



From the Office of Certified Genealogist & Researcher

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The Lineage of Matthew John Lovio

By Lorraine Escobar, CG/NAL July 29, 2015

Introduction

At the request of Chairman Andrew Salas, of the Kizh Nation, Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians, and in response to his claims Matt Lovio is not an authentic Gabrieleno Indian, I agreed to conduct a genealogical investigation on the facts of his lineage. ***The result of this investigation and assessment of the available evidence demonstrates Lovio is not of California Indian descent – Gabrieleno or otherwise. Rather, the evidence demonstrates all of his lineages have Mexican origins.*** This report provides the evidence and analysis which led to that conclusion.

A preliminary on-line investigation into Lovio’s activities was conducted to investigate how he claims to be related to a Gabrieleno Indian. Although he is publically touted as being a Gabrieleno or *Tongva* Indian in several articles found on the Internet, there was no mention of where he believed his Indian lineage came from.¹ Therefore, both lineages were researched.

First, to show Lovio publicly presented himself as a Gabrieleno Indian, the following Internet excerpts serve as evidence:

1. On the website discussing the 2014 play of *Toypurina*, in association with the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse, Lovio is described as follows: “Matthew Lovio-Writer, Matthew is a descendant of the Gabrieleno Tongva tribe. ... His future goals are to continue to act, write, and to spread and teach the knowledge of his ancestors, the first indigenous people of Los Angeles.”²
2. On the website of the 2013 San Gabriel Mission Car Show, he is shown dressed in native regalia and described as “Gabrieleno Tongva Indian Matt Lovio ...”³
3. In 2011, he performed “native” songs and danced for students participating in the San Gabriel Mission’s Annual Model Contest. He is noted as “Matt “Sky Eagle Who Sings With His Heart” Lovio, a member of the Gabrieleno Tongva tribe.”⁴
4. The SGV West Valley Journal reports on a re-enactment event, “Re-enactors invited to participate are Gabrieleno Tongva Indians Matt Lovio...”⁵

¹ The term *Tongva* has been associated as another name for Gabrieleno; however, recent research has revealed this term did not apply to the Gabrieleños as a community but rather to a single village.

² <http://missionplayhouse.org/about/toypurina-2014>.

³ <http://thecitizensvoice.net/?p=7243>.

⁴ <http://thecitizensvoice.net/?p=3509>.

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