

Son of a convert family, originally from Sefarad, he was born in Vila Flor (Tras-os-Montes / Portugal), in 1588, being baptized on June 22 of that same year, with the name of Fernán López Téllez. At the age of 16, in 1603 he left his hometown and after passing through Madrid, Jaén and Andujar he settled in Baeza (Jaén – Andalusia / Spain), with his brother Pedro López Téllez, where he lived for four years.

In 1605, at the age of 18, he was in charge of bringing to Bordeaux (France) the cochineal, which his brothers Bartolomé and Manuel bought in Seville. Because of complaints against the Portuguese community of Baeza, he fled to Andujar and from there to Vila Flor, changing his name to Fernando Montesinos, with whom he would be known from that moment on.

In 1621 he settled in Madrid. In January 1623 Catalina Rodríguez, sister of Francisco and Antonio Rodríguez Madrid, married, born in Chacim, town of Tras-os-Montes about four leagues from Vila Flor, going on to live in a rented house on Calle de la Zarza, corner of Calle de los Peligros.

His wife died in childbirth on April 4, 1625. Later on August 13, 1628 he granted marriage capitulations with Don Manuel de Almeyda, on behalf of his daughter Serafina de Almeyda y Castro.

On December 8, 1628, after having celebrated in Iceda a wedding by proxy, Doña Serafina de Almeyda y Castro arrived accompanied by her father, two of her brothers and a personal maid. Two days later the betrothal was celebrated with great fanfare.

From this marriage were born in Madrid, five children, Manuel, born in 1630, Bartolomé, in 1631, Enrique, in 1644; Diego born in 1640 died at the age of 13; and Felipa born in 1647, died at the age of seven. His wife's family came from Bragança (Portugal), although at the end of the sixteenth century they moved to Castro Roupal, near Iceda.

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