

## *ORIGIN OF THE NAME MARRAFA*

*There are family names, whose origin is lost in time and space, and **Marrafa** is one of those whose true origin can not be stated with any certainty.*

*Etymologically, it may derive from the Arabic **Mu'Arraf**, from the verb **Arafa** 'to know' or the Latin term **Marra** meaning 'hoe', an agricultural implement, which in turn gave rise to the name of the maker or user of the **MARRA**.*

*The earliest reference to the name and its variants was found in **Fiesole** 'Florence - Italy' in the year 1556, as the family name(s) **Maraffi, Maraffio, Maraffioti** and **Maraffiote**.*

*Some argue that **Maraffa** is the family name of anyone who lives or has lived in the locality of **Maraffa**, which is a small town near **Parma - Italy**.*

*Another family known as the **Marafi**, with roots spread over several countries, originated in the eighteenth century, in the ancient **Persian** city of **Behbahan** (Iran), where the children of **Muhammad - Rafie** came to be known as the **Marafi**.*

*The appearance of this name in **Portugal** may have occurred in the late eighteenth century with the arrival of the Italian dancer **Maraffi** to perform at the Theater S. Carlos in Lisbon, since then the term **Marrafa** was included in Portuguese dictionaries of the year 1813 in reference to the hairstyle then used by the dancer.*

*It is known that the success of this dancer led Portuguese hairdressers of the time to create hairstyles featuring the names of artists, one of which was the '**Marrafa**'.*

*Its use as a family name in Portugal dates from the mid-nineteenth century onwards, where it appears in the regions of **Oliveira de Azeméis, Campo Maior** and **Setúbal**, as well as in other locations in Spain and Brazil.*

*June, 2008*