



Jacksonville Area Genealogical
& Historical Society

416 South Main
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650
217-245-9623
www.jaghsil.com

“ We are who we are because they were who they were. “

- Unknown

Jacksonville Area Genealogical & Historical Society
Membership Application

(Please print) (check one) New___ Renewal___ Change of Address/Telephone/E-mail___

Name_____

Street_____City_____State____Zip Code_____

Telephone_____E-Mail_____

Names Researching_____

Newsletters are delivered by e-mail unless mail is requested

Annual Membership \$25.00 per year (January – December)

We survive by your membership and donations. Amount enclosed \$_____

Send your check made payable to JAGHS and this form to 416 South Main, Jacksonville IL 62650

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217-245-9623**

**Jacksonville, IL 62650
info@jaghsil.com**

**Do you have a topic
that you would like to
see covered in the
newsletter? Just let
us know!**

**JAGHS is OPEN:
Tuesday 6PM to 8PM
Wednesday 1PM to 6PM
Friday 1 PM to 3PM
and other times by appointment

JAGHS Board

**President: Chris Marshall
Vice President: Elizabeth Hardy
Secretary: Anne Jackson
Treasurer: Wanda Dame
Directors: Dan Currier, Ruth Lanier,
Jane Hadden, Frank Marshall**

**Remember me in the fam-
ily tree
My name, my days, my
strife;
Then I'll ride upon the
wings of time
And live an endless life.
...Linda Goetsch...**

**We survive thanks to your donations and memberships. We
would like to thank the following for their monetary donations
during the last quarter:**

*Joe Hott		
*Dan Currier	*Anne Jackson	*Glenn Hamilton
*Wanda Dame	*Ron McGinnis	*Nicole Ryan
*Chris Marshall	* Ron Callison	*Kelly Swick
*Frank Marshall	*Jean Matheson	*Skip Tribble

A WORD FROM A MEMBER OF THE BOARD:

It is an exciting time to be at the JAGHS Library on a regular basis! We are organizing the library, condensing files and cleaning up the area. We are establishing routines, and beginning to scan our collection. Thanks to the generosity of our members we have a new printer and a new outdoor sign. People are using our services. We are busy on email, on the phone and in person. Those of us who are new volunteers are learning...and thanks to new interest in the Society we are learning quickly! Will we ever have the knowledge of those who ran this gem before us? DOUBTFUL!!!! But give us a try!

******* Anne Jackson, Secretary, JAGHS**

BOOKS FOR SALE - Postage is \$5.00 for most books	
House of Hunerhoff American Saga of Westfalen Family by Elizabeth Conover Kelley	\$10.00
A Window on the Past Residences of Jacksonville IL their history and design 1833-1925 by Philip Decker	\$25.00
Ten Generations of My Simmons Family History by Ida Harper Simmons	\$20.00
Antonio De Mattos and the Protestant Portuguese Community in Antebellum IL by David J Langum, Sr.	\$15.00
Nixon's Jacksonville Directory 1868-69	\$9.50
Whatever Will Be Will Be The News & Views of Lynnvile IL 1916 by Elizabeth Hardy	\$5.00
Recollecting the News & Activities of Lynnvile IL Book 9 Nov 2013 by Elizabeth Hardy	\$5.00
Lynnvile IL Reminiscences of Lynville and Its People Book 7 by Elizabeth Hardy	\$5.00
Lynnvile IL Recalling the People & Occurrences Book 6 by Elizabeth Hardy	\$5.00
Marriages Morgan Co IL Surnames A-D 1827-1845	\$5.00
Marriages Morgan Co IL Surnames E-K 1827-1845	\$5.00
Marriages Morgan Co IL Surnames L-R 1827-1845	\$5.00
Marriages Morgan Co IL Surnames A-D 1846-1850	\$5.00
Marriages Morgan Co IL Surnames A-C 1851-1869	\$5.00
Marriages Morgan Co IL Surnames D-Hen 1851-1869	\$5.00
Marriages Morgan Co IL Surnames Hep-Min 1851-1869	\$5.00
Honor Roll Morgan Co State of IL Veterans' Commission	\$6.00
Honor Roll Scott Co State of IL Veterans' Commission	\$3.50
Honor Roll Cass Co State of IL Veterans' Commission	\$3.50
City Directory Bloomington Normal 1980	\$15.00
City Directory Bloomington Normal 1989	\$15.00
City Dirctory Collinsville 1988	\$15.00
City Directory Edwardsville 1988	\$15.00
City Directory Highland 1988	\$15.00
City Directory Kewanee 1988	\$15.00
City Directory Ottawa 1988	\$15.00
City Directory Wood River East Alton 1970	\$15.00
City Directory Robinson 1988	\$15.00
City Directory West Frankfort 1988	\$15.00
City Directory Wood River East Alton 1988	\$15.00
Meredosia Bicentennail Book 19776-1976	\$10.00
Arenzville 1988	\$10.00
Dapper & Deadly by Taylor Pensoneau	\$20.00
Woodson IL 1859-2009 Sesquicentennial Celebration	\$15.00
David A Smith Abolitionist, Patron of Learning Prairie Lawyer by Hopper	\$20.00
History of Will Co IL 1878 (reproduction by Unigraphis 1973)	\$20.00

**We have several books available for purchase on the Portuguese in Jacksonville:
Tales From Portagee Hill by Bill DeFrates . Paperback. 1998 43 pages
(\$10.00)**

**A Portuguese Trilogy by Bill DeFrates. Paperback. 2011 94 pages
(\$10.00)**

**Antonio de Mattos and the Protestant Portuguese Community in Antebellum Illinois by David J. Langdon Sr. Hardback. 2006 141 pages
(\$15.00)**

Our own Elizabeth Hardy compiled several booklets over the last few decades that are a collection of newspaper articles, obituaries, birth announcements, etc involving those in the Jacksonville Portuguese population. They sell for \$7.50 each plus shipping.

Portuguese Memories (book 2) 2008 59 pages

Portuguese History Addition (book 4) 2010- 2011 63 pages

Portuguese Addition 2012 53 pages

News About Portuguese People: Ties that Bind 2014 24 pages

Portuguese History From the Past 2016 36 pages

Portuguese Info (Book 5) 66 pages

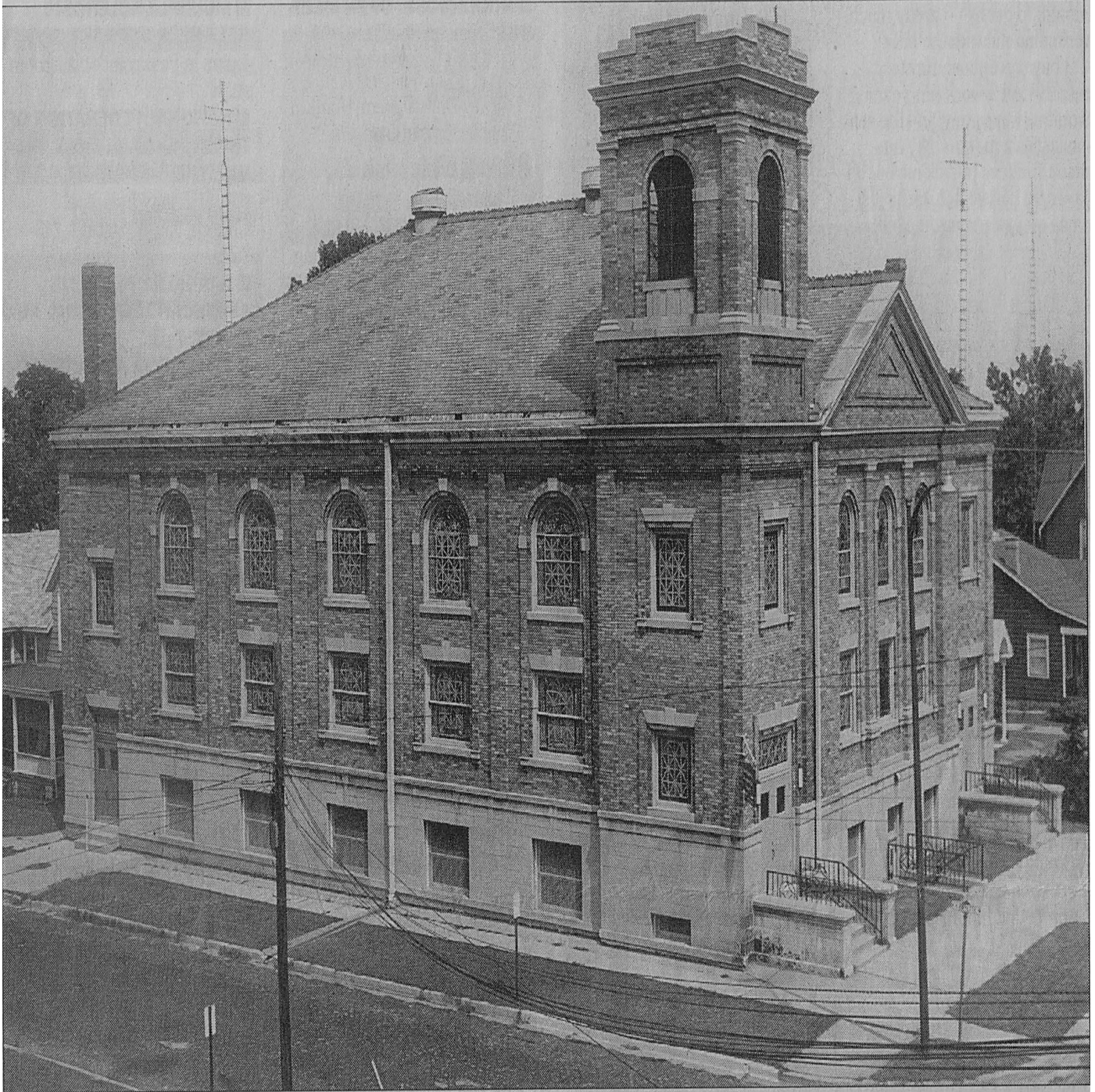
I have reviewed the booklets on Portuguese history that are the work of Elizabeth Hardy. They consist of copies of clippings from the Jacksonville Journal Courier that she collected over the years.

Elizabeth's great interest in the Jacksonville Portuguese community cannot be denied. The fine coverage of the topic in the Jacksonville Journal Courier is also to be commended.

Elizabeth used to be a daily fixture at the Society, and unfortunately we don't see much of her these days, but her work and her influence remains. She is missed around here!



THE WAY WE WERE



Northminster Presbyterian Church at the corner of West Court and North Fayette streets, shown here in a photograph believed to date from the 1960s, was dedicated in 1910 and has served the descendants of the Portuguese exiles from Madeira since that time. Today, Northminster is owned by Midwest Christian Ministries and is called Midwest Christian Center.

Thank You to the Jacksonville Journal Courier for allowing us to reprint this article.

SEEKING SANCTUARY

In 1848, the American Protestant Society brought Portuguese exiles to Jacksonville area

BY GREG OLSON

JOURNAL-COURIER

An estimated 350 Portuguese people, natives of the island of Madeira, settled in Jacksonville in November 1849 to escape persecution at the hands of Catholic radicals on Madeira.

This deeply religious group quickly reorganized the Free Portuguese Presbyterian Church here, under the leadership of the Rev. Antonio de Mattos, who arrived in Jacksonville sometime before March 15, 1850, when the local church was established.

When he came to Jacksonville, the Rev. de Mattos, who also was a native Madeiran, was 27 years old and a newly ordained Presbyterian minister. For the next 20 years, the Rev. de Mattos would serve Portuguese congregations in both Jacksonville and Springfield.

Three years earlier, many of those same Protestant exiles had settled on the island of Trinidad and in other locations in the British West Indies. However, many of them did not adapt to the living and working conditions on the Caribbean island and began to consider migrating to the United States.

In 1848, word of the Portuguese Presbyterians' plight reached the American Protestant Society, which appealed to Protestants in the United States to come to their aid.

The American Protestant Society entered into an agreement with the American Hemp Co., which said it would

provide good jobs, housing for one year, and 10-acre plots for each family on which the Portuguese could build their own homes.

The American Hemp Co. chose Island Grove in western Sangamon County, halfway between Springfield and Jacksonville, as the settlement site for the Portuguese. Despite its promises, the American Hemp Co. failed to make preparations for the immigrants.

The immigration problem was settled by a Jacksonville committee, representing the main Protestant churches of the town. Local people found jobs, temporary housing and food for the Portuguese. Another large group of the immigrants also settled in Springfield.

"When the exiles first arrived in the fall of 1849, some were quartered in houses various churches had arranged for them," wrote David J. Langum Sr., author of a recently published book, "Antonio de Mattos and the Protestant Portuguese Community in Antebellum Illinois." Mr. Langum is a great-great-grandson of Antonio de Mattos.

"Most were taken into private homes, the men employed in manual labor and the women in domestic duties. That was temporary only, for that first winter," he wrote.

Mr. Langum said the majority of the Portuguese settled into their own residential community in Jacksonville, which was known as "Madeira," a roughly 10-block area northwest of downtown. In the late 1850s, many of the Portuguese left this area and moved to the country.

From the time of their arrival, the Portuguese were largely welcomed in Jacksonville, especially by their Protestant

neighbors. "They had been redeemed from the supposed sloth of this much-despised Roman Catholicism by their conversion to a safe brand of Protestantism and the opportunity to work in the United States, and more specifically Jacksonville, Illinois," wrote Mr. Langum.

"Theirs became a celebrated local success story. This flattery toward the Portuguese also proceeded from the fact that they held the balance of political power in Morgan County in the 1860s. Most took out citizenship as quickly as possible, many served in the Union Army with distinction during the Civil War, and they tended to vote Republican in a divided county."

In 1853, the Portuguese built their first church building in Jacksonville, at the corner of Jordan and North Kosciusko streets. This church was known as the First Portuguese Presbyterian Church, or the Jordan Street Portuguese Presbyterian Church.

Arguments over religious doctrine and other matters caused divisions within the Portuguese church, and, for a few years in the late 1800s, the Portuguese had three separate Presbyterian churches in Jacksonville. Ultimately, the divisions among the various churches were bridged, and one church was organized.

David J. Langum Sr. will speak about Antonio de Mattos and the Portuguese immigrants to Jacksonville and Springfield at the Morgan County Historical Society's annual dinner meeting May 25 at the Jacksonville Country Club. Copies of his book on the Portuguese will be available for sale. For reservations or more information, call Rand or Pat Burnette at 245-5390.

Thank You to the Jacksonville Journal Courier for allowing us to reprint this article.

Portuguese Pictures of Years Ago Generating Great Interest



Since the committee planning the three-day Portuguese Sesquicentennial Celebration in Jacksonville has been releasing pictures of generations back great interest has been generated. Persons from throughout the nation are inquiring about plans for the three-day event on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 12, 13 and 14. This will center around the First United Northminster church and includes a street dance, dinner, etc. Mrs. Charles West, on the historic committee, has been providing the pictures. This was taken of the students, directors and teachers of Trinidad School in 1906. The greater number are identified,

not without much research, and consultation.

Identities offered by Mrs. West are: First row, numbered left to right, 1. Walter Fernandes, 2. Ernest DeFrates (owner of picture), 3., 4. and 5. not identified, 6. Ernie Birdsell, 7. Russell Nunes, 8. Theodore Nunes, 9. Joe Baptist, 10. Everett Patterson, 11. Mollie DeFrates, 12. Rosie Fortado.

Second row, 1. Ethel Souza, 2. Edna Mullens, 3. Elizabeth Coffman, 4. Evella, Oliver, 5. Daisy Birdsell, 6. Rachel Coffman, 7. Louise DeFrates, 8. Lola Oliver, 9. Minnie Lofters, 10. Stella

Bringle, 11. Laura Souza, 12. Nellie Fernandes 13. not identified, 14. Ruth Fernandes, 15. not identified, 16. Ethel DeFrates.

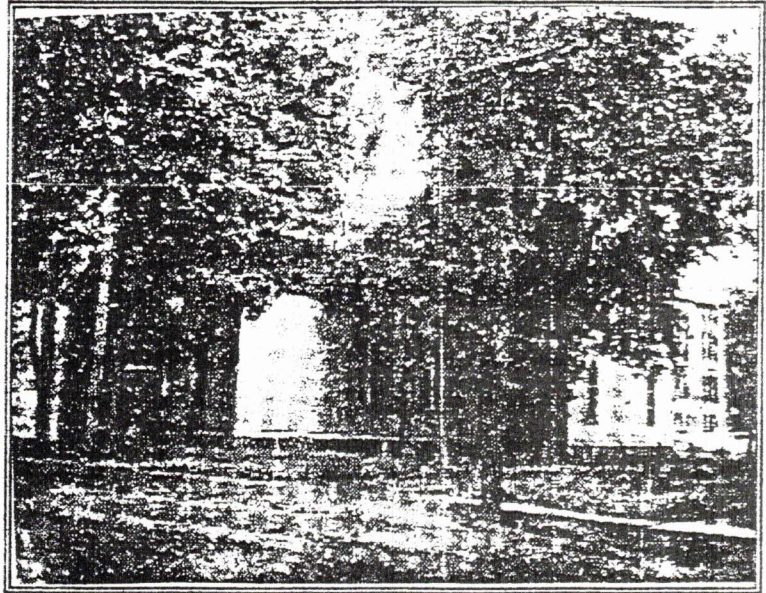
Third row, 1. Georgie Bringle, 2. Rose Bringle, 3. Hazel Scott, 4. Mae Birdsell, 5. Ethel Birdsell, 6. Lydia Coffman. Fourth row, 1. Emma Menezes, 2. Una Nunes, 3. Sanders Baptist, Jr., 4. Russell Oliver, 5. not identified, 6. Hughie Fernandes, 7. John Souza, Director, 8. Manuel Souza Director, 9. Frank Sheppard, Teacher, 10. J.M. DeFrates, Director, 11. Ada Souza, 12. Harry Frye, 13. Cloyd DeFrates, 14. Carrie Escorse, 15. Reecy Oliver.

Thank You to the Jacksonville Journal Courier for allowing us to reprint this article.

OUR FIRST EDIFICE

Corner Jordan and Kosciusko Streets

Although the Free Portuguese Presbyterian Church was first organized in Madeira in May 1845, it was reorganized in Jacksonville, Illinois March 15, 1850 as the First Portuguese Presbyterian Church. They first worshiped in the old Baptist church just west of the court house, in the old Presbyterian Church basement, and in a hall located at the rear of the Johnson and Hackett store. Then in 1853, the first edifice was built and dedicated.



This was used until a split occurred in the church in 1855/1856, and a number of members left to form the Second Portuguese Presbyterian Church. A new building was erected on Douglas Street then. Then in 1875, a large number of members of the Second Portuguese Presbyterian Church again left this church to form the Central Portuguese Church. The Central Portuguese Presbyterian Church was reunited with the First Portuguese Presbyterian Church in 1887, under the name of the United Portuguese Church and then on October 21, 1900, the United Portuguese Church and the Second Portuguese Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville merged and took the name of the Jacksonville Portuguese Church.

Copied from "1st Portuguese Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, Illinois 1855-1860.
Published May 1996 by Wanda Warkins and Eileen Lynch Gochanour."

(Note: A special thanks was given by the Publishers to Florence Hutchison and the Jacksonville Area Genealogical & Historical Society.)

PORTUGUESE WALNUT SQUARES

½ c. butter
¾ c. packed light brown sugar
1 egg
½ tsp. vanilla
2 tbsp. milk
2 tbsp. port wine
1 c. walnuts
6 tbsp. all-purpose flour
½ tsp. baking powder
Cream butter and sugar. Add egg and beat well, then add vanilla, milk, and port wine. Grind walnuts very fine. Place in a mixing bowl and add dry ingredients, then stir.

Fold in butter, egg mixture to make batter. Do not overbeat. Spoon into lightly floured nine-inch square pan and bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes. As soon as cake comes out of the oven, brush top with two or three tablespoons of port wine and sprinkle with chopped nuts. Cut into squares.

You can also make a glaze with wine and powdered sugar and top with nuts.