

Mori Family International Newsletter

5, May 2016

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SOON: Mori Family International website

A point of the work plan discussed at the May 15 board meeting was the development of the website of the Mori Family. It was briefly presented at the meeting and is expected to be running by June.

The menu of the main sections so far is as follows:

- Home Page
- About us
- Board of Directors
- Mori Family History
- What are we doing? Activities, meetings...
- Newsletters
- Documents
- Patriarch Stories
- Video Gallery
- Personals

Eventually there will be other sections such as one about family genealogy. Soon we will be announcing when it will be available.

The Board reports...

At its meeting on May 15, 2016, the Board considered and / or approved the following matters:

- * Presentation of the website that is being developed as part of the work plan (see note in the other column).
- * Shirts allusive to Mori Family International. These will be sold as part of the fundraising campaign. Some will go to Hawaii as part of the trip that some members of the family will make this summer.
- * Initial presentation of the draft on amendments to the rules proposed by the Special Committee. In this way, the Board starts the process for considering the proposal so that it may be submitted to the Assembly.

The meeting was held at the residence of Nancy and Lico Pacheco Mori in Barrio El Naranjo in Yauco. As always, we enjoyed a delicious lunch and some other surprises. Some members of the previous Board also attended as part of the continuity of the projects being carried out.

The next meeting will be on Sunday, June 12, at the residence of Eva Mori and Choro Salinas in Moca.

There are still some polos with Mori Family logos available for sale. If you are interested, please call Eneida Garcia at 787-378-9454 or leave a message at: eneida-sidis@hotmail.com .

Upcoming activities Family Mori International:

- The Visiting Committee continue its visits to contact Mori family members which are yet unidentified or of whom we have little information. There are 4 groups trained for this work in several areas of the country:
 - Metro area and other towns (In charge: B. Caraballo Mori)
 - Southern Area 1 - Ponce, Villalba and other towns (In charge: Tony Mori)
 - Southern Area 2 - Yauco and other towns (In charge: Livia R. Ortiz Mori - Kelly)
 - Western Area - Mayaguez and other towns (In charge: Andresito and Eva Mori)
- Summer family activity will be on July 24, 2016 in the Aguas Blancas house of Aunt Rate Mori. Donations in kind (food and drinks) are requested for this activity. Plan now to attend!
- In less than 3 months we will hold our Annual Meeting 2016. Soon we will report more details. What we already know is that will be on Sunday, September 4 (as always, the day before the Labor Day holiday).

Visiting program goes on

The program continued with a visit to the widow of Fundador Mori in Barrio Rio Prieto, Sector Carrizales of Yauco, Ramona Pagán Castillo, better known as *Doña Cana*. That day I asked *Doña Cana* how many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren there are? She replied "I had 16 children with Fundo. I also raised other six children of his." Then she talked about her grandchildren and great-grandchildren but said "some have not given me grandchildren." Three live in the US, others in Lares, Guanica and Yauco.

The visit was very pleasant and enthusiastic. She told us she still "*jala machete y coge café*" in the small farm and, with the help of her daughter and son-in-law, she keeps it in production. Then, she showed us her small garden.

When we entered the living room, Delia, her youngest daughter, had already made the tasty coffee. She served it as other the descendants of the Patriarch Mori do. We had a pleasant conversation and we gave them copies of this year's newsletters and calendars. They expressed their interest in attending our activities. (Note provided by Bienvenido Caraballo Mori).

The historic corner - why the Moor head represents Corsica?

In the last issue of the Bulletin, in order to deal with the historical background of the Mori family, we addressed the issue of Corsica, birthplace of Patriarch Mori. This time we also do it with the head of the Moro, symbol of the island and part of its flag. It has also been adopted as one of the representative symbols of Mori Family International. Many have wondered: If Corsica was never part of the Moorish or Muslim world, why the head of a Moor represents Corsica? Here we explain why is this symbol part of its history.

The origin of the *bandiera de testa mora* (the Moor Head banner) of Corsica, a black Moor Head on a white background, appears to have originated in the context of the struggle between Christianity and Islam during the Middle Ages. It is related to the "heads-trophies" symbols of power representing African Muslims or Andalusian (Spanish-Muslim) enslaved and / or conquered. Thus, this image, originally representing sub-Saharan facial features, passed on to European heraldry of noble families of Moorish origin or, conversely, to signify victories against Muslims by the ancestors of the wearer. In both cases, most of the names of these families come from Maure or More, such as Moore, Morris, Morrison, Morandi, and Mori as well as Negri and Schwartz (black in German) among others. It is in this context that the Kingdom of Aragon added the Moor Head to its heraldry (1281) after the victory of King Peter I on several Muslim kingdoms in the battle of Alcoraz (1046), and was used until 1387. In 1297, Pope Boniface VIII (1235-1303) inaugurated the King of Aragon as ruler of the newly created Kingdom of Sardinia and Corsica (Treaty of Anagni). Thus, the Moor Head makes its first appearance in relation to Corsica (Gelre Armorial, 1370). Corsicans leaders of the Aragonese party and Corsican and Sardinian mercenaries during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries used the *testa mora*, and also it was used to represent Corsica in several European atlases during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Nevertheless, it was not until the peasant revolt of 1730 against Genoa that it becomes a symbol of the corso, when the blindfold was transformed into a band on the forehead with the slogan: "Now Corsica has opened her eyes." However, it was not officially used in Corsica until Theodor von Neuhoff, king of the brief reign of Corsica (1736), declared it as the official symbol of the kingdom but in its original blindfolded form, thus returning to its racist and enslaving meaning. In 1760, Pasquale Paoli, considered to be the "father of the Corsican nation" formalizes the peasant version of the Moor Head as a symbol of liberation. He is quoted as saying: "*Corsicans want to see things clearly. Freedom shall follow the torch of philosophy and we shall not be afraid of the light*". And also: "*Now placing the real band (on the forehead) shall indicate our dignity and not our shame as our enemies preferred to see it*". After the exile of Paoli, France kept the Moor Head, but withdrew the band and added a *fleur de lis* (the French national symbol). It is not until the 1970's that a reaffirmation of the concept of Corsican as opposed to the French arises. The *bandiera de testa mora* appears in cultural and political activities and it is also officially used today in government buildings and schools. (Note provided by Lisa Mori Rivera)

San Gavino di Tenda

In the past bulletin number (4), we indicated that Ignacio Mori Romani came from the town of San Gavino di Tenda in the **southern** part of the island. We want to clarify that, in fact, the town is very close to the city of Bastia in the **north** part of Corsica. Here is the new map and some information on the small town.

Family Newsletter Mori International, Year 1, no. 5, May 2016 .

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* Malia Reyes, a Mori family member from California, initially translated the text of the bulletin. Our thanks to Malia.