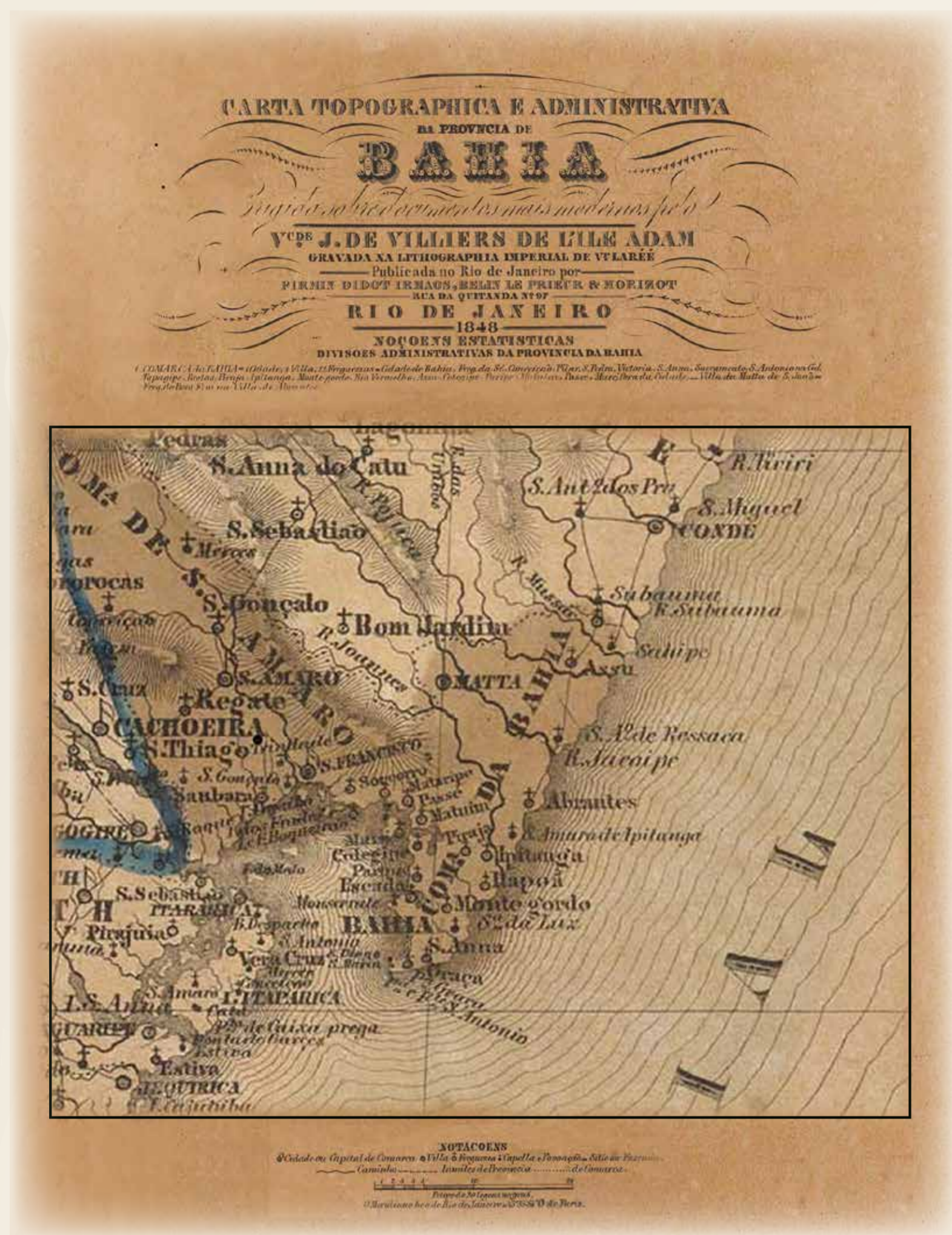


Brazilian I am - Rui Barbosa memoirs

Birth date



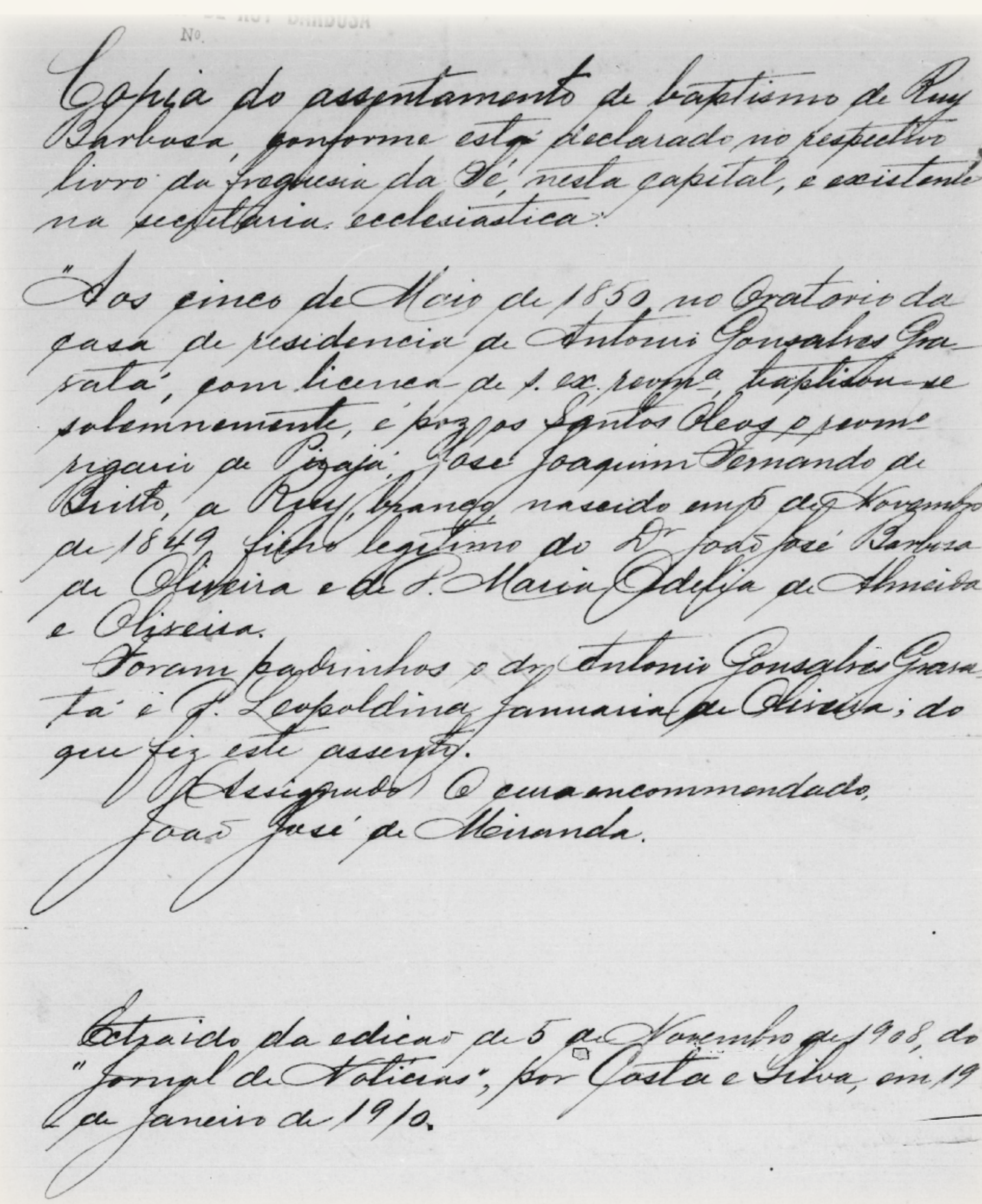
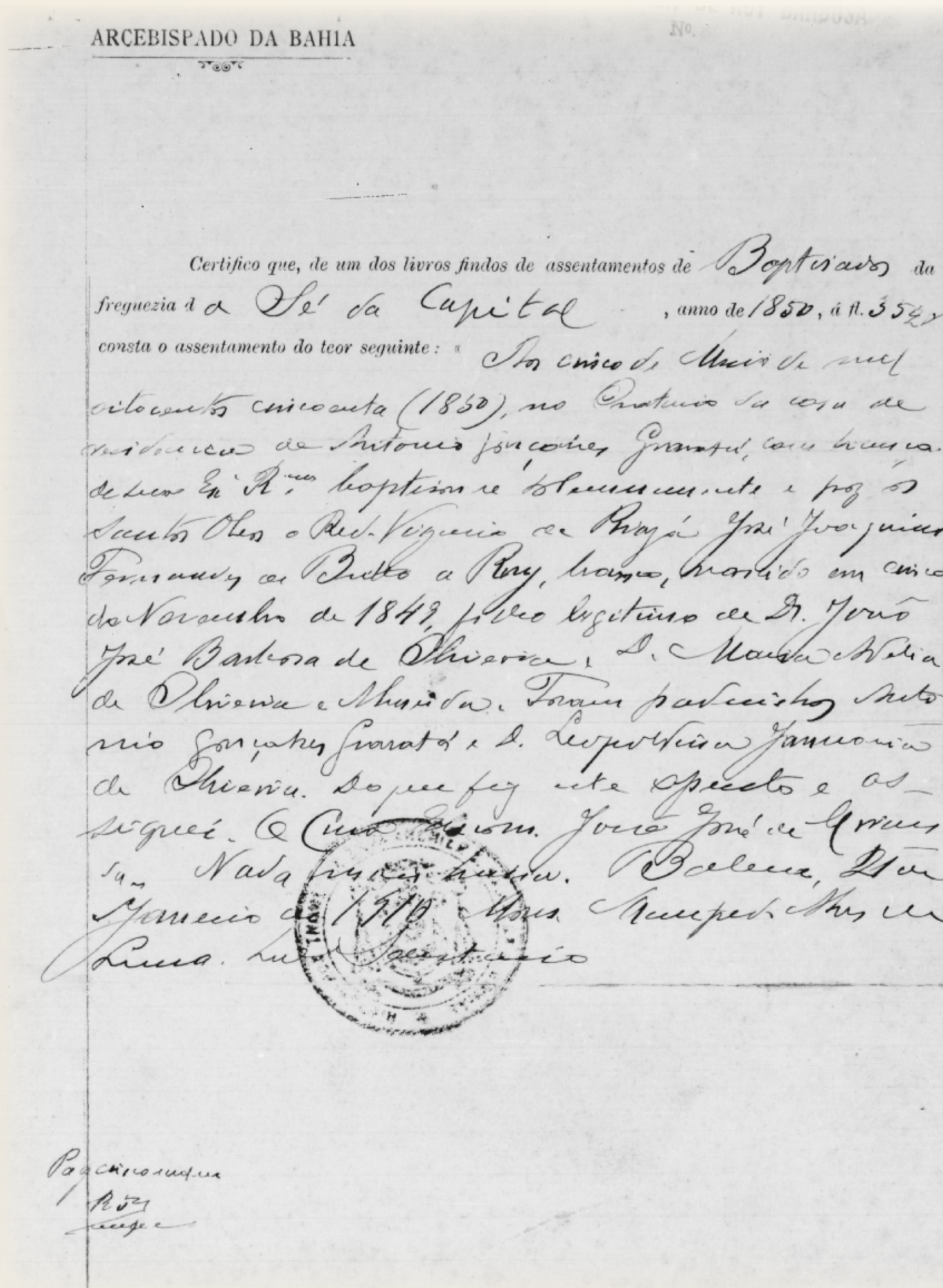
Topographic and administrative map of the province of Bahia

The urbanization of Brazilian colonial towns was strongly marked by the influence of religious and military architecture. In the central areas of the towns, the Bishopric See was home to Cathedral da Sé (See Cathedral) and Casa do Bispo (Bishop's House). Such was the importance of these two buildings that Cathedral da Sé used to lend its name, or part of it, to "christen" the neighborhood it was built in. Such was the case with the community where the Barbosa family lived. Hence the name, "Freguesia da Sé" (See Parish).

This is the house where Rui Barbosa was believed to have been born in. In fact, according to Rui's own account, the townhouse was the place where he lived during his early and later childhood. Let's look at the text that clarifies the issue: "Once, when talking to Lemos Brito, about the house where he was born, Rui said: I was not born in that house. Lemos: Where, then, was your honor born?" Rui: "At the house on the other corner. In this one - and pointed to the photograph - my father lived for a few years after I was born. Hence the mistake." (CHIACCHIO, 1949)



The information relating to Rui Barbosa's actual birthplace is inaccurate. As we have seen, there is a statement by Rui himself saying that his birthplace is 'the house on the other corner'. Our research showed that, of the properties on the other three corners, only one remains intact. That is the colonial home in the above photographs, obtained via Google Earth, which we credit for them. That property is registered under deed 38,328, in the 1st Office of the Registry of Deeds of the city of Salvador. In there, it says that the property was already standing in 1734. Unfortunately the Registry said there is no record of the property for the decade Rui Barbosa was born in. We know, however, that the registered owner was Chief Master Sergeant Sebastião Furtado de Mendonça. At this stage of our research, we know that Rui Barbosa's great-grandmother, born in this parish of Sé, was married to a military man. We suspect, although we still have no actual documentary evidence, that this is Rui's birthplace; this will be clarified in due course.



Rui Barbosa baptism certificate

Rui Barbosa was baptized in the oratory of his godfather Antônio Gonçalves Gravatá's home, a cousin of João José; his godmother was his aunt Leopoldina Januária Barbosa de Almeida Guedes, Maria Adélia's younger sister; he was baptized by the Vicar of Pirajá, José Joaquim Fernandes de Brito.