

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the Virgilio Family Photographs

Collection Summary

Collection Title: Virgilio family photographs

Call Number: PC 13

Creator: unknown

Inclusive Dates: circa 1907 to 1980

Bulk Dates: 1940's

Abstract: This collection contains 22 photographs and 1 newspaper clipping of the Virgilio Family, a local ethnic Italian family in Albany, New York. It centers mainly on George and John Virgilio and their tailor and laundry business.

Quantity: 1 box, 2.5 linear inches, 23 items

Administrative Information

Custodial History: unknown

Preferred Citation: Virgilio Family Photographs, PC 13. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

Acquisition Information:

Accession #: unknown

Accession Date: unknown

Processing Information:

Processed by Sarah Deen-Clingan; completed on March 2004

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: none

Restrictions on Use: none

Index Term

Persons: George Virgilio and John Virgilio

Organizations: Virgilio Tailor and Laundromat

Subjects: Italian American families -- Families, Italian American; Family-owned business enterprises -- Family businesses; Laundry industry -- Laundries; Military service, Voluntary -- Armed Forces; Tailoring -- Clothing trade

Places:

New York -- Albany

Alaska -- Cold Bay

Document Types: Photographs, newspaper clipping

Biography/History of

John Virgilio was born Giovannino Virgilio and in 1921 Changed his name to John. In 1910 he married a woman named Rose Calavecchio. The couple lived at 18 Fulton from 1907 to 1912, which at that time they moved to 102 Madison Ave. John ran Virgilio's Tailor and Laundromat from 1907 until his death in 1967.

George Virgilio was the son of John and Rose Virgilio. He was born in 1919. He had several occupations before settling as a tailor. From 1936 to 1940 he was a salesman for W.L. Douglas Shoe Co. Then from 1941 to 1942 he ran George's Fruit & Vegetable Garden. He joined the military service during the period of 1942 to 1944. During his time in service he was stationed in the Pacific for three years, fought at Luzon and was with the first wave of troops to occupy Yokohama. He returned to the Albany area after being discharged on October 22, 1945. He is listed as not having a job from 1946 to 1948. In 1949 he joined his father as a tailor at Virgilio's Tailor and Laundromat and stayed there until 1975. George also lived at 102 Madison and is not listed to have a wife.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

There are three series in this collection: Business, John Virgilio, and George Virgilio. John Virgilio photographs have him at work and leisure time. These photographs range from the early 1900's to the 1980's. George Virgilio photographs have him also at work, leisure, and in the military service. There is a small newspaper clipping with this series. The Business series have pictures that focus on the Virgilio's Tailor and Laundromat. No Virgilio or other persons are in these photos.

The earliest dated photograph in this collection is from 1907 of John Virgilio behind the tailor shop at 102 Madison Ave. with George Farinacci and other neighborhood businessmen, and a few of the undated pictures (John standing in front of tailor shop and the Italian Community Center dinner party) look to be taken around the same time period. The newest item is of Pat Bulgaro, a grand nephew of John Virgilio, with his daughters.

Organization of the Collection

The collection falls into three series:

Business Pictures: Series one. It contains photographs of the Virgilio Tailor and Laundromat located at 107 Madison Ave. There is also a picture of the Virgilio kitchen, located at 102 Madison Ave, with this collection. The inside of these two buildings have no individuals present. The kitchen photo is from the 1940's and the business photographs from the 1960's.

John Virgilio: Series two. It contains pictures of John Virgilio. It shows him at work and celebrating various occasions. At the end of the series there is a picture of John's grandnephew and his daughters. These photographs range from around 1907 to the last picture of John in 1960, and one of his grandnephew in 1980. These photographs also feature some of John's family members including his wife Rose and son George Virgilio.

George Virgilio: Series three. It contains photographs of George Virgilio. These feature George Virgilio at a young age, in uniform, at the family business, and with family members that include his mother Rose, and great-grand nieces and nephews. With this series there is also a short newspaper clipping that celebrated George's return from service. These photographs range from the 1930's with George as a young boy until 1983 with a family picture of George with his great-grand nieces and nephews.

Related Material

Bulgaro, Patrick. *A Survey of Various Aspects of Italian Immigration into the United States*. Siena College: New York. 1963. Call number: 974.743 BUL SUR 1963.

Italians – NY – Albany, located in the Ephemera Collection

Italians – New York – Albany, located in the Vertical Files

Separated Materials

None

Other Finding Aids

None

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Series 1: Business Pictures

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	1	1. Virgilio kitchen at 102 Madison Ave. Circa 1940
1	1	2. Virgilio Laundromat at 107 Madison Ave. Circa 1963.
1	1	3. Virgilio Cleaners at 102 Madison Ave. Circa 1967.

Series 2: John Virgilio

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title/ Description
1	2	4. Dinner party at the Italian Community Center at 123 Madison Ave. Sons of Italy. John Virgilio, 3 rd from left.
1	2	5. John Virgilio outside his tailor and Laundromat business. Not dated.
1	2	6. John Virgilio (standing, right) and George Farinacci (2 nd from left) with other neighborhood businessmen behind tailor shop at 102 Madison Ave. Circa 1907.
1	2	7. Tailor shop at 102 Madison Ave. Circa 1917. John Virgilio on left.
1	3	8. John Virgilio at Demors Studio, Delmar. 1930's.
1	3	9. Charles Cioffi and John Virgilio. 1940's.
1	3	10. John Virgilio in back room of his tailor shop. 1946.
1	3	11. Charles Cioffi, Rose Virgilio, John Virgilio, unidentified woman, and George Virgilio in John Virgilio's tailor shop. 1946.
1	3	12. 50 th wedding anniversary of Rose Calavecchio and John Virgilio. Celebrated at Lombardo's Restaurant, Albany. 1960.
1	3	13. Pat Bulgaro a grandnephew of John Virgilio with daughters Donna and Tricia. Circa 1980.

Series 3: George Virgilio

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title/Description
1	4	14. George Virgilio. 1930.
1	4	15. George Virgilio on his confirmation day. Circa 1935.
1	4	16. George Virgilio in Lincoln Park. 1930's.
1	4	17. George Virgilio in his army uniform, 1942.
1	4	18. George Virgilio and friend at Cold Bay Alaska. 1943.
1	4	19. Newspaper clipping of George Virgilio being discharged from the army.
1	4	20. George Virgilio in front of his Laundromat
1	4	21. George Virgilio next to presser in tailor shop
1	4	22. George Virgilio and John Noisett at 102 Madison Ave.
1	4	23. George Virgilio with great grand-nieces and nephews: Kin Mason, Donna Bulgaro, Phyliss Bulgaro, Todd Mason, Tricia Bulgaro, and Scot Bulgaro in 1983.