

The Muscio Family: Marin Entrepreneurs Since 1877

by Cathy Gowdy

In February of this year (2012) Michael Domer opened a restaurant in Novato and named it Muscio's in honor of his grandfather who settled in West Marin in the late 1800s.

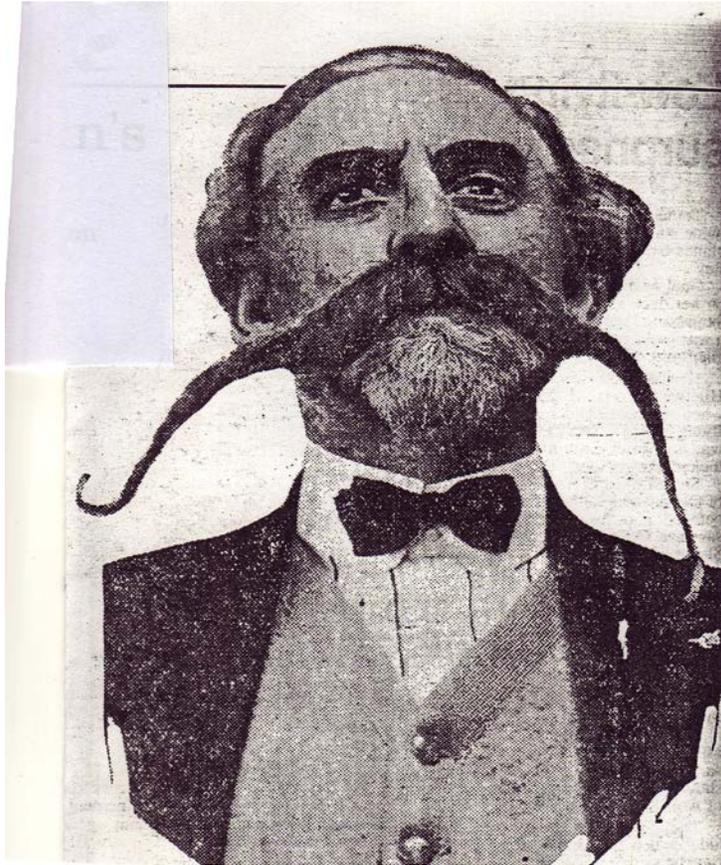


This reminded me of a newspaper article I had once seen in the Point Reyes Light which featured a photograph of Dante Muscio. More about that later...

The Muscio family originated in Switzerland. The Marin County Voter's Registers show Guiseppe (Joseph) Muscio in 1875, and David Muscio, who first appears in the 1878 register. David was born on February 27th, 1842 and Joseph in October of 1846. In the 1881 History of Marin it states that David moved to Australia in 1855 and then to California in 1868, but didn't settle on his western Marin ranch until 1877. There he engaged in dairying, sending the butter he produced to San Francisco for sale. He married Louisa Katzorke in 1866 and they had a family of six children. David naturalized in 1879 in San Francisco.

DATE	NAME	BOOK	PAGE
1879			
April 16	Marchini	Mariano	114 4720
"	Meyer	John	" 4740
"	17 Mastuy	Vojta	" 4744
"	MacSorley	Henry	" 4746
"	18 Moss	George Percival	" 4777
"	21 Muscio	David	" 4799
"	Moiter	John	" 4812
July 9	Moy	Alfred	" 4828
"	16 Moore	James	" 4839
"	23 Munster	Albert	" 4847
"	Mess	Henry	" 4848
1868			
Oct 6	Meagies	Stewart	" 4844
1880			
Jan 28	MacArthur	James	" 4909
Feb 4	Muller	Martin John	" 4911
"	11 Malcomson	Thomas	" 4915
April 14	Montalegre	Manuel	" 4926
May 5	Montalegre	Edward	" 4930
July 21	Marx	Henry	" 4944
1881			
May 11	Müller	Henry	" 4992
Nov 30	Melandre	Georg	" 5019

Joseph Muscio and his wife Marion were living in Bolinas in 1880 where they too engaged in dairying. Their eldest child was a son named Dante, born in 1876.



Dante was a partner in the Grandi & Co. store, and an agent at Point Reyes Station for Lewis, Simas & Jones, grain and feed dealers. In 1925 Dante won the “Great Moustache Tournney” sponsored by the San Francisco Examiner. The article in the newspaper claimed he had worked on the moustache for 14 years, and that it measured 22 inches. Dante said “Just tell the public that I shall try to live up to the trust reposed in me.”

Michael Domer, with whom we began this story, says his grandfather, Marion (son of Dante), ran bars and restaurants his entire life. At one time the Muscios owned The Western Saloon in Point Reyes. Domer says he inherited the ‘hospitality gene’ from his family.

