

FAMILY HISTORY SYNOPSIS

Prepared by Domingo Galdós

Galdós Family

My **great-grandfather** Domingo Galdós arrived in Cuba from the Canary Islands of Spain in the XIX century. Domingo was part of the same family as the renowned Spanish writer Don Benito Perez-Galdós. He established himself in the Province of Matanzas (Central Cuba) where he became a landowner and prominent businessman. One of his several children was my grandfather Domingo Galdós.

During the war of Independence my great-grandfather played an important role funding and promoting the struggle against the Spanish Colonial Government in Cuba. As a result the authorities threatened him and his family. He then sent my grandfather Domingo and his sisters to study in the United States where they would be safe and free. Subsequently my great-grandfather had to flee Cuba and settled in California with his family.

By 1896 my grandfather Domingo had graduated as a Civil Engineer and began working but also collaborating with other Cubans who lived in the United States. He became one of Cuban Independence leader José Martí's most trusted friends and advisors. After the independence he returned to Cuba with all his family. In Cuba his main business were the Cuban railroads, which he controlled and merged in the nineteen twenties into a monopoly under the name of Consolidated Railroads of Cuba (*Ferrocarriles Consolidados de Cuba*).

In Cuba my grandfather had eight children, one of which was my father Domingo Galdós, born in 1907 in Havana. My father and his three brothers were sent to study at the University of Virginia. My father studied Civil Engineering, my uncle Tomás law, my uncle Jorge architecture and my Uncle Eugenio medicine. All returned to Cuba after completing their studies in Charlottesville, Virginia.

My brother and I were born in Havana and in 1960 were sent alone to the United States by our parents. My father was in the resistance

movement and was fearful that the dictatorship would jail and kill us. My parents felt that even if they were not to see us ever again, my brother and I would live in freedom here in America. Fortunately both my parents and many other relatives were able to escape later.

We had nothing but we all worked and studied hard and moved on. Eventually my brother went to Marquette University in Milwaukee, then to the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and earned his PhD at MIT in Cambridge. He became a scientist who worked for many years at MIT's Lincoln Labs, NASA and the Air Force. I went to Fordham, the New School and NYU and spent all my life in international business and finance including seven years as controller for a unit of the City of New York under Ed Koch's Administration.

Solaún Family

The Solaún brothers arrived from Spain to Cuba in the XIX century. They settled in Western Cuba where they became owners of a large tobacco plantation which sold its cigars under the "H Upmann" brand. My grandfather was one of the Solaún brothers and he had eight children one of which was my mother Hortensia Solaún.

In 1960 my grandfather (on my mother's side) José Solaún fled Cuba for the United States together with all his family.