



PATRIMONIAL ROUTE OF MASSARROJOS

HISTORY

It seems the historical nucleus started in the muslim period coinciding with the construction of the “Real Acequia de Moncada”. Although, do not exist original documents, it is said that “Alqueria of Massarrojos” was founded in the XI century, with a small number of houses close to their inhabitant’s orchards.

We have news of the original Alqueria as from 1238, with the arrival of Jaime I king, and his armies, the conquest of the kingdom, and the land distribution. With Christians, the old Islamic Alqueria became Royal property. Divided between a small number of outstanding citizens from Barcelona that lived in Valencia City and a big heritage at hands of a noble Aragones Mr. Eiximen Pereç d’Arenos.

In 1251, Eiximen Pereç reached an agreement with Temple’s Order to exchange their heritages in Massarrojos and Benifaraig by Altentosa’s Manor in Teruel. And on October 1st of the same year the Templars granted the village’s charter to five orchard families to live in and work their properties in Massarrojos. Now, in 1320 and after of disappearance of the Temple Order, the mentioned lands passed to the hands of the recent Montesa’s Order set up, which was managed by the Moncada’s jurisdiction until year 1835, when all the Manors disappeared.

The balance of heritages, the already mentioned “royal lands”, were constituted on the “Massarrojos’s site” with the King as a Feudal Lord. The said “Massarrojos’s site” was administered by a “Local council” formed by a justice and a Mustafaz, guarantor of enforcing the foral laws. Between the years 1410 and 1836, Massarrojos was integrated on the “Particular contribución” of Valencia city (Campanar’s Quarter). With the “Nova Planta” decree and the Castilians laws (1707), the old foral public officials were substituted by the ordinary Mayor, with two councilors and a deputy Mayor.

As from 1819 a door is opened for the independence for villages that were inside of the “Particular Contribution” of Valencia City and in the Massarrojos case was effected in 1836 with the constitution of the first Constitutional town hall. However, due to the difficulties to manage economically, on April 14th in 1898, after an agreement with the Provincial government, Massarrojos accepted to be annexed as a district of Valencia City, so it was the end as an independent administration.

Municipal cemetery and the “Via Crucis”

The actual cemetery and the remainings of the “Via Crucis” are since 1926, with the urban growth of the village, it was decided to translate it out of the village.



The old cemetery, with the Montesa Order's approval, was built in 1816 on the lands that are occupied by the school pavilion that at the time was under Moncada's jurisdiction. The actual cemetery has the charm of a village cemetery, where still you can see the burials of the beginning of XX CENTURY (on the ground), old headstones and two mausoleums belonging to the Senent Ibañez and Castellanos's families. To both sides of the main entrance there is a small chapel and a hall to perform autopsies. Among famous people that lie there, it is remarkable to highlight the patriarch of Valencian identity, Nicolau Primitiu Gomez Serrano.

Regarding the calvary, remains remain of masonry of chapels X, XI (that suffered a bad restoration a few years ago) and XII (actually integrated as part of a house and keeps the original structure, has the place where the ceramic was, closed)

Santa Barbara's Quarries

Limestone (in all his variants) has been for centuries the economic engine for the most Massarrojos inhabitants. A good sample of that is the magnificent Bell Tower, raised by the local stonemasons., but, as from many years ago the Massarrojos's quarries have been used to supply of stones to Valencia City and, especially, to build their main monuments. Now, all the quarries remain abandoned. In spite of that still some remains, very interesting, are hidden between buildings, forest, around "Masia de la Cruz", and "The Cansalaer", where still you can see the front of stones and others at ground level that give away all the stone works. Actually in Massarrojos, the easiest to visit are around "Pinar de les Pedreres".

Ceramic altarpieces

Social and religious origin are the ceramic altarpieces at the buildings, we found them in XVIII century, when Valencia city banned to set up devotional altars. These altars, which had been erected since the middle ages, saw the end of their days because they occupied part of the public road (where people stopped to venerate their saints and worship) and because prevented to pass carriages. In Massarrojos still can be seen exterior ceramic altarpieces at the main Square "El Soñador", nr. 5 (To Saint Vicente Ferrer honour) and at Hermana Mercedes Street nr. 13 (at Maria Auxiliadora honour)

The end cross

The End Cross are stone constructions that were placed at the entrance of villages o by the roads, with the intention of giving the welcome and protect to travelers. The origin of these elements can be found at Middle Age with the aim to mark the jurisdictional boundaries of villages.

The End Cross that we find at the entrance of Massarrojos (coming from the Camino Hondo de Borbotó) dated on 1940, this year was rebuilt based on the original one that



was destroyed during Spanish civil war that it used to be placed at the middle of the Church Square.

Road milestones

Between years 1358 and 1836 “Muros y Valladares´council” of Valencia city was in charge of the maintenance of all the royal roads and paths for animals, that provided raw materials to the city. The mentioned institution, through taxes (Sisas reales), used to repair and maintenance all the roads of the “General contribution” , by the placement of milestones that marked the width of the roads (that many times were invaded for the farmers, low steemed). We are talking about rectangular milestones with a superior part in a semicircle that at the front part was the coat of arms of Valencia City. In Massarrojos are preserved three of these milestones by the cemetery.