ST. MICHAEL’S HICKLINGS,
FAYAL DABNEYS,
AND THEIR BRITISH CONNECTIONS

by

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ABSTRACT

Thomas Hickling (1745-1834), John Bass Dabney (1766-1828), and descendants constituted two illustrious U.S. consular families in the Azores. Five New England ships of Old English buccaneers and inveterate traders as well as traders, members of both families maintained numerous connections with the British ships via marriages, the newly-laid submarine telegraph cables, and their own ships. The article includes discussion of financier J. Pierpont Morgan’s residence in Fayal in 1852-1853 and his return visit in 1906, and also an Azorean role during the U.S. Civil War (1861-1865).

RESUMO

Thomas Hickling (1745-1834), John Bass Dabney (1766-1828) e seus descendentes constituíram duas ilustres famílias americanas dos Estados Unidos nas Azores. Do Novo Inglaterra, embarcou com raízes na Vella Inglaterra, e viajantes consagrados ao mesmo tempo que mercadores, seus membros de ambas as famílias mantiveram várias ligações com as Ilhas Britânicas através de casamentos, dos propulsados cabos telegráficos submarinos, e dos seus próprios navios. O artigo debage-se sobre a residência no Fial do financeiro J. Pierpont Morgan, em 1852-1853, e a sua visita de retorno, em 1906, e também sobre o papel aqui-norte durante a Guerra Civil Americana (1861-1865).

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SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
THOMAS HICLIN ESQ.

WHO DIED AT ST. CUTHBERT'S,

A.D. 1815,

THE YEAR OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

IN THIS ISLAND

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

THOMAS HICLIN'S TOMBS, IN ST. GEORGE'S CEMETERY, PORTO RICHO.
A full discussion of relations between the Azores and England necessitates introduction of two U.S. families of English descent who settled in the «Western Islands» and from them prolonged their connections with the British Isles. One family, the Dabneys, was much involved in developments leading up to the laying of the first submarine telephone cable to the Azores. That link with Europe was in fact English, and subsequent cables tied England even more closely with the Azores, and with the United States. The Hickling — Dabney story thus flows into the cable story, as the latter flows into the saga of transoceanic aviation and as the history of aviation in its turn merges with the chapter on transatlantic sailing yachts.

The presence of Hicklings and Dabneys and their successors is explained by the location of the Azores out in the Atlantic astride the prevailing westerly winds and amid easterly-setting currents. Geography accounts for the many commercial avenues opened to outsiders settled in the archipelago, including carrying items of international trade, refurbishing sailing vessels, fueling powered vessels, relaying cable traffic, handling aircraft of limited range, and catering to the needs of affluent yachtsmen.

Details of the coming of the two families are well known and often repeated.

Thomas Hickling (1745-1834) had married in America in 1764 and had had two children. His daughter Catherine married William Prescott and had among other children the famous historian William Hickling Prescott. Thomas Hickling moved to the Island of St. Michael’s in 1769. There, after learning of his first wife’s death, he married a second American lady, became U.S. vice consul with headquarters in the city of Ponta Delgada, and on the «Green Island» sired sixteen more children. Not without interest are the facts that his first wife was fifteen years older than he, his second wife fifteen years younger, and the latter survived him by fifteen years.

John Bass Dabney (1766-1826) had settled on the island of Fajal in 1804, sent for his wife and five living children, and become U.S. consul in the Azores with consulate in the city of Horta. He witnessed the birth of five additional children on the «Blue Island».

Both the Hicklings and the Dabneys were Yankees, that is, New Englanders of English descent and Protestant in religion, of the group today colloquially known as WASPs (White Anglo-Saxon Protestants). From their Azorean islands they maintained close ties not only with the immediate homeland, America, but also with the remote homeland,
England. Being inveterate travellers as well as traders, they moved from one of the three areas to another with the greatest of ease, often in ships they owned or had an interest in.

The Dabneys were true Yankees, yes, but, according to one of several family traditions, were ultimately of French ancestry. Their family name was d’Aubigné, and they were Huguenots. They moved from France to England after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. In America, two distinct branches of the family evolved, the afore-mentioned Massachussets Dabneys and, equally distinguished, the Dabneys of Virginia.

Three most visible vestiges of this U.S. presence in mid-ocean are to be found on each of the two Azorean islands, namely, six homes, veritable mansions.

The outstanding Hickling residence was the townhouse in Ponta Delgada, today the Hotel de São Pedro. The family also possessed a stately ‘tween-seasons home in Livramento, near Rosto de Cão. Their summer home was Yaskee Hall, up in Furas.

The Dabneys first lived in Bagatelle in the northern end of Horta. While some members of the family continued there, others acquired the central Pedonia, more suitable for the consular residence, today a creche, the Lar das Crianças da Horta. In mid-century, yet another Dabney family settled in The Cedars, up the Rua do Consul Dabney and overlooking not only the city but also the Canal of mau tempo fame and the majestic island of Pico.

In one noteworthy respect the Dabneys differed from the fellow-American Hicklings.

Only one Dabney child married a Portuguese, Narcy, who in 1824 married not an Azorean but a member of a distinguished Continental Portuguese family, João Maria de Avelar Brotero. She settled with him in Brazil, where today there are numerous descendants. With a single exception the others either did not marry or else married Americans. By early 1892, all Dabneys remaining on Fayal had returned to the United States, leaving no descendants on the islands.

By way of contrast, a number of the Hickling children married local Micaelenses, remained on São Miguel with their spouses, and left numerous and well-known progeny. Moreover, several of the first generation of Hickling children married persons from the islands of Great Britain and Ireland and likewise remained on St. Michael’s. Only one such Dabney married a Britisher, a Scot, but he soon died. Two of the second generation of Dabney offspring married English persons.

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but settled in England, and yet another of these Dabneys went to
England for health reasons and there passed away.
These British marriages of Azorean Hicklings and Dabneys are of
course a part, albeit an important part, of the thrilling story of Azorean
radiation to the four parts of the world. A Thomas Hickling
granddaughter, for example, married a German, as will be noted.

St. Michael’s-born children of Thomas Hickling

Mary Hickling, 1779-1805
Thomas Hickling, 1782-1875
Sarah Clarissa Hickling, 1783-?
twin of
Elizabeth Flora Hickling, 1783-1832
Anne Joaquina Hickling, 1785-1824
Charlotte Sophia Hickling, 1787-1877
John Hickling, 1788-1795
Frances Hickling, 1799-1865
twin of
Mary Anne Hickling, 1799-1799
Frederick Hickling, 1791-1794
Harriet Frederica Hickling, 1793-1853
John Hickling 2nd, 1795-795
Amelia Clementina Hickling, 1796-1872
Samuel Weddle Hickling, 1796-1799
Mary Anne Hickling 2nd, 1800-1888
William Anglin Hickling, 1803-1835

Among the sixteen St. Michael’s-born children there were thus
two sets of twins. Moreover, one daughter and four boys died young,
under the age of ten. Of the eleven survivors into adulthood, one
never married, Thomas, the oldest son, who succeeded his father as
vicar consol.
To complicate familiar history still more, while yet broadening the
foreign connection, two widowed sons-in-law of the original Thomas
Hickling, both of them from the British Isles, married two more of his
daughters.
On December 24, 1799, in São Pedro, Ponta Delgada, the oldest Hick-
ing child, Mary, married John Anglin, son of Francis and Catherine
Anglin of Cork, Ireland. They had no children. After Mary’s premature
death on Madeira, John Anglin married Hickling's fifth child and fourth daughter, Anne Joaquina. The marriage took place on Madeira on May 22, 1809, and was blessed with two daughters and a son. The latter was the grandfather of the late Dr. João Hickling Anglin, who long ago gave the present writer his most informative article "Tomas Hickling".

On April 20, 1805, Elizabeth Flora Hickling, one of the first set of twins, married William Ivens of Oxfordshire, England (1778-1857). They had several children, including the father of Roberto Ivens, the famous Portuguese naval officer and Arctic explorer. After her death, William Ivens married a younger Hickling daughter, Mary Anne 2nd. They had four daughters, two of whom never married. Catherine Hickling Prescott Ivens (1836-1933), married a Portuguese. I" was daughter Harriet Webster Ivens (1844-1911) who became the wife of a German, John Ernest Richard Seeman.

Two other Hickling children married spouses born on the island of Great Britain. Sarah Clarissa, the twin of Elizabeth Flora, on June 1, 1806, married William Skelton Burnett of London. She lived and died in Lisbon and left descendants. Finally, son William Anglin Hickling reportedly "lived a rowing life, was married twice, his first wife a French lady his second, Miss Green of Scotland".

Azorean genealogists tracing the history of the descendants of this first St. Michael's-born generation of Hicklings will note many additional marriages with persons from outside the Azores, marriages that strengthened the international importance of the strategically located archipelago. Historian William Hickling Prescott (1796-1859) had called attention to this importance early in the nineteenth century.

In a sense, this illustrious Bostonian contributed to the Azorean connection with Britain, for he was very English-oriented. The author of four monumental books on Spain, Mexico and Peru, he spent six months on St. Michael's in 1815-1816 with his relatives. A biographer has noted that this sojourn in the Azores was "the only moment that he studied an Iberian culture face to face". He naturally visited England.
Fayal-resident children of John Bass Dabney*

Charles William Dabney, 1794-1871
Roxalina Dabney, 1799-1872
John Lewis Dabney, 1801-1853
Nancy Dabney, 1803-1872
George Dabney 2nd, 1805-1822
James Madison Dabney, 1808-1830
Frederick Dabney, 1809-1857
Emmeline Dabney, 1811-1885
Olivia Dabney, 1815?
William Henry Dabney, 1817-1888

On these ten children whom John Bass Dabney brought up on Fayal, four never married. Of the four, George Dabney 2nd had been born in the United States, sustained a bad fall in childhood, and died in England at the age of seventeen. His tragedy thus constituted an early Dabney—England connection.

Of the six Fayal Dabneys who married, four became the spouses of Americans. Of this group, one, Frederick Dabney, of the Harvard Class of 1828, married Roxana Stackpole, of Boston. But he married her in London!

Of the remaining two Dabneys of that first generation, Nancy married a Portuguese from the mainland, as already noted. Emmeline first married Adam Paterson of Edinburgh in 1836. He died in 1841 but not before having a son, James. Widowed, Emmeline returned to Fayal with her half-English offspring, affectionately known as Jemmis. In 1848, Emmeline married John Ward Gurlay Stackpole, of Boston, the brother of her sister-in-law.

The second generation of Fayal-resident Dabneys provide more British connections.

Charles William Dabney’s son, Charles William Dabney Jr., was born on Fayal in 1823 and in 1849 married Susan Heard Oliver, of Boston. He served most gallantly on the Union side during the U.S. Civil War but never shook off the ill effects of that experience. During a quest for improvement in his health, he died in Malvern, England, toward the end of 1870.

Two of the three daughters of Charles William Jr. and Susan H.O. Dabney, all born in Roxbury, Massachusetts, survived into adulthood.
and both married Englishmen. Mary Oliver Alsop Dabney («Mays», 1850-1917) became the wife of Walter Boreham, Q.C. They had no children. Susan Heard Oliver Dabney («Zayn», 1857-?) married John Beever. She lived and died in England leaving no issue. When she was a little girl in the United States, famed artist William Morris Hunt painted her portrait. As Hunt has visited the Dabneys on Fajal for several months in 1857-1858, the painting, entitled Mrs. Beever as a Child, has a double Azorean connection. It forms part of the collection of Harvard’s Fogg Museum. Over the past several years, it has hung in the office of the President of Harvard University in Massachusetts Hall. John Harvard was an Englishman and the University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, enjoys a close association with the University in Cambridge, England. Therefore the portrait has a double English connection.

**Hickling — Dabney Marriages**

On the lawn of the Hickling mansion in Ponta Delgada in 1818, Harriet Frederica Hickling, Thomas Hickling’s eleventh child and eighth daughter, married a prominent Harvardian, John White Webster (1793-1850), A.B., 1811, M.D., 1815. Webster was spending that year in the Azores doing geological research, principally on St. Michael’s. In 1821, following the newly-weds’ move to the United States, Webster’s book was published in Boston, entitled *A Description of the Island of St. Michael, comprising an Account of its Geological Structure; With Remarks on the Other Azores or Western Islands* Beginning in 1824, Webster taught chemistry in the Harvard Medical School.

The couple, settled in Cambridge, had five children, possibly six. The only son, John Redford (born 1819), died young, and a daughter, a first Harriet Wainwright (born 1822), probably died in infancy. Four daughters lived to ripe old ages: Sarah Hickling Webster (1821-1909), Marianne White Webster («Molly», 1825-1925), Catherine Prescott Webster («Katz», 1827-1909), and Harriet Wainwright Webster (1830-1924). Inevitably, given the constant movement between Boston and the Azores in Dabney vessels, Webster daughters came to know eligible Dabney bachelors. Indeed, two Webster sisters married two Dabney brothers, sons of the senior Charles William Dabney.

In 1845, Sarah Hickling Webster married John Pomeroy Dabney (1821-1874), and the couple later occupied The Cedars. In 1851, following
the tragic events of 1849-1850 involving her father, Harriet Wainwright Webster married Samuel Wyllys's Dabney (1826-1893). They resided in Fredonia, for Samuel Wyllys was the third U.S. Consul in the father-

The other Webster daughter to marry, Catherine Prescott, was a frequent visitor to Fayal. There she became acquainted with a young tutor to Dabney boys growing up in Bagatelle, Thomas Jackson Lothrop (Harvard, '54). He returned to Boston in 1857, and the two were married the following year.

A second interfamily marriage involved old Thomas Hickling's thirteenth child and ninth daughter. Amelia Clementina Hickling married, in Ponta Delgada, two Americans in succession and gave rise to a second genealogical cross-connection.

In 1822, she married Hugh Chambers of Philadelphia. He died the very next year but not without leaving her with child. The offspring, Emma Chambers, was born in that year 1823.

In 1827, the widow Chambers married Thomas Nye Jr. of New Bedford. This couple, along with the very young Emma Chambers, settled in New Bedford. They had a daughter, Eliza Williams Nye, born in 1830. The half-sisters were to lead illustrious lives.

Emma Chambers married Edward C. Jones of New Bedford. He bought for her the beautiful mansion at 396 County Street in his city. They in turn had Sarah Jones (1828-1891).

(The interrelationships of these personages is endless! From the point of view of this article, they are important, for these Americans — named Chambers, Emerson, Forbes, Hathaway, Howland, Jones, Lothrop, Nye, Oliver, Prescott, Stackpole, and Webster — were of British descent. They were proud Yankees, many of them even Boston Brahmins. They therefore constituted a British connection for the Azores, admittedly, however, roundabout.)

In 1873, Sarah Jones became the first wife of John Malcolm Forbes, of Milton, Massachusetts. They had a daughter, Amelia, who married Raymond Emerson, of the Emisons of Concord, Massachusetts. Mrs. Ameka Forbes Emerson died in her Concord home in 1979 at the age of ninety-one, but not before ceding to the author an elaborate genealogy drawn up in Boston in 1883 and entitled "Cart of the Hickling Family from Elder Thomas Leverett who came to Boston from England in the
'Griffin' in 1633, to the present time, including also the Bradford and Ripley branches of the same origin. Arranged by Wm. H. Dabney from data obtained from Miss Octavia Ivins of St. Michaels, Miss Susan Hickling Willard of Boston, and Miss Emma Hathaway of Fairhaven. After Sarah Jones's death, Mr. Forbes married a Fafal Dabney, Rose, born on that island in 1864, the daughter of Samuel Wyllys Dabney and Harriet Wainwright Webster Dabney. Residing in Milton, they in turn became the parents of, among other children, Alice Hathaway Forbes. Alice married the author's New Bedford neighbor Weston Howland in 1922 and survived him, living on to 1986, when she died at ninety. The late Mrs. Howland, who was thus of both Hickling and Dabney descent, was as generous, and as interested in family history, as her half-sister of Hickling descent, the late Mrs. Emerson. She drew up, mimeographed, and distributed two editions of a study called The Descendants of John Bass Dabney and Rosal Lewis Dabney dated respectively 1962 and 1966.

The Cable Connection

As early as 1855, Consul Dabney received, in Horta, a letter about cables from an acquaintance in Massachusetts. «How long before you will be connected with this country and Europe by telegraph?» it queried. At that time, there was talk within and outside Portugal, possibly stimulated by Consul Dabney, concerning the promotion of a cable through the Azores to the United States.

Tied in with this talk, which continued for four decades, was the desire for improved weather forecasting within Europe. Land telegraph lines were being used to transmit weather data. It was realized how valuable would be reports from mid-Atlantic, from, say, the Azores, but how to transmit them? There came an international call for a cable to the archipelago beginning at least as early as 1860, and the farther west the line stretched the better for meteorological purposes, even to remote northwestern Flores or Corvo.

Albert of Monaco (1848-1922), who ruled as Prince Albert I from 1889 to his death, visited Azorean waters on scientific expeditions in 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1895, 1896, 1897, and later years. He came to know Consul Samuel Wyllys Dabney in 1888 during a demonstration in Horta's Porto Pim of the manner in which Dabney's men were harpooning and cutting up whales.
Albert was among those who appreciated the importance of the Atlantic islands for meteorology. In 1892, before the Academy of Sciences of Paris, he outlined his idea of establishing observatories on various islands, particularly the Azores, which he apparently realized were about to be connected with the European mainland by cable.

That cable, from Carcavelos to Ponta Delgada thence to Horta, was laid in the summer of 1893. On August 27, King Carlos sent the first cablegram, and the next day Ponta Delgada sent its first meteorological bulletin. The Portuguese government had had the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company of London lay the cable. The Europe & Azores Telegraph Company now exploited the new cable, but only in 1895 did the Portuguese government turn over the Azores concession to this new English company.

Weather information flowed out of the Azores and news now poured into the islands. In the pivotal year 1893, the Horta newspaper *O Telegrafo* was founded, appropriately named. Moreover, Horta, a first port of call for outward-bound New England whaleships, leaped ahead in another way: whaleship owners began to communicate with their agents in the Azores, and through them with their ships, and vice versa.

The original Dabney interest in cables led to an additional Azores—British connection, one which involved two of the three Dabney mansions. The widow and other heirs of the last consul sold Fredonia in 1899 to the Europe & Azores Telegraph Company. Thereafter, it served as the residence of the company's Horta superintendent. John Pomeroy Dabney's daughter Sarah Hickling Dabney sold The Cedars in 1900 to the Commercial Cable Company. It became the residence of its Horta superintendent. Commercial's first cable to radiate out of Fayal connected the island with Canso, Nova Scotia, in that very year 1900, its European link being laid the following year to Waterville, Ireland.

**Some Maritime Times**

Roxana Lewis Dabney (1827-1913), a Fayal-born unmarried daughter of Consul Charles William Dabney and sister of Consul Samuel Wyllys Dabney, compiled the monumental *Annals of the Dabney Family in Fayal*. Published at the end of the past century in three volumes paged continuously, they narrate in full detail the comings and goings of Dabneys, and through Fayal of Hicklings, including the many
maritime connections under sail and by steam with the British Isles 17. Three such links merit further attention.

Eliza Williams Nye naturally inherited interest in the Azores from her mother, née Amelia Clementina Hickling, who in turn over the years maintained a very healthy correspondence with her sister back on São Miguel, Mary Anne Hickling 2nd, the second Mrs. Svens. In 1847, Eliza, a mere teenager, journeyed to the Western Islands with her father aboard one of his whaleships. She visited both Fayal and St. Michael’s and wrote up a journal of her trip. In it she revealed that she was constantly in the company of her many relatives 16.

On Fayal she saw widowed Emmeline Dabney Paterson and played with little Jemmie. On St. Michael’s, in addition to seeing her eighty-seven-year-old grandmother, to die in 1849, she absorbed an Azorean-British connection through her first cousin Sarah Hickling Anglio, the daughter of her mother’s sister Anne Joaquina. This Sarah married a native of Cork named Joseph Henry Dart, who, during Eliza’s visit, arrived back in the Azores aboard his vessel named the Dart from a visit to England. Of relevance is the fact that Eliza Nye and her father returned home from the Azores via England, to which they sailed aboard that very Dart.

Another revelation of the Nye journal: in 1847 on St. Michael’s they were still reading, on all sides, distance cousin William Hickling Prescott’s books on the conquest of Mexico and of Peru.

When the great American financier John Pierpoint Morgan (1837-1913) was a fifteen-year-old student in a Boston secondary school, he became ill. A rest cure in the Azores was deemed appropriate. Consul Charles William Dabney, a friend of J.P.M.’s father, was returning to Fayal aboard his sailing vessel Io 16 in the company of his wife, their daughter Frances Alsop Dabney (‘Fan’, 1833-1926), cousins Clara Horton and Clara Hoppin, and young Jemmie Paterson, J.P.M. went aboard the Io on November 8, 1852, and sailed that day. They arrived in Horta on November 20 20.

Morgan lived alone at Silva’s Hotel, although he did spend time with the Dabneys. He wrote perceptive and on occasion enthusiastic comments about Fayal in letters home and in his diary. They were, however, what one would expect from an Americas Protestant in touch with
American Protestants in a Portuguese Catholic environment. In a sense, Morgan anticipated Mark Twain, who followed him only a few years later.

Here is an extract from a letter to his parents completed on December 11, 1852:

... Nearly all the countries have Consuls here and their residences are usually distinguished by the flag which is raised on a pole in front of the house, and in some cases the coat of arms of the nation is placed on the house, either painted or carved on board. The houses of the consuls are usually the handsomest and best in the place. The people here are very poor indeed and are very lazy. They go around begging and it is very difficult to go through the street without being accosted several times for money and food. Everybody bows to everybody and they consider it an insult if you do not return their bows. They go barefoot and often without any covering to their heads except an handkerchief.

Morgan reacted rather more favorably to the natural beauties of the archipelago, as for example in what he wrote in his diary on February 16, 1853:

... Pico looked very handsome indeed today, for about half of the way down it was very thickly covered with snow. Pico is a very beautiful mountain and it seems to me as if I should never tire of looking at it. It varies so both as to clearness and color. I often sit in my room before a window facing it and watch the various changes which take place so often. It is generally surrounded by clouds and except on a clear day is scarcely visible although it is only five miles off. Were I going to be here during the summer and as strong as I once was I should not think of leaving without going to the summit.

Morgan's son-in-law Herbert L. Satterlee in his biography reports a rather different Morgan interest:

One day he and his friends climbed to the top of Monte da Guia, which was a peak connected with the mainland by a very narrow strip of land and used by the Government for the detention of Irish emigrants whenever a vessel carrying them put into Fáial for repairs. At the time Pierpont visited it, he noted that this quarantine was filled with the passengers from the ship Hope, and that no one was allowed to pass the guard-house without an order from Mr. Dahnery or the mayor of the city. These were the days when sailing ships, literally "loaded down with emigrants" from Ireland, came over in swift succession to the United States...

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Satterlee sums up the total Morgan reaction to the Azores in most unflattering terms: "Evidently what he saw of the Portuguese at Fayal satisfied him about that nationality, because on his many trips to the Continent he never went to Portugal, although he visited almost every other country" 24.

In the meantime, the youth's parents had proceeded directly to England on a visit. In April 1853, shortly after his sixteenth birthday, young Morgan journeyed from Horta to Southampton by the steamer Great Western in order to join them. It appears that with him went young Jemmie, who had spent the winter in Bagatelle and was to die that summer at his grandmother Paterson's home in Edinburgh 25.

The family Annals state that the Dabney girls used to get rather bored with Morgan although Charles William Dabney always prophesied that he would make his mark. The Annals include a bread-and-butter letter to the consul dated Manchester, England, April 29, 1853 26.

A friend of the Dabneys, a Dr. Cole, had also been on Fayal for his health. He and Morgan became friends in spite of age difference. The tubercular Cole died just before Morgan's departure, an event that made a lasting impression on him.

Consul Dabney's prophecy indeed proved correct. Soon after arriving in England, Morgan visited the Continent and in midsummer returned to the States, there to finish secondary school. He then studied in Europe until 1857, stayed briefly in London, returned to New York, and began his ascendancy.

The father Morgan had entered the London-based firm of George Peabody, a U.S.-born and very prominent philanthropist. George Peabody & Company did its American business with Duncan, Sherman & Company of New York. It was as a result of the financial panic of 1857 that the son Morgan returned in that year from London to New York, to represent the father with Duncan, Sherman. In this latter firm he came to know the New Engander Charles Henry Dabney, a U.S.-rooted cousin of the Fayal Dabneys, and his two daughters Emily and Mary. This Dabney became Morgan's mentor, especially in accounting, and in 1864 the pair teamed up as Dabney, Morgan & Company. Dabney retired in 1871, and the firm became Drexel, Morgan & Company.

Fond memories of Fayal did abide with J. Pierpont over the years, and saudades led him back to Horta early in 1906.

On February 8, 1906, he sailed aboard the White Star liner Cedric bound for the Mediterranean. George Gray Ward, general manager of
the Commercial Cable Company, was aboard and persuaded White Star to have the vessel stop off at Horta eastbound. His company had recently laid a new link in its transatlantic cable connections, and he wished Morgan to send the first message over it. Morgan went along most enthusiastically with the idea of revisiting scenes of his youth. Accordingly, the Cedric called at Horta on February 22, and the passengers spent several hours ashore. They even visited the Foreigners' Section in the Horta Cemetery, including its special Dabney corner. Gazing at the headstones of the graves of boyhood friends, Morgan is said to have exclaimed: "It makes me very sad, but I wouldn't miss doing it. They were all so good to me."  

Morgan sent the first cable message to Clarence H. Mackay, president of the Commercial Company in New York, and others to relatives and his firm. The ship then continued on, calling at Ponta Delgada and Gibraltar and finally reaching Naples, where the illustrious group disembarked. They ended up, of course, in England and sailed for home from Liverpool on the Baltic on July 18.

Son-in-law Satterlee's account of the 1906 Horta visit raises some questions. "The Commercial Cable Company had just completed laying a transatlantic cable by the southern route. There was a station on the island of Fayal, at Horta, ..." Mr. Ward wished formally to open the cable station there, so Morgan could send his message.  

But in 1884, Commercial had laid two cables between Waterville, Ireland, and Canso, Nova Scotia (Main 1 and Main 2). A connecting link continued on to the Greater New York area (NY 3), with an alternate cable laid the same year between Canso and Rockport, Massachusetts, thence a land-line connection to New York. In 1894, Commercial laid a third cable between Waterville and Canso (Main 3). Desirous of quite a different new route, on July 27, 1900, Commercial completed laying the cable, already alluded to, from Horta direct to Canso (Main 4), with a new connection on to New York (NY 4). On November 23, 1901, Commercial completed laying the rest of this transoceanic cable, linking Horta with Waterville (Main 4). Commercial laid no more cables via Horta until 1923, when on September 8 a cable (Main 6) was completed to Canso, with a continuation on to New York (NY 5), and on November 16 another (Main 6) was completed to Waterville.

What Satterlee was referring to was obviously a new link between Waterville and Canso (Main 5), completed in 1905. Haigh in his most
useful book on cableships and cables tells of the difficulties encountered at the American end:

... In 1905 the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company laid a fourth cable over the northern direct route; Anglia laid the eastern end of the cable whilst Colonia and Cambria assisted by Mackay-Bennett laid the Canadian end. During this operation Colonia went aground on Fox Island off the coast of Nova Scotia and had to offload her cable into Mackay-Bennett to lighten herself before she could be refloated and taken to Halifax for repairs 39.

Surely Satterlee meant to write that the Commercial Cable Company had just completed laying a new transatlantic cable by the northern route, thus providing a new link between Horta and New York (Main 4 and Main 5, thence a series of alternate routes). Although the laying was completed in 1905, the new cable clearly was not operational until February 22, 1906, the day the Azores obtained yet another in its series of connections with and via the British Isles.

To conclude discussion of the complicated cable question, it is necessary to add that, in 1909 and 1910, Main 1 and Main 2 were diverted from Canso into St. John's, Newfoundland, with new cable links direct to New York (NY 1 and NY 2). The reason: Main 1 and Main 2 from Canso had followed a route skirting the southern edge of the Grand Banks off Newfoundland and proceeding nor'west over the Flemish Cap. Both areas were popular fishing grounds, and Commercial's cables were constantly interrupted by anchors of the fishing vessels.

Eliza Williams Nye, it has been noted, visited the Azores in 1847. In 1862, during the height of the Civil War, her mother crossed on a Dabney ship to Horta, thence continued to St. Michael's, to visit her beloved sister. Amelia Clementina was sixty-six, Mary sixty-two.

The Annals, which mention Mrs. Nye's courageous journey 31, are filled with information about the American Civil War, especially maritime aspects. The Dabney role in the conflict merits considerable further study, for, on the one side, the family had close ties both with England and with the Dalneys of Virginia and, on the other, its members were New Englanders to the core and loyal to the Union.

Deep. It refers to a famous sea battle of the war. On June 19, 1864, off the French port, the U.S.S. Kearsage (Captain John Winslow) defeated the C.S.S. Alabama (Captain Raphael Semmes). French artist Edouard Manet was there and recorded the Union's sinking of the Confederacy's vessel.

The wreck of the Alabama has now been located, and there is talk of bringing it to the surface. The article goes on:

The Alabama was built in Birkenhead, England, near Liverpool, under the fiction that it was a merchant ship. Although the British sided more or less with the Confederacy, they sought to appear neutral, and as a result the Alabama was armed with cannon in the Azores...

The Times neglected to mention the considerable information on both Kearsage and Alabama contained in the Annals of the Dobney Family in Faiyal. Thus, on pages 1025-1027 the compiler translates some parts of an article that appeared in the Lidador, a Terceira newspaper, headed "Angra do Heroismo, 23d Augusto 1862" and ending thus:

... So unqualified as well as incomprehensible a proceeding, gave rise to all sorts of conjecture; some persons were much alarmed, whilst others conjectured that the vessels only came to these coasts to take in armament and munitions and would then proceed to America. One of the Steamers took in armaments in Praia bay, and the other in Faiyal bay, besides which there must have been a large stock of all sorts of munitions of war, judging by the number of iron cannon barrels floating round, which the fishermen brought to land.

To palliate, it is supposed, so singular and revolting a proceeding, the three vessels came to anchor in Angra bay and entered at the Custom House, after the usual fiscal visit. The Health Department gave the vessels "pratique," merely because they had been in Praia!

To these excerpts Roxana Lewis Dobney adds: "This describes the fitting out of the famous 'Alabama.' She never came to Faiyal, but we afterwards heard enough of her doings."

During his last semester at Harvard before retirement (spring 1981), the writer gave once again his course Humanities 25, entitled "The Civilization of Continental and Island Portugal." Naturally, he assigned
as required reading his own 1979 book, _Atlantic Islanders of the Azores and Madeiras_. Suddenly, one day well into the semester, a student came to him, announced that he was a Virginia Dabney, and stated that he knew of an underlying cause of twentieth-century hostility between Virginia Dabneys and descendents of Fayal Dabneys. He wrote his A-grade course paper on the subject and gave his professor insights never before fully discerned.

The professor had overlooked the significance to Dabneys of the War Between the States (1861-1865). The Fayal Dabneys, ex-conced on strategically located Fayal, virtually controlled shipping to and from the United States. Businessmen, they had the supplying of ships, and above all the caulking of steamships, in their hands. Unionists. they of course refused to supply and coal ships of the Confederacy, or indeed to aid the South in any way.

The professor had overlooked the significance of the facts that Virginian Thomas Jefferson had appointed John Bass Dabney consul for the Azores in the first place, that the second Dabney consul had been born in Alexandria, Virginia, and that the Fayal Dabneys and the Virginia Dabneys were members of one big but not necessarily happy family.

There follows a long extract from the student’s paper, an excellent exemplification of the true nature of a university, a corporate society of masters and students, _docentes_ and _discentes_, who aid each other in advancing knowledge:

> ... In 1806, only shortly after his settlement there John Dabney was appointed «Consul General» of the Azores, the first person to fill that newly created position. It is generally believed and referred to in some letters, but never actually stated, that this position, which was granted by Thomas Jefferson, was gained through the influence of John Bass Dabney’s two uncles. Their brother, Dr. Charles Dabney, John’s father, had left his Virginia plantation home and travelled north to practice medicine. John’s uncles’ names have escaped my memory, but they are in the Dabney genealogy with most of the rest of the Dabney manuscripts and letters in the archives at the University of Virginia. Nevertheless, it was these two Dabney uncles, who were close friends of Thomas Jefferson (himself an old Virginia planter) and later helpful to him in founding the University of Virginia, who influenced him to give his nephew this new consulship. Previsous to his appointment, they had provided money for John Bass Dabney to begin his merchant business in Fayal. It was not until fifty-five years later that the Dabneys of Virginia and Jefferson (in his grave) deeply regretted their having aided him.

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By the time of the Civil War, John Bass Dabney's family had accumulated a large fleet of merchant ships, along with significant wealth and influence. However, by that time the Dabneys, who had married solidly into Yankee Boston Brahmin heritage, had forgotten or chosen to neglect their First Family of Virginia heritage. Thus, the War Between the States began, and predictably Virginia Dabneys were to be found defending the Confederacy both with their lives and their fortunes until the very end. The South vitally needed machinery, arms and ammunition to fight the war, yet they could not get these supplies from Britain or France, who were willing to sell them to the South but would not deliver them. The South, being short of ships of any kind, and facing a Northern blockade of their shores, was in a desperate situation. When the Virginia Dabneys called on their cousins (by that time rather distant cousins, but Dabneys nonetheless) to support the Southern cause with ships or money, the Fayal Dabneys refused on both scores. One can see for oneself in the archives at the University of Virginia the letter sent to Charles William Dabney and his son John Pomeroy Dabney...explaining the South's desperate need for merchant ship blockade runners and asking for the Faylor Dabneys' help. A reply from the Faylor Dabneys never came. Thomas Jefferson, the deceased Virginia Dabneys, and many Southerners turned in their graves. The significance of this incident cannot be underestimated. The Faylor Dabneys had scores of vessels under their control, as well as great power and influence on the international merchant scene. Furthermore, they had money which the South desperately needed in the bitter stages of the war. However, the Faylor Dabneys refused to help in any way, thereby closing the door on their Virginia cousins and their Southern heritage. Furthermore, it is clearly documented in the Annals of the Dabney Family in Fayal that Faylor Dabneys fought for the Union. This was the ultimate form of heresy to the Old Virginia Dabney line. Since the War, Virginia Dabneys have not considered themselves related to Faylor Dabneys and do not associate with them. Their heresy has never been forgiven...

Terceira's English Connections

Naturally, there have been English connections with other Azorean islands, and notably with the island of Terceira. Atlantic Islanders discusses the role of the Fisher family, descendant of William Fisher of Norfolk County, England, who arrived in the city of Angra do Heroísmo in 1658 and married a local girl. For complete information, one may consult the monograph Os Fisher written by the distinguished public figure and official of the Azorean government José Guilherme Reis Leite.
The book also alludes in passing to Thomas Amory, who, although English, had been born in Ireland and brought up on Barbados as well as in England. On Terceira he was associated with Fishers. He then moved on to Boston. The Terceira writer João Alfonso’s most useful study entitled Thomas Amory Mercador nos Açores 1706-1719 fills out the story.

Three Personal Addenda

Switching to the first person, I conclude with personal reminiscences and reflections.

In this article I have stressed the pivotal and seminal roles of two American Azorean families, for I have become acquainted with several Hicklings on St. Michael’s and many Dabneys in my own country. A most impressive convergence of a Hickling couple, a Dabney couple, and my wife and I took place in Ponta Delgada on July 12, 1979.

Over the years, Elsie and I came to know, in Florida, John Carpenter Dabney and his wife Yvette. John was the grandson of John Pomeroy Dabney and Sarah Hickling Webster Dabney and consequently a great-great-grandson of John Bass Dabney and of Thomas Hickling. For several years, we planned a joint trip to the islands of his ancestors. In the summer of 1979, the dream came true. We visited Angra, Horta, and Ponta Delgada together. We naturally stayed in the latter’s Hotel de São Pedro and were royally entertained everywhere.

Back in 1962, toward the end of a westbound round-the-world trip, I spent from August 4 to 10 in Addis Ababa. There I was most hospitably received by the Ambassador of Portugal, Dr. Matiun Machado de Faria e Maia (1911-1982), and by his gracious wife and two charming children. The Ambassador was the great-great-grandson of Frances (Francisca) Hickling, she of the second set of twins, and her husband Dr. Joaquim António de Paula Meireiros. My diplomatic acquaintance was thus the great-great-great-grandson of Thomas Hickling and therefore the third cousin once removed of my friend John Carpenter Dabney.

It was inevitable that in Ponta Delgada the Faria e Maia couple should give a most elegant dinner party for Primo John from the United States and a number of us other folk. It was a most memorable occasion.
one which the already infirm Dabney never forgot over several years of suffering before his death, which took place in Florida on May 19, 1983, at being eighty years old.

As already suggested, I have known many descendants of the marriage between Harriet Frederica Hickling and John White Webster. Specifically, I became acquainted with progeny of daughters Sarah Hickling Webster, married to John Pomeroys Dabney, and Harriet Wainwright Webster, married to Samuel Wyllys Dabney. Daughter Marianne never married, so she left no descendants. Daughter Catherine Prescott Webster merits further discussion.

Writing Atlantic Islanders, I knew that she married Thomas Jackson Lothrop of Tauntor, Massachusetts. I never met any of their descendants. Mrs. Howland in her Dabney genealogy naturally never mentions them, for they were Websters and not Dabneys. Suddenly, early in 1987, I received a letter from Mr. Arthur Prescott Lothrop, born in 1910, retired, widowed, and domiciled on Cape Cod. He had read my Atlantic Islanders and wished to provide me with additional Lothrop information.

Mr. Lothrop is the grandson of Thomas Jackson Lothrop (1834-1908) and therefore the great-grandson of John White Webster and Harriet Frederica Hickling. Like John Carpenter Dabney, he is the great-great-grandson of Thomas Hickling. My new friend is the son of Thomas Mark Lothrop (1873-1955) and Amy Dudley Clapp (1878-1960). He had one sister, now deceased, and is in turn the father of three children and grandfather of seven.

Although resolutely denying that he is a genealogist, Mr. Lothrop is greatly interested in family history and most proud of his Webster — Hickling ancestry. He is in possession of a notable collection of family memorabilia including many Webster letters dated between 1814 and 1818.

Mr. Lothrop has been particularly interested in the Hickling — Seeman connection, which in fact turns out to be another British connection and, ultimately, a Canadian connection.

John Ernest Richard Seeman (1843-1909) was born at Rathenow, Germany, forty miles west of Berlin. He was the son of a Lutheran pastor. His sister Anna and her husband had to leave Germany due to court intrigue and settled in Horta, Fayal, before 1870. In this latter
year, Richard Seeman visited them and was asked by the reigning Dabney consul to assist him. He moved to Ponta Delgada in 1878 and there met Harriet Webster Ivens. They were married the following year, but in London. His four children were born on São Miguel, respectively Elsie Anna, Otmar Ulrich, Waldo Theodore, and Eric William. Not wishing these children to marry Catholics, Seeman (that is, Seemann) with his family moved to London in 1887 and there dropped the second "n" of his family name.

In 1895, Richard Seeman bought a farm in Saskatchewan with the idea of settling on it. Hartrie would have none of this idea, but their son Waldo eventually worked it. Son Otmar, an attorney-at-law — his firm's letterhead says «Barristers, Solicitors, Etc.» — also settled in Canada, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. In later years, he had considerable correspondence with members of the Lothrop family, whom he addressed as cousins.

Eric Seeman remained in England and had a son, Richard, now resident in Oxford. A younger brother, born in England, likewise remained in that country. He had a son, Peter B. Seeman, residing in Buckinghamshire. In his first letter to me, dated South Yarmouth, Massachusetts January 29, 1887, Arthur Prescott Lothrop referred to this Richard and this Peter.

My branch of the family has maintained an interest in genealogy. During the summer of 1984 my son and I visited Great Britain. We stopped in Oxford and met Richard Seeman and his first cousin, Peter Seeman — both descendants of Thomas Hickling. The four of us drank a toast from glasses which had originally belonged to Thomas Hickling.

On his 1987 Christmas card to me, Mr. Lothrop noted that he owned Frederick Lewis Allen’s biography of J. Pierpont Morgan with its discussion of the magnate’s sojourn in Horta. It was that book which led me to others and to full awareness of the Morgan Fagel connection. And in a 1987 Christmas greeting from Peter B. Seeman to Mr. Lothrop, another tidbit is revealed: Thomas Hickling’s French passport, signed by James Monroe and today in Mr. Seeman’s possession, informs us that the first Azorean Hickling, the father of eighteen children, was 5 feet 0 inches tall!

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In conclusion, I am constrained to express a hope, namely, that one day a complete bibliographical collection concerning the Hicklings and the Dabney family would exist within the Serviços de Documentação of the Universidade dos Açores. Such a collection could and should count on the generosity of other prominent American and English families whose roots extend to the archipelago ever affectionately known as the Western Islands.

As a stimulus in this direction, in 1984 I gave to the Secretaria de Educação e Cultura of the Governo Regional dos Açores, for deposit in an appropriate site in Horta, the photograph/autograph album of the 1880 round trip of the bark Azorean between Boston and Horta. The passenger list included, among others, Mrs. John Pomeroy Dabney and her three daughters, Rose Dabney, Harriet Eleanor Lotrop (1859-1931, oldest of Catherine Prescott Webster Lotrop's five children, later Mrs. M.D. from Zurich and the wife of Herman Augustus Raasch), and Emma B. Hathaway.

Along with the typescript of this article I am donating to the Azorean university's Serviços de Documentação the following four books on the Azores given to me several years ago by the late Mrs. Howland, each inscribed with the name of an earlier Hickling owner. Significantly, two were published in London. The other two were issued in Boston, clearly as part of the New England-Azores-England-New England circular linkage. The titles and inscriptions follow:

M. Borges de F. Henriques, A Trip to the Azores or Western Islands. Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1887. Inscribed «Eliza N. Davis 1887».
Mrs Charles Roundell, A Visit to the Azores with a Chapter on Madeira. London: Bickers & Son, 1 Leiceste Square, W.C., 1889, with a sticker in pons end papers reading «W. B. Clarke & Co, Booksellers, Stationers, Boston». Inscribed «Emma B. Hathaway, 44 Newbury St, March 1890».
NOTES

1 For a full description of the islands that includes chapters on shipping, Hicklings and Danbeys, submarine telegraph cables, aviation, and both submarine telephone cables and satellite pathways, see F. M. Rogers, Atlantic Islanders of the Azores and Madeiras (The Christopher Publishing House, 1970). (Christopher’s new address is Commerce Green, 24 Rockland Street, Hanover MA 02139.) See also Rogers, Welcome to the Cable Trail and the contributions to trans-Atlantic communications made by Maria (Delegação do Turismo da Horta, 1988), also available in Portuguese translation.

2 The basic Danbeay source is the Annals. See Note 17.

3 For the Avelar Brotero family, see Frederico de Barros Brotero, Descobrimentos do Conselheiro José Maria de Avelar Brotero (São Paulo, 1963), the inside cover of which lists other works by the same author on this subject. See also Dario Abatarchi Viotto, «Um Monumento da Universidade de Coimbra sobre a Família Avelar Broteros», Revista do Instituto Histórico e Geográfico de São Paulo, LXIV (1980), and Uma Lição de Esperança: A Vida de Polycarpo de Magalhães Viotto (Brasilia, 1983).

4 An important Danbeay source that includes a follow-up to the Annals is Rose Danbeay Forbes, Fayal Danbeys. See Note 13.

5 The present writer is greatly indebted to Dr. João Bernardo Oliveira Rodrigues of Ponta Delgada for the gift of a huge chart entitled «A Líbiia dos Hicklings», an original in manuscript; it measures 79.5 inches (202 centimeters) in width. For other basic sources, see Notes 6 and 12.


7 Notation on 1833 chart. See Note 12.


9 Another important source for the Danbeys is the Alice Forbes Howland genealogy. See Note 14.


11 For information concerning these families, consult papers in the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston. Other papers are in the collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

12 As for the authors of this 1833 chart, Note 33 contains additional information concerning William Henry Danbeay. Octavia Frederica Ivens (1834-1907) was one of the two unmarried daughters of William Ivens by his second Hickling wife Mary Anne Hickling 2nd. She lived and died in Ponta Delgada. Her unmarried sister was Lavinia Frances Ivens (1839-1851). Emma B. Hathaway of Fair Haven (across the Acushnet River from New Bedford) was the daughter of Eliza Williams New by her first husband Charles Hathaway.
the second husband being Edward Dana. Miss Susan Hickling Willard of Boston is unidentified.


16 The first version of Mrs. Howland's genealogy consists of 19 pages, the second 26 pages including an introduction.

17 The basic and indispensable article is by Frank Stanley Westoff of Horta, "Os Cabos Submarinos no Faial", Boletim do Museu Cultural da Horta, III, 2 (1963), 215-230.

18 Mr. Weston contributed considerable information to Chapter 9, "Dots, Dashes, and Submerged Wires", of Atlantic Islanders.

19 Page 736 of the Annals, for which see Note 17.

20 The Annals (Press of Alfred Mudge & Son, Boston), like Rose Dabney Forbes's sequel, were privately printed for circulation within the family. These three volumes actually constitute "Part First 1806-1871". A Portuguese translation is presently being prepared, under the direction of João Alfonso of Terceira, for publication by the Governo Regional dos Açores.


22 For Dabney vessels including the Jo, see Old Sailing Days in Boston (New Bedford: Reynolds-DeWalt, 1969, a book originally published in 1918 for the State Street Trust Company), pp. 41-45, entitled "Ships that Fleed Between Boston and Fajal".


For more complete information on Morgan, see Herbert L. Satterlee, J. P. Morgan: An Intimate Portrait (New York: Macmillan, 1939), pp. 38-58 and 430-431, and my that merited translation into Portuguese. The earlier books about Morgan by Carl Howey (1911), Lewis Corey (1930), John H. Winkler (1930) and Matthew Josephson (1934) are not worth citing in this connection, except that Winkler, p. 46, states it was George Peabody who suggested Fajal, where he had a correspondent. The later book by Frederick Lewis Allen (1949), George Wheeler (1973), and Stanley Jackson (1963) naturally draw on Satterlee.

24 Satterlee, p. 42.

25 Satterlee, p. 51.

26 Satterlee, pp. 51-52.

27 Satterlee, p. 55. The writer's paternal grandfather was born in Horta in 1836. He left there aboard an American whaling vessel on August 30, 1852, just over three months before Morgan's arrival. He married a lady born in Ireland in 1846 who emigrated from that country in 1848 at the age of two, my grandmother. The couple, completely Americanized, remained steadfastly Catholic, as did their son and grandson. Obviously,
the latter reacts strongly to disparaging remarks by WASPs about native Azoreans and Irish immigrants.


26 Annuals, pp. 659, 683, and 682-683 respectively.

27 Satterlee, p. 431.

28 Satterlee, pp. 430 and 431.

29 For information on Commercial’s early cables via the northern route, see The Commercial Cable Company, 1883-1918, 54 pp., published by that company.


31 Annuals, pp. 1029, 1031, and 1037.

32 Apparently an error for the Virginia State Library in Richmond, Virginia.

33 The author of the present paper included this extract in a lecture, «Virginia and the Azores», delivered at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, on March 26, 1982, under the auspices of that University’s Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese.

34 Ironically, a member of the family’s Fayal branch, William Henry Dahney, who drew up the 1883 chart of the Hickling family, wrote a monumental book on the Virginia branch, Sketch of the Dahneys of Virginia, with some of their Family Records (Chicago, 1889). This Dahney, the youngest of John Bass Dahney’s children, served as U.S. vice consul on the Azorean island of Terceira from 1844 to 1848 and lived for many years on the Canarian island of Tenerife as U.S. consul. Later in life, in Boston, he did much genealogical work.

35 See also Charles William Dahney (of the Virginia Dahneys), «The Origin of the Dahney Family of Virginia», The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, XLV, 2 (April 1937), 121-143.


38 This information is based on personal sappers in the Arthur Prescott Lohrop collection.

39 See Atlantic Islanders, p. 168. See also F. M. Rogers, O Infante, os Açores e Eu (Principe Henry the Navigator, the Azores and I) Discurs de agradeceimento na ocasião da atribuição, por parte do Senhor Presidente da República Portuguesa, do grau de Comendador da Ordem do Infante D. Henrique e contendo um poema inédito: «The Prey» por Frances Susan Dahney (Angra do Heroísmo: Secretaria Regional de Educação e Cultura, 1982). The poem is by the eldest daughter of John Pomeroy Dahney (1856-1918), one of the passengers aboard the Azorean in 1880. The Prey was the Dahney summer home on the west coast of Pico facing Fayal.

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