



From the Office of Certified Genealogist & Researcher

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**The Case of Maria (nee: Grijalva) Bega, Guillermo Grijalva, and
Aurelia [aka Amelia] (nee: Grijalva) Orosco**

By Lorraine Escobar, CG
October 13, 2017

Introduction

In 1951, Commissioner D. S. Myer, Department of the Interior, wrote to Mr. Norman M. Little, regarding the problems of frauds posing as Indians during the 1928 California Indian Jurisdictional Act enrollment:

We have been told that many Mexicans enrolled as Indians in 1928 but we cannot remove their names at this time without proof of the fact that they were illegally enrolled... ”¹

The purpose of this report, and of those to follow, is to provide that specific “proof of the fact that” many “were illegally enrolled.” To leave the record as is just enables present-day **identity theft** against authentic California Native American Indians. Therefore, the record must be corrected to stop this fraud.

The California Native American Heritage Commission [NAHC] enables identity theft by relying on the authority of the Bureau of Indian Affairs [BIA] to determine eligibility for participation in repatriation. In turn, the BIA relies upon the data collected in the 1928 CIJA, without question, to issue Certificates of Degree of Indian Blood to frauds. Because many of these applicants were frauds, many certificates are tantamount to a license to cheat the real California Indians. And, according to the policy of the NAHC, they will make no changes unless the BIA does.

The Office of Federal Acknowledgment [OFA], another federal agency under the umbrella of the Department of the Interior [DOI], rightfully refutes the data of the 1928 CIJA and subsequent enrollments as proof of an Indian ancestry. Improved genealogical research and evidence standards certainly prove many of those applications are unreliable for that purpose. Although under the same DOI, the BIA yet continually defers to that

¹ Letter from DOI Commissioner D. S. Myer to Mr. Norman M. Little, dated 14 May 1951, p. 2; 4 pages, photocopy in possession of Juaneño Tribe of Mission Indians, petitioner 84A, 31411-A La Matanza Street, San Juan Capistrano, California 92675.

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