

Spanish immigrants

She was born in a tiny village in Jaen called "Beas de Segura" and her life was marked by poverty and hardship, including some periods of starvation and illnesses, especially after the Spanish Civil War.

Maria was brought up in a typical patriarchal family from the south so you can imagine all the restrictions.

She had to endure not only because of her condition of belonging to a poor family but also due to her condition of being a woman in a machist society.

As it was so frequent with women she got married at a Young age and consequently her formation was so quite scarce and moreover giving birth to 5 children did not help her much.

Hers was a humble home where there were few possessions but lots of love.

After the civil war, and as grandfather was only a peasant, they went through a difficult period when one of the powerful men in the area took him off his working fields.

Before this took place, grandmother made up her mind and got on a train leading for Catalonia. Together with her eldest daughter they set off on a cold morning of February.

After many hours on an uncomfortable train they got off at Tortosa's station, penniless but willing to work and looking forward to bringing their family to Tortosa as soon possible.

All in all, in just a few weeks the rest of the family gathered all their belongings and made for Tortosa, so that all the family would be together and they would have a new beginning.

Had it not been for my grandmother's willingness and bravery they would have probably stayed in Andalusia like servants.

However, thanks to her, and despite living at a time when women had no rights.

She managed to capsize the course of the family history, that is why I am so proud of her.



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