

02/13/2025

ITALIAN IMMIGRATION TO KENOSHA

***ARTICLE #1 FOUND (PRIMARY SOURCE OF INFORMATION)**

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/29776642?seq=1>

- Pioneer immigrants hoping to find work in the U.S. to make enough money to return to Italy and live comfortably there
- Most of the early arrivals made their way to Chicago to work as railroad laborers throughout both the Midwest and the West
- Maranesi:** an Italian colony consisting of Italians from two neighboring villages - Marano Marchesato and Marano Principato
- Both of the above neighboring villages are five miles from the provincial capital of Cosenza in the Southern Italian region of Calabria
- The first Maranesi who settled in Kenosha, WI, were track laborers for the Chicago and Northwestern railroad who made that trip north with section gangs in the 1880s
- In the decades that followed after this, hundreds of immigrants from the villages settled in Kenosha (this was all during World War 1)
- Although Kenosha began in the 1830s as a commercial and agricultural center, by 1900 it was one of the most industrialized cities in Wisconsin
- This massive and rapid industrialization was possible due to the import of large amounts of unskilled labor from southern and Eastern Europe beginning in the 1880s
- Kenosha's population grew by 30% from 1890 to 1930 due to immigrants
- At least 75% of these immigrants were Calabresi, with most of them from the Cosenza area
- During the early phase of immigration, Kenosha was a secondary settlement to Chicago for immigrants from Mar. and Prin.; made their way to Kenosha on foot, courtesy of their jobs on section gangs with the Chicago and Northwestern railroad
- Many immigrants moved from railroad labor to indoor manufacturing jobs in the tanneries and foundries which required large amounts of unskilled labor
- The Maranesi were largely engaged in blue-collar jobs within the industries they worked in
- Based on a survey, 75% of the 138 Maranesi surveyed were engaged in unskilled or low skilled occupations
- Mix of blue-collar, semi-skilled/specialized, and white collar jobs at various places of employment
- Because many of the immigrants wanted to return to Italy after making enough money in the U.S., out of the 138 tallied in the survey, only 40% had actually taken the steps to become U.S. citizens
- The Maranese colony continued to have close family ties with their paese, most of the men having immediate family ties to the Cosenza area

- At least 48 and at most 60 Maranesi Kenosha men were drafted or joined the military before World War I ended
- One of Kenosha's functions at the time was a base of support for some immigrants who frequently changed residence and occupation as they sought economic improvement
- "The presence of large numbers of paesani in Kenosha facilitated settlement; men could live with friends and relatives and move within the enclave, whenever necessary, without losing the support of a larger group"

CITATIONS

MLA:

BELMONTE, PETER L. "Maranesi in Kenosha, Wisconsin during World War I." *Italian Americana* 18.2 (2000): 206-217.

APA:

BELMONTE, P. L. (2000). Maranesi in Kenosha, Wisconsin during World War I. *Italian Americana*, 18(2), 206-217.

ARTICLE #2 FOUND

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS1975>

- The Italian "deluge" began in the late 19th century
- These immigrants were mostly from Sicily and Southern Italy
- They were a low-class, poor group in seek of work in urban factories
- The largest Italian populations in Wisconsin in 1920 were Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha
- By 1960: Milwaukee = 11,143 Italians; Kenosha = 5,045; Racine = 1,898; Madison = 1,484

CITATIONS

MLA:

Wisconsin Historical Society. "Brief History of Wisconsin." *Wisconsin Historical Society*, <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS1975>. Accessed [February 13, 2025].

APA:

Wisconsin Historical Society. (n.d.). *Brief history of Wisconsin*. Wisconsin Historical Society. Retrieved [today's date], from <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS1975>

ARTICLE #3 FOUND

<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/Photocopy/148381NCJRS.pdf>

- Many of Kenosha's Italian immigrants went into small businesses such as bakery, florist shop, retail clothing, grocery stores, jewelry, and so on
- Industrial growth in Kenosha began around the 1840s, starting with the Simmons Company
- Other businesses and industries that followed were the R. Allen Sons' Tannery, the Chicago Brass Company, Bain Wagon, and Pettit Malting Company

CITATIONS

MLA:

Takata, Susan R., and S. Baskin. "The Kenosha gang project: Preliminary report." (1988).

APA:

Takata, S. R., & Baskin, S. (1988). The Kenosha gang project: Preliminary report.

OTHER NOTES/DRAFTS

Students in Carey Watter's "Digital Portfolio" class, the senior capstone course for graduating graphic design majors, have all been collaborating alongside Carlo for several weeks now to create the mural's official design. The class is also considered a Community-Based Learning course (CBL), which gives an opportunity for students to apply what they learn to real-world experiences that serve their communities, hence Carlo Giardina and the mural project. Student Carly Edwards has taken multiple CBL courses throughout her time here at Parkside, saying that "It's good talking to professionals; you don't usually get that in school which is a plus side to CBL courses". Another student in the class, Hannah Pautsch, brought up another great point regarding benefits of CBL courses:

"It's sort of practical experience without having to really worry about getting rejected from the job or the community partner. While their expectations were higher, the community partner wasn't like - they already found us someone to work with so we didn't really have to worry about finding that person and getting that professional practice, it was just already there and ready for us".

Hannah also mentioned that working with Carlo and her classmates has allowed her to experiment with trial and error, exploration, and to overall have greater freedom and more fun than some of her other graphic design projects. In terms of the process that helped spark inspiration and ideas for the mural, students Hydea Ali and Pelumi Ajayi talked about two exercises they engaged in to help spark their creativity. In her Interactive Design class, Hydea stated that Carlo came in with his guitar and they took part in an exercise where he would play a tune, and students were required to think of a color they thought of when hearing it. Then they would have to "name" that color, or associate an object or term with the color such as "blue jay"

or “red lipstick”. Finally, they would take their results and recite it as a poem out loud to the class. Pelumi mentioned another exercise they do in the Digital Portfolio course: “We also do these word banks where you just write a ton of words and try to make connections between them. You name a word, and you need ten words connected to *that* word, and you try to make a big web more or less.” These exertions prepared the students to have ideas to come to class with, and the official design continues to progress and be worked on.

Quotes

Carly Edwards:

-”I like that we work with people outside of the university and it’s not just classmates, it’s people in the real world getting that experience, especially in the graphic design field. Working with people outside is a good step for us, especially for like freelance . . . it’s a good first step into business etiquette.”

-“It’s good talking to professionals, and you don’t usually get that in school which is a plus side to CBL courses.”

Hannah Pautsch:

-”It’s sort of practical experience without having to really worry about getting rejected from the job or the community partner. While their expectations were higher, the community partner wasn’t like - they already found us someone to work with so we didn’t really have to worry about finding that person and getting that professional practice, it was just already there and ready for us”.

-”I love illustration. It’s very freeing to be able to illustrate without having to worry about it being considered more professional . . . this project is more free than my other projects I’ve done. Trial and error, and exploring, and just doing something that’s more fun than my other graphic design work.”

Hydea Ali:

-”I enjoy the experience of actually working with the client cause that’s kind of something I’ve carried along the lines of how I’ve been feeling too, of just being able to get real experience with clients.”

-”He’s helping us design one mural that will be in Kenosha, by the Italian American Society, and it will also be in Cosenza.”

Carlo came into their Interactive Design class; he has them picture a color while he’s playing music and then name that color.

Along with that he has them read their ideas and results as a poem

Pelumi Ajayi:

-We're brainstorming with him; elements, design ideas, whatever we can to help the Italian American society and Cosenza."

- "We also do these word banks where you just write a ton of words and try to make connections between them . . . you name like a word, and you need ten words I guess connected to that word, and you try to make a big web more or less."