



Italian Historical Society of America Newsletter

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BY JANICE THERESE MANCUSO

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Tutto Italiano **Benvenuto a Tutto Italiano**

New on the Italian American Press, online museum exhibits, and an end-of-year roundup of some interesting facts, videos, and beautiful photographs from all 20 regions of Italy. Enjoy!

From the Italian American Press

Throughout the late nineteenth century, the Industrial Revolution in America converted industries, towns, and society. As the country grew, it needed more people to work in the expanding field of transportation systems – railroads, waterways, and highways; cotton and sugar plantations needed hired hands; manufacturing plants needed people to work the machines; and – to keep these industries moving – coal mines needed laborers.

Featured Authors: Joe Tucciarone and Ben Lariccia

[*Coal War in the Mahoning Valley: The Origin of Greater Youngstown's Italians*](#)

presents a detailed history of the coal industry in Northeast Ohio's Mahoning Valley, and the conditions leading up to a coal miners' strike in 1873 that brought Italian immigrants to work in the mines and eventually establish a vibrant Italian American community.

The authors met through their shared interest in Youngstown Italians on a social media platform and found they had more in common than the town's history: Joe's mother shopped at Ben's grandfather's Italian market. Joe notes, "... when I was about ten years old, my mother brought me to his grandfather's Italian food store in Youngstown. I've never forgotten the aromas – I wanted to eat everything in that place!" Already an Italian food connoisseur, Joe continues, "My mother offered me half of a candy bar when we left the store, but I was so mad I refused it. What I wanted were the aged cheeses, sausages and olives that filled my vision!"

Authors Interview (Excerpt)

What inspired you to write *Coal War in the Mahoning Valley*?

Joe: Eight years ago, I decided to do some research about my great-grandfather, Joe Madeline. I knew he operated a saloon in the early 1900s ... I began searching through property deeds and newspaper articles ... [and] discovered a lot of interesting information about the first Italian immigrants in the Youngstown area.

Ben: About three years ago, I began taking note of the amazing digital newspaper clippings he was sharing ... I had never heard of Italians in the 1870s living in the Mahoning Valley, where I was born. I was eager to learn more.

What is the most important attribute of the book?

Ben: The book is a rediscovery of a lost local history ...

Joe: A few hundred penniless Italian immigrants made a huge impact in the industrial history of the United States.

Why should someone read it?

Joe: We have unveiled a history that has been largely lost over the last 140 years.

Ben: Italians immigrating to the U.S. in the 1870s encountered conditions that were different from those who arrived later. "Coal War" offers the reader a view of those differences.

What made you decide to work together on the book?

Ben: Joe and I agreed that “Coal War” was a story that needed to be told, and that the very ignorance of this history compelled us to publish it.

Joe: Ben and I are both descended from Italians who settled in the Mahoning Valley, and we both have a keen interest in the history of those immigrants.

How did you divide the research and writing?

Ben: Joe had done the bulk of the research, plus he had adapted images and maps to illustrate some of the sites and events in the newspaper clips. I had experience writing for publication.

Joe: Every week, we met via Skype, since I live in Florida and Ben lives in Pennsylvania. We would discuss the events we'd been researching ...

[Read the entire interview on the Italian American Press](#) for more about *Coal War* and how the authors worked together. You will also find links to several articles written by Ben and a book overview posted on *La Gazzetta Italiana*. A book review will be posted in January.

Coming soon: Author interview and book review for [Not for Self: A Sicilian Life and Death in Marion](#) by Joseph L. Cacibauda.

Great Holiday Gift

Looking for the perfect gift? Any book listed on the Italian American Press is a wonderful choice, but add a mug and extend the enjoyment with two special gifts. Designed by artist and author Rich DiSilvio, the [Columbus: Grandfather of America Mug](#) is great for any beverage and complements all books.

Italian American Heritage and Culture Exhibits

Fill your Columbus: Grandfather of America Mug with your beverage of choice and view this wonderful collection of online exhibits from the [Italian American Museum of Los Angeles](#). Nine are currently available, including *Italy's Imprint on North America and the American West*, *Dago – A History of Anti-Italianism*, and *Italians in Hollywood*.

Each exhibit features historical content and numerous images, providing an educational, informative, and interesting look at the many aspects of Italian American life.

Italian American Heritage Project

Support the IAHP – Support My Work

Visit the [IAHP website](#) to read my articles, learn about the lesson plans, see the resources I've used, and support my work. Donate for a cause – preserving Italian heritage and Italian American history and culture through education. [All donations are tax-deductible.](#)

The Twenty Regions of Italy

Abruzzo

[This is Not Your Typical Montepulciano d'Abruzzo](#)

Basilicata

[Inside Crumbling Craco, Southern Italy's Medieval Ghost Town](#) (2019)

[Craco - The most beautiful abandoned town](#) (YouTube Video, April 2014)

Calabria

[Tropea. The Pearl of the Tyrrhenian Sea](#)

[Santa Maria dell'Isola, a Church with Roots in the Sea](#)

Campania

[Naples Christmas Alley – Via San Gregorio Armeno](#)

Emilia-Romagna

[Brisighella, Italy – About small Italian villages where time stood still](#)

Friuli Venezia Giulia

[Prosciutto of San Daniele](#)

Lazio

[Lake Nemi](#)

[Emperor Caligula's Nemi ships,](#)

Le Marche

[Grotte di Frassassi](#)

Liguria

[Bernardo Strozzi, “The Genoese Priest”](#)

[Bernardo Strozzi - Artworks](#)

Lombardia

[UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) (Italy's first inscription in 1979)

[Rock Drawings in Valcamonica](#) (YouTube Video)

Molise

[Bagnoli del Trigno, Pearl of Molise](#)

Piemonte

[Chocolate Heaven in Turin](#)

Puglia

[Cartapesta – The High Art of Paper Maché in Puglia](#)

Sardegna

[Parco Nazionale dell'Arcipelago di La Maddalena](#)

Sicily

[Santa Lucia Celebration in Italy](#)

Toscana

[The Churches of Florence and Sienna](#)

Trentino Alto Adige

[7 Reasons to Add Lago Di Braies to Your Next Italian Getaway](#)

Umbria

[The Complete Foodie Guide to Umbria](#)

Valle d'Aosta

[Trekking: Mt Rosa and Aosta Valley](#)

Veneto

[Botanical Garden of Padova](#) (World Heritage Site, 1997)

Buon Natale. [Dominic the Donkey and St. Lucia.](#)

Buon anno, buon tutto, buona vita,
Janice

Janice Therese Mancuso

Founder, [Italian American Heritage Project](#)

Founder, [Thirty-One Days of Italians](#)

Director, [Italian American Press](#)

