

# THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



## E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 2

MARCH/APRIL 2019



FIRST CELEBRATION OF CARNIVAL BY MALTESE CANADIAN CLUB LONDON – ONTARIO

FEBRUARY 19, 1955 – HELD AT CLUB'S RENTED PREMISES

NORTH SIDE OF DUNDAS STREET, BETWEEN TALBOT AND RIDOUT STREETS IN LONDON

(For more photographs of carnivals held by this club see page 24)

## EDITORIAL COMMENT



**Dan Brock**

Welcome to the second issue of *The Maltese Presence in North America*.

Three more Maltese organizations—namely the Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario (page 9), the Maltese American community of the San Francisco, Bay Area (page 11) and the Melita Soccer Club – Toronto, Canada (page 23) have come on board to publicize upcoming events.

In the last issue it was suggested that having the names, addresses, telephone numbers and hours of opening of the Maltese clubs scattered throughout the continent would be useful. Much of this information has been provided in this issue by both the Melita Soccer Club (page 8) and the Malta United Society (page 9).

Welcome to six new contributors: Fr. Mario Micallef, who has succeeded Fr. Manuel Parnis as pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church (page 3), Mike Pace of Windsor, Ontario (page 8), Mark Trzeciak of Metro Detroit (page 9), Mona Vella Nicholas and Fred Aquilina of the San Francisco, Bay Area (page 11) and Susan Schembri of Coquitlam, British Columbia (page 18).

Thank you to Richard S. Cumbo (page 4), Gabrielle Cutair Caldwell (page 5) and Mark Caruana (pages 14 and 16) for again contributing articles to this newsletter.

A particular thanks goes to a special friend of the Maltese communities throughout North America, Albert Vella of the Greater Toronto Area, who has offered to prepare an ongoing *Table of Contents* for *The Maltese Presence*

*in North America*, just as he had a few years ago for the Federation of Maltese Living Abroad's *Maltese Link*.

Carnival in Malta is an old tradition dating back more than six centuries. This year it was celebrated from March 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>. Pages 1 and 24 show photos from the past of the one-evening celebration of Carnival by the Maltese Canadian Club of London - Ontario from 1955 through 1961.

Over the past couple of months some of you have given me constructive advice. This I greatly appreciated and, in many instances, have attempted to incorporate this into the newsletter.

At the same time, the advice of the late Joseph Edward Doublet to the then editor of the newly-founded *Maltese Forum* cannot be ignored. "No matter how perfect a newspaper or review can be, it could never please all readers or potential subscribers of any community."

By the same token, taking my cue from that former Toronto periodical, the *Maltese Forum*, and the present *Maltese-E-Newsletter from Australia*, I've decided to introduce an opinion section. (page 9).

An article on Peter Buttigieg has been included in this issue as, since the January/February issue of this newsletter, he is one of several Democrat candidates who have formally declared he is running for president in 2020 and is the first Maltese-American ever to have run for the highest office in the United States. (page 20.)

Most recognize Louis Shickluna as Canada's first Maltese settler. This issue focuses on the heretofore unknown person who would appear to lay claim to being the second person.

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of what has become a national holiday in Malta known as *Sette Giugno*. There is a North American connection to this tragic event and I hope to have an article in the May/June issue showing this connection.

Again, I encourage various Maltese organizations and associa-

tions to use this newsletter to promote themselves and their activities. I also invite individuals to use this venue to share accounts of the Maltese in North America. These can be broad, such as a particular community, or focused on a family or individual.

## CONTENTS

2. Editorial Comment
3. Pastor's Thoughts...
4. Providence Villa of Scarborough Has Wing Named after a Maltese
4. Activities within the Maltese Community in London, Ontario
5. Francis Cutaiar Jr.: My 3<sup>rd</sup> Great-Grandfather
7. Charles Darmanin: Puerto Rican Businessman and Philanthropist
8. The Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario
9. How Malta Remained British after 1802
11. The Maltese Falcon
11. Opinion
11. Star of Strait Street
11. Maltese Historical Society of San Francisco Honors Vietnam Era Veterans
13. Former AFM Patrol Boat Added to US National Register of Historic Places
14. The De Brincat Siblings of Winnipeg, Manitoba
16. Religious Persons from Gozo Bound for America: 1900-1935
18. Introducing Susan Schembri: One of the Two Members on the Council of Maltese Living Abroad from Canada
19. The Maltese-Canadian Association of British Columbia
20. Peter Buttigieg: United States' First Maltese-American Presidential Candidate
20. Zeferino Said: Canada's Second Maltese Settler
22. Joseph Edward Doublet: The Early Years
23. The Malta Charity Trust Fund of the Committee for Maltese Unity, Inc
24. Carnival Celebrations Through the Years by the Maltese Canadian Club London – Ontario

## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS...



*Fr. Mario Micallef, a native of Rabat, Malta, joined the Missionary Society of St. Paul (MSSP) in 1978 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1990. After his ministry in Australia, he served in Rome for 18 years as one of the Councillors assisting the Superior General in running the MSSP.*

*On January 25, 2019, Fr. Mario officially assumed his duties, succeeding Fr. Manuel Parnis, as pastor of St. Paul the Apostle, Toronto, the only Maltese national parish in North America. These "Pastor's thoughts..." are extracts from his commentaries on the Sunday readings which are published in the Parish's Sunday Bulletin.*

### Father's First Bulletin Message as Pastor of St. Paul's

Dear Friends, I greet each and every one of you as I begin my ministry here, at St Paul's. Many of you I have already met during these last couple of weeks that I've been here. Others I had met earlier in one of my visits to this wonderful land. Still, I know that we will need time to really start getting to know each other. This is something I am really looking forward to, as, like any other family, the parish family is made up of relationships. And, not unlike any other Christian family, the bond that holds this family together has to be Jesus Christ, the head of this Body we call Church.

The arrival of a new Pastor is always a time of transition. And sometimes, transitions can be quite difficult. Both you and I have to get to know and get used to each other, have to let go of some things we were used to, and have to learn new things and move into new experiences. I pray we all move wherever the Spirit would want to lead us. One thing I have learnt throughout the years is that, no matter the circumstances, He never leaves us alone.

As I write this message, I feel very comforted by God's Word during these days. In God's plans, nothing is coincidence.

Firstly, my ministry as Pastor started on the 25th, the feast of the conversion of St Paul. The Apostle Paul was certainly one who had strong ideas and ideals, but when God entered into his life on that fateful day on the road to Damascus, he let go of what he thought was right to enter into God's story. It wasn't easy for him. But the results have been astonishing. This is something that deeply affects most of us, as it was Paul's ministry that gave us, as Maltese people, the gift

of faith. And again, it was not something that Paul had previously planned!

In today's Gospel, then, we hear Jesus proclaim those beautiful words from the prophet Isaiah: "God's Spirit is upon me .... He sent me ..." How apt these words are in a moment like this! These are the words Jesus chose as he began his ministry in Luke's gospel. I honestly would love to make these words my own today as I begin my ministry amongst you.

He sent me to St Paul's. He chose me to be Pastor of this people. And how I love this word: Pastor. In some countries, other terms are used, such as Parish Priest, or Archpriest. I find Pastor, "Shepherd", personifies all that my ministry should be. The emphasis is not on managing or commanding. Rather, it implies guiding, leading, encouraging, tending. Always journeying with. Sometimes the shepherd moves in front to lead, sometimes in the midst to encourage, sometimes at the back to help the tired ones. Sometimes still, he might feel a bit confused as he searches for a lost sheep, always, as Pope Francis reminded us priests in one of his first meetings with us in Rome, "with the smell of sheep".

Finally, I remember and salute with gratitude Fr Manuel and all the pastors that were here before me. They were all different in both character and style. Yet, they all loved this Parish and gave us what we are enjoying today. With confidence, let us all walk together on whatever road God would like to lead us.

Wishing you God's blessings,  
Fr Mario

### St. Paul's Coming to Malta

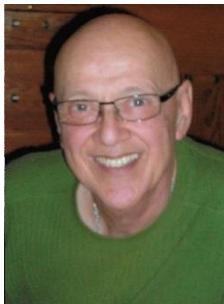
Paul's coming to Malta was no human endeavor. It was purely God's providence in action. There is no doubt that the people of Malta had always been a religious people. The thousands-of-years old temples scattered throughout our islands are ample testimony to this.... When Paul was bitten by a snake, the people immediately saw this as a divine punishment for some huge wrong-doing. "This man must be a murderer," they said. One may manage to escape a storm, but there is no way one can run away from divine justice! Then, upon seeing that no ill befell him, they concluded he must be a god!

By now Paul must have understood how God was constructing this story. And Paul the evangelizer did what he knew best. The above-mentioned phenomenon, together with the healing of the island's chief official, must have earned Paul the people's trust. The people of the island stopped to listen to him. And he shared with them that wonderful gift he had received on that fateful day on the road to Damascus.

This is what real faith is all about. It is not merely something for me to keep. Rather, it is something to live and to share. The gift of faith our ancestors had received from Paul has been handed on to us through many generations.

## PROVIDENCE VILLA OF SCARBOROUGH HAS WING NAMED AFTER A MALTESE\*

**Richard S. Cumbo**



***Richard's article, "The Situation of the Maltese in Canada on the Eve of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, appeared in the January/February issue of this e-newsletter.***

In 1983, in recognition of 55 years of dedicated service to the Sisters of St. Joseph and to the community, a Maltese "old timer" John M. Farrugia was honoured by having a special care unit at Providence Villa named after him.

Mr. Farrugia emigrated from Dingli, Malta, at the age of 19, arriving in Toronto in September 1923. He left behind his parents, Michael and Mary Farrugia, and his two sisters.

John was educated at Dingli elementary school and attended the Malta Lyceum. He took an apprentice course in electricity and steel.

His first home in Toronto was with the John Muscat family on Spadina Avenue just below Queen Street. Mr. Farrugia worked at a number of odd jobs during his first five years. His first steady job was in a coconut refining factory in downtown Toronto. In May 1928, he was hired by the Sisters of St. Joseph as their engineer, second class. This was the start of a relationship that was to span over half a century.

Originally, he worked at the old House of Providence on Power Street. In those days of no government support the Sisters had to depend on the generosity of the community for their livelihood. John recalls the Sisters, along with a wagon driver, travelling to the present location of the new Villa at 3276 St. Clair Avenue East in Scarborough, to procure vegetables for the residents of the Power Street home.

In the 30s the site of the present Villa was a large farm operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph. The only assistance received was 10 cents a day from the government until the legislation was changed during the late 30s. Living at the Home was part of Mr. Farrugia's remuneration for his work there. It was during this time that by attending night school, John received his first-class engineering papers.

John met his future wife, Eileen McLaughlin, at the old Our Lady of Mercy Hospital when it was still on Sackville Street, near the old House of Providence. In 1932, they were married in St. Anne's Church, Toronto. After this happy event, John moved out of the Home to his own home on DeGrassi Street.

He and Eileen subsequently had three children: Mary,

who is deceased; John, Jr. and Eileen. the latter is a teacher and the former is a well-known architect who has designed and built many religious institutions and private buildings.

In the early days, John knew Father Alphonse Cauchi who was instrumental in having the Maltese church St. Paul the Apostle built in West Toronto Junction. Because of his long hours of work for the Sisters and living in downtown Toronto, he did not become directly involved with the Maltese community. He did, however, contribute financially toward the erection of St. Paul's Church.

In 1959, the House of Providence moved to its present location and in 1963, the Farrugias moved into their new home near the Villa. Their home was designed by their son John.

The Scarborough Fire Department made him an honorary fire inspector on his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of working for the Sisters of St. Joseph.

On January 23, 1983, the John M. Farrugia Wing, Special Care Unit was officially opened at the Villa. Mr. Brian O'Malley, Chairman of the Board of Directors, gave the welcoming address. The Most Reverend Bishop A.M. Ambrozic blessed and dedicated the new wing. Sister Roberta Freemen unveiled a portrait of John, the work of the famous Aftin Cavoukian of Toronto's Cavouk Portraits.

In her tribute, Sister Imelda Cahill, the Superior General, stated, "The new wing is dedicated to John in recognition of his 55 years of continual and devoted service to the Sisters of St. Joseph, the House of Providence, Providence-Villa and Hospital." At the ribbon cutting ceremony, Mayor Gus Harris of Scarborough gave John a memorable citation and scroll. The Hon. Frank Drea, Minister of Community and Social services, representing the Government of Ontario, also paid heart-felt tribute to the guest of honour.

As the new facility of the Villa fulfills its ministry of mercy and loving kindness, John Farrugia's dedication and diligence toward his church and community will always be remembered.

\*This article is a slightly modified version of that which appeared in L-Aħbar, Toronto, Ghadd 28 (18 t'Awissu 1989), 6. John died some years ago.

## ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITY IN LONDON, ONTARIO

**Dan Brock**

Some 40 individuals gathered for lunch at Dolcetto's, on Colonel Talbot Road, on Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> and on Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Red Lobster, on Wellington Road. Many meet semi-monthly to play bingo at the Marconi Club of London on Clarke Road. A number belong to Maltese Community in London, Ontario, Canada on Facebook. The Maltese Canadian Club of London may no longer exist, but the community spirit of the Maltese in London continues.

**FRANCIS CUTAIAR JR.:  
MY 3<sup>RD</sup> GREAT-GRANDFATHER**

Gabrielle Cutair Caldwell



*Gabrielle is the co-author of “Francis and Joseph Cutaiar: Two Maltese Immigrants to the United States in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century,” which appeared in the January/February 2018 issue*

The previous issue of this newsletter featured an article on the Cutaiar brothers from Malta: Johannes Paolo Francesco Cutajar (Francis Cutaiar) and Giuseppe Rosa Elena Cutajar (Joseph Cutaiar).

Francis married Amalia Luzenberg, daughter of Count Joseph Luzenberg of Austria and Maria Magdelena Bessieres, grandniece of Marshal John Baptiste Bessieres (favorite marshal of Napoleon). How these two discovered each other and when they married is still unknown.

A New York City directory has them living there in 1828 with a daughter, Amelia Cutaiar, and lists Francis working as a barber. The family is listed as living in Philadelphia, PA, by 1830. A second child, a son, was born, on January 19, 1831 and baptised John Francis after his father, at what is known as the Old St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Philadelphia, on Easter Sunday (April 3<sup>rd</sup>). Like his father, he went by Francis.

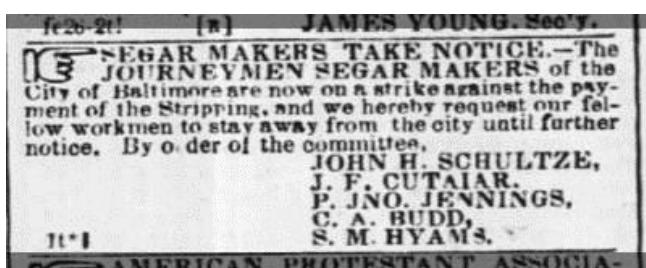
This article will feature Francis, Jr. as he is my direct ancestor and 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandfather.

Francis Cutaiar, Jr., the oldest born son of Francis and Amalia Cutaiar, was one of seven children.

His father, Francis, was listed as a dentist at the time of his son's birth but later went into the cigar business.

Francis, Jr., at age 19, is listed as a cigar store owner living in Baltimore, MD. We are not sure why he chose to leave Philadelphia and pursue life in Baltimore, but he is the sole reason for my family having roots in Baltimore. None of his siblings left Pennsylvania.

Francis, Jr. was one of the journeymen cigar makers engaged in a strike, in 1856, in Baltimore.



*The Baltimore Sun, February 26, 1856*

He married Louisa Love of Philadelphia, PA, in 1853. I have not been able to locate a marriage license or location for them. Francis and Louisa had five children together: Amelia (1857), Francis (1857?), Louisa (1858), Albina (1861) and William Love Cutaiar (1863). Daughters Louisa and Albina died as children. Wife Louisa died on December 31, 1864, at the age of 29.

Less than a year later, on September 14, 1865, Francis married Mary J. Scott, an Irish immigrant. Together, they had five children, as well: Harry (1866), Anna (1868), Augustus (1869), Mary (1874) and Genevieve (1880). The last two children were the only ones of this second marriage to live to adulthood.



**Francis Cutaiar, Jr. Is Shown on the Top Left.  
His Second Wife, Mary J., Is Believed to Be  
the Woman Seated in the Lower Left.  
The Righthand Couple Have not Been Identified,  
but the Male Could Have Been a Business Partner.  
His Business Partner at the Time Cutaiar  
Co-owned the Ferry Bar was surnamed Murray**

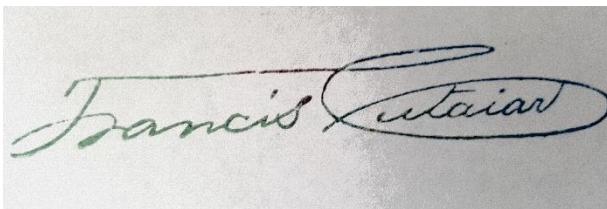
Upon beginning my genealogy search, I was happily surprised to come across a wealth of information on Francis Cutaiar, Jr.

I had written to the archives in Baltimore City requesting any information that they might have. They, in turn, provided me with two different obituaries from the *Baltimore Sun*, one that included a portrait of Francis.



**Photo of Francis, Jr. as It Appeared in the *Baltimore Sun* at the Time of His Stroke**

The newspaper stated that he had come to the city of Baltimore at the age of 19 and started his cigar business. It also noted that he had been actively engaged in local Democratic politics and held a number of political offices. He was, without a doubt, a successful businessman but also held positions as a Mason, City Inspector, Tobacco Marshall, Harbor Master and Bailiff in the Tax Department. He was also a close, personal friend of the city's mayor, Ferdinand Clairborne Latrobe.



**Francis' Signature Produced by the Rubber Stamp Made by the Modern Stamp Mfg. Co. Baltimore**

Francis, Jr. had become the co-owner of a restaurant and resort on the Patapsco River in Baltimore City, MD., by the age of 23. Some 19 years, later, in 1884, he purchased the lease interest in the resort known as the Ferry Bar.

**buildings of her ancient city which have been exhumed.**

**Sale of Ferry Bar.**—The lease interest of the late Robert G. Harrison in the well-known resort, Ferry Bar, was sold yesterday by Messrs. Taylor & Creamer to Francis Cutaiar for \$2,070.

**Personal.**—Mr. Franklin B. Gowen, general

***The Baltimore Sun*, March 13, 1884**

The photo in the right-hand column, also shown in the previous account of the Cutaiar brothers, depicts the Ferry Bar Resort & Restaurant.



**The Ferry Bar Resort and Restaurant**

This establishment was the subject of many newspaper articles from that period and even up through current times. The Ferry Bar was listed as "the coolest and most delightful spot on earth" featuring fine dining, dancing, salt water bathing, boating, fishing, crabbing, regattas and a sea lion, as well as ice skating in the winter.

Four prizes at Ten-Pin Rolling. II

**SPEND THE GLORIOUS FOURTH OF JULY AT CUTAIAR'S FERRY BAR RESORT,**

The coolest and most delightful spot on EARTH; the largest and best equipped bathhouse in the State; the beach for bathing and the Patapsco river for swimming unsurpassed; dancing from 2 to 12 P. M.; music by Professor Farson's unrivaled Orchestra, including Prof. Wm. E. Assert, the great Cornetist, and Prof. Ernest Seager, the famous English Pianist; boating, fishing, crabbing, &c. Folt crab, spring chicken and fish meals to order 50c. each; full meal, including all, 75c. Good order maintained. Come, come, come!

FRANCIS CUTAIAR, Proprietor.  
WM. L. CUTAIAR, Genl. Manager.

**EXCURSIONS BY WATER**

***The Baltimore Sun* July 1, 1893**

Although Francis, Jr. had put the Ferry Bar up for sale in 1890, it appears that it was not purchased until 1895, and then by George Kahl & Co.

Washington, D. C. Je27-21\*

**FERRY BAR FOR SALE**—The famous, long-established and popular Riverside Resort, known as CUTAIAR'S FERRY BAR HOTEL AND RESTAURANT, is now offered for sale, the present occupant being engaged in other business and wishing to retire from this. The sale will include the unexpired lease, good-will, stock, furniture, fixtures, boats, tackle, seines, &c. In fact, the entire establishment, which is now in full running order and doing a large cash business. For further particulars apply to MICHAEL A. MULLIN 22 East Lexington street.

je24-tu,w,s3t\*

**SPECIAL.—Excellent END GROCERY and**

***The Baltimore Sun*, July 29, 1890**

**PLEASURE RESORTS.**

**FERRY BAR RESORT,** NORTH END OF LIGHT STREET BRIDGE. GEORGE KAHL & CO., successors to Francis Cutaiar. Chicken, Crab and Fish Suppers furnished at short notice. Best brands of Liquors, Wines and cool Beer always on hand.

GEORGE KAHL,  
Manager.

**MEDICAL NOTICES.**

***The Baltimore Sun*, July 4, 1895**

Cutaiar's "other business" by 1890 would have included his municipal offices which he operated from the Baltimore City Court House

**Baltimore City Court House, about 1900**



For a number of years, Francis was an officer in the Fifth Regiment of the Maryland National Guard. He was described as an "ardent Democrat" throughout the Civil War, and a Northern sympathizer in this divided, slaveholding state which, on the whole, remained loyal to the Union. It was said that whenever there was a Northern victory during the war, Francis would hoist the American flag over his store and illuminate the establishment.

A few of the articles that I discovered, seemed to suggest that Francis had an interesting sense of humor.

One in particular was when he "presented" a colleague with four porcupines which "got on a spree in the establishment of Mr. James Gorman. They had been locked up from Saturday, the intention being to send them to Druid Hill Park (a small zoo, at the time) but the weather proving warmer than the porcupines had been used to, they got a little fretful and released themselves. Freed of their shackles, they investigated the ice chest where the mint grows and interviewed sundry phials in which sweet oil is kept and floundered among the thin and delicate drinking glasses, and seemed to have a good time generally." (Newspapers.com Atlanta, GA 6 Jul 1882)

The Baltimore newspapers reported, in 1896, that Francis Cutaiar, at the age of 64, was severely bruised by being thrown from his carriage but had recovered sufficiently to be out of doors.

The *Baltimore Sun*, on November 8, 1903, posted an article in which it stated that Francis had been stricken with apoplexy (a stroke) and paralysis with little hope of recovery. Francis died at his home in Baltimore, MD, three days later.

The family attributed his illness to the active part he had taken in a recent campaign, being the first to vote in his district and being active at the polls throughout the day.

The funeral was attended by many and it was noted that there were many beautiful floral arrangements.

One in particular, was described as a handsome cross that was sent by the City Engineer's office and that was buried with the body.

A year later on the anniversary of his death, the oldest three children had a memorial mass celebrated for Francis at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Baltimore.

From this man came my 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather, William Love Cutaiar, his son, Francis Lee Cutair, Sr., my grandfather, Francis Lee Cutair, Jr. and my father, Francis Lee Cutaiar, III.

Though I never knew much about this 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandfather, Francis Cutaiar, Jr., as no living relatives would have known him either, I feel that I have come to know him through this research and I am proud to be his great-great-granddaughter.

### **CHARLES DARMANIN: PUERTO RICAN BUSINESSMAN AND PHILANTHROPIST\***

**Dan Brock**

Charles Maurice Darmanin, the son of Richard and Carmen (Micallef) Darmanin, was born in Valletta on January 29, 1925.

Charles was among the 240 emigrants—"the first significant group to leave directly for North America"—who boarded the *Marine Shark* in the Grand Harbour. This was on July 7, 1947, and the ship was en route for New York. Charles, who was single and had worked as a clerk while residing with his mother in Birkirkara, had an Aunt Beatrice living on Jennings Avenue in Patchouge, on Long Island, NY.

Oliver Gerald Darmanin joined his older brother, Charles, at Patchouge in March 1950.

Charles married Mary C. (G?) Grady, in Bound Brook, NJ, in September 1952. The couple were living on 91<sup>st</sup> Street in Brooklyn, NY, by November 1953. They were to have one son.

Oliver also was living in Brooklyn by 1955. Later, he moved to Miami, FL where he died in 1989.

Meanwhile, Charles was living in Jacksonville, FL, by 1955 and was a sales manager for Gillespie Bonded Warehouse Inc.

He moved to Puerto Rico that same year and, in 1956, established what became Capitol Transportation, Inc., "the largest and most important moving company on the island."

Over the years, he helped many of his employees with the education of their children, paid their hospital bills, assisted them during hard times and was generous with bonuses.

Charles also was generous with the many organizations "devoted to community improvement and to social and economic progress in Puerto Rico." But his philanthropic endeavours were not confined to the island.

He was a member of The Committee for Maltese Unity, Inc. New York and was one of the directors on the Board of Trustees for its Malta Charity Fund.

Charles also played a part in the formation of the Maltese tenor, Joseph Calleja.

The Operalia Competition was held in Puerto Rico in 1999 and one of its young aspirants was Joseph Calleja.

Calleja and his tutor, Paul Asciak, were taken under Charles' and his wife's, Josephine's, wings from the moment their plane touched down on the Island and, at the end of the competition, Charles presented Calleja with a cheque for \$1,000 US.

Charles married his second wife, Josephine T. Cole, in the autumn of 1979, in Kensington, England. They were to have two sons and a daughter of their own.

Charles died, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on July 6, 2004, and his wife, Josephine, May 15, 2009, on the island of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands.

*\*Further information on Charles Darmanin may be found in Forum Melitense, Toronto, vol. 3, no. 1 (Winter 1976-1977), as reprinted from an issue of Caribbean Business, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Rosanne Zammit, "Tribute to Maltese philanthropist in Puerto Rico, Times of Malta, March 12, 2005; and Ancestry.*

#### MELITA SOCCER CLUB INC.

3336 Dundas Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M6P 3A4

Open: Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Also, on Friday 6:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.  
Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

#### THE MALTA UNITED SOCIETY OF WINDSOR, ONTARIO

##### MIKE PACE

Immigration of the Maltese to Canada mostly started after World War II, where hundreds of young men and families started settling mainly in Toronto.

Over time, Maltese immigrants moved to other Canadian cities including Windsor and Vancouver because of the milder weather and the job opportunities in the automotive industries.

It was around 1947-1951, when the economy was booming, that we see the birth of "The Malta United Society". Here, a group of young men got together, and decided to form a type of a club. They named it "The Malta United Society".

This Club was located on Bruce and University Avenue, with 50-60 members. A full committee was formed by volunteers. The President was Tony Farrugia and Committee Members were Paul Vella, Maurice Grech, Henry Smith, Gejtu Caruana and Lorenzo Bonanno.

Around 1953, The Malta United Society saw a new President, Charlie Carbonaro, and Committee Members included Henry Smith, Mike Fenech, Leli Gatt, Lorenz Micallef, Charlie Caruana, Anglu Mifsud

and Joe Bonnici. At this time, there were about 30 members.

They had no fixed location where the Maltese met. But Charlie Caruana and his wife Tine, were at that time taking care of the Union Hall located on Chatham and Langlois. Occasionally, at Mr. Caruana's request, the Maltese were able to use this hall for dinner and dance night functions. This lasted a year.

It was in 1955, that a more fixed location was found, a hall located on Pellissier. It was decided to maintain the same name for the club "The Malta United Society" and a new election was held. Charlie Carbonaro was nominated as president and committee members were Joe Borg, Saviour Cassar, Charlie Caruana, Caesar Pons, Tony Micallef, Leli Gatt, John Bonnici and Eddie Agius. This time the membership reached about 40-50 members.

The Maltese club flourished for over 20 years, seeing an increase in memberships and various committees filled with dedicated men volunteering their time and efforts.

After many years, the Maltese Club had to move again. This time, around 1984, it was to a small site on Lauzon and Wyandotte. The president was Charlie Carbonaro. With the Committee Members, he worked hard to keep the Club going and the members together. The Club stayed in this location for about six years.

The Club saw another move, the fifth time, to a place on Erie Street around 1990. The president at the time was Charlie Theuma. The Club was doing well, but a small group of members decided to branch out and form another club on their own which they named "Il-Kottonera".

For a brief period, the Maltese community in Windsor had two clubs. It was some years later, in the early 1990s, that, with the inspiration of Joe Borg and his Patty, the Committee and the rest of the members decided to purchase a place.

So, after 40 years of renting and moving from place to another, the Club had finally found a location that the Maltese could call their own. Lots of effort was needed by all the Maltese community for this dream to come true.

Listed below are names of the persons who were, at one point or another, presidents of "The Malta United Society": Tony Farrugia, Manual Caesar, Charlie Carbonaro, Bertu Attard, Johnny Catania, Manuel Labadie, Charlie Taljana, Joe Busuttil, Charlie Theuma, George Scicluna, Joe Borg, Charles Micallef, Eddie Agius, Antoinette Agius, Cheryl Abela and Brian Muscat

In the 66 years of the history of "The Malta United Society", the Club saw and continues to see, presidents and committees, all volunteers, and all working their outmost, doing their best to keep the Club going and see it flourish as it heads towards the future.

\*Based on interviews with Charlie Carbonaro, this is a slightly amended version of the article which appeared in *Malta United Society of Windsor*, Jannar 2019.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **MALTA UNITED SOCIETY OF WINDSOR, ONTARIO**

**2520 Seminole Street, Windsor, ON**

**Tel. 519-974-6719**

**maltaunitedsociety.windsor@gmail.com**

**Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> Ravioli Dinner – 7:00 p.m. - \$10 / dozen, \$6 / ½ dozen**

**Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> All You Can Eat Pasta Dinner – 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**

\$9 / person, \$4 / child under 13

**Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> Good Friday Dinner – 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Traditional Fish and Chips Dinner or Ricotta Pie served between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.  
Includes Cole Slaw or Salad and Rolls. Tickets \$11 per person in advance or \$15 at the door.

**Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> Annual General Membership Meeting and Committee Election – 5:00 p.m.**

Followed by Pasta Dinner.

### **HOW MALTA REMAINED BRITISH AFTER 1802**

**Mark Trzeciak**



**Mark is in his 20<sup>th</sup> year working at Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. He formerly worked as an adjunct professor in Education at Eastern Michigan University as well.**

Being a self-proclaimed history buff and someone who has spent the better part of my educational career seated in front of a computer referencing obscure facts, or sitting in a university classroom on any given night, I felt this particular story was a good one to share with those who might not be clear on the intriguing and twisted path that brought Malta into the British Empire.

Most of you know about the history of Malta. Many of you are aware of the "Who's Who" of people and kingdoms that have inhabited or controlled its islands.

A couple years ago, however, I stumbled across a bit of information which, up to that point, I was unaware.

You may have heard about or studied the European superpowers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and their colonial quests. The result of their insatiable hunger for more lands was often wars and resulting treaties. One particular treaty, however, the Treaty of Amiens and its accompanying terms took me by surprise.

The Treaty of Amiens, which was signed in 1802 by the French and British, for all intents and purposes, divided up most of their recent conquests as well as fixed borders and the like.

While the terms of the actual treaty are quite intense and lengthy, I'll focus on only one of them, namely how the Treaty related to the evacuation of Britain's newest possession, Malta, which had been wrested from French control by a combination of British, Russian and Neapolitan troops. It required that the British forces leave Malta and the Islands be returned to the Order of St. John ("Knights of Malta") which would then remain neutral (even though the Islands were to remain in the British Empire). It was, however, never that clear-cut and simple.

If we think about the global powers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were many considerations to be made. First, the Order was widely hated by the Maltese populace at the time. Its poor rule, heavy taxes and increasing ineffectiveness to bring jobs to Malta led the citizenry to demand that the British NOT return the Islands to the Knights.

Of course, the British never intended to do that anyway. But at first, the British themselves did not find the Islands that appealing. Ideas circulated that the Islands were being handed over to Tsar Alexander I of Russia. The Russians would not control the islands *per se*, but rather allow the Maltese to exist as an entity with a certain degree of freedom.

The British, however, did not trust the Russians to do that job, fearing either they would tightly control Malta or simply sell it back to the French. Control of the Islands was critical for any of the emerging European powers if they wanted to control the whole of the Medi-



This illustration by the English artist and caricaturist James Gillray (1756-1815), published on February 26, 1805, is a satire on the overtures made by Napoleon Bonaparte in January 1805 for a reconciliation with Britain during the War of the Third Coalition. It shows Bonaparte, declared emperor of France in 1804, and the English statesman William Pitt sitting across a dining table, each carving out a piece from a plum pudding in the shape of the world. The diminutive Napoleon, rising from his seat in order to reach the table, hungrily takes Europe while Pitt carves a large slice of ocean, illustrating the respective areas of power in the ongoing war between Britain and France.

terranean. Although Britain already had better, more developed and modern ports in Southern Europe, its government eventually accepted the reality that only British control of Malta would keep it from Napoleon's grasp. And so, by 1815, international powers officially settled on Britain controlling the Islands.

What was of interest to me was the thought of what could have been if the terms of the treaty were actually followed and the Order of St. John were actually restored in Malta.

I am certain that some of the families that settled in Malta would not have done so, and much of the British influence we presently see in Malta may never have occurred. Without British influence, our own migration

experience may have been vastly different. Maltese communities in the English-speaking world may have been much smaller, or may have never existed at all!

In addition to this, what would Malta look like had the Knights returned to power and what would their role be now?

These are all questions we could ask, but nobody knows the answers to any of them. Sometimes though history makes it fun to wonder...What if...?

*\*This is a slightly amended version of the article which appeared in The Maltese-Detroiter, January 29, 2017, 1. The author would like to thank Marc Sanko, then a PhD student in history, for his assistance.*

## THE MALTESE FALCON

**Joseph Edward Doublet\***

From the Island of Malta to St. Catharines Ontario,  
Came a man with a dream in his heart.  
A builder of ships and a leader of men  
With a skill that set him apart.

He was born in Senglea in eighteen 0 eight  
Louis Shickluna was his name  
Destined to travel to a faraway land,  
There to gain fortune and fame.

A shipbuilder apprentice at the age of eleven,  
A journey man true at the age of sixteen.  
He then shipped out on a British man-of war.  
a responsible man although still in his teen.

He arrived in New York in eighteen twenty-five  
Where, for six years he plied at his trade,  
Then on to Jamestown, then to Quebec  
Where he a foreman was made.

In eighteen thirty-five he went to Youngstown, New York  
Where he designed and built the schooner 'Two Brothers'.  
In eighteen thirty-six and thirty-seven  
He designed and built two others.

He settled in St. Catharines, Ontario in thirty-eight,  
There over a fifty-year span,  
He built more than two hundred ships  
A unique record that honors the man.

He was Canada's first Maltese immigrant,  
They accepted him as one of their own.  
He was honored in his life time  
By his neighbors, and by the leaders of Province and town.

We salute the memory of Louis Shickluna,  
A man with a heart generous and true,  
With his mind and hands, he set a perfect example  
Of what a man with a dream can do.

**Editor's note:** While not completely historically accurate much of what the late writer has said is indeed fact. This poem appeared in the Spring 1980 issue of Maltese Forum dedicated to the centenary of the death of Louis Shickluna.

## OPINION

I found your first issue very interesting and informative. Keep it up!

Fr. Emanuel Magro, Silver Springs, MD

Thanks for what you're doing. Sometimes a thankless job.

Fred Aquilina, San Francisco, CA

Please continue to keep me as one of your avid readers as you begin your adventure with this new North American Maltese journal...

Mabel Higgins, Sarnia, ON

I am very happy the way you are producing this newsletter.

Mark Caruana, Sydney, NSW, Australia

Thanks for what you do.

Mark Trzeciak, Detroit, MI

# SAVE THE DATE!

Friday March 29th 2019

SAN FRANCISCO, BAY AREA



# STAR of STRAIT STREET

POLLY MARCH & LARISSA BONACI  
star in a new musical play  
by Philip Glassborow

Musical Director  
Geoff Thomas  
Choreographer  
Emma Loftus  
TIME & VENUE: TBA

## MALTESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO HONORS VIETNAM ERA VETERANS\*

**Mona Vella Nicholas and Fred Aquilina**

As November 2018 was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of "the war to end all wars" (WW I), it was a time of remembrance and recognition as well as an opportunity to give gratitude to all the men and women who have sacrificed so much.

The Maltese community of the San Francisco Bay Area, through the initiative of the Maltese Historical Society (MHS), led by president Mona Vella Nicholas,

and with the support and cooperation of the Honorary Consul General of Malta in San Francisco, Mr. Louis J. Vella, hosted an event on November 18<sup>th</sup> to recognize and honor the Maltese-American servicemen who were deployed to Vietnam or served during the Vietnam era.

Twenty-two veterans and their families were able to attend the crowded function. The Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco graciously provided both the venue and the funding for the event.



#### **Some of the Maltese-American Servicemen of the Vietnam Era Honored**

courtesy of Charles Vella, PhD

Front row, left to right: Pauline Henderson (accepting for her brother SP4 Tony Scerri, U.S. Army); E3 Vincent Attard, U.S. Navy; BT2 Charles Camilleri, U.S. Navy; SP4 Richard Cairns, U.S. Army; Mona Vella Nicholas (Maltese Historical Society President); Honorable Louis Vella (Honorary Consul General for Malta); Brian Ciappara (President of the Maltese-American Social Club)

Second Row, left to right: SP4 George Borg, U.S. Army; 05 Cdr. Fred Aquilina, U.S. Navy, Ret.; Ida Aquilina (accepting for her brother E3 Raymond Muscat, U.S. Army); SP4 Chris Borg, U.S. Army; SP4 Charles Abela, U.S. Army; SP4 Ron Borg, U.S. Army; E4 Peter Schembri, U.S. Army; SP5 George Spiteri, U.S. Army; E5 Lewis Vella, U.S. Air Force; E3 Pacik Agius, U.S. Navy; E3 Victor Debono U.S. Army.

This is not the first time that the MHS has recognized Maltese-American veterans. Previously, the MHS has honored those Maltese-American veterans who were in the Armed Forces of the U.S. during the Korean Conflict; and on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the awarding of the George Cross to Malta in 1942, an event was held to remember those who served in Malta during WW II.

Following the introduction by the Maltese Club President, Brian Ciappara, and the playing of the national anthems of Malta and the United States of America, Mona Vella Nicholas related a brief history of the Vietnam era. This was followed by an address by the Honorary Consul General, Louis J. Vella, who not only acknowledged the planning, effort and dedicated work accomplished by the MHS to bring this event to

fruition, but also connected the Vietnam conflict with the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM).

With the conclusion of the war in the early 70s, the people of the U.S. generously donated two Patrol Craft Fast (PCF, also known as Swift boats) to the people of Malta. The PCFs were used for 41 years by the AFM for interdiction of contraband, and for patrolling the waters around Malta. Tragically, on September 7, 1984 on one of those missions, one of the Swift boats was carrying a large load of illegal fireworks, seized by law enforcement. As the Swift boat was on its way to dispose of them off Gozo, the fireworks exploded, killing five of the six AFM personnel as well as two policemen.

The heavily damaged PCF was repaired and returned in service until both PCFs were decommissioned in 2012. The one that had been involved in the accident is now on display at AFM Maritime Squadron's Haywharf base, in Marsamxett Harbour, as a memorial to those seven men who lost their lives. The other Swift boat was returned to the U.S. where it is now displayed and operated as a tour boat at the San Diego Maritime Museum. As it sails in San Diego Bay, it proudly flies the American and Maltese flags on its stern.

After the address, each of the Maltese-American veterans was introduced and given the opportunity to expound on their Vietnam/Vietnam era duties and experiences. Although each had his own story to tell, all expressed their gratitude for the recognition by the MHS, and indicated that this was the first time many of them had received accolades for their service during the Vietnam era.

Each veteran was then called on stage to receive a certificate of service and a "Vietnam Era Veteran" patch, which was presented by the Hon. Consul Vella and Mr. Mike Dimech, vice president of the MHS. Following the presentations, the veterans, their families and members of the Maltese Club were treated to refreshments that had been prepared by the MHS and volunteers from the Maltese Club.

*\*This is a slightly amended version of what appeared in Maltese e-Newsletter, Issue 250 (January 2019), 11-12*

#### **FORMER AFM PATROL BOAT ADDED TO US NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES\***

A Vietnam-era patrol boat that was used by the Armed Forces of Malta for decades before returning to the United States has been added to the National Register of Historic Places, *The San Diego Union Tribune* has reported.

The 51-foot long Swift boat joins three other museum ships on the register, which identifies buildings, sites and objects considered worthy of preservation because of their historic and cultural significance.

The vessel, named C24 and later P24 by the AFM, spent many years in Maltese service, and was eventually retired in 2012. It was handed over to the Maritime Museum of San Diego, where it was restored.

Today it is used for 75-minute tours around San Diego Bay, bringing back many memories for Vietnam War veterans. The P24's sister vessel, the P23, is still displayed at the AFM Maritime Squadron's Haywharf Base [in Marsamxett Harbour].

That particular vessel had been at the centre of a horrible tragedy in 1984, when an explosion took place while illegal fireworks were being disposed of at sea. Five soldiers and two police officers were killed. Another soldier, the only survivor, was severely injured.

The C23, as it was named then, was repaired and went back into service as the P23. It was decommissioned in 2010.

The P23 and P24 spent more than 40 years in AFM service. They were donated to Malta by the US in 1971, after having been used to train military personnel for the Vietnam War.

"Swift boats, so-named because of their speed and agility, were adapted from Gulf of Mexico oil-rig vessels and used during the war to patrol the Vietnamese coastline, intercepting supplies headed to the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army," the *Union Tribune* said.

"They also went up and down the rivers and canals of the Mekong Delta for troop extractions and other special operations. About 3,600 men served on swift boats during the war, including John Kerry, the former senator and U.S. secretary of state, who received a Silver Star for his actions on board one in 1969."

The P24, now formally known as PCF 816 (patrol craft fast), never went to Vietnam, having been used in the States during the war before coming to Malta.

"PCF 816 is a tangible reminder of the service and dedication of so many swift boat sailors and allows visitors the opportunity to better understand what they sacrificed," said Kevin Sheehan, the museum's librarian and manager of collections.



**PCF 816 on San Diego Bay**

The other vessels on the National Register of Historic Places are the *Star of India*, launched in 1863 and now the world's oldest active sailing ship; the *Berkeley*, an 1898 steam ferry that spent 60 years operating in San

Francisco Bay; and the *Pilot*, built in 1914 in San Diego and now the oldest active pilot boat in the country.

*\*This is a somewhat amended account which appeared in the Malta Independent, September 22, 2018.  
<http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2018-09-22/local-news/former-afm-patrol-boat-added-to-us-national-reserve-of-historic-places-6736196684>.*

A related article on PCF 816 may be found at  
*PCF 816 Swift Boat - Maritime Museum of San Diego.*

### THE DE BRINCAT SIBLINGS OF WINNIPEG, MANITOBA\*

Dan Brock and Mark Caruana

In our joint research on those of Maltese birth or blood who came to Canada, it appears that between the end of the Second World War in 1945 and the year 1947 only one such person is known to have arrived in Canada.

Her name was Josephine De Brincat. She was a nurse and was returning to Canada by way of New York. There, on November 23, 1946, she disembarked from the *Marine Perch*.

Josephine, age 44, was returning from Italy. During and after World War II, she had served as Public Health Nurse Supervisor for the United Nations Rehabilitation and Relief Administration in Italy. The major role of the UNRRA in its three years of operation had been to help displaced persons return to their home countries.

A daughter of Carmelo De Brincat and Giovanna Rosa Diacono, Josephine was born in Rabat, Malta, on March 16, 1902. As Maria Giuseppa, she was granted a passport, on February 25, 1921, to go to Canada. Her address at the time was Valletta, Sda San Nicola 127 and she was listed as a student.



**Maria Giuseppa De Brincat,  
 Age 19**  
 (Courtesy of the National  
 Archives of Malta)

She arrived in New York Harbor, on board the *Adriatic*, on April 21<sup>st</sup> en route to Port Arthur (now a part of Thunder Bay), Ontario

But why was this single 19-year-old woman planning to leave Malta and why immigrate to Canada? For one thing, it is believed that, sometime after the death of her father, her mother had remarried to one Filippo Muscat, and there may possibly have been some tension in the household between her stepfather and her. More importantly, Josephine had an older brother, Joseph

Dominic, living in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The family had been living at the same address in Valletta when 17-year-old Joseph De Brincat applied for and was issued a passport for Canada in 1913. Being underage, his mother had to give her consent. Again, it would appear that she had already remarried and that the relationship between the stepson and the stepfather was not all that great.

The year 1913 proved to be the greatest year for Maltese immigration to Canada to date, and that number (893) would not be surpassed until 1951.

Young Joseph arrived at Quebec, by way of Trieste, now in Italy, on board the *Polonia*, on June 29, 1913. He declared that he was a merchant and was intending to go to Montreal. It seems, however, he had decided to continue on to Winnipeg.

Winnipeg, by the end of 1912, appears to have had the largest Maltese-born population in all Canada, with Toronto, the second largest, having about 17 percent less than Winnipeg.

In his book, *Early Maltese Emigration (1900-1914)*, published in 1983, the late Fr. Lawrence E. Attard had written that: "In 1911 a number of [Maltese] youngsters had been awarded paid passages and other subsidies to emigrate to Canada and settle in Winnipeg. Others followed them and Winnipeg soon became a familiar name to many hopeful Maltese." Fr. Attard continues that: 'Most of the men who managed to get as far as Winnipeg and settle successfully there were from the Maltese middle class who possessed some money and had a good education.' This, as will be seen, seemed to apply to the De Brincat siblings.

On August 8, 1913, Carmelo J. Salinos and four other Maltese men in Winnipeg were at the C.P.R. station to welcome the group, under the leadership of Dr. Charles Mattei, en route to British Columbia.

Also, in 1913, the Maltese in Winnipeg had "formed a Maltese Protective Society which aimed at safeguarding the rights of the Maltese in Manitoba." Captain Henry W. Parnis (Enrico Parnis England), formerly of the King's Own Malta Regiment, was selected as its president and became the spokesperson for the Maltese community in Winnipeg. On September 8<sup>th</sup>, the Maltese in Winnipeg had celebrated the lifting of the Great Siege in 1565 and in October the Maltese Protective Society had held an important meeting at St. Mary's Hall on St. Mary's Avenue.

Thus, whenever it was that young Giuseppe/Joseph De Brincat arrived in Winnipeg he would have been assured of a warm welcome by his fellow countrymen.

Less than a year after Joseph's arrival in Canada, war broke out in Europe. Joseph was living on Alexander Avenue in Winnipeg when he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force on January 31, 1916. Interestingly, while he gave the correct name and address for his mother in Malta, he falsified his date of birth, claiming

he was born in Valletta on August 4, 1894, when in fact it was on July 26 or 27, 1895.



**Captain Henry William Parnis (seated centre) with Maltese Workers at the Winnipeg Railway Station, August 8, 1913**

(Copy of photo once owed by Mrs. M.L. Saliba, Malta)

Joseph was living on Broadway in Winnipeg and working as a boilermaker at an ironworks when he was joined by his sister, Josephine, in the spring of 1921.

Sometime after her arrival in Winnipeg, she began training at the Winnipeg General Hospital and graduated from there as a registered nurse in 1925. That same year, she took the health inspector's course and received the Royal Sanitary Inspector's Certificate. Josephine then became a public health nurse with the Manitoba Department of Health and, as such, travelled extensively over the years in rural Manitoba.

Meanwhile, Joseph appears to have moved to Vancouver by 1924. There, on March 5<sup>th</sup>, he married Anna Louise Heck, a native of Germany. Joseph and Annie had at least one child, Ramen Matthew, born in 1932. Joseph was living at Matesqui in the Fraser Valley Regional District (now part of the Greater Vancouver Regional District) at the time of his death on November 15, 1966.

On June 16, 1923, a younger brother, Matthew De Brincat, who was going by his stepfather's surname, Muscat, at the time, had applied for a passport for himself and his wife, the former Pauline Lungaro, to travel to Egypt. The couple were living at Sda Giardino 211, Floriana, at the time and Matthew was a university student. Both were born in 1903, Matthew in Rabat on July 29<sup>th</sup> and Pauline in Valletta on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Matthew M. De Brincat  
(aka Muscat), Age 19**  
(Courtesy of the  
National Archives of Malta)



**Joseph  
Dominic De  
Brincat**

The Muscat/De Brincat family continued to live in Egypt until at least 1925 before returning to Malta. By April 1929 they had three children: Philip, born in July 1924; Mary Josephine, November 1925 and Maurice, April 1929. Meanwhile, on January 11, 1929, Matthew had disembarked in Montreal en route for Winnipeg, having sailed on the *Ascania* from Southampton under the surname De Brincat. In Malta, he had been an accountant.

Matthew was joined by his wife and three children the following year. In his absence, they were living at 4 Sda Hal Bajjada, Rabat. Sailing from Cherbourg, France, they had arrived at Quebec, on board the *Aurania*, on May 18, 1930. While in Winnipeg, two more children were born to Matthew and Pauline: Dennis Harold, born June 1931, and Frances. By 1957, Matthew was a postal clerk. He, Pauline and daughter Frances, a nurse like her aunt Josephine, were living on Vivian Avenue. Several houses away, on the same street, lived their son, Maurice, a plumber, and his wife Elise.

Matthew died in 1976 and Pauline in 2000. Both were

interred in St. Vital Cemetery, Winnipeg.



**Pauline (Lungaro) De Brincat, Age 27**  
(Courtesy of the National Archives of Malta)

As for Matthew's sister, Josephine, she received her Public Health Nursing diploma from the University of Toronto, in 1942. She also did postgraduate studies in public health nursing at the University of Minnesota.

**Josephine De Brincat  
(1902-1986)**



After serving as Public Health Nurse Supervisor for the United Nations Rehabilitation and Relief Administration in Italy, she returned to Manitoba in 1946 and again took up her responsibilities as Industrial Nursing Consultant, Public Health Nursing Consultant and Civil Defence Consultant to the Department of Health.

Josephine volunteered with the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses and the Manitoba Public Health Association (MPHA), where she served as secretary for many years. In 1963, she completed her career with the Public Health Department, as a consultant in the Manitoba Care Service Department.

Josephine was made an Honorary Life Member of the MPHA and an Honorary Life Member of the Canadian Institute of Public Health (CPHA) Inspectors. She was awarded the CPHA's Honorary Life Membership in 1970.

Josephine, who never married, died in Winnipeg on January 23, 1986 and was entombed in the Queen of Heaven Mausoleum in Assumption Cemetery.

\*This article is a somewhat amended version of that which appeared in *The Maltese Canadian Club of London Newsletter*, vol. 39, no. 2 (July-August 2018), 8-10.

## RELIGIOUS PERSONS FROM GOZO BOUND FOR AMERICA: 1900-1935

Mark Caruana



**Mark "has contributed significantly to Maltese migration history...."** In the May 29, 2018 issue of *The Voice of the Maltese*, Mark was featured as its "Personality of the Month."

The first Gozitan priest to settle in America was Rev Dr George Agius, born in 1873 in Victoria (Rabat). He studied at the Jesuit Seminary on Gozo and was ordained in 1895. He entered the Gregorian University in Rome, two years later, and by 1901 had earned doctorates in both theology and canon law.

One of his classmates while at the Gregorian University was Fr Eugenio Pacelli, the future Pope Pius XII.

Fr Agius, shortly after completing his doctoral studies, received a letter from Bishop Thomas A. Bonacum of Lincoln, Nebraska, offering him the position of secretary and chancellor of the diocese of Lincoln. Fr Agius accepted and arrived in Lincoln in September 1902.

In addition to his administrative responsibilities, he was resident pastor of St Vincent Parish in the town of Seward and, in 1916, was transferred to St Joseph's in Geneva, NE. He became pastor of St John's in Plattsmouth, in 1927.

His work, *Tradition and the Church*, was published in 1928. Fr Agius had been officially released and incardinated into the diocese of Lincoln seven years earlier.

He was given the title Monsignor in 1937 and, in November 1950, was the official representative of the Lincoln Diocese at the proclamation of the dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Fr Agius died in 1962 and was buried in Malta.

He was remembered as the first priest in Gozo to wear a jacket, shirt and trousers rather than a cassock, when in Gozo on visits.

The second Gozitan priest to arrive in America was Fr Anthony Tabone, a 31-year-old Jesuit residing at Tullamore, Ireland. He left the port of Queenstown in Ireland and arrived in NY on the 28 Aug 1913. While in New

York City, he stayed with a fellow priest, Fr Walsh, at 303 Elizabeth St.

Shortly afterwards, Fr Tabone was residing in Guelph, ON. He visited the Maltese in Toronto in February and in June 1914, and conducted a retreat for the Maltese there in St Mary's Chapel on the corner of Bathurst and Adelaide streets. Fr Tabone left Canada the following year.

The third priest was Gharb-born, Joseph Grech, age 48, who arrived in NY on the 12 Feb 1920. He stated that his intention was to reside permanently and gave his destination as Detroit and his initial contact as Fr James of Malta at 213 Stanton St, Detroit. His next-of-kin in Gozo is given as Maria Victoria Zammit, of Strada Wilga, Ghasri.

Fr Marcellos Agius came fourth. He hailed from Victoria, Gozo and gave his next of kin as Carmelo Agius of 3 Salita Castello, Victoria. He arrived in NY on board the *Mauretania* on 6 July 1926, his intention being to stay permanently in the US. He then joined a relative of his, Rev Dr George Agius, then residing at Geneva, NE. Fr Marcellos stayed in Nebraska till November 1936 and returned to Malta, where he renewed his passport in July 1938 giving his address in the US, as Plattsmouth, NE. He returned to the US, via NY, on board the *Conte di Savoia*, on 31 August 1938.

Unlike the first four Gozitan priests, the fifth and sixth Gozitan priests left for America together, on the *Berengaria*, arriving on 1 April 1927. One was Fr Nazzareno Formosa, born in 1901 in Gharb, who gave as his next-of-kin in Gozo his father, Nikola, of 52 Sda Blata, Gharb. Fr Formosa was ordained in 1925. His destination was given as Cardinal Hayes Sacred Heart College, NY and his stated intention was to reside permanently.

Fr Formosa, according the late Fr Lawrence E Attard, "was stationed at Sacred Heart church on East 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. For ten years he mingled freely with the Maltese in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Astoria and was chaplain to many associations formed within the Maltese community in New York. He died on 22 July 1937 at Columbus Hospital," as a result of appendicitis and was interred in St John Cemetery, Queens.

**Fr. Mario Micallef, MSSP**  
**St. Paul the Apostle Church,**  
**3224 Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON M6P 2A3**  
**1-416-767-7054**

**Fr. Nazzareno Formosa was the first of eight children born to Nikola and Maria (Caruana) Formosa.**



Fr Formosa's travelling companion was a 35-year-old priest from Victoria, Gozo, a Fr Josef Tabone who gave as his next-of-kin his father, Carmelo, of 3 Sda Provicario, Victoria. He also planned to stay permanently and his forwarding address was the residence of Bishop Thomas Molloy of 367 Claremont Ave, Brooklyn NY.

The seventh Gozitan priest, Fr Marcello Galea, hailed from Nadur in the eastern part of Gozo. He arrived at NY on 21 July 1930 and his destination was the Sacred Heart College in New York City. His intention was to reside permanently.

The first Gozitan nun to leave for America was Sr Assunta Grech. Her birthplace is given simply as Gozo. She travelled with a group of five other nuns from Malta, all destined for Chicago. Their forwarding address was Sacred Heart, 62 Sheridan St, Chicago. Their intention was stated as to reside permanently. The other five sisters were: Sr Jennie Spiridiona, age 23, Sr Emmanuel Camilleri, age 22, Sr Adelina Attard, age 25, Sr Paolina Xuereb, age 27 and Sr Salvia Sammut age 22.

Any additional information about these eight individuals is welcomed.

*One of the sources consulted was the online biography of Fr George Agius by Fr Chad A. Pipperger. Another was John P. Portelli's "Fr. Fortunato Mizzi's Contributions to Maltese Catholics in Toronto," CCHA, Historical Studies, 67 (2001), 57-79.*

**LEHEN MALTI**  
**(Maltese Voice)**  
**Omni 1 TV**  
**Toronto, Ontario**  
**Saturdays 8:30 a.m.**  
**Tuesdays 3: 30 a.m. & 11.30 a.m.**  
**Thursdays 8:30 a.m.**

The table below lists the priests and nuns from Gozo who went to the USA between the period 1900-1935. Further research is underway. The abbreviation USC stands for United States citizen.

Surname	Name	Birthplace	Age	Occupation	Name of Ship	Remarks
Agius	George	Gozo, Victoria	30	priest	not stated	
Agius	George	USC	49	clergyman	Providence	
Agius	George	USC	53	clergyman	Conte Rosso	
Agius	George	USC	59	clergyman	Augustus	
Agius	George	USC	66	clergyman	Conte di Savoia	
Agius	George	USC	76	clergyman	By air	
Agius	George	USC	79	clergyman	By air	
Agius	George	USC	83	clergyman	By air	
Tabone	Anthony	Gozo	31	priest (Jesuit)	Majestic	Res.: Ireland, Tullamore
Grech	Joseph	Gozo, Gharb	48	priest	Saxonia	
Agius	Marcellos	Gozo, Victoria	47	priest	Mauretania	Sacred Heart College
Agius	Marcellus	Gozo, Victoria	59	priest	Conte di Savoia	From Bermuda
Formosa	Nazzareno	Gozo, Gharb	25	priest	Berengaria	
Formosa	Nazzareno	Gozo, Gharb	30	priest	Veendam	
Formosa	Nazzareno	USC	33	N/S	Rex	
Tabone	Josef	Gozo, Victoria	35	priest	Berengaria	
Galea	Marcello	Gozo, Nadur	33	priest	Roma	Sacred Heart Rectory
Grech	Assunta	Gozo	28	nun	Roma	Sacred Heart Convent

### INTRODUCING SUSAN SCHEMBRI: ONE OF THE TWO MEMBERS ON THE COUNCIL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD FROM CANADA

My name is Susan Schembri and I have been living in British Columbia since 1979. A few years after I moved to B.C. I became involved in the Maltese community. I was president of The Maltese-Canadian Association of British Columbia for two years—1987-88. Unfortunately, this association is not active anymore.

I have, however, been instrumental in organizing many events for the Maltese living in B.C. Some of these events will be covered in subsequent newsletters.



**Susan Schembri  
with H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, Edgar Preca  
and her husband, Sal Schembri**

We have set up a link for Maltese living in B.C. So far, we have over 200 registrants. This link keeps everyone informed about any activities and information con-

cerning the Maltese community within B.C. and elsewhere.

I am a member of the Federation for Maltese Living Abroad and have been the treasurer for the past four years. This Federation has not been active for a while, and we are trying to reactivate it again.

I am also involved in my community as treasurer for the Domestic Abuse Society, a member on the financial committee at our local parish and an organizer of many social events in the community.

A project called "Consul on the Move" was started a few years ago by the Malta Government. This project has been very successful, and through this programme we have made contact with and reached out to many Maltese living in B.C. This programme allows the Consul General to visit various locations where there is need, and assist with the issuing of dual citizenships, passports and other necessary documents. The Consul General is expected to visit British Columbia in May 2019.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 we had the honour to welcome H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta. She was joined by a delegation of about 12 members, including her husband Edgar Preca, High Commissioner Pierre Clive Agius and Consul General Ms. Hanan El Khatib. This was the first visit to British Columbia of a dignitary from Malta. A reception was held at the Marriott Hotel in the Burnaby Conference Centre, Burnaby, to honour H.E. and the delegation.

About 150 people attended, mainly first and second-generation Maltese Canadians.

Owing to the geographical layout of the Province, some of the people had to travel quite a distance. While the Maltese in B.C. are quite spread out everyone makes an effort.



**Guests Mingling After the Cake-Cutting Ceremony**  
*(Photos courtesy of Sal Schembri)*

In October 2018 I was appointed to the Council of Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA). The other member representing Canada is Brandon Azzopardi from Ontario. In November 2018 we both attended the annual meeting in Malta. Below is a brief outline of the highlights from that meeting.

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The annual meeting of the CMLA was held in Malta on November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

We wish to thank the community and Government of Malta for allowing us and giving us the opportunity to represent the Maltese people living in Canada.

On the first day of the meeting we introduced ourselves and shared our personal profiles with other members of the Council. We had the pleasure of meeting the Hon. Prime Minister of Malta, Dr. Joseph Muscat, who gave us a brief outlook on Malta's prospering economy and assured us of his support for the Maltese Diaspora. We were given a rundown of our tasks as members of the CMLA. The Council is chaired by the Hon. Carmelo Abela, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion.

The following are the highlights from the meetings:

**Programme Consul on the Move:**

It will be on going and not a pilot project. This programme will be expanded to more remote areas of the related communities, as needed. This is owing to the success of the programme, and of course the need for this particular service to the Maltese living abroad.

**Regional Committee:**

Regional Committees will be set up in accordance with Article 5(5) of Act XX of 2011. Such committees will be appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the capacity of Chairperson of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad. Functions of the Regional Committees will include helping the CMLA achieve its aim of protecting and promoting the rights and interests of Maltese living outside Malta, and to provide matters connected therewith.

More details will follow on this subject in subsequent issues of this newsletter.

**THE MALTESE-CANADIAN ASSOCIATION  
 OF BRITISH COLUMBIA\***

**Joseph Ruggier**

*Editor's note: In the above article Susan Schembri makes note of this association. What follows is an account of its formation.*

Here in Vancouver, The Maltese-Canadian Association of B.C. has very recently been formed. The first meeting of the as yet non-existent Association was held on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 1982, at The Lion's Den, Commercial Drive, Vancouver, B.C. It was attended by some 40 Maltese-Canadians. An Interim Committee was elected, with Mr Joe Gatt as Interim President, Mr Oscar Attard Vice-President, Mr Vincent Doublesin Treasurer, and myself Secretary.

By the date on which the first general elections were to be held, several social events had been organized and the funds raised helped us to start walking on our own two feet. At these general elections held on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 1983, at the Lion's Den, Albert Wadge emerged as the first president, Frank Gauci: vice-president, Oscar Attard: secretary, and Joe Gatt: treasurer.

Besides the entertainment and public-relations committees, a cultural-heritage committee was added with myself in charge. This committee's aim is the formation of a cultural-heritage library for the use of the members. The aim of the Association is philanthropic and cross-cultural. It is hoped that our association, like all such ethnic groups in Canada's mosaic society will eventually acquire full legal status. This will not only strengthen the Association's real image, but will hopefully also enable it to obtain Government support.

To achieve this aim, the constitution of the Association is at present being harmonized with Canadian law. Our greatest problem, however, is financial both to survive and to acquire a premise. Hence, social events are a must to raise the necessary funds.

The Association now comprises some 75 active members. It seems that, in time, we will manage to raise sufficient funds to make the Association reasonably viable. We are very glad to note that the Maltese immigrants, resident in Vancouver, seem to be willing and enthusiastic about the newly-formed society and attend the social events zestfully.

Donations of books in Maltese and English about Malta and everything Maltese, as well as any other form of aid, will be warmly appreciated.

\* This article is a slightly modified copy of that which appeared in the Maltese Forum, Summer-autumn 1983, page 16.

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*The Toronto Historical Board held its first heritage fair on October 17 and 19, 1981 at Fort York in Toronto. At it was an exhibit of the Maltese contribution to and participation in the City since the 1920s.*

**PETE BUTTIGIEG:  
UNITED STATES' FIRST MALTESE-AMERICAN  
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE\***

**Dan Brock**

On Wednesday, January 23, 2019, the youthful looking and openly gay mayor of South Bend, Indiana, Pete Buttigieg announced that he was launching an exploratory committee for a 2020 presidential bid. This was followed by a news conference in Washington.



**Thirty-seven-Year-Old Pete Buttigieg**

Relatively unknown on the national scene, he had run for chair of the Democratic National Committee after the 2016 election but dropped out on February 25, 2017, the day of the election.

Peter Paul Montgomery Buttigieg, who pronounces his surname as "BOOT-edge-edge," was born in South Bend on January 19, 1982 an only child to Joseph A. Buttigieg and Jennifer Anne Montgomery, both professors at the University of Notre Dame.

Joseph Buttigieg, was born in Hamrun, Malta, on May 20, 1947, the eldest of eight children of Joseph Anthony Buttigieg and Maria Concetta "Cettina" Portelli.

He earned a Bachelors and Masters degree from the University of Malta, and a B.Phil. from Heythrop College in Oxford, England. Joseph came to the United States in the 1970s in order to pursue his doctorate at the State University of New York, Binghamton, earning his Ph.D. in 1976 and becoming a U.S. Citizen in 1979.

Also, in 1976 Joseph moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico, to teach at New Mexico State University. There he met and fell in love with a fellow new faculty member, Jennifer Anne Montgomery. They were married in El Paso, Texas, on January 6, 1980. Soon afterward, they moved together to South Bend, ID, where Joseph would serve on the faculty as a professor of English until his retirement in 2017.



**Joseph A. Buttigieg: 1947-2019**

Sadly, Joseph died on January 27, 2019, just four days after his son's announcement that he was seeking the Democrat bid for the 2020 presidential election.

Meanwhile, after graduating from St. Joseph's High School, South Bend, in 2000, young Peter Buttigieg went on to attend Harvard College from which he graduated *magna cum laude*, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and literature. As a Rhodes scholar Peter attended Pembroke College, Oxford, and, in 2007, received a first class honours degree in politics, philosophy and economics.

After a three-year stint at the consulting firm McKinsey and Company, he came back to Indiana where he lost a race for state treasurer in 2010. The race, however, helped him with his name recognition in the state and he successfully won his first term as mayor of South Bend, on November 8, 2011, with 74% of the vote, and took office on January 1, 2012, as the youngest mayor of a US city having at least 100,000 residents.

He was not, however, the first American mayor of Maltese background. The late Tony Perisi, a native of Senglea, Malta, also comes to mind. Perisi was mayor of Twinsburg, OH from 1976 through 1987.

In 2014, Pete Buttigieg served a seven-month tour in the US Navy in Afghanistan. In October of that year, he resumed his duties as South Bend's mayor. He remains a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve.

Buttigieg announced in an essay, on June 16, 2015, that he is gay. He was married to Chasten Glezman in a private ceremony, on June 16, 2018, at the Cathedral of St. James' Episcopal church in downtown South Bend. Currently, "Mayor Pete" is a member of the Episcopal Church.

\*This article is based on several online websites and Maltese e-Newsletter, Issue 252 (Jan. 2019), 6-8.

**ZEFERINO SAID:  
CANADA'S SECOND MALTESE SETTLER\***

**Dan Brock**

While Louis Shickluna is recognized as the first Maltese to settle in Canada, until recently no mention had been made of who the second Maltese to settle in Canada might be.

My research has led me to believe this person was Zeferino Said. His death certificate would seem to indicate that he was born in Malta, about December 26, 1811, to Richard (Riccardo) and Rosina Said. Neither the efforts of Charles Said-Vassallo of maltagenealogy.com in Australia nor of David Lanfranco of Lafranco Genealogy Services in Malta nor my research in July 2018 at the National Archives of Malta were able to shed further light on Zeferino's Maltese background.

The earliest reference to Zeferino Said is on the pay list, dated January 1839, in what is now southwestern Ontario. He received £2 Halifax currency (about \$8 US or some \$186 Can. today) for serving as a volunteer in the 11th Provisional Battalion of Militia. This would indicate that he was in the province by 1838 and in the vicinity of Adelaide Township in Middlesex County.

The next reference we find of Said is on February 15, 1840, when he purchased the west half (100 acres) of lot 10, concession 1, north of the Egremont Road, in Warwick Township, Kent County (now Lambton County).

The land was purchased from William Burwell. Burwell, formerly of Southwold Township, Middlesex County (now Elgin Count), was a son of James Burwell a United Empire Loyalist. William Burwell had been granted the entire 200-acre lot as a son of a UEL. Burwell was captain of the Warwick Volunteers in February 1838, but Zeferino Said's name doesn't appear among these volunteers, again leading me to believe that he may have been living in the western part of Middlesex County at the time.

Likewise, Said's name doesn't appear among the heads of households in Warwick Township on the 1842 census.



**A July 2018 View from the Back of the Former Said Farm Looking to the Southeast. Warwick Village Road Is on the Right (West)**

We next find him named as a pathmaster (overseer of statutory road maintenance) at the town meeting for the united townships of Warwick and Bosanquet on January 6, 1845. This meeting was held in the town (actually hamlet) of Warwick. This would place him on his farm which was at the northeast corner of what is

now the intersection of Egremont and Warwick Village roads. Indeed, in February 1850, Said sold off a half acre of his property. This most probably became a part of the village of Warwick.



**Intersection of Egremont and Warwick Village Roads. It Was Probably Where This House Is Standing in July 2018, that Said Sold off a Half Acre of His farm as a Village Lot**

The next record found of Said is the earliest surviving assessment roll for Warwick Township, namely that for 1851. This confirms that he was on lot 10, concession 1. The second earliest surviving assessment roll, that for 1867, also places Said on at this location and his son, Dennis Said, on nearby lot 9, concession 2 north at this time

Meanwhile the 1851 agriculture census, taken in January 1852, places the elder Said on 50 acres of the original 100-acres purchased in 1841. The nominal 1851 census for Warwick appears to have been lost or destroyed over time.

It was most likely in the early 1840s, probably by the Roman Catholic priest Michael Robert Mills or Patrick O'Dwyer then stationed in St. Thomas, that Said was married to Margaret Callahan, born about 1821 in Ireland. Their first child, Dennis, was born on April 17, 1843, followed by Rosanna (c. 1845), Mary (c. 1847), Jeremiah (July 1847), John (c. 1850), Margaret (c. 1852), Richard (c. 1854), William Z. (c. 1856), Michael Joseph (c. September 23, 1862) and Margaret Teresa (c. 1869)

Although Zeferino Said doesn't appear in the Lambton County directories for 1864-5 and 1877 for Warwick Township, the name of his son Dennis appears in the latter on lot 9, concession 2.

Despite the absence of Zeferino's name in the directories we do find him and his family in Warwick Township for the censuses of 1861, 1871 and 1881.

By 1885, Zeferino and his wife Margaret had moved to Port Huron, Michigan where some of their children were then living. By this time, the family tended to spell the surname as Saide, more in keeping with the Maltese pronunciation which sounds like the English word "side" and, in turn, making the surname appear less Arabic. Zeferino's given name also morphed into

Zephrino. Zephrino Saide was listed as a bricklayer and mason at the time of his death in Maple Valley, Sanilac Co., MI, on May 23, 1897. His widow, Margaret, died in Maple Valley, on March 2, 1904.

Meanwhile, their son, **Dennis**, who farmed 100 acres on lot 9, concession 2 north, Warwick Township, was married, on January 21, 1871, by Father Henry Japes, in Forest, Ontario, to Mary Deegan (1842-1895). Dennis had four children, two of whom lived to adulthood. Following the death of his wife in 1895, Dennis sold his farm the following year and appears to have moved to a farm in nearby Plympton Township. Sometime after 1911 he moved to Port Huron, MI where he died on February 26, 1924.

**Rosanna**, the second child of Zeferino and Margaret, apparently named after Zeferino's mother, Rosina Said, was married to James Herron (c. 1843-1885) in Port Huron, MI, on August 27, 1866, by Father L. Kilroy. Rosanna had at least six children. She died in St. Clair, MI on June 6, 1885. Her widowed husband died in July of the same year.

The fourth child, **Jeremiah**, married Catharine A. Daugherty, in Douglas, Nebraska on December 30, 1879. They had five children.

**John**, child number five, married Bridget McMonagle in Port Huron, MI on November 15, 1882. John died on his farm on lot 9, concession 5, south of the Egermont Road in Warwick Township and was survived by his widow and their four children.

The sixth child, **Margaret**, was married on December 31, 1874 in Strathroy, ON, by the Rev. E. Lunsbury to Richard Boulton of Forest. Nothing further is known of them.

**Michael Joseph**, the ninth child, married Catherine J. Dignan in Speaker, Sanilac Co., MI on April 18, 1892. He died on August 22, 1897.

**Mary**, the 3rd child, and **William Z.**, child number eight, appear to have died sometime between the 1861 and 1871 censuses, covering Warwick Township. Nothing has been found on the 7<sup>th</sup> child, **Richard** after the 1871 census or **Margaret Teresa**, the 10<sup>th</sup> and last child, after the 1881 census for Warwick Township.

Now that this little sketch on Zeferino Said/Saide and his family has seen the light of day, no doubt others will uncover more about them and the name of Canada's second Maltese settler will no longer lie in obscurity.

\*This is substantially the article which appeared in The Maltese Canadian Club of London Newsletter, vol. 39, no. 3 (September/October 2018), 17-18.

## JOSEPH EDWARD DOUBLET: THE EARLY YEARS

Dan Brock

The above account of Charles Darmanin (page 7) brings to mind the philanthropic works of Joseph Doublet.

In examining Ivo Muscat-Azzopardi's "Biographies of

Prominent Maltese – Joseph Edward Doublet Journalist – Propagandist" and C.A. Caruana's "Forum Melitense," *Maltese Forum*, vol. I, no 4 9 (Winter 1982) and Fr. Lawrence E. Attard's *Profiles in Maltese Migration* (2003), 162-68, one cannot help but notice the lack of data on Doublet's personal life.

In concentrating on the activities of Joseph Doublet up to the eve of the Second World War, this article attempts to reveal a little more of this Maltese immigrant's personal life.

Joseph Edward Doublet, the son of Antonii and Joanna (Cassar) Doublet, was born in Msida, Malta on February 13, 1901. The Doublets were descendants of Pierre-Jean Louis Ovide Doublet (1749-1824), secretary of Grand Masters De Rohan and von Hompesch from 1781 to 1798.

Giuseppe (Joseph) was educated at the Lyceum, one of Malta's most reputable colleges. In addition to Maltese, he was "proficient in the English language and knew Italian well", a "no mean achievement in those days when most young men were illiterate and could only communicate in their own language.

By November 1919, Giuseppe was living at Duke of York Street, 17, in Hamrun and was employed as a clerk. He was also engaged to Elena Formosa, the daughter of Angelo and Concetta Formosa of Sda Cardinale Sceberras, 22, Hamrun.

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, of that year they were granted a passport to immigrate to Canada. Giuseppe's passage was in part subsidized through the Papaffy Fund. As Elena was only 17 years old, her mother granted her daughter permission to leave the Island.



Giuseppe Doublet

(Passport application photos, November 1919.  
Courtesy of the National Archives of Malta.)



Elena Formosa

The couple were married prior leaving Malta on June 3, 1920. Their intended destination had become Detroit and a Fr. Vince Zambal was noted as their contact there, by the time they boarded the *Adriatic*, on June 16<sup>th</sup> en route for New York Harbour.

Whether the Doublets ever lived in Detroit or immediately settled in New York City is not presently known. It is said, however, that the first person Joseph met after leaving the *Adriatic* was the Maltese priest, Fr.

George Caruana (1882-1951). At the time, Fr. Caruana was pastor of St. Leo Church in Corona (Queens).

The two men were to become great friends. This friendship was to last until the death of Caruana in 1951, by which time he had become a bishop and apostolic nuncio.

As for Doublet, he soon found a steady job with the Pennsylvania Rail Road. He moved through the ranks within the Company, with which he remained for the rest of his working life, and ended up "in charge of thousands of employees, of various races and religious persuasions."

Undoubtedly influenced by Fr. Caruana, Doublet assisted no less than 215 unemployed Maltese, helping them to obtain suitable employment, following the recession of 1921.

On May 19, 1921, President Warren G. Harding approved what became known as The First Quota Law. As far as the Maltese were concerned, this reduced immigration to the US to a mere trickle. This meant that those men with wives and children still in Malta were for the most part unable to have their families join them.

Fr. Caruana and Doublet funded the Malta Society of New York in order to do all they could to help those who could not be joined by their loved ones. While Caruana was elected its president, Doublet became the "overseer" of the Maltese community both within the city and the state of NY.

With the onset of the Great Depression, Doublet was instrumental, in 1930, in establishing the Maltese Benevolent Society (MBS) to visit the sick and the elderly, to help them defray their hospital fees and to provide a decent burial for the dead. The MBS was active for more than 30 years. One of its original members was the Hollywood actor Joseph Calleia (1897-1975).

Doublet established *The Maltese Benevolent Journal*, soon renamed *The Maltese Journal*, in 1935, and operated out of the Doublet home at 246 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Manhattan (New York). This English-language monthly was to survive until 1946.

Meanwhile, both Doublet and Fr. Caruana aided hundreds of jobless Maltese by finding living quarters for them. During the entire period of the depression, Doublet oversaw Thanksgiving and Christmas food-baskets delivered by volunteers to the home of needy Maltese.

He received a surprise visit, in 1939, from Cardinal Joseph Patrick Hayes (1867-1938), archbishop of New York; Alfred Smith (1874-1940), governor of New York; and Grover A. Whalen (1886-1962), future commissioner of the 1939 World's Fair in New York. Their purpose was to see Doublet's Melitensia Library containing some 200 books, a collection of historical "Minutes" dating from the time of the Grand Masters, coin and stamp collections and other important items pertaining to Malta.

This led to exhibitions in New York, Chicago and Philadelphia with the aim of making Malta better known

in the US. Doublet was also entrusted with preparing and setting up a special Malta stand at the New York World's Fair Exhibition of August 1939.

By early 1940, he was living with his wife and two daughters, Mary and Jane, age 18 and 17 respectively, at 800 Ocean Avenue, Jersey City, NJ.

#### **UPCOMING EVENT MELITA SOCCER CLUB - TORONTO, ONTARIO**



#### **Maltese-Canadian Museum Archives and Visitors Centre**

**St. Paul the Apostle Church Complex**  
3224 Dundas St. W.,  
Toronto, ON, M6P 2A3  
1-416-767-7054

#### **THE MALTA CHARITY TRUST FUND OF THE COMMITTEE FOR MALTESE UNITY, INC. N.Y.**

This Charity Trust Fund was founded, effective December 31, 1979, by the Committee for Maltese Unity in order to diminish some of the then existing hardships and to make life a little better for all the underprivileged of the most-needy homes, institutions and welfare groups in Malta.

Among the recipients of this Trust Fund were the Residential Home for the Handicapped in Siggiewi and the Fra Diego Institute, Orphanage in Hamrun.

**CARNIVAL CELEBRATIONS  
THROUGH THE YEARS BY THE  
MALTESE CANADIAN CLUB LONDON - ONTARIO**

*Dan Brock*



February 11, 1956



February 7, 1959



March 2, 1957



February 27, 1960



February 15, 1958



February 11, 1961