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GENEALOGY RESEARCH

SAMPLE RESEARCH REPORT

The Life of Dr. Lorenzo Galatas Ortega (1919–1973)
Pijirigua, Cuba → Kirbyville, Texas

This is a sample report drawn from the researcher's own family, published so prospective clients can see the format, the evidence standard, and the way conclusions are graded. It names only deceased persons; living relatives are never named in a public sample. Every conclusion below carries a grade — **Proven** (a record states it), **Probable** (strong but indirect evidence), or **Unresolved** (the records conflict or are still missing).

1 • The research question

The family knew its grandfather as “the doctor from Cuba who died in a car accident in Texas.” The assignment: establish his birth, parentage, emigration, career, and death from records — and separate what the documents prove from what family memory merely repeats.

2 • Summary of findings

Lorenzo Galatas Ortega was born 21 November 1919 in Pijirigua, Pinar del Río, Cuba, a son of Juan Francisco Galatas Errazti and María Josefa del Carmen Ortega Hernández of Artemisa. He practiced medicine in Cuba, left Havana by ship on 14 June 1961, was admitted to the United States as a permanent resident in 1963, petitioned for naturalization at Beaumont, Texas in 1968, and practiced for about ten years in Kirbyville, Texas. He was killed on 22 January 1973 in a head-on collision on U.S. Highway 96 at the Kirbyville city limits. He is buried in Miami, in a family plot at Caballero Rivero Woodlawn North in Miami — proven not by any single document, but by his monument itself, photographed by his grandson; the stone also carries his wife Caridad (1920–1983) and his mother Carmela (1891–1994).

3 • Findings

Birth and parentage. His Texas death certificate names his parents as “Francisco Galatas” and “Maria del Carmen Ortega.” The certificate’s *Ortego* is a clerical spelling — the family name is **Ortega**, confirmed across the Cuban records. His birth date and birthplace rest on family records and his own tree documentation; a Cuban civil birth record has not yet been pulled.

Grade: parentage Proven • birth date and place Probable

A Cuban physician. Havana’s *Noticias de Hoy* of 29 July 1949 names “Lorenz Galatas, médico” — his medical career in Cuba is documented in the press of his own time, not just in family lore.

Grade: Proven

The crossing. The passenger manifest of the SS *Joseph R. Parrott*, Havana to West Palm Beach, 14 June 1961, lists him traveling with his teenage son. He was admitted as a permanent resident on 18

July 1963, and on 18 July 1968 he filed naturalization Petition No. 4259 in the U.S. District Court at Beaumont (Eastern District of Texas), giving his residence as Stringer Street, Kirbyville.

Grade: Proven

The Texas years. He practiced first in Beaumont — the *Houston Post* places “Dr. Lorenzo Galatas” in Houston in May 1964 — then for roughly ten years in Kirbyville, where he ran a clinic and spent two years at Buna Medical Center.

Grade: Proven

Death. On 22 January 1973 his car collided head-on with another vehicle on U.S. 96 at the Kirbyville city limits; he was dead at the scene. The other driver, a 16-year-old, faced no charges. His obituary in *The Orange Leader* (Orange, Texas, 23 January 1973) styles him “Dr. Lorenzo Galatas, 53, of Kirbyville,” and the Texas death record (Jasper County) confirms the date and cause. Survivors named in the obituary: his wife Caridad, two children then living in Spain, his mother in Miami, and a brother in Mexico City.

Grade: Proven

The burial question — settled by the stone. The documents disagreed: his death certificate records burial on 23 January 1973 at “Flagler Cemetery, Miami,” while the obituary's framing implied Kirbyville. Both are superseded by the monument itself, standing in Caballero Rivero Woodlawn North, on SW 8th Street, Miami, and photographed there in November 2021: a family stone inscribed “Lorenzo Galatas, M.D., 1919–1973,” with “Caridad Galatas, 1920–1983” at its base and, on its face, “Carmela Ortega, vda. de Galatas, 1891–1994” — his mother. The death certificate's cemetery entry is treated as a clerical error; the family's own knowledge that his body was brought home to Miami through the Caballero funeral home is borne out.

Grade: Proven



The Galatas family monument, Caballero Rivero Woodlawn North, Miami. Photograph by the researcher, November 2021.

4 • Sources consulted

- Texas death certificate and Texas, U.S., Death Records index (Jasper County, 1973).
- *The Orange Leader* (Orange, Texas), 23 January 1973 — obituary and accident report (via Newspapers.com).
- Passenger manifest, SS *Joseph R. Parrott*, Havana → West Palm Beach, 14 June 1961.
- U.S. naturalization Petition No. 4259, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas (Beaumont), filed 18 July 1968.
- *Noticias de Hoy* (Havana), 29 July 1949 (Digital Library of the Caribbean).
- *Houston Post*, 6 May 1964.
- Galatas family monument, Caballero Rivero Woodlawn North, Miami — photographed November 2021; inscriptions transcribed in §3.
- Family records and the researcher's documented family tree (birth date and birthplace).

A client's report arrives with copies of the records themselves and full citations. This sample includes the monument photograph above; the other record images are omitted.