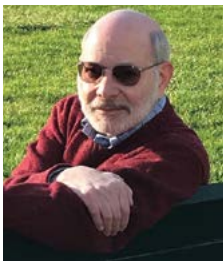



THE AZOREAN DIASPORA TO RHODE ISLAND

Why did so many Portuguese emigrés from the Azores settle in Rhode Island? The answer is whaling. In the 18th and 19th centuries, whale oil was commonly used to light lamps in homes, factories, and street lamps. It was also used to lubricate waterwheels, mechanized looms, and make candles and soap. Many whaling ships were built or outfitted in Warren, which became the leading whaling port in the state.

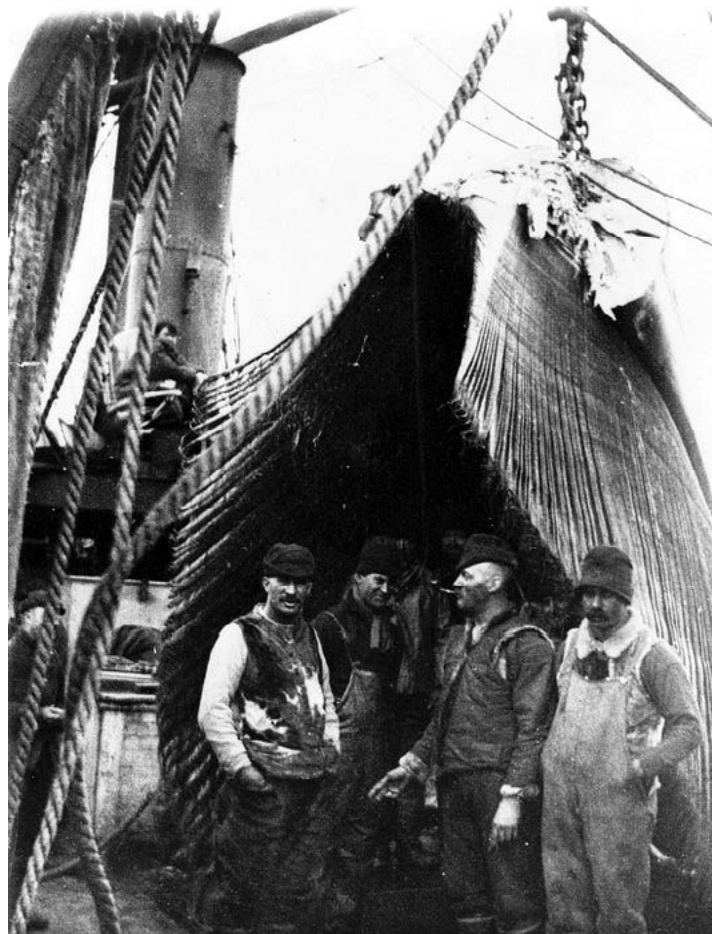


 Bill Curtis

American ships soon discovered that whales were plentiful in the deep waters of the Azores islands. Skilled Azorean whalers with previous maritime experience were in demand and sought employment on American vessels. According to Lisa Roseman Beade in *The Wealth of Nations: A Peoples' History of Rhode Island*, "By 1859, three-quarters of [Rhode Island's] whaling fleet was from

Warren, and a majority of their sailors were from the Azores or Cape Verde Islands."

Whaling was a demanding occupation. Men worked long hours from spring to October before returning home on packet ships, sailing crafts that operated



Crewman pose beneath baleen, used to filter food
Courtesy of the New Bedford Whaling Museum)



A whaling ship under way.
Courtesy of the New Bedford Whaling Museum

between American and European ports on a regular schedule. If a man had saved enough money in the summer, he could supplement his family's meager income after paying for the fare back home. The ones who chose to stay settled mostly in the coastal towns of Warren, Bristol, and Tiverton. Over time, they brought their families over; the growth of Azorean communities and a shared language encouraged others to migrate. As the whaling industry declined towards the end of the 19th century (mostly because kerosene oil replaced whale oil for lighting), some settlers abandoned whaling to become farmers or to work in the expanding textile mills.

More recently, the geology of the Azores inspired a much smaller second migration. All of the islands have



People from the Azores islands board the SS Homeland en route to North America on March 22, 1954.

Courtesy of the Azorean Emigration Museum

a volcanic origin, and while infrequent, volcanos do occur. The eruption of Capelinhos Volcano on Faial Island lasted thirteen months, from September 1957

to October 1958, and caused 2,000 Azoreans to emigrate to the United States and Canada. The Azorean Refugee Act of 1958, co-sponsored by Democratic Senators John O. Pastore of Rhode Island and then Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, made 1,500 visas available to the Azorean victims of the volcano eruption. Seven years later, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 enabled children and spouses of United States citizens to become legal residents of the United States with sponsorship.

The Azorean migration to Rhode Island has left a significant mark on the state's cultural landscape. Today, Rhode Island

boasts the third-highest Portuguese population in the United States, a testament to the enduring legacy of these early settlers. Their influence can be seen in the shared traditions of cuisine, wine, and music, as well as in the values of dedication to family and generosity of spirit that continue to shape the state's identity.

HOLY GHOST BROTHERHOOD OF CHARITY ANNUAL FEAST 2024

59 Brightridge Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914

JULY: 19, 6-11 pm • 20, 6-12 am • 21, 3-9 pm



ENTERTAINMENT

19 JULY, FRIDAY
6:00 to 11:00 pm

Mark Dennis



20 JULY, SATURDAY
6:00 to 12:00 am

Nadia & Karma



21 JULY, SUNDAY
3:00 pm

Banda Nossa
Senhora do Rosário
Concert and Accordion Music



Medeiros & Sons DJ
3pm till 9pm

FEATURED FOODS

Grilled chicken, Favas, Sardinhas, Shish Kabob, Cod fish, Bifanas, Caçoila & Chouriço Sandwiches, Beer, Wine And Soda.

NEW THIS YEAR

Indoor dining featuring favorite Portuguese plates served in our A/C hall. Octopus plate, Codfish plate, BBQ chicken plate, Sardinhas plate, Carne Alentejana plate and more. Fresh desserts.

SUNDAY - PROCESSION TO CHURCH SOPAS TO FOLLOW

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US ON FACEBOOK VIA HOLY GHOST BROTHERHOOD OF CHARITY