

# São Jorge Genealogy

saojorgegenealogy.org

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## Important Update

The São Jorge Genealogical Society is now a recognized non-profit organization. This means all of your donations are now tax deductible!

The board of directors for the 2020-2021 term are:

Jeremy Berry-Cahn,  
President  
Rosemarie Capodicci,  
Vice President  
Mike Souza,  
Treasurer  
Suzanne Brill,  
Secretary  
Charlene Sandlin,  
Member at Large

## Can You Help?

The register of Inventários of Estates for 1702-1920 is in need of indexing! While the handwriting can sometimes be tricky, it is not necessary to be a Portuguese speaker to help with this project as each name is written on its own line. Please send an email to [jeremy@saojorgegenealogy.org](mailto:jeremy@saojorgegenealogy.org) if you would like to volunteer!

## Beginners Tip

FamilySearch has created an excellent interactive lesson to help you get started in reading Portuguese records! You will be taught how to recognize Portuguese dates, and other vocabulary terms that are commonly found on baptism, marriage, or death records. The lesson is free and takes roughly 30 minutes to complete. Click [here](#) to begin!

## WHAT'S NEW SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

Many new things have been going on since our newsletter. Just look! You will be as excited as we are.

- After many months of work, the Digital Reading Room Portal for Confessional Rolls is now complete, and may be accessed [here](#). Currently, it includes the parishes of Calheta, Norte Pequeno, Ribeira Seca, Urzelina and Velas. We hope to expand its coverage shortly. Many gems can be found among the holdings including a 1766 roll for Norte Pequeno which lists the villages inhabitants at a time when no baptism, marriage or death records are known to be available. Mike Souza has created a helpful [tutorial video](#) to help explain how the new Digital Reading Room can be used.
- We have a new "Emigration" section on our website under the Resources tab. Here you will find select indices for Angra and Horta passport records. It currently includes all departures from Horta for 1836-1876, and Angra 1832-1869 and is not limited to individuals hailing from São Jorge island.
- Also new in the "Resources" tab are baptismal indices and registers for: Calheta (1860-1911); Manadas (1801-1911); Norte Pequeno (1753-1911); Ribeira Seca (1875-1911); Topo (1860-1911); and Urzelina (1860-1911).
- An index of São Jorge Marriages spanning from 1911-1940 has been created, and is now available [here](#). If you require more detailed information, or would like to order copies of the records, please contact the São Jorge Genealogical Society.
- A searchable name index has been created for the unpublished genealogy manuscripts written by Mateus Azevedo and José Avelar, along with Fénix Angrense. It is available [here](#). This database is particularly useful when trying to locate individuals who lived in São Jorge prior to 1700.
- Voter registration records for Velas Concelho have been digitized for the years 1887, 1890, and 1909. They may be viewed [here](#).
- Due to the temporary inaccessibility of the Avila Archive in Velas, the newspaper digitization project has been placed on hold. Updates will be given when the project resumes.

Remember, the São Jorge Genealogical Society does not charge a membership fee for access to its collections. Your donations make it possible for us to digitize new records and allow them to be indexed. The indices SJGS provides are done through the labor of our tireless volunteers. We wish to give them a hearty "Thank You!" Click [here](#) to donate now.

## Research Tip

### ENTERING PORTUGUESE WOMEN INTO YOUR GENEALOGY PROGRAM

Entering your Portuguese females into your genealogy programs can be confusing for beginners. In different time periods in the Azores and other Portuguese countries, women did not use surnames. This is a difficult concept for Americans and other English based countries to understand. Portuguese women usually had only one name given at baptism. Later in life, usually at marriage, she chose a religious name (i.e. da Conceicao, do Coracao de Jesus, das Dores). She did not use any other name so you should not automatically give her the father's surname. Portuguese men and women did not always take the father's surname as theirs.

Most Genealogical Programs allow you to put all of the first and middle or "religious" names in the 'given name' field. When it prints out it will show as Maria da Conceicao with no surname. da Conceicao is at the end but not a surname, she has none. In the USA when a couple married the woman was asked what her father's name was and the clerk assigned the bride the father's surname. This is OUR custom, not the Portuguese custom.

- Rosemarie Capodicci

Until our next newsletter, have a safe and fun 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

Suzanne