

hard to understand

NORTHERN MICHIGAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

ITALIAN-AMERICAN PROJECT

OH-73 Index

DOMINICI, Ida (interview conducted 9/20/79 in Virgil, MI)

Indexed by: Faye Oja

Indexed May 20, 1983

Summary: Mostly personal information about Ida Dominici's life.

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*good info on Virgil
but hard to understand.*

OH-73 Index, Side two

DOMINICI, (interview conducted 4/10/80)

Indexed by: Faye Oja

Indexed May 20, 1983

Summary: The History of the town Virgil

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IDA DOMINICI 9/29/79.

HISTORY OF VIRGIL, MI.

Arrived at Ellis Island - came on the Caissonia
To Montreal - stayed one night - then by
RR to Crystal Falls. Someone came with
horse & buggy. Brought to ^{Manfield} Mansfield -
came over with ~~store~~ Ettore. Brother Joe
already here. Camilla met her.

Stayed in Mansfield for 1 yr - did
ANESI, house work for the Anesi. Got
married. Bar where Joe worked at.

Mansfield - Anesi's Bar?

Born - ^{PERGOLD} Pergola, Italy - took horse &
buggy to ^{Persora} Persora - train to La Havre.
It was a big boat - not very nice.

Variety of immigrants on board. Took
11 days - seasick whole time. Had
dining room - 2nd class.

Why leave? All alone - parents gone -
younger brother when to live with sister in Rome.
20-21 yrs.

"Italy at that time was poor." Good for
rich but not them.

Joe came - 5-6 yrs before. (1904-05).

She came in 1910 - He was bartender
for John Anesi. He came - poor &
make money - help family in Italy.
Matt came earlier. Then younger
brother came.

Ettore - no job in UP - to PA - died in RR accident -
he died at 23 yrs of age.

TOTI - BURATTI, IDA.

Father Luigi Tati - Buratti

Mother Anna PENCOR ELLI.

4 bro. Joe, Ettore, Matt, ? ^{ANTENORE} "SEICA"

5 sisters Conilla, CoM ESILVE, ~~ARMIRA~~ ARMIRA.

All stayed in Italy.

Name changed - "Buratti" dropped -
just to shorten.

1911 married. - she knew husband in
Italy - a Corbinese ^{Atlio} His brother
was the head at Pergola. PERGOLA

He came because brother called from
Crested Falls. Brother Luigi. Found him
a job in the mines.

Green West Mine - C Falls - The husband
to Mansfield to work in mine. ¹⁹¹⁴ Case in
& moved to C Falls with none to Vigil.

Nono Accanto Donivici

Mother - Anna.

Father - Mariano Donivici

2 bro + 2 sisters. Nanna + Maria

how stayed & then returned to Italy &
did not return.

4/10/1980. Ida Dominici
To Virgil from Mansfield -
"as it did not look good -
streets - iron on roads - up to mines
all was red.

Bellagambria, Adelpatic & Spunda
grocery store - only 2 bldg.
The old shack - moved & lived there while
town was built.

Jo had old shack - meanwhile Camili were
bldg new house - big structure - & Joe
was bldg tavern.

Ida ran boarding house

Then Dom & Camili broke partnership.
Dom - to mine " to C Falls.

Then they had a general store.

Bond master -

1916 - house built.

lived over the tavern for 3 yrs - then ^{June} 1916 ^{Oct.} built & moved in.
Alvin born Oct 6, 1916 in the house.

Dom & Camili worked together in
Mansfield. Then Joe was building his
own tavern. Move due to the coal - in.

also BRANCINI - Over began patronized after - he
was a mason. Died in WWI.

Matt & Cimarelli Cimarelli - day good
store. Broke partnership & Matt to
Town. Run for years. Old kids worked
at the store. "Take a walk kids!"

PIZZA-
MILANELLI-

baker - big oven.

Gradually house went up at Virgil location around WWI.

1920+ Virgil was self-sufficient
Mineral Wells people come. Drunk-
services outlying area.

Had a dance hall.

No one played violin & other accordion.
Bertha, aunt of Glenda - played violin.

Oliver.

Most of men worked in mines

6 day week - 10-12 hours?

Sat night - was the big night - ^{gathered} big
meal. Calumna, prociello, chestnuts
was munga mango.

WWI - Brancini, many went to war -
immigrants. How did they feel?

All felt badly that they had to go. They did
not want to fight Italy. Uncle Matt -
called back to Italy to serve in their army.

Quite a few were called back but ~~many~~
didn't go. Pete Filipini

He Matt got malonia - in BENGAZI - discharged.
& returned home Virgil.

What was it like after the war?

Demers, get together - everyone loved their
neighbors.

any prejudice in Virgil. We never thought
too much about it. English were neighbors
later 1920's KKK, burned cross
On cross street from Scalpuzzi's yard -
only once. They weren't hood. Cross
burned & called fire dept. KKK
Never came back.

1929 - Depression.

Hard times at mine - making very
little but they had enough to eat.
Ate well. Had garden, cows for
milk, chickens, pigs - worked hard.
Canned vegetables - never put up meat
Picked berries - kids had to pick
always had fresh meat esp. chickens.
Made wood for fence.
Dep didn't affect the people. All helped
one another.
Trade items from garden. Never got
over this fact.