3-3-1972

Cape Verdean Oral History Project: Interview with Ludovinia Paris by Alberto Torres Pereira

Ludovinia Paris

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Mrs. Ludovinia Paris
Providence, R.I.
Friday, March 3, 1972
Interviewer-Alberto Torres Pereira

000-Tape running

012-Identify Mrs. Paris; age, time(year) of arrival to America (1913).
Ship(schooner)docked at New Bedford Harbor.

025-Recalls climate of Cape Verde Islands. Identifies Cape Verdeans
as farmers. Hestates docking at New Bedford, does not remember name
of schooner nor does she recall immigration port. (arrived U.S. age 3).

049-Age 8 begins school (kindergarten) at Arnold Street School, Arnold St.
Providence, R.I. 1918.

063-First house remembered - off South Main Street, Providence. Second
floor, 4 rooms plus bath.

082-Lived in house which was razed to build Volunteers Of America on
Wickenden Street, Providence. (Has been torn down).
Recalls fish store on Wickenden street; talks about traditional
Cape Verdean dishes...

090-"Cachupa" made of corn, samp, beans and meat. "Jagacida" rice and
beans, sauteed onions, etc.

101-Explains different word usage for "Cachupa" ("manchupa") and "Jag" for
"jagacida".

115-Creole dialect spoken at home. No problems with English.

124-Discusses prices in 1918; bread at 5¢ a loaf, etc.

131-Traditional foods (cachupa and jagacida) easily gotten since many
Portuguese and Cape Verdeans lived in area.

136-School: was 2 years older than average in kindergarten, starting
at age 8. Got along in racially mixed classroom. Teacher did not
speak Portuguese or Creole.

150-First job: paper company somewhere near Point Street Bridge. Earned
$9.00 weekly. (1927).

162-2 brothers and 1 sister migrated to United States via schooner;
no dates given.
Adaptation to U.S. easy—they all liked the states.
Mrs. Paris does not belong to any clubs or organizations. Has no
desire to return or visit Cape Verde Islands.

End first part of interview.

193-Mrs. Paris discusses people she feels helped in her adapting to
life in the United States.
Mrs. Ludovinia Paris

Providence, R.I.

Thursday, March 9, 1972

Interviewer—Alberto Torres Pereira

continued...

193—She goes to work (maid and cook) for Judge and Mrs. Easton of Benefit St. Providence, in 1927 for 5 years. Mrs. Easton, a piano teacher, helps Mrs. Paris develop her talents in opera. Mrs. Paris discusses favorite music; "Moonlight Sonata" and "Student Prince". Wishes she had studied voice in her youth.

253—Bible read to her by Mrs. Easton; learned "ethics" from these readings. Mrs. Paris states that Mrs. Easton was the model for her own life.

272—Mentions former minister at First Unitarian Church, the Reverend Robert Schact, Sr.

282—Emphasizes kindness of employers; Mrs. Downing of Preservation Society of Providence.

297—Feels she made good adaptation to the U.S. Counts employers as old friends.

338—General views about neighborhood. Comments on immigrant children and others in neighborhood.

363—Discusses her children, what they do; one is nurse, manager of housing project, one is linesman for Narr. Electric Co.

384—Reels her children benefit by being in U.S. rather than in Cape Verde Islands.

Close interview.