulé descendant) who lives in New South Wales, Australia. The website, <http://www.GuruleFamily.org>, documents the main Gurulé descendants originating in La Rochelle, France, and also 13 other lines, including some of the Indian lines with the Gurulé surname. Over the years, my collection of Gurulé records continues to grow. I give full credit for the early Gurulé research to Virginia Olmsted, a well-known Albuquerque genealogist who passed in 1991. She documented her findings in her article, “Grolet-Gurulé: Los Franceses of Nueva Mexico,” published in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, March 1987, Volume 75, Number 1.

I’ve taken her material, fixed a few things, and expanded it. I don’t have everything posted on my website, but the information that is posted contains source documentation. I’m always more than willing to help anybody. Am I perfect? Oh no, not by any means. But at least I can tell you how I came up with a family’s connection. I love helping people, especially those who trace back to the Gurulé’s. Contact me at gen4nm@nmia.com.