

CRANBROOK



Festa Vettrano, 2005

Records, 2004-2005
.25 linear ft.

Acquisition Number:	2005-10
Acquisition:	Records generated by Cranbrook Archives' staff
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History

The history of the Vettraino family in America links inextricably to Cranbrook Educational Community. Michael Vettraino was born November 24, 1884 in the Italian village of Sant'Elia Fiumerapido. In 1905, Michael Vettraino immigrated to the United States and began working for Booth family on their farmland in Bloomfield Hills. Other Italian families including the DiPonios, the Morantes, and the Angelosantos lived and worked at Cranbrook, shaping Cranbrook's landscape under the direction of Cranbrook's founder, George Gough Booth.

Michael Vettraino married Michela, a young woman from part of Italy in 1913. They raised six children on the grounds of Cranbrook: Dominick, Annette, John, Samuel, Concetta, and Rose. Michael's sons, Dominick and John, both worked at Cranbrook for over 50 years, raising their own families on the grounds. Dominick was well known in the Bloomfield Hills community and served the city as city commissioner and mayor. In 1955, Michael Vettraino received the Founders Medal; he was the first Cranbrook employee to receive it. Cranbrook honored 50 years of Vettraino family service with the naming of Piazza Vettraino. As Ben and Margot Snyder wrote, "There is no yardstick capable of measuring what the Vettraino generations have given to the place we all cherish...They were among the pillars upon which George and Ellen Booth built their legacy." John Vettraino's daughter, Cecilia Vettraino Strine, continues the Vettraino legacy working at Brookside School Cranbrook.

On May 1, 2005, Festa Vettraino commemorated 100 years of Vettraino family service to Cranbrook. This event included food, entertainment, music, planting a magnolia tree, and stories of the Vettraino family.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection consists of correspondence, meeting minutes, address lists, printed material, and photographs. It is arranged alphabetically within the collection and chronologically within each folder. The collection contains biographical information about the Vettraino family with detailed information about Michael Vettraino and references to other Vettraino family members. The collection details the work of the Festa Vettraino planning committee, which oversaw the logistics of defining and coordinating a major event. The planning committee consisted of Cranbrook employees and Vettraino family members. It also contains the printed material associated with Festa Vettraino: save the date card, invitation, program, and seed packet.

The memory book contains personal recollections of the Vettraino family and their friends.

The photographs of Festa Vettraino have been removed from the collection and are contained in the PHOTOGRAPH SPECIAL FILE.

Related Collections

- Vettraino Family Papers (1990-15)
- Cranbrook Foundation Records (1981-05)
- George Gough Booth (1981-01)
- Henry Scripps and Carolyn Farr Booth Papers (1982-05)

Box Number—Description

Box 1

1. Biographical
2. Financial. Fire truck restoration.
3. Financial. Gifts and receipts.
4. Planning Committee. Correspondence.
5. Planning Committee. Magnolia tree.
6. Planning Committee. Meeting minutes and agendas.
7. Printed material. Address lists.
8. Printed material. Invitations, save the date, program, and seed packet.

Box 2

MEMORY BOOK

PHOTOGRAPH SPECIAL FILE

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