

VÁRIA

AZOREANS ANXIOUS TO RETURN TO GRACIOSA: AN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER ITEM FROM 1800

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GEORGE MONTEIRO *

A search for references to the Azores in United States newspapers and journals has turned up, as the earliest such reference of my acquaintance, the presentation of an appeal for a small group of Azoreans now in the United States. It is in the form of a letter to the mayor of Norfolk, one possibly reprinted from elsewhere, appealing for charity to benefit thirteen men found aboard a fishing vessel bound for the island of Graciosa that was blown way off course. It was published in the *Daily Advertiser*, a New York City newspaper (1787-1806), on August 8, 1800, page 3. The newspaper had a run of just about twenty years, from October 1787 to August 1807. The letter of appeal is addressed to the Mayor of Norfolk Borough.

“The brig Sally, capt Stone, on the 23rd of March last, met an open Portuguese fishing boat at sea, having on board 13 men, viz. nine of them belonging to the boat and four passengers, among whom is secular priest.* Capt. Stone, who was on his voyage bound for Norfolk, too them on board and behaved with great tenderness and humanity. This boat sailed from the Island Terceira the 18th of March, bound for the Island Graciosa, distance 18 leagues. During the passage, they met a violent storm, that carried away their masts and sails, and obliged them to throw over-board their cargo. Thus disabled, they were obliged to bear away right before the wind, and the gale continuing from the N.E., captain Stone found them west of all the Western Islands or Azores. They had no water or provisions except oranges and beans, on which they subsisted five days. They all

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belong to Graciosa – some of them helpless old man from 50 to 70 years old, and sickly. They are all married except two, and very desirous to go home. They are destitute of all necessaries of life, almost naked, and no money except what voluntary they have received from the charitable good people of Norfolk.

Wm. CHARLES LEE,
Interpreter.

To John Read, Esq.
Mayor of Norfolk Borough.”

* We are happy to learn that Bishop Carrol, of Maryland, has humanely taken this unfortunate Clergyman to his own house.

In all likelihood the information marked with a * has been added editorially by the *Daily Advertiser*.