

## Making Space

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The Journey of the Bastedo Family: A New Jersey History

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In commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month, we delve into the historical journey of the Bastedo family, tracing their roots from Spain to the United States.

The name "Bastedo" originated with Guillermo De La Bastido of Spain who served as a commissioner and treasurer for the Province of Badajoz. Bastedo fled religious persecution and settled in New Amsterdam (now New York) in 1638. His descendants, including Jacob Bastedo, eventually made their way to Middlesex County, New Jersey, in the early 1720s.

During the American Revolution, several great-grandsons of Jacob—James, George, William, Leo, and John—served in the 2nd and 3rd Regiments of the Middlesex County Militia. Their contributions directly impacted the birth of their newly adopted nation.

Isaac Elwood Bastedo, the son of Revolutionary War patriot William, pursued the American dream, defining how families leaving the Old World for the New, with an unknown future, settled in new areas and worked diligently to build a new life. He became a successful farm owner and merchant in Middlesex County. In the 1860 Census, Isaac is listed as residing in South Brunswick, owning a farm assessed at \$600.00 and having personal assets valued at \$300.00. By the 1900 Census, he owned multiple mortgage-free farms, reflecting his increased financial status. In 1907 the Courier News reported Mr. and Mrs. Isaac E. Bastedo's attendance at their grandson's wedding in New York City.

The Bastedo family's story highlights the thriving Hispanic heritage in New Jersey and its significant contribution to our state's rich history. New Jersey, with its diverse racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds, holds a wealth of historical knowledge. The Bastedo family's journey exemplifies the ascension of families who have made their mark in this vibrant state.