

**University of Massachusetts Dartmouth  
Archives and Special Collections  
Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives**

**Joseph Sequeira Vera Family Papers**

**MC 88/PAA**

**Extent:** .5 linear feet (1 manuscript box)

**Historical Note:** Joseph Sequeira Vera has traced his family lines through several branches of his family tree, including the Vera, Caton, Avila, Chambers, Vieira, Sequeira, and Vasconcellos. For many of the individuals in each family there is a short summary of their lives, and for almost all members is included basic information such as date of birth and death. Some prominent family members include Mary Louise Caton Vera (1855-1918), who was the first woman of Portuguese descent to pass an entrance exam for New Bedford High School when she was thirteen. At fifteen, she married Francisco Vieira Dias (Vera) and helped manage their clothing store and rooming house on Water Street. She provided many immigrants with identification and traveling instructions in English, as she was fluent in both languages. Another member was Joseph Vera who, with his brother Frank (1836-1921), won the Whale Boat Race in New Bedford in 1859 on their boat, the Flying Cloud. Their prize and several portraits of the family were included in an exhibition, *A Shared Heritage: Azoreans and the American Whaling Industry*.

**Scope and Content:** The collection consists primarily of genealogical records compiled by Joseph Sequeira Vera, including family trees and historical backgrounds of members of the family. There are also a few newspaper clippings and photographs.

**Acquisition:** donated by Joseph Sequeira Vera. Accession # 08-20.

**Dates:** 1880-1998 (Bulk 1990-1998)

**Access:** unrestricted

**Languages:** Materials entirely in English.

**Repository:** University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives, Claire T. Carney Library, 285 Old Westport Road, N. Dartmouth, MA 02747. Telephone: 508-999-8684.

**Processing Note:** Kristen Emmett '09, October 2008; Updated February 2009.

**Inventory**

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	Azorean Art Exhibit
	2	Citizen Certificate – Manuel Caton
	3	Descendant List for Antonio Vieira Aria
	4	Descendant List for João Viera Dias Sr.
	5	Family Names, History
	6	Family Tree Charts
	7	Luce, Capt. John E.
	8	Perry, Antone J.
	9	Photographs, 1880-1959
	10	Property Listings
	11	Sequeira Family Trees
	12	Sequeira, Jane (Jennie) E.
	13	Vera Family Trees
	14	Vera, Frank II
	15	Vera, Joseph
	16	Vera, Mary Louise Caton
	17	Oversize Family Tree