**France to Haiti to Spain to Cuba to America: Immigration Across Cultures and History**

**Background**
- Interested in family history and immigration to United States
- Discovered rich history of family immigration through Cuba, Spain, Haiti, and the USA.

**Purpose**
- Exploring Cuban history, culture, and immigration to the USA
- Gaining a deeper understanding of the rippling effects of major world events across generations
- Investigating interactions of ancestors with major world figures and events

**Regions of Cuba**
- Perdomo family in Camagüey
- Owned a plantation employing former slaves
- Lens Diaz family in Matanzas
- Family owned distribution business to grocery stores
- Depression forced movement to Havana in the 1930s

**Methodology**
- Interviews with Fernando Villa, born in Matanzas Cuba in 1925 & other family members
- Literature research to develop understanding around the circumstances of my family’s history, immigration, and culture
- Construction of a family tree and electronic database to preserve, build, and share the knowledge

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**“In life you have to work hard and be honest and be sensible to those who don’t have much.”** – Fernando Villa

**Duke and Duchess of Lens flee France during Revolution**
**Family remains in Haiti until Haitian Revolution, flee to Spain**
**Jacinto Villa y Martinez stows away to avoid conscription**
**Marries in Cuba and lives in Matanzas**
**Jacinto’s son Fernando comes to USA to teach laparoscopy**

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**Summary**
- Ancestors have participated in major world events & complex circumstances led to their eventual immigration to the USA

**References**