

THE ITALIAN PEOPLE IN MAYNARD

The first Italians coming to Maynard would be dated sometime in the 1890's for their initial organizational attempt was in 1906. This was the Italian Court of Foresters. The first meeting was in Odd Fellows Hall with Court of Italy of Boston present. (June 15, 1906.) The organization was initiated July 20, 1906 (Oddfellows Hall) with many present from out of town. Court Dante Alighieri of Foresters had the following for officers: S.C.R. Michele Roberts--C.R. Antonio Distasio-Treas. Celestino Colombo--J.W. Carmine DeMarco--S.B. Raffaele Dotoli--Lecturer Domencio Distasio. There was nothing further in the newspapers so we do not know how long this court existed.

Doc.
The Italian Citizens's Club was organized Nov. 29, 1912 to aid Italians in becoming citizens and to take part in the spring election. The newspaper article goes on to explain that at present there are 11 Italian voters in town--6 more for spring election--20 will take out first papers next Saturday--and an estimated 600 Italians in Maynard. The Officers were: Pres, Joseph Morgandi, Vice Pres. Angelo Dimonico, Sec'y Ernestino Barilone, Treas. Kalle Columbus, Clerk Joseph Morgandi. Aug. 8, 1913 this club held a picnic at Visocchi's Farm. Nothing further is heard of this club.

Dec. 4, 1914 Newsnote tells us of several Italian residents being called back to Italy to serve in the army. This type of conscription was prevalent in the European countries.

Our next newsnote tells us (Aug. 19, 1921,) of the organizational meeting to set up the Sons of Italy with installation of officers on Labor Day installation of Officers. (We have the good fortune to have in our midst in Maynard, Joseph Porrazo, lifetime barber and one of the original members of the Sons of Italy, who kindly consented to writing in its entirety the history of the Sons Of Italy.

~~The following is Joe Porrazzo's monograph on the Sons Of Italy:~~

Roma Lodge No. 1103 Order of Sons of Italy in America of Maynard, Mass. was instituted on September 5, 1921 at Eagle Hall, Maynard, Mass. under the sponsorship of Italia Nuova Lodge No. 983 Order Sons of Italy in America of Somerville, Mass. in the presence of the Grand Deputy Emissary of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts Prof. Antonio Dentamaro. There was a Christening and Initiation of the Lodge. The Charter was issued by the Supreme Lodge and was signed by the following: Raimondo Iannuzzo, Edwardo Lenzi, and Francesco Santucci, with seventy-seven initial members, men and women. The first Executive Council was composed of:

Venerable	Celestino Priiano
Assistant Venerable	Edwardo Lenzi
Ex. Venerable	Raimondo Iannuzzo
Orator	Guiseppe Porrazzo
Recording Secretary	Giovanino Piacitelli
Financial Secretary	Francesco Santucci
Treasurer	Ernesto Baroloni
1st Trustee	Vincenzo Lucchesi
2nd Trustee	Salvatore Terrasi
3rd Trustee	Pasquale Veleno
4th Trustee	Rosario Salamone
5th Trustee	Francesco Piacitelli
1st Master of Ceremonies	Nicola Baccaro
2nd Master of Ceremonies	Francesco Colombo
Sergeant at Arms	Antonio Veleno
Sergeant at Arms	Ernest Mariano

Arbitration Committee	Bonifacio Finocchi
" "	Agostino Fava
" "	Vincenzo Russo
" "	Luigi Di Grappa
" "	Rocco Telese
Grand Delegates	Bonifacio Finocchi
" "	Agostino Fava
Assistant Grand Delegate	Francesco Santucci
" " "	Pietro Vaccaro

After the installation, the American flag was christened by Teresa Carbone, Godmother, and Vito Carbone, Godfather. The Italian flag was christened by Vincenzo Russo, Godfather, and his daughter Maria Russo, Godmother. The official languages are Italian and English, the emblem of the Order is a golden lion in a field of white, and the motto is "Liberty, equality and fraternity."

The lodge meets once a month. Meetings were held at first in the Eagles Hall, corner Nason and Summer Sts., later at Elks Hall on Main St, and at present are held at the Italian Social Club Hall, Waltham St.

The Lodge provides medical services and illness and death benefits to members. The official celebration is Columbus Day, Oct. 12. The Lodge sponsors civic and social Activities, and encourages good citizenship for this great nation, America .

Joseph Porrazzo

Recording Secretary

1962

Venerables--Roma Lodge No. 1103 Sons of Italy

1921 Celestino Primiano
 1922 Edwardo Lenzi
 1923 Celestino Primiano
 1924 " "
 1925 Antonio Mistretta
 1926 " "
 1927 " "
 1928 Santo Caruba
 1929 Antonio Mistretta
 1930 Domenico Mucciaccio
 1931 Vincenzo Porrazzo
 1932 Raimondo Gandolfo
 1933 Salvatore Terrasi
 1934 Giuseppe Porrazzo
 1935 Michael Veleno
 1936 " "
 1937 Giuseppe Porrazzo
 1938 Michael Veleno
 1939 Celestino Primiano
 1940 " "
 1941 Giuseppina Finochi

1942 Pasquale Purrego
 1943 " "
 1944 Raimondo Gandolfo
 1945 " "
 1946 Vincenzo Porrazzo
 1947 " "
 1948 Celestino Primiano
 1949 " "
 1950 Vincenzo Porrazzo
 1951 " "
 1952 Giuseppe Porrazzo
 1953 " "
 1954 Giovanni Piantedosi
 1955 Giuseppe Graceffa
 1956 Domenico Mucciaccio
 1957 " "
 1958 " "
 1959 Raimondo Gandolfo
 1960 " "
 1961 " "
 1962 " "

Joseph Porrazzo

Recording Secretary 1962

Nov. 4, 1927 news article tells us of a new Italian organization - St. Anthony's Crusaders - holding a dance at Colonial Hall - 400 people in attendance - a Boston dance band for dancing and Andrew Visocchi of Boston playing the accordion for a short concert.

January 12, 1933 news article tells us of the formation of the Italian Social Club at Hall on Waltham Street. The initial officers were: Pres. Raymond Gandolfo, Vice-Pres. Adam Mariani, Rec. Sec'y Vincinzo Iannuzzo, Fin. Sec'y Vito Carbone, Treas. Charles Visocchi, Trustees Joseph Morgante, Luigi Tiberio, Pasquale Pareago. (The following is again from Joseph Porrazzo - a monograph on the Italian Social Club): The Italian Social Club of Maynard, Mass. was instituted on Dec. 7, 1934 at their own Hall at 64 Waltham St., Maynard, Mass. The Charter was issued by the State of Massachusetts with initial number of seventy-five members. The purpose of this social club is to encourage and to promote social and recreational activities among the people of the Italian Race and of Italian extraction and to stimulate closer and more friendly relationships among them.

The Officers of this Club were as follows:

President - Adam Mariani

Vice President - Charles Visocchi

Recording Secretary - Vincenzo Ianuzzo

Financial Secretary - Patric Porego

Treasurer - Vito Carbone

1st Trustee - Loreto Arcieri

2nd Trustee - Antonio Colombo

3rd Trustee - Angelo Curci

Marshall - Rinaldo Mariani

Custodian - Luigi Primiano

*Social
Recreational
Activities*

Board of Directors

Adam Mariani	John Perillo	Angelo Curci
Charles Visocchi	Frank Colombo	
Vincenzo Ianuzzo	Leonard Ianuzzo	
Felice Micelli	Antonio Curci	
Domenick Greeno	Donato Dentino	

The Club meets once a month. In the event of the death of any member the Club sends a Floral Tribute and provides a Committee of six members to attend the funeral. Also at the death of any member of the family the Club sends a Floral Tribute.

The Club sponsors Civic Activities and encourages good Citizenship for the Town of Maynard.

Joseph Parrdzzo
35 Walnut Street
Maynard, Massachusetts
June - 1963

Dec. 15, 1933 news note tells us of an Italian-American citizens club meeting at Coop. Hall Sunday afternoon as part of a naturalization drive with Rep. Frank Sheridan addressing the meeting.

Feb. 22, 1935. An organizational meeting of a new society 'Our Lady of Indulgence' took place at the Italian Social Club Hall with the following as officers: Head Delegate Mrs. Caroline Visocchi, Officers Virginia Angelosanto and Santa Mariano. 80 were enrolled with Professor Amendo Mariano of Boston giving an address.

Mar. 22, 1935 - An Italian Citizens Club organized with Michael Lalli as President and Michael Barilone Vice-President at 10 Main Street for clubroom.

In the latter 30's Saint Anthony's Society was organized.

As of this writing (1969) the Italian people in Maynard still have some of these organizations in their midst; Sons of Italy, Italian Social Club, Our Lady of Indulgence Society, and the Saint Anthony's Society. With the passing of the old guard and the thrust into the mainstream of American life of the young people of Italian extraction these organizations are with us but not as strong.

May it be said that this light-hearted people of Latin extraction have added a lot of vivacity and spice to the Maynard scene - an extra dimension which would surely have been missed in the hum-drum life of a mill-town. May it continue so.

Read at the meeting of The Maynard Historical Society

- B.R. Koski