

Grace Collinson (Interview)

See Koehler Cookbook for info on Portuguese on Cape
See articles in New Bedford Times - interview with G.C.

also Cape Cod Times - interview with Lucinda Rose

Cape Verdians lived along Rail Road line - worked on R.R.,
later became wet farmers.

There are reports of Portuguese fishermen off Cape Cod as
early as 1640 when Plymouth fishermen came here to fish - Cape
was propertied to Governor of Mass Bay Colony - The first
~~whalers~~ were whalemens from the Bay of Biscay. Town of Ptown
reports Port. paying boat taxes as early as 1820. The records
just state them as aliens - The big influx came in the 1860's
and 1870's from the Azores - few of them sent for families -
they were literate - the more cultured came first. Starting
in 1900 they came from mainland Portugal. In 1905 G.C.'s
father came - jumped ship from the Grand Banks
Nova Scotians also came down at this time (indentured servants
girls) G. Bryant's grandmother. The Irish came in the 1880's.
In the second generation contacts with Portugal began.
First the man came, saved money, lived in boarding houses,
boarding house owners were bankers, wrote their letters, they
went back for visits. Grace is the result of the first visit
home in 1908, ~~ax~~ and then again in 1909 (her brother). He
brought family over in 1917 - they came on Italian and British
passenger liners - WW I - G.C. was nine. They couldn't get into
Ellis Island due to crush of immigrants - came to Providence -
~~they were~~ her mother almost couldn't enter due to glaucoma.

Parents had not seen each other in nine years. Grace mistook Mr. Manta, the self-appointed advocate/interpreter for growing Port colony, for her father. He founded the first Port, fishing dynasty (John R. Manta) Mant's wharf. They came to Ptown on the Old Colony R.R. - she taught mothers' friends to read. The Port were very astute - saved their money and bought little plots and houses. Divided into ghettos: the Azoreans (West Wind Conant, Montello, Pleasant) The Continentals (Alden, S^tandish) Everything depended on when you came, whether you were Continental or ~~Island~~ from the Islands. ~~Island~~ Differed in dialect, re Azoreans more Catholic - Continentals more conservative religious practices. Very little intermarriage until 1926-27 at time of Sacco-Venzeiii trial - there was a march protesting the decision - later white robed Ku Klux Klan burned crosses outside Catholic church - All catholics joined - Animosity Yankees producing smaller and smaller families, Portugues prolifick. Winthin two to three years owned their own houses, boats. Of 1143 senior citizens in the town now, 800 hwn their own houses. Port. tried to blend, adopted Yankee customs, bought parlor sets, dining room sets, removed shutters but also continued own customs, holy water palm crosses, blessing of homes, killing of pig social event, Saints days not birthdays, throwing basin of water in street on S^t.John's day , medications, exorcisms. Men ran around, women did not, took no responsibility for illegitimate offspring, married by proxy.