

**NAME OF PROJECT:** *Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens: Memories of WWII*

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**LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:** Antigonish, NS

**NAME OF INTERVIEWEE:** Geno Victor Scattolon

**NAME OF INTERVIEWER(S):** Nick Sehl; Louanne Aspillaga

**NAME OF VIDEOGRAPHER:** Louanne Aspillaga

**TRANSCRIBED BY:** Louanne Aspillaga

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**Please note that all interviews have been transcribed verbatim. The language in this transcript is as it was provided by the transcriptionist noted above. The project staff has not edited this transcript for errors.**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Geno Victor Scattolon, an 83 year old man, was born on September 4, 1928 in Dominion, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. There he lived his early life with his father, his mother, and his two older brothers. His father, Romano Scattolon, a miner, was arrested on June 10, 1940, and was detained in Sydney Jail, Sydney, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. He was then sent to Camp Petawawa, Ontario, where he was interned for 27 months. Geno was just 12 years old at the time when his father was taken away. In this interview, Geno recalls how hard it was for his family (especially for his mother) during his father's absence. His oldest brother was forced to take up the reins of the household, while his uncle looked out for them. For the most part, the Scattolons were not mistreated by their community, except for a couple of incidents which Geno recounts. The first was a confrontation between his uncle and a customer at the family's small business (food store) and the second was a fight Geno had with another boy at the local pool hall. Geno also talks a little about his political views regarding the then Minister of Justice, Louis St. Laurent, and the Liberal Party.

## **INTERVIEW**

**GS: Geno Victor Scattolon, interviewee**

**NS: Nick Sehl, interviewer**

**LA: Louanne Aspillaga, interviewer**

**LA: Louanne Aspillaga, videographer**

[Title screen]

[Fades in at 0:00:11.6]

NS: This is Nicholas Sehl, the Nova Scotia researcher. Uh, 30 Xavier Drive. July 22nd--or June 22nd, 2011 with Mr. Scattolon. Hello sir.

GS: Yes, sir.

NS: Ok, can I ask you your full name and birth please?

GS: Full name is Geno Victor Scattolon. Uh age...82. September fourth, 1928.

NS: And when were you--where were you born?

GS: Dominion.

NS: Dominion, Nova Scotia?

GS: Nova Scotia.

NS: Tell me about your family, your parents, and grandparents and...

GS: Well, my [clears throat] ...other two brothers were deceased. We grew ou--up together and uh had a fine time. Home life was very good. My father provided for all of us. We moved from one section of the town to, to a little confectionary story--store. And it proved out good. Had a garden, had a cow, had a pig, it had chickens! And uh and that's about it.

NS: And where was this exactly, the--

GS: Ah, Mitchell Avenue.

NS: Mitchell Avenue. In?

GS: Dominion

NS: ...And did you go to school?

GS: Yes, oh yes.

NS: And how much schooling did you receive?

GS: Pardon?

NS: How much schooling did you receive? How, how long did you attend school for?

GS: Oh, to uh Grade 12.

NS: And where did you--

GS: I, I finished in Grade 12 in Glace Bay.

NS: And the name of the school sir?

GS: St. Anne's High school.

NS: And, and what kind of experience did you have during school?

GS: Oh very good. Very good. Met more, more--met a lot of people. Met my wife for six years and here we are after 54 years, married. So it was a good experience.

NS: And at what age did you take work?

GS: Work...now...teaching?

NS: Uh, aah--your first job?

GS: Uh, in '56.

NS: '56. And what was it?

GS: Teaching.

NS: Teaching? Um, did you--and--what--before this while you were--during your childhood did you do any types of jobs or work?

GS: Well I had--we were, were--I, I played drums and I played in the band with five of us. We made little money--'twas fun. Um... during my...during my sixth--St. FX years worked in the steel plant. Um, attended Sis. Springfield Mass [?] with a Masters. And uh that's about it. Yeah.

NS: Um, going back to your childhood - the neighbourhood. Um, is there any memories you have specifically about it? Um, the area, who your neighbours or...?

GS: No, not, not, not--Just that I had a lot of good friends

NS: Yes

GS: And uh we had lots of fun. Played a lot of pond hockey. Then we--cou...we didn't get to Glace Bay because it was too far away and you had to pay for the ice. But I got, I got there eventually in Grade 12 [chuckles] but that's where my uh hockey career started. And I came to St. FX.

NS: And you played for St. FX?

GS: Oh yes! Four years.

NS: Four years.

GS: [Whispers] Yeah.

NS: Um, in your neighbourhood was there a specific makeup? What, what was it an Italian neighbourhood?

GS: Mostly Italian.

NS: Yes?

GS: [Whispers] Yeah. Mostly Italian. But we were accepted and we played baseball. And we were accepted into the community and uh nothing serious.

NS: Yes.

GS: Uh, you know. So it's good.

NS: Um, and you already mentioned you played a lot of hockey.

GS: Yup.

NS: Um, you attended church services in your community?

GS: Oh yeah.

NS: Yeah uh--and a specific church?

GS: Uh Catholic church you see--

NS: Yes, but uh [inaudible]

GS: St. Eugene's

NS: St. Eugene's? Um were you part of any other organizations like--

GS: No, TYO [?]

NS: Yes.

GS: Ya

NS: Ok. And nothing else you remembered like what you did for fun? [inaudible]

GS: Hmmm, no nothing serious. No.

NS: Ok. Um, and at what age did you marry?

GS: I married at 27. She was 25.

NS: Ok and you said you met her in?

GS: I met her at St. Anne in Glace Bay [Chuckles]

NS: And she was from--

GS: I met her--I'll tell you a little story. I was playing baseball with the imports in-- between North Side [?] [inaudible] had imports, [whispers] strike, Americans. And I-- strike--I broke my thumb and I couldn't play anymore for a couple of weeks. So I was driving taxi for my uncle. And she was walking down, down to Glace Bay. She was walking to, to dinner. And I stopped the car and I picked her up. She x-rayed my thumb and that was the start [Laughs]. So here we are 54 years later!

NS: And you say were driving taxi. Did you drive taxi a lot?

GS: Yeah for my uncle. Yeah.



NS: And you did that a lot?

GS: Du--during the summers.

NS: Oh really?

GS: After--aft--between--yeah between the universities. [Whispers] Yeah.

NS: And your uncle's name was?

GS: Luigi.

NS: And he was a taxi driver?

GS: Taxi driver. [Nods]

NS: Uh...and obviously have you had children in your...?

[0:05:01.1]

GS: Oh yeah, my. I have three children. Two girls and a boy.

NS: And their names?

GS: Names are Eugena who is a teacher in Toronto. Uh, Yveto [?] 's uh a psychologist in Halifax and David is a teacher in Perth, Ontario.

NS: Um, about--in your community were you involved in any political organizations--

GS: No. [Shakes head]

NS: --or Italian organizations? No?

GS: [Whispers] No.

NS: And do you remember, before the war, was there any mention of Fascist activity or-  
-

GS: No. Not that I know of. Uh--I remember once when I was small...them having a meeting at the, the Italian Hall. I'd--couldn't understand what it was but uh--that, that was--I don't what that was really to, to tell you the truth.

NS: Yeah

GS: I don't know what that was...

NS: But that's-- [inaudible]

GS: That's, that's the only thing that I can remember.

NS: And [inaudible] you don't remember any um, resistance to Fascism or...?

GS: No, no. [Takes a breath. Shakes head]. No, no. No resistance. No nothing.

NS: And outside this Italian community. How did you get along with the other um, um...

GS: Englishmen!

NS: Yes!

GS: [Laughs] Good! Very good. Met a lot of good friends. Yeah. [Inaudible] and everything was good.

NS: So it was very--

GS: No--it-- [inaudible] was good. It was good.

NS: Yes.

GS: It was good.

NS: [Whispers] Ok. Ok. So now moving to the time of internment. Um, do, do you remember the day that your father was--

GS: Yes, I remember. Eh--I was in the house when I saw him coming down the street. And there was a car outside, picked him up by the arm, and put him in the car and they were gone. He never, he never had the chance to come in say, "Hi," "Goodbye," or nothing.

NS: And, and do you remember what day this was?

GS: Oh God. I wouldn't know what date. I wouldn't know what date it was. They usually take um--the hobo takes them ho--back and forth to the mines.

NS: Yes

GS: And it was 4 o--4 o'clock around 4 or 5, around that area. [Whispers] Yeah.

NS: And do you remember having, as you said, having--do you remember how he was treated by the police? Something specific?

GS: Well I, I, I can't say. All I know is one Mountie went downstairs and emptied a bottle of wine down the drain. I don't know why. They took our money and I think they gave us two dollars a week to, to live on. That's basically it.

NS: And--you ne--you didn't receive an, an explanation as to why he was taken?

GS: [Shakes head] Nobody come up to us and said, "Look, we, we took your father because we think he was--with--they [inaudible] anything with the mafia--well not the mafia--the fascists. We didn't know a damn thing. [Inaudible] No.

NS: And did you know where he was being taken?

GS: Nope. [Shakes head] All we know is that he was in Ha--Sydney Jail...and his favourite, his good friend, Peter Favretto, from New Waterford, was beaten up badly. Yeah, was beaten up badly.

NS: So when was the first time you learned where he was or...?

GS: Oh God. I, I ca--I really can't say. We didn't know where he was. And that's what I am saying, there was no commu--no communication. There was no--

NS: There was no official [inaudible] that answered your statement?

GS: No. No, no. No, no, no, no, no. [Shakes head]

NS: And never any evidence given of why he was taken or justification?

GS: No. No, no. [Shakes head]. Nothing! Nothing!

NS: Ok, so to what he's told you or what he told of uh his life in camp. Where was he interned?

GS: Petawawa.

NS: Petawawa?

GS: [Whispers] Yeah.

NS: Yeah. And how long was he there for?

GS: I'd say two and half, three years.

NS: Um, what was his overall thoughts in the camp? What did he think of this experience there?

GS: He, he didn't say--he never re--he didn't pay--he didn't talk about it too much when he come home. He didn't talk about it too much. He lost his job at the mines but he got a job at the steel plant. And then they called him back to go to the mines. So that's how he got his job back.

NS: And he is--he was there with friends he knew from the area or?

GS: Oh, oh yeah. [Nods]

NS: Did he mention like spe--certain ones he was there with or...?

GS: No, he, he mentioned this Dr. Pancaro.

NS: Yes.

GS: That he knew very well. That he was gonna help Carmela. And uh, he mentioned a lot--not names. He mentioned people that were lawyers and doctors and ordinary people that are...but uh that's basically it.

NS: Um, what about the accommodation--

GS: Huh?

NS: --did he ever talk about the food--

GS: No, he didn't say that they were.... No, he didn't say that they were bad or ill-treated or anything. He just didn't mention. [Whispers] No.

NS: And un--no--un--did he have relatives at the camp or?

GS: No. The only--he, he had um, Bert Gatto from New Waterford, good friend of his. Um, Mario Furini, in Dominion, a good friend of his. And uh, Nardocchio from Sydney. He was there. That--those were the two [inaudible]. And Nardocchio did all the spoke-- he was the spokesman--coz he can speak English good. He's their spokesman.

NS: Did he ever say that they took part in anything recreational or anything in entertainment or anything?

[0:09:59.1]

GS: No, they, they went to uh the woods a lot. [Chuckles] Cu--cut pulp I guess. [Sniffs]

NS: Um, and you had--did you have an interaction between your father while he was away or your mother?

GS: Well...in the store. In the little store we had uh, we used to sell salami. People would come in and buy salami. So this Ms.--gentleman--would come in and say in the uh wanted salami and my mother cut it for him and gave it to him. And he wouldn't pay for it. So Uncle Louie was in the kitchen. So Uncle Louie come out with that knife. He said, "If you don't pay for that salami I'll slice your head off." He was mad because you know

who, who was he to look for something free. And that's basically it that I know of any...a--apart from that, it was okay.

NS: And did he have any correspondence--was there correspondence or access to anyone inside the camp? Was he allowed to—

GS: No.

NS: --mail or?

GS: No, he, he never mentioned.

NS: Never?

GS: Never mentioned. No.

NS: Uh, did anyone ever visit him in the camps?

GS: [Inaudible] [Shakes head] If we could have visit we could, but we didn't know. We could have gone.

NS: Um, so with your home life during this time while your father was away--

GS: It was good. My big--

NS: Who were the breadwinners?



GS: --My bigger brother took--kind--took reins. My--Orlando, he took, he took over. And uh it was tough. It was tough. My mother, she, she, she, she, she uh missed him. We all missed him! But uh, she, she found it tough.

NS: Do you remember what you might have done specifically to cope during this time?

GS: No. Nothing. We uh...stole coal. [Laughs] That's about all. We had no money. Uh...it was tough going. It was a tough 3 years.

NS: Um, is there anything specifically with your mother, about how she dealt with the pressure of the times?

GS: Well, she uh...she was mild anyway and she was very generous. Then it was the time of the coupons for coffee, and sugar, and butter. And she'd give those to, to people that would come in that wouldn't have the coupons. She'd give it to them. And when she died that--she had a marvelous funeral and they all remembered her. She was so good to everybody but uh that's about all, you know.

NS: When did your mother pass, sir?

GS: She was 49 when she died in 1949.

NS: Um, what about your neighbours? Did they support you or the opposite?

GS: Wells, peoples came to visit my mother and uh...just, just--t--to be in company. But everyone kind of kept to themselves. It was kind of quiet. It was kind of...well...See ah--I was in Grade eight then. I uh...I wouldn't...It would be serious but not serious enough.

But my brother, wa, wa--he was serious. He knew that everything was happening. And uh when's, when he'd come home it was quite, quite joyous. Quite good.

NS: And your brother's full name, sir? Sorry.

GS: Assunta Raggonolo [?]

NS: And he was the oldest?

GS: Who wha--fa--my brother?

NS: Yes

GS: Orlando!

NS: Oh

GS: [Whispers] Yeah. Orlando...well I forget his uh middle name. Orlando Scattalon, yeah.

NS: And um, you mentioned your uh--your uncle. Did he and other relatives help support your family during this time?

GS: Uh--well--did-- [Exhales] In certain ways yes, you know, ya they did. And Uncle Louie did. He was uh good. But uh, people kind of kept, kept to, kept to themselves in that, that era.

NS: Do you have any reasons--uh do know why? Or just...?

GS: No, just...well because they took him away. You know, he and Mario. And he didn't know and we couldn't explain. I couldn't explain. I didn't know why, you know. And if I did know, I wouldn't--it's none of their business anyway!

NS: Did the church or the--and the Italian community or the Hall help--

GS: Well, the Hall had parties and that and...numerous parties...Not--nothing. No.

NS: No?

GS: [Whispers] No.

NS: And you were in school during this period? Um, did your treatment from the teachers and fellow students change--

GS: No, no. Good, good. No, no, no problems. [Shakes head]

NS: And no, no memories of this during time?

GS: [Shakes head] No.

NS: Did you have any relatives serving the military or Canadian Forces during this time?

GS: No...not that I know of. [Chuckles] It might--but--it might...be hidden somewhere.

[Laughs] No, no.

NS: Do you remember the date when your father returned home?

GS: No, I wish I would. I know he brought back uh that little boat that's in that's thing.  
He brought that back.

LA: How big was the one your father brought back?

GS: [Whispers] About that big. [Makes hand gesture] About that big.

LA: Is it something that he carved?

[0:14:58.6]

GS: I don't know who it came from but it was pretty nice. And then he had a portrait of himself. A charcoal portrait of himself in the camp. It was very nice.

NS: Did he make that in the camp, sir or?

GS: Yeah in the camp.

NS: And this was just something he did in his....

GS: We--well I don't know who did it.

NS: Oh.

GS: But uh it was very nice.

LA: Do you have those materials still?

GS: Pardon?

LA: Do you have uh the sketch--

GS: Ah.

LA: --and the ship?

GS: [Whispers] No.

LA: No? Do you know what became of them?

GS: [Chuckles] No, I don't.

LA: That would have been very good--

GS: I, I think they gave it away to somebody. I don't know what--had--my father. He, he'd come home with it. I can notice it in the pamphlet. But he said the--ver--eh--he met some nice people. Nice people, you know...

NS: So specifically when he returned home did you know in advance that he was coming or was it just--

GS: Well, we had--we--we've--we--we've given word about a day or two ahead.

NS: From whom, the police or the military?

GS: Oh geez. [Chuckles] I don't know. I haven't got a--All I know is I came from the movie and there was 10 wi--10--10 women in there cleaning up and doing floors and doing this and--coz he was coming the next day.

NS: Yeah

GS: That's, that's about all. Um...

NS: Um--

LA: How did arrive home? Did he just show up on your doorstep--

GS: Just showed up--

LA: --or did you have to pick him up?

GS: Showed up on the doorstep. That I know of. Uh, he's having kind [unclear]

NS: Did he stood--when he returned home did you notice some effect on it? Did he speak about his time there or--?

GS: No [Shakes head]

NS: No?

GS: He had lot of--he had a lot of people coming to visit him. Lot of men and women. People. But he never spoke about it.

NS: Do you remember--

GS: He was so happy to get home.

NS: [Unclear] so happy?

GS: Yeah. We're happy to have him. [Whispers] Yeah...

NS: And so the time after, the week after he was home, was it easy to go back to--

GS: Well it--wa--it was kind of a transformation. It was kind of uh an orientation. He--it's funny having him around, you know, he'd co--after all these years and um, he--one of his main worries was getting work, you know. [Unclear] would he get his job back or... what would people think and uh, I think he got accepted and so, just got back in routine.

NS: You said he worried of former [unclear]. Was he able to, to secure his former job?

GS: No, he di--didn't get to--the job at the mines. But he got a job at the steel plant.

NS: And was there a reason he didn't get it?

GS: I, I don't know. See I don't--I can't tell you. I can't tell you.

NS: And so he went to the steel plant. Was that his career after that point?

GS: No, no he'd come back to the mines. [Whispers] Yeah.

NS: And [unclear]--

GS: [Unclear]

NS: --reason why that might have changed?

GS: See I was too young then to realize uh would there be any animosity any--eh, eh--  
wha--wonder--wha--what would the miner--the, the uh superintendent--the--they  
wouldn't take him back because he was in the camp or ha--he, he--we--wouldn't know  
that.

NS: Um, do you recall a difference, um, as the--as you were--as an Italian, when your  
father was interned, was he treated differently by the Italian community or by the  
outside community?

GS: No, no, not, not really. Not really. He's...As a matter of fact he became President of  
the Italian Community Hall. He uh...No, he was a worker. He...Nope. [Nods slightly]

NS: Do you remember anything he did with the Hall as President?



GS: Yeah, we--well he organized things. Suppers what-not and donations to the poor and what-not. He also gave--day-to-day raise money and then they, they improved the Hall. They renovated the Hall and...[Whispers] Yeah. Yeah.

LA: How long after the war did your father become the President of the Italian Community Hall? Was it right after or--

GS: Within a couple of years. Yeah.

LA: --And there wa--was there a large membership uh--

GS: Oh yes quite...Oh--

LA: --in the Italian--

GS: Oh Italian Hall. Italian people in, in, in Dominion were big. They were, they were big. Yeah--

NS: [Unclear] of real importance, especially after he returned.

GS: --Yeah, and um they'd put a supper on or uh every festival. The women would work and uh each Italian family would cook a turkey and uh...they'd come from all over. From North Sydney to Sydney Mines and New Waterford. And they'd have a little dance after and have a good time.

NS: Were you involved—

GS: They still, they still do it!

NS: --Were you involved a lot, sir, during this time?

GS: No, I wasn't involved. No, I wasn't involved...I was involved in collecting the turkey  
[Laughs].

NS: Um, did your father ever share any thoughts with you about his time in the  
internment? His thoughts about it.

GS: [Shakes head] I couldn't tell you what he did, or if he enjoyed it, if he was  
persecuted...He never mentioned. He never talked.

NS: Um, you're familiar with the debate now with the Canadian government during this  
time. Um, what are your thoughts on it and how do you feel about this?

[0:19:56.4]

GS: Well [clears throat]. St. Laurent was at the times, eh. Uh, he, he wasn't very  
favourable. He just demanded that these people be taken in and that's it. Uh, no  
where's, what, or but's. I, I, I can't say uh ...I, I, I disliked him for that. I disliked him for  
that. Um, it's just like the Japanese people in--in out West. Ah---eh--Um. They di--they  
didn't give them a chance, you know, they...usually if you're, you're--you've done  
something you, you should be allowed to express yourself and tell what--if you are a  
member of here or whatever it is and um...it wasn't, it wasn't like that. He--had--I don't

think it was fair. I don't think it was fair...And... [Pause] But funny, Italian people voted Liberal after that...so...

NS: And sir, do you remember that or...?

GS: [Nods] [Mouths] Yes. If I was my father I would never had vote Liberal again. Never... but uh, that's the way it goes...uh...See...he, he never spoke to us about even being Liberal or Progressive-Conservative or NDP or.... He never spoke to us about it then and said uh, This is why I am voting Liberal or this is why I am... Because all he, all he's had was Liberal. [Whispers] Yeah. And they won the votes. They went to the Liberals. They went to the taverns in New Waterford, in Glace Bay, in North Sydney, in Sydney Mines. [Whispers] Yeah. But today, it's a little bit different I guess. I don't know. [Pause] That's it.

NS: Louanne...[Unclear]

LA: Um, yeah so maybe uh I just want to go back in earlier times, when you said you were in Grade eight during World War Two, when your father was taken. Um, and you said you weren't mistreated by your friends or teachers. Uh, was it because they didn't know that your father was taken away?

GS: Well, I don't know! I, I, I'm shy and I can't say, Yes or No. Ah--I know, I know everything went just went--kept going and there was no animosity. Uh...so I, I can't uh...and I--and in grade--when he was away the first year, I wanted to quit school too in Grade eight. And my brother said, "You're not quitting school." He said, I, I wanted to quit school.

NS: Was that to go to work, sir? Or--

GS: Yeah

NS: --Yeah. For something specific you had in mind? Or?

GS: Well, well I, I would go in the mines. I would go in the mines.

NS: But your brother wouldn't let that.

GS: [Shakes head]

NS: Did he--

GS: He'd uh--he'd uh....

NS: --Did he stay in school through all this?

GS: Yeah

NS: As well?

GS: [Nods] [Whispers] Yeah... [Pause]

LA: Um--

GS: I remember once at the pool hall. I was playing pool and all of a sudden there's an orange peel come on the pu--pool table. So I picked it up and put it aside. And another one and another one coming. And there's this McCloughan [?] fella, who uh...was start--tossing the orange peel. And I said, "What's wrong? You've got a problem?" He says, "Yeah, you wanna make something of it?" I said, "Okay. You wanna, you wanna go outside?" So I, I was a little timid because I was the only one that was Italian there. He had his brother there and a bunch of them. So out we go outside. And first thing, he tried to kick me in the privates. And with that, I hit him--uh I hit him in the face and smashed his nose. [Chuckles] And the shoemaker was Italian; he was watching this. Coz it was tense at the time too. It was tense at the time. So he's inside, the shoemaker, and uh, I punch him in the nose and made blood fu--coming. And his brother said to him, "Good enough for you. You looked for it. There it is." And I was still scared coz I, I could have gotten it. But I just turned around and walked home. And that was one incident that I--I'll never forget it. Yup--

LA: How old were you at the time?

GS: I'd say I was 12-13.

LA: Did your brothers--

GS: No, they weren't

LA: --experience anything?

GS: --They weren't there. They, they weren't there. But that--they, they never experienced anything. No. [Whispers] No.

LA: Can you recall--

GS: It was just kind of a little inc--kind of a...an innocent thing with the way it was you know... I was scared too. I was scared. I was scared of the brother and his friends. And it, it was at the time when they took my father. And you know it's all part, part of it. Angelo Cecchetto was watching it from his shop and he didn't know what to do and uh...he didn't want to get involved I guess. And after I hit him, his brother said, "Good enough for you. Good enough for you." And then I turned around and walked home.

NS: So now looking back do you think that other Italians were scared to get involved or help out because of what had happened to your father and others?

[0:25:00.0]

GS: [Nods] Sure. Sure.

NS: And no other experiences other than that?

GS: No. [Shakes head] [Whispers] No. No other choice.

LA: So. After the war, your family stayed in Glace--in Glace Bay?

GS: No, in Dominion. Oh yeah, we stayed.

LA: Oh Dominion.

GS: [Whispers] Yeah.

LA: And when did you guys move down here to Antigonish?

GS: Oh, ok. I, uh, finished Grade 12 and uh father said to--pu--pu--we'd go out to St. FX and I did. So, that's four years in St. FX, a year at Springfield. And uh, a year of education and then I'd come back to Dominion and ta--ta--taught three years and then, I would come back to Halifax to teach one year. And uh, then the next year we got married. And we stayed in Antigonish. There was an opening in Antigonish and I stayed here for 33 years. [Chuckles] Teaching.

NS: Um, with all this, with these questions we've been asking you, sir, is there any other thoughts of the--this topic, about stories, that come to mind?

GS: No, certain people asked me, "Uh, where's your father? Where he's gone?" I said, "I can't tell you. I don't know." And I don't know. And...they were curious. They were saying--they were wondering, what, what happened, you know. Even the other Italians didn't know what was going on, you know. It ha--I really to this day, if he was a member of the, of the, of the...Fascist, I don't remember. There was no sign of it. And uh I...All I know is they took him away and we didn't have him for three years and things didn't--weren't too good in my household. They weren't. And I'll never forget it, neither. And like I say, I would never--Li--vote, vote Liberal again, because of Sss...St. Laurent. But uh, ho--I do--we--how, how, how did the Upper Canadians, the doctors, the do--the lawyers, how did they consider St. Laurent at the time? I'd like to know too. What were their feelings?

NS: Has your thoughts from this changed as--you--as time has passed more and more or do they remain the same?

GS: [Exhales] They, they remain the same. Yeah.

NS: No new thoughts on it or...?

GS: [Shakes head] They remain the same.

LA: Do you have any--

GS: People forget. Forget easily. Yeah, but you give up two years of your life, you know. And then not that, the repercussions. Your family and your house and your--the feelings and everything else. Geez...it's all part it. Yes, dear?

LA: Was there anything else you wanted to mention uh about the war period or--

GS: No

LA: --about this project that you wanted to say before we finish up?

GS: No. Nothing--not--not--he had-- All I say, we're--we're ha--happy to get him back and he's gone in peace and he, he enjoyed himself to a certain extent that he was treated well and he'll say that for it. And he made a lot of friends and uh, we're happy to have him home.



NS: I'll just ask, did your father stay close to the people that were with him in the camps, afterwards--

GS: Uh, he, he a--a fe--few of the people he wrote, he wrote to them. Like Pancaro I think and a few others. [Whispers] Yeah, yeah. He did.

NS: And you yourself, do you have contact--

GS: No [Shakes head]

NS: --with the children of?

GS: Oh ah. Peter Favretto was in the camp, he's, he's the one who got beat up at uh Halifa--and then in Sydney. We went to--my father and I went to ah Montreal one, one summer. And we met him, and met Yolanda, and met Maria. So that's the only family that I know of.

NS: Do you remember what summer that was, sir?

GS: Oh, let's see....[Pause] About my 21st...21st summer. Yeah. I was 21. Went to Montreal [unclear].

NS: And just in closing any final thoughts you may have for this project or what you hoped this--

GS: No

NS: --project might do for the future?

GS: Well I just hope that it's gonna do something good and that people are interested and that...shows some meet--some people have interests in this. I didn't realize that it was, it was going. Ah, so it's, it's good. Good. [Nods & smiles]

NS: Thank you very much, sir.

GS: Good.

[Fades out at 00:29:30.5]

**[End of interview]**