



Maria Correia

Translated from Portuguese/English Mix

He went to Portugal to marry. I am going to say it in Portuguese.

Interviewer: It's OK. A mix is fine, as well.

I married in St. Miguel, Furnas. He came here alone, and I came 3 months after. We started our life together here. We went to live in a small apartment, after I got pregnant and when my son was born, we had to move because the apartment was too small. We moved to another apartment, and lived there for four years. I had a daughter. After that we bought a home in Dartmouth in 1978, when she was 4 years old, and that's where we made our live working. I worked in a factory for 27 years, Cliftex, making coats for men. I worked for 27 years and worked in a factory and raised my daughter. She went to Voc—didn't want to continue her studies. She studied after she got married. But during that time, I became very ill with Crohn's disease, colitis. I was home nearly a year sick and in treatment. Life ... [inaudible]... life turned upside down, it was only my husband earning a living, I belonged to a union, but the union only gave me \$40.00 per week. We had to pay the rent, had to pay the babysitter, because I didn't have anyone to take care of my daughter, because I was very sick, would go to the hospital on weekends. That, after I was treated and recovered. Life became better in our house. We always had a garden. My husband always had his animals, some chickens, a rabbit. We had a modest life more or less a romance. I only had a daughter. My daughter got married at age 21. We now have two grandchildren, and a granddaughter now 24 years old. We have a grandson that my daughter adopted, of one year and, thirteen months more or less when he came to us. And now he is 6 years old, and the happiness of our life. Certainly after, all this. She finished school. Now we are retired and traveling to some places, here and there. And now we have our retirement and completed, two weeks ago, 50 years married, and we are living our lives normally in our little corner. We hope life will give us—that God will give us a long life, would not like to die now. You understand what I am saying?

Interviewer: I can catch about probably a quarter of it, because of the Spanish, like it's very, Spanish and Portuguese. I do understand the Colitis because my husband also has Colitis.

And I had Crohn's.

Interviewer: Yes, and we have been watching because it may seem like he may have Crohn's as well. But I feel like I want to do the Terceira, however you want to say it in Portuguese and whatever you want to tell me is fine.

To tell you the truth, my life wasn't that bad here. I love being here. When I came, I went to school, I went to high school nights, in high school. I graduated, and when Cliftex was about to close I changed shifts. I went to ... [inaudible] ... I went to daycare. I took the course to do teaching. I went to BCC 3 times, took some little courses—3 months, 4 months, about this, about that, behaviors, and I retired after from ... [inaudible] ...

Interviewer: Ok, yeah.

Normal to me. Being sick was bad, but ...

Interviewer: Things happen in life, right?



Yeah, yeah. But, that's part of my life.

Interviewer: When did you retire?

I retired in 2013.

Interviewer: OK.

Ten years.

Interviewer: Yeah, what do you do?

A lot of stuff. I cook. I clean. I crochet. We go for a walk; I go to the gym. I love to cook, and I like to give. I give some soup to my neighbors, I go far to bring some stuff to a friend of ours that we visit, she's in a wheelchair. So, that's what we do on a day trip or a weekend trip. We are planning to go to Portugal in September of this year. Just waiting on some results from the doctor. After that, if God is with me. I know He is—we are going to go. At least two weeks.

Interviewer: Where in Portugal?

St. Michael.

Interviewer: St. Michael?

Yes.

Interviewer: Oh, it's the rain.

I have one daughter, 48.

Interviewer: Does she live here?

She lives In North Dartmouth.

Interviewer: Ok. What year then did you get here?

1973.

Interviewer: Ok, 'cause you did say that you were married in Portugal.

In 1973.

Interviewer: How has it changed since you've been here?

So, it was great. I came from a small town into this world. To me it was like a world. So big, so big. But, since the first day, I was loving it. I had my house, I had my ... [inaudible] ..., my mother was very strict with me. She didn't want me to marry, she wanted me with her all the time ...[inaudible]... I don't know how to tell you how it was in Portugal. We had a good life there ... [inaudible]... my father, he came here in 1971 to visit his brother. And his brother said: "If you want to stay, I can do the papers and you can come." So, he said OK, my Mom got upset. It was a life change for my Mom. My Mom was really upset to leave her house there, and she left the first



granddaughter, 9 months old. My brother had married a year and a half before. It was harsh. For me too, but I came with my husband.

Interviewer: You were of age!

To me, it was a great experience coming here. I mean, I learned a lot, I learned a lot. The first time I took my lesson, I was really excited. All I wanted to do was write.

Interviewer: (Laugh)

...[inaudible]..., I mean, I got married at 22, ...[inaudible].... It was a very good experience [sound of 3 knocks on wood]. To me, it was a big thing. It was very big.

Interviewer: Was your father able to be a tailor here as well? To continue his work?

Not on his own. He used to work in a factory as a supervisor. Had a lot of work at the time he came in 1971, a lot of factories used to make a lot of suits. Some factories was pants, jackets, and others would do vests. He used to work in Fall River.

Interviewer: Ok.

Darwood, Darwood was a factory under the bridge. ...[inaudible]... He came here already 50, 50 years old. He only worked 11 years. So, after that, he went back.

Interviewer: He went back?

My mother never got used to this climate and she would cry. She was very independent in Portugal, and when she came here was like she was in a box. He had to do something.

Interviewer: So, she was happier when they moved back?

And he was too. ...[inaudible]...

Interviewer: Do you have any aunts or uncles that are there still? In Portugal, any family?

I have a brother. My youngest brother lives in Portugal. He used to work for the town.

Interviewer: Ok.

My sister-in-law ...[inaudible]... She had twins ...[inaudible]... They live in the continent, in Lisbon.

Interviewer: Ok.

And life goes on. We go to visit, sometimes they come here. ...[inaudible]... Thank God it wasn't that bad. But a lot of people have a lot of bad stories to tell.

Interviewer: I know, yeah. For sure.

What goes behind doors.



Interviewer: Do you feel like you have, kind of like there's a community here already of people that were welcoming, that were either had, were from Portugal or had the language or there is places for you to ?

When I came here, I used to live in a small apartment on this side of my apartment and another apartment was another lady ... [inaudible]... she was already aged. I was home alone for a month, so she used to come to my house. She taught me a lot. When I started to work, that was a month after I came. She was coming to my house teaching me how to speak the English. So, she would bring the book, the pen, the pencil, the eraser, everything to teach me. She would say to me the days of the week, count to a hundred, the months, the days of the week, oh, I already said that. And she was telling me the day she was coming to my house she would say: "You better read that book and write like this one hundred times." So, she would put one column with Monday, Tuesday, the numbers, the months, and I had to write that a hundred times. I learned a lot in a month. I would know more than my husband in three years. I used to love school. That helped a lot. She used a lot to teach me because the next day she would come to my house and say: "Good afternoon, good afternoon, how are you?" Trying to tell me, to explain. I would say "ow ar you." She'd say: "That's now the way to say 'how are you—how are you?'" . She was a big teacher. She was for me. I learned a lot.

Interviewer: Yeah, we usually have about 20 minutes so that way, when it gets transcribed, it's easier and it takes its time. So that way it will all be written out and we also archive it.