

116 pt 49 213

INTERESTING AND HOPEFULLY RELEVANT FACTS REGARDING THE ADVENTURESOME AND NOT ALWAYS HONEST LIFE OF THE FEARSOME AND STUBBORN SERTANISTA AND SOMETIME PAULISTA JOÃO DE SOUSA DE AZEVEDO, gathered by David M. Davidson in the gloomy halls of the AHU. To Wit:

1. Certidão of Teotônio da Silva Gusmão, Vila Bela, 7 June 1753, AHU, Mato Grosso, maço 5:

Certidão//

Theotônio da Sylva Gusmão Juis de fora e orphaós por Sua Magestade nesta Villa Bella da Santissima trindade minas do Matto Grosso &<sup>a</sup> Certefico que sendo eu juis de fora na villa de ytu pellos annos de mil setecentos e quarenta e outo e mil setecentos e quarenta e nove; por haver <sup>noticia</sup> ~~noticia~~ que Joaó de Souza de Azevedo se tinha auzentado das minas do Cuyabá, rompendo os certos do rio preto, e rio dos Arinos, desconfiados alguns credores, q tinha deixado em Saó Paullo, ytu, e Arari-taguaba de q se perderia, e naó tornaria mais a aparecer; o fizeraó citar por editos, e com as sentenças lhe pegaraó nos [aos?] bens q naquelle destricto de ytu tinha deixado, e lhos arematará em praça pondo a sua mulher e familia em bastante pobreza com a falta dos dittos bens de que se estavaó servindo. Para o referido na verdade q juro aos Sanctos Evangelhos; e por me pedir de presente está lha pacey de minha *(está?)* letra e Signal em Villa bella da Santissima trindade minas de Mato Grosso em sete de junho de mil setecentos e ~~sincoenta~~ sincoenta e tress// Theotônio da Silva Gusmão//. (This is a copy).

2. ~~Requerimento~~ of João de Sousa de Azevedo, no date [Belém, 1755?], attached to Francisco Xavier de Mendonça Furtado to Sebastião José de Carvalho e Melo, Mariuá, 14 July 1755, AHU, Pará, caixa 15. (I did not make a copy of this petition, but the following notes may be valuable to you):

Azevedo summarizes the usual story of his trip from Cuiabá via the Arinos and Tapajós rivers to Belém. He notes that he has been away from his family, who live in São Paulo, for eleven years "tendo filhas ja molherez q correm risco a reputação e credito do supp.<sup>te</sup>..." and he requests that the Fazenda Real finance the transport of his family from São Paulo to Vila Bela. He mentions that he has a wife, four daughters, two creadas escravas and at least five other servants. *in São Paulo*

This request was granted in an aviso from Tomé Joaquim da Costa Corte Real to FXMF, Belém [Palacio], 16 June 1757, Biblioteca Nacional de Lisboa, Coleção Pombalina, Cod. 626, fols. 129-130.

3. Note: in all the original letters I have seen written by Azevedo in his own handwriting, he always signs his name João de Souza Azevedo, although almost everybody else refers to him as João de Souza de Azevedo.

4. "Mappa das Familias, que, á excepção das dos Indios Aldeados, se achavaó existindo em cada huma da mayor parte ~~das~~ das Freguezias de ambas as Capitánias do Estado do Graó Pará, e da sua possibilidade, e applicação no Anno de 1778." AHU, Rio Negro, caixa 5. This is a very interesting and useful economic survey of all the heads of families in Pará and Rio Negro. It lists all the whites and non-Indians, states their civil status, occupation, government position, number of slaves, economic "possibility" (either "pobre" "mediana" or "rico"--there are very few people listed as rico--perhaps 1 percent).

João de Souza de Azevedo's name appears in <sup>2</sup> ~~three~~ different freguezias, and I'm fairly certain that they ~~refer~~ refer to our João de Souza. He is listed as "rico" each time, which places him definitely in the elite (monetarily at least) of Amazonian society.:

1. He is listed as a morador in the freguesia of Sta Anna (in Belém), is branco, casado, a sargento mor, owns eight slaves, and rico. He has ~~rather~~ no other "oficio".

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2. His name is also listed in the freguesia of N Sra do Rosario da Penha Longa, and he has a sitio on the Rio ~~Tava~~ Tava. It states he owns 35 slaves there and refers to him as "rico, e bem applicado a agricultura."

3. Though the list doesn't mention it I know he also had a sitio on the Rio Madeira very close to Borba, where he built and repaired canoes, collected cravo, cacao, and other drogas.

Thus Azevedo was living until at least 1778, was wealthy, and ~~was~~ seemingly still active in business. He was blind.

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5. João de Albuquerque to Francisco de Sousa Coutinho, Vila Bela, 2 May 1791, Biblioteca e Arquivo Publico do Pará, Cod. 260, doc. 8:

João de Albuquerque makes a brief reference here to Azevedo's 1746-1747 trip on the Tapajós, and he states ~~que~~ "...do qual ainda hoje existe nessa Cidade do Pará seu filho Antonio de Souza."

It seems that Azevedo is dead now. *IT SEEMS ANTONIO WAS HIS SON*

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6. "Relação de todos os [as?] cabeças de Familias brancos, e Mamalucos, e de todos os filhos varois, que a cada g huma correspondem, e existem pellas diferentes freguezias do districto do Segundo Terço de Infantaria Aux.<sup>ar</sup> da Cidade do Graó Pará, segundo o exame a que se procedeo no anno de 1776." BAPP, Cod. 990 [fol. 12 v].

This lists João de Sousa de Azevedo as a morador in ~~the~~ Belém, 70 years old, married, and "cego",

If he is 70, then he was born about 1706. This seems about right.

I have found various other documents referring to João de Souza but most of them deal with his particular business activities ~~in~~ the Amazon, and I don't think they would interest you or be of direct relevance to Monções. I hope the above information will be of help to you.

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