

**THE BRITISH  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF PORTUGAL**

**TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT  
AND REVIEW 1993**

**13, Rua da Arriaga,  
1200 LISBON**

## THE HICKLING CONNECTION

(Azorean links with the families of Ivens, Ellis and Hayes)

by James Henry Hayes

1790 - At the end of the 18th century a young man named William Ivens came to London and joined a firm trading with Portugal and Spain. On one occasion he and a man named William Burnett were sent on an errand to Spain. Their ship was wrecked in a storm and the two Williams were washed ashore on the coast of Portugal, clinging to a spar. They were rescued by a man who asked for no reward save the spar and who put them aboard a ship which they soon discovered to be a privateer. The captain evidently intended to pressgang the castaways, but on their both pretending to be freemasons he took them within sight of land and turned them adrift in an open boat.

That night William Ivens, in a fitful sleep, dreamed that he saw two fair maidens waving to him from the top of a cliff. Next morning, on nearing the shore, the castaways looked up and there, on the top of the cliff, were two fair maidens waving. On beaching their boat they were told by the girls, in American English, that this was the Island of San Miguel in the Azores, and that they were Sarah and Elizabeth, the twin daughters of an American orange merchant named Hickling, who lived in the region of hot springs called Furnace<sup>1</sup>. He was also the American and Russian consul<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> - Furnas.

<sup>2</sup> - The Hicklings originally from South Carolina become important merchants in São Miguel. They built what is now the São Pedro Hotel in P. Delgada and owned several merchant ships.

Apologizing for the absence of his wife - in bed with the birth of another daughter, Mary Anne - the Consul made the two mariners welcome, and raised no objection to the two young couples' pleasure in each others company. The budding romance resulted in a double wedding - Burnett marrying Sarah, and Ivens Elizabeth.

1830 - Elizabeth bore William five boys, the second, Robert becoming an explorer in Mozambique<sup>3</sup>. On her early death William married her sister Mary Anne already mentioned. The fourth son, Thomas, married Henrietta Carew, the daughter of Robert Carew of Balnamona, Ireland, with whom she had come to Furnace to take the Medicinal waters, then popular with the English speaking community. After raising a family of six children, Henrietta died. Thomas and his young family were now dependent on their cook, who became one of 1850 - the family to the extent of bearing Thomas four more children, three girls and a boy, unimaginatively repeating the names of the four legitimate elders. Henrietta, the youngest married Jacomo Carriera, and their son, Thomas Ivens Jácomo Carriera, lived until his recent death, at the Convent of Agua de Pau, in São Miguel. Another descendant of the misalliance, Sra. Berta Novonha, lives at São Roque.

1875 - Their father's association with his cook so scandalized his now mature legitimate family that they disowned him and left for England where they all made good marriages. The fourth child, Henrietta, married a visiting American Theodore Ellis of Boston, Mass. They raised a family of three: Margaret Carew, Thyra Lewis and Theodore Hickling.

1880 - A friend and neighbor of the Hicklings, in a house above the Furnace lake<sup>4</sup> called Granad, was the British Consul, George Hayes, with a family of five boys and a girl. On his father's death, the eldest son, George, became Consul and, with his wife Maud (née Turnley), moved into the consulate in the capital, Ponta Delgada. His widowed mother took the rest of her family to England where she lived until her death in a house in Hampstead, London. The sons soon learned to

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<sup>3</sup> - Roberto Ivens crossed Africa from Angola to Mozambique in 1877 together with Hermenegildo Capelo. The Rua Ivens in Lisbon S. Mamed is named after him.

<sup>4</sup> - Lagoa das Furnas.

earn their livings, one of them, Henry, going to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).

Meanwhile Theodore Ellis, whose son was at Harvard and whose his daughters were finishing their education in Germany, also came to England where Henrietta could rejoin her Ivens relatives. They took a house at 1900 Enfield-Belcaro, Bicullah road. Because of the Azorean link, the Hayes and the Ellis families fraternized, and in 1904 Henry, home on leave from Ceylon, fell in love with Thyra whom he married and took to the backwoods of the Kelani valley in Ceylon.

1930 - The union of William Ivens with his second wife, Mary Anne produced five children, all girls, the fifth of whom, Harriet Webster, married a German, Richard Seeman, and bore him five children, Ottomar, Waldo, Eric, Lewin ("Tufty") and Elsie. Elsie married Arthur Knowles and her eldest child is Diana Knowles of Auley Court Devon. The surname Ivens survives only in the descendants of Henrietta Ellis's elder brother, Thomas, two grandsons, John, son of Harold and Alistar, son of Wilfred and of her younger brother, Jack, who survives and a daughter who is Edith Ivens, in a home in Torrington, Devon.

1977 - The writer of these notes is the son of Henry and Thyra Hayes.