

Veterans of the Great War



Domenico Casavecchia



Luigi Trevisani

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by Laura Nicklas Hine

Our Soldiers Who Fought in the First World War

While the Historical Committee was not able to find anyone that lived in the village that fought in the American Revolution, War of 1812, American Civil War, or the Spanish-American War, this does not mean that no one did. We just didn't find any record of it. So, we are going to honor the men who fought during World War I.

World War I came about due to new alliances forming and military tension in Europe. The final blow was the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and his wife, Sophie, on June 29, 1914 in Sarajevo, Bosnia. On May 23, 1915, the Kingdom of Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary.

Domenico Casavecchia

Domenico Casavecchia did not join the U.S. forces, but fought with his brother, Battista Dante Casavecchia in an elite Italian Army battalion called the Alpini. Domenico was 17 years of age when he joined. If his brother, Battista, joined at the same time, he would have been 15 or 16. The Alpini units were formed in 1872 and today are the oldest active mountain infantry battalion in the world. They were formed to protect the Kingdom of Italy's northern borders with France and Austria. Their nickname is *Le Penne Nere*, or "The Black Feathers," because they wore felt hats with a black feather. Out of the 40,000 Alpini soldiers, 12,000 perished during World War I.

One of the lucky ones that survived the war was Domenico Antonio Casavecchia. Domenico was the son of Giuseppe and Francesca Rosa Fontana Casavecchia. Domenico was born May 14, 1900 in Dalli Sotto, Sillano, Province de Lucca, Tuscany, Italy.

Besides being in the Alpini during World War I, he worked in coal mines before coming to America. On August 15, 1920, he emigrated from the Port of Trieste, Italy, on the ship *America*. He arrived September 8, 1920 at the Port of New York and was processed through Ellis Island. Ship records show he was single; 20 years old; could read and write Italian; last residence was Sillano, Italy. His nearest relative was Giuseppe Casavecchia living in Sillano, Italy. Domenico was coming to join his cousin, Francesco Fontana at East 71st Street, Cleveland, Ohio. He was in good health; had fair skin and brown eyes.

Domenico went back to Italy in 1929 to marry Eufemia Adorni Fontana on November 17. He came back November 29, 1929 and Eufemia came a few months later. She could not come as planned because of major earthquakes around the Dalli Sotto, Sillano area. Domenico did not hear from her for some time and had no idea if she was safe. They lived with Giovanni and Gemma Adorni after she arrived. They moved to a boarding house on Canal Road in Valley View. The boarding house was later torn down to make way for

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial

the Cloverleaf Speedway race track. Allegra Cement Company presently occupies this location.

Domenico Antonio Casavecchia died June 5, 1969. He and his wife, Eufemia, are buried in the Highland Drive Cemetery in Brecksville, Ohio.

Luigi Trevisani

Luigi Trevisani was born January 12, 1890 in Force, Italy. He came to America on the ship *Duca Di Genova* and arrived in New York on March 13, 1909. Luigi was living in Cuyahoga County when he enlisted in the Army on March 27 and was detached to the Edgewood Arsenal Medical Department on April 3, 1918. When he joined, he listed his occupation as a fireman. In 1918, while he was at Edgewood, he became a naturalized citizen. The record was filed in Cuyahoga County, but also listed Edgewood. He worked in Power House #1 as water tender for eight, 400 horsepower water tube boilers and forced draft underfeed stokers. He also helped the firemen maintain the boilers.

He was honorably discharged on May 6, 1919. Luigi went back to Italy to wed Mary DiBuo. They returned to Cuyahoga Heights and he went to work as a water tender at the garbage plant where the village service department, Bacci Park's pond, and the baseball field are now located. The people that worked at the garbage plant lived in a row of houses owned by the City of Cleveland, on East 71st Street, south of the Baptist Church. This is currently the location of the Toscana Club/FOP/George Murray Lodge 67.

Luigi and his family lived in the fifth house, which was an old farm house. The other four homes were identical. The plant workers went on strike for better pay and were forced out of the homes on the same day. When the strike was over, they moved back into their homes. Cleveland later offered to sell the homes to the workers. Luigi bought his home at 5002 East 71st Street. After he went to work for the school, he tore down the old house and built a brick home.

Luigi and Mary had three children: Victor, Yolanda, and Delia. When the village started building the school in 1938, Luigi applied and was hired to manage the school's boiler room. He worked for the school until he retired. Luigi died January 4, 1986, and his wife, Mary, died June 25, 1993. Their son, Victor, was in the Army Tank Division during World War II and after he returned home, he became a village fireman.

Iacopo Attilio Angiocchi

Iacopo Attilio Angiocchi was born in Dalli Sotto, Sillano, Province de Lucca, Tuscany, Italy on March 15, 1895, son of Domenico and Giulia Adorni Angiocchi. He was always called "Peting." In his youth, he worked at harvesting chestnuts, fished the nearby streams, and hunted. On September 20, 1912, he arrived at the Port of New York's Ellis Island on the steamship *Koenig Albert*. Iacopo and three of his brothers, Federico, Sisto, and Giuseppe worked in the brickyard where the trucking terminal is today. You can still see some of the old brick wall from the brick company in the side of the hill on Warner Road.

Iacopo traveled back and forth with his double-barreled shotgun to Italy for the winter, when the bricks could not be made. Giuseppe was the only brother that stayed in America with Iacopo.

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial

One day, the Army recruiters came to the Italian area where Iacopo was living. They asked if he liked America and if he would fight for the country. He said, "yes" to both questions and enlisted July 21, 1918. Iacopo was in the 158th Depot Brigade. He went to Camp Sherman for training and was placed in an Army Band that traveled around the Virginia/North Carolina area, where he played the tuba. On November 15, 1918, he was honorably discharged by the Adjutant General and the Expiration of Term of Service Office for completing his four-month term of service. By enlisting, he automatically became a naturalized U.S. citizen after the war on October 15, 1920.

He then went back to Italy to find a wife. Iacopo married Maryanna Fontana on April 8, 1923, and left Italy May 26, 1923 for America. They had five children: Julia, Lidia, Lidio, Robert, and Rena. Lidia died when she was three, and Rena lived less than two months. By 1924, when their first child Julia was born, they lived in the Bletch horse barn. The Ezzo house on Bletch Court is where the barn stood. The barn/house was moved twice and is now at 7142 Bletch Court.

Iacopo worked in a brickyard; at the steel mill; as a millwright; at Ferro Enamel and at the Regional Sewer District Plant. He was a member of the Toscana Club, a fraternal organization for men from the Province of Tuscany in Italy that lived in Cuyahoga Heights. Iacopo died May 17, 1977 and Marianna on September 20, 1966. They are both buried at Calvary Cemetery, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Iacopo and Marianna's two sons and son-in-law served in the Army during World War II, the Korean Conflict, and during peace time. Iacopo and Marianna's son-in-law, Julia's husband, Robert Hine, was in World War II from February 18, 1943 through January 1, 1946. He was in the 83rd Thunderbolt Infantry Division and received five medals: Good Conduct Medal; Army of Occupation Service Medal; American Theater Service Medal; EAME Theater Service Medal with four bronze stars and the World War II Victory Medal. After serving in the Army, he became a village policeman.

Iacopo's son, Lidio, was in the service from October 1951 through September 1953 and was stationed in Japan during the Korean conflict. Iacopo's other son, Robert, served from March 1954 through March 1956 and was stationed in Germany and was able to make a trip to Dalli Sotto, Italy.

Vincenzo Gemignano Bacci

Vincenzo Gemignano Bacci was born February 28, 1896, in Nicciano, Piazza al Serchio, Massa Carrara, Italy. He married Aldegonda (Adeline) Rossi on February 2, 1920 in Nicciano. She was born May 10, 1896, also in Nicciano. Vincenzo served in the military in Italy before coming to the United States. Although family members do not yet know the branch of service Vincenzo served in, his uniform appears identical to that of Domenico Casavecchia mentioned earlier in this section. Further research is underway.

He left Italy on the *Regina d'Italia* and arrived at the Port of New York on April 30, 1920 at the age of 24, stating on his passenger list that his nearest relative in the old country was his brother, Pacifico Bacci in Piazza al Serchio. He was coming to stay with his sister-in-law, Cristina Rossi Pasqualetti in Cleveland. Aldegonda was, of course, traveling with him, age 24, and the nearest relative in the old country was her

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial

father, Romualdo Rossi in Piazza al Serchio. The 1930 Census shows Vincent, Aldegonda and their three children: Mary, Anna, and Louis, living at 4933 East 72nd Place. Son, Louis, served in both the Army Air Corps, precursor to the Air Force, and as a Merchant Mariner.

Vincenzo declared his intention to become a citizen on March 19, 1932. His petition for citizenship was dated April 18, 1934, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. There his three children were listed, with Mary and Anna being listed as born in Independence, and Louis in Cuyahoga Heights. The witnesses for his petition were Placido Pallini at 4963 East 71st Street, and Isaac G. Kennedy, at 4958 East 71st Street. The 1940 Census shows the family again living at 4933 East 72nd Place. Aldegonda died April 8, 1962, and Vincenzo died on March 21, 1980. Both are buried at Calvary Cemetery.

Aldegonda's Obituary:

Adeline Bacci, beloved wife of Vincent, dearest mother of Mrs. Mary Dycus of St. Louis, Missouri, Mrs. Anne Tallon, Louis; dear grandmother of Jim, Mark, Barbara, Carol, Charlotte, Louis, Jr., Laura Jean and John; sister of Mrs. John Pasqualetti; passed away April 8. Friends received at the Joseph J. Vito Funeral Home, 7348 Broadway Avenue. Services Wednesday, April 11, at Holy Name Church, 9:30 a.m. Interment Calvary Cemetery Visiting hours 2 to 10 p.m.

Vincent's Obituary:

Vincent G. Bacci, husband of Adeline (nee Rossi) (deceased), father of Mary Dycus of St. Louis, Anne Tallon, Louis J., grandfather of James and Mark Dycus, Barbara Foreman, Capt. Caryl Thacker, Charlotte Waskiells, Laura Rice, John and Jack Bacci. Services March 24 at Holy Name Church.

Elia Contipelli

Elia Contipelli was born May 22, 1898 in Giuncugnano, Lucca, Tuscany, Italy, son of Raffaele Contipelli. While still in Italy, he was in the Italian Army doing bulldozing in Sicily. He contracted malaria and was in the hospital for a while.

Ralph Contipelli, Elia's son, said that at one time he saw a picture of his father, Elia, and Peter Reali in their Army uniform. Elia and Peter served together. Elia then came to the United States, arriving at Ellis Island, New York, on December 19, 1920, at the age of 24, single, residence given as Giuncugnano, Italy. He was travelling on the ship *Regina D'Italia* that left Europe from Genoa, Italy. He was going to Cleveland, Ohio to meet his friend, Casimiro Pallini. The closest relative in the old country was his father, Raffaele Contipelli. He was traveling with Ottavio Billi and his wife, Emma Danti, as well as Augusta and Olivo Nobili.

Elia made his petition for naturalization on October 11, 1926 at the U.S. District Court in Cleveland. At that time, he was living at 7904 Bancroft Avenue and was a painter. The witnesses were Peter Reali of 7904 Bancroft and Danielao Agostini of 9010 Harvard Avenue. Elia married Giuseppina (Josephine) Fontana, daughter of Francesco Fontana and Pia Adorni Pallini on October 27, 1928 in Cleveland, Ohio. The 1930 Census shows Elia, Josephine, and their daughter Corrina living at 4953 East 71st Street. The 1940 Census shows Elia, Josephine, Corinna (Corrine), Delma and Ralph living at 4801 East 71st Street.

Iacopo Angiocchi



Vincenzo Gemignano Bacci



Elia and Josephine Contipelli

Rayno and Mary Antognozzi



Ottavio and Emma Danti Billi



Stanley B. Chase and Ernest Klaas

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial

Josephine died on June 28, 1975 in Magliano, Italy. Elia died May 22, 1986 in Cleveland. They are both buried at Calvary Cemetery.

Josephine's Obituary:

Josephine Contipelli (nee Fontana) wife of Elia, mother of Corrine Smith, Delma Mrugacz, and Ralph, grandmother of six, sister of Irma Pallini and Guido and the following deceased: Jim, Pete and Sisto, entered into rest June 28, 1975 at Magliano, Italy.

Rayno Antognozzi

Rayno Antognozzi was born November 1, 1894 in Italy. He served in the United States Army during World War I. We have no picture or any other information about his military service. Rayno came to the United States in 1913. He married Mary T. Ezzo, daughter of Anthony and Rosina Marie Fontana Ezzo in 1928 in Cleveland. Rayno was the original proprietor of the Hillside Tavern housed at 5015 East 71st Street. He later opened the Hillside Tavern and Party Center further north at 4617 East 71st Street.

An interesting *Cleveland Plain Dealer* newspaper article, dated between 1968 to 1973, is noted below:

Tavern Keeper Bound and Robbed

Rayno Antognozzi, owner of Hillside Tavern, 4617 East 71st Street, was bound and robbed by two men early last Thursday. Posing as telephone company repairmen, the pair awakened the owner, who opened the door to permit the men to enter. They cut the phone lines and bound Antognozzi. They searched the premises and found an undisclosed amount of cash. A passing motorist saw the two men wearing yellow-blue hard hats leave their car shortly after 7 a.m. To date, there are no suspects being held.

The 1930 Census shows Rayno, Mary, and their daughter Augustina, born in 1929, living at 5045 East 71st Street. The 1940 Census shows Rayno and wife, Mary, living at 5015 East 71st Street. Augustina married James Mallos in Cleveland. Mary died on September 16, 1966, and Rayno on August 29, 1978. They are both buried at Calvary Cemetery.

Mary's Obituary:

Mary T. Antognozzi (nee Ezzo) of 5025 East 71st Street, Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio, beloved wife of Rayno, dear mother of Augustina Mallos, grandmother of five, sister of Eva Mattussi, Joseph Ezzo, Matilda Magistrelli, Edith Fonte, Louis Ezzo, Florence Woody, Albert Ezzo, Elizabeth Stawicki. The family will receive friends at S. J. Kuba and Son Funeral Home, 3271 East 55th Street, Sunday 2-5, 7-10 p.m. Funeral Monday, September 19, at 8:15 a.m. The Funeral Mass will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 9 a.m. Interment Calvary Cemetery.

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial

Rayno's Obituary:

Rayno (Skinny) Antognozzi, age 83, husband of the late Mary (nee Ezzo), father of Augustina Mallos, grandfather of five. Visitation Thursday 2-4 and 7:30-9:30 p.m. Prayer services will be held Friday, September 1st at 9:30 a.m. at the A. Nosek and Sons Funeral Home, 8150 Brecksville Road, Funeral Mass at St. Basil Church at 10 a.m.

Another Obituary:

The first liquor in Cuyahoga County after Prohibition went to the Hillside Tavern in Cuyahoga Heights run by Rayno (Skinny) Antognozzi and his wife Mary. Mr. Antognozzi, 83, of Cuyahoga Heights, died Tuesday at St. Alexis Hospital, where he had been a patient for three weeks. The Antognozzis started the tavern in 1933 and added a party center. Mrs. Antognozzi died in 1966 and Mr. Antognozzi sold the business when he retired in 1974. He came here from Italy when he was 18 and served in the U.S. Army in World War I. After the war, he worked as a pipefitter until he opened the tavern. He was a member of the Cuyahoga Heights Veterans of Foreign Wars and was honored three years ago as the oldest living veteran in Cuyahoga Heights. Services will be at 10 a.m. tomorrow at St. Basil Catholic Church, 8700 Brecksville Road, Brecksville. Surviving are a daughter, Augustina Mallos, and five grandchildren.

Peter Reali

Peter Reali was born in 1892 in Giuncugnano, Lucca, Tuscany, Italy. He served in the Italian Army during World War I alongside Elia Contipelli. Peter came to Cuyahoga Heights for a short while, never married, and returned to Italy to live. He was the naturalization sponsor for Amedeo Mentessi in 1933, living at 7904 Bancroft Avenue. He was still living here in 1951, when he moved a house from another site to the current location at 4953 East 71st Street. He was still in Cuyahoga Heights in 1966, as Mark Hine remembers visiting him at his home.

Ottavio Billi

Ottavio Billi was born June 6, 1893 in Giuncugnano, Lucca, Tuscany, Italy, son of Ludovico and Maria Bertolini Billi. He served in World War I in Italy. He married Emma Danti in 1920 in Italy, and on December 19, 1920, they arrived in New York on the ship *Regina D'Italia*. Also on this ship was Elia Contipelli. The Billi family had three children here in Cleveland: Rena, Leo, and Delma. In 1930, they were living at 4963 East 71st Street (rear), and in 1940, they were living at 4958 East 71st Street. Ottavio died on October 12, 1970 and Emma on December 26, 1970. They are both buried at Calvary Cemetery.

Ottavio's Obituary:

Ottavio Billi, beloved husband of Emma (nee Danti), dearest father of Leo N. (deceased), Rena Doskey and Delma Traffis, dear grandfather of four, great-grandfather of three, brother of Amelia Nobili, entered into rest Monday, October 12. Services Thursday, October 15, at St. Therese Church 9 a.m. Interment Calvary Cemetery.

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial

Friends received at the Joseph J. Vito Funeral Home, 6120 Turney Road. Visiting Hours Wednesday 2 to 4 and 7 to 10 p.m.

Stanislaw Bruno Czechowski | Stanley Bruno Chase

On July 12, 1973, a fire at the National Personnel Records Center destroyed approximately 16 to 18 million Official Military Personnel Files. Stanley Chase never talked about his service and we could find only two records on the internet. We sent a request to the National Archives in St. Louis for his military records and they replied that they had no records due to the fire. What we do know is that Stanley entered the service in Cleveland on August, 26, 1918. He served in the 159th Depot Brigade for four months and was honorably discharged on December 10, 1918. It would appear that Stanley worked at the Cleveland Grays Armory or Camp Sherman processing soldiers. The Grays Armory was built in 1893. It is a social organization devoted to the promotion of patriotism and the preservation of the military heritage of Cleveland.

When the United States entered World War I, the nation was not fully prepared for the war effort. As a result, the government scrambled to create a system for training troops. Sherman, located near Chillicothe, Ohio, was one of the new training camps. It was named after famous Ohioan and Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman.

Stanislaw Bruno Czechowski was born August 23, 1896 in Cleveland, the son of John and Rozalia Badzmiera Czechowski. His father came to America from Poland with his first wife, Mary, and three children in 1883. Stanley had eight half-siblings and six siblings. One of his half-brothers, Frank Edward Czechowski Chase, fought in the Spanish American War in Company L, 7th Ohio Infantry.

Stanley married Helen Ann Wawrzyniak on September 30, 1919 in Cleveland. They had three children: Esther, Robert, and Norbert. Sometime in the 1940s, they Americanized their surname to Chase. Stanley worked as a machinist; caretaker at St. Mary's Cemetery; and custodian at the Cuyahoga Heights Village Hall. Both sons served during World War II. Robert was a village policeman and Norbert was a clerk at the U.S. Cuyahoga Works. He also was elected to serve as the village clerk for many years. Stanley died October 23, 1985, and Helen died on March 4, 1990. They are buried at Saint Mary's Cemetery in our village.

Geremia Iacopo Algimiro Adorni

Geremia emigrated to the United States on September 5, 1912. He arrived at Ellis Island on September 20, 1912, on the ship *SS Koenig Albert*, and he was traveling with Iacopo Angiocchi. He served in World War I, but we do not have details about his service.

Geremia married Pauline "Polly" Radaszewski in 1916 in Cleveland. In 1920, the family was living at 4986 East 71st Street. In 1940, he was living at 7142 Bletch Court with the Iacopo Angiocchi family. His petition for naturalization in 1941 showed that he was living at 226 Canal Road and was divorced. The home was located at the driveway and lawn area of the village service department. Geremia and Pauline had three children: Arthur, Louisa, and Leonard.

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial

Frank J. Gallitz

Frank Gallitz was born March 2, 1887 in Cleveland, the son of Jacob and Mary Reis Gallitz. He was the fifth of twelve children. He enlisted in World War I on March 31, 1918 and served until he was honorably discharged on July 9, 1919. He served with the 158th Depot Brigade, Co. K 331 Infantry, and the Military Police Detachment of the 331 Infantry. He married Lillian Christian in 1922. Over the years, Frank's occupation was a paver, fireman, and roller in the steel mills. He died in 1970 in Cleveland and he and Lillian are buried at West Park Cemetery in Cleveland.

Jacob C. Gallitz

Jacob was born October 17, 1891, the seventh of twelve children of Jacob and Mary Reis Gallitz. He served from May 7, 1918 to August 25, 1919 with Co. B 322, Co. F 330, and Co. D 30 and the Expeditionary Forces. He never married. He later worked for a printing company, with one employer being Brooks Company. He died May 6, 1972 in Cleveland and was buried at Calvary Cemetery.

John Francis Hanousek

John was born June 4, 1896 in Cleveland to Frank and Margaret Moore Hanousek. He served with the Army Ambulance Service and Medical Department from June 13, 1917 to December 31, 1918. He married Lorna Shatto about 1918 in Cleveland. They had one son, John Leroy Hanousek. John Francis Hanousek died February 23, 1952 in Cleveland.

Ernest Walter Klaas

Ernest Klaas was born October 8, 1898 in Newburgh, son of Frederick and Eva Gehring Klaas. He registered for the draft in 1918 in Cleveland and enlisted on October 30, 1918. He married Mary Agnes Ineman. They had four children: Eileen, Shirley, Joyce, and Ann Marie. Ernest died in 1996, and his wife, Mary, in 1995.

Casimiro Pallini

Casimiro Pallini was born March 4, 1896 in Dalli Sotto, Tuscany, Italy. He came to the United States as a single man, arriving at Ellis Island on October 25, 1913 at the age of 17. He was traveling with Teodoro Nobili, Luigi Fantelli, and Attilio Angiocchi. He enlisted during World War I on September 18, 1917. He served with the Infantry Division and the Auxiliary Remount Depot and was honorably discharged on May 5, 1919.

He returned to Italy and married Domenica Sestelia Adorni on September 30, 1922 in Dalli Sotto. They returned to the United States and had three children: Jennie, John, and Joyce.

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial

Casimiro and his wife owned a home jointly with Iacopo Angiocchi and his wife, Maryanna, at 7142 Bletch Court. In approximately 1934, both families lived together in that tiny home. Eventually, Iacopo Angiocchi bought out Casimiro's share of the house on Bletch Court. At that time, Casimiro and family moved to the old village hall at the northern end of East 71st Street. Casimiro died in 1974, and Domenica in 1986. They are both buried at Calvary Cemetery.

Julius C. Schmidt

Julius was born July 4, 1890, the sixth of nine children of Peter and Mary Margaret Henninger Schmidt. He served in World War I, married Emily Kling, and had a son James. Julius died in 1973 and is buried at Calvary Cemetery.

Roy Kingsbury Shatto

Roy was born July 29, 1899 in Newburgh Hamlet to Albert William and Ethie May Kingsbury Shatto. Roy served in the Navy during World War I, but there are no specifics regarding his service. He married Regina Arvidson in Cleveland. Roy died in 1977 and Regina in 1978.

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial