



From the Office of Certified Genealogist & Researcher

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The Lineage of Mark (aka Frank Edward Milton) Acuña

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By Lorraine Escobar, CG/NAL

Introduction/Executive Summary

In order to protect the tribe’s right to authenticate its own history and to fully participate in repatriation issues, Chairman Andrew Salas, of the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians, Kizh Nation, asked me to verify what he and his family claimed – that Mark F. Acuña is not a Gabrieleno Indian. Therefore, I conducted this genealogical investigation and have determined Acuña is not of Gabrieleno or any other California Indian descent; rather he is of Mexican-born and Caucasian descent. This report includes my findings.

Based on public statements, Acuña obviously believes he is a Gabrieleno Indian through his paternal lineage, and there is no indication he questioned his ancestor’s identity. Had he done so, he would have learned his paternal ancestors were actually descendants of Mexican-born citizens. At this point, it is unknown if he knowingly deceived those agencies and individuals who take him at his word or if he is simply too naïve and/or negligent in his responsibility to verify his claims. To be clear, this report does not address his motives but it does address the facts, which will inevitably have consequences. Therefore, in the greater interest of protecting tribal rights, I have requested Chairman Salas to deliver a copy of this report to Acuña before it is placed in the public domain. Furthermore, upon learning the truth of his ancestry, it is my hope Acuña will cooperate with the Gabrieleno Tribe to rectify any damage or harm caused by his error.

The Public Claims by Mark F. Acuna

Acuña’s activities confirmed he publically represents himself as a *Gabrieleno* Indian as demonstrated by data found on various Internet websites:

- “***Mark Acuña was born on April 6, 1938*** in Los Angeles and raised in San Gabriel by his grandparents four blocks from the San Gabriel Mission and two blocks from the Gabrieleno-Tongva Tribal Council Center... His current affiliations include: ***California Indian Affiliation: Gabrieleno-Tongva descendant*** and member of the Gabrieleno-Tongva Tribal Council ...”¹ [bold emphasis added by author]

¹ http://www.zoominfo.com/people/Acuna_Marc_176663357.aspx.

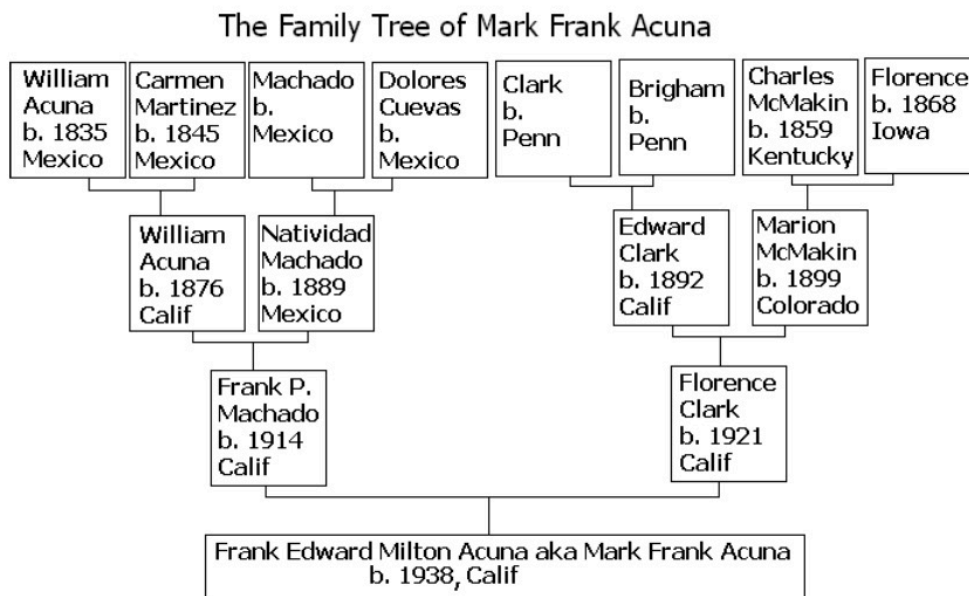
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The Facts

The following chart simply illustrates Acuña’s true origins as revealed by the evidence discussed in this report:



Mark (aka Frank Edward Milton) Acuña, born 6 April 1938

Although known as **Mark** Acuña, his given name at birth was **Frank Edward Milton Acuña**.⁶ His birth certificate states he was born on April 6, 1938, in Los Angeles, California, and his parents were Frank Acuna and Florence Clark. The parents’ residence was given as 308 Sunset Avenue, San Gabriel, California, which matches the residence in the 1940 census that enumerated Mark – as **Frank Jr.** – at age 2, with his father, **Frank Acuna**, and his grandparents – **William** and **Natividad Acuna**.⁷ There is no doubt this birth certificate is for the same individual known as Mark F. or **Marc** Acuna as referenced in the previous excerpts.

⁶ Compare 1) the reference for “Acuna, Mark Frank,” in the bibliography of *A Brief History of the Native Inhabitants of the Lands of the Puente Hills Preserve*; and, 2) Acuna, Frank Edward Milton (1938), birth certificate, long form (informational copy, #1991400), County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, CA; issued 4 Dec 2012; photocopy provided by Andy Salas

⁷ William Acuña household, 1940 U.S. federal census, California, Los Angeles County, San Gabriel Township, SD 12, ED 19-697, sheet 14A, 308 E. Sunset, dwelling 236, family 600; source: www.Ancestry.com, 1940 U.S. census, California, Los Angeles, San Gabriel, district 19-697, image 27.

