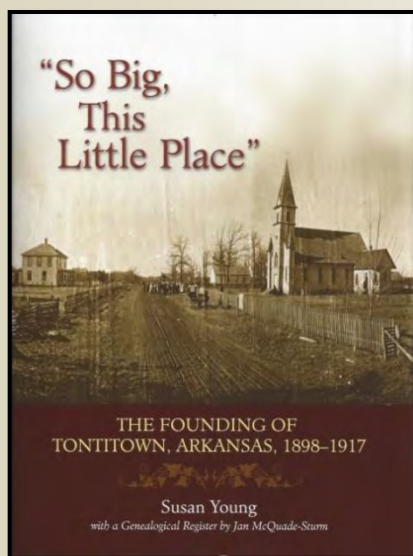


TONTITOWN HISTORY BOOKS



"So Big, This Little Place" The Founding of Tontitown, Arkansas, 1898-1917, by Susan Young, with a Genealogical Register by Jan McQuade-Sturm, Tontitown Historical Museum, 2009. Hard cover, 177 pages, 127 photos, 9 maps, full index.

"I went into a strange and beautiful country that I had never seen before, and I found my people happy, contented, prosperous, upright, respected citizens, filled with a fond remembrance of their mother country, yet imbued and inspired with a devotion to their adopted country. Italy, the place of their birth, was their mother, while America was their wife. They have reverence for the former, but love for the latter."

—BARON EDMUNDO DES PLANCHES,
Italian Ambassador to the United States,
after a visit to Tontitown, Arkansas in 1905

\$30 includes tax

By the time Ambassador des Planches came to Tontitown, the Italian community nestled in the Arkansas Ozarks was already receiving national and international attention as a model of successful immigration. The town's idyllic rural setting was in direct contrast to the crowded tenements of East Coast cities where so many Italians settled upon their arrival in America.

"So Big, This Little Place" is about those early, attention-getting years of Tontitown, Arkansas. The time period chosen—1898 to 1917—mirrors the time spent in Tontitown by Father Pietro Bandini, the town's spiritual and secular leader. Bandini's role in the establishment and early success of Tontitown cannot be overstated, but the story is certainly not his alone. Many Italian families helped lay the foundation for the thriving settlement with a rich heritage that survives today.

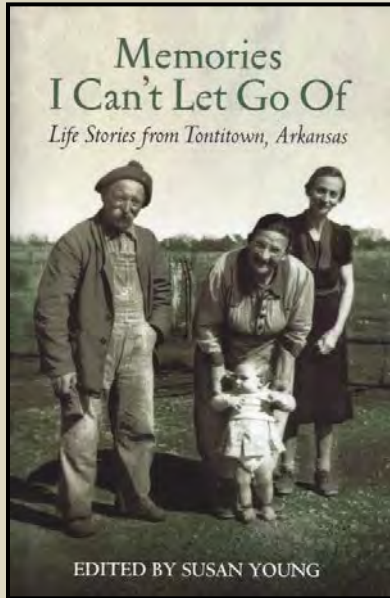
Drawing on columns written by Tontitown correspondents to the *Springdale (Arkansas) News*, richly illustrated with photographs of community life, and complemented by Jan McQuade-Sturm's genealogical register of the early Tontitown families, "So Big, This Little Place" offers a testimony to the power of faith, hope, perseverance, and the American Dream.

Author Susan Young is the outreach coordinator at the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History in Springdale, Arkansas. She is a graduate of the University of Arkansas, a lifelong resident of Fayetteville, and a fifth-generation Ozarker. Young has served on the boards of the Arkansas Historical Association, Arkansas Museums Association, Arkansas Archeological Society, and Arkansas Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association.

**Purchase both Tontitown history books
and receive \$5.00 discount on each!**

\$40 for both -- includes tax

TONTITOWN HISTORY BOOKS



\$20 includes tax

Memories I Can't Let Go Of: Life Stories from Tontitown, Arkansas, edited by Susan Young, Farther Along Books, 2012; Tontitown Historical Museum, 2014. Soft cover, 305 pages, 48 oral histories with photos, full index.

"We walked to school. In the wintertime I remember as a very small child, when it was snowing and the wind was blowing very, very hard, Daddy would carry me so I would be facing south, and he would take the wind and carry me to school."

—ALMA ROSO HUNTER

What do we remember as we look back on a lifetime? When 78-year-old Alma Roso Hunter was interviewed in 2003, the memory of her father sheltering her from a cold north wind remained vivid. It's a lovely recollection, full of meaning not just for Alma Roso Hunter's family, but also for her hometown of Tontitown, Arkansas, and for anyone who recognizes the importance of preserving stories of "everyday" life.

Alma Roso Hunter's life story is one of 48 oral history interviews collected as part of the Tontitown Preservation Project, founded in 2002 by a group of volunteers who wanted to assist the Tontitown Historical Museum in its efforts to document and preserve the community's Italian heritage. The folks interviewed range in age from 56 to 93; most are in their late 70s and early 80s. They relate their memories with a refreshing candor that often comes with age. Most of them are first generation Italian Americans. Their everyday lives still contain many direct ties to their Italian roots. Most of them grew up during the Great Depression. They describe the hard times that were known to most all rural Ozark families during those years.

In *Memories I Can't Let Go Of*, the Tontitown Preservation Project interviews are presented as narrative stories, weaving together memories of grandparents and parents, home and community life, foodways, school days (with nuns as teachers), grape festivals and holiday traditions, marriage, and raising a family. Common themes emerge: a strong work ethic, the importance of family, and a genuine love for fun and fellowship.

Editor Susan Young is the outreach coordinator at the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History in Springdale, Arkansas. She is the author of *"So Big, This Little Place" The Founding of Tontitown, Arkansas, 1898-1917*.

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