

The Discoverer of Brazil, Pedro Alvares Cabral

A memorial presented to the Royal Academy of Sciences in Lisbon by Visconde de Sanches de Baéna¹, corresponding associate of the same Academy.

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Translation Notes:

1. *The original, a copy of which is held in the library of the Foundation for Medieval Genealogy (FMG), England, is in 19th century Portuguese. A scanned electronic copy is available on the FMG website. The main text (pages 1-72) is divided into eight chapters, and the rest of the book (pp.73-151) is a transcript of original documentary sources.*
2. *A translation of some key genealogical passages has been prepared by Steven Edwards for the FMG. Chapter VII, which follows below, deals with the descendants of Pedro Alvares Cabral through to the mid nineteenth century.*
3. *The translator is not fluent in Portuguese, but has made a best attempt at rendering the meaning. In translating the texts he tried to use plain English to convey the meaning, rather than slavishly to follow grammatical Portuguese constructions that sound stilted or over elaborate when translated literally. Where appropriate the wording has been condensed to convey the key points while avoiding duplication and circumlocution. Titles are always difficult to translate but approximate English equivalents are given where possible (eg alcaide – commander of a castle; alcaide mor – commandant in chief; senhor – lord; vedor – overseer). Infante is widely understood in English, and has not therefore been translated.*
4. *The abbreviation “s.g.” is not known to the translator, but he recorded it as “without issue” as that seems to fit the context.*

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The FMG has provided this material and extracted data in English in order to promote the study of medieval genealogical texts. There is no claim, actual or implied, that the translations are a literal representation of the original.

Anyone who can correct or improve on the translation, or extend it to other parts of the source book, is invited to contact the FMG at info@fmg.ac

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¹ Augusto Romano Sanches de Baena Farinha [1822-1909], visconde de Sanches de Baena. He wrote a lot on genealogy, however he had little critical spirit or erudition. Of his many genealogical works, which should be consulted with care, noteworthy are the Historico-Genealogical Account of 19th century Portuguese Dukes, published 1883, and Noble Families of the Algarve, in 2 volumes, recently reprinted. (*commentary from the internet*)

English translation

Chapter VII (pp.56-67)

V **Pedro Alvares Cabral**, as we saw in chapter I, was born in Belmonte approx.1467-1468 and was the legitimate son of the Lord of that town. He inherited part of his father's estate and through his wife's dowry gained important properties (doc. XVII).

He began his career, in the custom of the time, in the court of King João II, with the privileges of a young noble, which was his birthright by established custom. While there he studied the particular humanities of that era and began his dreams of new worlds.

Pedro Alvares distinguished himself among his fellows through his commitment, his talent, and above all his rectitude and sober character. After the death of João II, he continued to put himself forward with his successor, as a noble counsellor of Christian habits, with an annual income of 40,000 reis.

D. Manuel in recognition of his worth and resolution nominated him for the important role of captain of the fleet that would depart for India in 1500. The description of that journey, in which he accidentally discovered the shores of Brazil, his return to the kingdom, the envy of which he was the target, the treachery to which he fell victim, his loss of face, the reprisals and disgrace that he suffered from the king, has already been described in chapters IV, V and VI.

[there follow several paragraphs lamenting the misfortunes of Cabral under D.Manuel and his feud with Vasco da Gama.]

Pedro Alvares Cabral, after the events briefly outlined, went to live in the town of Santarem, distanced from the court since 1502, and concentrated on managing his domestic affairs until his death in 1528. This date, previously unknown, was revealed in the writings of father Rousado, dated 9 Aug 1529. He was buried in the Church of Grace belonging to the convent of the friars of grace.

Pedro Alvares Cabral as a young man married D. Izabel de Castro, third granddaughter of Kings Fernando I of Portugal and Henrique of Castile, being daughter of D. Fernando de Noronha and his wife D. Constança de Castro, who was sister of the great Affonso de Albuquerque. These two were children of the third Lord of Villa Verde, Gonçalo de Albuquerque, and his wife D. Leonor de Menezes, daughter of the first Count of Athouguia.

D. Izabel de Castro was a lady-in-waiting to Queen Maria, second wife of King Manuel, until she was obliged to leave the court with her husband following the conflict we have referred to above. After her husband's death she contracted with the prior and religious brethren of the convent of St Augustine of Santarem, also know as *gracianos*, to furbish the chapel of St John the Evangelist with vestments and whatever else was needed, giving them also a provision of wheat, sheep, poultry and eggs for ever, provided from her properties on the river S. João, to maintain in perpetuity in the said chapel, the sepulchre containing the bones of her husband and of her son Antonio, on condition the friars said 15 masses annually.

D. Izabel de Castro (for her qualities and being a widow of a national figure) was selected by D. João III in 1534 as a lady-in-waiting for his daughter, the Infanta D. Maria, and received 60,000 reis in 1534 which had been owed to her husband. D. Izabel died in 1538 and was buried in the tomb that she had instituted.

The children of Pedro Alvares Cabral and Izabel de Castro were:

- 6 **Antonio Cabral**, young noble, with 2,000 reis in capital (*moradia*) and an annuity (*tença*) of 20,000 reis, on 14 May 1521. He died young and was buried in the Church of Grace in Santarem. His bones were subsequently moved to the tomb instituted by his mother in the chapel of St John the Evangelist, mentioned above, without issue.
- 6 **Fernão Alvares Cabral**, who continues below.
- 6 **D. Constança de Castro e Noronha**, wife of Nuno Furtado de Mendonça, commander of Cardiga, of the order of Christ, without issue.
- 6 **D. Guiomar de Castro**, died as prioress of the convent of the Rose, in Lisbon.
- 6 **D. Izabel**, nun
- 6 **D. Leonor**, nun

VI Fernão Alvares Cabral, second son of the discoverer of Brazil, young noble (*moço fidalgo*), squire (*escudeiro*) and nobleman (*cavalleiro*) in 1528 with 2,537 reis in capital and annuity of 100,000 reis. Went to Ceuta in 1546 charged with various business responsibilities.

D. João III was very much his friend, to the point where we find Fernão Alvares attending at court with D. João de Menezes who sang the praises of Admiral Vasco da Gama to the detriment of the discoverer of Brazil. The king, knowing the facts, exiled João de Menezes to Arzilla for the rest of his life, and there he died.

Fernão Alvares left for India on 23 March 1553 as captain of the S. Bento during its return to the kingdom in the land of Natal, near Cape *Boa Esperança* with the loss of 200 people, not one of whom could be saved.

Fernão Alvares had married D. Margarida de Castro whose dates are not known but it is known that her dowry was settled on her husband on 2 September 1533.

After the death of her husband, D. Margarida de Castro commissioned the friars of grace of the convent of Santo Agostinho in Santarem to say a daily mass in the chapel instituted by her mother-in-law, in a document dated 21 July 1560. D. Margarida was daughter of D. Gonçalo Countinho, commander of Arruda, of the order of Christ, and commandant in chief of the same town, and of his wife D. Brites de Castro, daughter of Ayres da Silva, 5th lord of Vagos.

The children of Fernão Alvares Cabral and D. Margarida were:

- 7 **Pedro Alvares Cabral**, page to Queen Catharina, wife of D. João III. He served in Mazagão with arms and horses under him, where he was ennobled by his cousin D. Fernando de Noronha, with privilege of young noble of the house of the Cardinal Infante. He had an annuity of 100,000 reis for the services of his father. In 1554 he was nominated as Governor of Mazagão, participating in 1578 with D. Sebastião in the battle of Alcacer Quibir where he died a bachelor.
- 7 **João Gomes Cabral**, who continues below.
- 7 **Ruy Dias Cabral**, distinguished service in India, commander of the fleet, second secretary Couto, where he killed the Malabares. He was valorous, intelligent and responsive, and a special friend of D. Sebastião. In India he

married D. Izabel de Vasconcellos, without issue. D. Izabel was daughter of Manuel de Vasconcellos, captain of Sofala. After she was widowed, she married secondly Manuel de Miranda, captain of Dio.

- 7 **D. Maria de Noronha**, lady in waiting to the princess of Asturias, married in 1543 to prince D. Filippe, later king of Castile.

VII João Gomes Cabral through the death of his brother he became heir to his father's estate. Served as captain of the guard of kings D. João III and D. Sebastião, and died with the latter in the battle of Alcacer Quibir. He had married D. Brites de Barros, granddaughter of the chronicler João de Barros. D. Brites married secondly Bernardim da Silva d'Alte.

João Gomes and D. Brites had the following children:

- 8 **Fernão Alvares Cabral**, who continues below.
- 8 **D. Maragrida da Silva**, nun in Santa Clara de Santarem
- 8 **D. Antonia da Silva**, nun in Santa Clara de Santarem
- 8 **Pedro Alvares Cabral**, died as a minor
- 8 **João Gomes Cabral**, died in India, without issue.

VIII Fernão Alvares Cabral, inherited his parents' estate and went to live in Enxara dos Cavalleiros, where he would inherit important farms from his mother. He married D. Joanna Carvalhosa da Maya, daughter and heiress of Ruy Gomes de Carvalhosa, senior treasurer of the kingdom, lord of the inheritance of Pahava, and of his wife D. Maria da Maya de Lemos, daughter of Dr Diogo Barradas, high court judge and secretary to the ambassador to France, who was the count of Linhares in the time of D. João III.

D. Joanna de Carvalhosa was paternal granddaughter of Jorge Gomes de Carvalhosa, great granddaughter of Ruy Gomes de Carvalhosa Palhava, gt gt granddaughter of Ruy Gomes de Carvalhosa Palhava, and gt gt gt granddaughter of Gomes Lourenço Palhava, heiress of the inheritance and chapel of Palhava in Lisbon, head of the same house and farm where today was built the palace bought by the count of Azambuja. The inheritance of Palhava was instituted by Joannanes Palhava and his wife Sancha Pires in 1346, who declared in their will, "having regard to the many favours received from D. Marthino Pires Palhava, his wife dona Maria Soares, and his daughter dona Thereza Nunes, already deceased, we order raised tombs to be erected in the chapel of S. Domingos de Lisboa, next to the sacristy."

From this it can be seen that it was not the location of Palhava, on the road to Bemfica, that gave the surname to this family, as has erroneously been asserted, but rather they who gave their name to the place.

Fernão Alvares Cabral and Joanna Carvalhosa da Maya had the following daughters:

- 9 **D. Maria Cabral de Noronha**, who continues below.
- 9 **D. Brites da Silva**, died without estate.

IX D. Maria Cabral de Noronha, heiress of her parents and grandparents. On 13 November 1622 she married D. João Luiz de Vasconcellos e Menezes, lord of Mafra, of Enxara dos Cavalleiros, and of the counties of Aregos and Soalhaes, commandant in chief of Castle Bom, governor and captain of Mazagão, where he died in a fall from a horse on 15 May 1648. His bones were moved from there between 1671 and 1681

under the governorship of Christovão d'Almada, and were deposited in the chapel of Varatojo instituted by the same.

The following daughter was born to this marriage:

X D. Joanna Cabral de Vasconcellos e Menezes, heiress of Mafra, and the lordships of Enxara, Soalhaes, Aregos, and Ilha do Fogo, and the castle of Bom.

She married twice, firstly to the count of Armamar, from whom she had succession, and secondly to D. Diogo de Lima Brito e Nogueira who was born in 1615 and was 9th viscount of Villa Nova da Cerveira, of the council of state for war, governor of arms for the province of Minho, president of the chamber of commerce, senior aide to King Affonso VI, lord and commandant in chief of the town of Cerveira, of the Arcos de Val de Vez and other territories, and commander of the order of Christ, etc.

He died on 24 April 1685, his wife the viscountess having died earlier in Ponte de Lima in 1653.

They had the following children:

11. **D. Manuel de Lima e Vasconcellos**, without issue, drowned in the Tagus in S. José de Riba Mar on 13 March 1662 while accompanying king Affonso VI to that district.
11. **D. Lourenço de Lima**, died 20 December 1666 without issue.
11. **D. João Fernandes de Lima Vasconcellos de Brito Nogueira**, who continues below.
11. **D. Maria de Nazareth de Noronha**, who was married twice, first to the 2nd count of Mesquitella, D. Neutel de Castro, without succession, and second to D. João de Sousa, with issue.
11. **D. Luiza de Tavora**, wife of Pedro Severim de Noronha, secretary of state to D. Affonso VI, without issue.
11. **D. Ignez de Lima**, nun in Odivellas.

XI D. João Fernandes de Lima Vasconcellos de Brito Nogueira, born 12 October 1655 in Ponte de Lima, 11th viscount of Villa Nova de Cerveira. Died 24 February 1694. Married to D. Victoria de Borbon, widow of D. Manuel Luiz de Athaide, count Athouguaia. D. Victoria died 30 April 1724. Five known children from her second marriage:

12. **D. Diogo de Lima**, born Feb 1672, died 27 June 1686, without issue.
12. **D Thomaz de Lima**, who continues below.
12. **D. Lourenço de Lima**, born 25 Nov 1675, died 25 Nov 1689.
12. **D. Magdalena Rosalia de Lima**, born 31 Dec 1672, married 1695 to Martim Antonio de Mello, count of S. Lourenço. She died 4 Aug 1739 leaving one son who was 5th count of S. Lourenço, etc.
12. **D. Joanna Antonia de Lima**, born in Alemquer 10 April 1676, married to the third count of Avintes, with issue.

XII D Thomaz de Lima Vasconcellos Brito Nogueira, born in Alemquer 26 April 1674, was 12th viscount of Villa Nova da Cerveira, etc. Married to D. Maria

Hohenloe, lady-in-waiting to queen D. Maria Sophia and daughter of Luiz Gustavo, count of Hohenloe, etc, and prince of the S.R.I. They had 2 children:

13. **D. João de Lima**, born Sept 1694, died 26 July 1696.

13. **D. Maria**, who continues below.

XIII D. Maria Xavier de Lima e Hohenloe, heiress of the entire estates of her parents and grandparents. Born Lisbon 1 Dec 1697, 13th viscountess of Villa Nova da Cerveira, died 5 July 1730. She was married 28 Oct 1720 to Thomaz Telles da Silva, son of the 2nd marquis of Alegrete. They had 9 children:

14. **D. Thomaz Xavier de Lima**, who continues below.

14. **D. Fernando Antonio de Lima**, born 2 June 1730.

14. **D. Maria Xavier de Lima e Hohenloe**, born 13 Aug 1721, died 3 Oct 1734.

14. **D. Helena Xavier de Lima**, born 6 June 1722.

14. **D. Victoria Xavier de Lima**, born 27 June 1723.

14. **D. Luiza Ignez de Lima**, born 21 June 1724. Nun.

14. **D. Anna Borbon de Lima**, born 26 July 1725. Nun.

14. **D. Magdalena Josepha de Lima**, born 24 Aug 1726. Nun.

14. **D. Joanna de Lima**, born 26 April 1729.

XIV D. Thomaz Xavier de Lima Nogueira Vasconcellos Telles da Silva, born in Ponte de Lima, 12 October 1727, 14th viscount of Villa Nova da Cerveira (letter dated 3 Sep 1750) and 1st marquis of Ponte de Lima (17 Dec 1790), died 23 Dec 1800. On 4 July 1749 he married D. Eugenia Maria Josepha de Bragança, born 31 Oct 1725, second daughter of the 4th Marquis of Alegrete. She died 29 Dec 1800. Their children, along with others who left no succession, included the following:

15. **D. Thomaz Xavier de Lima**, who continues below.

15. **D. Maria Anna Xavier**, born 7 May 1753, becoming marchioness of Niza through her marriage, etc.

15. **D. Maria Joanna**, marchioness of Abrantes through her marriage, etc.

15. **D. Helena Maria**, marchioness of Obidos through her marriage, etc.

15. **D. Maria Margarida**, wife of Antonio de Mello, son of the countess of Ficalho, etc.

15. **D. Domingos José**, marquis of Niza, through marriage, etc.

15. **D. Lourenço José**, count of Mafra, etc.

XV D. Thomaz Xavier de Lima, etc, etc, born 13 May 1754, 15th viscount of Villa Nova da Cerveira. He died during his parents lifetime on 2 June 1781, being married 4 Oct 1777 to D. Maria José de Assis Mascarenhas, who was born 2 Sept 1751 and died 15 March 1825, 8th daughter by birth order of the 3rd count of Obidos. Their children were:

16. **D. Thomaz José Xavier**, who continues below.

16. **D. Helena Maria José**, born 20 Aug 1778, lady-in-waiting to the queen, etc.

XVI D. Thomaz José Xavier de Lima Vasconcellos Brito Nogueira Telles da Silva, born 12 Oct 1779. He succeeded from his grandfather to the title of marquis of Ponte de Lima in Dec 1800, and from his father, viscount, in June 1781. He died 5 Feb 1822, having married 4 Sept 1804 to his cousin D. Helena José de Assis Mascarenhas, born 21 Feb 1784, daughter of the 4th count of Obidos. Their children:

17. **D. José Maria Xavier de Lima Vasconcellos Brito Nogueira Telles da Silva**, 3rd marquis of Ponte de Lima and 17th viscount of Villa Nova da Cerveira. He died without succession.
17. **D. Maria Xavier de Lima**, born 12 Sept 1808, died without succession.
17. **D. João Xavier**, born 27 Feb 1813, died without issue.
17. **Anna Xavier de Lima**, born 23 Oct 1814, died a spinster.
17. **D. Helena Luiza Xavier de Lima**, who continues below.

XVII D. Helena Luiza Xavier de Lima, born 3 Dec 1816, married 2 July 1835 to the 4th marquis of Castello Melhor. Their children were:

18. **D. Helena do Santissimo Sacramento**, born 13 April 1836, widow of D. Manuel Maria Ximenes de Azevedo, and, through death of her brother, 5th marchioness of Castello Melhor, with issue.
18. **Affonso de Vasconcellos**, born 9 Oct 1837, died 30 Nov 1850, without issue.
18. **João de Vasconcellos e Sousa Caminha Faro e Veiga**, born 10 Nov 1841, 4th marquis of Castello Melhor, died 11 Jan 1878, with illegitimate offspring.
18. **D. Maria José**, born 25 March 1847. See *Resenha das Familias Titulares e Grandes de Portugal*, vol.1, pp.403ff.