

São Jorge Genealogy

saojorgegenealogy.org

February 2020

(Volume 2, Issue 1)

CURRENT HAPPENINGS

Research Tip

We all know reading the parish records, passports, and confessional rolls can be a daunting task when the handwriting looks like chicken scratch, or when abbreviations are heavily used. To assist with that, the Azores GenWeb site has some wonderful resources.

The site offers many great resources and how-to guides such as: Parish Maps, lists of church names and the corresponding towns, word lists, name abbreviations, information on the evolution of Portuguese spellings in names, i.e. Joam becomes Joao, Joseph to Jose, and other great resources.

Check these fantastic resources out now, don't forget to bookmark them, or to put it into your favorites folder so you will always be able to consult them when faced with a difficult record.

[Click here for Word Lists](#)

[Click here for Parish Name Conversions](#)

- **New digitized records** are available on our resources page: Cemetery and Burial books for Velas and Beira 1876-2019; assorted prison records, subpoenas and warrants; Voter registrations; and over two dozen newspaper titles are in the process of being uploaded. When completed, the newspapers will cover the years from the mid 1800s through the mid 1900s.
- The **indexing** of published books and unpublished manuscripts continues. This will be a searchable database of all names contained. If you are interested in volunteering to help with this project, please contact us. You do not have to speak Portuguese.
- We are very, very close to having the Velas Council Death Index finished. The last few books have been adopted and it is in the proofreading and editing stages. You can see a detailed breakdown of our progress [here](#).
- A new section called ***Success Stories*** is being introduced. If you have had success in finding ancestors by utilizing any of the resources SJGS has provided, please send your stories to me (suzanne@saojorgegenealogy.org) with your name, which ancestor, the resource you found it in, along with a short blurb about your find and how long you've been looking for information on that ancestor.
- With all the exciting large scale digitizing projects SJGS is doing, we are at that time of year when we fundraise to help cover the costs associated with our projects. Our target goal is \$1,500. Jeremy informed me that some of the records being digitized include never before seen confessional rolls and other parish records that are not available on the CCA.
- **Extremely Urgent—Action Needed.** The USCIS has proposed a 492% increase in fees for copies of naturalization and alien registration records. Basically, fees will increase from \$20-60 to as much as \$625 per record depending on the circumstance. To stop this action comments MUST be received by February 10, 2020. [Click here](#) for more information on how to stop this atrocity. If they are allowed to get away with this, what records will be next?

Events

Baking at Barrio! Spring baking 4 part series starting [February 8, 2020](#) in Sacramento. Part 3 is Bolas de Berlim (aka Portuguese donuts). Check [here](#) for more information.

Behind the scenes Tour of the **California State Archives**, [February 27, 2020](#) at 10 a.m., at 1020 O Street, Sacramento, CA. Parking is limited; arrive early.

[April 18, 2020. San Joaquin Valley Portuguese Festival](#) in Turlock, CA. We had a great time last year meeting all of you who came, and are looking forward to this year's festival. Be sure to look for the São Jorge Genealogy booth!

[25 – 28 June 2020. Provincetown Portuguese Festival \(MA\)](#). Check out last years activities <https://provincetownportuguesefestival.com/>

[May 19-June 14. Portuguese Art Exhibition](#) presented by Sacramento Fire Arts Center. 5330 Gibbons Dr B, Carmichael, CA. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

If you have events coming up in your area, please 1) post it to the Facebook page, and/or 2) email me at suzanne@saojorgegenealogy.org

Look for our next newsletter in May 2020. There will be some very exciting news to be shared.

Suzanne, Editor