

Who fathered Marcos Puentes?

A tale of two migrant families with roots in Paderne

Compiled by Raymond Puentes, with help from Alexis Puentes and the grandchildren of Lizardo Pena

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report demonstrates that the paternity of Marcos Puentes, who was baptized in 1865 in San Pelayo de Ferreira as the illegitimate son of Juana Puentes, is solvable via genetic analysis and historical research. After correlating parish evidence, a reconstructed timeline of the lives of the members of the Pena family, and multiple independent DNA tests, the most reasonable conclusion is that Marcos' father was Francisco Pena of Adragonte (Paderne), a young, unmarried day laborer who later settled in Betanzos, and then Fene. This conclusion is supported by a long, shared DNA segment on the 2nd chromosome that triangulates among descendants of Francico Pena and several great-grandchildren of Marcos, as well as by records showing the Pena surname within Juana's parish records years before the birth of Marcos. The typical dates of cereal harvesting in Galicia also reinforce this idea: Marcos' conception aligns with the peak of the harvest season, when travelling workers were commonly moving across the region. This pattern fits

Francisco's circumstances better than those of his newly married brother Lino, who remains a second but less likely possibility for Marcos' true parentage.

While certain ideal sources (some parish registers, municipal censuses) remain inaccessible, or are no longer available, the convergence of documented context, seasonal labor trends, and autosomal evidence, meet the standard for a well-reasoned genealogical conclusion. This report therefore identifies Francisco Pena as the father of Marcos, and recommends expanding on the present proof set, seeking other civil and ecclesiastical records that will further reinforce this theory, while also finding more descendants of the Pena and Faraldo families to DNA test (both with autosomal and Y-DNA tests).

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The objective of this report is to prove the identity of the biological father of Marcos Puentes, who was born and baptized on April 17, 1865 in San Pelayo de Ferreira in the municipality of San Sadurniño. This will be done through the evaluation of competing hypotheses, with the hopes that a robust conclusion can be met that is in agreement with the Genealogical Proof Standard. Most hypotheses posit different relationships between Marcos Puentes and Francisco Pena, a native of Adragonte (Paderne) whose descendants share a large, triangulated DNA segment with the great-grandchildren of Marcos.

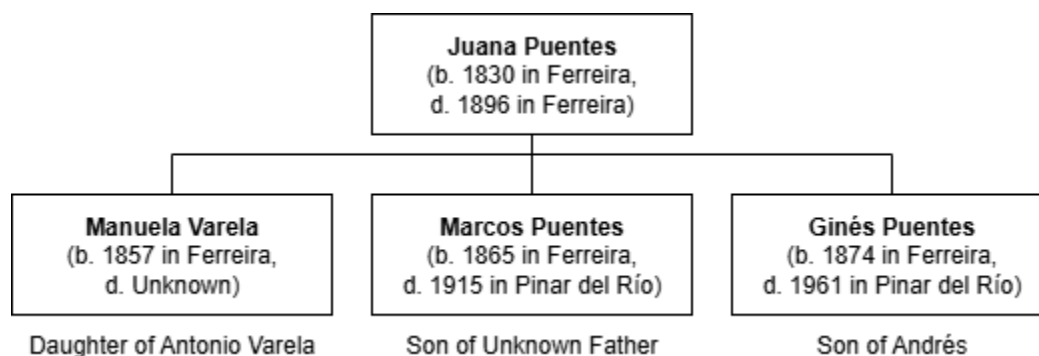
BACKGROUND

Marcos Puentes y Fernández was born on April 17, 1865 in San Pelayo de Ferreira, a parish located in the municipality of San Sadurniño. He was the illegitimate son of Juana Puentes y Fernández (1830-1896). Juana was the widower of Antonio Varela y López, a day laborer who died sometime between 1857 and 1861. Juana had three children, each with a different father. Her first and only legitimate child was Manuela Varela y Puentes, who was born on September 7, 1857. Next, she had her first illegitimate child (the aforementioned Marcos). On December 23, 1874, she had Ginés Puentes y Fernández with an unknown man named Andrés.

For some years, it was thought that Andrés fathered both Marcos and Ginés. However, new information that has been brought to light through research of the Pena and Faraldo families makes it exceedingly likely that Marcos and Ginés were fathered by different men. The identity of the father of Ginés is known from the birth certificates of his children, which list their paternal grandparents as "Andrés (sin apellido) y Juana Puentes". Marcos and Ginés both left for Cuba from the port city of Ferrol in 1885, intending to settle in the province of Pinar del Río. After that, they did not return to Galicia. Marcos would open his own store on San Juan street in the province's capital, which still stands today as a bakery called El Tomeguín. Many of his sons would become doctors, dentists, congressmen, and successful business owners. There is no

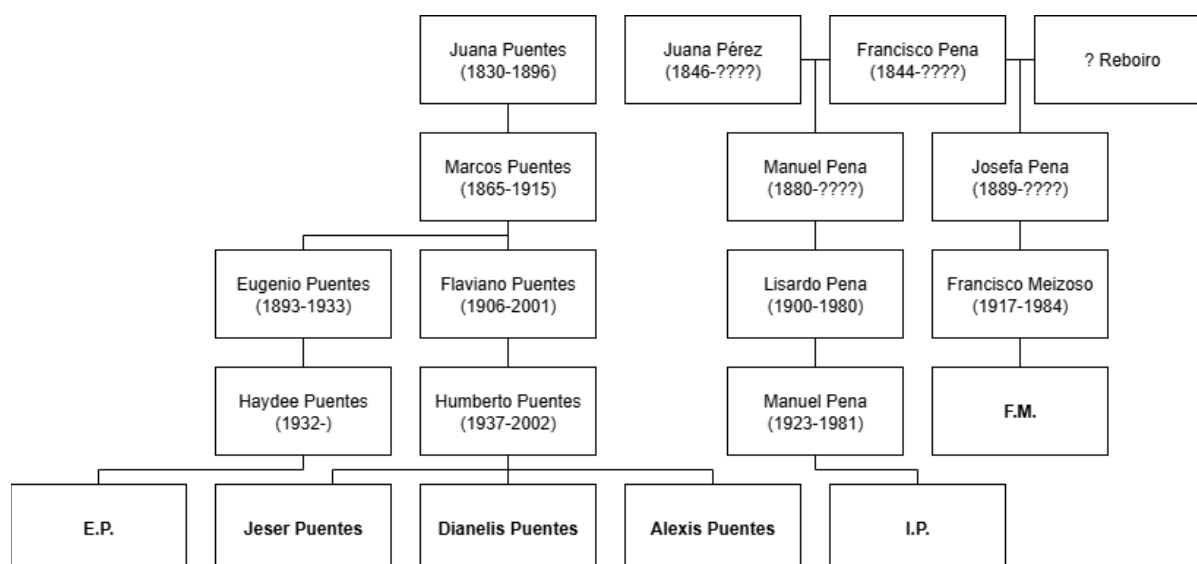
indication that they knew anything about Marcos' parentage, nor did they ever reconnect with their family in Galicia.

Figure 1 – Family tree of the children of Juana Puentes, marked with initially suspected parentage.



Several individuals have had their DNA tested to assess the likeliest possibilities concerning the parentage of Marcos Puentes. They will all be listed below along with life dates but living testers who did not consent to the disclosure of their information in this report will be anonymized. Descendants of Marcos Puentes who have tested their DNA are all great-grandchildren of his, including 3 siblings (Alexis Puentes, Danelis Hernandez, and Jeser Puentes) and their second cousin (E.P.). Other testers that share more than 50 cM with the aforementioned Puentes descendants include I.P. and F.M. These two individuals are descended from Manuel Pena y Pérez (b. 1880) and Josefa Pena y Reboiro (b. 1889) respectively. Manuel and Josefa were paternal half siblings, sharing a father named Francisco Pena y Faraldo.

Figure 2 – Descendants of Marcos Puentes and Francisco Pena



Prior genetic evidence gave enough indication to objectively prove that the biological father of Marcos Puentes was a relative of the Faraldo family. The main question to be resolved was how Francisco Pena and Marcos Puentes were related. At the time this study began, there were five prevailing hypotheses, ranked based on the proximity of the relationship between the two men. Each is explained below.

- **Hypothesis 1 (Francisco Pena was the father of Marcos):** Francisco Pena was born around 1844 in Paderne, a small town 17 miles from San Sadurniño/Ferreira. Although much younger than Juana Puentes, he was still old enough to be the father of Marcos. Assuming that Marcos was conceived in late July of 1864, Francisco would have been 19 or 20 years old at the time. Francisco was a day laborer. This meant that he would have often traveled considerable distances for work. This, coupled with the fact that he did not marry until 1874, certainly makes it possible for him to have fathered illegitimate children in his youth.
- **Hypothesis 2 (Francisco Pena was the uncle of Marcos):** Thankfully, all of Francisco's siblings are attested in online historical records, as they all migrated from Paderne to Betanzos within a similar timeframe. Specifically, he had two brothers (Lino and Manuel). Manuel was too young to father Marcos, as he was born in 1852. However, Lino is another possible candidate due to his birthdate in 1842. He is ranked second for several reasons. Firstly, he migrated to Betanzos before the rest of his siblings, marrying a woman there (Dominga Buyo) in 1864. From then, they consistently had children every 2-3 years between 1866 and 1886. While it is possible that he traveled to San Sadurniño in between pregnancies, the historical record indicates a continuous presence in Betanzos during this period.
- **Hypothesis 3 (Francisco Pena was the half-uncle of Marcos):** This is a purely hypothetical assumption, as it hinges on the prospect of there being an unknown half brother of Francisco Pena who fathered Marcos. Unless he stayed in Paderne, there are no attested half brothers of Francisco in the records currently available.
- **Hypothesis 4 (Francisco Pena was the first cousin of Marcos):** Another possibility is that a maternal uncle of Francisco Pena, who would be surnamed Faraldo, was the true father of Marcos Puentes. If we estimate that Francisco's mother (Vicenta Faraldo) was born around 1820, then this candidate would have been around 40 or 50 years old at the time of Marcos' birth.
- **Hypothesis 5 (Francisco Pena was the first cousin once removed of Marcos):** The last possibility is that a maternal first cousin of Francisco Pena, also surnamed Faraldo, was the biological father of Marcos Puentes.

In essence, many of these hypotheses are based on hypothetical close relatives of Francisco Pena. Nevertheless, these cover the full range of possibilities, and it is very unlikely that Francisco and Marcos

were distant relatives. Neither Francisco's father (Pedro da Pena) nor another paternal relative could have been the biological father of Marcos, as this would not explain his matches to the Faraldo family.

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

Documentary Findings & Timeline Correlation

There are several documents that must be taken into consideration when understanding this case. The baptismal record of Marcos Puentes was requested from the parish church of San Pelayo de Ferreira, and refers to him as "hijo natural de Juana Puentes y de padre incognito...". Furthermore, his godparents are listed as his maternal grandparents, Marcos Puentes and Juana Fernández. This does not present any specific leads, nor do the names of the witnesses "Antonio y Ramón Castro, con Simón Ermida, labradores de esta parroquia...", as they indicate no explicit connection with the Pena and Faraldo families.

A possible lead is found in the baptism of Manuela Varela, the eldest child of Juana Puentes. On September 7, 1857, there are three witnesses reported at her baptism. Their names were Pedro Pena, Juan Castro, and Andrés Grandal. All three men are indicated as being laborers who were born in the Ferreira parish. It is possible that Pedro Pena was a relative of Francisco Pena who lived in Ferreira. If so, this would strengthen the connection between the Pena family and San Sadurniño. The mention of an Andrés here is also interesting. Francisco did not have any siblings by this name, so it is possible that Andrés Grandal was the true father of Ginés Puentes. However, that is a question for another time.

Perhaps the most well-documented individuals within this case are Francisco Pena and his brother, Lino Pena. A robust timeline of their life stories can be constructed based on the extensive documentation available from Betanzos and the surrounding region. Documents including census records and baptismal certificates allow for a better understanding of the journeys undertaken by these men and what course their lives took.

- **Abt. 1842:** Lino Pena is born to Pedro da Pena and Vicenta Faraldo in the parish of Adragonte, in the municipality of Paderne.
- **Abt. 1844:** Francisco Pena is born to Pedro da Pena and Vicenta Faraldo in Adragonte.
- **1864:** Lino leaves Adragonte and settles in Betanzos where he marries Dominga Buyo. His eldest child, Jose Andrés Pena, is born in 1866, dying a month later. From this point until 1897, he consistently appears in the municipal censuses of Betanzos. This information is corroborated by the baptismal records of Lino's earliest children, the appearance of his wife's family in the 1866 census of Betanzos as long-time residents, and Lino's appearance in later censuses which indicate a consistent start of residence.

- **Abt. 1874:** Francisco arrives in Betanzos and marries Juana Pérez, with whom he has a daughter (Manuela) in 1874. This is corroborated by a census from 1877, which states that Francisco had been living in Betanzos for around 3 years, and his daughter had been born there 3 years prior.
- **Between 1882 and 1887:** Juana Pérez dies, leaving Francisco as a widower. This is corroborated by census records from both years. Although Juana is listed in Francisco's household in 1882, she is missing from the record in 1887, and Francisco is listed as a "viudo" or widower.
- **Abt. 1892:** Francisco's sons (Manuel and Rafael) have moved away to Fene, and he is living alone with two young children (Josefa Reboiro and Gabriela Rey). Josefa is 3 years old at this time, and Gabriela is a year old. Josefa later changed her surname to Pena, presumably because Francisco recognized her.
- **1897:** This is the last year in which Lino appears in the census of Betanzos. At this point, he is a widower. It is possible that he died after this year or migrated elsewhere.
- **Before 1900:** Before 1900, Francisco also moves to Fene. The baptism of his grandson, Lisardo Pena y Gómez, provides the name & latest residence of each of his parents and grandparents. For his paternal grandfather, it lists "Francisco Pena Faraldo, vecino de Barallobre". Barallobre is a known parish within the municipality of Fene and is where Manuel Pena and his family lived before settling in Boston in the United States.
- **1912:** Josefa Pena is the last of his children to migrate to Boston, leaving him alone in Galicia. It is unknown when Francisco died, but it was surely some time after the year 1900. This date is corroborated by passenger manifests from Ellis Island that demonstrate Josefa and Lisardo traveling through Ellis Island in this year. From later census records, it is known that they resided in the United States for the rest of their lives.

At the time of Marcos' conception, this would establish Francisco as a strong candidate to be his biological father. Lino is still a possibility, but less likely as he had just gotten married to Dominga Buyo within the same year. Thus, Francisco seems to be a likelier candidate simply due to his marital status.

Seasonality & Opportunity

Given that Marcos was born on April 17, 1865, he was most likely conceived around July 25, 1864. This is assuming that Juana's pregnancy lasted for the typical 266 days. Nonetheless, we can reasonably assume a conception time around late July. Surprisingly, this fits well with the cereal harvesting cycle in Spain. According to the Galician historical blog [Lembranzas de Armariz](#), grain crops such as wheat and rye are typically harvested by laborers on a sunny day around July 25th. In fact, there is an old saying in Galicia that provides the rough calendar followed for the rye harvest.

“Polo San Xoán sécalle unha raíz ó pan, polo San Pedro sécalle a do medio e polo Santiago fouciños ó agro...”

This translates to “For Saint John (June 24th), a root is dried from the bread, for Saint Peter (June 29th), the middle one is dried, and for Saint James (July 25th), sickles are dried from the field...”, with the names of saints being used in place of their feast days. Although this harvest typically relied on communal labor, it’s possible that the people of San Sadurniño recruited other laborers to aid in this harvest. This is where Francisco could have come into the picture, seeing opportunity in the form of an annual harvest that he had likely been accustomed to since childhood.

Aside from the rye harvest, there are a multitude of other factors that could have brought Francisco to San Sadurniño. Many intensive labor endeavors required the use of extra men, which would often result in the commission of day laborers who were willing to accept temporary work to garner a profit, no matter how small. Agrarian customs in Galicia in the mid-to-late-19th century produced a vast labor market that offered work to countless young men, who often worked on land they did not own themselves. This strengthens the case for Francisco Pena or Lino Pena being present in San Sadurniño in July of 1864. The only caveat is that this is less likely for Lino. Given that he was already married to a woman from Betanzos at this time, he was most likely settled there. If he helped out with any rye harvest, it would have most likely been closer to where his wife’s family was living.

DNA Evidence

While no male Pena has been Y-DNA tested to confirm a close match with the Y-DNA of the descendants of Marcos Puentes, there is a considerable amount of autosomal evidence linking Marcos to this family. The descendants of Marcos who have done autosomal testing (Alexis Puentes, Danelis Hernandez, Jeser Puentes, and E.P.) share enough DNA with Francisco’s tested descendants (I.P. and F.M.) to indicate an approximate third cousin relationship. While F.M. has since deleted his autosomal data, there is indication of triangulated segments between I.P., Alexis, and Danelis. After comparing base pairs, it was determined that I.P. shared 62.68 cM (centimorgans) with Humberto Puentes (17.1–76.4 Mb), the late father of these testers. Refer to this chart for shared DNA amounts between these testers. E.P. could not be compared to I.P. on GEDMatch because he never agreed to upload there.

Figure 3 – Shared DNA between Puentes and Pena descendants

	I.P.	F.M.
Alexis Puentes	62 cM	9 cM
Danielis Puentes	70 cM	53 cM
Jeser Puentes	0 cM	16 cM
E.P.	54 cM	101 cM
Expected Relations	H1: <i>half 3rd cousin</i> H2: <i>4th cousin</i> H3: <i>half 4th cousin</i> H4: <i>4th cousin once removed</i> H5: <i>5th cousin</i>	H1: <i>half 2nd cousin 1x removed</i> H2: <i>3rd cousin 1x removed</i> H3: <i>half 3rd cousin 1x removed</i> H4: <i>4th cousin</i> H5: <i>4th cousin 1x removed</i>

cM = centimorgan, a unit of measurement in genetics

These values of shared DNA, combined with the triangulated segment shared between Humberto's children and I.P., indicate that these must represent inherited segments from Francisco Pena or a close relative of his. Furthermore, the last two hypotheses (H4 and H5) can most likely be eliminated, as Humberto's children have several more distant matches from both the Pena and Faraldo families, ranging from 20 cM to 49 cM. The most notable examples are a T.F. (Faraldo match) who shares 49 cM with Danielis and Jeser, and an A.P. (Pena match) who shares 26.5 cM with Jeser and Danielis. Both matches' trees have been checked to debunk the possibility of extraneous relations. Furthermore, A.P. shares DNA with them on the second chromosome (31.5 - 47.0 Mb; \approx 19.1 cM). This is interesting to note as it might coincide with the triangulated segment discussed before.

The five hypotheses concerning Marcos' parentage were compared and assessed with a genetic analysis tool called BanyanDNA. Here, I used Humberto Puentes as a "person of interest" and assumed that he shared 62.68 cM with I.P. It was likely higher, but this is the absolute minimum amount that they could have shared. I could not find a way to incorporate the 101 cM that E.P. shares with F.M., as there is no current way to deduce how much DNA Humberto and F.M. would have shared.

Figure 4 – BanyanDNA Analysis of Humberto Puentes and I.P.

	Relationship with I.P.	Shared cM	Average cM	Common cM Range	# of SDs	Quality	%	Father of Marcos
H1	<i>half 2nd cousin 1x removed</i>	62 cM	46	11 - 104	0.3	Excellent	64%	Francisco Pena
H2	<i>3rd cousin 1x removed</i>	62 cM	20	2 - 59	1.1	Good	26%	Lino Pena
H3	<i>half 3rd cousin 1x removed</i>	62 cM	8	0 - 34	1.7	Good	5%	maternal half- brother of Francisco
H4	<i>3rd cousin 2x removed</i>	62 cM	8	0 - 34	1.7	Good	5%	maternal uncle of Francisco
H5	<i>4th cousin 1x removed</i>	62 cM	3	0 - 19	2.3	OK	0%	maternal first cousin of Francisco

DE = standard deviation

The latter three hypotheses can be discounted due to the simple fact that they would not explain how Marcos' descendants match with the Pena family. The fact that genetic connections exist with the Pena *and* Faraldo families implies that Marcos' father must have been descended from both families. This leaves Francisco Pena and Lino Pena as the remaining options, with Francisco being more likely due to personal circumstances and a stronger genetic affiliation. This genetic analysis also confirms that Marcos Puentes was not the son of Andrés as previously thought. Given that the father was most likely one of the children of Pedro da Pena and Vicenta Faraldo, it would be impossible because they did not have a son named Andrés.

Negative Findings

Although all of the evidence points to Francisco or Lino being the father of Marcos Puentes, there are still significant details that are lacking in this case. The most glaring detail is that no men from the Pena or Faraldo families have been Y-DNA tested. Thus, the haplogroup shared by the descendants of Marcos Puentes has yet to be sufficiently compared to that of any other men. This is largely because the extant male

lines fathered by Francisco and his brothers have died out. As there is no one left to test, this issue cannot be resolved until the Pena and Faraldo family trees are traced further back in time.

Furthermore, census records and ecclesiastical records from the towns of Paderne and San Sadurniño are not currently accessible, with the former having a full ban on the request of church documents for genealogical research. These documents would be crucial in piecing together the early lives of Marcos Puentes, Francisco Pena, and Lino Pena, and will likely reveal more information once they are made accessible.

CONCLUSION

The objective of this report was to identify the biological father of Marcos Puentes. After an assessment of historical context, legal documents, vital records from local churches, and genetic evidence, the record points strongly to Francisco Pena as Marcos' father, with Lino Pena remaining a low-probability alternative. The existence of more distant Galician matches through both the Pena and Faraldo families eliminates more distant possibilities, which would have only allowed for a relation through the Faraldo family. One must also consider the rarity of the name Faraldo, as only 833 people in Galicia bear the surname today, according to the website [*Apellidos de Galicia*](#).

The aforementioned documents, when taken into consideration with the historical context, establish a strong framework. A man named Pedro Pena appears in vital records for the family of Juana Puentes as early as 1857, indicating the presence of this surname within San Pelayo de Ferreira a few years before Marcos' conception. Meanwhile, the reconstructed timelines for the Pena brothers show that Francisco was an unmarried day laborer during 1864 and 1865, whereas Lino had just married and was settled in Betanzos with his first children in 1866. The timeline of Marcos' conception also aligns nicely with annual calendar of cereal harvesting in Galicia, falling in a period when demand for day laborers would have been at its highest to meet increased labor demands. Considering their situations, Francisco would have been in a better position to take advantage of this opportunity in San Sadurniño than his married brother. A 17-mile trip between Paderne and San Sadurniño was not an inconvenience, as day laborers often traveled much greater distances in search of work.

Genetic evidence further confirms this hypothesis. The autosomal results of the great-grandchildren of Marcos Puentes consistently match descendants of Francisco's two confirmed lines (I.P. from his first marriage, and F.M. through an illegitimate daughter he recognized) with cM values that would be expected if Francisco were the father of Marcos. Crucially, these individuals share a long, triangulated segment on chromosome 2 (~17.1-76.4 Mb; ~62.7 cM). This might have even been replicated through Jeser and Dianelis' DNA match with A.P. on chromosome 2 (~31.5-47.0 Mb; ~19.1 cM), but a comparison between

A.P., the Puentes descendants, I.P., and F.M. would be required to confirm. Because I.P. and F.M. only share Francisco as an ancestor, and not his wife, any segment they both share must have been derived from Francisco's genome. This does not exclude Lino as a possibility, but it makes him a less likely fit. It would require a DNA segment of that length to have survived generational meiosis to a greater extent. While possible, it is less likely.

The question of Andrés has also been fully addressed by this data. Once suspected to be the father of Marcos and Ginés, it is now obvious that he was only the father of Ginés. This is confirmed by the birth certificates of his children in Cuba. Their paternal grandparents are listed as "Andrés y Juana Puentes". Given that Pedro da Pena and Vicenta Faraldo, the parents of Francisco, did not have a child named Andrés, this makes it impossible for Marcos and Ginés to have the same father.

There are still limitations. Access to vital ecclesiastical and legal records within Galicia is either restricted or unattainable under current circumstances, and no suitable Y-DNA line descended from Francisco Pena or his brothers survives to test. Nonetheless, the evidence present is largely sufficient despite these constraints. The proximity of the Pena family in San Sadurniño (which could be connected to those of Paderne), the alignment of Marcos' conception and Francisco's situation with the calendar of cereal harvesting, and autosomal triangulation on multiple lines are all mutually reinforcing. The father of Marcos Puentes is, with high confidence, Francisco Pena. Lino Pena exists as a less probable alternative, but Manuel Pena was too young at the time of Marcos' conception. More distant possibilities involving maternal uncles, or first cousins do not fit shared DNA values between Francisco's descendants and Marcos' descendants.

RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS

Although much work has already been done to confirm the identity of the father of Marcos Puentes, there are still several more steps that can be taken to establish a stronger conclusion.

- **Invite more matches to upload to GEDMatch:** Continue to search for descendants of the Pena and Faraldo families and encourage them to test their DNA and upload it to GEDMatch. This will allow for cross-comparison between these matches, the descendants of Marcos, and the descendants of Francisco, to see if triangulation still occurs. If so, this would serve as greater confirmation of Marcos' relation to the Pena and Faraldo families.
- **Preservation of genetic data:** Maintain a research log with dates, kit IDs, screenshots, and consent notes. Archive this report, the segment coordinates, and all correspondence so the chain of reasoning can be corroborated even if future kits are deleted.

- **Vital records:** Request copies of Francisco's marriage to Juana (c. 1874) and birth records of his children (Manuela, Rafael, Manuel, and Josefa). These records could include residences and names of potential witnesses that could serve as further evidence.
- **Expand research in Boston:** Investigate archival databases in Boston for more information concerning Rafael, Manuel, and Josefa. This could illuminate more about their later lives, as they all disappear from the historical record in the U.S. after 1920, and it could also include crucial paternal details. Josefa's husband (José Meizoso) is listed as a widower in the 1930 census, which means that Josefa died between 1920 and 1930.
- **Descendancy research:** Continue to investigate the lines of Pedro da Pena and Vicenta Faraldo to see if any surviving men from their families are willing to do a Y-DNA test. Given that a descendant of Marcos has already done Y-700 testing (haplogroup R-BY31060), this could confirm whether Marcos was fathered by a Pena or a Faraldo.

In essence, the utmost priority is gathering more genetic evidence (both autosomal and patrilineal) to strengthen this case. These efforts should also be met with further research into historical records in Galicia and the United States. The steps mentioned here only serve to strengthen what is already a compelling and plausible theory, that Francisco Pena was the father of Marcos Puentes.

APPENDIX OF FIGURES

Figure 1 – Family tree of the children of Juana Puentes, marked with initially suspected parentage.

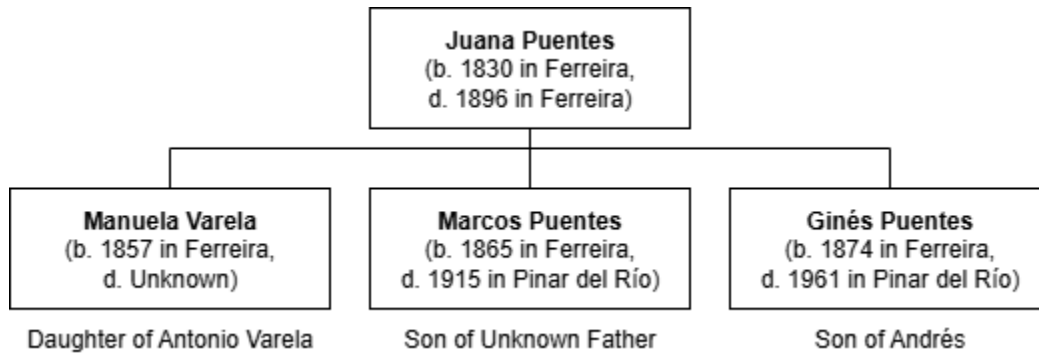


Figure 2 – Descendants of Marcos Puentes and Francisco Pena

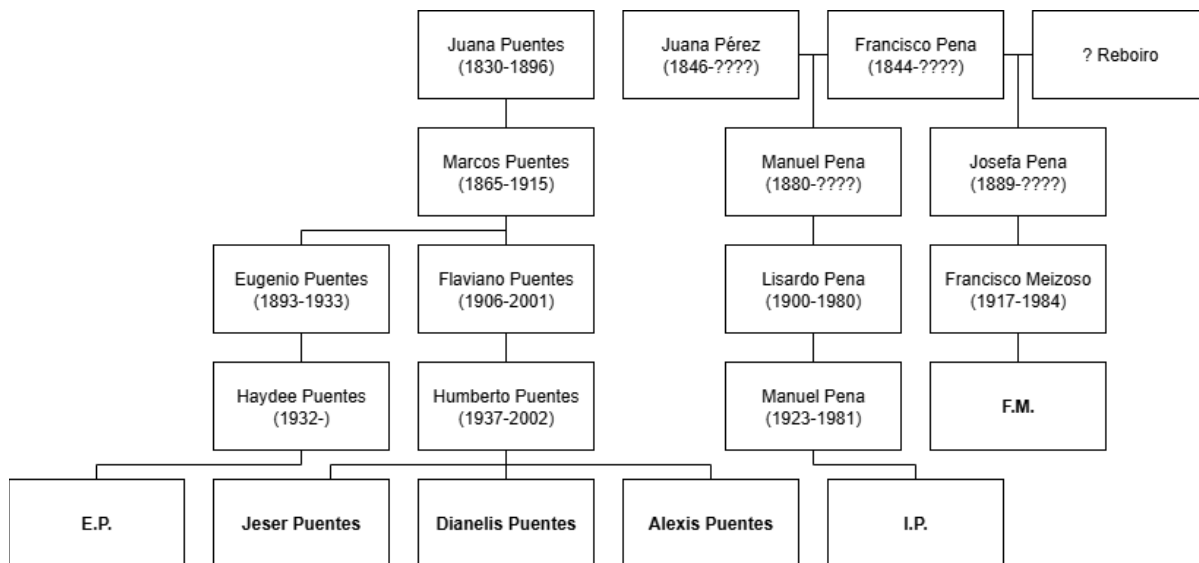


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