

American-Portuguese Genealogical
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Bulletin Board

Vol. XXIII, No. 1

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Winter 2002

Nossa Senhora das Angústias

Pictured right is a copy of the Pimentel coat of arms taken from the book with the above title by Rev. Julio da Rosa. It has color reproductions of the coats of arms pictured on the ceiling of Nossa Senhora das Angústias (Our Lady of Anguishes), Horta, Faial. It is the ninth of eighteen. The black and white copy doesn't do justice to the colors. The helmet is grey; the four-leaf motif is green, gold, white and burnt orange. The shield has the same four colors. The bull is burnt orange with gold hooves and horns. It is the coat of arms mentioned on p. 40 of John Raposo's story of the Pimentels of Flores in the previous issue—*Bulletin Board*, Vol. XXII, No. 3, fall 2001.



Pimentel.

***Morgados* and Entailed Estates: From Riches to Rags**

When first researching my ancestry some thirty years ago, I thought it would be simple and brief. My parents and three grandparents were from Brentanha and my maternal grandmother was from a neighboring parish. I believed they were all of solid peasant stock with ancestors scarcely able to sign their names, living in small houses with earthen floors pounded solid as rock, eking out a marginal existence on the land. Grandmother's stories of past glories, noble estates and noble ancestors were dismissed as products of her fertile imagination. Forgotten was the fact that myths often come from legends and some legends often are based on historical realities.

Research four and five generations deep proved my initial conceptions, but in the eighteenth century there were male ancestors with the title of *Capitão*¹ and females with *Donna* preceding their names. I knew my Bretanha ancestors' birth and marriage records didn't have those titles and that *Donna* didn't have the generic designation it has today; three centuries ago it was reserved for socially prominent ladies. The Bretanha parish records begin at the start of the eighteenth century; those of neighboring Santo António, a half-century previous. I was at a dead end, wondering who those *capitaos* and *donnas* were.

Then I learned of Carlos Machado's *Genealogias*.² In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries he and Ernesto do Canto had researched the lineage of many micalense families and chartered some 600 family trees. Many of the families were traced back to the same early settlers recorded in Gaspar Frutuoso's *Saudades da Terras*, the Azorean equivalent of William Bradford's *History of Plymouth Plantation*.

Researching all 600 pages was not easy, even with a magnifying glass; portions had to be enlarged double to decipher better the not-always-legible script. With persistence and patience, several *capitaos* and their *donnas* were discovered. Machado had traced my ancestors back several more generations and had often noted "vide Frutuoso" (see Frutuoso) next to the earliest ancestor, indicating that that person could be traced back further in *Saudades da Terra*. This brought my peasant lineage back to the Velho Cabrals, the Botelhos, Bettencorts and Câmaras, all of whom could be traced back to the Middle Ages in Gaio's *Nobilário de Famílias Portugesas*.⁴

How had Machado traced families back further beyond existing parish records? Some vital records available to him exist no more, but his notations and marginalia indicate that he relied on wills and testaments. Those documents carefully detailed the relationship of the testator to the heirs and, in the case entailed estates, often detailed the testator's ancestry. Machado relied also on documents establishing *vínculas* (entailments) for further documentation of ancestry and descent.

Entailment (*víncula* and *morgadio* in Portuguese) is a restriction of inheritance to a limited class of descendants for at least several generations—often in perpetuity—to preserve large estates from disintegration caused by equal inheritance of all the heirs normally entitled to inherit.⁵ Simply put, the entire estate was to be kept intact and inherited by a single heir, usually, but not always, the eldest son. Detailed provisions were often made for the succession in the event there was no surviving legitimate male heir. With only the heir, the Morgado (Majorat in English) inheriting, the morgado's siblings, unless they married into propertied families, became poorer and poorer in succeeding generations.⁶

2. APGHS Newsletter, Vol. XXIII, No. 1. (2002)

Entailments often prevented heirs from selling off or changing the use of the land. Enterprises like the milling of grain and lumber, even if no longer economically viable, had to be continued. Chapels built by the founder and where the family was often interred had to be maintained; the pious charge to arrange for a certain number of masses to be celebrated annually for the repose of the testator's soul had to be honored. The faithfulness of many morgados is the reason for the many small, lovely chapels that still exist in Azorean villages. The estate usually had a manor house, often with a coat of arms at the portal. Many of those *solares* are today abandoned and near ruin; the only reminder of their former glory is the coat of arms still visible on the crumbling portal.⁷

Entailments had existed in Portugal from feudal times and initially worked well to preserve the wealth and social prominence of the family. Over time, however, as the initial imposed restrictions became no longer useful or economically viable, they became burdensome and restricted economic development. São Miguel, with an 1836 population of 70,000 on 288 square miles, had more entailments per acre than any island in the archipelago.⁹ The campaign to abolish them was begun in 1835 by Manuel António Vasconcelos, founder of the oldest Azorean newspaper still in existence—*O Açoreano Oriental*. Scion and heir to the Morgadio da Lomba Grande in Bretanha, he had arranged for some easements in the entailment in 1828 so his mother and siblings could continue to benefit from the estate after the death of his father. On June 4, 1836, the editorial of *O Açoreano Oriental* said:

The entailment system, although the cornerstone of the Nobility, nevertheless, continues to scandalize good sense, ruin morality, pervert custom, and is a stumbling block to the growth of wealth, industry and the growth of our people.

Let us end once and for all this pernicious system which has caused so many sorrows, so many tragedies, and brought so many tears to so many families...

In these islands, the total abolition of the system is all the more urgent because this plague effects the majority of our properties and leaves younger progeny impoverished and without means, denying a family to many young ladies, who live and die in a forced celibacy.

In 1841 Manuel António brought before a magistrate in Ribeira Grande a petition for the final extinction of all encumbrances of the 1720 entailment.¹⁰ The system was finally abolished in 1863, too late for Manuel António, who had died in 1844 and much too late for the siblings impoverished since 1720 who had the misfortune to be born younger siblings of morgados. Tony Bennett sings about leaving his heart in San Francisco and (in another song) going from rags to riches; the Raposos left their hearts in São Miguel and went from riches to rags.

Using Carlos Machado's *Genealogias*

Trace your Azorean lineage as far back as possible. Other than visiting the bibliotecas in the archives, the best way is to order and view the appropriate microfilms of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at the nearest LDS Family History Center. The APGHS has the LDS catalogue listing of the appropriate event (birth, marriage, death) for each church.

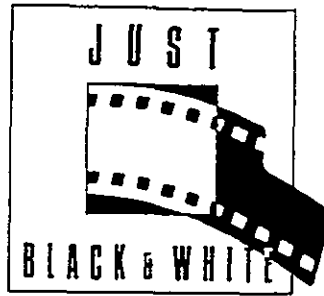
Read the pages of *Genealogias*. A copy is available at the Taunton Public Library—the gift of Rev. Joseph P. Viveiros. Research can be refined by first reading its rudimentary index and looking for the family name; then go to the indicated pages or view all the pages for families living in the same parish as your ancestors. It is best to focus on a fifty-year time frame.

Once the ancestor has been found, trace his/her lineage. Be sure to follow up on the corresponding pages of Frutuoso's *Saudades da Terra*. If directions indicate Book IV, Volume I (the index is in Book IV, Volume III), you are in luck. There is an English translation available from Edna Phillips Kern (Nerkaluh@aol.com), 12760 Perris Blvd., A-8, Moreno Valley, CA 92553-2339. Cost (including shipping) : \$25. Priority rush mail: add \$3

Footnotes:

- ¹ *Capitanos* were often captains of local militia.
- ² Carlos Maria Machado, *Genealogias*, MS, Biblioteca e Arquivo de Ponta Delgada: n.d.
- ³ Gaspar Frutuoso, *Saudades da Terra*, Instituto Cultural da Ponta Delgada, Ponta Delgada: 1985.
- ⁴ Manuel José da Costa Felguerías Gayo, *Nobiliário de Famílias Portuguesas*, Carvelos de Basto, Braga: 1989.
- ⁵ *Electric Encyclopedia*: Encyclopedia.com
- ⁶ *Ibid.*
- ⁷ James H. Guill, *A History of the Azores Islands*, Golden Shield International, Tulare:1993. pp.256-257.
- ⁸ Manuel Ferreira, *Manuel António de Vasconcelos: o 1º. Jornalista Micaelense e o Açoreano Oriental*, Ponta Delgada: 1994. p.117.
- ⁹ Urbano Mendonça Dias, *A Vida dos Nossos Avós*. Vila Franca do Campo: 1947. Vol. VI, p. 45.
- ¹⁰ Manuel Ferreira, *Ibid.*

Submitted by John M. Raposo of Massachusetts.



THINGS YOU SHOULD NOT DO TO PHOTOGRAPHS © (If you do not understand why, please ASK!!!)

DO NOT USE:

- ◆ blotters other than special photographic
- ◆ rubber cement
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- ◆ rubber bands
- ◆ any kind of ink on prints
- ◆ white envelopes containing bleach
- ◆ kraft paper envelopes
- ◆ glassine envelopes
- ◆ any paper or cardboard containing sulfur
- ◆ paper clips
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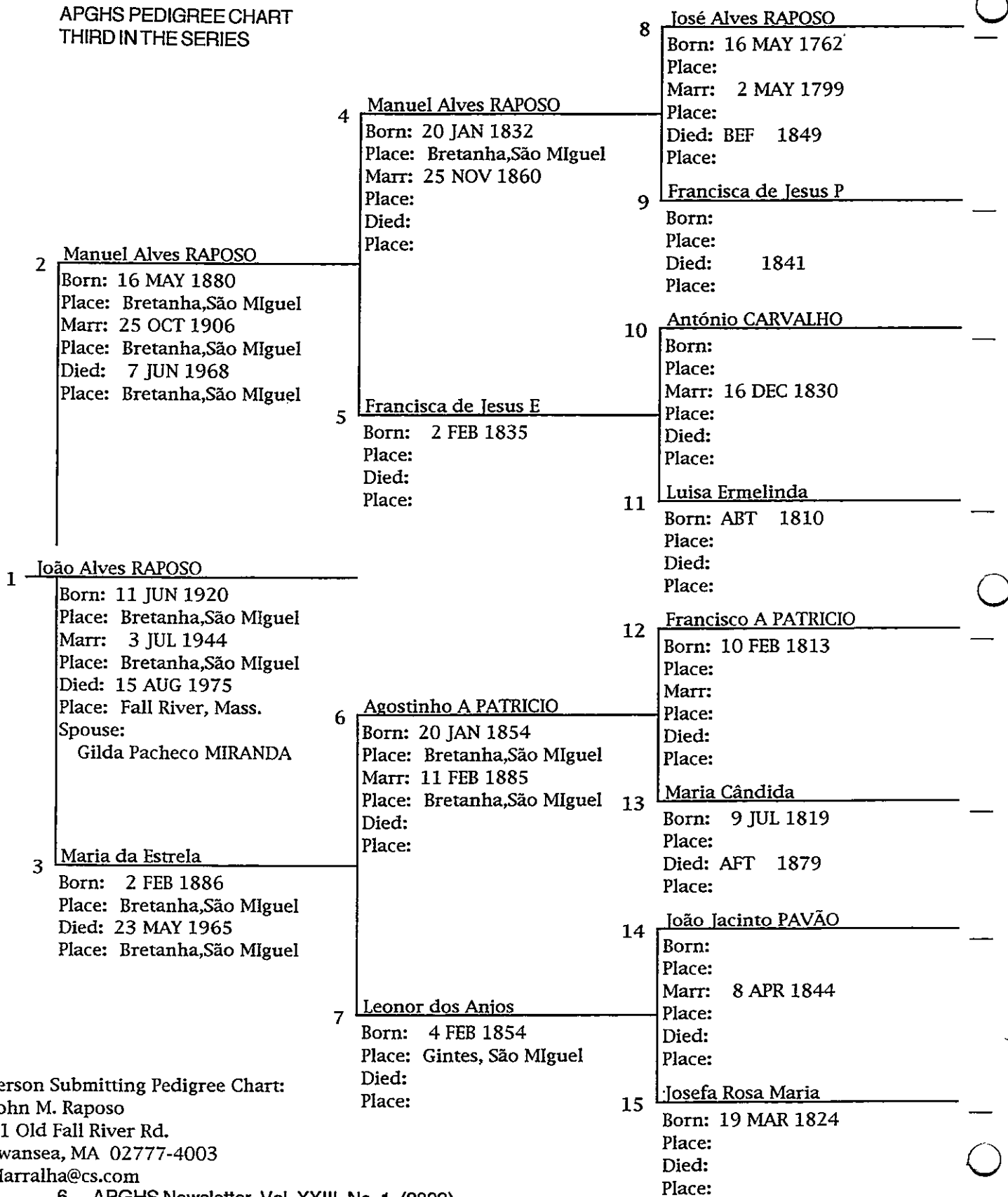
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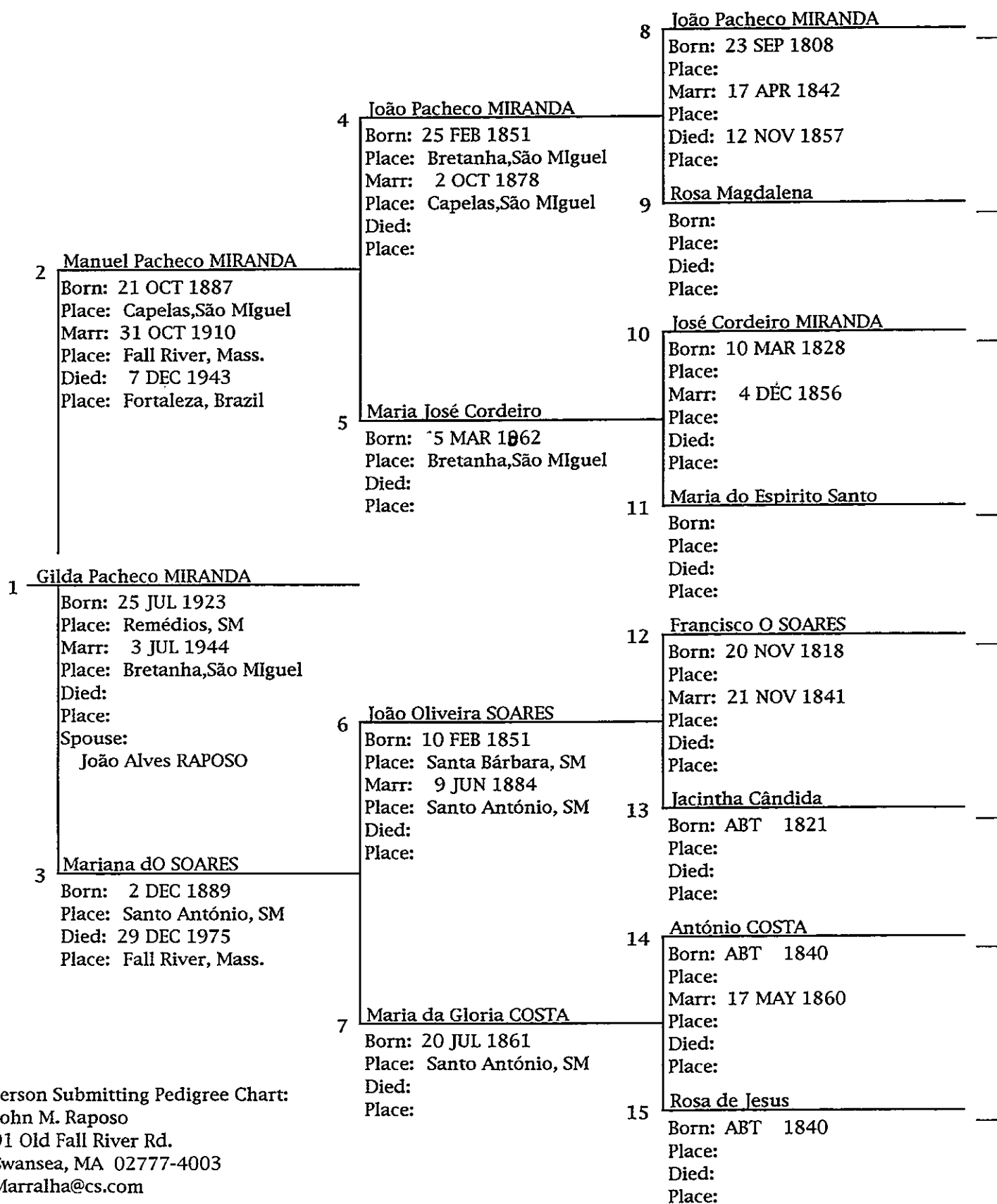
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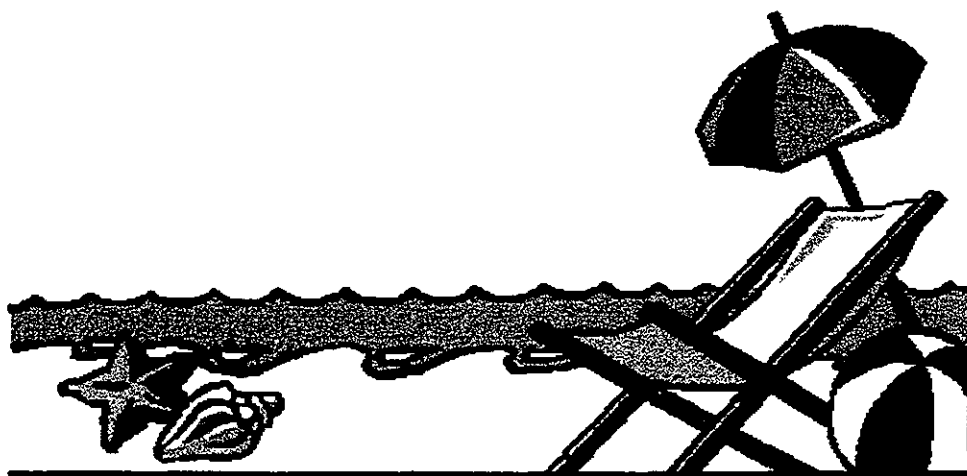


The 7th New England Regional Genealogical Conference

~ SAVE THESE DATES ~

November 6th thru 9th, 2003

being held on **Scenic Cape Cod**



~ The Theme ~

New England: America's Melting Pot

If you would like more information, when available
please contact: David Mishkin, P.O.Box 4628, Portland, ME 04112

New England Regional Genealogical Conference

for up-to-date information:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~manergc/>

Azorean Family Names

Continued from the fall 2001 issue.....

<u>Name</u>	<u>Derivation</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Crest</u>
Vigário			
Vila Boa			Yes
Vilaça			Yes
Vilafanha			Yes
Vilalobos			Yes
Vila Nova			Yes
Vilar			
Vilarinho			Yes
Vilhana	Villanes	Castille	Yes
Vilhegas	Villegas	Castille	Yes
Vilhena	Villena	Castille	Yes
Vimeiro			
Virgílio			
Viseu			Yes
Visme			Yes
Viterbo			
Vitório	Victória		
Vitorino	Victorino		
Viveiros	Fajardo	Galicia	Yes
Vizinho			
Vogado			Yes
Vultão			
Walenstein		Germany	
Walter	Valtério	Germany	
Weintzenbauer		Germany	
Whyton	Whitton	England	Yes
Wilson			
Woodward			
Xara			Yes
Xavier			
Xerez		Castille	Yes
Ximenes		Navarre	Yes
Xira	Shire	England	Yes
Zagalo			Yes
Zambarra			
Zambrana		Castille	Yes
Zamúdio		Navarre	Yes
Zangoa			
Zerbone			

<u>Name</u>	<u>Derivation</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Crest</u>
Zeferino			
Zeller	Van Zeller	Flanders	Yes
Zixaya			
Zuniga		Navarre	Yes

Firm

Source: *Azores Islands: A History*, James H. Guill, p. 241-243. With permission.

This series, the longest running in the Society's history, started in ~~Bulletin Board~~, Vol. XVI, No. 2 (spring 1995) issue. The Society is most grateful to the author.

Membership:

Your mailing label is now your reminder.

After your name on the label is your membership number and a dash followed by two digits— if you aren't an L (life member). Your membership will expire (or has expired) in June of that year. Under normal circumstances those with a membership number followed by -01 would not have received this issue, but your patience during this difficult period for the Society has been appreciated and being rewarded. For the many who renewed: Thank you. For the few who did not: Adeus; the APGHS wishes you well, but cannot continue sending publications to lapsed members. To renew, please use the form below (or a facsimile if you wish to save the information on the reverse of this page).

Dear Treasurer:

Enclosed is check # _____ dated _____ in the amount of \$ _____ for APGHS dues from July _____ to June _____ .

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American-Portuguese Genealogical and Historical Society, Inc.

The Society's year is July 1 to June 30.

DUES SCHEDULE:

\$ 10.00	Regular membership
2.50	Spouse, no Surname Roster reception
10.00	Professional Membership, no Surname Roster reception
15.00	Libraries, Societies, etc., no Surname Roster reception
150.00	Life Membership for a regular member up to the age of fifty-five
100.00	Life Membership for a regular member over the age of fifty-five

Regular members are those who have submitted a pedigree chart; their known ancestors are in the Surname Roster. Life dues are kept in a separate account. When it reaches \$1,000 certificates of deposit are purchased. The interest from the CDs is withdrawn each June 30 and put into the Library Fund to continue our goals with the Special Collection.

The Society has been ruled a federal income tax-exempt organization under section 501 (C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and qualifies for the maximum charitable contribution deduction for bequests, legacies, devices, transfers or gifts of money or property.

The following are available:

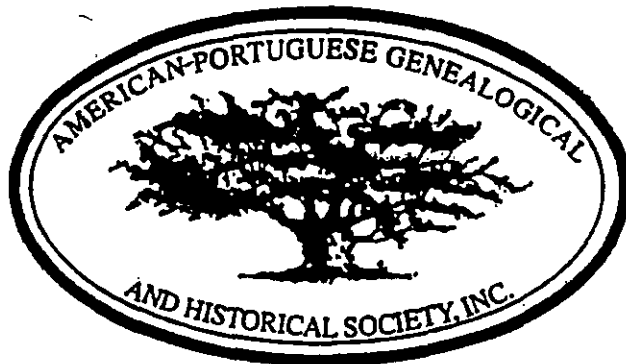
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