

## Nova Scotia Portugal Connection

My name is Dawn Josey an artist in Nova Scotia with a Portuguese connection. My work involves taking historical information and ancestral stories to create visual displays.

I am the 6<sup>th</sup> generation from the original progenitor of my family name in Nova Scotia.

From census information and other historical records we know that a Portuguese sailor onboard a ship sailing from Havana, Cuba to Liverpool, England was shipwrecked in 1805 off Mushaboom Harbour in Nova Scotia. He was 20 years old and the lone survivor.

He settled and live out his life in the same area as did the 5 generation before me.

Records indicate he was known as Manuel Jusey (Jose, Jewsie). With many different spellings. We know from one census that he was recorded as Manuel Figurehead which lead some genealogists to suspect his name may have been Figueiredo. As we know nothing of his parents we may never know his true history before arriving in Nova Scotia.

He was born in 1785 and died in May 1870 at age 85. He had 11 children.

His daughter records him as being from Lisbon Portugal.

The generations to follow recorded their nationality as Portuguese right up to and including my grandfather who passed in 1940. My father was the first generation to be recorded as Canadian on census information.

Over the years since he arrived in Nova Scotia he and his male children made a living on the sea as fisherman although they would have also supplemented their income working the woods for lumber. In later years they working in saw mills owned by the Alfred Dickie Lumber Company in Ship Harbour, Sheet Harbour, Sherbrook and Liscombe.

Many Portuguese recipes and culture have filtered down over the years including my passion for incorporating the painting styles and colors of historical Portuguese folk art into my own work.

