



La Notizia Italiana



The Italian Genealogy Society of New Jersey



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ITALIAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM RECEIVES VISIT: FROM 93-YEAR-OLD QUASI IMMIGRANT



Published on Wednesday, 01 October 2014 11:51
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Author : Joe Carella

Ever since the Italian American Museum (IAM) in New York City's Little Italy put the original shipbuilder's model of the SS Giuseppe Verdi on exhibit in May, it has been searching nationally for passengers who might still be alive and who were among the more than 70,000 Italian immigrants it brought to America from 1915 to 1928. At best, the museum's president, Dr. Joseph Scelsa, thought these passengers would likely be in their late 80's or early 90's if they were on the ship during its latter years of operation.

The Museum received a few dozen responses, but only from passengers' children and grandchildren, including one woman from Staten Island who even showed up with her father's Italian passport bearing the official stamp of the Verdi.

But a few weeks ago, the Museum received a call from a gentleman by the name of Salvatore Americus Vicari (known as "Vic"), 93, from Niantic, in the southeast corner of the state Connecticut. Mr. Vicari, who was named after the Italian explorer and cartographer Amerigo Vespucci (for whom America was named), was on the ship--sort of. He was in utero. He jokes by saying he was a "stowaway" with his parents and two sisters, who arrived at Ellis Island on July 14, 1920 from Palermo. He was born later that year.

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On Saturday, Sept 20, Mr. Vicari, whose appearance and voice seem much more youthful than his 93 years, boarded a chartered bus in his hometown for a visit to the San Gennaro Festival, which runs along Mulberry St., the core of New York's famed Little Italy. Upon entering the Museum, he could barely hold back tears and his eyes fixed upon the majestic wooden model of the Verdi.



Mr. Vicari with the model of the S S Giuseppe Verdi at the Italian American Museum

"Vic Vicari exemplifies what it means to be a successful Italian American," said Dr. Scelsa. "In the time I spent with him, I learned so much about him and the struggle of his parents to create a life in America. I was awed and inspired."

Vicari entered the US military as a Navy Seabee in Guam during World War II, about two years after his mother passed away. Ironically, the SS Verdi, the ship that brought his family to the US, was sold to a Japanese company in 1928 by Transatlantica Italiana and renamed the Yamato Maru. In 1943, it was torpedoed off the coast of the Philippines by a US submarine. The ship would have been 100 years old this year.

The past year has not been kind to Vicari. Last November, he lost his only son to multiple sclerosis at age 57. Earlier this year, a sister and his beloved wife Laura passed away on the occasion of the couple's 63rd wedding anniversary. Despite these setbacks, Vicari remains quite active and surrounds himself with his many friends. He keeps himself busy by volunteering at a local soup kitchen, and in August, he spent three weeks in the Campania region visiting his wife's relatives.

Although he has been living in Connecticut for about 30 years, he considers himself a dyed-in-the-wool New Yorker, having lived in The Bronx, Manhattan and Brooklyn at various times during his earlier life.

The 10-foot-long original shipbuilder's model is on loan to the museum from New York's Rennert's Gallery through Columbus Day. These models, with their incredible detail and meticulous construction, were often symbols of pride for ships' architects and builders, and also served as promotional tools for its operators.

Above article courtesy of "We The Italians" Newsletter



Tribune Columbus Awards Gala

22 October, 2014 at 15:12

Italian Tribune Publisher Buddy Fortunato, center, holds bronze bust of Christopher Columbus. Flanking the publisher are the distinguished award winners, from left, Frank Pezzolla Jr., Achievement Award; Anthony Pucciarello, Restaurateur of the Year; Frank Astorino, Heritage Award; Rosanna Imbriano, Woman of the Year; Armand Assante, Publisher's Award; Buddy Fortunato; Ugo Autino, Businessman of the Year; Patrick DiPaula O'Boyle, Humanitarian Award. Dinner was held at the Birchwood Manor in Whippany before 500 proud Italian Americans.



Armand Assante, accomplished actor, producer and director, proudly accepts the Publisher's Award from Buddy Fortunato. Proud of his Italian heritage, Assante was received at the banquet with a standing ovation.

Man of the Year James Tedeso, III, Freeholder of Bergen County, accepts his award from Tribune Publisher Buddy Fortunato. Freeholder Tedesco is seeking the office of County Executive in November on the Democratic ticket.

Above article courtesy of The Italian Tribune

Italy's Melting Glaciers Reveal Preserved Bodies of WWI Soldiers

27 March, 2014 at 11:11



In one of the strangest consequences of global warming yet, glaciers far north in the Italian Alps are slowly melting to reveal the frozen corpses of soldiers killed during World War I.

So how did the ice-preserved bodies get to the small Alpine village of Peio? They were casualties of an obscure part of WWI known as The White War.

In Peio, you feel the war never quite ended. And in one very real sense, it lives on, thanks to the preserving properties of ice. Peio was once the highest village in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and had a ringside seat to a little-known but spectacular episode of that conflict called the White War.

In 1914, both Trentino, the province in which Peio lies, and the neighboring South Tyrol were Hapsburg domains. Italy, recently unified and eager to settle her frontiers permanently, looked on the two provinces, along with Trieste, as “unredeemed lands.” In May 1915, with the aim of reclaiming them, Italy entered the war on the side of the Allies. Conflict was already raging on the western and eastern fronts and now a third front opened up. It stretched from the Julian Alps, which Italy now shares with Slovenia in the east, to the Ortler Massif near the Swiss border further west, some 250 miles.

As much of the front was at altitudes of over 6,500 feet, a new kind of war had to be developed. The Italians already had specialist mountain troops – the Alpini with their famous feathered caps – but the Austrians had to create the equivalent – the Kaiser-schützen. They constructed an entire infrastructure of war at the high altitude, including trenches carved out of the ice and cableways for transporting men and ammunition to the peaks.

Though the war in itself was disastrous, the effects of guns and bombings on White War soldiers were dwarfed by the effects of Mother Nature. For both sides, the worst enemy was the weather, which killed more men than the fighting. At those altitudes, the temperature could fall to -30c, and the “white death” — death by avalanche — claimed thousands of lives.

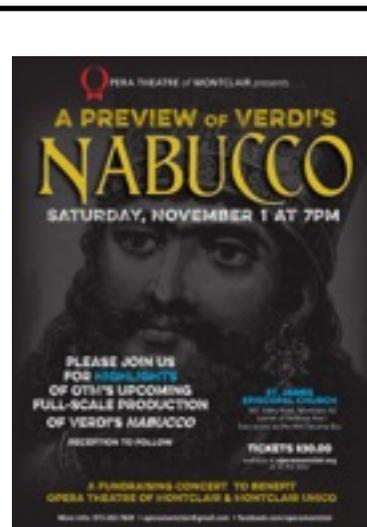
In the decades that followed the end of the Great War, the world warmed up and the glaciers began to retreat, revealing the debris of the White War. The material that, beginning in the 1990s, began to flood out of the mountains was remarkably well preserved. It included a love letter addressed to Maria and never sent, and an ode to a louse, “friend of my long days,” scribbled on a page of a soldier’s diary.

The bodies were often mummified. The two soldiers, who were disinterred last September were Austrians, ages 17 and 18 who died on the Presena Glacier and were buried by their comrades in a crevasse. More than 80 soldiers who fell in the White War have come to light in recent decades.

The cold has kept the bodies perfectly intact, like frozen mummies. Bare bones are wrapped in the tattered remains of uniforms, gruesome reminders of now-distant violence. In one terrifying photo, three soldiers, skulls exposed to the elements, are tangled in the ice. The trio is now buried in the Peio cemetery.

Archaeologists continue to explore the Alpine battlegrounds, uncovering man-made caves and artifacts like engines and guns. With each new find they discover a new piece to the puzzle and fill in the blanks of a history that is literally frozen in time.

*Above article courtesy of **The Italian Tribune***



UNICO Montclair
presents:

Highlights from
Verdi's Nabucco
Saturday, November 1
7PM

A fundraising concert
to benefit
Opera Montclair &
Montclair UNICO

Tickets: \$30
For information:
973-202-7849



The Italian Genealogy Society of New Jersey

The Italian Genealogy Society of New Jersey began as a chapter of POINT - (Pursuing Our Italian Names Together). When POINT officially dissolved in December 2013, our members voted to continue on as an independent organization. We are now known as

The Italian Genealogy Society of New Jersey.

The group, originally organized in September 1996 as a POINT chapter, will continue to provide genealogical researchers an opportunity to meet socially, and learn and share information pertaining to Italian research and culture.

We cordially invite genealogical researchers to attend our quarterly meetings. Membership is open to all. In addition to regular meetings we take occasional field trips to genealogical research sites in the New Jersey/New York area.

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**The Italian Genealogy Society
of
New Jersey**
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Your letters and comments are welcomed.
 We reserve the right to edit submitted materials.

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Calendar

IGSNJ Future Meetings:

February 7, 2015

Member Exchange of Information

Passaic County Genealogy Club:

November 8, 2014: Genealogy Club Meeting

10 a.m. at Louis Bay Library, Hawthorne
 Program: *Presenting the Evidence* by Bob Stein.

Jan 10: PCHS Genealogy Club Meeting

10 a.m. at Lambert Castle.

Member Exchange.

December 6

PCHS Genealogy Club Holiday Brunch:

10 a.m. Clifton Senior Center, Clifton, NJ

Passaic County Historical Society & Lambert Castle Events:

November 7, 2014

PCHS Holiday Boutique Wine & Cheese Preview

Night: 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Lambert Castle. \$15 per person, includes 2 return visits.

November 8 to November 30

27th Annual Lambert Castle Holiday Boutique

Open Wednesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.,
 Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 pm.

(Closed Thanksgiving Day).

PCHS Quarterly Meeting

November 12, 2014

7 PM, Louis Bay Library, Hawthorne

Program: *Rosie the Riveter and her sisters:*

The Women of World War II.

Presented by Trish Chambers

Dec. 10-12; Dec. 15-16

Gingerbread House Competition Drop-Off :

9a.m. to 3 p.m. For children aged 6 to 16

Gingerbread houses will be displayed at Lambert Castle:

Dec. 17th through Jan. 4th. House(s) will be judged and the winner(s) will receive a prize. Entering is free.

Call ahead before delivery: 973-247-0085 x 201.

Dec. 12

Bell Ringers by Candlelight:

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Lambert Castle.

Valley Ringers perform Christmas music on their bells as you tour the Castle by candlelight.

Light refreshments provided.

Admission Adults \$12, Seniors \$10, Children \$8.

Dec. 14

Storytelling and Sing-along with Santa and Mrs.

Claus: 1 p.m to 3 p.m.

Santa and Mrs. Claus visit Lambert Castle.

For children under 10 years old.

Tickets \$15 for one adult and one child. Additional adult or child: \$5. Limited seating; reservations required. Call 973-247-0085 x 201 for reservations.

For more information:

973- 247-0085 ext 201

www.lambertcastle.org