

Chronological Summary – Blas Duran and His Family

Year	Event/Facts	Documents/Citations
1811	<p>Birth. Blas Duran was the son of Vicente Duran and Maria Ana Fierro. His birth year is based on census records. Historian Mary Taylor made a handwritten notation that he was born in San Eleacario but I have not located any records of baptism for him yet. Blas Duran’s mother was known as “Maria Fierro” and “Maria Anna” and “Maria Ana Fierro.” Please note, however, that in the 1861 record of Blas Duran’s second marriage (to Dolores Ruiz), Blas’s parents were listed as Mariana Roibal.</p>	<p>See FHL Senecu Baptism Book 1842-1851, pp. 6, 18 and 32. (grandparents names listed in baptism records of children of Blas Duran and Antonia Lopez).</p>
	<p>Marriage. Blas Duran married Antonia Lopez, the daughter of Julian Lopez¹ and Sotelo Jurado of the Pueblo of San Lorenzo de Real.² Antonia’s paternal grandparents were Lazaro Lopez and Josefa Gonzales. Her maternal grandparents were Cristobal Lopes and Rosa Jurado of Senecú.³ Please note that there were interconnections between the populations of San Lorenzo and Senecú. For certain time periods, San Lorenzo and Senecú were served by the same priest, as reflected by the sacramental record books of the communities.</p>	<p>See Endnotes 1 through 4 below.</p>
1834	<p>Civilian Guard. In 1834, Blas was listed among other male civilians of Senecú in a military census of men able to bear arms to defend the pueblo. It was determined that Blas was more appropriate for the <i>caballeria</i> (cavalry) as opposed to the <i>infanteria</i> (infantry), which indicated that he likely owned a horse or at least knew how to ride a horse. He and his father-in-law, and other vecinos of Senecú also contributed to the defense fund.</p>	<p>See 1834 Civilian Militia of Senecu List, available at the Linealist at https://linealist.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/cjma_1834_senecu.pdf. Blas Duran’s father-in-law, Julian Lopes, was also listed.</p> <p>CJMA Roll 26, ff. 158-159 (contributions to defense fund).</p>
1836	<p>Land Sales to Lopes In-Laws. Due to floods from the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo) from about the late 1820s through the 1830s, land for habitation and agriculture in the Paso region became scarce. Although there had been a long-standing prohibition on the sale of indigenous lands, in 1836 several indigenous men in Senecú sold portions of their lands to other</p>	<p>See CJMA Roll 28, frame 237, available at the Linealist at https://linealist.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/cjma_roll28_ff235_241.pdf (1836 Indigenous land sales records).</p>

	men. In 1836, the indigenous men Ramon Alejo and Angel Maria Cubero of Senecú sold land to Blas Duran's father-in-law Julian Lopes and Julian's brother Crespin, respectively. In some circumstances, some non-indigenous families began using indigenous lands without purchasing the lands. It should be noted, however, that the determination of who was indigenous was not so clear-cut.	
Various	Children. Blas Duran and Antonia Lopes had several children: Ramon, Francisca, Felipe, Jose Tomas de Aquino, Jose Gregorio Longinos, Sebastian, Jose Tranquilino, Doroteo, and Tiburcia.	Senecú church records for the children of Blas Duran and Antonia Lopes include: Ramon , Confirmation, padrino Policarpio Alejo, FHL 162405, image p. 8 ; Jose Tomas de Aquino , 1843 Baptism, padrinos Pedro Gonzales and Estanislada Gonzalez, Senecu Baptisms 1842-1851, p. 18 ; Jose Gregorio Longinos , 1846 Baptism, padrinos Candelario Gonzales and Luisa Guerra, Senecu Baptism 1842-1851, p. 32 ; Sebastian , 1849 Baptism, madrina Estanislada Gonzalez, FHL Senecu Baptisms 1842-1851, p. 56 ; Jose Tranquilino , Senecu Baptisms 1842-1851, p. 6 ; Doroteo Polonio , 1840 Baptism, padrinos Santiago Alejo and Maria Gregoria Garcia, FHL 162405, p. 58 ; Ma. Tiburcia , 1836 Baptism, padrinos Policarpio Alejo and Maria de la Cruz, FHL 162405, p. 42 .
1838	Served as Justice of the Peace. As reflected in records, Blas Duran served as the Justice of the Peace of Senecú in about 1838 and/or 1839.	CJMA Roll 30, ff. 206-213 (Blas Duran mentioned as "Jues de Pas").
1841	Census. In 1841, Blas and his wife Antonia were living in Senecú with five young children, and living near his wife Antonia Lopes's parents and the extended Lopes family. Blas was described as an "herrero" (blacksmith or metal worker).	See 1841 Census of the Pueblo of Senecu, p. 3, available at the Linealist at https://linealist.files.wordpress.com/2015/02/cjma_1841_senecucensus.pdf .
Late 1840s	Discovered Mine. In the late 1840s, Blas Duran, Alejo Carrasco, and Jose Perez began searching for precious metal deposits near Doña Ana. (As a blacksmith and metalworker, Blas would have had an above-average knowledge of precious metals.) Eventually, Blas and his colleagues discovered silver-rich lead carbonates on a hill, which led them to a sheer zone of silver orebody. They named their mine Santa Domingo de las Calzadas.	Robert Evelth, <i>An Historical Vignette: Stephenson-Bennett Mine</i> New Mexico Geology, pp. 9-15 (Feb. 1983)

1846-1848	U.S.-Mexican War	
1849	Flood. Devastating flooding in Senecú and other areas of Paso. This was the year many of the citizens of Senecú moved to the Doña Ana area.	
1850	Contested Lands. See expediente of the complaints of vecinos of Pueblo de Senecú, due to changes in international boundary line. Concerned vecinos include Blas Duran	CJMA, MF 513, part II, Roll 36, paging sequence 1 77-102
Late 1840s or early 1850s	Bad deal. To raise capital for their mine, Blas Duran and his colleagues sold shares of their mine to merchant Hugh Stephenson, on the condition that Stephenson supply needed equipment. Stephenson withheld delivery of the supplies, and then maneuvered to take over the entire mining enterprise. He forced Blas to sell his shares, and reneged on another agreement.	Robert Evelth, <i>An Historical Vignette: Stephenson-Bennett Mine</i> New Mexico Geology, pp. 9-15 (Feb. 1983)(citing court documents) Need to get copies of court documents.
1850	In April of 1850, Blas Duran, a widower, married Dolores Ruiz in Paso del Norte.	FHL 1156615, image page 675
1851	In 1851, co-miner Jose Peres (age 28) was living with Francisca Duran (age 18) in Mesilla, according to census.	https://linealist.files.wordpress.com/2015/05/cjma_1851_mesilla.pdf
1851	The 1851 Mesilla Census (Chihuahua) reflects Blas Duran, 40 years old, living with his new wife Dolores Ruis, 30, and his children Ramon, Tiburcia, Felipe, Doroteo, Tranquilino, Tomas, and infant Desideria.	https://linealist.files.wordpress.com/2015/05/cjma_1851_mesilla.pdf
1853	Mesilla. Blas Duran was present when Guadalupe Miranda granted lands in Mesilla in 1853.	Executive Document No. 56, Exhibit A, Declaration of Guadalupe Miranda at Executive Documents of U.S. Senate, 43rd Congress, 1st Session, pp. 5-6 (1873), available free at Google Books.
1860	Census. In 1860, Blas Duran was living in Mesilla with 38-year-old Dolores Ruiz, and children.	See the 1860 New Mexico Territorial Census for Mesilla, p. 425, available at the Internet Archive (https://archive.org/stream/populationschedu712unit#page/n425/mode/2up).

1862	Property. Blas Duran owned at least one building on Calle de Medanos in Mesilla. In 1862, a public notice was circulated that stated there was a “jacal standing in the street next north of the buildings of Blas Duran and known as Calle de Medanas [Medanos]....”	F. Stanley, <i>The Civil War in New Mexico</i> , p. 221 (Sunstone Press 2011), available at Google Books.
1866	On September 17, 1866, Blas Duran, a widower, married Solela Pasos, the daughter of Silvestre Pasos and Josefa Bernal. This marriage was his third. The Pasos family was also from Senecu.	La Mesilla, Aaron Magdaleno extract.
1879	A Mesilla newspaper reported both a Ramon Gonzalez of Mesilla and a Blas Duran of Las Cruces as being drawn as grand juror and petit juror, respectively.	The Independent, Mesilla N.M., May 10, 1879 https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn87090075/1879-05-10/ed-1/seq-3/

¹ In 1791, Julian Lopez was born in the Pueblo of San Lorenzo de Real to parents Lazaro Lopez and Josefa Gonzalez. ([FHL 162404, p. 278](#)). Julian's siblings included Pedro, b. 1803 ([id. at p. 318](#)) Juan Felipe, b. 1790 ([id. at p. 267](#)), and Jose Carmen de la Cruz, b. 1790 ([id. at p. 266](#)), and Crespín, who married Manuela Lujan ([Senecu Baptisms, 1772-1814, p. 137.](#))

² Records indicate that the couple Julian Lopez and Sotelo Jurado lived in the Pueblo of San Lorenzo before moving to the Pueblo of Senecú. The siblings of Julian also moved to Senecu. In 1816, Julian Lopez and Sotelo Jurado were described as “vecinos de Real [de San Lorenzo].” (San Lorenzo Book, [FHL 162404, p. 339](#)). In addition to their daughter Antonia, their children included Teodora, b. 1816 ([FHL 162404, p. 339](#)); Maria del Refugio ([FHL 162405, p. 39](#)); Jose Alberto, b. 1821, whose padrinos were Candelario Gonzales and Luisa Guerra ([Senecu Baptisms 1772-1829, p. 137](#)); and, Melitona Eulogia, b. 1819 ([Senecu Baptisms 1777-1829, p. 127](#)).

³ According to the baptism record of her children, Sotelo Jurado's parents were Cristobal Lopes and Rosa Jurado. Sotelo is referred to as Sotelo Lopes and Sotelo Jurado in these records.