



PROJETO ACERVO: INFORMAÇÕES HOSPITAIS COLÔNIAS

1 – Name of the institution: Santa Marta - Goiás

2 – Historical Overview:

The colony dates its origins back to October of 1937, when Senator Canedo sold an area of 73 *alqueires* to the State, according to the written record. Senator Canedo was a Hansen's patient and, in that time period, he was obligated to isolate himself in one of the colonies. At the time, there were colonies in Gerais Minas Gerais, Maranhão and São Paulo. Since Senator Canedo was a rich man who possessed many lands, he sold this area to the State and signed an agreement: the State would construct a colony there and he would not need to go to another state to be interned. In this way, he was able to stay on his own hacienda.'

The colony was officially founded in January 1943, with the arrival of a team from Minas Gerais, under the command of Dr. Mário Puri. The team was made up of four doctors, a technician, and a nurse. In September of the same year, Padre Rodolfo Tellman joined the team, bringing with him three nuns of St. Vincent's order: Sister Mourão, Sister Luiza Ventura and Sister Natália.

At this time, the status of the colony was extremely precarious. The kitchen had no roof; there were nine overflowing dormitories, with up to four patients in each room. Wounds were attended to as patients sat on the sidewalk. There were also an enormous amount of children with Hasen's disease. Later, a school was constructed in the colony, where the children attended, wearing pants made of sacks of sugar died blue, and white shirts made of sacks of flour.

Until the end of the 1950s, the number of people to attend to the needs of patients did not grow, but the number of patients did, and rapidly.

When someone was diagnosed with Hansen's disease, an official went to look for them and their family, in a Ford that was popularly known as *onça* (jaguar). The terror of being sent to the colony caused patients to hide themselves, and subsequently to be hunted and driven in the "jaguar".

The colony was divided into two areas: the area of the helath, and the

area of the sick. When a new patient arrived, he passed through the healthy zone in order to undergo a triage, and was then taken into isolation. Relatives, especially children, that were suspected of having the disease, were isolated for a few days until a proper diagnosis could be performed.

Isolation was called “observation.” In this olcation, patients waited to be deemed “healthy” or “sick.” If they were determined to be sick, they went to the leprosarium. If they were healthy, they were freed, but were still marked and persecuted by discrimination. The healthy children were separated from their parents and sent to a house in the Fama neighborhood, the Preventório Afrânio de Azevedo.

Many tears were shed during the separation of mothers and children, husbands and wives, relatives and friends. The patients as well as the employees cried, having never gotten used to the sight of so much suffering, of seeing people lose everything and oblgiated to live as recluses.

The pain of the stigma was so strong that, at the time, that two patients chose to poison themselves.

With the passage of time, new directors, new health professionals, and new buildings, the colony began to more closely resemble a “city.” There was a city hall, a jail, schools, a club and bars. These remained isolated from the “healthy city” by barbed wire and bushes of ragweed.

Among the interned, new binds of affection began to form. Children that were born of these relationships were taken from their parents the day they were born to the Preventório Alfredo de Azevedo, administered by the Sociedade Eunice Weaver. According to the register, between 1943 and 1949, 207 children were taken to the *preventório*. From 1959 to 1960, 135 childrens were taken there.

Due to the distant location of the colony and the prejudice surrounding the disease, employees found the need to live close to the hospital, which led to the construction of houses in the surrounding area.

Due to the generosity of local farmers, there was abundant food for patients and employees.

The patients that recovered left the Hospital and the dormitories, to the houses in the “Danger Zone” of the colony. They remained there, due to the failure of reintegrating into society and their families. Later, they began to occupy Vila São João and Margarida Procópio, areas that were surrendered to the colony, so that the patients would begin to live there and the colony would begin to come to an end. However, many people constructed their houses and later sold them, returning to the colony. Of the 73 original *alqueires* of land, today the colony consists of only 23.

Situation Today

The Santa Marta Colony is today the Santa Marta Hospital of Sanitary Dermatology and Rehabilitation- HDS, with departments in medicine, nutrition, biomedicine, psychology, social work, orthodontistry, and physical therapy. It has a diaper factory, a pharmacy, a shoe store, a bazar, and a arts and crafts house.

The current director, Mr. Wolf Moreira de São Geraldo, who has been in power for one year, has been overseeing reforms in order to preserve the physical structure of the colony, with the help of IPHAN. The buildings are designed to conform to laws of accessibility. Still to be inaugurated: the Colony Radio and the reformation of the hospital.

Information about Documents and Memories

4 -Type of documentation:

(x) textual (x) Iconographic (x) bibliographic () oral

() other: specify: _____

5 - Appr. quantity of documents: (units; boxes of archives; volumes; *specify maximum*)

1. Textual: 16

2. Iconographic: 7

3. Bibliographic 01

4. Oral: _____

5. Other: _____

() Unknown quantity

6 - Is there some kind of preservation work being done?

() yes

(X) no

14 – The community knows about the work that is being done:

14.1. The community is involved in the work:

yes () no

The residents of the colony know about the project and are collaborating, making available the historical materials that they have.

15. Is there some kind of oral history work being done?

yes

() no

The book: “A vida é um Engenho de Passagens” – Eguimar Felício Chaveiro

There is also a documentary. We have not been able to locate it or the person who made it. The residents of the colony know about the existence of the film, but do not have the telephone number or address of the person responsible. The only information that we have is that his name is Belém.

16. Is there some kind of work written about the institution?

(academic, institutional, etc)

() yes

no

17. Additional information:

There is no historical preservation work, unless you include the preservation of the buildings, which the administration is currently overseeing. Moreover, the documents (almost all of them) were burned by former directors. In the administrative building, we found only one book, with a registry of children taken to the preventório (incomplete) and the record of sale of the location of the colony. The rest of the material found is in the hands of residents. There is nowhere to safeguard documents. There is a closed archive with the medical charts of patients in the attic, but access was not granted. The administration does not want anyone to touch them, due to lack of knowledge about the bacillus.

The administration was very receptive to the idea of this project, and said that it would be possible to designate a location for the historical presentation of the colony for the community.

We are still looking for oral histories and documents possibly in private homes through interviews with residents.

Material found up until now:

Textual:

- 1- *List of residents of houses and town houses of Colônia Santa Marta – 1989;*
- 2- *Payment slip for the interned, January-June 1966 (with name, salary, and signature of the interned);*
- 3- *Instructions for the administration of regulations to control Hansen's disease, provided by the official decree, nº165, 14 of May, 1976;*
- 4- *List of residents of H.D.S. Santa Marta – Área Asilar e Comunitária – 11/3/2004;*
- 5- *Legislation about the control of diseases in the area of sanitary dermatology—Ministry of Health, 1983;*
- 6- *Original record of sale of land belonging to the colony, 1971;*
- 7- *Statute of H.D.S. e Reabilitação Santa Marta, 1998;*
- 8- *Design of the area of the dormitories;*
- 9- *Primer of the Ministry of Health– Education in Health, Module III – National Division of Sanitary Dermatology, 1988;*
Balance of Costs of the mayor of the colony from 1988;
- 10- *Dossier of the life of Sister Natália (undated);*
- 11- *Report about the Colônia Santa Marta (undated);*
- 12- *Decree nº1.073/6M from 26 of September, 2000, Ministry of Health;*
- 13- *Normative Instructions–Regulations referring to decree GTNDS, 1991.*
- 14- *Atlas of Leprosy – Sasa Kaura Memorial Health Foundation, 1983;*
- 15- *Register of Children Taken to the Preventório Alfredo de Azevedo (1943 to 1960, with a blank period between 1949 to 1959).*

Iconographic:

- 1- *Picture of the Igreja;*
- 2- *Picture of the school with students;*
- 3- *Picture of the residents;*
- 4- *Picture of the construction of the Evangelic church;*
- 5- *3 pictures of the colony.*

Bibliographic:

- 1- CHAVEIRO, E.F. _ *“A vida é um Engenho de Passagens” – Projeto Deus – Menino do Pirulitagem, Goiás, 2005.*

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