



Integration of Family History into National History, a Proposal Developed in Puerto Barrios, Izabal.

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Much of the difficulty encountered in the study of history, in educational centers, consists in the methodological separation between national history and individual identity. Thus, there is a division between what has happened in official history and what directly concerns the individual. History is presented as a phenomenon of “the others”, being “other people” those who participate in culture, arts, politics, social changes. that makes them unique and unrepeatable and that allows them, at a given moment in the past, to insert themselves in the national history in a truthful and experiential way, so that, from being of “the others”, it becomes “our” history. Generally, this type of

information is found in the oral tradition of each family nucleus and is kept by some of the members. Therefore, the way to recover this information and prevent its disappearance is identical to any oral collection procedure.

This article presents a proposal carried out in Puerto Barrios, Izabal, in August 2006 and October 2007, in which an approach was made to family history as a way of interpreting its insertion in national history. This proposal was made by the author in response to the manifest need of people to identify themselves with the history of their locality and, subsequently, with national history since, although they are not aware of it, this history affects them. In this sense, the study focused on the oral tradition that families have preserved over time and that has been transmitted from generation to generation, until it was compiled thanks to 107 people expressing some historical event in which one of their members participated in the past. In other words, their family history as a means of integration into national history.

The informants gathered information among their family members to answer two questions posed by the researcher: “When did your family arrive in Puerto Barrios?” and “How did your family

participate in the development of the port?” The attitude of the informants to these questions appeared very positive and the answers were multiple, so recognition is made for their kind participation.

As for the main addressees of this article, they are the teachers who teach social sciences in the Guatemalan environment since, when conducting the research, it could be verified that a true and authentic interest was generated among the participants to broaden the knowledge of local and national history¹. Respecting the informants, the families are indicated by number, except in some cases in which, due to the relevance of the incidents reported, the names of the characters were kept.

THE SURROUNDING.

The population was established on December 5, 1895, by a Decree of the government of José María Reyna Barrios, which ordered the foundation “between the river of *El Estrecho*, the *Escondido* River and the *Bahía del*



Of the 107 people who participated, just the (0.09%) showed indifference and, according to cross-references, this indifference was related to conflicts with another member of the group, a close relative. The context in which the proposal was carried out had all the characteristics of a teaching practice, as an authentic everyday classroom. A background to this article is found in *SITTON, Thad, George Mehaffy y/o Davis Jr: Historia Oral. Una guía para profesores (y otras personas). Fondo de Cultura Económica, México, 1989.*

Santo Tomás... with the name of Puerto Barrios”. The ceremony for the creation of the port was attended by the President; the Secretary of State in the Office of War, Próspero Morales; the Departmental Political Chief, Salvador Polanco; the contractor of the Northern Railroad, Sylvanus Millar, Felícito Leiva, J. M. Omerlinck, Víctor Cottone, Ignacio Berdúo, Felipe Pineda, J. R. Prentice and other officials, who signed the act of foundation, with the purpose of turning the population into the point of entry of commerce through the Caribbean Sea. A year later, it was declared Puerto Mayor de la República².

The importance of the port increased when, in 1908, the Northern Railroad was inaugurated, which communicated it with Guatemala City. Also, in 1920, it was established as the head of the department of Izabal. The original population was scarce and its population was stimulated with the distribution of lots. This procedure was repeated in 1928, 1941 and since its inauguration in 1954³, so there was a constant influx of people to settle in Puerto Barrios.



2 GALL, Francis (Compilador): *Diccionario Geográfico Nacional*. Tipografía Nacional, Guatemala, 1973.

3. 1b

FAMILY ORAL TRADITION.

The data provided by the participants in this work are diverse. For this reason, some incidents are recounted.

Family 1

According to the accounts provided, the members of this family relate the arrival of their ancestors to Puerto Barrios in 1945 and 1948. According to the references of their elders, their family was originally from the department of Zacapa. The great-grandmother of the family had to flee Zacapa after her husband was killed by orders of Jorge Ubico's government. According to her references, the great-grandmother was born in 1908 and had four children.

Family 2

The informant of this family relates: "My grandfather was from Hungary and my grandmother from Guatemala", specifically from Jutiapa. According to the information gathered from older relatives, the grandparents "went to live in El Salvador and my parents came to Guatemala to live in Río Hondo, Zacapa, because of the armed conflict in El Salvador". As a consequence of this migration "my brothers and I are from Guatemala". Therefore, the migration of this family is after 1970, the year of the beginning of the Civil War in that country.

Family 3

According to the data collected by this family, the first ancestor who arrived in Puerto Barrios came from Greece. According to the son, the father "was born on May 18, 1931 in Litochoron Katerini, Greece, came to Guatemala in 1950 as a sailor, ship captain. He was an instructor of many former naval combatants of the National Defense Navy". According to his father's surviving memories, he did this job because if he did not, "he was considered a communist". Later, "he stayed in Guatemala in the 70's and 80's, as a crew member of the Guatemalan Merchant Fleet, Flomerca. He married my mother, originally from Atescatempa, Jutiapa. They founded Club Bar Europa, in 1965, and Europa Hotels, C. A., in 1978". The informant adds that his father was "a pioneer in the marine and tourist instruction of the region. He died at the age of 58, on March 25, 1990".

Family 4

The origin of one branch of this family is in Gualán, Zacapa, whose members, born in 1920 and 1915, moved to Quiriguá, first, and to Puerto Barrios in 1940. The other branch, originally from Usumatlán, Zacapa, also migrated to Quiriguá, due to the bananera activity.

The unified family moved to Puerto Barrios in 1975.

Family 5

This family has a European origin. According to the informant, her grandfather “was born in Riveira, La Coruña, Spain, on January 28, 1911. He had 4 siblings”. He went through a difficult time in his place of origin: “He lived through the Spanish Civil War and suffered the separation of his family, as there were members on both sides. Then he lived through the Second World War, he fought as a soldier in Arras, he saw how his comrades got dark and did not wake up alive. He was on the Death Train, but was saved. During those days his hair turned White”. After those times of crisis: “He got married and had a son, but he had to flee because of Franco’s persecution⁴. When he returned, his wife had died of pneumonia and left the child with some aunts and uncles. Fleeing from Franco, three brothers left on a ship for Argentina”. Apparently, he began a period of greater tranquility: “He had the opportunity to travel on a ship all over the Pacific and so he arrived at the port of San José. As he was the son of a fisherman, he looked for the Atlantic coast and settled first in Livingston and then in Puerto Barrios.



4. After the Spanish Civil War, Francisco Franco ruled that country from 1936 to 1975. His government and followers are known as “franquistas”.

In 1949 his brother was appointed to make a study of the bay of Amatique and navigation charts, in which José helped him; he was the first captain of the presidential boat and wrote a book about the bay”. The adventures did not end there for the grandfather, who “bought a shrimp boat, called Tiki. In 1951 he was naturalized” as a Guatemalan, but because of his activities and his way of thinking “he was branded a communist and an arms dealer, he was imprisoned and fled hiding in a bus to the Zacapa crossing. His Guatemalan wife was pregnant and, when they searched the house, they did not find the weapon he had, because he hid it in a sewing bench”. The political persecution ended and “together they had three children. She came to own a hotel. She died of a heart attack on October 28, 1995”.

Family 6

Also of Spanish origin, the history of the female branch of this family is told by one of its members: “In 1895, my grandfather was born in El Berrón, a Spanish province north of Barcelona. He grew up in Spain, but at the time of the Civil War, his father decided to ship him to America. My grandfather fled his native country and together with other boys arrived in Mexico City, where a family took him in. Then, he decided to travel to Guatemala, together with the Bonifasi, the Botran, the Echeverria and others. My grandfather

stayed in Huehuetenango, where he became a coffee grower while the others looked for other activities. There he met my grandmother, who was the daughter of two Spaniards who had been living in Guatemala for several years. They had 12 children, among them my mother, who was born in Huehuetenango and later moved with her parents and siblings to Guatemala City for study purposes”. As for the paternal branch, the informant relates: “My father’s family descends from Spaniards who lived in Guatemala. My great-grandmother founded a school in Guatemala City, El Sagrado Corazón, my great-grandfather was a cattle rancher. They had six children, among them my grandfather, who married a young woman from Escuintla. My dad moved to Guatemala City and met my mom where they both worked. They got married, had three children, including me. We lived in Guatemala City and met my husband there, got married and moved to Costa Rica and four years ago we moved to Puerto Barrios. Only God knows how long we will be living in this place”.

Family 7

The informant of this family relates that: “It was in 1952” when his father “came to Puerto Barrios, Izabal, from Tierra Colorada, Chiquimula. While he was already here in Puerto Barrios, he met my dear mother, also born in Tierra

Colorada, Chiquimula, a hard-working woman dedicated first to butchering and later, with time, she started her basic grains business, which to this day is still her livelihood. Soon after they met and married”, in 1972.

Family 8

One of the traditional lastnames in the Zacapa area is Chacón. The informant of this family, resident in Puerto Barrios, indicates: “In the 1950s, my uncles came from the village of La Pepesca, Rio Hondo, Zacapa, settling here in Puerto Barrios. They dedicated themselves to the basic grains business, which we have all done. From there to date, my family has extended, all my cousins have married, the family has extended” and they have dedicated themselves to commerce. “My cousins have married, they all have children and each one has formed their own family.” As she was able to observe: “My uncles are” [they have] *Cédula de Vecindad* “R-19, de Zacapa, and all my cousins and I are”, [we have] *Cédula* “Q-18”.

Family 9

The description of this informant narrates: “My [paternal] grandfather was originally from the capital city, my grandmother is originally from the city of Quetzaltenango”. While “My mother is originally from Jalpatagua”. The parents “met in the capital city,

when my mother worked as a nurse at the Roosevelt Hospital”. They married and migrated to Puerto Barrios in the 1960s. At the beginning of the following decade, my father founded “the Almar shipping company and was one of the first shippers in Santo Tomás and Puerto Barrios, and my mother continued her nursing career in Puerto Barrios until 2005, when she retired”. The informant, in turn, emigrated to “Los Angeles, graduated from High School and, at Glendale College, in 1999, I began my career as a commercial diver in the Gulf of Mexico installing and repairing oil rigs, in early 2005 I decided to emigrate back to my homeland, St. Thomas de Castilla, where I founded the company Multiservicios del Norte, where we repaired dry and refrigerated containers for COBIGUA”.

Family 10

Between memories and experiences, the informant relates: “My grandparents lived in Zacapa in 1948. There began to be a shortage of work and therefore of food, so my grandfather got a cayuco or canoe and, accompanied by a cousin of his, traveled to Izabal along the banks of the Motagua River. They were dedicated to fishing and hunting. They arrived at a small village called Mixco, which is located in Quiriguá, near the Mico

Mountains. My grandfather said that there were many wild animals and game there. In 1958, my grandfather was traveling along the Motagua River and came to a place where he could harvest corn, beans, yucca, plantains and some vegetables. So he brought the whole family with him. Then, they settled in a region near the *BANDEGUA* farms where they lived until his death at the age of 83. I lived there until I was 8 years old and then we moved here to Puerto Barrios in 1979, since then my family and I have lived here”.

Family 11

The information collected by this informant are very illustrative of the migration process by generations: “My family migrated to Puerto Barrios for lack of job opportunities and the crops were not good at that time. My great-great-grandmother on my mother’s side lived in Chiquimula until 1930, she came here looking for a better life for her family. At that time there was President Jorge Ubico⁵. My great-grandmother lived in Chiquimula and she came, in 1948, to the village of Virginia, belonging to the municipality of Morales, Izabal, where she lived teaching as an Elementary school



5 President Jorge Ubico governed between 1931 and 1934.

teacher. My grandmother, also originally from the department of Chiquimula, came to Puerto Barrios in 1952. My grandfather on my father's side was originally from Asunción Mita, Jutiapa. He came to Puerto Barrios in 1952 to look for a better way of life for his children. He worked on a farm called Labacá, now Chinook. My father, originally from Asunción Mita, Jutiapa, came to Puerto Barrios, Izabal, in 1977 and has lived here ever since".

Family 12

The history of this family is told by an informant: "My family on my father's side: my great-grandfather with his mother (my great-great-grandmother) and his two brothers and one sister were originally from Honduras and came to Puerto Barrios in the late 1800's. My great-grandfather was a justice of the peace in Puerto Barrios. My great-grandfather was a justice of the peace in Puerto Barrios. The family was trusted as they were teachers among the population that in 1895 was founded and created as a city by General Jose Maria Reyna Barrios. My great-grandfather was appointed as the first mayor of the city. So my grandfather was born and grew up here in Puerto Barrios. Because of his work in the railroad he travels a lot and marries a lady who lives in Zacapa, who comes to live in Puerto Barrios, but as he always visits his family and here in Puerto Barrios it was very dangerous, he moves to Zacapa to have his first son (my grandfather), born in Zacapa, in 1938, but

raised in Puerto Barrios. My family on my mother's side is originally from Asuncion Mita, Jutiapa. My great grandmother, born in 1910, because of its proximity to El Salvador, moved to Santa Ana, where my grandmother was born and my mother, whose father is Salvadoran, was born in 1950. In 1956 my grandmother moved to Puerto Barrios, looking for a better life and the ease of traveling by railroad. So my mother grew up here in Puerto Barrios until she met my father who already lived here".

Family 13

According to the data collected by the informant: "My grandmother's great-grandmother on her mother's side was Spanish, I don't have much information about her because my family didn't care to know about her. My [maternal] grandmother was born in Gualán, my grandfather in El Júcaro, El Rancho, and they lived in Los Amates, since my grandfather worked in the banana plantation. On my father's side my grandparents were from Zacapa [my grandfather] and Progreso [my grandmother]. They came to Puerto Barrios because my grandfather worked in FEGUA. My parents are: from Puerto Barrios, my father, and Los Amates, my mother. But my mother came to Puerto Barrios to study because she had no future in Los Amates. Here she met my dad when they worked together in a shipping company and

that's how we came to be, my brother, who is currently studying in Guatemala City, and me. My mom has a sister who is in the United States, another in Chiquimula and another in the capital city. My father's family is still here, my aunts live here in Puerto Barrios".

Family 14

The data on this family is related by one of its members: "my great-grandfather, from Madrid, Spain, came to Guatemala and married a Guatemalan, had my grandfather, who married my grandmother and they had 9 children, The grandfather of the other branch of the family is "from 745) among them my dad. Guatemala, whose father was from Norway and mother from Guatemala. He married a Guatemalan and they had 6 children, among them my mom. My father was born in the capital city and my mother, here in Puerto Barrios. My father worked in the Municipal Electric Company, that's how he met my mother, they got married, had 5 children, among them me, who currently lives and studies in this beautiful port".

Family 15

According to this informant: "My family migrated to Puerto Barrios from the border areas of Zacapa with Honduras, they arrived in the 30's. They settled on the shores of what was the dock of Puerto Barrios, customs and important buildings of that time. They settled on the shores of what was the dock of Puerto Barrios,

customs and important buildings of that time, in order to have the opportunity to work on the dock and provide food services in dining rooms that they installed in manaca and bajareque ranches. My grandfather, as head of the family, had learned in the mountains, through books and teachers that my great-grandfather brought him. He learned the telegraph, which at that time was the most important means of communication. My grandfather got a job as a telegrapher in Puerto Barrios and with his salary he sent his son, today my father, to the capital city, where he graduated as an expert accountant, which at that time was equivalent to a degree in economics. In 66 my father participated in politics and won the candidacy of deputy to the Congress, together with Mario Méndez Montenegro, who governed from 66 to 70".

Family 16

About this family, the informant relates: "My great-grandparents on my father's side came from Linares, Spain, and settled in El Progreso, Guastatoya, in 1908. Later, they mixed with the Sánchez Ruiz family and the Álvarez Marroquín family in the area, and that is where my father was born. On my mother's side, I have Q'eqchi'es Mayan roots as my second last name meant turtle (Coc). On my grandmother's side there is Garífuna lineage, since the displacements of Q'eqchi'es from El Estor to Livingston and Río Dulce, around 1954, was when my grandfather arrived to Livingston, until today".

Family 17

The informants of this family indicate that their “grandfather was born in Canton, China, where he spent his childhood and adolescence. At his young age he participated in a war, at the age of 16 he came to Guatemala, during the presidency of Jorge Ubico. In the capital he worked as a packer of beers and beverages, then he worked in Entre Rios and Puerto Barrios. He transported merchandise to different parts of the country. He married a girl born in Mazatenango, of Chinese father and Guatemalan mother, they had 6 children, they lived in Puerto Barrios and that is where we come from”.

Family 18

This informant’s account states: “My father was born in Asunción Mita, Jutiapa; my mother was born in Santa Catarina Mita, Jutiapa. I was born in 1951, I am the second son of 8 siblings all born in Asunción Mita, Jutiapa. I studied up to 20 basic grade and then two courses of mechanics, diesel and gasoline. My father was a transporter and in 1967 he requested a passenger transportation line from the border of El Salvador, San Cristobal, to Puerto Barrios. In 1970 I started working in that transportation line as a pilot and in 1973 I got married here in Puerto Barrios, being the father of four children. In 1980 my father died and in 1982 we sold our transportation line,

staying here in Puerto Barrios to live, traveling to the United States to work as a mechanic in 1988 and in 1990 I brought a vehicle to which I took the rental plates and I became a cab driver. Currently, I own two cabs and work as a mechanic in a garage”.

Family 19

As for the information of this family, the informant reports: “My parents are originally from Rio Hondo, Zacapa, my father traded tomato, sausage, eggs and chickens that he brought from Zacapa to this port, in 1964, when I was four years old they decided to come to this port to live here, because it was good for business. When I was 18 years old I went to Rio Hondo and I got my Cédula, that is why I still have my Cédula R-19, but I have 42 years of living here in Puerto Barrios and 15 years of being a cab driver”.

Family 20

Of Belgian ancestry, this family has historical information that is compiled in a journalistic note, published in *Nuestro Diario*, of Guatemala City, on Thursday, August 17, 1939⁶, Therefore, it is known that they arrived in 1843, in ships of colonists. The Belgian colony



6. Pages 1- 12

was decimated by diseases and bad administration. When the colony was suppressed, 91 people remained in Guatemalan territory, 47 of whom were born in Belgium. Most of them dispersed, but some, like this family, remained in the area of Santo Tomás de Castilla. In the newspaper article, it was noted that: "From father to son, since arriving in St. Thomas, all have married Belgian women. He [the informant in the 1939 newspaper article] is the first who has broken that rule by marrying a Guatemalan", as was also the case with the ancestors of this family.

Family 21

The informant collected basic information on his ancestry. According to the accounts of his relatives, his maternal grandfather came from El Salvador, while his grandmother was originally from Zacapa. In the maternal line, his grandfather came from Tiquisate and his grandmother from Puerto Barrios, whose parents had arrived in the port in 1908.

Family 22

About this family, the informant states: "In 1906 my paternal grandparents come to Puerto Barrios, my grandmother was from El Rancho and my grandfather was from Sansare. They came to make their own life in Puerto Barrios. In 1947 my father was born. In

1960 my parents met; in 1961 they united to form their own family, the second of the three children they had. In 1977 I was born, the second of the three children they had.

Family 23

The story of this family is told by one of its members: "My paternal grandparents were from Ipala, Chiquimula, my grandmother is from Chinchín, Gualán, Zacapa, my father is from Chinchín, Gualán, Zacapa. My maternal grandparents are from Palencia, Guatemala. My mom is from Guatemala City. My mom and dad met in Puerto Barrios, in 1962, they got married there and I was born in Puerto Barrios, along with three brothers. One lives in La Union Zacapa and the others in Puerto Barrios".

Family 24

The information of this family were consigned by a member: "Originally from Guastatoya, El Progreso, I came to work in Puerto Barrios on August 15, 1981, for the presidency of the Republic. My father is originally from Sansare, El Progreso, born in 1924, where he currently resides. My mother was born in Sansare, El Progreso, in 1930, where she currently resides".

Family 25

This family's information shows the constant migrations in the country: “my paternal grandparents are from Cobán, my maternal grandmother is from Quezaltepeque, Chiquimula. My father is from Senahú, Alta Verapaz. My maternal grandparents are from Quezaltepeque. My father and mother met in Río Dulce because they worked there in the construction of the bridge and I was born in Puerto Barrios with 8 siblings, the rest live in Esquipulas”.

Family 26

Another phenomenon related by this informant is related to temporary migration: “My family is from Chiquimula, my grandmother arrived in the 50's to Puerto Barrios, in search of better benefits and began to trade in the market from Chiquimula to Puerto Barrios, being natives of San José La Arada, niece of General Carlos Arana Osorio. That is how my grandmother and my mother arrived to Puerto Barrios and currently returned to their land of origin”.

Family 27

The account of this informant is quite brief: “My parents were originally from Ipala, Chiquimula, arriving in Puerto Barrios in search of a better life in the 1930s. In this port there was abundant

employment by the railroad companies and the United Fruit Co. (Chiquita and Del Monte)”.

Family 28

The informant is the second generation residing in Puerto Barrios: “My family comes from Progreso Guastatoya. My father worked in the banana plantations of Bobos-Motagua, the place where I was born, and later he worked in the National Port Company. My parents are living in El Progreso, where my maternal grandfather, who is 96 years old, is still called and my grandmother is 94 years old”.

Family 29

About this family, the informant states: “I am a third generation descendant of Englishmen who arrived in the country in 1902 to work with the United Fruit Company as a commissary manager in the farms of the Motagua branch, El Pilar farm, and then in 1933 I was transferred to Puerto Barrios where we currently live”.

Family 30

Compiled by the informant, the information of this family is summarized as follows: “Our grandfather came from Hungary and settled in Jutiapa where he married our grandmother who conceived 4 children. The firstborn, with the same name as

his grandfather, came to Santo Tomás de Castilla where he met the grandmother, whom he married and they had two children”.

Family 31

The informant states: “My father is of Zacapaneco origin. He came with the banana fever because my grandfather was a policeman, he was the manager of the Puerto Barrios main store, which was a popular commissariat, he had cargo trucks, several businesses and was a congressional representative in 1996. My mother is Salvadoran, she settled in Puerto Barrios when she was orphaned 30 years ago, she met my father and they worked together in their own businesses”.

Family 32

Also related to the time of President Ubico, this family remembers part of its history as follows, according to the informant: “During the time of Jorge Ubico there was a political problem with my grandmother’s first husband and everyone involved died a violent death. From my grandmother’s second marriage my mother was born in 1946. Everyone who can tell anything about the origins before that only knows about my grandmother’s first family. I was born in 1971 in Puerto Barrios”.

Family 33

The information collected by the informant reveals an interesting story: “On the paternal branch, my great-grandfather was Austrian and my great-grandmother was English. They arrived in Guatemala in 1900, with the United Fruit Company. My grandfather was Guatemalan, married to an English-Honduran woman. My grandmother arrived in Guatemala in 1952. On the maternal side, my great-grandfather was Spanish and my great-grandmother was indigenous. My great-grandfather arrived in 1900. Their daughter, my grandmother, married a German who arrived in Guatemala in 1920. I arrived in Izabal with my husband”.

Family 34

In this family, significant data has been preserved: “My grandfather arrived in Guatemala in 1921, he came from China. In 1922 my father was born.” Currently, the family uses a Spanish surname, but “the change of surname was due to the fact that when Immigration passed, the secretary did not understand the pronunciation. In 1937, my mother was born. They told me that she is the daughter of a German woman who did not give her the last name and the grandmother was originally from Huehuetenango.”

Family 35

Also from several countries, this informant narrates: “My grandfather on his mother’s side was from Nicaragua and my grandmother from Honduras.

On their father's side, they were both from Honduras. My parents were born in Guatemala and, in 1920, they settled in Puerto Barrios."

Family 36

About this family, the informant comments: "My paternal grandparents are from Huehuetenango, my maternal grandparents are from La Unión, Zacapa. My mother is from El Jícaro, El Progreso. My dad is from Puerto Barrios. My mother and father met in Puerto Barrios, in 1973, and they joined their lives and started a family. "My father was a pilot and my mother was a merchant."

Family 37

According to the informant, this family is "Original from Jutiapa." One of his ancestors "was fleeing during Jorge Ubico's time because they wanted to dispossess him of his land in that department. "He has lived in Puerto Barrios since 1973, married and with 4 children."

Other families

Of the other families participating in the work, the information collected is limited to origin. Although some informants relate some anecdotal information, such as this one: "My father was in Matamoros for the Revolution of October 20, 1944, he was

a police officer." An informant points out: "My mother was of mulatto origin, from a family that was of African descent. In 1960, my father, who was Japanese, came to Puerto Barrios and there he met my mother." Another informant adds: "My grandparents were of Honduran origin, my grandfather descended from Don Francisco Morazán." For his part, an informant comments: "My grandparents on my mother's side were Honduran, they were from Gracia, department of Lempira." And, one more, relates: "My mother was born in Jocotán, Chiquimula. My father is from Haiti. "My grandparents originally from Puerto Barrios."

CONSIDERATIONS

Because the exercise that gave rise to this article was fundamentally the stimulus for learning history, it was considered a success, since 99.91% of the participants demonstrated an increase in interest in learning about local and national history, since that the information provided in a classroom was interspersed with that which the family preserved as an oral tradition. On the other hand, in Puerto Barrios and Santo Tomás de Castilla there is a phenomenon that is uncommon in other towns, such as the feeling of being "founders", being among the first settlers. It is likely that this feeling influenced the positive reactions of the participants.

However, it is hoped that this possibility can be confirmed in future research. For now, it is enough to recommend a similar practice to teachers to stimulate a positive reaction in students when learning history.

ANNEXES

Origin of families from Santo Tomás Castilla and Puerto Barrios.

Paternal Origin	Maternal Origin	Year of arrival.	activity/cause
Zacapa	Zacapa	1495-8	
Hungría	Jutiapa		Violence in El Salvador.
Greece.	Atescatempa, Jutiapa	1950	Naval
Gualán, Zacapa	Usumatlán, Zacapa	1940	
	El Progreso, Jutiapa	1948	
Panajachel		1995	Craft

Ipala, Chiquimula	Ipala, Chiquimula	1950	Labor.
	El Jicaro		
Jutiapa		1960	Agriculture
El Rancho, El progreso			
Chiquimula	Germany.		
Chiquimula	Escuintla	1954	
Entre Rios, Izabal			Agriculture
England (African)		1902	UFCo.
Jutiapa	Jutiapa		
Zacapa	El Salvador	1976	Police and Commerce
Zacapa	Zacapa	1958	
Guatemala		2006	Commerce
El progreso	El progreso	1950	
Honduras			
Asunción Mita, Jutiapa		1933	
Tierra Colorada, Chiquimula	Tierra Colorada, Chiquimula	1952	Commerce
La pepesca, Rio Hondo, Zacapa		h. 1950	
Capital	Jalpatagua	h. 1965	Labor.
Zacapa		1958	
	Chiquimula	1930	Labor
Asunción Mita, Jutiapa		1952	Labor
Honduras	Zacapa	1895	Firt Mayor of Puerto Barrios
El Salvador	Asunción Mita, Jutiapa	1956	Labor
Gualán	El Jicaro		Bananera
Zacapa	El Progreso		railway.
Guatemala			Naval
Cobán		1895	
	Zacapa	1965	
Jalapa		h. 1900	

United States (Greece)		1941	Shipping Company
	Chiquimula	1952	
El Progreso		1958	
Zacapa		h. 1930	Commerce, Telegraphy, Politics
El progreso	Cobán	1954	
China	Mazatenango (china)	h. 1950	Commerce
La unión, Zacapa	Santa Rosalia, Zacapa	1950	
Jutiapa	El Progreso	1972	
Ipala, Jutiapa	San Benito, Petén	1965	
Chiquimula	Zacapa	1967	
Concepción las Minas, Chiquimula	Concepción Las Minas, Chiquimula	1960	
Zacapa		1895	
Asunción Mita, Jutiapa	Santa Catarina Mita, Jutiapa	1967	Transport
Rio Hondo, Zacapa		1964	Commerce
	Chinchin, Gualán, Zacapa		
Jesús Maria, Zacapa	Gracia, Lempira, Honduras	1940	
Honduras		h. 1950	
Haiti	Chiquimula		
	Gualán, Zacapa		
San Agustín Acasaguastlán, El Progreso	Hierbabuena, Quezaltepeque, Chiquimula	h. 1970	
	Rio Hondo, Zacapa	h. 1960	
Zacapa		h. 1940	
Huehuetenango	El Jicaro, El Progreso	h. 1970	Commerce and Transport
China	Huehuetenango	1921	
Jutiapa		1969	
Sanrare, El Progreso		1930-1940	
El Progreso		1950	
Peten		1969	
Gualán, Zacapa		1925	
Teculután, Zacapa		1965	
Gualán, Zacapa	Honduras	1990	
	Gualán, Zacapa		
Cuilapa, Santa Rosa	Jalapa	1968	
Zacapa		1964	
Chiquimula			
Jutiapa		1973	
Honduras	Honduras	1920	
Jutiapa			
Jutiapa			
Sanarate			
San José La Arada, Chiquimula	Zacapa		Bananera, Commissariat.
Chiquimula			
Huehuetenango	Zacapa		
Capital			
El progreso	Chiquimula		
Tiquisate	El Salvador	1908	
El Rancho	Sansare	1906	
Ipala, Chiquimula	Palencia	1962	
Sansare	Sanrare	1981	
Zacapa	Zacapa		
Cobán	Quezaltepeque	h. 1980	
	San José La Arada, Chiquimula		
Capital	Boca del Monte, Guatemala	h. 1965	
Ipala, Chiquimula	Ipala, Chiquimula		Bananera and Railway Industry (Employment's opportunities)
Capital	Chiquimula	h. 1950	Employment

Puerto Rico	Zacapa	h. 1955	
Guastatoya			
Jutiapa		h. 1978	
Chiquimula	Chiquimula		
	Capital	1973	
	Bélgica	1843	Migration

Source: 107 Participants

Origin of participating families and residents in Puerto Barrios

Contry	Deparment	Location	Quantity	Amount	Total	
Guatemala	Zacapa	Zacapa	21	37	133	
		Gualán	8			
		Teculután	1			
		Usumatlán	1			
		La Pepesca, Río Hondo	1			
		Río Hondo	2			
		Jesús María	1			
		La Unión	1			
		Santa Rosalía	1			
			Jutiapa			Jutiapa
Atescatempe, Jutiapa	1					
El Progreso, Jutiapa	1					
Agua Blanca, Jutiapa	2					
Asunción Mita, Jutiapa	4					
Santa Catarina Mita, Jutiapa	1					
Jalpatagua	1					
Chiquimula	Chiquimula		12	26		
	Concepción Las minas		2			
	Tierra Colorada		2			
	Ipala, Chiquimula		6			
			San José La Arada	2	20	
			Quetzaltepeque	2		
			El progreso	El Progreso		8
	El Rancho			2		
	El Jicaro			3		
	San Agustín Acasaguastán	1				
	Sansare	4				
	Sanarate	1				
	Guastatoya	1				
	Izabal	Izabal	1	3		
		Entre Ríos	1			
		Li vingston	1			
	Escuintla	Escuintla	2	3		
		Tiquisate	1			
	Sololá	Panajachel	1	1		
	Guatemala	Guatemala	7	9		
		Palencia	1			
		Boca del Monte	1			
	Alta Verapaz	Cobán	3	3		
	Jalapa	Jalapa	2	2		
	Huetenango	Huehuetenango	3	3		
	Petén	Petén	1	2		
San Benito		1				
Santa rosa	Cuilapa	1	1			
Honduras					8	
El Salvador					3	
Haiti					1	

Puerto Rico		1
Japan		1
China		3
Bélgica		2
Germany		1
England		1
Norway		1
Greece		2
Hungria		1
Italy		1
Spain	La Coruña	1
	El Berrón	1
	Madrid	1
Totoal		162

Source: 107 Participants

Years of arrival of families to Puerto Barrios

Years of arrival	Number
1802	1
1843	2
1895 – 1900	4
1901 - 1910	3
1911 – 1920	1
1921 – 1930	5
1931 – 1940	5
1941 – 1950	12
1951 – 1960	14
1961 – 1970	15
1971 – 1980	8
1981 – 1990	1
1991 – 2000	2
2001 – 2006	2
Total	75