

Zeitschrift: Familienforschung Schweiz : Jahrbuch = Généalogie suisse : annuaire
= Genealogia svizzera : annuario

Herausgeber: Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Familienforschung

Band: - (2001)

Artikel: Familien Balli in Mexico

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-697792>

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Familien Balli in Mexico

Résumé

En complément à l'article sur l'émigration des famille Balli, originaires du Tessin, paru dans l'Annuaire 1995, p. 41-46, le texte ci-dessous nous emmène au Nord du Rio Grande dans les années 1777-1821.

Zusammenfassung

Als Ergänzung zum Bericht im Jahrbuch 1995, S. 41-46, über die Familien Balli, Auswanderer aus dem Tessin, wird der folgende Auszug aus der „Königlichen Landübertragung nördlich des Rio Grande 1777-1821“ beschrieben.

Florence Johnson Scott, **“Royal Land Grants North of the Río Grande 1777 – 1821”**, Printed by Texian Press (Distributed by La Retama Press, 801 East Main Street, Río Grande City, Texas 78582 USA), 1969, 128 p. con ill.

L'opera descrive con dovizia di particolari la colonizzazione della regione situata alla foce del Rio Grande, che segna attualmente il confine tra Messico e Stati Uniti. Divisa in due parti, questa ricerca storica copre un arco d'oltre un secolo.

Nella prima parte viene descritta l'occupazione delle terre, realizzata in attuazione del piano elaborato nel 1747 da Don José de Escandón quale rappresentante della Corona spagnola.

La seconda parte illustra la storia delle principali proprietà situate al Nord del Rio Grande, con particolare riferimento alle vicissitudini familiari ed alla sorte di quei fondi dopo la guerra tra Stati Uniti e Messico. Con il trattato di Guadalupe Hidalgo del 4 luglio 1848, che stabiliva la nuova frontiera tra i due stati, queste proprietà si trovarono in territorio statunitense e parecchie famiglie locali ebbero notevoli difficoltà a farle riconoscere sulla base del nuovo diritto.

Dal punto di vista genealogico è interessante per noi la ripetuta menzione della famiglia Balli, stabilita in Messico sin dal 16° secolo (a questo proposito cfr. Ch. Balli, “I tipografi Balli di Città del

Messico”, in *Annuario della SGFF/SSEG*, 1995, p. 41 – 46). Questa era proprietaria di vari fondi, in particolare di Llano Grande e La Feria, nonché d’una parte consistente di Padre Island. Riferendosi ad un rapporto elaborato dalle autorità spagnole d’allora, l’autrice così precisa: “The Cuervo Report of 1757 had pointed out that a clique of six wealthy families in Reynosa were in control of the jurisdiction. Among these were numbered both the Hinojosa and Ballí (spelled Vallín) families. Not only were they influential in governmental affairs in Nuevo Santander, but as Primitive Settlers, they enjoyed many priority rights among which was a favorable opportunity to secure the coveted approval of the powerful Intendencia in their application for large grants, located eastward toward the Gulf.”

Alla fine del 18° secolo, Llano Grande e La Feria passarono in eredità a Dña. Rosa Maria Hinojosa de Balli. Questa figura di donna molto particolare è così descritta: “The widow of Captain José María Ballí inherited not only land, but prestige and influence ... A remarkable woman of extraordinary strength of character, Dña. Rosa María was forceful and self-disciplined; courageous and valiant; beloved and esteemed, as is reflected in the pride of hundreds of her descendants who claim her as an ancestor. Truly a great matriarch, she made for herself and her sons a very special place in the early-day affairs of the Spanish Jurisdiction of Reynosa. Her pride in her son, Captain Juan José, named for her father; her affection for and gratitude to her son, Padre Nicolas, who became the first priest at Congregación de Refugio (later to become Matamoros); and her concern and anxiety for the family of José María II, also in the Army, was matched by the interest she manifested in all of her relatives, neighbors, and friends. As la *Patrona*, her name appears as a witness to numerous documents filed in Reynosa; also in the church records as *Madrina* (god-mother) to dozens of babies; and her ranches were landmarks to which people invariably measured or described distance, such as “adjoining La Florida” or “north of Ojo de Agua”, the “Baston” or the “Hacienda de la Feria”, etc.”

In appendice, l’opera contiene delle tavole genealogiche relative alla discendenza dei primi coloni, ed in particolare delle famiglie Hinojosa e Balli, nonché la trascrizione di testamenti ed atti giuridici importanti.