



Sílvia Buttros (1)

Silvia R P M Buttros and Antonio C. Camargo tell the story of

John Joachim Fleming : A Successful 1797 Irish Immigrant to Brazil

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In the 1977 Issue No. 2 of [Irish Roots](#) - exactly 200 years after John J. Fleming arrived in Brazil - is an article written by Brian Mc Ginn under the title 'The Irish in Brazil'. Mr. McGinn points out that while in Argentina some 300,000 citizens claim Irish descent, in Brazil very few came to stay.

John Joachim Fleming, our great-great grandfather, was an exception. We believe that *Irish Roots* readers will be interested to know about this man, whose descendents today number close to 3,000. Some of them have left their marks in our multi-ethnic society of 180,000 million people. Mr. McGinn mentions, among four others, Harold de Campos (2), who passed away last year. He inherited the Irish vein for poetry and was well-known as a poet. Among John J. Fleming's descendents, we find José Lino de Almeida Fleming (3), a nineteenth century graduate of the Milan School of Music, known as a conductor and composer. Francisco Almeida Fleming (4), in the early 1920s, was a pioneer of the movie making industry and developed a system to record sound in movies. Others have been judges, attorneys general, lawyers, businessmen, college professors. Thiers Fleming (5) was an admiral in the Brazilian navy, whose grand-son is currently a high ranking professor of physics at the S. Paulo State University and a members of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences.

John Joachim Fleming, the son of George Fleming and Margaret Hawkins, was born around 1773 in Dublin, Ireland. In his Brazilian marriage proceedings, he says he left Ireland for English America when he was seven years old, and at the age of thirteen joined the Royal Navy. We believe he meant the *Portuguese Royal Navy* as those mentioned in the marriage proceedings were all Portuguese men who testified to having known him for fourteen years and for ten years were fellow workers in the Portuguese Navy. In 1797 John left Lisbon for Brazil and lived in the city of S. Paulo from 1797 through 1801 before moving to Embaú, in the state of S. Paulo.

The proceedings state that he was given two years to turn in his baptism certificate, however, after two years, he presented himself before the Curia claiming that getting his baptism certificate was extremely difficult and asked for a waiver. The waiver was granted in view of the witnesses that testified for him. We wonder how difficult it would be to find the record of his birth today.

He was addressed as Captain John Joaquim Fleming. We haven't been able to find out whether he received his title in Portugal or after arriving in Brazil, nor any other information about his life before coming to Brazil.

On 15 May 1801, he married 19 years old Claudiana Esmeria Lavra de Jesus in Lorena, S. Paulo state, and 14 children were born of this marriage. In addition to a large land grant that was awarded to him, his wife inherited a sizable farm. As a result of Napoleon's invasion of Europe, John VI, the Portuguese king, fled to Brazil in 1808. This led the government to implement some travel controls on foreigners. On 29 November 1816, the foreigners register (Vol. 7, page 178) records John Fleming leaving the state of S. Paulo for Rio de Janeiro carrying goods and taking slaves. Physically he is described as being of small height, long face, white hair and white heavy beard. On January 20, 1827 he joined the Catholic Church Most Sacred Holy Sacrament fraternity. Twice the 1836 and 1847 censuses mentioned him and his family.

By 1842 he had already been nominated as a judge. It was a time when the liberal party was involved in a struggle against the monarchy. Following his Irish instincts, John decided to support the liberal revolution with supplies and arms. Government forces sought to arrest him but failed since he couldn't be found. In 1844 Brazilian emperor Peter II issued an amnesty in favour of the revolutionaries. John came out of hiding and returned to his seat. This episode in Brazilian history is the subject of a 1935 article by the well-known genealogist [Carlos da Silveira](#) titled 'An Irishman in the 1842 Revolution' (6). In 1849 John Fleming made his will and died on 15 November that same year, leaving behind his wife and fourteen children. His body was dressed in the garments of the order of Franciscan friars and buried in Our Lady of Conception cathedral in the small city of Embaú, S. Paulo. His wife Claudiana died in July 1854.

Referências



(1) BUTTROS, Sílvia Rita do P. Mendes. *Família Fleming*. Três Corações: Excelsior Gráfica, 2006. 363 p. il.

(2) Harold de Campos - <http://www2.uol.com.br/haroldodecampos/>

(3) José Lino de Almeida Fleming

José Lino de Almeida Fleming: Compositor Brasileiro *Descrição*: Este projeto tem como objetivo informar dos resultados parciais da pesquisa que pretende descortinar os fatos da vida e a obra do compositor brasileiro José Lino de Almeida Fleming (1840-1888). *Situação*: 2008 - Atual. Em andamento; *Natureza*: Pesquisa. *Integrantes*: Fernando José Silva Rodrigues da Silveira - Coordenador. UNIRIO. Fonte: <http://lattes.cnpq.br/2292886226869972>

Ictus - Periódico do PPRMUS/UFBA - <http://www.ictus.ufba.br/index.php/ictus/issue/view/13/showToc>

'Concertino per Clarino in Sib con Accomp.to di Pianoforte' di José Lino Fleming - http://www.anppom.com.br/anais/anaiscongresso_anppom_2008/comunicas/COM258%20-%20Silveira.pdf

Música Popular dos Séculos XVIII, XIX e XX - <http://members.fortunecity.com/bvmusica/popular1.htm>

(4) Francisco de Almeida Fleming (08.07.1900 - 1998)



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Almeida Fleming (foto 1) filmando em set improvisado (foto 2). Em 08.12.2008 O pesquisador, crítico e cineasta Paulo Augusto Gomes lançou o volume "Pioneiros do Cinema em Minas Gerais", pela editora belo-horizontina Crisálida - <http://www.crisalida.com.br/> (foto 3). Uma das preciosidades do livro é a transcrição de uma entrevista, gravada em 1977, com Francisco de Almeida Fleming, um ícone do cinema artesanal que fez cinema com a cara e a coragem em Pouso Alegre, no sul de Minas, nos anos 20. Paulo Augusto destaca o espírito empreendedor de Fleming: "Imagina um sujeito que, em 1925, resolve filmar Paulo e Virgínia, de Bernardin de Saint-Pierre e Manon Lescaut, um verdadeiro Romeu e Julieta passado em Madagascar. Como não havia palmeiras em Pouso Alegre, onde fez o filme, ele mandou arrancar 200 delas a mais de 100 quilômetros, transplantando todas para as filmagens." De José Silva, diretor português radicado em Belo Horizonte, Paulo Augusto salienta o trabalho documental. "Foi o responsável pelos cinejornais da construção de Brasília. Como trabalhou com o Juscelino Kubitschek aqui em Belo Horizonte, foi chamado por ele para fazer os documentários sobre a nova capital federal". Fonte: http://www.new.divirta-se.uai.com.br/html/sessao_8/2008/12/08/ficha_cinema/id_sessao=8&id_noticia=5726/ficha_cinema.shtml

O cineasta Francisco de Almeida Fleming morreu aos 98 anos. Nascido em Ouro Fino, sul de Minas, ele deixou um currículo com mais de 200 filmes. A obra mais conhecida de Fleming é o filme Paulo e Virgínia, seu primeiro longa-metragem a ser exibido simultaneamente em todas as salas de cinema de São Paulo no ano de 1923. Dois anos depois, Fleming obteve mais um sucesso, com o faroeste O Vale dos Martírios. Na mesma década, o cineasta dirigiu a Sonofilme, no Rio. Em 1946, optou por morar no bairro do Cambuci, em São Paulo, onde residiu até morte. Ultimamente, o cineasta sofria de surtos de amnésia e driblava a memória anotando algumas lembranças. Fonte: <http://www.webcine.com.br/not021999.htm>

Artigo: <http://www.tvuai.com.br/pousoalegre/pa153/artes2.html>

Francisco de Almeida Fleming (03.03.2009) - <http://www.avozdadidade.com/portal/colunas/historiasefatos/htm000020018.asp>

Ouro Fino vai homenagear Almeida Fleming (08.07.2008) - http://www.ourofinoonline.com.br/2008/06-junho/fleming_240608.htm

(5) Thiers Fleming

SANTOS, J. C. F. . Pelo Brasil Unido: A Contribuição de Thiers Fleming para a Consolidação do Território Nacional. 2004. Fonte: <http://sistemas.usp.br/atena/atnCurriculoLattesMostrar?codpes=5771128>

Museu Mauro Ribeiro Viegas RJ. Inaugurado em 1942, durante a provedoria de Thiers Fleming (1939/1944), com o nome de Museu Artístico. Fonte: <http://www.outeirodagloria.org.br/museu.htm>

(6) Um Irlandês na Revolução de 1842. Revista do Arquivo Municipal de São Paulo, v. XVI, 1935. 15-20.