

The Coming of the Italians to Kingston

What did America have to offer so many of the Italian people who never had traveled more than a hundred miles in their own country? What gave them courage to take a four thousand mile journey to this country? America could give them room to work and freedom to find their way in life, a chance for them to educate their children, and for these children to become useful and respected citizens of their communities.

What did these people have for possessions? Not very much, I'm afraid. They had no money, no education, and they spoke no English. What they had to offer were their strong arms and backs, their industry, thrift, piety and courage.

Their parents had courage of a different sort--a Spartan kind of courage. How many of them saved and scrimped to accumulate enough money for one child to come to America? Many of these parents knew that the voyager would send back for his brothers and sisters and in, oh, so many cases, parents and children never saw each other again.

These first settlers brought with them a desire to own their own land and home. Most of them came from farms where the land belonged to the nobility. Here, in America, they were allowed to buy a piece of land and turn it into a productive garden, keeping for themselves all the produce.

They had an intense desire to raise their standard of living, to be able to go forward rather than to be held back by the strong ties of tradition. They wanted their children to become educated--to be able to develop their abilities and to work up to their full capacities. They wanted the best for their families but, at the

same time, they wanted to keep their families together and to preserve the unity of family life to which they had been accustomed in their own country. They wished to expand their knowledge and love of fine music and art. In their old country crowds of people always thronged the museums or theaters whenever they had the chance, seeking to satisfy their love for beauty and perfection.

The flood of Italian immigration into the United States started about 1890 and continued until World War I. A gathering of the first generation Italians was like a bird cage where any voice would burst forth spontaneously into full-throated song. The operas were known by most of them. The opera had its origin in Italy and there ^{were} many operatic troupes touring the country bringing fine performances to all the towns. Many a baby was lulled to sleep by an operatic aria sung by the mother.

How did so many Italians find it possible to come to America? Many of them were sent for by relatives and friends. There was plenty of work for them in the factories. The more credulous immigrants believed that the streets of America were paved with gold. This belief was encouraged by the agents for different steamship companies.

After a long trip across the Atlantic Ocean by steerage many of these people were weary when they finally gazed upon the Statue of Liberty. The inscription on this mighty lady, written by Emma Lazarus, might have been composed solely for them.

"Give me your tired, your poor
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me.
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

In answer to the Statue of Liberty we might say today:

"Dear gracious Lady of the Lamp,
 Your welcome gladdened the hearts of many yearning
 to be free.
 They saw the torch and came through that golden door
 And realized their hopes and their desires to live
 in a democracy.
 They came to a land where their ambitions were allowed
 ever upward to soar.
 Thank you, dear Lady, for the hospitality which helped
 them break the mold and make their own stamp.
 And because, to begin with, they were good Italians,
 loyal to their country,
 In time they became fine patriotic citizens of America,
 grateful for her freedom and bounty.

In gathering my information I wish to thank these people for their
 help:

1. Miss Eugenia Trow for the loan of old town reports.
2. Mr. George Cushman for allowing me to browse through
 old town reports in the town house.
3. Mr. Francis Moran for allowing me to go through
 old high school records.
4. Mrs. Louis Bergonzoni for giving me much information
 and for being willing to come here to say a few
 words tonight.
5. Mrs. Elspeth Hardy, Susan Candini, Karen Benea,
 Mrs. Doris Corbett and Miss Marilyn Zavo
6. Life Magazine for the October 5th, 1953 issue
7. And to the following people for the patience they
 had with me when I plied ^{them} with questions and
 urged them to travel back into the past to give
 me the information I sought:
 - a. Mrs. Elno Rossi
 - b. Mrs. Roger Fabri
 - c. Mr. Joseph Merlino

- d. Mr. and Mrs. Pompeo Di Stefano
- e. Mrs. Robert Barbieri, Sr.
- f. Mrs. Ettore Alberghini
- g. Mr. George Candini
- h. Miss Elide Antoniotti
- i. Mrs. Josephine Tura

As I pass this material on to you I wish to say that I could have gone on for another year or so doing research on it. What I say here can cover only a small part of the history of the coming of the Italian people to Kingston. I'm not sure, either, that all the dates are as accurate as they might be but they are as close as I could get to the real date. Most people, I find, are not date conscious.

As I talked to different people of Italian extraction in Kingston I found that they and their ancestors had absorbed American customs so thoroughly that it was hard for them to remember that they had not lived in this land all their lives. Of course, they had come here as young people and had lived here the greater part of their lives. They had mingled with people who spoke English or perhaps another foreign language. They had attended Americanization classes and had learned to read the newspapers. Many of them began to think in English and they were quick to adopt American customs. This was particularly true in a small town like Kingston.

Perhaps the custom which has lingered the longest and which the children and grandchildren still continue is the cooking. The younger generation has adopted quite a variety of recipes including favorite dishes from both Italian and American cooking.

It seems that when the first Italian people came to Kingston they established a colony right around Maple Street with the next colony being

established up by Tura's Store on Evergreen Street.

The first Italian name to appear in the town's records was that of Rafaele Cantori in 1899. He ran a candy and fruit store in Myrick's Block. As far as I can figure out this is the spot on which the Shell Station now stands, In 1899 he paid a poll tax of \$2.00 and a personal tax of \$4.80. When Mr. Cantori first came to Kingston he lived on Maple Street.

Before he ran his fruit store he operated a quick lunch store where McSherry's store is at present. He sold this place to Mr. Louis Sassi who converted it into an ice cream parlor.

Prior to living in Kingston, Mr. Cantori lived in Plymouth for three or four years. But he felt there was more of a business opportunity in Kingston and so moved into our town.

Mr. Cantori, a widower, whose first wife died of pneumonia, was married on Aug. 15th, 1907 to Lydia Guimi and had five children. His children all live out of town. Mrs. Fabri, one of his daughters, lives the closest. Her home is on Summer Street in Plymouth. Mr. Cantori has a grandson, Francis Fabri, living on Sandwich Street in Plymouth, a granddaughter, Mrs. Rose Seaver, living in Plymouth and another grandson, Norman Fabri, with the Coast Guard. The following is a most interesting fact. A third grandson, Mr. Roger Fabri, has built a home on Center Hill Road here in town and resides there with his wife and daughter. His daughter, Donna Fabri, is in the first grade in the Kingston Elementary School and she is the great granddaughter of Mr. Rafael Cantori, the first Italian settler in Kingston.

Another name appears in the 1899 town report--that of Christopher Gitano. He paid a poll tax of \$2.00, a personal tax of \$1.20 and a real estate tax of \$14.40 I understand that he sold chickens to the people of Kingston in order to earn a living.

In 1899 the marriage of an Italian couple took place, that of ^{Urbati} Umberto and Mary Christofori.

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The two names appearing in the tax list of 1900 and 1901 are still those of Rafaele Cantori and Christophe Gitan. But in 1902 the name of Gai Vancini makes its appearance.

Mr. Ettore Alberghini, who now resides on Summer Street in Kingston, came directly to this town in 1900.. He came with an uncle who went to work in the Cordage and they settled on Basler's Lane. Mr. Ettore Alberghini was twelve years old at the time. The following fact is rather unusual, because the next person in the family to come to the United States was not Mr. Alberghini's father but his mother. She came with a daughter and the reason she came before her husband was that the men already here needed a woman to take care of them. Then, later, the father came with another daughter and he, too, went to work in the Cordage.

Mr. Alberghini married Miss Ada Barufaldi on Nov. 19, 1910. Miss Barufaldi's father, Mr. Caesar Barufaldi, came to Kingston in 1902. Mr. Barufaldi boarded with an Italian family for a year and then, having accumulated enough money, sent for his family to come in 1903. Mr. Barufaldi was also working in the Cordage and when his family came he found a home for them on Maple Street. Miss Ada Barufaldi was his oldest daughter and when she married Mr. Alberghini they established a home in this town. They had two children, Harold, who lives in Rhode Island and Mrs. Antone Spath who lives with her family on Summer Street. Her two sons, David and Philip Spath, are both students at the Kingston Elementary School.

The Barufaldi family was the last family to occupy the Bradford House before it was taken over by the Jones River Village Club. They lived there for five years with the approximate dates being from 1917 to 1922.

In 1901 a child, Alexander Forni, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Louis Forni on April 26th. People tell me that as a boy, Alexander Forni also lived in the Bradford House.

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In 1902 a daughter, Mary Muti, was born on Aug. 23rd to Mr. and Mrs. Ersilio Muti.

In 1903 seven more names were added to the list, these names being:

1. Andrew Balboni
2. Henry Borghi
3. Alfonso Candini
4. Jack Cantori
5. Vincent Morrissi
6. Louis Muti
7. David Vezzani
8. Louis Vezzani

In 1903 there were seven children born of Italian parents, these parents being:

1. Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Leonardi
2. Mr. and Mrs. John Vacchini
3. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morrissi
4. Mr. and Mrs. Nino Forni
5. Mr. and Mrs. August Bartelli
6. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Muti
7. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Alberghini

The first death of an Italian person in Kingston occurred in 1903, that of Fernando Alberchene on July 23rd. He was drowned at the age of fourteen.

Mr. Alfonso Candini came to the United States about 1891 and settled in Plymouth. He knew Mr. Cantori in Italy and, like all young men of that time, he sought an opportunity to come to America. All

young Italian people dreamed of coming to America for to them it was Utopia. Mr. Alfonzo Candini worked for several years before he accumulated enough money for his family to join him. His wife and son, George, came in 1895. His son was nine years old at the time. George attended school at the spot where Grange Hall is now located.

Mr. George Candini was married on Oct. 27th, 1907 to Miss Mary Govoni. They had four children , two of whom still reside in Kingston. Mrs. Alma Glass lives at 257 Main Street and Mr. George Candini, Jr. lives at 180 Main Street.

Mrs. Glass has two children, Weston and Deborah Glass, while Mr. Candini, Jr., has three daughters, Susan, Brenda and Darlene Candini. Weston, Susan and Brenda are all students at K. E. S.

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Upon his arrival in the United States, Mr. David Vezzani first came to Plymouth. That was about 1901. His oldest son had come ahead and settled in Gardner, Mass. When he had saved enough money he sent for his father who, in turn worked for a while saving his money and sending for the rest of his family. When they arrived to this area he took the liberty of bringing his wife and children to the home of a friend in Plymouth, a Mr. Barbieri. Mr. Barbieri, who, with his family, was away for the summer working in the cranberry bogs heard that someone had moved into his home without his permission. He came back to investigate and he was pleasantly surprised to meet old friends. Many years later, one of the Vezzani girls married one of the Barbieri boys and they are the present Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barbieri, Sr., who now live on Rocky Hill Road in Plymouth but who resided in Kingston for many years.

Shortly after the Vezzani family came to Plymouth they found a home on Evergreen Street in Kingston which they liked and, with the help of the older children who were working in the Puritan Mills, they

all pitched in and bought it.

Mrs. Barbieri, as far as she can remember, believes that she and her sister, Tina, were the first Italian children to attend first grade in Kingston. They went to school at Grange Hall, where Miss Winnie Dunbar, who later became the wife of Dr. Hayward, taught school.

Mrs. Barbieri has two children who were born in Kingston, Mrs. Hunter Scott, who, before her marriage, was a very popular music teacher and Mr. Robert Barbieri, Jr., who is a partner with his father in the Kingston Aluminum Foundry. He lives in Kingston and is a member of the School Board.

Mr. Vezzani came to the United States for an opportunity to better himself and his children have been eager to take advantage of everything that America had to offer. They've provided their own children with the very best they could afford. Mr. Vezzani had nine children of whom Mrs. Tassinari is the only one who still lives in Kingston. She has three sons, Raymond, Mario and Amedio and a daughter, Mrs. Norma Holmes who are all Kingston residents.

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During the year of 1904 two marriages between Italian couples took place. On March 5th, August Christofori and Pia Morrissi were married and on Nov. 5th, Vincent Mingotti and Gisella Drandani were married.

Three children were born in the year of 1904, the parents being:

1. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Pincelli
2. Mr. and Mrs. Guy Antoniotti
3. Mr. and Mrs. William Marrazzi

The names of Vincent Leonardi and Alfonzo Vezzani make their appearance on the tax list of 1904.

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Leonardi came to the United States in 1900. They came to Plymouth first, to join an uncle who lived there. However, after a while, Mrs. Leonardi did not like Plymouth because she felt it was too crowded so they moved to 29 Maple Street in Kingston. The

house to which they moved was over fifty years old at the time and with theLeonardi family living there for about fifty years that makes the house over a hundred years old. At one time it was connected to the house next door where the Jouberts now live. The Leonardi house was originally a tailor shop. Later it was moved and converted into a single dwelling place. Mrs. Elno Rossi, the former Eva Leonardi, still lives there and she has a son, Peter Rossi, who attends the first grade at K.E.S.

Mr. Leonardi lived in Kingston until this year when he died. He had five children who are:

1. Mrs. Iside Garuti of 11 Landing Road
2. Mr. Arthur Leonardi of Summer Street
3. Mr. Oscar Leonardi of Miami Beach, Florida
4. Mrs. Elno Rossi of 29 Maple Street
5. Mrs. Edna Busi of Plymouth

The last three children were born in Kingston.

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In 1905 we find the names of:

1. Frank Alberghini
2. Guido Alberghini
3. John Alberghini
4. Vito Alberghini
5. Marani Barufaldi
6. Louis Boucini
7. Mauro Sacenti
8. John Vacchino
9. Joseph Vacchino

There were two marriages in 1905, that of Ettore Gallerani and Augusta Christofori on Feb. 25th, and that of Oresto Ferioli and Emma Orsini on Sept. 9th.

There were two children born, one to Mr. and Mrs. John Vacchino

and one to Mr. and Mrs. Emilio Leonardi.

A child, Erones Alessandri, died at the age of six months with infant cholera.

Nineteen new names appeared on the list for 1906. These names were:

1. Ascarnio Alexandri
2. Eugeni Ansalone
3. Guy Antoniotti
4. Bartoria Bussolari
5. Mosès Bonvilla
6. Vincent Boucilarì
7. Louis Buillardo
8. Umberto Calzalinì
9. Joseph Canovaro
10. Antonio Camaille
11. August Christopher
12. Italo Facchini
13. Peter Giannetti
14. Verado Messini
15. Vito Papri
16. Peter Patrie
17. Eugene Ruffini
18. John Vezzani
19. August Vitale

Mr. Joseph ^{Canovaro} still lives at his home on Main Street opposite the North Plymouth Post Office.

There was one marriage performed in 1906, that of Angelo Vandini and Lingia Tesini on Dec. 15th.

Children were born to the following parents:

1. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Borghesani

- 2. Mr. and Mrs. Italo Facchini
- 3. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Balboni
- 4. Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Mingotti
- 5. Mr. and Mrs. John Vacchino

There were three deaths in 1906, one of them being the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Vacchino who died at the age of eight months.

Mr. Guy Antoniotti came to the United States at the age of nineteen. He knew people in Plymouth and so settled there. Later he married a young^{cousin} of these people and moved to Kingston just over the line.

At that time the territory over the line from Plymouth into Kingston was so sparsely settled that people felt they were really taking a stroll in the country when they went in that direction.

Mr. Antoniotti was anxious to accept the challenge that America had to offer--a chance to work to raise his standard of living. He gave his two daughters the best education he could afford and today, both girls hold responsible positions in the First National Bank of Plymouth and both are talented musicians.

On the 1907 list of tax payers seventeen new names appear. They are as follows:

- 1. August Bartelli
- 2. Louis Borghesani
- 3. George Gandini
- 4. Carlo Carmuri
- 5. Mando Fabri
- 6. Vito Fabri
- 7. Joseph Guarterri
- 8. Albert Leonardi
- 9. Alfonzo Leonardi
- 10. Amise Maini
- 11. Verado Marrini

- 12. Vincent Mingotti
- 13. John Muzzioli
- 14. Mando Piazzzi
- 15. Angelo Vandini
- 16. Ernest Zambini
- 17. Peter Zamboni

There were three marriages in 1907, that of Frederick Salani and Esterina Morrissi on Sept. 3rd and that of George Candini and Mary Govoni on Oct. 27th. We must not forget that of Mr. Cantori on Aug. 15th.

Six children were born in 1907 the parents being:

- 1. Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Canelli
- 2. Mr. and Mrs. Caisar Barufaldi
- 3. Mr. and Mrs. Italo Facchini
- 4. Mr. and Mrs. Amos Malini
- 5. Mr. and Mrs. John Alberghini
- 6. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Alberghini

There were five deaths in 1907, three of them being children ranging in age from nine months to one year and three months. Please notice the infant mortality.

Nineteen hundred eight brought still more newcomers on the list and these were:

- 1. Severo Adrovino
- 2. Louis Arsini
- 3. Evangeliste Bagni
- 4. Anthony Canalle
- 5. Henry Fucile
- 6. Caesar Garuti
- 7. Lawrence Garuti
- 8. Antonio Gocalde
- 9. Aldo Gavoni

- 10. Louis Ottino
- 11. Nando Pizzi
- 12. Enrico Rivoire
- 13. Michael Vincelli

It seems that during the years 1907 and 1908 a new colony of Italian people was established near the North Plymouth Post Office.

There was only one marriage in 1908, that of Ernest Guidetti and Adela Tassinari on Mar. 16th.

Twelve couples became parents in 1908 and a four year old child died with meningitis.

Nineteen hundred nine brought in the largest number of names.

This, I realize, does not necessarily mean that these people were all newcomers to the town. Some of the boys had grown old enough to pay a poll tax.

Twenty-two names were added to the list in 1909, these names being:

- 1. Ettore Alberghini
- 2. Louis Alberghini
- 3. Fred Celani
- 4. Angelo Figlioli
- 5. Alfonzo Garuti
- 6. Anthony Guaraldi
- 7. Aldo Govoni
- 8. Joseph Govoni
- 9. Joseph Guivino
- 10. Ventura Iannucci
- 11. Charles Malaguti
- 12. Humbert Malaguti
- 13. Frank Maotti
- 14. Olivio Mattioli
- 15. Nicholas Mazzilli
- 16. Alfred Morrisette

- 17. Samuel Morrisette
- 18. Louis Nigretti
- 19. Angelo Pretta
- 20. Marino Rolli
- 21. Louis Tassinari
- 22. Caliste Zucale

In 1909 a development of five new houses must have sprung up on Peck's Lane and the families of Angelo Figlioli, Anthony Guaraldi and Ventura Iannucci still live there.

Four Italian couples were married and they were John Giovanni and Mary Garuti on June 17th, August Cattabriga and Augusta Garuti on July 13th, Francis Mastrullo and John Diorio on Oct. 11th and Lindo Tassinari and Evelina Vezzani on Dec. 12th.

Three children were born in 1909 and an eight months old child died with infant cholera.

Still more newcomers in 1910! We now see the names of:

- 1. Sebastian Accolla
- 2. Aristide Antoniotti
- 3. Jeffrey Giacomino
- 4. John Lapri
- 5. Clato Manassi
- 6. Jere Martini
- 7. Joseph Merlino
- 8. Joseph Paranelli
- 9. Redenti Reggiani
- 10. Joseph Santoro
- 11. Albert Sillino
- 12. Thomas Vantangoli

Mr. Vantangoli bought one of the homes on Peck's Lane and a grandson of his still lives there.

The name of Mr. Ugo Benea appears as a water taker during this year. He and his wife established a grocery store in the south end of town and that encouraged new settlement in that region.

Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Di Stefano also set up a grocery store in this vicinity and a son, Mr. Bert Di Stefano, has his barber shop where the grocery store was once located.

There were five marriages of Italian couples that year. Peter Angelini married Maria Cevolini on Feb. 8th, Charles Tassinari married Carrie Tangerini on April 23rd, Robert Tura married Adelina Tassinari on Oct. 6th, Ettore Alberghini married Ada Barufaldi on Nov. 19th and Louis Vezzani married Mary Tassinari on Nov. 24th. (Mrs. Robert Tura, at the time of her marriage, was boarding with a family who lived in the Bradford House.)

Ten children were born this year and a nine months old child died.

In 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Merlino became residents of Kingston. Mr. Merlino was the first Italian Protestant minister to settle in this town although he held his services in a church just over the line in Plymouth. He and his wife conducted the first Americanization classes at the Cordage Kindergarten. Miss Helen Holmes and Mr. Robinson, Minister of the Unitarian Church of Kingston, took a very active interest in this project.

Both English and Italian were taught by this couple and every so often they would hold a social affair to acquaint the Italian people with American customs and games.

Most of the people at this time came directly from Italy to Kingston because their Plymouth friends sent for them. They came because there was plenty of work for them in the Cordage.

Mr. and Mrs. Merlino acted as guides, interpreters and counselors for these people. Most of them were very thrifty and industrious, with a great love for their families. They almost immediately bought their own homes. They all had gardens and did a great deal of canning, taking

advantages of all kinds of educational classes that the Cordage sponsored at the time.

Perhaps, this might be of interest to you. Around 1911, the people in the Cordage earned \$8.50 a week. They went on strike demanding a pay increase to \$12.00. Mr. Merlino was the interpreter between the workers and employers acting as a neutral participant. He addressed the people in Italian, French and English, encouraging them to act wisely and calmly. The workers won out and finally received a salary of \$12.00 weekly.

Mrs. Merlino, through the generosity of friends, often collected all the children she could and took them on outings to Mayflower Grove on the trolley cars.

Mr. Merlino now resides with his daughter, Mrs. Pompeo Di Stefano on Leyden Street in Plymouth. Mrs. Di Stefano is building a home on Center Hill Road in Kingston. Mr. Merlino's son, Camillo, was the first student of Italian extraction to receive an Adams Prize in Kingston. This was in 1916. He did not graduate from Kingston as his family soon moved to Boston. This same boy is now a Professor of Romance Languages at Boston University.

Mr. Joseph Merlino has two grandsons, Richard Di Stefano, who teaches music in Towson, Maryland, and William Di Stefano, who is assistant principal of an elementary school in the same town.

In 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Louis Bergonzoni moved to Kingston from Plymouth. Mrs. Bergonzoni came from Decima, Bologna, from a family of six children. She lived in the rice country of Italy. Her sister was ^{///}so Mrs. Bergonzoni came ^{to} this country to earn enough money to send her sister to the mountains but the sister died while Mrs. Bergonzoni was on the boat.

Every person who came to the United States sent back word that America was a land of plenty and the young people (people) of Italy all wanted to come here. They even made up songs about it.

Mrs. Bergonzoni came to live with a friend in Plymouth.

Then she married Mr. Bergonzoni who worked for a barber in Plymouth. However, in 1910 he decided to open his own shop in Kingston. For a while he and his wife ^{lived} in Loring's building where Mr. Toabe's store now stands.

Mr. and Mrs. Bergonzoni were very happy to live in Kingston where they raised their child, a daughter Mildred, who was a very accomplished musician, and who taught music in this town for a number of years. She is now married to Mr. Charles Richter, assistant superintendent of the Newton Schools and she has four children.

Nineteen hundred eleven brought in such names as:

1. Angelo Angelini
2. Peter Angelo
3. Joseph Cantelli
4. Joseph Cantori
5. John Achetti
6. Louis Corsi
7. Everisto Ferioli
8. Ismael Ferioli
9. Aristotle Fierri
10. Horace Giannetti
11. August Giberti
12. Maculia Guaraldi
13. Joseph Laudi
14. Ernest Ligotti
15. Frank Mazzilli
16. Robert Tura

Only one marriage was recorded for 1911, that of Michael De Felice and Rose Montanari who were married on Feb. 8th and who are now living in Plymouth.

Nine births and one death were recorded.

In 1912 these names appeared:

1. Gerald Bertoni
2. Ernest Giannetti
3. Febro Giannetti
4. Newell Giannetti
5. Peter Giannetti
6. Humbert Malaguti
7. Michael Monfreda
8. Chester Tassinari
9. Fritz Tassinari
10. Victor Tassinari
11. Angelo Verdelli

Three marriages were performed, thirteen children were born and two children died, one at the age of four months and the other at the age of twelve months.

Thus ends my nostalgic trip into the past. Those people were young in heart, spirit and physique forty or fifty years ago. There seems to be so much time to record all the facts that are so important and so interesting later on and suddenly time has run out and the people who have helped to make history are gone and the old order changeth.

As I did my research in old reports there are three things which consistently came to my attention.

First of all, I noticed the misspelling of names of people from the country of Italy. This probably was due to the fact that the town recorders were unfamiliar with foreign names and because the foreign people could not make themselves understood.

Secondly, I noticed the number of children who died before they were five years old. Medicine has progressed far in the past half

century.

Thirdly, I was surprised at the number of people who took post graduate courses in the High School. There were always three or four pupils and in 1911 there were six students continuing for a fifth year in the High School.

According to the records to which I had access, Adam Bartelli was the first student with an Italian name to graduate from K.H.S. That was in 1919. His sister, Alice, was the next one to graduate and that was in 1921. Mr. Bartelli was paymaster for the Mabbett Mills for many years and Miss Bartelli has been teaching in one of the neighboring towns.

Here are a few present day statistics which might interest you. I went through the 1953 street list and out of the 1,469 families in Kingston there are approximately 244 families with Italian names living in this town. Of the 2, 719 people in Kingston over the age of nineteen, 486 bear names of Italian origin.

The following information came from the 1953 town report. There are 463 people with Italian names who own property and 321 are year round residents.

In the elementary school we have an enrollment of 453 and 80 of these children bear Italian names. There have been 160 pupils graduating from the High School in the past five years and 34 of them have been of Italian ancestry.

In conclusion I wish to say that the people who came from foreign countries are most appreciative of the democracy which they find here in the United States. Intermarriage between people from different countries

has produced the present-day American, the American who is glad his ancestors came to this country.

Many people of foreign extraction have an intense desire to visit the land of their ancestors. When they do visit there they love the country. They find it quaint and appealing but they realize they are Americans. Born on American soil and under America's flag they belong to her and she belongs to them. Henry Van Dyke, in his poem, "America for Me," has expressed this feeling as no other person can.

Esther Di Marzio

April 24, 1954.

