



Kenneth Teixeira

In the early 1900s, immigrants were lured to the Southeastern Massachusetts area to work in the factories that had sprung up in the wake of the decline of the whaling industry. My grandfather and grandmother arrived from Portugal in 1912 and proceeded to work and produce a family of four children. Their second-youngest child, Francisco Frank Teixeira, married Mary Jarden, and they enacted a Horatio Alger novel by working hard, sometimes barefoot in area clothing factories. They showed immense talent and management skill, taking home factory sewing work with them to their little apartment above a convenience store in New Bedford. Their skills and dedication were soon recognized by management. And to make a long story short, by the age of 40, Frank and Mary owned three factories in the area. In the day, when doctors and nurses wore uniforms, their Whittenton Garment Corporation made the most expensive and sought after uniforms around the world. Frank and Mary bought a spacious Edwardian waterfront home near the entrance to the Cape Cod Canal and brought their family up there.

During those years, they were loving and encouraging to their children, nieces and nephews, and including me. Mary Jarden Teixeira was the glue that held the family together. During the cultural changes of the 1970s, the use of uniforms in medical and other venues declined. And Frank and Mary retired to a lovely waterfront home in Sanibel Island, Florida. As of this writing, 2023, their offspring still own and operate the Globe Mill in Fall River, Massachusetts. My gratitude to Frank and Mary knows no bounds, and I share their fervent hope that this nation can return to the day when individuals are free to apply their abilities and initiative to ensure their success and contribute for the benefit of the nation and the entire world.