







170th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF PORTUGUESE IMMIGRANTS



During the mid-19th century, Bermuda experienced considerable expansion in agriculture as a key component of its economy. The Island exported onions, carrots, potatoes and other crops to the United States and to various countries in the West Indies. The “Bermuda Onion” became so popular in the New York area that the Island was colloquially referred to as “The Onion Patch” there – a term which forms part of Bermuda’s vernacular to this day. The Island was finding it more and more difficult to maintain a large enough labour force which was properly skilled to meet the ever-increasing demand for Bermuda-grown crops abroad.

The emancipation of slaves on 1st August, 1834 released into the general labour force, a population of workers who had been mostly employed in areas other than agriculture. The farmers began to look elsewhere for a labour force that was skilled in farming and agriculture.

In 1847 the Colonial Parliament, in recognition of the need for Bermuda to maintain a labour force that could sustain the large-scale cultivation of crops for export, voted to offer 400 pounds sterling to ship owners for the recruitment of suitable immigrants.

Several articles appearing in the *Bermuda Royal Gazette*, beginning 10th April, 1849, highlighted the arrival of farm labourers from the Portuguese island of Madeira to several countries of the West Indies including Trinidad and Antigua; and British Guiana in South America. On the 14th August, 1849 a notice was placed in the *Bermuda Royal Gazette* inviting farmers and householders to become subscribers for the impending voyage of the brigantine *Golden Rule* to Madeira for the purpose of recruiting farm labourers and house servants. The ship arrived back in Bermuda on 4th November, 1849 with 58 immigrants consisting of 35 male adults, 16 women and 7 children.

The historic and considerable contribution of this first group of Portuguese immigrants from Madeira aboard the *Golden Rule* was significant in the creation of a sustainable and successful agricultural economy in Bermuda.

Today, the Island derives great benefit economically, socially and politically from the contributions of Bermudians of Portuguese descent whose ancestors arrived on the Island not only from Madeira but also from mainland Portugal and the Portuguese islands of the Azores and Cape Verde.

\$2.50 Stamp



The 20 x 30 Oil on Canvas entitled “*Golden Rule* off the East End, November 1849” was painted by renowned marine artist, Stephen J. Card, AFNI, and forms part of the art collection of the National Museum of Bermuda.

Mr. Card, a native of Bermuda, is largely self-taught and working in oils, prefers to paint the great ocean liners of the 20th century. His many paintings may be found exhibited on board vessels of the Cunard Line, Costa Crociere and Saga Cruises; and in numerous corporate and private art collections throughout the world.





.50 Stamp

The brigantine *Golden Rule* is depicted approaching the eastern end of the Island of Bermuda bringing the first group of Portuguese immigrants to Bermuda from Madeira on 4th November, 1849.

The voyage of this vessel, under the captaincy of John Thomas Watlington, a native of Bermuda, had been underwritten by the Government of Bermuda to promote the importation of agricultural labourers to help sustain a burgeoning economy of exported Bermuda-grown crops.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

DESIGNER	Keno K. Simmons – Department of Communications
PRINTER	CARTOR Security Printing
PROCESS	Lithography
STAMP SIZE	42.58mm X 28.45mm
PERFORATION	13.33 per 2cms
PANE	50 (2 X 25)
PAPER	CASCO Crown Watermarked
VALUES	.50c and \$2.50
RELEASE DATE	1 November, 2019

Acknowledgements: National Museum of Bermuda and Stephen J. Card, AFNI

List continued

<i>Subscribers Names</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Age of Males</i>	<i>Age of Female</i>	<i>Names</i>
<i>Ronvan</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	
<i>J. Outenridge</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Maria Marques</i>
<i>C. Peniston</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Maria de Lousta</i>
<i>M. M. Smith</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>Joseph Rusten</i>
<i>J. H. Penrose</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>Jois Malagueis</i>
<i>J. H. Lightbrown</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Telesberta Augusta</i>
<i>B. W. Watlington</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>John de Lussis</i>
<i>J. T. Watlington</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>Maria Ribeiro do Souvera</i>
<i>James Richardson</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>Antonia Rosa Pachion</i>
<i>Trott</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>Alexander Marques</i>