

Tontitown Storia



The Newsletter of the Tontitown Historical Museum

Spring 2010, Vol. 6, No. 1

Saluti from the Board

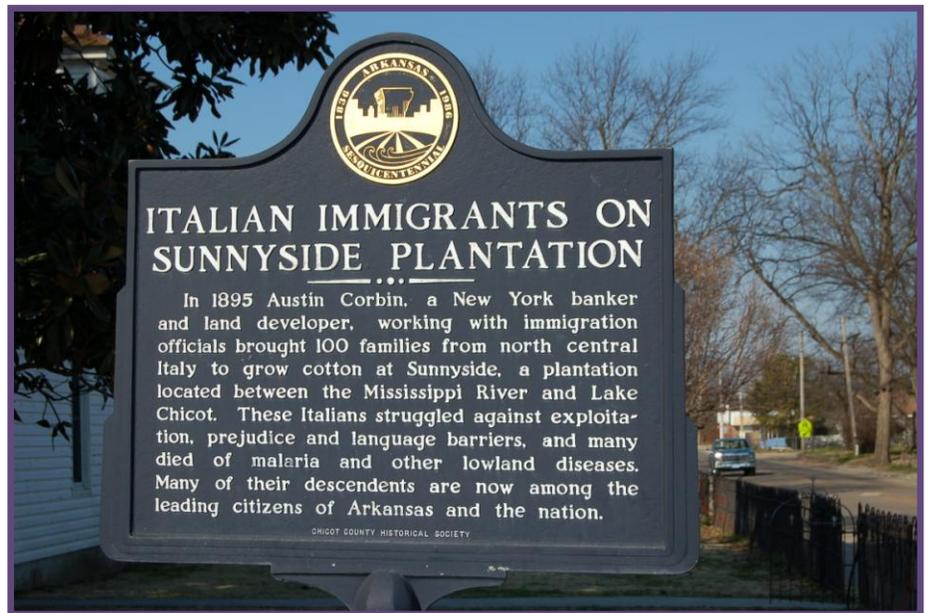
On February 27, 2010, Susan Young, author of “So Big, This Little Place” *The Founding of Tontitown, 1898-1917* presented to a standing room only crowd at Lakeport Plantation in Lake Village, Arkansas. Six members of the Museum Board made the trip with Susan.

The day began when we met with members of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church to exchange recipes and watch them make meatballs for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the church. The meeting was arranged by Libby Borgognoni who is the resident historian for Lake Village. After visiting with the women, we toured the church and were reminded of the original church built in Tontitown.

From the church we drove to the Museum of Chicot County Arkansas and met with Penny Winsett. The large museum houses two rooms devoted to the history of the Italians in Lake Village.

The group next went to Hyner Cemetery which is the final resting place for the Italians who perished at Sunnyside Plantation. The small area is only a fraction of its original size. Most of the gravestones are gone, but the voices of those buried there can still be heard.

After our visit to the cemetery, the group was treated to lunch by the Friends of Lakeport Plantation at The Cow Pen, a local legend. The delicious meal consisted of fried squash and mushroom appetizers, spaghetti with garlic bread, Italian salad, and The Cow Pen’s famous bread pudding with whiskey sauce. Yum!



**Commemorative Sign
outside Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church
Lake Village, Arkansas**

photo by Brenda Pianalto

From there, we drove a short distance to Lakeport Plantation for Susan’s presentation. The house, which once housed the physician responsible for taking care of the residents of Sunnyside Plantation, is in the process of being restored to its former glory. The board members were given a private tour of the plantation by members of the Friends of Lakeport Plantation.

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Curator's Choice

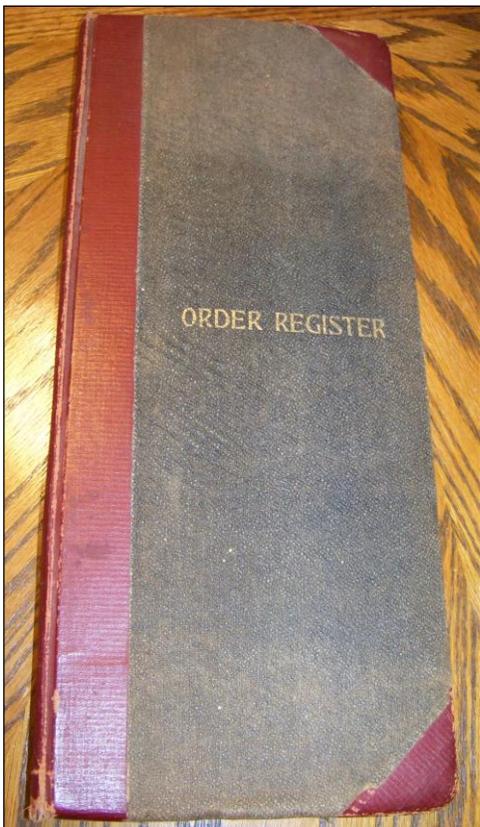
By Charlotte Piazza and Bev Cortiana-McEuen

Do you know the history of this chair? The Tontitown Historical Museum recently acquired it from the St. Joseph Catholic Church rectory auction. We believe the chair was handmade, and have it on display at the museum.

If you recognize this chair as something from your family or know anything about its origin, please talk with us. Call Charlotte Piazza at 479-361-2498 if you have any information or need a special time to see it.



Recording History



Cel Cortiana served as the Mayor of Tontitown in 1936, and from 1949-1954. He passed on several handwritten notes in his "Order Register," donated by the Lillian Cortiana Granata family. Here are a couple of gems, just as he recorded them.

May 10, 1939

Just a little Memorandum to the great & glorious day the current was turned on in Tontitown, Ark. & vicinity. May 10, 1939. For the first nite most of the people kept turning the lights on & off, just to see if it was real or a dream.

March 31, 1952

Today is a day to be well remembered by each & every one who knew or heard of the Rev. Peter Bandini. Because on this day we the people of Tontitown commemorated his (100) one hundred birthday with high Requiem Mass by the Rev. Father Kennedy at St. Joseph Church in Tontitown, Ark. The Rev. Peter Bandini was the first pastor of the Tontitown Catholic Church established in 1898. He died Jan. 2, 1917 at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Little Rock.

Saluti from the Board ... cont.

Susan's presentation took place in the foyer and she had an attentive, empathic crowd. During her 40-minute presentation, Susan detailed the journey of our ancestors from Italy to Sunnyside Plantation to Tontitown. After the presentation, 40 books were sold and signed by Susan. While signing the books, Susan talked with each person to hear their family's story. Each family had a story that was unique, but many had the same struggles that our ancestors had.

Many thanks to Blake Wintory, the Friends of Lakeport Plantation, and the Cow Pen for hosting a very special tour, lunch and book signing. Also, many thanks to Libby Borgognoni and the wonderful women at Our Lady of the Lake Church for sharing their history. Our journey to the Delta was an emotional and heartwarming one.

by Denise Pellin, with photos by Brenda Pianalto



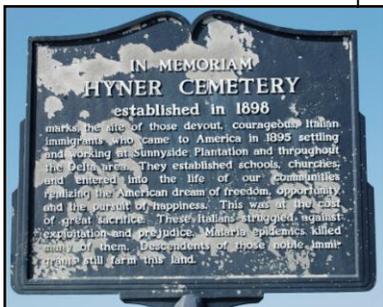
Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church (above)
Museum of Chicot County Arkansas (below)



Tontitown Historical Museum group & Friends of Lakeport Plantation
l-r: Libby Borgognoni, Floyd Sessions, Mary Maestri Vaughan, Denise Pellin, Roger Pianalto, Susan Young, Gena Hartman, Charlotte Piazza, Pat Pellin, William Sessions, Jeannine Sessions, Paula Miles, Bev Cortiana-McEuen, Brenda Pianalto, Ruth Hawkins.
This photo taken by Blake Wintory

IN MEMORIAM HYNER CEMETERY established in 1898

Marks the site of those devout, courageous, Italian immigrants who came to America in 1895 settling and working at Sunnyside Plantation and throughout the Delta area. They established schools, churches, and entered into the life of our communities realizing the American dream of freedom, opportunity and the pursuit of happiness. This was at the cost of great sacrifice. These Italians struggled against exploitation and prejudice. Malaria epidemics killed many of them. Descendants of those noble immigrants still farm this land.



Family Focus ... Pietro Beato & Maria Cortiana Fiori

Memories from their Grandchildren, Aunts, Uncles, and Cousins

by Brenda Mae Pianalto, granddaughter

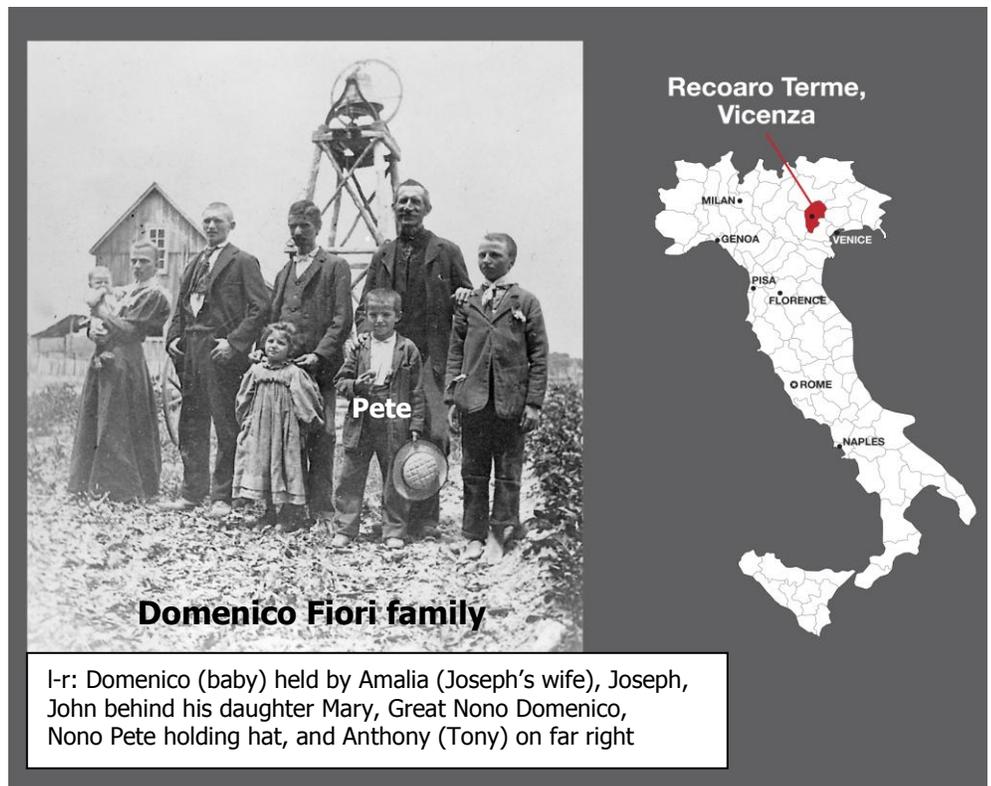
I would like to reflect today on my Nono and Nona Fiori from history gathered from family and storied past recollections. I never knew my Nono Pietro (Pete) Beato Fiori – what a handsome Italian man. His life was tragically cut short after an evening playing Italian games with his friends. My Nona Maria (Mary) Cortiana Fiori – oh, how I loved her.



Nona Maria (Mary) Cortiana Fiori

Nona Mary had such a jolly laugh, and I can still hear her saying, “Oh, Dio” and raising her hands to her head. When you put Nona Mary and her brother, Uncle Cel Cortiana, together – oh my, my side would hurt of laughter. I remember as a young girl going over to Nona Mary’s every Saturday. I had long hair, and every Saturday I would sit on Nona’s back porch and she would twirl my long hair around her fingers to make the perfect long curl that would lie perfectly against my back. The best thing was getting peaches and cottage cheese in the little brown and white ramekins, or maybe right up there next to that was her yummy lemon dessert that she would get out of her refrigerator. Well, I could go on and on, but let’s get started on how, when, and where this history began.

Pietro (Pete) Beato Fiori was born on March 4, 1889 in Recoaro, Italy. Pete’s dad was Domenico Fiori, born September 30, 1845 and his mother was Alene Floriani, born about 1850. Both were born in Recoaro, Italy. Domenico and Alene had six children: Maria, John, Rosa, Joseph, Anthony, and Pietro (Nono Pete). Alene died in Italy, but Domenico ventured to a new world boarding the Kaiser Wilhelm II in Genoa, Italy and arriving in New York in 1896. Domenico, with sons Anthony and Pietro, were destined to Chicot County, Arkansas, to a place known as Sunnyside Plantation, in pursuit of happiness. Little is known of the suffering and hardships the Fiori’s endured while on the plantation. Much of our story starts in Tontitown, where their hopeful dreams were becoming brighter with the dawning of each new day.



Domenico Fiori family

l-r: Domenico (baby) held by Amalia (Joseph’s wife), Joseph, John behind his daughter Mary, Great Nono Domenico, Nono Pete holding hat, and Anthony (Tony) on far right

“Old Man Fiori” is what his kinfolk and townspeople would call Domenico. Old Man Fiori had a passion for grape growing, and was well known for his wine making. With Domenico’s love for vino, he began selling it (legally, I think, maybe). He went as far as to build a bell tower on his land, so that when he was out working his fields, a bell tone would be music to his ears, signaling a prospective buyer. Story has it that Old Man Fiori’s porch was lined with aged wine barrels.

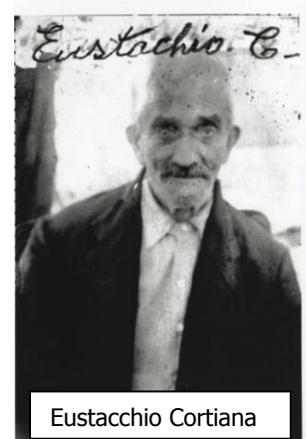


Maria (Mary) Cortiana Fiori and Pietro Beato (Pete) Fiori
June 20, 1912

Growing up, sons Anthony (Tony) and little brother Pete (Nono), were pals, working hard, so someday, they would inherit the land, and continue to prosper. Years passed, and at the age of 23, the short, handsome Italian man, Pete, fell in love with the prettiest young lady he had ever seen, named Maria Cortiana. On June 20th, 1912 in St. Joseph Catholic Church in Tontitown, Father Bandini united in marriage my Nona Maria (Mary) Cortiana and my Nono Pietro (Pete) Fiori.

Nona Mary was born to Eustacchio and Lucia Strobbe Stobendi Cortiana on December 21, 1892 in Valli dei Signori, Italy. Mother Lucia died in Valli dei Signori only one year before Eustacchio and his six children – Domenico, Virginia, Giuseppe, Luigia, Maria (Nona Mary), and Celeste (Cel) – journeyed to America. They landed in New York on the Chateau Yquem, and were also destined to the Sunnyside Plantation for a better life for him and his six children. Can you imagine leaving the known to travel by water for days to some unknown place called the United States of America in hopes of a better life? What faith they had in God. It makes me think of the *Footprint in the Sand* poem, when you only saw one set of footprints is when I carried you.

After much hard work, their dreams were diminishing on the plantation. Lifting their heads up high, they followed their spiritual leader, Father Bandini, to higher ground, landing in Tontitown, Arkansas. Eustacchio was an excellent cobbler. A found memory of Eustacchio’s children was the wooden shoes he made for them that would glide on the ice of the “Little Brushy” stream located on the west side of the Cortiana homestead. A faith-filled family, Eustacchio gave thanks to God every morning by attending Mass. Eustacchio passed in 1922.



Eustacchio Cortiana

After Pete and Mary were married, they moved to Oklahoma where Nono Pete found work in construction. He was known as a “powder monkey.” His job was a dangerous one, for he dynamited dirt and rock. While in Oklahoma, Pete and Mary’s first son, William (Bill), was born. Yearning for family, Pete and Mary moved back to Tontitown where Pete lived his dream, inheriting his father’s land.

The Fiori homestead was located on the west side of North Barrington, across from St. Joseph Catholic Church. Retaining the original log foundation, Pete built a two-story frame house with four rooms downstairs, and an upstairs that had one finished room on the west and a large unfinished room which extended east over the front porch. Pete worked hard continuing his dynamiting skills in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which caused him to be away from home more than he wanted, but it was a way of survival for the family he loved so much. After a time, Pete was home to stay. A vineyard was planted, fruits and vegetables were grown in the garden, a horse named Prince, a cow, a chicken, and a pig. This man was a happy man. He had so much to be thankful for.

Pete and Mary continued their family with Dorothy, Charlie, Clara, twins Virginia and Virgil, and on October 16, 1931, my mother, Elsie Mae Fiori was born. Elsie was born in the house her son Virgil and wife Gail are living in today.

The Fiori siblings have many childhood memories – the list is long, but a few mentioned here. We'll start with the love of a father for his children in remembering having their feet measured with a string, and Dad (Nono Pete) would walk about 6 miles east to Springdale to buy shoes. Don't be too hard on them, they were to last until they were worn to the bare bottom. Walking across the field to attend school, the children were lucky in a way that they were able to walk home for that hot meal at lunchtime. It is told it did come with a price. There was just enough time to help with some chores, like scrubbing clothes on the wash board, or tending to the pig by spreading leaves for a bed, or picking up acorns to put in the trough, and let's not forget picking up eggs.

Being a little silly at times, story has it milking the cow was asking a lot, a hoot owl took up residency in the barn, and they were always afraid to go in there. Mom (Nona Mary) would always say, "Are you sure you milked the cow good?" The twins never told her that they would squirt the milk into the kitten's mouth, and also try to out scare that hoot owl. In the winter it is remembered how Dad (Nono Pete) would make a trap out of a window screen to catch birds or rabbits. He tied a string to the screen and ran the string through a window. He would sit at the window for hours and when a bird or squirrel would go for feed under the screen, Dad (Nono Pete) would drop the screen to catch whatever was the victim. Once we had enough, Mom (Nona Mary) would scald them in a large black kettle, then pick their feathers, clean and prepare them for a fine meal of polenta and umedo. Ummm, Ummm, Good. That would be a feast.



Back row, l-r: Nona Mary, Clara, Charlie
Middle row, l-r: Bill, Virginia, Dorothy, Virgil
Front row, l-r: Elsie Mae, Nono Pete

Grape festival was always a fun time for the kids. Hard work paid off. Dad (Nono Pete) would always make a freezer of homemade ice cream for us. We would get a dime for the carnival. At that time it was a lot of money for a kid at the carnival. Mom (Nona Mary) would go to the school basement and help the ladies make spaghetti for the festival. It was about tradition, and they were proud. Can you see all those Italian ladies in one kitchen? They had more fun, but most of all they enjoyed each other's company, while honoring that first picnic in the park when spaghetti was brought to the thanksgiving table.

One special year, 17-year-old Elsie Mae ran for Grape Festival Queen. Pennies were counted as a vote. To this day, Elsie will say she was her daddy's girl, and he showed it especially for this special occasion. Pete would walk to Springdale several days and collect pennies for his daughter. Together they collected enough pennies for his little girl to be crowned 49th Grape Festival Queen Concordia in 1947.



In 1944, tragedy came to the family when two military officers, accompanied by Richard Ardemagni, knocked on the door of the Fiori home. Mary and Pete were told the devastating news that their young son, Private Virgil Samuel Fiori, had been killed in the Battle of Monte Cassino in San Angelo, Italy on the 19th day of January. The cry of agony that echoed through the house is still a vivid family memory. Pete and Mary laid their son to rest in the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial in Nettuno, Italy. Family and friends have journeyed to Italy to pay their respects to their honorable comrade. Mary and Pete, with their strong faith, took each day and made the best life for their remaining five children.

Elsie Mae remembers her Mom in the kitchen especially when she was making spaghetti. Standing at the small kitchen table, with a wooden bowl half-filled with flour scooped to its sides, looking like a well in the middle, breaking 4 eggs landing in the well, stirring and adding

more flour until she had a stiff yellow dough ball. She would roll the dough thin with a long round smooth stick about 1-1½ inches in diameter, known as a “miscola.” When she rolled to the perfect thinness, she would sprinkle with flour. Starting at one end, she rolled the dough against itself until it was a long roll about the diameter of the miscola. She would cut the spaghetti with a sharp knife moving her finger just enough for the desired width. Once cut, she would shake the strands with her fingers, and put the spaghetti in boiling water to cook. It was so good.

The Fiori children share memories about their house, which was heated with wood. They remember Dad (Nono Pete) would clear land to plant crops, so the cut trees were put on his wagon, pulled by Prince the horse, to the house for the family to cut in perfect log sizes for heating and cooking. The late 1930's brought electricity; the house had one single light bulb hanging from the center of the front room. The news was of great importance to Dad. Once newspapers were available, Dad would read the whole thing word-for-word. By the way, the kids would fight for the funny paper. How glad Dad was when radio came along.

A scary chore was pulling water from the 92-foot well dug in front of the house. Sometimes getting water from the well wasn't so easy. Oops, the pulley broke and the bucket would fall to the bottom. Dad (Pete) would use a long rope with a hook attached to retrieve it, being successful only part of the time. Of course, the rain water was caught by the house gutter to store in a whole cistern near the west side of the house. This water was used for bathing, washing clothes, and cleaning. The children had their chores to do like any other. Tend to the land, care for the livestock, and plant fruits and vegetables – their little jobs to help out were never done. The summertime you would see the children around their mother, canning fruits and vegetables to get ready for winter. Let's not forget raising chickens, and preparing them for the table. Nona Mary was the best chicken neck wringer we ever saw. The chickens were then scalded, feathers picked, chickens cleaned inside and out, cut into pieces and ready for the frying pan. But in the summer, when the canning began, the cellar would be full of mason jars full of fruits and vegetables. The end of the summer came near and you would find everyone picking grapes, putting them in baskets, and loading on the trucks to be sold to Welch's Grape Company located in Springdale. It was a fine load when the truck would return and the report was the load was heavy and the sugar content was high. This is what every grape grower lived to hear.

February 14, 1948, on a cold winter's night, tragedy struck once more for the Fiori family. Elsie Mae and her niece Nova Jean (Bill and Fern Haney Fiori's daughter) remember well that night. Elsie Mae had just gotten home from a date with Gabriel Pianalto, and Nova Jean was sleeping over. The girls were talking and laughing before bedding down. Pete, Elsie's dad, was with his friend Pete Tessaro and brother Tony Fiori at the home of Hugo Pozza, playing cards. It was nearing midnight and Pete Tessaro, then Tony, followed by his brother Pete were walking east along the shoulder of Highway 68, nearing the home and business of Jack and Lavinia Zulpo, when a car had passed. There was a sound of a fall, and Pete and Tony, turning immediately, found their brother and friend Pete Fiori had been struck by the passing car. The fearful men were immediately by his side. In the still of this wintry night, Elsie and Nova Jean were awakened by the sound of footsteps that were crackling the frozen grass as the sound grew louder and louder nearing their home. Soon there was a knock on the door, and Elsie immediately jumped from bed to be by her mother's side. It was Jack Zulpo, bringing alarming news Pete had been struck by a car. Mary and Elsie, frightened to a state of shock, followed Jack to find Pete lying lifeless. It was apparent Pete had died instantly. A wake was held at the Fiori home with many friends and family surrounding them, while the men of St. Joseph stood vigilant with their brother. Mass of Christian burial was said with Father Schaefer officiating, and Pete was laid to rest in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Tontitown.

Mary, being of strong faith held her head high, prayed the rosary every day for strength and to give thanks to her Almighty Father. Elsie Mae would still be at home, both continuing the work to do on the Fiori land, and keeping their home warm and comfortable. Elsie Mae continued her schooling, and graduated from Springdale High School. Nona Mary had many close friends; her front porch was quite the gathering place. One fond memory is when Theresa Zulpo and Mary Tessaro would come for a visit. Mary Tessaro's greeting to Nona Mary in her distinct Italian dialect, "Mary, Oh Mary," and Nona Mary's response to her would be "Yea, Mary." I can still see the brown wooden rocker she sat in, with the flowering pansies filling the flower boxes she had on each side of the porch. She drew many friends and family for her gentleness, her sense of humor, and her love for life.

On January 3, 1951, her baby girl, Elsie Mae married her sweetheart, Gabriel Pianalto. Elsie Mae and Gabriel were married at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Tontitown, just across the street from her home. Elsie Mae and Gabriel would build a home just about one mile south of Elsie's mother and raised a family of seven: Brenda, Virgil, Patrick, Doris, Bernard, Silvia, and James. Elsie would visit her Mom everyday and her children were building fond memories of one great Nona. On February 14, 1988, forty years to the day after her husband's sudden death, Mary Cortiana Fiori took her last breath with her daughter Elsie Mae and granddaughter Brenda Mae by her side.

I am honored to share this storied past of my Fiori-Cortiana family – one that makes me proud. I would like to thank all my family contributors, and a special "Thank You" to Nova Jean Fiori Watson and Robert Ignatius Pianalto for inspiring me to take this incredible journey through history. I hold these memories dear to my heart.

Brenda Mae Pianalto



Elsie Mae Fiori Pianalto &
Gabriel Domonic Pianalto
January 3, 1951

Fr. Pietro Bandini Parish Education Center

St. Joseph Catholic Church celebrated the dedication of the Father Pietro Bandini Parish Education Center (PEC) on May 5, 2010. The Tontitown Historical Museum proposed the Father Bandini namesake to the church, and worked together to commemorate the exciting event. In honor of the occasion, the museum gifted a bronze bust of Father Bandini to the church, by sculptor Antoinette (Toni) Maestri Wirts, and a commemorative bookmark. The bust stands in the entryway as a reminder of Fr. Bandini's dedication and devotion to the education of the children of Tontitown. Former Museum Board President, Frank Maestri, shared highlights of Father Bandini's life and work at the ceremony. Church leaders above are, l-r: Msgr. James Mancini, Bishop Anthony Taylor, Fr. Joe Marconi, Mike Verucchi, and Jeff Franco.



Sculptor Toni Maestri Wirts beside Fr. Bandini bust

Visit Lakeport Plantation

Although none of the Sunnyside Plantation buildings remain, not far from there is a special place to visit. The Lakeport Plantation home, built circa 1859, is the only remaining antebellum Arkansas plantation home along the Mississippi River. The restored home, now an Arkansas State University heritage site, is open to the public for tours Monday through Friday at 10am and 2pm. You can visit their website for more information <http://lakeport.astate.edu>.



COUPON

Bring this coupon to the Tontitown Historical Museum during the 2010 season of regular weekend hours and receive a **\$2.00 discount** on our book.

"So Big, This Little Place"
The Founding of Tontitown, Arkansas
1898-1917

Tontitown Historical Museum
Open June – September
Saturdays and Sundays
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.



The Tontitown Historical Museum is now on facebook. Become a fan & join the fun!

Students from the Rich Mountain Community College in Mena, Arkansas came to visit the Tontitown Historical Museum in groups of 20 each Monday in the month of April. The students are in a senior adult class studying Arkansas History at the community college. The trip was organized by Susan Young, outreach director of the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History.

Highlights of the trip were private dining at Mama Z's, a visit to Ranalli Farms, and touring the museum and cemetery. At Mama Z's, they dined on spaghetti, salad and rolls while being entertained by Julie Zulpo Bowling and Edna Lou Zulpo. After the meal, the group traveled to Ranalli Farms where Heather Ranalli Peachee gave an oral history of the Ranalli family. Then the group arrived at the museum where they were able to tour the exhibits. Henry Piazza demonstrated how to tie grape vines with willow trees. The trip concluded with a visit to St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. The groups included many Catholics and they were particularly interested in the grave of Fr. Joseph Correnti as he was parish priest in Mena. The groups had so much fun that many attendees are planning to travel back for the Grape Festival in August.

~ Donations in Honor of ~

It is with gratitude and pride that we display memorial and family donations in the Tontitown Historical Museum.

Cathy Ardemagni
Cecil Ardemagni
Gene & Irma Taldo Ardemagni
Leo Baudino
Rudy Costa
Candida Morsani Crane
Lillian Cortiana Granata
Albina Ranalli Dalla Rosa
Pete & Mary Cortiana Fiori
Joseph Angelo "Andy" Franco
Chuck & Mary Fucci
Russell Greenlee
Clementine Morsani Haney
Lee Wana Bariola Keck
Lynn Maestri
Paul & Judy Maestri's 50th Wedding Anniversary
Amerigo Morsani
Frank & Carol Morsani
Helen Crane Morsani
Ed & Adele Bariola Penzo
Gabriel & Elsie Mae Fiori Pinalto
Leo & Lucy Ceola Pinalto
Lillian Pinalto Smith
John Hugo "J.H." Pozza
Marie Tessaro
Daniel "Danny" Ray Watson

Tontitown Historical Museum 2010 Board of Directors

The Tontitown Historical Museum Board welcomes your input and involvement. Please contact us with your ideas on how we can best serve the community.

Charlotte Piazza, Curator, 479-361-2498
Denise Pellin, President, 479-751-5771
James Riley Tessaro, Vice President, 479-361-2607
Ernie Deines, Secretary, 479-751-1425
Bev Cortiana-McEuen, Treasurer, 479-361-2609
Jennifer DeMartino, Historian, 479-587-1687
Carol Walker, Membership, 479-361-2363
Jana Mayfield, 479-361-2358
Heather Ranalli Peachee, 479-685-4793
Brenda Pinalto, 479-756-5221
Roger Pinalto, 479-361-2207
Ruth Ann Roso Ritchie, 479-751-6347

Non-voting Junior Members:

Michael Hartman, 479-361-2682
Martha Swearingen, 479-530-5719
Vincent Verucchi, 479-306-1260

Tontitown Storia is published in the Spring and Fall by the Tontitown Historical Museum Board. Please submit story ideas or other comments to Newsletter Editor, Bev Cortiana-McEuen at 479-361-2609 or email bcortiana@cox.net.

✓ Mark Your Calendar ...

2010 Museum Events

Date	Event
May 16, 2010	2010 Arkansas Heritage Month Event ~ Picnic in the Park Harry Sbanotto Park and Tontitown Historical Museum Sunday, Noon – 3:00 p.m.
June – September 2010	Tontitown Historical Museum, Regular Season Hours Open Saturdays and Sundays, 1 – 4 p.m. or by special appointment, call 361-2498 or 361-2607
August 3-7, 2010	111th Tontitown Grape Festival, It's About Tradition Tontitown Historical Museum, Special Hours Thursday, August 5 1 – 4 p.m. Friday, August 6 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Saturday, August 7 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
November 7, 2010	9th Annual Tontitown Reunion and Old-fashioned Polenta Smear Co-sponsored by the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History St. Joseph's Parish Hall, 1 – 5 p.m.



Join Tontitown Historical Museum Amici (Friends)

Yes, I want to be a member of Tontitown Historical Museum Amici!

Benefits:

- ✓ Satisfaction in supporting the growth of the Tontitown Historical Museum to preserve and protect the heritage of Tontitown.
- ✓ Receive annual membership card.
- ✓ Receive 10% discount on the museum book: *“So Big, This Little Place” The Founding of Tontitown, Arkansas 1898-1917.*
- ✓ Receive special invitations to museum events, including the Annual Tontitown Reunion and Polenta Smear.

Mail your tax-deductible check to:
 Tontitown Historical Museum
 P.O. Box 144
 Tontitown, AR 72770
 (or give it to any Museum Board member)

Annual Membership Levels

- Individual – \$10
- Family – \$20
- Senior Individual – \$8
- Senior Family – \$15
- Sponsor – \$50 to \$249
- Lifetime – \$250+



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____



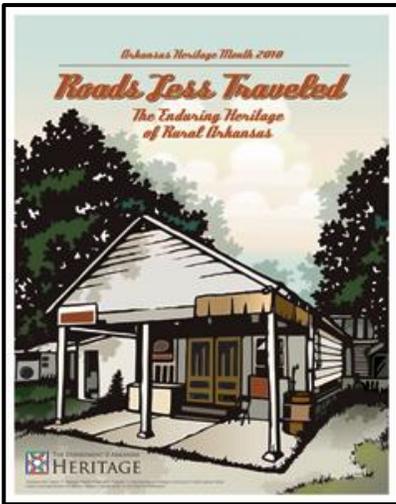
257 E. Henri de Tonti Boulevard
P.O. Box 144
Tontitown, Arkansas 72770

AMA Award Winning Book ~ "So Big, This Little Place"

The Tontitown Historical Museum was honored to receive the 2010 Arkansas Museum Association (AMA) Book Award for "*So Big, This Little Place*" *The Founding of Tontitown, Arkansas, 1898-1917*. Seated holding the award is author and Outreach Coordinator for Shiloh Museum, Susan Young. Tontitown Museum Book Committee members are (l-r): President Denise Pellin, Mary Frances Maestri Vaughan, Ernie Deines, and Frank Maestri. Curator Charlotte Piazza holds the book on the right.



Tontitown Storia
Spring 2010, Vol. 6, No. 1
insert follows



You're Invited to ... "Picnic in the Park"

to celebrate 2010 Arkansas Heritage Month
Roads Less Traveled: The Enduring Heritage of Rural Arkansas

When: Sunday, May 16 ~ Noon – 3:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. Entertainment ~
Stephen Sbanotto will sing! 😊



Where: Harry Sbanotto Park

What: "Bring Your Own Lunch" ... and comfy chair or blanket
Yummy Ranalli's cookies will be provided 😊

Enjoy: Visit with family & friends on a Sunday afternoon
Play bocce, horseshoes or bring a favorite yard game
Play on park equipment
Tour Tontitown Historical Museum
Door Prizes 😊



Sponsored by Tontitown Historical Museum ~ Weather permitting, no rain date

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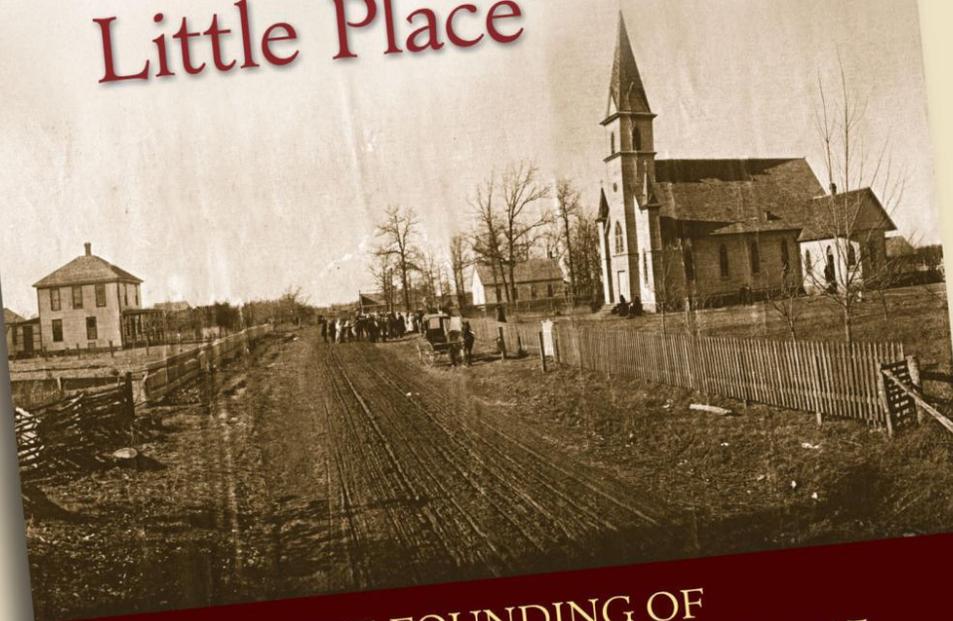
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