## Coya Eugenia de Sandoval

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The 1400 to 1500 period of our family history brings us to an important milestone. The Spanish come to the New World and intermarry the with the native populations including the Inca nobility, here we find our first Inca grandparent, Coya **Eugenia de Sandoval**. (This title Coya means Princess or Lady) She is the daughter of the Coya Francisca Inca and granddaughter of Huayna Capac Inca. Her father is Capt. Diego de Sandoval y la Mota.

Capt. Sandoval was from Olalla, Spain and was born around 1505. His parents, Gonzalo de Sandoval y San Pedro and Inés de la Mota, belonged to established Toledan families. Around 1533 he joined Alvarado on his journey to Quito. They first arrived in the coast of what is now the Ecuadorian province of Manabi, then had to cross the dense jungle around the Guayas River to reach the lower part of the Andes range. They arrived at a pass called Liribamba, where Sandoval and his men found another conquistador, Sebastian de Benalcazar, whose forces he joined (after the two leaders arranged for monetary compensation for Alvarado). Sandoval and Benalcazar soon became friends and with their forces advanced on the forces of Rumiñahui (who took charge of the Inca forces after Atahualpa's death) in the north.

**Coya Eugenia de Sandoval** was born in Quito in 1536 she marries Gil Rengifo at the age of fourteen. Gil Rengifo was a spaniard who served under Benalcazar in the conquest and participated in the establishment of the settlement of Quito. He was born in Avila, Spain around 1514 and came to America in 1534. Eugenia and Gil had a daughter **Maria Rengifo Sandoval** who becomes the branch of the family that we are following.

Eugenia, who years later receive a royal grant confirming her rights (Real Cédula de Legitimación) from Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor(Charles I of Spain) so that she could marry Captain Gil de Rengifo (leaving numerous decedents in both Ecuador and Colombia).

When the Inca **Huayna Capac** conquered the territories of what is today's Ecuador, he took a wife in Quito. The Incas had many wives according to their customs. His wife from Quito bore him a daughter named **Coya Francisca** she was a sister to Atahualpa.

She married Cpt. Diego de Sandoval and became the mother of Coya Eugenia De Sandoval the first Inca/Spanish Coya.

In an effort to trace my ancestors we have consulted several books published by various institutions. Some of these books were in spanish and had been published in Ecuador. One key book in this research is "Las Coyas y Pallas del Tahuantinsuyo" by Fernando Jurado Noboa. Dr. Jurado Noboa is a member of the National Academy of History of Ecuador and the president of the Center for Genealogical investigations of this institution. In this book Dr. Jurado Noboa traces the descendants of the "Coyas y Pallas" (Princesses and Lords) of the Inca empire to the nineteen hundred where we find listed my grandparents. (Page 349 of the "Las Coyas y Pallas del Tahuantisuyo")

Atahualpa, Coya Francisca's brother became the last ruling INCA of the empire. During the Spanish conquest the spanish Francisco Pizarro captured Atahualpa and used him to control the Inca Empire. Eventually the Spanish executed Atahualpa by garrote, ending the Inca Empire. Several successors claimed the title of "Sapa Inca" (Unique Inca) and continued to resist the spanish.

