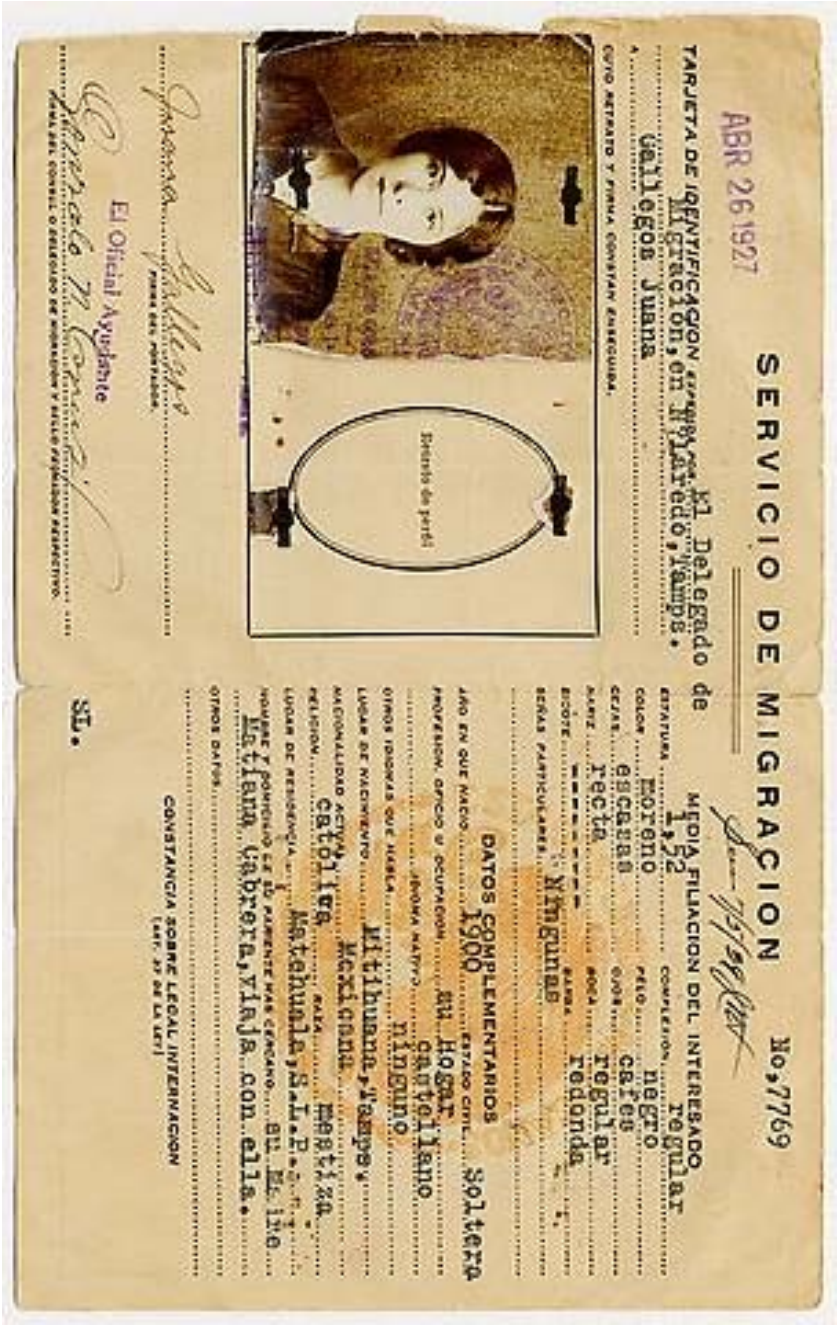
Juana Gallegos, Mexican Identification Card, 1923

While there is no single Mexican immigrant experience, the story of Juana Gallegos and her descendants is fairly typical of those who migrated in the early 20th century. Born in 1900 in the rural town of Miquihuana, Tamaulipas, Mexico, Juana's life was seriously disrupted by shifts in the agricultural system, the building of a national Mexican railway system, and the Mexican Revolution. Although Juana left her native country in 1923 and moved to San Antonio, Texas, she never stopped visiting her Mexican relatives or thinking of herself as Mexican.