

## The Morano Family

Cadiz lies within Andalusia, an area of Spain where bullfighting, flamenco dancing and the guitar originated. Here, too, gypsies are prominent (Sevilla lies just north of Cadiz, the town of which the famous opera Carmen was set.) This region sets itself apart from the rest of Spain because it was here that the Moors remained the longest — for more than seven hundred years before the Christians expelled them.

“When the Moors last stronghold was captured, in 1492, Christians wept along with the Moors, aware that a civilization superior to their own had been destroyed,” according to the “Fielding Spain” guide. “Al Andalus had possessed the greatest library in the world, and had nurtured the Jewish philosopher Maimonides and the Aristotelian philosopher Averroes. It had developed and maintained both sewage systems and public baths, none of which existed elsewhere in Europe...

“The Moors had introduced citrus trees and rice. They cultivated the olive — first brought to Spanish shores by the Greeks — still Andalusia’s most important crop. They appropriated the Roman horseshoe arch for major buildings, and adopted Roman ideas in domestic architecture to produce the typical — then as now — Andalusian home.”

Cadiz was founded as a port named Gadir by the Phoenicians on an isthmus that stretches three miles out on the bay. It has remained a port city for three thousand years, including the day when ships sailed from its shores to the New World. Columbus sailed from Cadiz, and Ferdinand and Isabella chose nearby Granada as their retirement spot.

Cadiz, according to the Fielding guide, is filled with “whitewashed houses, with turrets, lining narrow streets that let into lovely squares. Along the sea, north and east, gardens invite promenades.”

Cadiz, like the Andalusia region, boasts of fertile land, a balmy climate and the highest peak in Spain in the Sierra Nevada mountains.

It was during Ferdinand and Isabella's reign that Tomas de Torquemada, the notorious Spanish Inquisitor, convinced Isabella to expel Spain's Jewish minority. The Spanish Jews had been valuable, educated citizens, but Torquemada convinced Isabella that they were eating Christian babies and seducing Christians into their religion. Jews were given the option of leaving Spain without their possessions or convert. Thousands were deported.

The Jews who converted, but secretly worshiped Judaism in some form, were called Marranos. "Webster's Collegiate Dictionary" defines a Marrano as "a Christianized Jew of medieval Spain." "The Dictionary of Surnames" defines the name of Moreno as a nickname for someone with dark hair and swarthy complexion or Jewish. Whether the Moranos of Louisiana were originally persecuted Jews can only be guessed at; it is certain that the Moranos of Louisiana were devout Catholics.

Christoval Morano was born in 1792 in Port Real, Andalusia, Spain, three centuries after his namesake left Cadiz for America. Christoval was the son of Juan Morano and Catalina Gutierrez. Like Columbus, Christoval also headed east from Cadiz, however, this time for the former Spanish colony of Louisiana in 1820. He landed in New Orleans, the largest city in Louisiana, now an American state, listing his occupation as caulker.

On April 3, 1830, Christoval Morano married French-born Marie Victoire Justine Herpin, daughter of Mathurin Herpin and Marianne LeRoux, natives of Havre de Grace, France. Victoire was born in 1800, first marrying Pierre Teynat (Cenat). Before Teynat's death, they had a daughter named Marie Julie Teynat, born 1821, who married Joseph Sarniguet. Victoire died on July 6, 1870 and was buried the next day in St. Louis Cemetery No. 3 (Diane Quick). Christoval

died on June 5, 1842 (State Archives 9/308) and is buried in St. Louis Cemetery, No. 2.

Their children, all born in New Orleans, were:

1. Jean Ramon Theodore Morano, born Sept. 15, 1822, who married Marie Solomee Kellermann (daughter of Christian Charles Kellerman, b. 1804 and Marguerite Louise Clement of France, b. June 1830) in 1848 in New Orleans and died in Jan. 31, 1873 (State Archives 57/129, lists him as Jean Raymond Theodore Morano). Marie Kellerman died Jan. 22, 1922, in New Orleans<sup>1</sup>.

2. Emmanuel Alexandre Morano, born in 1826, who married Marie Louise Emelie Bertel on May 15, 1848, then Elizabeth Oates, and died July 12, 1872 (State Archives 55/172, list him as Manual A. Morano);

3. Victor Christopher Morano, born Dec. 17, 1829, who married Francoise Aglae Charré on June 17, 1854, and died on March 24, 1888;

4. Marie Virginie Elizabeth Morano, born Feb. 1833, who married Bertrand Lacoste and Hermann Steinmetz, then Joseph Contreras on Aug. 21, 1872, and died Oct. 13, 1892<sup>2</sup>; and

5. Catalina Elizabeth Morano, born Dec. 10, 1830, and died Dec. 15, 1835 (State Archives 5/408, lists her as Marie Catherine Elizabeth Morano and the cemetery records list her as Marie Elizabeth Morano). She is buried in St. Louis Cemetery No. 1.

Victor Morano and Francoise Aglae Charré gave birth to Norbert Alfonse Morano on July 16, 1857, in New Orleans, while living on Morales (later Morais)

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<sup>1</sup> Pedigree chart of Diane Quick of New Orleans

<sup>2</sup> Pedigree chart of Diane Quick of New Orleans

on the corner of Frenchman Street. Norbert married Catherine M. Cordes on May 22, 1884, in New Orleans.

Catherine Cordes is the daughter of John Cordes, born Dec. 7, 1830, in Bremen, Germany, and Caroline Bruns (Brown), born 1833 in Hanover, Germany, who were married in 1852. The Cordes's were a prominent family living at a house on the corner of Royal and Spain streets.

In the 1855 New Orleans City Directory, Spain Street is described as "Spain, 3de, of Pontchartrain railroad, from Levee to woods, s. dt."

John Cordes' granddaughter, Irma Hughes, said this about the home:

"Grandfather's home had about sixteen rooms — this was the Cordes estate known well and he helped so many people in the French Quarter." In another letter, Irma states: "My mother explained all about this estate, was the entire square of ground with stables for horses, also for the carriages used for the family. Had nineteen rooms, also maid quarters in rear, she said the place had a fireplace in each room. My grandfather also celebrated each year the fire department and all engines and family were invited in the home. My mother was about nine years old, her part in the celebration. She had to welcome everyone from the top gallery. She said all the engines and firetrucks would drive in the big gate Royal at entrance, a regular parade. The estate was decorated in colors. I'm sure the fire department would have a record of this celebration as it was called the fireman's celebration."

In addition to Catherine, John and Caroline Cordes had the following children:

1. Caroline Cordes, who married Michael Bayley in 1886 and had the following children (Caroline died July 21, 1925 and Michael Bayley, March 16, 1910):

- a. Alice Bayley, who married Ed Walsh, then Albert Solis and died Nov, 15, 1962.
  - b. Edna, who died Oct. 13, 1930.
  - c. John Bayley
  - d. Lucy Bayley , who died March 18, 1915.
  - e. Morris Bayley
2. Johanna Francesca Cordes, born Oct. 24, 1872, who married Thomas R. Hughes (son of Richard Hughes and Hanah O'Hara of Ireland), moved to California in 1927 and had the following children (Johanna died Feb. 10, 1947 and Thomas Sept. 23, 1927):
- a. Edwin T. Hughes, born Feb. 8, 1901 and who married moved to California in 1917, married Lois Crovetti (born April 13, 1911) and died in 1975.
  - b. Irma Magdalene Hughes, born March 23, 1899, married Andrew Louis Buuck on Aug. 31, 1918, and had Evelyn (born June 14, 1919) and Andrew Buuck (born May 11, 1921 and served in the Navy in World War II). Irma worked with the May Company in Los Angeles for 48 years as a manager in the eclisiastical bureau. In 1935, she purchased Mary Pickford Studios – nine room, three bath bungalo removed from Samuel Goldwyn Studios to 131 N. Craft Ave. in Hollywood.
  - c. Lloyd Hughes, born July 17, 1911 and who died in a Japanese concentration camp in the Phillipines during World War II. Lloyd worked in miniature sets and stage settings for the Hollywood studios.

- d. Lucille A. Hughes, born Feb. 2, 1905 and moved to California in 1924 and married Oliver Wendel McNutt, born Sept, 7, 1895. Lucille served as chief telephone operator for 24 years.
  - f. Harold Richard Hughes, served in Army during World War I, married Lulu Bell. Was chief police of Samuel Goldwyn Studios in Hollywood for 26 years. Harold died April 22, 1903.
  - g. Milton Hughes, who died in infancy.
3. Twin girls who died at birth.
  4. Elizabeth, died at age 12.
  5. Leontine McCarty, who was not birth related but was taken in by the Cordes' after the death of her mother when she was 13. Leontine later inherited a rooming house at 836 Rampart Street from Harry Ramos. When she died on Oct. 23 (24?), 1927, Leontine passed on the property to Paul F. Dastugue Sr. and Regina Morano. Leontine's body was later moved to a vault (#12, Range 4, De La Vergne Alley, Section N – note by Paul F. Dastugue Jr,) on Oct. 11, 1928.

Irma Hughes remembered Leontine in a letter to Paul Dastugue Jr.: “Yes, Paul, I enjoyed all about the great fire fuss and I have known all about Harry Ramos since I was five years old – and knew the entire set-up about the old Creole rooming house on 728 N. Rampart St. I spent many of my childhood days until my teenage there. I love Leontine McCarty and she wanted to have my own bedroom there for years, all my vacations were there with her and all said about Harry Ramos was true, he was a perfect gentleman and very dear to me.

“Now about Leontine, she lost her mother and father at an early age. My grandfather knew about her being alone, no one to care for her — he brought her in his estate on Royal and Spain. It was the entire Royal block including the other street...Grandfather Cordes raised her with his three daughters, your

[grand]mother Katherine, #2 daughter Caroline and my mother Johanna, the youngest. They all loved Leontine like a sister.

“Paul, I am surprised your mother didn’t ever mention Leontine in your later years, now all of this happened before you were born. I met you when you were 11 years old on one of my trip from out here (California).

“Leontine was the manager of this rooming house after she was in her late teens while Ramos owned the property which I knew of every room and apartments in the building. He had the big bedroom in front of the hall. Paul, this place had three floors. I was so young as I said, 5 or six years old, now 83 years old, but I can remember every inch of that place. I am the only one left to write and prove it.

“When he passed away the place was left to Leontine — your mother and dad became close friends and Aunt Lena told me the place was in his will to go to your mother. She sold the 728 Rampart St. after two years as it was too much for her to handle. I know Leontine had three servant quarters along with two apartments. The kitchen was downstairs off a place about a block long. We used to skate up and down that long yard — the food was sent up from the kitchen. They had I think called the dump elevator opened in this big lovely dining room.

“Paul, some day I’ll be happy to tell you more about the place and dear Mr. Ramos. He was such a dear person to me. And this was, I suppose, when I was a child and he was middle age.

“I was there in New Orleans when Leontine passed away. I came out here in 1925 for a short stay with Ed, my brother. Had my son with me and had to leave as my father was quite ill. Evelyn was with my parents then. I was divorced in 1927.”

Caroline Cordes died on Nov. 27, 1903 and John Cordes died on Dec. 15, 1900, at the age of 70, both buried in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery in a tomb on the Piety Street side of Fourth Alley. John Cordes' obituary reads as follows:

“John Cordes

Death of One of the City's Veteran Merchants.

John Cordes, one of the most prominent citizens of the Third district, and at one time one of the best known business men of New Orleans, was buried yesterday afternoon from his resident, No. 1207 Press Street. Mr. Cordes died Saturday evening, and the funeral took place yesterday afternoon at 3. The interment was in the cemetery of St. Vincent de Paul.

John Cordes was born in Bremen, Germany, Dec. 7, 1830. He came to this country and to New Orleans when a young man, and went into business. He built up rapidly, and was for many years a partner of Mr. Lochte in the wholesale grocery business. The firm dissolved some years ago, and for some time past Mr. Cordes has been in the feed business. He has been in ill health for the last two years, and during the last two weeks he grew rapidly worse.

Mr. Cordes was married forty-eight years ago to Miss Caroline Brown, of this city, and she and three married daughters and thirteen grandchildren survive him. The daughters are Mrs. Norbert Morano, Mrs. Michael Bailey and Mrs. Thomas Hughes.

Mr. Cordes was ever upright and conscientious in his affairs. He was charitable far beyond his means, a loving, devoted father and husband, and a friend who will be sincerely mourned. Mr. Cordes was a member of the New Lusitanos Benevolent Association.”

Catherine Cordes and Norbert Morano had the following children (from the Louisiana State Archives and the files of Ruth Carnley of Ocean Springs, MS):

1. Regina Elenora Morano, born July 7, 1892 (State Archives 4/866), who married Paul F. Dastugue Sr. on Oct. 15, 1913. Regina died April 8, 1972. They had the following children:

a. Paul Fernand Dastugue, Jr., born Feb.12, 1928

2. Irene Morano, who married Stanley Sintes on June 17, 1922. They had the following children:

a. Stanley Sintes Jr.

b. Audrey ??? (Mrs. John Wingrave Dale)

3. Stella Amelia M. Morano, born Aug. 8, 1895, who married Shelton Ridell. Stella died Sept. 7, 1981. They had the following children:

a. Maynard "Nookie" Ridell, born April 3, 1923, who died in an army training accident in Oklahoma during World War II.

4. Victor Williams Morano, born July 18, 1890 (State Archives 90/603), who married Cleo Picheloup on Feb. 10, 1915 and died Aug. 29, 1968. They had the following children:

a. Claire Irene Morano, born Feb. 20, 1917

5. Leo Morano, born Feb. 18, 1885, who married Fred Tiedeman and died May 20, 1950;

6. Emile John Morano, born Oct. 11, 1887 (State Archives 85/1019), who married Louise Andre Charbonet. They had the following children<sup>3</sup>:

a. Emile John Morano Jr. (Milo), born Aug. 30, 1913, married Mildred Classen on June 19, 1940;

b. Paul Avila Morano, born May 20, 1918, married Lois Morano on Jan. 26, 1943 and died June 18, 1975;

c. Norbert Laurent Morano, born May 22, 1915 and died May 15, 1988.

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<sup>3</sup> Family chart of Ruth Carnley, Ocean Springs, Miss., daughter of Paul Morano

- d. Joseph Oswald Morano, born April 5, 1920, married Ruby Landry on April 22, 1948 and died July 5, 1961; and
- e. Marie Anne Morano, born Sept. 14, 1916, and died Jan. 21, 1979.

Catherine Cordes Morano died on Jan. 20, 1924, at the age of 64.

Norbert Morano died on April 17, 1921, at age 63. He was buried in St. Louis No. 3 on April 18, 1921. His last place of residence was 3137 Maurepas St. At his death he is survived by his mother and children.