

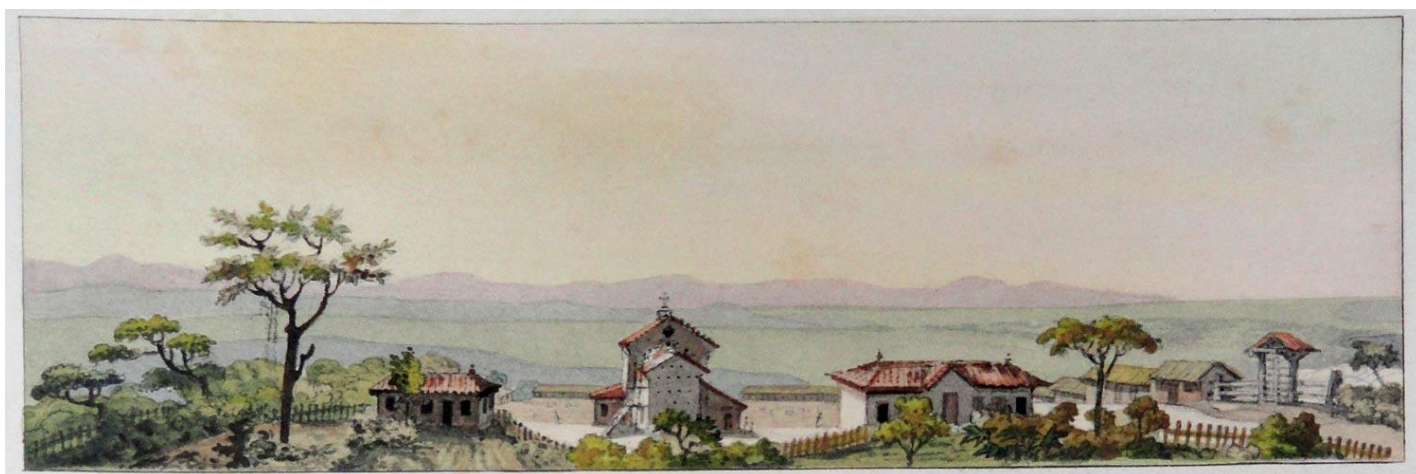
Dreisbach-Dresbach Family Association Newsletter

November 2022©

1826 - 2022

196 Years of German Immigration on the North Coast of Rio Grande do Sul

By Rodrigo Trespach



"The village of Torres", watercolor attributed to Jean-Baptiste Debret, near the Castro Maya Museums/IBRAM, RJ.

Exactly 196 years ago, on 17 Nov 1826, the first German settlers arrived at Torres, in the Rio do Sul, after a sixteen-day journey from Porto Alegre. The group was made up of more than four hundred people and had the goal of establishing a colony in the molds of Saint Leopoldo.



**José Feliciano Fernandes
Pinheiro (1774-1847)**

The idea of founding a colony with Germans on the coast of Rio Grande do Sul came from the then president of the province, later Viscount of São Leopoldo, **José Feliciano Fernandes Pinheiro** (1774-1847). Fernandes Pinheiro had already organized the founding of the colony of São Leopoldo, in 1824. The idea was to build a large port on the coast that would facilitate communications between the capital of the Province and that of the Empire. The port would also transport the colony's production to the center of the country. By the way, the projected port was never built.

As he was appointed minister of the Secretary of State for Imperial Affairs in November 1825, he was unable to complete his work, leaving it to his successors in the presidency of the Province, Brigadiers José Egídio Gordilho de Barbuda and Salvador José Maciel, to carry out the project. . It was Gordilho de Barbuda who received the order from Rio de Janeiro, dated June 1826, to form the new colony in Torres

Acting quickly, as determined by the order from the capital, Gordilho visited the colony of São Leopoldo in July and at the same time sent a letter to the Commander of the District of Torres, Lieutenant-Colonel Francisco de Paula Soares, to whom he entrusted the direction of the colony. Then began the selection of settlers who would form the new colony. Families that had not yet received their lots, singles, those settlers who were dissatisfied with the colony of São Leopoldo and those who had just arrived in Porto Alegre, in sumaca Generosa, were chosen. Paula Soares then prepared two nominal lists with a total of 422 people (86 families and 64 singles).



On November 1, 1826, after some setbacks, the settlers left on five yachts for the new colony. Via the town of Guaíba and the large bay of Lagoa dos Patos, they reached the mouth of the Capivari River where they continued their journey overland in an ox cart.

On November 17, 1826, they reached the small town of Torres, their final destination before receiving the plots of land (between 1827 and 1828).

Differently from the colony of São Leopoldo, this new colony was divided according to the creed of the settlers. That is, the 237 evangelicals (accompanied

by Pastor Karl Leopold Voges) were established on the banks of the Três Forquilhas River, which is why it was called Colonia de Três Forquilhas.



**Karl Leopold Voges,
Pastor (Abt 1801-1893)**



The 184 Catholics were established on land between Lagoa do Morro do Forno and Jacaré, which became known as Colony of São Pedro de Alcântara. As in São Leopoldo, the colonists received plots of land of 77 hectares, domestic animals (cows, horses, pigs), seeds (wheat, rice, beans, potatoes), subsidies and tax exemption for ten years.

Shortly after arriving in Torres, the Germans received an unexpected visit: **d. Pedro I** (1798-1834), who was traveling

to Porto Alegre. Dom Pedro I was the founder and the first ruler of the Empire of Brazil and briefly reigned over Portugal as well. As reported by the Calvinist colonist Valentin Knopf, “when the emperor was passing through here, he graciously gave each family father four thousand réis”.

**Emperor of Brazil, dom
Pedro I (1798-1834)**



Article From http://www.rodrigotrespach.com/2016/11/17/190-anos-da-imigracao-alema-no-litoral-norte-gaucha/?fbclid=IwAR2IJmOlvznUWwTvr3hid7aIBtT2lz_BEcKHfzyGsQPTsVc3HVv_aUoq69A

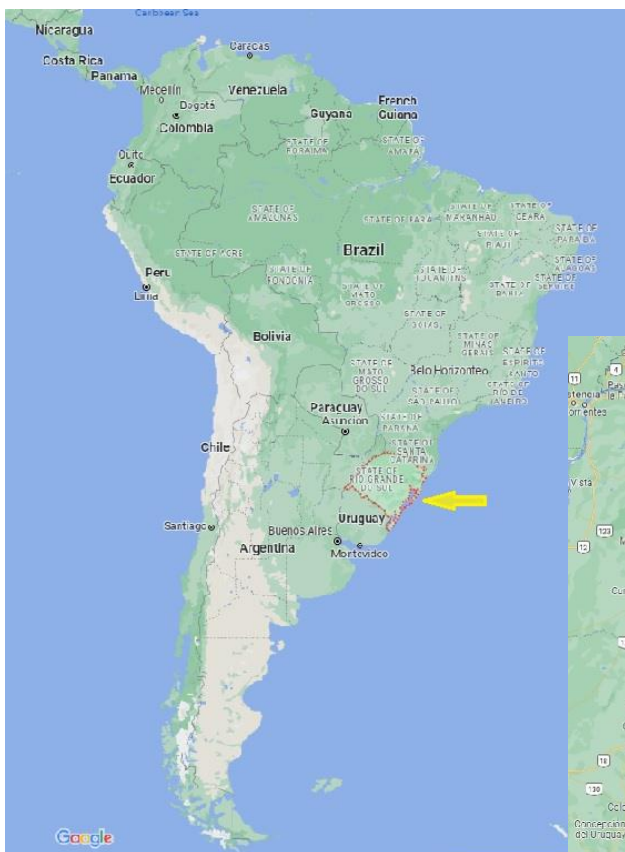
Read the text in German (Tópicos magazine, DBG, 03/2011): **Deutsche Einwanderer an der Nordküste von Rio Grande do Sul** . <http://www.rodrigotrespach.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Deutsche-Einwanderer-an-der-Nordk%C3%BCste-von-Rio-Grande-do-Sul.pdf>

The text in the **Kinz-Grenn** dialect (Main-Kinzig-Kreis, Hessen): **Deutsche Enwanderer oo do Nordkeste vo Rio Grande do Sul** .<http://www.rodrigotrespach.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Deutsche-Enwanderer-oo-do-Nordkeste-vo-Rio-Grande-do-Sul.pdf>

In the Riograndenser dialect Hunsrückisch (Hunsrück, Rheinland-Pfalz): **Deutsche Immigran an der Nordküst von Rio Grande do Sul** . <http://www.rodrigotrespach.com/deutsche-immigran-an-der-nordkust-von-rs-riograndenser-hunsruckisch/>

And in the **Pomeranian** (Pomeranian) dialect: **Düütsch Inwandren na dai Nordköst fon Rio Grande do Sul** . <http://www.rodrigotrespach.com/duutsch-inwandren-na-dai-nordkostfon-rs-pommeranisch/>

[Note from the editor, Marcia Falconer] Rio Grande do Sul is Brazil's southernmost state, bordering Argentina and Uruguay. In its northeast, the mountainous Serra Gaucha is home to the Vale dos Vinhedos wine region and includes German-style resort towns like Gramado and Canela. Porto Alegre, the capital, is a major port with classic structures like the Public Market and Metropolitan Cathedral.



On left, map of South America. Yellow arrow at left points to Rio Grande do Sul (RS) the southernmost state of Brazil.

Below: Rio Grande do Sul. Red arrow is Torres, blue arrow is Porto Alegre, green arrow at lower left is Buenos Aires, Argentina.

