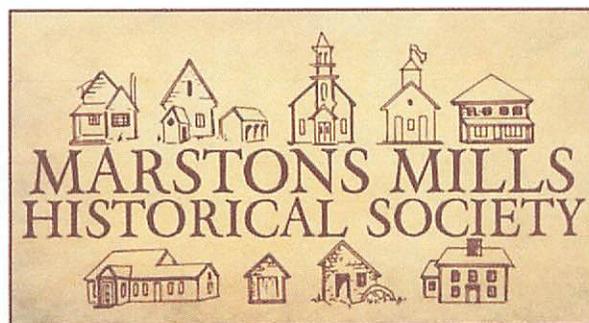


Marstons Mills Historical Society
Interview with Loyse Perry
Jim Gould & David Martin
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Manuel Henrique MONIZ was born 17 May 1897 in Vinagre on the Island of Brava, Cape Verde. He died 22 July 1980. He came to United States at age 15, to Providence, R.I., where he had two older brothers, Joe (Joseph) and Tony (Antonio). He worked as a stevedore in Rhode Island for many years, and among his accomplishments, he did a stint as chef in a restaurant in Rhode Island. An inquisitive and resourceful individual, he wanted to expand his horizons, and, having friends in the area, he migrated to Marstons Mills. He resided with others from the islands in the home of Benjamin Perry, considered a haven for Cape Verdeans upon arrival to the States. Ben Perry, Sr. (see interview with Ben Perry, Jr. elsewhere in this collection) among his other contributions to the community, helped new Cape Verdean immigrants to get jobs, and took care of them until they got established. Manuel first worked in the cranberry bogs and then moved on to other interests. A jack-of-all-trades, he then became a major builder in Marstons Mills and East Osterville, a trade he learned from his brother Tony, a carpenter.

The first house he built was the Jacques house opposite the cemetery (see National Register #420 Route 149). In 1933, when he was 21, he had saved enough to buy three acres, on which he built the bungalow in 1924. In the next decade he built seven similar bungalows on the west side of Cammett Rd. (see Nat. Register #s 121, 127, 145, 159, 175, 199).

Following the Hurricane of 1938, he went into the landscape business. His love of the land and knowledge of gardening resulted in many beautiful landscapes on Wianno Avenue, Oyster Harbors, and throughout Osterville. His work force consisted of experienced Cape Verdean immigrants for the most part—Manuel Pina, Arsenio Lopes, Manuel Reine, Edwin Barrows of Falmouth; Buster Harding, of Cataumet; John Hurtt and Manuel Andrade, of Osterville, and the Perry brothers from Marstons Mills.

Before World War II Manuel bought a large piece of land on the southeast corner of Route 28 and Osterville-West Barnstable Roads (now Mahoney's nursery). Moniz Circle, where his grandson Wilson Jr. lives, is named for him. In 1938 he and his wife, the former Lena Rose, built #308 Osterville-WB Road with lumber salvaged from the many homes destroyed by the hurricane. At the east end of the lot he had a sandpit which provided the loam and material for his work. He also opened a stump dump next to the town dump, which the town took from him as unpermitted use, and then gave it to a favored town resident to manage. In the early fifties he opened a garden center where his wife Lena worked. He grew many of the vegetables sold there, and was noted for the deliciously sweet strawberries which came from his garden.

Moniz built four houses on Swift Ave. at the junction of Old Mill Rd. in Osterville, then four more along Old Mill Rd. He went on to build three houses on Moniz Circle, and one on Route 28 in Osterville. His finish carpenter was Steve Maslanka, also of Osterville.

Mr. Moniz was an avid fisherman, and enjoyed many adventures with his compadres. He loved the outdoors, and for many years he and his family camped out many summers at Jon's Pond in Mashpee.

He came from a musical family: an uncle and nephew were noted violinists in the Cape Verde Islands as well as in New England cities. Manuel loved to dance and did so enthusiastically to the end, especially the soulful melancholy morna music.

It can be said without a doubt that Manuel led a productive and happy life.

