TRANSLATION OF LETTER WRITTEN IN SPANISH

OBISPO DE MENORCA Ciudadela de Menorca, March 15, 1979

Mr. George Emery Baya - Tampa, Florida

Very distinguished sir: I received your letter of past February 21, together with the check for $30.00. Many thanks.

With pleasure I have busied myself in the genealogical investigations which you requested about your ancestors. Pardon that I write you in spanish, since my english is very deficient. Without doubt you will find there a good translator.

As you will see by the genealogical line below, your name has presented various spellings. The original form is "ABELLA", which in the catalonian language signifies "abeja" [footnote]. This word has received through the times various spellings: Abaya, Abeya, Baya, Beya, Veya and Vea.

As you will also see in the genealogy, it is not certain that Antonio Vea might have come from Corsica; the family was already settled in Alayor, Menorca, from near a century. Jose Abella Cillas (great grandfather of Antonio) was born in the town of San Feliu de Llobregat, which is very near Barcelona and San Feliu de Guixols.

In the genealogical line which follows, the name Abella is written according to the different printings, as we find in the documents.

I have not put the dates of death, because its search involves difficulty and time, and ought to be the object of another study.

GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY A B E L L A (later Baya)

1. Jose Abella lived in the catalonian town of San Feliu at the middle of the seventeenth century. He was married to Juana Cillas.

2. His son Jose Abella Cillas, native of San Feliu (Catalonia) came to reside in the island of Menorca and settled in the town of Alayor, where on December 15, 1689, he married Agueda Riudavets Olivar, born in the same Alayor February 18, 1652; she was the daughter of Pedro and Margarita, and widow of Antonio Fanals Mestre.

3. His son Jose "Abaya" Riudavets was born probably in San Feliu, in the house of his paternal grandparents, since his baptism record is not found in the books of Alayor; but he resided in said minorcan town, where he married on November 12, 1713, Maria Pellicer Canovas, born in Alayor on November 28, 1694, daughter of Mathias and Catalina.

4. His son Jose "Beya" (in the baptism record) "Abeya" (in the marriage record) and "Abeyà" in the death record) Pellicer, was born in Alayor on October 21, 1716. On December 27, 1738 he married in the same place Juana Andreu Jover, born in Alayor October 16, 1718, daughter of Antonio and Juana. Jose Abeyà died in Alayor March 25, 1756.

5. His son Antonio "Beya" (baptised) "Baya" (marriage) was born in Alayor on January 4, 1747. On March 16, 1768, a few days before setting sail for Florida in the Turnbull expedition, he married in

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I hope the information which I have given may be to your liking.

I remain your affectionate servant and friend.

/S/ Fernando Marti, Rev.

Archivero Diocesano de Menorca
Pedro Cortés, 2.
Ciudadela, Menorca, Baleares.

Footnote by translator: The spanish word "abeja" translates in english "bee"; "abeja de miel" is "honeybee".