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### Juan Vadillo Family History

Juan Vadillo

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# **The Family History of**

**Juan Vadillo**

**24 April 2019**

Juan Vadillo authored this family history as part of the course requirements for HIST 550/700 Your Family in History offered online in Spring 2019 and was submitted to the Pittsburg State University **Digital Commons**. Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments: [woestman@pittstate.edu](mailto:woestman@pittstate.edu)

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**List of Direct Line Family Members**

Generation One

- A1. Juan Vadillo (1987- )
- A2. Claudia Chavez Vadillo (1987- )

Generation Two

- Ala. Maria Lavastida (1962- )
- Alb. Jose Juan Vadillo (1962- )

Generation Three

- Ala1. Emilia Chavarria (1944- )
- Ala2. Rafael Lavastida (1941- )
  
- Alb1. Concepcion Badillo (1943-2012)
- Alb2. Victoriano Badillo (1942-2014)

Generation Four

- Ala1a. Martina Chavarria
- Ala1b. Emilio Chavarria
  
- Ala2a. Elizabeth Lavastida
- Ala2b. Marcos Lavastida
  
- Alb1a. Antonieta Badillo
- Alb1b. Luis Badillo
  
- Alb2a. Elena Esperanza Enriquez
- Alb2b. Manuel Badillo

## GENERATION ONE

**Juan Vadillo** was born on December 24, 1987 to **Jose Juan Vadillo** and **Maria Lavastida** in a small town on the outskirts of Mexico D.F. named San Jose Huilango. This was an especially difficult labor due to the proximity to the holidays and the relative lack of hospitals and medical professionals. On Christmas Eve Maria went in to labor and had to be rushed to the nearest hospital but was unable to find a reliable mode of transportation. Instead her and her husband, walked to the home of a midwife who lived a few minutes away. At approximately three in the afternoon, Maria went in to labor but immediately experienced difficulties as the baby's head became stuck. With no trained professional, Jose had to step in and help dislodge the child. After a few minutes, the baby was successfully delivered. Two days later Juan was taken to the hospital for a checkup. Jose and Maria were afraid Juan might be born with some abnormalities since Maria suffered severe stress on two separate occasions during her pregnancy.<sup>1</sup>

The first instance of severe stress came when Jose was brutally beaten at a bar after an altercation. He was found by Maria who fainted at the sight of her bloodied husband. The second episode came when Jose suffered third degree burns on over fifty percent of his body as a result of a work accident. Jose was spent months in the hospital as he slowly recovered from his injuries. Due to the shock of seeing her husband brutally beaten and then horrifically burned, Maria became severely ill. Each time she was certain she would lose her baby and became increasingly depressed. The long months of recovery her husband endured after he suffered severe burns added to Maria's depression. Juan's prepared for the worst as Maria's pregnancy continued.<sup>2</sup>

Luckily, Juan was born without health issues and spent his first two years living with his parents and older brother, **Ivan Vadillo(1984- )**, in his mother's home town of San Jose Huilango. In 1989, Jose and Maria decided to migrate to the U.S. after a series of failed business ventures. Desperate and with few options, Jose and Maria made their way north leaving Juan and his brother in the care of their maternal and fraternal grandparents, **Rafael Lavastida(1941- )**, **Emilia Lavastida(1944- )**, **Victoriano**

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<sup>1</sup> Personal knowledge of the author, Juan Vadillo.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

**Badillo(1942-2014)** and **Concepcion Badillo(1943-2012)** . At the age of four Juan began attending primary school at Colegio de Huilango. Between 1989 and 1993 Juan and Ivan would alternated between living in Tlayapan, Mexico D.F. with their fraternal grandparents and in San Jose Huilango, Mexico D.F. with their maternal grandparents. In October 1993 Jose and Maria were able to pay to bring Juan and Ivan to the U.S. to join them and their new baby sister **Anel Vadillo(1990- )**, who was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1990. On their journey north the siblings were accompanied by their uncle **Pablo**

### **Badillo(1963- )<sup>3</sup>**

In Figure 3.2 “Diversity Index by County, 200” Fischer and Hout display the growing diversity in America by using the “index of qualitative variation.” This tool is utilized to measure the diversity inside a population and was used by the authors to create a graphical depiction of these result on a map of the United States. The index uses a 1 to 0 metric, with a score of 1 meaning equal distribution of racial categories and 0 meaning the presence of a single race. According to this graphical illustrating the most racially diverse states with regions raging from 0.60 and higher are located in the coastal regions, like Florida and New York, as well as states that border Mexico, like California and Texas. These states are major entry ports for new immigrant, mainly from Latin America and Asia, which accounts for the high racial diversity.<sup>4</sup>

For millions of Mexican immigrants traveling illegally in to the U.S. the word “coyote” has become synonymous with hope and danger. As the only guarantee of a safe journey across a barren terrain riddled with natural and man made obstacles, “coyotes” were once seen as folk heroes in Mexican culture. In recent years these once lionized smugglers have become more of a necessary evil. What was once considered a reasonable fee for a safe journey north, has become an exploitative business with immense added dangers. Those who choose to do business with “coyotes” accept the risk of being abandoned in the dessert, being used as drug mules or being kidnapped in order to extort exuberant

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<sup>3</sup> Personal knowledge of the author, Juan Vadillo.

<sup>4</sup> Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 27.

amounts of cash from family members. In other cases, people risk being caught in the middle of the ongoing drug wars between rival cartels in Norther Mexico.

The history of these people smugglers surprisingly has its origins in American business. With the growth of agriculture in the American south west and the passage of legislation limiting immigration, like the Chinese Exclusionary act of 1882, a new source of cheap exploitable labor was desperately needed.<sup>5</sup> To meet these needs, American companies looked to their southern neighbor. Through the use of Mexican recruiters called “enganchadores” (hookers) American companies would pay to have Mexican laborers brought in to the U.S. This illegal practice became widely accepted and did not illicit the response it would a century later. These “enganchadores” were the forerunners of the modern “coyote” and as restrictions on Mexican immigration tightened, Mexican immigrant became completely reliant on them.<sup>6</sup>

Throughout the early 20<sup>th</sup> century despite the immigration restriction and economic conditions, American engaged in a fierce competition for Mexican labor. The “enganchador” became an integral part of American agricultural business. The creation of the Bracero Program of 1942 which was a guest worker program meant to meet the growing needs of American agricultural companies became a beacon for Mexican workers eager to find American jobs.<sup>7</sup> So much so that number of petitions exceeded the limited number of visas available. After the Bracero Program ended in 1965 “coyotes” began developing new and elaborate techniques to smuggle people over the border. They utilized secret vehicle compartments, underground tunnels, shipping trucks, or simply paying border patrol agents to allow them to cross.<sup>8</sup>

These methods allowed for the creation of smuggling rings which specialized in the expanding business. As people began to see the profitability in the practice, competition grew which lead to a

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<sup>5</sup> Wikipedia. “Coyote (person).” Accessed 12 March 2019.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coyote\\_\(person\)#Early\\_system:\\_1882–1917](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coyote_(person)#Early_system:_1882–1917)

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

stabilization of prices “coyotes” charged to smuggle people in to the U.S. In the late 2000s newly elected Mexican president Vicente Calderon initiated a full blown war on the Mexican drug cartels.<sup>9</sup> This had a disastrous effect on the northern regions of Mexico which became a battle field as the drug cartels began to feel the pressure. As the Mexican government intensified their efforts, the cartels became highly motivated to enter the people smuggling business in order to diversify their business and to utilize immigrants as drug mules. Not only did this provide a new source of profit but it also minimized the risk they incurred when smuggling drugs across the border. With the introduction of the drug cartels and increasing restrictions on immigration, the risk and the price for a trip north rose dramatically. What would have cost one to two thousand dollars in the 1990s came to cost around six to seven thousand in 2017. Regardless, Mexican and central Americans were willing to pay the economic and physical price for a chance at a better life.<sup>10</sup>

The journey north was a difficult one, after a flight to Tijuana, Pablo and his two nephews met a pair of “coyotes” or people smugglers who would help them make their way in to the U.S. In exchange for safe passage Jose paid five thousand dollars. As the journey began Pablo and the two boys made their way through the rugged terrain surrounding the U.S. border. Border patrol agents or “La Migra” were a constant threat but the “coyote” managed to hide the immigrants in bushes and abandoned houses whenever the patrols went by. One night they slept in what appeared to be an open air waste management facility which wrecked of decomposing animals.<sup>11</sup>

A day later on an especially foggy morning, one of the “coyotes” disappeared and was never seen again. The remaining “coyote” became worried and confused but continued to guide them north. Once they reached the border Pablo and the children made their way across a river using large plastic bags to stay dry. The current was weak and the water freezing but Pablo carried Juan on his shoulder to keep him

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<sup>9</sup> Wikipedia. “Coyote (person).” Accessed 12 March 2019.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coyote\\_\(person\)#Early\\_system:\\_1882–1917](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coyote_(person)#Early_system:_1882–1917)

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> Pablo Badillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 5 February 2019

safe, while Ivan was carried by the remaining “coyote.” Once they successfully crossed the border, they were picked up by a large white van and taken to San Diego. They would spend two days in a safe house as preparations were made to take them to their final destination. Once in Los Angeles Juan and Ivan were reunited with their parents and finally met their new baby sister.<sup>12</sup>

Although far from home, Juan and his family felt at comfortable in Los Angeles due to its large Hispanic population. Boasting the second largest concentration of Hispanic/Latinos in the U.S., Los Angeles is home to approximately 1,838,822 Hispanics.<sup>13</sup> With this in mind Los Angeles became a natural destination for migrating Mexicans. The history of Los Angeles is tightly intertwined with Hispanic culture. From its origins, it appears that Los Angeles was destined to be synonymous with Hispanic/Latinos. The Los Angeles area was originally claimed by the explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in the name of Spain in 1542. In 1769 Juan Crespi and Gaspar de Portola formally reached the current day location of Los Angeles. It wasn’t until 1771 that this territory began to be developed through the construction of the fourth catholic mission under Junipero Serra, named Mission San Gabriel Arcangel.<sup>14</sup>

The region would continue its development in the 1780’s as a group of settler named “Los Pobladores” founded “El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles,” which translates to “The Town of Our Lady Queen of the Angeles”. After Mexico gained its independence from Spain, Los Angeles became the capital of Alta California which was populated by “mestizos” who eventually became known as Californianos. After the Mexican-American War Los Angeles came under the control of the U.S. and with the completion of the Santa Fe Railroad, the discovery of petroleum in the late 1800s and the completion of the Los Angeles Aqueduct, the city began its expansion in to the sprawling metropolis it is today.<sup>15</sup>

For the first six month Juan and his family lived in a two-bedroom apartment with his uncle Victor Badillo’s family and his uncle Juan Negrete’s family. A total of 13 people lived in a tiny

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<sup>12</sup> Pablo Badillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 20 February 2019

<sup>13</sup> Wikipedia. “Los Angeles.” Accessed 21 February 2019. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los\\_Angeles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles)

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> Ibid



apartment, in which tension always ran high. Juan and his family slept in the living room and spent most of the time out of the house. This small This living arrangement would continue for 3 months until the families were able to move to a larger apartment. In 1994, Juan began attending Hoover Elementary School in Los Angeles, California. After two months as a first grader he was held back due to his poor English skills and his short stature. Juan's English skills gradually improved and in 1999 he began attending Berendo Middle school where he was enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes which were immensely beneficial. After a year Juan was promoted to regular English classes. <sup>16</sup>

For the first nine years of his life in America Juan lived in Korea Town. This small neighborhood located near down town Los Angeles was terribly crime ridden, populated by drug dealers, gang members and various other criminals. Despite its name, Korea Town had a huge Latino population, which is why Juan's parents decided to live there. Throughout Juan's childhood multiple instances of violence occurred. One especially frightening example took place in the summer of 1996. One night after a botched drug deal the police chased a drug dealer in to the outdoor parking lot of the apartment Juan lived in. When the drug dealer realized he was trapped he began shooting at the cops. A shoot out proceeded, which concluded when the drug dealer was shot multiple times. In the morning Juan and his family walked outside and noticed multiple bullet holes around their apartment, a few coming very close to their bedroom windows. This was only one instance of what became a current occurrence during Juan's childhood. <sup>17</sup>

In eighth grade Juan would have a run in with **Claudia Chavez Vadillo(1987- )** as she accompanied her friend who wanted to date Juan. Nothing came of the interaction but years later Claudia would have another run in with Juan. In 1999, Juan's youngest sister, **Guadalupe Vadillo(1990- )** was born. After living with two other families for almost five years, Juan's dad was forced to find an apartment of their own to accommodate his growing family. In late 2002 Juan's dad along with his brother Victor were able to buy a house near LAX, luckily it was a duplex so each family would have

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<sup>16</sup> Personal knowledge of the author, Juan Vadillo

<sup>17</sup> Ibid

their own space. Juan's new home represented a new start and an achievement of the American dream. But most importantly Juan was finally able to have a room of his own after having to share a small closet with his brother for years.<sup>18</sup>

Fischer and Hout's book displays the high school graduation rates for Americans in figure 2.2. They begin by showing graduations rates amongst all Americans from 1900 to 2000. Next, they compare high school graduation rates between men and women, between the different regions of the country, and finally between ancestry. Over the last century graduation rates increased amongst all Americans. The most jarring disparities appear when the authors distinguish between people of different ancestry. According to figure 2.2 graduation rates amongst Latin Americans and African in the year 2000 reached about 75%. While European Americans and Asian Americans graduation rates were at about 85%. This exemplifies that Latin Americans have trailed behind European Americans and Asian Americans throughout the last century.<sup>19</sup>

In 2002 Juan would begin attending Los Angeles Senior High School. In eleventh grade, he encountered Claudia who had recently returned from Utah. After a courtship that lasted months, the two began dating. Juan graduated from high school in 2006 but was unsure of what the next step would be. As an illegal immigrant Juan had few aspirations for the future and was unsure of what he would do after high school. So naturally he began working at his father cleaning company. In 2006 Juan began attending Los Angeles City College with little idea of what career he would peruse. In 2008 Juan and Claudia moved out of their parent's house and in to their very own apartment. Only a few months later they would get married in Las Vegas , Nevada on August 23, 2008.<sup>20</sup>

In 2009 Juan and Claudia moved out of their apartment and in to Juan's parent's house. During this period the U.S. was in the midst of the worst economic crisis since the great depression. The housing market had crashed and the government was providing assistance to perspective homeowners in order to

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<sup>18</sup> Personal knowledge of the author Juan Vadillo

<sup>19</sup> Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006),13

<sup>20</sup> Personal knowledge of the author, Juan Vadillo

stabilize it. Juan's dad became aware of the situation and advised Juan and Claudia about it. Jose knew that this was a golden opportunity to purchase a home and knew his children could benefit greatly from it. After Juan and Claudia moved in to his parent's house to save for a down payment, Jose loaned them some money and helped them look for a home. Juan and Claudia were also granted a ten thousand dollar grant from the government through the Federal Administration Housing program which helped first time home owners. After six months, they found a fixer upper at a very good price and were able to move in in the summer of 2009.<sup>21</sup>

In 2010 Juan applied to become legal resident of the United States. Although the programs which would have allowed him to become a legal resident as a spouse of a U.S. citizen had expired, he was able to apply thanks to his father's efforts years prior. Jose had applied to become a citizen in the 90s thanks to his boss who had grown very fond of him due to his hard work and dedication to the job. Hoping to help him, he filed all the paperwork on his behalf and paid the fees. Although he was denied his petition this granted him and his children coverage under the same law in any future attempt to reapply. In October of 2010 Juan became a proud legal resident of the United States of America. This was one of the most emotional and exciting days of his life.<sup>22</sup>

Becoming a legal resident of the United States is a dream that millions of immigrants are unable to achieve. It is a dream that for most seems unattainable. Putting the emotions of this accomplishment in to words is difficult because there are few things that compare. When immigrants leave their countries they do so with a heavy heart. They leave with the knowledge that they are leaving their lives behind, their loved ones, their homes, their towns. Everything they have come to know and love is traded for a small and statistically insignificant chance to become accepted members of a new country where they can find a better life. These people don't leave their lives behind with the intent of finding a country to pillage or plunder. They come baring their dreams and a stoic unrelenting desire to make them a reality.

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<sup>21</sup> Personal knowledge of the author, Juan Vadillo

<sup>22</sup> Ibid

These immigrants face an overwhelming challenge in the trip north. Not knowing if they will have good fortune and live through the natural obstacles in their paths, guided by shady characters whose true intentions are unknown. Despite what some Americans may believe, the majority of immigrants just want an opportunity to prove themselves to be hardworking contributing members of society. Immigrants risk life and limb to enter a world where they will face persecution, disrespect and overwhelming challenges which begin at a language barrier and continue with exploitation. Yet, this is idyllic in the mind of an immigrant eager to enjoy a chance of honest pay for honest work, regardless if its washing dishes or mowing lawns.

That same year Juan graduated from Los Angeles City College with an associates degree in business management. Since he was also a legal resident with a valid social security number he was able to find work outside of his father's company. His first job was as a night time receptionist at a hotel. Soon he quit that job due to the schedule. In April 2011, he began to work at a grocery store but after three months he realized that he wanted to do something else. In August 2011, he found a job at an after school program for at risk inner city kids. This job would inspire him to return to community college to earn his teaching credentials. Juan attended various community colleges including Los Angeles South West College and Los Angeles Trade Tech College. He also worked with his dad's cleaning company in the morning and at the afterschool program in the afternoon.<sup>23</sup>

After two and a half years he transferred to the University of California Los Angeles where he continued to work to earn his bachelor's degree in history. While the schedule was very hectic Juan managed to earn good grades and was fortunate enough to receive a scholarship. In June 2016, he graduated from UCLA with honors and was able to start working as a teacher's assistant while he earned his teaching credentials. Juan would have to take six months off from school due to a family emergency but continued working as a teacher's assistant and a tutor at a Korean preschool soon after. In January 2017, Juan began attending the California State University Dominguez Hills teaching program. This was

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<sup>23</sup> Personal knowledge of the author, Juan Vadillo

a three semester program but Juan was only able to complete the first two semesters because the third required becoming a full time unpaid teachers apprentice. Juan could not afford to stop working so he decided to put off the last semester until he earned his masters degree. During this time Juan started working as a substitute teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District.<sup>24</sup>

In the Summer of 2018 Juan was able to accomplish the lifelong goal of visiting Greece. As an avid and enthusiastic lover of history, visiting the various ruins of ancient Greek civilizations was a dream come true. In his youth, this dream seemed impossible due to his legal status and his absolute fear of flying. Luckily, he was able to overcome this fear and was able to travel as a legal resident. After a grueling eleven hour flight, with a layover in Sweden, Juan and Claudia arrived in Athens. Here they visited the Temple of Zeus, The Acropolis, the Greek Agora, the Temple of Hephaestus and a plethora of other sites.<sup>25</sup>

Next, they flew to Crete where they visited the ancient Minoan ruins of Knosos. This visit was an especially thrilling experience because the Minoans were the civilization that first piqued Juan's interest in history. While in Crete they also traveled to the Roman cemetery in Matala, which happened to be on the cliffs of a beautiful beach. After Crete Juan and Claudia traveled on a ferry to Santorini. While there they visited the ancient city of Akrotiri, which was devastated and preserved by the Theran eruption. After two days in Santorini they traveled back to Athens where they visited the Acropolis Museum on their last day in Greece.<sup>26</sup>

After taking a year off to work full time in order to pay off some debt, Juan applied to the Pittsburgh State University's online master program. Here he hopes to earn a masters degree with an emphasis in American history, which will be greatly beneficial as a high school teacher. In October, he was accepted in to the program and began attending PSU in the Spring of 2019. While working full time as a substitute teacher and at his father's cleaning company on weekends, Juan hopes to complete his

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<sup>24</sup> Personal knowledge of the author, Juan Vadillo

<sup>25</sup> Ibid

<sup>26</sup> Ibid

masters degree in the summer of 2021. Juan hopes to start working as a full time teacher while he completes the last semester of the teaching program he started at the California State University Dominguez Hill.<sup>27</sup>

In the interest of full disclosure, finding information about Juan Vadillo's ancestry was impossible. Since all the websites utilized specialized in American ancestry there was very little information pertaining to Mexican ancestry. The websites that miraculously included Mexican records were very limited in their scope. One of the problems with searching for records about Mexican ancestors is that record keeping in Mexico is spotty at best. Another problem in Juan's case is a clerical error that changed the spelling of his families last name, details on this error will be provided below, but in some records his families name is spelled properly. The majority of this project relied on information retrieved from interviews with relatives of Juan Vadillo

## **GENERATION TWO**

**Ala.Maria Lavastida (1962- )**

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<sup>27</sup> Personal knowledge of the author, Juan Vadillo

**A1b. Jose Juan Vadillo (1962- )**

**Maria Lavastida** was born on August 13, 1962 to **Rafael Lavastida** and **Emilia Lavastida** Chavarria. She was the second of eight children, which included her older brother **Javier Lavastida(1961- )**, **Renato Lavastida(1965- )**, **Rafael Lavastida(1966- )**, **Luis Lavastida(1968- )**, **Edith Lavastida(1969- )**, **Maria Lavastida(1971- )**, and **Laura Lavastida(1973- )**. Maria was born in San Jose Huilango, Mexico D.F. She grew up in this pueblo and often spent her time helping her father in the fields. She spent a lot of time raising chicks and tending to the fruits and vegetables in her father's extensive lands. When Maria turned six she was enrolled in a school named Escuela Primaria Miguel Idalgo. The late start was due to her parent inability to pay for the basic supplies needed for school. For this same reason Maria would have to drop out of school in sixth grade. As a woman she was also expected to prioritize her family over her own education and at the age of twelve she was sent to work as a baby sitter. She worked in the home of a wealthy family where she cooked cleaned and took care of their young son.<sup>28</sup>

She enjoyed working for this family and they pay was enough to help her family while still having enough to spend on herself. She worked for this family for three years until they moved away. In 1977, she started working at Calsatenis, a shoe factory where she performed a variety of tasks. She was in charge of cleaning, putting soles on shoes and trimming the excess material from the shoes. Maria hated this job because her shift usually lasted ten to twelve hours. Furthermore, the pay was not enough to help her family and keep something for herself. She worked at the shoe company for two years but left that job when she turned seventeen. Soon after, she was able to find a job at a local primary school where she worked in the cafeteria. Maria liked working with the kids and the hours were much more reasonable, although the pay left a lot to be desired. In 1980, Maria met Jose Juan Vadillo at a concert. She initially disliked him because he was stuck, up but after he asked her to dance she fell for him. The couple started

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<sup>28</sup> Maria Lavastida, interview with Juan Vadillo, 25 February 2019

dating but the relationship was complicated by distance. Maria lived an hour away by car and two by public transportation, so their dates were scarce.<sup>29</sup>

Maria and Jose had planned to get married and move away but complication in Jose's family caused them to postpone their wedding plans. It was until 1983, that Maria was able to get married and move in to her parent's house with Jose. After getting married her husband insisted that she leave her job to focus on her duties at home. In 1981, those duties would include raising their first child. On October 21<sup>st</sup> 1983, Maria gave birth to her first son Ivan Vadillo in the hospital Clinical San Javier De Tlanepantla. Maria spent the next three years as a stay at home mom.<sup>30</sup>

In 1987, she gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Juan Vadillo, despite two immensely traumatic episodes she experienced during her pregnancy. This labor was especially difficult for her because she had to give birth at the home of a midwife with no professional medical assistance and without drugs. Midway through her labor the child's head became stuck and she believed that she could no longer push. Due to the massive effort she began to black out. Thankfully, her husband was able to motivate her to continue pushing and helped dislodge the child's head. When she was finally able to give birth, her baby was purple all over and she feared he would not make it. After a few slaps in the rear her baby began to cry and breathe normally. To this day she calls him her Christmas miracle.<sup>31</sup>

In 1989, after her husband was unable to succeed in two separate business ventures they both became convinced that leaving Mexico was in their best interest. She knew that there was no future for her children unless they migrated north. She also knew she was unable to take her children with her and would have to leave them in the care of their grandparents. This was an extremely difficult decision but it was one she had to make to give her children a remote chance at a better life. Soon she packed her bags, said goodbye to her children and ventured north in to a country that represented a great unknown.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Maria Lavastida, interview with Juan Vadillo, 25 February 2019

<sup>30</sup> Ibid

<sup>31</sup> Ibid

<sup>32</sup> Ibid



After a flight to Tijuana and a difficult crossing in to San Diego they were driven to Los Angeles where she would live with her husband's family. This living arrangement was very difficult for Maria because she had no privacy, having to live and sleep in the living room. She knew that this situation was untenable but there was little she could do to remedy it. She was in a strange new country surrounded by people she barely knew and worst of all she was without a job. In those first months, she had horrendous experiences at the few places she could find work.<sup>33</sup>

One of her worst experiences at work occurred when she was hired to prepare food for a famous T.V. chef's party. Maria and her coworkers worked non stop for twelve hours prepping and serving food. After the party the chef told them they would be paid the next day. When they returned to the restaurant they were greeted by an irate chef who accused them of doing a poor job and refused to pay them. When Maria and her coworkers demanded payment, he told them they could have the leftover food from the party instead. When the workers became angry the chef threaten to call immigration services and forced them to leave.<sup>34</sup>

Maria and her husband suffered this type of treatment a number of times until they became more accustomed and acclimated with their new culture. They met new people and became aware of their rights regardless of their legal status in the country. This reduced the abuse they were subjected to but steady work was still difficult to find. When Maria did work it was usually difficult physical labor that did not pay enough to make ends meet. Even after she found a full-time job as a house keeper at a hotel her wage was about \$2.75 an hour which was barely enough to cover their expenses.<sup>35</sup>

In figure 6.2 Fischer and Hout break down the average income of Americans. They separate the chart in to three groups, the highest earners are in the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile, the median earners, and the poorest Americans in the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile. The Americans with the highest incomes in 1990 earned approximately \$100,000 a year, while the Americans with a median income earned about \$50,000 in. Lastly, the poorest

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<sup>33</sup> Maria Lavastida, interview with Juan Vadillo, 25 February 2019

<sup>34</sup> Jose Vadillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 29 February 2019

<sup>35</sup> Ibid

Americans earned about \$25,000 a year. These figures account for a family of four and shows how the income of Americans has changed over a period of 50 years, starting in 1950. <sup>36</sup>According to the authors, the average income of a family of four in 1999 in the lowest 20<sup>th</sup> percentile was about \$25,000 a year. This means that Maria's family was earning less than the average American in the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile. At an average of \$2.75 an hour Maria's family was earning about \$21,000 a year. In Mexico, this would have been considered a descent income, but in Los Angeles this was hardly enough to purchase the necessities. Both Maria and Jose knew they would have to find second jobs if they hoped to see their children again.<sup>37</sup>

Marias husband started worked two jobs, so she knew she would have to do the same. Saving enough money to have her children brought in to the U.S. was the motivation that fueled her through those long labor-intensive days. Since Maria worked as a house keeper during weekdays she was able to find a job as a baby sitter for a wealthy family in Beverly Hills on the weekends. Maria worked very hard but her plans were thrown in to disarray when she became pregnant. She gave birth to her first daughter in 1990. A new born meant more expenses and less income and since Maria was unable to work due to her pregnancy she was fired from both her jobs. Since they could not afford a baby sitter Maria had to stay home and raise her daughter. She returned to work in 1992 as a house keeper at the Hilton Double Tree hotel in Montebello, California. In 1993, after years of saving Maria and Jose had paid off the money they borrowed from Jose's brother to pay the "coyote" and had enough to have their children brought to the U.S. Although they had planned to have their children brought over within a year, they were forced to wait almost four years to be reunited with them.<sup>38</sup>

In 1994, the hotel where she worked cracked down on illegal migrant workers so Maria was fired. Luckily, Jose had started working at a night club where more workers were required. Maria worked with her husband cleaning after the events. Maria and Jose workday started at 3 a.m. so they brought their

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<sup>36</sup> Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 143

<sup>37</sup> Ibid

<sup>38</sup> Maria Lavastida, interview with Juan Vadillo, 25 February 2019

children to work with them and left them to sleep in the car. One day after her boss saw the children sleeping, he chastised Maria. She assumed he would fire her but instead he offered to let them sleep in the couches in his office. This was only one of the many acts of kindness that her boss would show her and her family over the years.<sup>39</sup>

Maria and Jose worked very hard and at times without pay. Since the night club was struggling her boss's earnings would hardly cover the various expenses the night club accumulated. Despite the inconsistency of their paychecks, Maria and her husband were grateful for their job. Initially they were hired to clean but after a few months Jose was also responsible for the maintenance of the building itself. Their devotion, generosity and hard work was not lost on their boss. Once his club became successful, Maria's boss made sure to return the generosity they had showed him.<sup>40</sup>

In 1998, when Maria became pregnant with her second daughter her boss allowed her to take six months off with full pay. He also bought Maria hundreds of dollars worth of baby goods, including clothing, a stroller, dippers and a baby seat. In 1999, Maria gave birth to Guadalupe Vadillo. The labor was complicated and Maria underwent a C-section, after which she was left with horrible pain. Her recovery was prolonged when her C-section became infected. She was unable to work for three months but thankfully her boss paid her regardless. Although she hadn't completely recovered she went back to work despite her boss's offer to continue paying her maternity leave.<sup>41</sup>

Maria continued to work alongside her husband until 2007 when her boss decided to close down his business. Soon after, she found a job cleaning houses. Although Jose wanted Maria to become a stay at home mom, Maria continued to work to earn enough to send money to her parents in Mexico. Her parents were unable to work due to their age and had become dependent on the money their children sent them. For years Maria continued to support her parents with whatever little she could spare. In return, her father

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<sup>39</sup> Jose Vadillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 28 February 2019

<sup>40</sup> Ibid

<sup>41</sup> Maria Lavastida, interview with Juan Vadillo, 28 February 2019

gave her a large piece of his land, in which Maria decided to build a house. In 2009 Maria returned to work at the night club after her husband's company was hired to maintain the building.<sup>42</sup>

By 2018 Maria had spent almost thirty years away from her native land and her family. That year she was fortunate enough to finally become a legal resident of the U.S. Yet this process was without its roadblocks. Initially, the process proceeded smoothly, but then the lawyer wrote down wrong information on her final residency form. This error delayed the process for three months. The next problem arose when her sponsor, her son Ivan Vadillo, sent in the wrong forms. Once again, her legalization process was delayed for a few months. Finally, in December 2018 Maria was granted legal status after which she immediately traveled to Mexico. On December 10, 2018 Maria boarded a flight to Mexico City and was reunited with her family after decades. This was a very emotional moment for Maria and she cried as soon as she saw her childhood home. Maria was greeted at the door by her mom and three of her siblings. This meeting quickly escalated into a crying marathon.

During her time in Mexico she was also able to see the home she had paid to build. The house was small and had deteriorated but it was still standing. Maria was also able to resolve some issues regarding property taxes. Lastly, Maria made sure to create the legal papers which stated that the property belonged to her. This is a common problem in Mexico, where people take a family member's property due to inadequate paperwork. Maria continues to work as a cleaner with her husband's company. With her matters in order one day Maria hopes to save enough money to retire comfortably in Mexico while also traveling to the U.S. every few months to see her children.<sup>43</sup>

**Jose Juan Vadillo(1962- )** was born in 1962 in Teoluyacan, Mexico City, Mexico D.F. He was the first of seven children and first son born to **Concepcion Badillo (1944-2012)** and **Victoriano Badillo (1943-2014)**. Other siblings included **Pablo Badillo (1963- )**, **Victor Badillo (1964- )**, **Faustino Badillo "Tino" (1966- )**, adopted daughter **Elizabeth Badillo "Chave" (1967- )** and fraternal twins **Ruben Badillo "Rube"(1972)**, **Gabriell Badillo (1972- )**. The difference in the spelling of Jose's last name from

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<sup>42</sup> Maria Lavastida, interview with Juan Vadillo, 28 February 2019

<sup>43</sup> Ibid

the rest of his family's is due to a clerical error when Jose was registered in Mexico. On every official document Jose's last name is spelled with a v instead of a b. This spelling was passed on to his children on their official document as well. Besides creating confusion at family gathering, this error has become a great impediment when researching his family history.<sup>44</sup>

When Concepcion was pregnant, Vitoriano started working as an electrician at Aceros Nacionales de Mexicode Capital Variables in Mexico City. Living two hours away, he decided to move to Teoluyacan to be closer to his new job. While there they lived with an Aunt, **Maria Badillo**, who had a small house in a cave. The closest hospital was two hours away so when Concepcion went in to labor they had no choice but to have the child at home. With the help of her aunt the couple were able to deliver their son without any major complications. A few days later Jose was taken to be officially registered, this is where the error in the spelling of his last name occurred.<sup>45</sup>

Jose and his parents lived with Maria Badillo in Teoluyacan for six months before Moving to Tlayapa, Tlanepantla, Mexico D.F. His parents bought a small piece of land in the hills where they built their home themselves. As a toddler Jose began to have severe nose bleeds which prevented him from leaving the house. He also suffered from eye related problems that would require surgery which his parents could not afford. Yet despite these health issues his father falsified his birth record so he could be enrolled at Escuela Primaria Licenciado Perez Alogaray at the age of three. This was a common practice which allowed children to finish school at a younger age and thus work full time.

Tlanepantla is city north of Mexico city, whose name means middle land in Nahuatl, a language spoken by the Aztecs. This city has had various names and the full modern name is Tlanepantla de Baz. The addition of Baz pays tribute to an important soldier/politician under Emiliano Zapata. This region came under the control of the Spanish Empire after their conquest of the Aztecs. After Mexico won its independence from Spain this region became and industrial epicenter under the rule of Porfirio Diaz.

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<sup>44</sup>Jose Vadillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 28 February 2019

<sup>45</sup> Ibid

Today, this region is amongst the top three most industrialized cities in Mexico. This city is also home to various historical sites including the Pyramid of Tanayuca, a pre- colonial city built by the Chichimec in the 12<sup>th</sup> century A.D.<sup>46</sup>

When Jose was five years old he developed a severe nose bleed and was sent home from school. After hours of bleeding his parents decided he needed medical attention. He was taken to Centro Medico La Rosa in Mexico City. Once there the doctors informed his parents that Jose was hemorrhaging badly because his blood would not clot. He was kept in the hospital for observation and nearly died. After three days, he was released from the hospital and would never suffer from this health problem again. In 1970, while in fourth grade he began working part time at a bakery to help support his growing family. He continued to work at the bakery throughout primary school and in to secondary school. In 1974, Jose started attending middle school at Secundaria Tactica Numero Dos in Tequesquahuac Tlalnepantla. Unfortunately, in 1975 at the age of thirteen he had to drop out and was only able to complete 8<sup>th</sup> grade. His father could no longer afford to support the family on his own, since he continued to have more children, and forced his two eldest children, Juan and Pablo, to work full time.<sup>47</sup>

In 1976, Jose began working at a taco stand to supplement his income. He continued to work two jobs until 1978 when he left both jobs to work as a delivery man for the Aceitera Tlayapa, a cooking oil company. Thanks to this job he was able to travel around the state of Mexico and learned to get around quickly, this skill would come in handy in a future business venture. In 1980, he had to enlist in the Mexican Army for his mandatory three-month training. Fortunately for Jose, the Mexican army had a system in which recruits had to draw balls. If they drew a black ball they had to serve their time but if they drew a white ball they were free to go home. Thanks to his uncle, **Martin Badillo(1945- )**, who was a high-ranking member in the military, his papers were forged to state that he had drawn a white ball.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> Wikipedia. "Tlanepantla de Baz." Accessed 15 March 2019. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tlanepantla\\_de\\_Baz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tlanepantla_de_Baz)

<sup>47</sup> Jose Vadillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 28 February 2019

<sup>48</sup> Ibid

On September 27, 1980 Jose met Maria Labastida at a concert. The two began a long-distance relationship because they lived two hours apart. That year his father was able to get Jose a job as an electrician at the same factory he worked at. His father had become the head of the union at the factory so he had acquired a lot of influence. Although Jose had planned to move out of his parent's house to move in with his girlfriend, his plans changed when his father was involved in a bar fight and suffered a severe head injury. He was kept in a medically induced coma for three days while the brain swelling subsided.<sup>49</sup>

The doctors did not believe he would live very long but amazingly he recovered and was sent home after a week. Yet the trauma left him unable to speak normally and with a severe limp. He was unable to return to work so Jose was unable to move out. Two years later Jose's younger brothers were able to start working so Jose was able to move out. On October 8<sup>th</sup>, 1983 he married Maria Lavastida and moved to San Jose Huilango Cuautitlan Iscalli. For the first two years Jose and Maria lived with her parents, Rafael Lavastida and Emilia Lavastida while Jose started his own business selling baby chicks<sup>50</sup>.

A year after their wedding they had their first son Ivan Vadillo. Three years later while Maria was pregnant with their second child Jose was involved in a bar fight after a man accused him of stealing from him. Jose was badly beaten but managed to crawl home and collapsed at the foot of the door to his house. Jose was only able to muster enough strength to scratch the door. At first Maria assumed it was a dog so she was hesitant to open it. After a few minutes Maria decided to scare the dog away with a broom but was horrified by the sight of her bloodied husband. She yelled out in horror and fainted but her screams alerted her parents who then came to her husband's aid. Jose was rushed to a nearby hospital where he spent two days in recovery.<sup>51</sup>

That same year, Jose was involved in a terrible work accident. Jose was tending to the baby chicks in a large room with a propane powered heating lamp in the center. Jose was unaware of a gas leak that had developed in the heating lamp. He tried to light it using a match which ignited the gas, causing a massive

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<sup>49</sup> Jose Vadillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 28 February 2019

<sup>50</sup> Ibid

<sup>51</sup> Ibid

explosion. Jose was engulfed in the flames but managed to escape the room. His family extinguished the flames but he suffered third degree burns on over 50 percent of his body.<sup>52</sup>

Jose was taken to the hospital Cruz Roja de Tlanepantla to receive medical care. While there he had to undergo an excruciatingly painful skin cleaning procedure in which nurses would use an abrasive brush to rub off the burnt skin to allow new skin to grow. This procedure was repeated over a period of two months and after five months, he was released from the hospital. Because of these traumatic events, Jose and Maria feared that the stress might have caused birth defects on their unborn son. On December 24<sup>th</sup> 1987, Maria gave birth to a healthy baby who they named Juan Eduardo Vadillo. In 1988, Jose bought a small bus and worked as a driver. Since he had worked as a delivery man he knew Mexico City and its surroundings quite well. This new business venture was a bust due to the high maintenance cost of the bus and the constant armed robberies. Having failed as a driver he decided that he needed to make a radical change in order to provide for his family. In 1989, Jose and his wife decided to migrate to the U.S. This was a very dangerous plan since it involved illegally entering the U.S. by traveling through dangerous terrain across the desert, but more importantly it would mean leaving their kids to be raised by their grandparents.<sup>53</sup>

In the fall of 1989 Jose and his wife paid four thousand dollars to be smuggled in to the U.S. with the help of a “coyote.” The couple flew to Tijuana from Mexico City where they met the “coyote.” They had to spend three days in Tijuana while they waited for conditions to be right. Their first attempt was interrupted by a shootout at the border which forced them to lay low while the authorities cleared the area. They waited an additional two days, then they made their way across the border and in in to San Diego. There they were picked up by Jose’s brother Victor. Jose and his wife lived together in Los Angeles in a neighborhood around Down Town Los Angeles named Korea Town. Jose found a job as a maintenance man and a hotel named Le Motros in West Hollywood while his wife worked as a house keeper at the

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<sup>52</sup> Maria Lavastida, interview with Juan Vadillo, 3 March 2019

<sup>53</sup> Jose Vadillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 4 March 2019



same hotel. Jose worked nights as a busboy at another hotel in order to pay off his debt to the “coyote.” He also needed to save up money to pay for his children to be brought to the U.S.<sup>54</sup>

In October 21, 1990 Jose’s first daughter, **Anel Vadillo**, was born in the General Hospital of Los Angeles. Anel’s birth would complicate their living situation and would force them to find a larger apartment, which in turn meant higher rent. Anel’s birth also meant more expenses, so Jose would have to wait even longer to see his kids again. In 1993, Jose was finally able to pay to have his children brought over from Mexico. Since they lived in an already overcrowded apartment, Jose knew that his children needed a bigger space so he and his brother decided to find a new apartment. In 1994, Jose started working at a night club named El Rey as a cleaner after being fired from the Le Montros hotel for not having a legitimate social security number. His boss at the El Rey was Rodney Nardi, an Australian immigrant who opened his own night club. Rodney needed cheap labor since his business was struggling so Jose stepped in to help. The first few months working at the El Rey were very difficult because the night club was struggling. Some months Jose would work for free since Rodney could not afford to pay him. This was a favor that Rodney would repay tenfold once his business took off.<sup>55</sup>

In 1999, Jose’s boss helped him file a petition for him to become a legal resident. Rodney also paid for the large legal fees associated with this process. Although Jose met all the requirements his lawyer made a mistake on his form and the government rejected his petition. Jose was devastated after this denial but thanks to this filing he and his children would be protected under the 245-I provision even after it was removed by the government. That same year Jose’s wife gave birth to their fourth and final child Guadalupe Vadillo. Once again, an addition to the family meant having to move to a larger apartment. Jose was hesitant to rent an apartment without his brother Victor but was finally forced to do so since they could not find an apartment that would accommodate both families. In 2001 Jose became the manager of

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<sup>54</sup>Jose Vadillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 28 February 2019

<sup>55</sup> Ibid

the maintenance crew at his job and thanks to the higher salary he was able to purchase a home. His boss would help him out by paying the down payment and guiding him through the process.<sup>56</sup>

In 2002 Jose was finally able to purchase his own home in South Central Los Angeles near the Los Angeles International Airport. Since he did not have a valid social security number he was unable to apply for a mortgage loan and had to rely on his brother Victor. They purchased a duplex which was finally able to accommodate both their growing families. In 2005 Jose became alarmed when his boss told him he was selling his night club. The new owners wanted to bring in their own maintenance crew so Jose was essentially out of a job.

Yet Jose's boss did not abandon him. As he wrapped up the sale of his night club he began buying homes to remodel and sell. He hired Jose to remodel these houses and this became his job for the next two years. In 2007 Jose's boss decided to move back to Australia but recommended Jose to a friend of his who owned a building near Beverly Hills. Before he left the country, Rodney helped Jose start his own cleaning company. Jose began working at this new building and employed his wife, two sons and three other workers. Little by little his company grew and he was contracted to manage and clean venues throughout Los Angeles, including the Shrine Auditorium and The Roxy. In 2013 Jose's dream of becoming a legal resident finally became a reality. Since he was still covered under provision 245-I he was able to petition for an adjustment of status and was granted his permanent residency. Jose's continued to work hard and was able to purchase a vacation home in La Quinta, California in 2015. He hopes to retire one day and live out his remaining days in the desert.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> Jose Vadillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 28 February 2019

<sup>57</sup> Ibid

### GENERATION THREE

**Ala1. Emilia Chavarria (1944- )**

**Ala2. Rafael Lavastida (1941- )**

**Alb1. Concepcion Badillo (1943-2012)**

**Alb2. Victoriano Badillo (1942-2014)**

Juan's maternal grandmother, **Emilia Chavarria (1944- )** was born on March 3, 1944 in San Jose Huilango, Mexico D.F. Emilia's parents **Martina Chavarria** and **Emilio Chavarria** owned a small house where she and her four siblings, two sisters and two brothers grew up. Emilia and her siblings were taught from a young age to cultivate the land. Her father was a farmer and owned large tracts of land on which he grew corn and a variety of fruit. As a young girl Emilia was taught all the basic skills necessary to live off the land. Her dad taught her to cook chickens, how to raise and slaughter pigs properly, and how to make corn tortillas from scratch.<sup>58</sup>

Emilia meet Rafael Lavastida when she was 16 years old and married him soon after. The couple would go on to have eight children over the years and would help raise their grandchildren. In 1989, Emilia was tasked with raising her grandchildren while their parents migrated to the U.S. Although she shared responsibility for raising them with their paternal grandparents, it was hugely stressful for her. It had been years since she had cared for young children so she was a bit rusty. She was initially told that this arrangement would last a year or so, but after four years the children's parents were able to send for them.<sup>59</sup>

In her later years, once she was no longer required to raise children, she became very physically active. She would jog with her friends in the mornings and go on hikes in the afternoons. She also joined a local pool club where she learned how to swim. Her proudest moment came when she completed a half marathon in 2011. Emilia continued to be active until her age became problematic. Her knees began to ache and hip pain prevented her from going on hikes. Although she is limited in what she can do, Emilia

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<sup>58</sup> Emilia Chavarria, interview with Juan Vadillo, 20 March 2019

<sup>59</sup> Ibid

continues to enjoy participating in walks and volunteering at the local school where she helps teachers care for the kids.<sup>60</sup>

Juan's maternal grandfather, **Rafael Lavastida (1941- )** was born on September 20, 1941. He was the first of six children born to **Elizabeth Lavastida** and **Marcos Lavastida**. Rafael and his family were all born in the town of San Jose Huilango, Mexico D.F. Rafael's father was a farmer who also sold baby chicks and pigs. Rafael was much more interested in selling livestock and never enjoyed working the fields. As he got older he was able to earn a good living through his business. Rafael began traveling all over Mexico selling live stock to butcher shops and meet markets. When he was nineteen he met and married Emilia. Rafael fathered eight children but was hardly in their life since he was a traveling salesman. When he was thirty-eight he became involved in the local politics of his small town. His first post in the local governing body was as a treasurer. He was in charge of handling the money the town took in during the festivals and other events. After a few years of working as a treasurer part time he was asked to run for president of the town. He accepted because he wanted to spend more time at home and knew this would allow him to continue earning a good income.<sup>61</sup>

A year later he was elected president and went on to serve for six years. Due to his age, he was unable to continue his political career so he decided to return to his job as a livestock salesman. Now with older children to help him he would no longer have to do all the traveling. In 2009 Rafael retired because he developed diabetes and other illnesses which limited his ability to do his job. Rafael was very fortunate to have children who would support him in his retirement and help ensure that he was never lacking anything. Rafael continues to live with his wife Emilia in the same small town they were born.<sup>62</sup>

Juan's fraternal grandmother **Concepcion Badillo (1940- 2012)** was born in a small town on the outskirts of Mexico City, Mexico D.F., on November 15, 1940. She was the third born child of **Luis Badillo**, and **Antonieta Badillo**. Concepcion grew up on a farm where she helped her dad grow corn.

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<sup>60</sup> Emilia Chavarria, interview with Juan Vadillo, 20 March 2019

<sup>61</sup> Rafael Lavastida, interview with Juan Vadillo, 21 March 2019

<sup>62</sup> Ibid

Public school were basically no existent when she was growing up and never received formal education. Instead, one of her uncles taught her to read and write. Concepcion learned many skills from her dad. Unlike most Mexican men, Concepcion's dad wanted her to be self sufficient and independent. But this lifestyle went against traditional Mexican customs. In turn this served to alienate Concepcion from most other girls as well as potential suitors when she came of age.<sup>63</sup>

Concepcion learned to harvest corn, to raise cattle and to build using concrete and cement blocks. Living in a small pueblo and growing corn was never enough for Concepcion and as she grew up she decided to move away from her parent's house. She moved to a city in Toluca where she worked selling tacos. While there she fell in love with city living and decided to save money to buy a small plot in the City of Mexico. In 1961, she met Victoriano Badillo at a restaurant. After a year of dating the couple got married. In 1962, Concepcion became pregnant and moved to Santo Tomas, Teoloyucan so that her husband could be closer to his job. While in Teoloyucan, Concepcion and her small family lived in a cave with an aunt who allowed them to live rent free as long as they helped her build an addition to her house. Since most homes in Mexico are built by their owners and without permits, anyone can build as long as they have the knowledge. Utilizing the skills she learned from her father she was able to help build the addition to the house.<sup>64</sup>

During her pregnancy Concepcion became an avid seamstress and created beautifully embroidered clothing and doilies. She began selling her creations and was able to earn a living through her hobby. With the money she was able to save she bought a small lot in Tlayapa, Mexico City. According to her son Jose, various people in the small town on the hills believe that Concepcion was one of the founders of the small pueblo. It is believed that her home was one of the first to be built and that she helped others build their homes in order to help the pueblo grow faster.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> Jose Vadillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 28 March 2019

<sup>64</sup> Ibid

<sup>65</sup> Ibid

Concepcion worked day and night to make sure that her home was built as quickly as possible because she became pregnant with her second son in 1963. While pregnant she was forced to hire someone to finish pouring the concrete because she was hardly able to move. After she finished building her house she relocated her family to their new home. Over the next ten years Concepcion's family and home grew larger. In 1964, she gave birth to Victor and in 1967 she gave birth to Faustino. In 1972, she gave birth to fraternal twins Ruben and Gabriel.<sup>66</sup>

Concepcion continued to earn money sowing but also worked as a day laborer building roads and homes. By this time her husband was earning a lot more money since he had become one of the leaders of a local powerful union. But this money never quiet made it home since Victoriano was a notorious drinker and would spend the majority of his earnings on his vice. This meant that Cocepcion was not only the sole earner in the family but was the only caretaker for the children. She became accustomed to sleeping around four hours a day and spending the rest of her time sowing, working or raising her children. In 1979, Concepcion's sister died leaving behind three children, one of which, she decided to raise as her own since the children's father was hardly around. She was very strict with Elizabeth giving her many chores and enforcing a strict curfew, which Elizabeth often violated. Only a year after taking her in, Elizabeth ran away from home to live with her boyfriend. Once Concepcion discovered where she was staying she confronted her and dragged her back home.<sup>67</sup>

In 1982, Concepcion's husband was involved in a drunken brawl in a bar and suffered injuries which left him unable to work or care for himself. Although she was furious at her husband's carelessness she continued to care for him while working to raise the twins. In 1989, her son Jose decided to migrate to the U.S. asking her to split child care duties with their maternal grandparents until he could establish himself in the U.S. Although Jose originally believed this would take around a year or so, she would actually help raise the children for nearly four years.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> Jose Vadillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 28 March 2019

<sup>67</sup> Ibid

<sup>68</sup> Ibid

Raising children was not difficult for her especially since her own children were older and most had migrated to the U.S. Concepcion continued working and raising children with the help of the twins, who dropped out of school and started working. Around this time Concepcion began drinking heavily. Although she had always enjoyed a drink or two, slowly she began abusing alcohol and using it to cope with the loneliness she felt after her children migrated to the U.S. Her drinking problem worsened when her grandchildren migrated to the U.S. She no longer sowed or worked and focused entirely on drinking.<sup>69</sup>

The children that remained in Mexico looked after her and her husband. Over the years she became a full-blown alcoholic and lost interest in everything else. Her children and their spouses tried to help her but she would hide alcohol around the house and would drink whenever she was alone. Her children stopped giving her money for her expenses because she would spend it all on alcohol. In 2010, her problem became so bad that she began leaving the house to beg for money in order to feed her addiction. This behavior put her children in a difficult position. Should they give her money to drink and continue killing herself or should they cut her off and have her on the streets?<sup>70</sup>

They decided to continue giving her money if only to keep her out of the streets. In 2012, she was hospitalized after she complained of severe pain in her stomach. The doctors informed her children that her liver was failing and she only had a few months to live unless she stopped drinking immediately. As soon as she was released from the hospital she continued drinking and only two weeks later she was hospitalized again. This time the doctors told them her liver had completely failed and needed a transplant. Unfortunately, due to her age, alcoholism and her lack of funds she was unable to receive one. On November 15, 2012 Concepcion passed away in her beloved home.<sup>71</sup>

Juan's fraternal grandfather, **Victoriano Badillo (1942-2014)** was born on July 9, 1942 in Hidalgo, Mexico D.F. He was the third born son of **Elena Esperanza Enriquez** and **Manuel Badillo**. As a child of farmers he was expected to learn to cultivate the land and follow in his fathers footsteps.

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<sup>69</sup> Jose Vadillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 28 March 2019

<sup>70</sup> Gabriel Badillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 5 April 2019

<sup>71</sup> Ibid

Living in a rural community with very little infrastructure schooling was completely unknown to his family. They lived nearly two hours away from the nearest town with electricity and lived a very simple existence. For the entirety of his childhood Victoriano was very poor since his family depended solely on the produce and livestock they cultivated. Although they had a massive plot of land most of it was a barren waste land with very poor soil.<sup>72</sup>

In 1956, Victoriano became frustrated with the life he had so he ventured out in to the nearest city, which was Tlanepantla. While there he began working in a steel factory where he was responsible for cleaning. Victoriano quickly befriended one of the steel workers who would go on to teach him to run the machines during his lunch breaks. After six months Victoriano was hired as a machinist but was fired after a few months after the company experienced massive layoffs. Although he was devastated, thanks to the skills he learned at that company he was able to find a job at another steel company. After a few months, he became interested in becoming an electrician because the pay was better. He took a six month course and then was able to get a job at Aceros Nacionales de Mexico de Capital Variables, one of the largest steel companies in Mexico. As a new recruit, he was paid very little but Victoriano knew that after a few years he could be making a very comfortable living, especially if he could move up in the workers union.<sup>73</sup>

In 1961, Victoriano met Concepcion Badillo at the restaurant she worked at. After dating for a few months they got married and moved in together. In 1962, Victoriano and his wife moved to Santo Tomas, Teoloyucan where his aunt allowed them to live rent free, thanks to Concepcion's ability to build homes. The odd thing about his aunt's house was that it was located near the entrance to a massive cave. Little is known about how she came in to possession of that plot of land, but it was rumored that her ancestors had lived there for centuries. Unfortunately, since Jose's aunt was reclusive and had no children her story

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<sup>72</sup>Jose Vadillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 28 March 2019

<sup>73</sup> Ibid



remains shrouded in mystery. Jose knew little of her aunt beyond the fact that she lived in a cave and that she was a bit odd.<sup>74</sup>

On December 27, 1962 Their first child, Jose, was born. During his wife's pregnancy Victoriano and his wife purchased a plot of land in Tlanepantla. Victoriano's wife would split her time between selling hand sowed goods and building their new home while he was at work. After a few months they were able to move in to the house. Over the years Victoriano had become an influential member of the workers union at his job. Eventually he became the president of the local chapter and began earning a larger paycheck. Yet, as his influence and power grew, so too did his drinking problem. Over the years he became well known for his generosity at the local bars, even if it meant that his growing family had to struggle to make ends meet.<sup>75</sup>

Over the years Victoriano's family grew to include five sons and one adopted daughter. His children were often at odds with him due to his partying lifestyle. Since money was always lacking his children had to find jobs at very young ages in order to make up for his negligence. Most of his kids never made it to 10<sup>th</sup> grade, most having dropped out before middle school. Fortunately for them, the lack of child labor laws meant they could find jobs even if they were paid a meager salary. In 1982, Victoriano's drinking problem would catch up to him. One sunny afternoon the local union bosses gather at one of their favorite drinking establishment located a few minutes away from the factory. By all accounts this meeting began as they usually did, with a round of drinks and shots. After a few hours of drinking an argument broke out between Victoriano and another member of the union. During a heated exchange Victoriano was surprised by a left hook. On his way to the ground he struck his head on a table which knocked him unconscious.<sup>76</sup>

Since he did not respond to his co-workers attempts to wake him he was abandoned at the bar. The bar owner eventually called an ambulance and he was rushed to the hospital. The diagnostic from the

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<sup>74</sup> Ibid

<sup>75</sup> Jose Vadillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 28 March 2019

<sup>76</sup> Gabriel Badillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 5 April 2019

doctors was grim. They informed his family that he had suffered a brain injury which had caused severe swelling. The only course of action was to keep him in a medically induced coma in order to carve out a piece of his skull to relief the pressure. Doctors believed that even this radical procedure would not be enough to save him. After a three day long coma Victoriano finally regained consciousness. The doctors were surprised at his recovery but warned him that the damage had been done. Victoriano was left with a severe speech impediment and was unable to vocalize his ideas in a coherent manner. He also had a debilitating limp which forced him to use a cane. Because of these conditions he was fired from his job and was unable to care for himself. He became completely reliant on his wife and kids.<sup>77</sup>

Although his marriage had always been problematic, his wife stoically took in the responsibility. She worked hard to sell her hand sowed goods and as a day laborer while also building an expansion to her home. In 1989, her duties were further complicated. Not only was she responsible for her husband but she was also tasked with raising her two grandchildren after their parents migrated north. Although Victoriano tried to help his wife there was little he could do to alleviate her stress.<sup>78</sup>

As time went on Victoriano's helplessness further fueled his alcoholism. Much like his wife, he began drinking heavily. He refused to get out of bed unless his children brought him something to drink. The couple would waste away the hours drinking and arguing as their kids desperately tried to help them. His drinking would absorb him completely until he began to see the horrific effects alcohol had on his wife. Despite their her death, Victoriano decided to cut down on his drinking. He was very successful and was able to cut back. In his old age he became reclusive and passed his time cleaning his house in honor of his late wife. He would awaken bright and early every morning and start the day by slowly sweeping the patio and the inside of his home. He continued this routine until his age got the best of him and he became unable to walk without assistance. After two long years without his wife, he passed away on July 3, 2014 from natural causes.<sup>79</sup>

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<sup>77</sup> Gabriel Badillo, interview with Juan Vadillo, 5 April 2019

<sup>78</sup> Ibid

<sup>79</sup> Ibid

GENERATION FOUR

Ala1a. Martina Chavarria  
Ala1b. Emilio Chavarria

Ala2a. Elizabeth Lavastida  
Ala2b. Marcos Lavastida

Alb1a. Antonieta Badillo  
Alb1b. Luis Badillo

Alb2a. Elena Esperanza Enriquez  
Alb2b. Manuel Badillo