



American-Portuguese  
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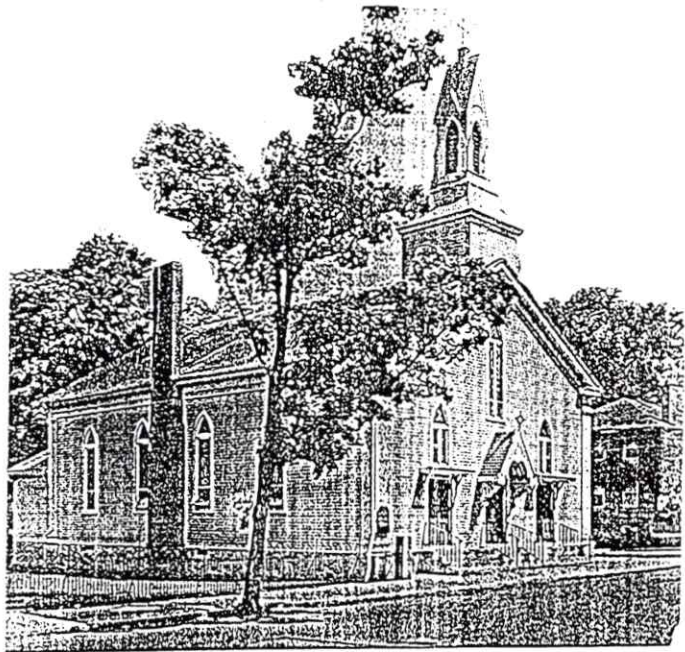
# Bulletin Board

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Vol. XXIII, No. 3

Fall 2002

Pictured right is St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, Stonington, Connecticut, where many of the marriages compiled in a book donated to the APGHS by Henrietta Mello Meyer, a Society founder, occurred. Stonington is located in the extreme southeast corner of the Nutmeg State on Long Island Sound near its Rhode Island border. The church was dedicated on October 5, 1853, and served Stonington until replaced by a new church in 1963. Mrs. Meyer and the Society give special thanks to fellow member and Stonington resident Gabriella Piver Gaultney for her computer work. Mrs. Meyer and the Society welcome questions and comments.



Titled *1846-1948 Marriages of Portuguese People in Stonington, Ct.*, the book shows the "melting pot" theory in action. Read how immigrants and their children intermarried to make this nation. Also read the repeated "Azores" and think of the frustration (and possible anger) of a researcher who wishes that a priest had taken the time to record the newlyweds' birth island and village.

This editor (a male) hopes that Leander Antonio and Mary Binks (ages not listed) had a long, happy marriage, but wonders why the groom got married on Independence Day 1846.

DATE	GROOM	AGE	POB	BRIDE	AGE	POB
1846-07-04	Leander Antonio	nl	Azores	Mary Binks	nl	New London, Conn.
1847-06-23	John Silva	nl	Azores	Nancy Guild	nl	New Bedford, Mass.
1849-07-07	Manuel Silva	34	Pico	Catherine Scott	19	Ireland
10-20	Francis Antonio Levy	20	Terceira	Almira Grant	19	Stonington
1850-02-24	John S. Francis	27	Azores	Caroline Shelly	17	Stonington
1853-07-03	P.W. Gill	34	Portugal	Dorcas Burchel	23	Stonington
1854-04-09	Antonio Levy	24	Azores	Mary Invocartia	17	Azores
05-24	Antone Verz	24	Azores	Engelico deCastro	30	Azores
1855-09-16	Joseph Fratus	32	Azores	Mary Ann Cunha	21	Azores
1856-07-01	William Sylvester	nl	Portugal	Priscilla Dunbar	nl	Stonington
10-26	John deCastro	nl	Portugal	Ellen Larkin	nl	Ireland
1857-07-12	Joseph Williams	25	Azores	Mary Perry	25	Azores
1860-01-24	Francis Valeviamo	27	Faial	Tiadora Magenstia	19	Azores
1863-01-17	Manuel Antonia Silva	33	Azores	Ann Florinda Silva	23	Azores
1867-08-24	Jose Carbral	25	Azores	Ann Emilia Silva	19	Azores
1869-02-05	Joseph Fratus Jr.	21	Azores	Constance Silva	23	Azores
02-28	Thomas J. Lloyd	25	Wales	Helen M. Rogers	24	New York
1870-10-13	Hugh Caroll	28	Ireland	Ellen Mc Dermott	18	Stonington
12-10	Joseph Fratus Jr.	23	Azores	Mary Noyer	23	Azores
1871-01-11	Frank Mary Fratus	21	Azores	Mary Fratus	19	Azores
1872-01-29	Oliver T. Coon	48	Hopkinton, R.I.	Ann Miller	32	Stonington
1874-11-26	Manuel R. Joseph	21	Faial	Johanna Bray	21	Ireland
1875-02-03	Nicholas King	24	Azores	Mary Levy	20	Stonington
05-02	Joseph Vagus	25	Faial	Ellen Sylvia	23	Stonington
1876-01-27	Antonio Drado	21	Azores	Amelia S. Jesus	26	Azores
1878-09-02	Antone Joseph	22	Azores	Anna Joseph	22	Azores
12-19	Joseph Mary Barros	23	Azores	Retta Carolina	23	Azores
1879-02-10	Frank M. Rose	27	Azores	Mary Ann Cunha	20	Stonington
04-12	Manuel Enos	23	Azores	Ellen Sylvia	18	Stonington
05-03	Joseph H. Mary	22	Azores	Delphina deSylvia	23	Azores
1880-01-17	Joseph Fratus Jr.	30	Azores	Louisa C. Cunha	34	Azores
05-20	Manuel W. Davvan	23	Stonington	Mary E. Lahey	23	Stonington
07-07	Antone Sylvia	28	Azores	Mary B. Cunha	12	Stonington
10-18	Joseph Mains	23	Azores	Mary Ann Williams	17	Stonington
11-07	Joseph C. Enis	24	Azores	Camilla Nunes	25	Stonington
1881-05-23	Manuel F. Rose	26	Azores	Amelia Marshall	21	Stonington
12-26	Manuel Francis	23	Azores	Carry Levy	21	Stonington
1882-05-15	Manuel J. Pereira	28	Azores	Clara Sylvia	22	Stonington
10-29	Frank Domingo Sylvia	28	Azores	Bridget E. Keenan	30	Ireland
1883-10-04	Robert R. Smith	23	Scotland	Josephine Levy	18	Ston ington
10-14	Manuel S. Mello	28	Graciosa	Mary Gomes	19	New London, Conn.
10-28	Joseph B. Pauline	22	Azores	Phebe J. Keys	21	Azores
1884-01-28	Joseph Vincent	23	Azores	Carolina Ross	24	Azores
05-08	Manuel Furtado Coelho	25	Azores	Mary McDeremott	17	Stonington
05-26	Antone Peres	26	Azores	Catharine Willams	18	Stonington
10-20	Manuel Amaral	30	Azores	Mary Sylva	27	Stonington
11-03	Manuel deCosta	24	Azores	Maria Rogers	17	Stonington
11-09	Jesse J. Sylvia	21	Azores	Mary J. Sylvia	21	Azores

DATE	GROOM	AGE	POB	BRIDE	AGE	POB
1884-11-12	Antone Lemus	34	Azores	Philomena Julia	23	Azores
11-20	Frank L. Bryce	25	Azores	Velanta Cumha	23	Stonington
12-22	John Peter	22	Azores	Mary Francis	22	Azores
1885-05-17	Manuel W. Sylvia	33	Stonington	Alice Spain	22	Vermont
1887-02-17	Joseph Jozer	35	Azores	Mary Keys	22	Azores
02-21	Manuel Francis	29	Azores	Annie Gomes	18	Stonington
09-12	Frank Meiner	25	Azores	Tracie Francis	19	Azores
1888-05-17	Nathaniel P. Levy	21	Stonington	Leonora W. Greene	22	Stonington
07-19	William O. Brien	29	Ireland	Mary E. Marshall	29	Stonington
11-05	Joseph Enos	22	Azores	Eugenia Leima	21	Azores
1889-05-15	Lura Sylvia	21	Azores	Mary Lord	27	Stonington
11-04	Ernest A. Blivens	23	Hopkinton, R.I.	Jennie B. Coast	25	Stonington
1890-01-13	John Francis	22	Azores	Amelia Gyracia	17	Azores
1892-03-19	George Gomas	22	Stonington	Margaret M. Fowler	20	Charleston, S.C.
10-24	Manuel Clay	27	Azores	Phillomenia Lena Sylvia	20	Azores
1893-01-08	Joseph Sylvia	31	Azores	Josephine Maria	17	Azores
10-08	John Sylvia	35	Stonington	Hattie May Harvey	16	Stonington
12-20	Elias B. Hinckley	41	Stonington	Grace M. Levy	24	Stonington
1894-10-25	John S. Holland	21	Stonington	Theodora A. Sylvia	17	Stonington
1895-01-18	Frank J. Sylvia Jr.	29	New London, Conn.	Mary A. Gallagher	23	Ireland
05-30	James Dalley	25	England	Mary Nevens	31	Provincetown, Mass.
1895-11-06	Arthur J. Sylvia	23	Stonington	Mary Holland	24	Old Mystic, Conn.
11-25	Manuel Levy	37	Stonington	Mary A. Pimental	26	Azores
1895-11-27	Julius Williams	30	Azores	Mary Zita Lawrence	24	Azores
1896-06-20	Manuel Sousa	24	Azores	Mary Francis Andrews	15	Azores
09-15	Augustus Mause	25	Azores	Albena Kirk	23	Azores
11-19	Joseph Rose	28	Azores	Josephine Lopes Sylvia	26	Stonington
1897-01-06	Joseph Ferreira Sylvia	21	Faial	Anna Braga	17	Santa Maria
04-26	Michael Sousa	24	Azores	Mary Isabel Couto	19	Azores
05-19	Manuel Paul	25	Azores	Amelia Castello	20	Azores
06-22	Joseph M. Travasso	29	Azores	Maria Braga	19	Santa Maria
09-09	Joseph Rego	27	Azores	Antonie Cos-Matta	23	Azores
1898-06-04	Francisco C. Braga	22	Azores	Antonia N. Sousa	22	Azores
1899-02-14	Joseph F. Marshall	41	Stonington	Ellen J. Comstock	25	Brooklyn, N.Y.
04-23	Antone deSantos	26	Santa Maria	Julia Amelia Cunha	18	Graciosa
10-02	Manuel J. Sylvia	25	Stonington	Mary A. Duffy	23	Stonington
10-14	Frank Mello	23	Portugal	Annie Rozario	18	Portugal
1900-03-11	Joseph Souza	21	Azores	Mary Ann Concessa	21	Azores
09-17	Joseph Cabral	23	Portugal	Mary Razie	21	Portugal
11-28	William J. Walsh	21	Massachusetts	Bertha A. Sylvia	20	Azores
1901-05-08	Frederick Joseph	30	Stonington	Bertha May Sweet	29	Westerly, R.I.
08-02	Raymond W. Bailey	22	Medford, Mass.	Anna C. Joseph	19	Stonington
11-08	Jose Ferreira Paiva	44	Azores	Maria Canto	33	Azores
11-13	Frank J. Andrews	21	Stonington	Katherine Alexander	20	New York
11-29	Joe M. Rose	23	Azores	Mary Catherine Sylvia	17	Stonington

To be continued.....

Submitted by Henrietta M. Meyer and Gabriella P. Gaultney of Connecticut

7th New England  
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- South Shore Genealogical Society

# NERGC CONFERENCE AGENDA

## THURSDAY, 6 November 2003

- ◆ Genealogy Workshop 101: Beginners and Advanced Beginners
- ◆ Photography Workshop: Photographic Restoration, Dating and Identifying your Family Photographs
- ◆ New England Ancestors
- ◆ Ethnic Genealogy
- ◆ Computer & Technology Workshop: Beginners and Advanced Beginners
- ◆ Society Fair
- ◆ Ethnic Interest Group Meetings

## FRIDAY, 7 November 2003

- ◆ Genealogical Records
- ◆ Ethnic Genealogy
- ◆ Archives & Libraries Records
- ◆ DNA
- ◆ Writing Your Family History

Exhibit Hall open all day  
NEHGS Luncheon  
BANQUET: Bread & Roses Strike

## SATURDAY, 8 November 2003

- ◆ New England Genealogy
- ◆ Migration & Immigration
- ◆ Ethnic Genealogy
- ◆ Skills & Methodology
- ◆ Computers & Technology

Exhibit Hall open all day  
Luncheon  
BANQUET: Tales of Research in Europe

## SUNDAY, 9 November 2003

The Quaker Faith and its Origins in New England followed by the example of an early New England Quaker Sunday Meeting.

## KEY NOTE SPEAKERS

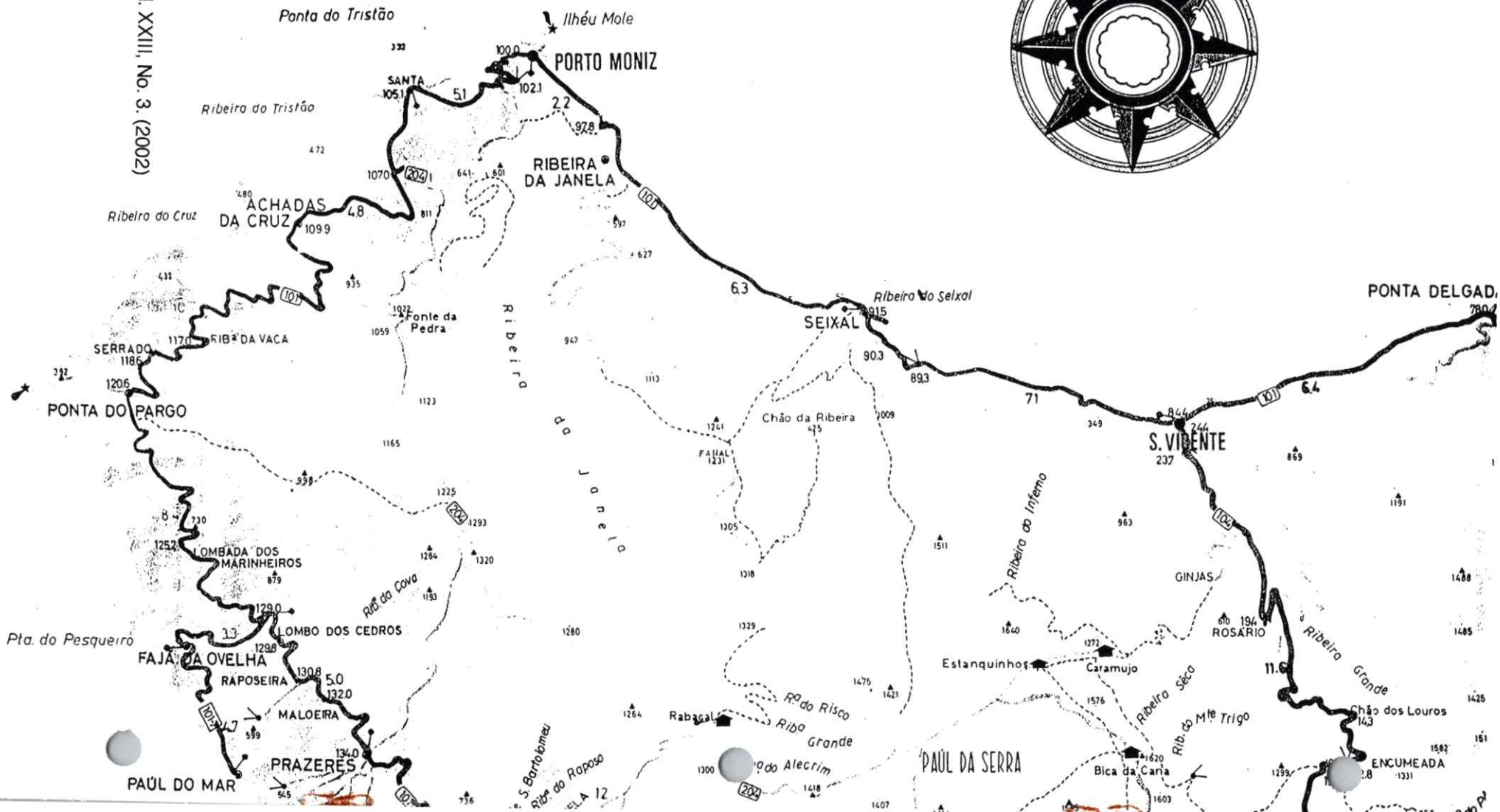
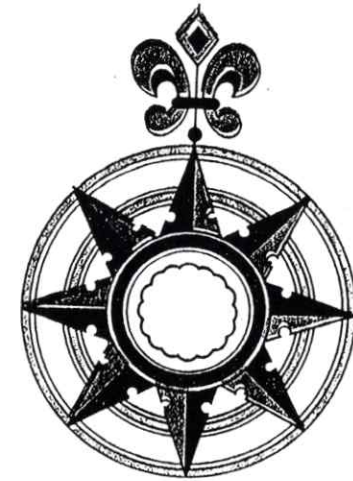
*Sharon DeBartolo Carmack*, CG of Simla, Colorado, lectures on genealogical subjects nationally and is the author of seven books including *Organizing Your Family History Search*. She is an editor of Betterway Books and a contributing editor of *Family Tree Magazine*.

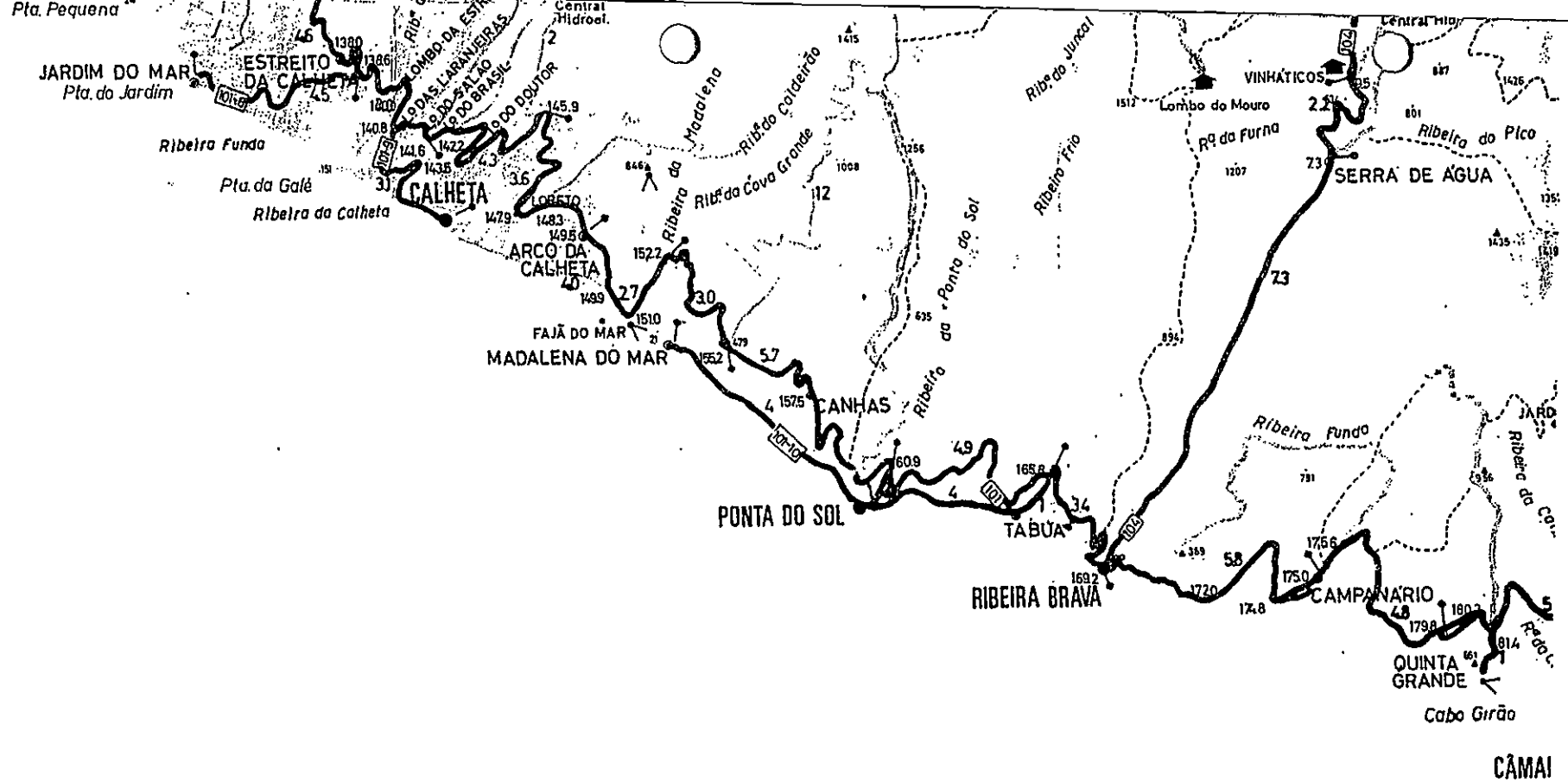
*John Philip Colletta*, Ph.D., of Washington D.C., a faculty member of IGHR and the Salt Lake Institute, conducts workshops at the National Archives, teaches university courses in the Washington D.C. area, and lectures nationally at genealogical conferences. He is the author of many articles and books, including *They Came in Ships*, *Finding Italian Roots*, and *Only a Few Bones*.

*Maureen A. Taylor* of Westwood, MA, lectures nationally on genealogy and has also appeared on radio and television. Author of genealogical articles and books, including the recent *Uncovering Your Ancestry through Family Photographs* and *Through the Eyes of Your Ancestors*, she is also a contributing editor of *Family Tree Magazine*.



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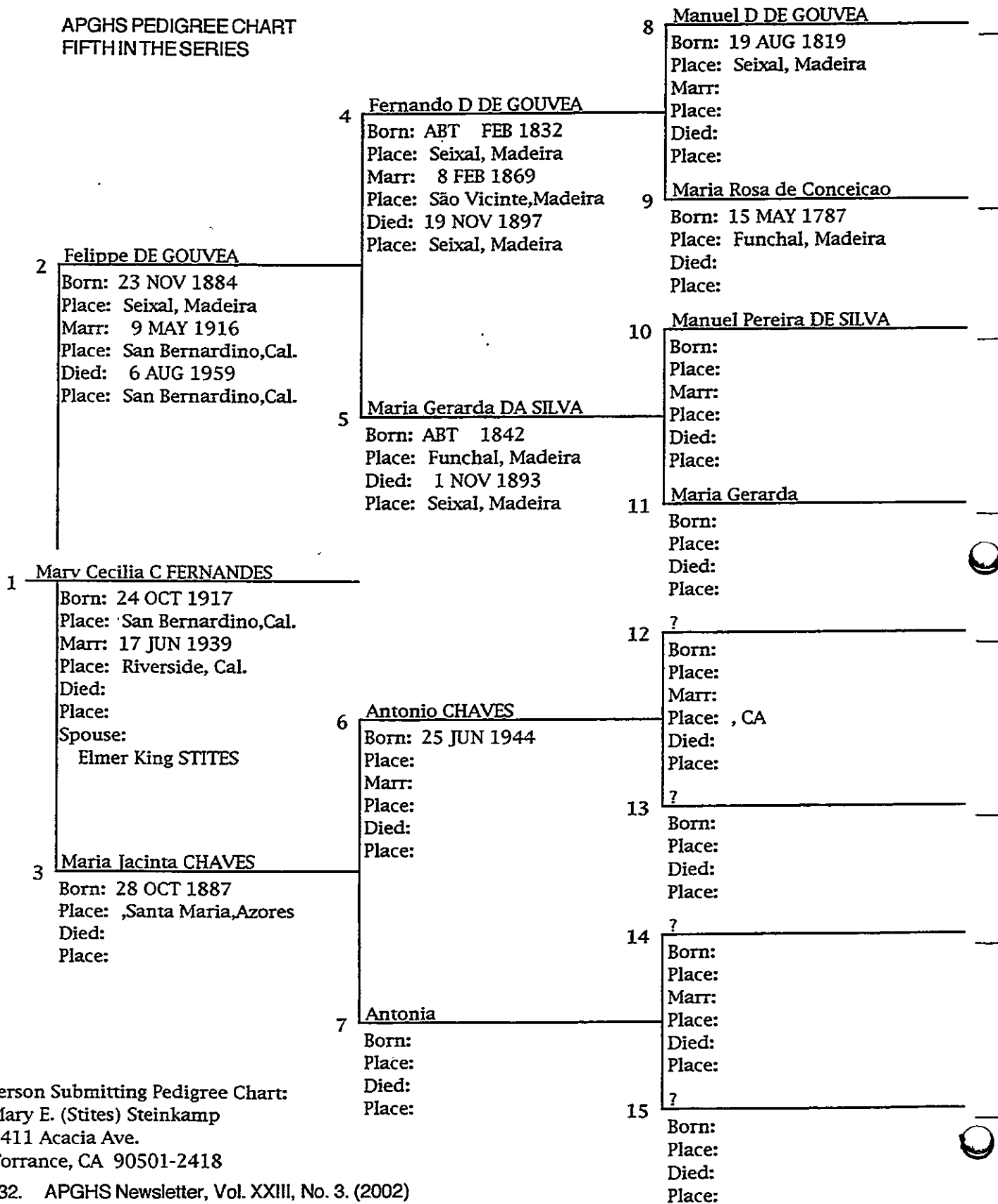




# Madeira



APGHS PEDIGREE CHART  
FIFTH IN THE SERIES



Person Submitting Pedigree Chart:  
 Mary E. (Stites) Steinkamp  
 1411 Acacia Ave.  
 Torrance, CA 90501-2418



## The Simas of São Miguel: the Search for a Common Ancestor

Anyone trying to research the origins of the Simas family will be in for a monumental and arduous journey. Some researchers say the name is derived from a place in northern Portugal. Maybe so; maybe not. There are no shortages of Simases on continental or insular Portugal, as a glimpse at any Portuguese telephone directory will show, but Simas is absent from Martins Zúquette and Machado Faria's *Armorial Lusitano e Heráldica*, Manuel José da Costa Felgueiras Gaio's *Nobiliário de Famílias Portuguesas* and José Calvão Borges' *Livro do Ameiro-Mor*. Santos Ferreira's *Armorial Português* contains the first description and heraldic design, but without any attribution. Armando Matos' *Brasonário de Portugal* also depicts a similar design and description, clearly based on Ferreira's work.

Simases have no prominent positions in Madeira's history and there is no mention of them in Henrique Henriques de Noronha's *Nobiário Genealógico das Famílias que Passaram a Vivir a esta Ilha da Madeira depois do seu Descobrimento que foi ano de 1420* or in Luiz Peter Clode's *Registro Genealógico de Famílias que Passaram à Madeira*. In the Azores, the name is prominent in Faial, Pico, São Jorge and São Miguel, but unmentioned in Gaspar Frutuoso's *Saudades da Terra* or António Cordeiro's *História Insulana das Ilhas a Portugal Sugeytas no Oceano Ocidental*.

Two Californians have theories. Douglas da Rocha Holmes and James H. Guill both believe the Simases have a common ancestor. Guill believes the Simases may be descended from an Englishman named Simms who went to Portugal in 1387 with John de Sudley in the retinue of Philippa of Lancaster, the bride of João I.<sup>1</sup> Connecting the Simas branches to a common trunk is the present challenge facing Holmes, who is researching the Azorean origins of the family. Most of them on São Miguel claim Domingos de Simas of Nordeste as their common ancestor.

Domingos' birth has been estimated as circa 1540, but his parentage remains a mystery. The records of 1602 indicate that he was a member of Nordeste's town council. A deed of sale says he was an armigerous (with a coat of arms) nobleman;<sup>2</sup> the town's vital records reveal that he was a slave owner.<sup>3</sup> As witness to several Nordeste marriages, his signature proves that he was literate. The 1568 chancery records of King Sebastião indicate that the king placed him in charge of raising funds to ransom Christians captured by the Moors.<sup>4</sup> Domingos' first wife and mother of Leonor, Martim and Sabina, Maria Álvares, was already deceased when the widower and his second wife, Susana Afonso Columbreiro, were parties in a 1604 real estate transaction. Nothing is known of Maria's ancestry, but Susana was the daughter of Manuel Afonso Columbreiro and granddaughter of Fernandes do Vale and Isabel Anes Columbreiro of Ribeira Brava, Madeira.<sup>5</sup>

The Columbreiros were part of Henry the Navigator's household and had lived in the Algarve.<sup>6</sup> Afonso Anes Columbreiro's sons went first to Madeira, where some remained, settling primarily in Ribeira Brava. Others left for São Miguel, settling primarily in Vila Franca, the island's first capital. Isabel may have been the daughter of the madeirense Columbreiros.

With Susana, Domingos had two children: António de Simas Columbreiro and Margarida de Simas.<sup>7</sup> Domingos died on 23 February 1615;<sup>8</sup> Susana was still alive in 1617. His descendants through his five children are represented throughout São Miguel and continental Portugal, with the highest concentration being on Ilha Verde's eastern third. Tracing their ancestry can be a daunting challenge. Nordeste's records back to the 16th century have survived, but those of its neighboring freguesias, where Simas descendants migrated, have not and bridging the seventy-five year gap involves time and money with no guarantee of success. Any well-trained researcher

would have to search wills and property records, but success would be to claim descent from a minor nobleman who once had a king's confidence.

#### Notable Kin:

1. Leonor married Miguel Salgueiro. A descendant, Philip Rivard Rapoza, is a Massachusetts Supreme Court Justice.
2. Martim married Maria da Silva. A son, Armando, married into the Brandão family. An illustration of the family crest can be found in *Famílias Antigas de Povoação*.
3. Sabina married Francisco de Resendes Pimentel, Nordeste's notary, on 2 July 1587.<sup>9</sup> He was a descendant of Afonso Pimentel, one of São Miguel's first settlers. Barbara, daughter of Sabina and Francisco moved to Feteiras; her descendants moved to Bretanha and became its Pacheco Simas, Pacheco Mirandas and Cordeiro Mirandas.<sup>10</sup> The noted California researcher and genealogist, Marya Meyers, is a descendant.
4. António married Maria Borges da Costa on 4 June 1620.<sup>11</sup> Their descendants include Dr. Francisco de Simas Alves de Azevedo of Lisbon,<sup>12</sup> heraldic historian and author of *Uma Interpretação Histórico-Cultural do Livro do Armeiro-Mor*. António and Maria's fourth great-granddaughter, Rosa Maria de Simas, married António Rodrigues Ferreira in Lisbon in 1798. In the civil war between the conservative Miguel and liberal Pedro, Rosa sided with the liberals and was imprisoned until the liberals triumphed. From António and Rosa the Ferreira de Simases descend. A great-grandson, Frederico António Ferreira de Simas was made a Companion of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George by Britain's George V. The Companion's grandson is Dr. Francisco de Simas de Alves de Azevedo.<sup>13</sup>
5. Margarida married Pedro Botelho Dutra on 17 July 1614 in Nordeste. Their descendants married into the Quental and Raposo do Amaral families.

#### Acknowledgements:

This story could not have been written without the assistance of many who were generous with their time and resources, including Douglas da Rocha Holmes (simas@dholmes.com) who hopes to publish a book on the Azorean Simases. Those with Simas family connections may e-mail him. He and Luís Cavaleiro Madeira provided information on Domingo de Simas' royal appointment. Dr. Alves de Azevedo supplied the descent of Domingos' continental descendants as well as the results of his research into the name's origin and crest; a color rendition of the crest was provided by Joseph Simas. Jorge Pacheco and Eloise Marie Cadinha both suggested that my ancestor, Sabina de Simas—*donna viuva* in the Feteiras records—might be Domingos' daughter because of the confluence of her descendants' names. Dr. Miguel Figuerido Cortereal generously shared the results of his own research into the Simas and Salgueiros families of Nordeste. Dr. Hugo Moreira, the late Azorean researcher and genealogist, provided information from the unpublished portion of Rodrigo Rodrigues' *Genealogias de S. Miguel e Santa Maria*.

#### Footnotes:

- <sup>1</sup>James H. Guill, *A History of the Azores Islands*, Golden Shield International, Tulare: 1993.
- <sup>2</sup>Câmara Municipal da Povoação, *Famílias Antigas da Povoação*, Povoação: 1945.
- <sup>3</sup>Freguesia do Nordeste, Matriz de S. Jorge, Registos Paroquiais: Óbitos: 23-5-1612.
- <sup>4</sup>*Chancelaria de D. Sebastião, D. Henrique e D. António: 1557-1580*, Livro 21, pp. 149, 1568.
- <sup>5</sup>Rodrigo Rodrigues, *Genealogias de S. Miguel e Santa Maria*, Chapter 186§1, MS, n.d.
- <sup>6</sup>Gaspar Frutuoso, *Saudades da Terra*, Instituto Cultural da Ponta Delgada, Ponta Delgada: 1977.
- <sup>7</sup>Carlos Machado, *Genealogias*, MS, Biblioteca Pública e Arquivo de Ponta Delgada, n.d.
- <sup>8</sup>Freguesia do Nordeste, *ibid.*
- <sup>9</sup>Rodrigo Rodrigues, *ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> John M. Raposo, *The Mirandas of Bretanha: Origins*, Swansea: 2001.

<sup>11</sup> Rodrigo Rodrigues, *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> Francisco de Simas Alves de Azevedo, "Uma Linhagem Notável da Burguesia Lisboeta: Os Ferreiras de Simas," *Miscelânea Histórica de Portugal*, Number 4, Lisbon: 1994.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> Carlos Machado, *Ibid.*

Francisco de Simas Alves de Azevedo, "Algumas Palavras Sobre Dois Documentos Herálicos do Arquivo Raposo d'Amaral," *Arquipélago: História*, Vol. VII, Universidade dos Açores, Ponta Delgada: 1986

Submitted by John M. Raposo of Massachusetts

### More about the November 2003 Conference (see pp. 28-29)

The \$99 per night/double + tax and 1-800-225-3110 are the Sea Crest room reservation price and reservation telephone number. Conference speaker (for the APGHS it will be John M. Raposo, author of many ~~Bulletin Board~~ stories) schedules and reservation forms will be available in the next ~~Bulletin Board~~. Those with Internet access should visit the web site.

Every participating society must provide a speaker (done) and three on-site volunteers (also done, thanks to APGHS members Irene Andrews, Carol Buteau and Beverly Connors—all from Cape Cod). The Society has not yet reserved an information booth because the members who had promised to staff it withdrew their promise. This will be first NERGC the Society will attend where it may not have a booth. The booth is an ideal way to recruit new members

## 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're not an L (life member). Membership for those with two digits expires in June of that year. Unless -02 members renew membership, this will be the last ~~Bulletin Board~~ mailed to them. To renew, please use the form below or a facsimile if you wish to save the information on the reverse.

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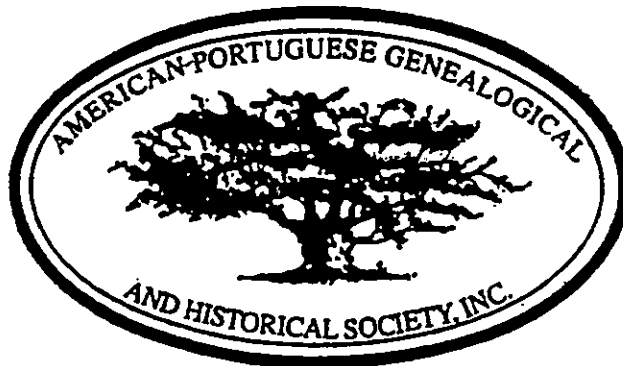
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