

Chronology of Filipinos in America Pre-1898

by Eloisa Gomez Borah

1587 - *Luzon Indians* were among the crew and landing party of the Spanish galleon, Nuestra Senora de Buena Esperanza, with Captain Pedro de Unamuno landing in [Morro Bay](#), along the [central California coast](#), on October 17, 1587.

--[AMERASIA Journal](#) (UCLA), v.21#3 ([Winter 95/96](#)) "Filipinos in Unamuno's California Expedition of 1587", by Eloisa Gomez Borah.

1595 - Filipino sailors were aboard the [San Agustin](#), commanded by Sebastian Rodriguez Cermeno, when it [shipwrecked](#) near [Point Reyes](#) by the [mouth of San Francisco Bay](#), California on November 6, 1595, according to [Raymond Aker](#) of the Drake Navigators Guild.

--*San Francisco Chronicle*, Nov. 14, 1995, p.A13 "400th Anniv. of Spanish Shipwreck, Rough First Landing in Bay Area" by Carl Nolte.

1763 - *Manila Men* and their 50-year-old village, St. Malo, on the [outskirts of New Orleans, Louisiana](#) were described in detail by noted journalist, [Lafcadio Hearn](#), in the national magazine, Harper's Weekly. Marina Espina, in her book *Filipinos in Louisiana* (Laborde, 1988), traces [eight generations of descendants](#) from these *Manila Men*, who settled in Louisiana in 1763.

--[Harper's Weekly, March 31, 1883](#) "Saint Malo, A Lacustrine Village in Louisiana", by Lafcadio Hearn.

1779 - At the [California mission in Monterey](#), none other than [Fr. Junipero Serra](#) himself confirmed Vicente Tallado, *indio de la Panpangua en Philipinas, marinero*, on August 10, 1779.

--Confirmation records, San Carlos de Monte-Rey mission. *Thomas Workman Temple II Collection* (The [Californianos](#) Library)

1781 - [Antonio Miranda Rodriguez](#), a 50 year old widower from Sonora, and his daughter Juana Maria, 11, were among those chosen to be the founding settlers of the city of Los Angeles in 1781. He was a soldier, [soldado de cuera](#), and became the ironsmith for the Santa Barbara mission, where he lived until his death. Miranda is buried in the [El Presidio Chapel](#) of [El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park](#).

--from the research of William Mason, Curator (retired), History Division, Los Angeles County Museum.

1788, 1789, 1791 - At least one *Manilla man* was aboard the British ship Iphigenia Nubiana, under the command of Captain William Douglas, when it arrived at Cook Inlet in Alaska on June 17, 1788. *Manilla men* were also on the ships, Eleanora and Fair American, of Captain Simon Metcalfe, an American fur trader from New York, when these ships arrived at the Pacific Northwest coast of America on June 5, 1789. John Mando, a *Minilia man* was cabin steward on the Gustavus III, owned by Captain John Henry Cox, when it came to Sitka Harbor in 1789 and in 1791.

--*Filipinos in Alaska: 1788-1958* by Thelma Buchholdt (Aboriginal Press, 1996).

1789-1794 - Filipinos were also part of the Malaspina Expedition 1789-1794, according to historian Donald C. Cutter, who can name at least four of them; and cites one Filipino seaman who had previously made three trips to Acapulco on Manila galleons, who may have joined the crew in Lima, Peru. Malaspina also recruited replacement crew in Acapulco among "Filipino mariners who were in Acapulco as a result of the galleon trade with Manila" (Cutter. *Malaspina & Galiano, U. of Washington Pr.*, 1991).

--*Filipinos in Alaska: 1788-1958* by Thelma Buchholdt (Aboriginal Press, 1996).

1822 - Francisco Flores from Cebu arrived in Texas in 1822 aboard a freighter, on which he was a cabin boy. He settled in Port Isabel, Texas and owned a fishing business with two schooners. He married Augustina Gonzales when he was 40, and moved his family and business to Rockport, Texas. He died in Texas in 1917 at the ripe old age of 108.

--[The Filipino Texans](#) by The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio

1848 - *Manila men* were reported to have been the major population of the "Vanished Camp of Tulitos", one of the earliest gold camps in [Mariposa county](#) during the [California Gold Rush](#), which started in 1848.

--*Stockton Daily Evening Record* (San Joaquin County, CA) Dec. 15, 1934, page 20. "Vanished Camp of Tulitos Is Forgotten by Historians", Mother Lodelets column by Matthew Hamilton. (California State University, Stanislaus, University Library)

--*The Mariposa Sentinel* (Mariposa Museum & Historical Center), Second Quarter 1989, p.1,5.

(Courtesy of the [Pinoy Archives](#), Filipino American National Historical Society, Seattle, WA)

1850s - As early as the 1850s, Filipinos were crew members aboard ships in the Alaska whaling boom that followed the start of whaling off the coast of Alaska in 1848. Crew lists of the whaling ships that sailed the Alaskan Arctic from 1848 to 1910 at the [New Bedford Whaling Museum](#) positively identifies these seamen as *Manilla men*.

--*Filipinos in Alaska: 1788-1958* by Thelma Buchholdt (Aboriginal Press, 1996).

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