

MALINDA LOUISE USINA JONES (1935-2022)
HER FRENCH AND CORSICAN ANCESTRY

Malinda Louise Usina Jones, a native of St. Augustine, was born on January 12, 1935, into the respected Usina and Oliveros families. Her father, F. Charles Usina Jr. (1903-1966), was the progeny of F. Charles Usina Sr. (1875-1939) and Leonilla Oliveros (1876-1971), Malinda's paternal grandmother. Leonilla, along with her niece Dede Oliveros Stevens, played a significant role in Malinda's early life, dedicating years to her care. This caregiving took place primarily at Leonilla's home on Saragossa Street, during the periods when Malinda's father was developing the St. Augustine Alligator Farm as a major Florida attraction and her mother, Phyliss Wall Usina, was employed at the St. Augustine Record; contributing to the family's legacy and intertwining the histories of these notable local families.



L to R: Malinda and grandmother, Leonilla Oliveros Usina, attending a Fiesta in St. Augustine in 1938; Malinda's cousin, Dede Blue Stevens, on her 18th birthday holding Malinda in her lap at 6 Saragossa Street in 1937; Auntie Alma Usina Blue and Malinda on a tree limb on St. Augustine Beach in 1937.

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Stephen R. Renouf's scholarly contributions offer an in-depth exploration of the Usina and Oliveros families, marking a significant addition to historical literature. His insightful works, characterized by both concise summaries and elaborate narratives, are accessible at the St. Augustine Historical Society. Using empirical data gathered from a wide array of sources, Renouf paints a vivid picture of the era, enriching our understanding of these families and their times.

This short story reveals the Corsican and French connection to Malinda Usina Jones and her family. There is a plethora of knowledge after the marriage of Maria Narcisa Acosta (1797-1877), born in Spanish East Florida, to Francois Julien Avice (1791-1859), born in Le Mans, Sarthe, Pays de la Loire, France.

Before addressing Maria and Francois, an early recognition of French blood in Malinda's lineage is Juan Domingo Acosta (1730-1770 estimated date of death). Juan was born in Lache, Isle, Corse,

France, and reportedly died at the Turnbull plantation in New Smyrna, Florida, according to Ancestry.com.

If this is true, Malinda's fourth great-grandfather, Juan Acosta, lies somewhere in the soil of New Smyrna Beach, the same unknown burial location as Malinda's fourth great-grandmother, Catarina Moll Usina, and 942 other Minorcans who toiled for Dr. Andrew Turnbull on his New Smyrna plantation as indentured servants from 1768 to 1777.

Juan was born in Ajaccio, Corsica, France. Several narratives say Juan attended school with Napoleon Bonaparte, who was also born in Ajaccio. Bonaparte was in school in Ajaccio until he was 9 years old and then sent to France for further education. This is a good story and possible because of the times, but remains anecdotal until verified.

Juan's son, Jorge Jose Acosta (1766-1812), also born in Ajaccio, Corsica, was 2 years old when he made the 70-day trip across the Atlantic Ocean with his father and his mother, Maria Dolores Parta y Ambrose (1736-1814). Jorge is Malinda's third great-grandfather. What an ordeal that must have been for this little Corsican family! How blessed they were to be part of the 1,403 Andrew Turnbull colonists that sailed from Mahon, Minorca, to New Smyrna, British East Florida, in 1768. Turnbull's Minorcan colony was the largest colony brought to America during the colonial era.

Jorge's spouse was Mariana Margarita Antonia Villalonga (1785-1827). Mariana was born in St. Augustine on September 26, 1785, died in Fernandina, Florida, and is buried there. Jorge and Mariana were the parents of Maria Narcisa Acosta (1797-1877). According to these birth dates, Jorge was a 19-year-old and Mariana was a 12-year-old when Maria was born. They were living in St. Augustine under Spanish rule.

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Maria Narcisa Acosta was born on October 28, 1797 in St. Augustine, Spanish East Florida. She is Malinda's 2nd great-grandmother. French blood flows in the progeny from the Francois Julien Avice/Maria Narcisa Acosta union. They were married on December 31, 1828. Their daughter, Carolina Maria Avice was born on July 8, 1833.

According to 'Find a Grave Memorial' "François Julien Avice(1791-1859) was baptized at the Parish of La Crucifix at the Cathedral of Le Mans in 1791, at the start of the French Revolution. He lived with his parents on Rue de Chanoines near the Cathedral through the first abdication of Emperor Napoleon. In 1814, François left France and went to Savannah, Georgia. He was naturalized as a US citizen. In Savannah, he was a watchmaker, jeweler and silversmith with Avice & Pottier, and later Avice & Raulin. In 1819, Francis J. Avice went to St. Augustine in Spanish Florida to purchase tracts of land, and ship lumber to Europe. In 1820, a great fire in Savannah and Avice's watchmaking/jewelry shop was destroyed in the fire. He then permanently moved to St. Augustine later in 1820 to continue buying land and shipping lumber. In 1827, the firm of Avice & Gardner made a bid for a government grant to build a bridge across St. Sebastian Creek to the

Avice-Viel Grant. On December 31, 1828, Francis Avice married Mary N. Acosta (from a Greek/Menorcan family). In 1829, Francis J. Avice was nominated by Governor Duval to serve as sheriff of St. Johns County. In 1830, he was elected sheriff. He was the Deputy US Marshall for the Eastern District of Florida. In 1831, he applied to be US Marshall, but Samuel Blair was appointed. In 1833, Francis was Tax Collector for St. Johns County. In 1835, Francis enlisted in Company F, 2nd Regiment Florida Mounted Militia during the Second Seminole War. He was elected second lieutenant. Francis made many trips home to Le Mans, France, but his wife refused to accompany him. In 1859, on a trip home, he died in Le Mans, and was buried there.”

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Carolina Maria *Avice* Oliveros (1833–1891) was born on July 8, 1833, in St. Augustine, Florida. She lived during the tumultuous times of the Seminole Wars and the Civil War, the war that pitted brother against brother.

Carolina Maria *Avice* Oliveros married Bartolo Fernando Oliveros (1831-1895) on January 4, 1855, when she was twenty-one and he was twenty-three years old. They had a large family.

The children of Carolina Maria *Avice* Oliveros and Bartolome Fernando Oliveros.

Francisco Xavier Gonzalez Oliveros
1856–1918

Ernest Paul Oliveros
1857–1942

Mary L "Mary Lena" Oliveros Crichlow
1860–1921

Georgia Sally Oliveros Colee
1862–1937

Isabel Theodora "Belle" Oliveros Alba
1866–1941

John Dickison "J.D." Oliveros
1868–1932

Francisca Rosalia Agatha "Frances or Fanny" Oliveros MacKinlay
1869–1941

Benjamin Ferrell Joseph "Uncle Bennie" Oliveros
1872–1960

Gordon Granger Oliveros
1874–1951

Leonilla Mary Oliveros Usina
1876–1971

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Florida was still a U.S. Territory in 1833 when Caroline and Bartolome were born. The United States acquired Florida from Spain through the Adams-Onís Treaty, which was signed in 1819 and took effect in 1821. This acquisition was motivated by the United States desire to consolidate control over the territory due to its strategic location, to resolve conflicts with Native American tribes, and to eliminate a refuge for escaped slaves. Spain had always provided a sanctuary for escaped slaves, a sanctuary the southern slave states wished to eliminate. Thomas Jefferson was involved in this issue and thanked the Spanish Crown for its change in policy.

The question of whether Florida would enter the Union as a slave state or a free state was a significant issue, reflecting the broader national conflict over slavery. This was part of the wider sectional tensions between the North and South leading up to the Civil War. Ultimately, Florida was admitted as a slave state, balancing the admission of Iowa as a free state in 1846 to maintain the balance of power between free and slave states in Congress under the Missouri Compromise.

The Missouri Compromise was a temporary solution to the ongoing debate over the expansion of slavery into new territories and states. It represented an early attempt to address the deepening sectional divisions between the North and South. However, it was ultimately a stopgap measure, and the conflict over slavery continued to escalate, eventually leading to the Civil War in the 1860s. The compromise's provisions regarding the restriction of slavery in the territories were later declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott decision of 1857, further inflaming tensions between the sections.

None of the Oliveros children were old enough to serve in the Civil War but their father was. Bartolo Oliveros, according to the S. Renouf documents on file at the St. Augustine Historical Society, *"On 21 July, 1863 Bartolo Oliveros enlisted as a private in Company H, 2nd Florida Confederate Cavalry under the legendary Captain John Jackson "J.J." Dickison at Camp Call, Palatka, Florida. He enlisted for 3 years or the duration of the war and received a bounty of \$16.80 for the use and risk of his horse."* When the war ended, Bartolo was paroled in Waldo, Florida, and he returned to St. Augustine. There is a more detailed account of these times during the Civil War in the Renouf documents.

These facts validate Malinda Louise Usina Jones connection to Francois Julien Avice, born in LeMans, France. Malinda and all her children are not only Minorcan, but have ancestors from Corsica and France. Malinda's family helped build America. Find A Grave proved to be invaluable

More stories of these ancestors are yet to be found and written. rpj

INFORMATION FROM FIND A GRAVE

Maria Narcisa "Mary" Acosta Avice- Malinda's Great Great Grandmother

Birth - 28 Oct 1797-St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida, USA

Death - 19 May 1877 (aged 79)- St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida, USA

Burial - Tolomato Cemetery- St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida, USA

Memorial ID- 12261883--- French born Husband Francois Julien Avice (1791-1859)

Carolina Maria Avice Oliveros- Malinda's Great Grandmother

Birth - 8 July 1833- St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida, USA

Death - 27 June 1891 (aged 57)

Burial - San Lorenzo Cemetery- St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida, USA

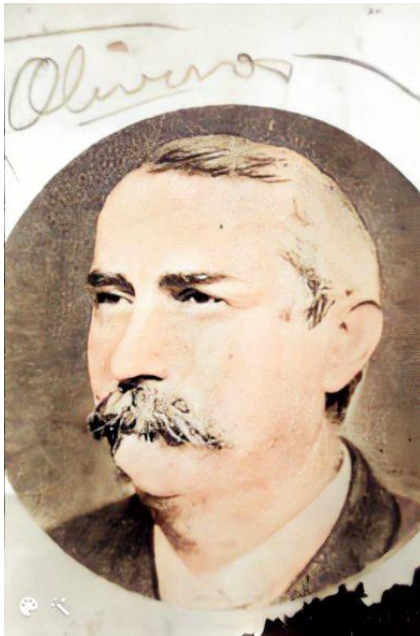
Plot - 1-B

Memorial ID- 46294218---Carolina's husband Bartolome Fernando Oliveros (1831-1895)

Inscription- OUR MOTHER-Jesus, Mary, Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul at peace with you.



Carolina Maria Avice Oliveros



Bartolome Fernando Oliveros

Leonilla Mary *Oliveros* Usina- Malinda's Grandmother

Birth – 22 Oct 1876- St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida, USA

Death – 2 Feb 1971 (aged 94)- St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida, USA

Burial - San Lorenzo Cemetery- St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida, USA

Memorial ID – 38818930--- Leonilla's husband F. C. Usina Sr.



Leonilla Mary Oliveros Usina



Frederick Charles Usina Sr.

Frederick Charles Usina Jr.--- Malinda's Father.

Birth - 13 June 1903- St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida, USA

Death - 31 May 1966 (Aged 62)

Burial - San Lorenzo Cemetery- St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida, USA
Plot 4-S

Memorial ID – 46942214---F. C. Usina Jr.'s Wife Phyllis Wall



Frederick Charles Usina Jr.



Phyllis Wall Usina

Malinda Louise *Usina* Jones

Birth – 12 Jan 1935 - St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida, USA

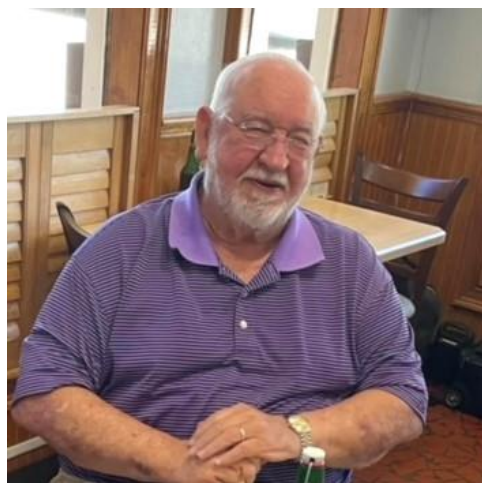
Death – 9 Feb 2022 (aged 87)

Burial - San Lorenzo Cemetery- St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida, USA

Memorial ID – 236987494--- Malinda's husband Bob Jones



Malinda Louise Usina Jones



Robert Phillip Jones

THE AMAZING MALINDA USINA JONES CHILDREN



Bob and Malinda seated- L to R standing,
Michael, Cynthia, Laurie, Mark & Matthew