

### The Bruno and Dolores Seghetti Family Fund

There are an immense number of reasons why Italians in the early 1900s would choose to pull up their roots and move to the United States. However, this transition to a new life came with many risks. Understanding these risks clearly, immigrants would ease their transition by establishing a network of family, friends, and familiarity. The best and most common place for immigrants to gain this familiarity was at a 'bordonti'. The 'bordonti' was like a hotel in the ways of offering a place to eat and sleep. In addition, the immigrants were surrounded with familiar language, food, and guidance for integration into life in America. One of the most popular 'bordonti' was owned and operated by the Seghetti family.



The Seghetti family first established their roots in America when young Sam Seghetti left his home in Magginone, Italy for New York. Upon his arrival Sam acquired a job on the railroad at the age of 15. Soon after his arrival his father crossed the Atlantic and made his way to Chicago. Shortly after the father's arrival, Sam's brother, sister, and mother too came to Chicago. Now all together again, the family started their new American life.

The Seghetti family began their family 'bordonti' named the Seghetti Boarding House in Chicago. Many city dwellers and Italian immigrants visited and stayed due to the affordable cost. After about 10 successful years, the Seghetti's purchased their family farm, two and half miles east of North Judson.

The new farm was the start of a new generation in the Seghetti family. At the farm, Sam married his lovely wife, Pia, in 1914. In November of 1914, only just a few months later, the couple had Bruno, their only son. Immediately the family began to build a two-room house. Little did they know, the 'bordonti' business would follow them and put the Seghetti Farm on the maps. Over the years, the two-room house grew to multiple buildings, with 26 bedrooms in total!

Friends, family, and strangers would visit the Seghetti Farm during the summer months. In the fall and winter months, the farm was hunted by an abundance of hunters. Passed down through generations, many family members had ownership in the family business, including son Bruno and his wife, Dolores. Until its time of closing in 1965, the Seghetti family operated a working, producing farm and a year-round resort for 50 years. They had established thousands of customers, mainly from Italian descent, and over 500 acres of land.

The family bond is strong amongst the Seghetti family. Lynn, the daughter of Bruno and Dolores, wanted to honor her parents and preceding generations. In December of 2014, Lynn established the Bruno and Dolores Seghetti Family Fund with the Starke County Community Foundation. This fund provides ongoing support to local charitable organizations in the beautification of the North Judson Erie Trail.

With the creation of this fund, the Seghetti family name and legacy will live on forever in Starke County!