



Alison Anselmo

During the late 1800s, John Fragosa DeMello Sr. and Angelina Mendoza Resendes were born in St. Michael, Portugal. The two immigrated to the US in hopes of securing a future for themselves and their families. The two met and were married. In 1921, New Bedford Linguica Company Incorporated, manufacturers of Fragozo pure food products, began under their direction.

This small plant provided linguica, chourico and morcelas to the local community, as well as deliveries around town. They started with a horse-drawn truck, and over the years moved on to eventually using fully refrigerated trucks to deliver all over the state.

They were the first suppliers to Cape Cod and the islands, including the Provincetown area. Over the years, they began to distribute to Bermuda and other US Virgin Islands.

Their linguica products were a favorite at so many of the local feasts, including the Madeira Feast in New Bedford and the Provincetown Portuguese Festival. Their products were available for purchase at their local retail store, any grocery store, or online for UPS delivery.

As the family grow, so did those who worked in the business. Their son, John DeMello Jr. and his children all assisted with the business while growing up. In 1952, John Sr. passed away, leaving Angie to run the show. Dorothy F. Anselmo, their daughter did the bookkeeping for over 60 years and was a key player behind the scenes.

Manuel Rubo was a longtime employee for over 55 years. He could always be found at the retail store on Davis Street. Grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins also found themselves making linguica during their summer vacations.

After the passing of Angie, Dorothy inherited the business, and with the assistance of her children, Sheila Davidson, Alison Anselmo, and Brad Anselmo, she continued on with the tradition.

As times change, so do some things come to an end. In 2009, a corporate decision was made to close the doors for good. This left many people heartbroken and others refusing to eat linguica anymore. The family has been thankful for everyone's support, and we will always remember the good times.