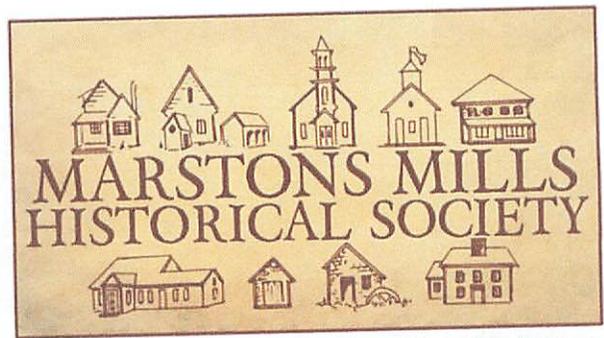


Marstons Mills Historical Society  
Interview with Manuel Roderick  
(by Claire Melix & David Martin)  
May 5, 2014



P.O. Box 1375 Marstons Mills, MA 02648  
marstonsmillshistorical.org

Manny Roderick's father Manuel immigrated to the USA from Cape Verde, and settled first in West Barnstable. He worked for a brick company. He was introduced to his future wife, Louisa, by Ben Perry's wife—Louisa's older sister. They probably married in New Bedford. His father spoke Portuguese, English, and Dutch; the Dutch ancestry came through a Dutch shipbuilder ancestor who came to Cape Verde. When his father had settled on Cape Cod, he read letters from Cape Verde for people who had gotten letters but who could not read. Because his mother wanted to be closer to her sister, they then moved to Marstons Mills.

His father worked for the Wianno Golf Club in Osterville, and walked or rode a bicycle everywhere; he never had a driver's license. He arose at 4am to start the water pumps by hand at the Golf Club. He also owned cranberry bogs. His father worked until he was 98 years old, and passed away at the age of 104. Two of Manny's brothers worked in the management of the A.D. Makepeace Cranberry Company. A third brother was in World War II, and married Eileen Roderick of Harwich. There were 13 children in Manny's family. His mother worked for a bottling company, across from the current Melody Tent. At harvest time, the whole family worked in the bogs scooping cranberries. His parents were married for 67 years.

Manny was born in a house on River Road in the Mills. He was active in sports, particularly baseball; he was a member of the championship baseball team at Barnstable High. He later played for the Mashpee Indians team and then in the Cape League. Later he joined the Marstons Mills softball team.

After high school, he went into the Coast Guard and served in the 40-foot launches out of the Woods Hole station; he was then assigned to the station at Sandwich, and then was stationed at Boston where he served on a cutter, the "McCulloch", which was a weather ship in various parts of the North Atlantic. Then he worked for Ralph Jones' father in the excavation business.

He built his own house next to his parents' home; he raised two sons and two daughters there. His older daughter is currently a Probation Officer, and his younger daughter is in the medical field after being a Class A gymnast.

He founded his own company, "Roderick Construction", in 1981, doing waterworks, drainage, and sewage management; a big project for the company was the entire water works of New Seabury. Two of his sons now work in the company, and Manny manages water inspection and excavation.

His proudest achievements relate to his work with young people. During the 1970's he served as Cubmaster for Cub Scouts, a Little League baseball coach, and a basketball coach for youth. He has found it most rewarding that all of the young people with whom he worked have "turned out well" as they have become adults now.