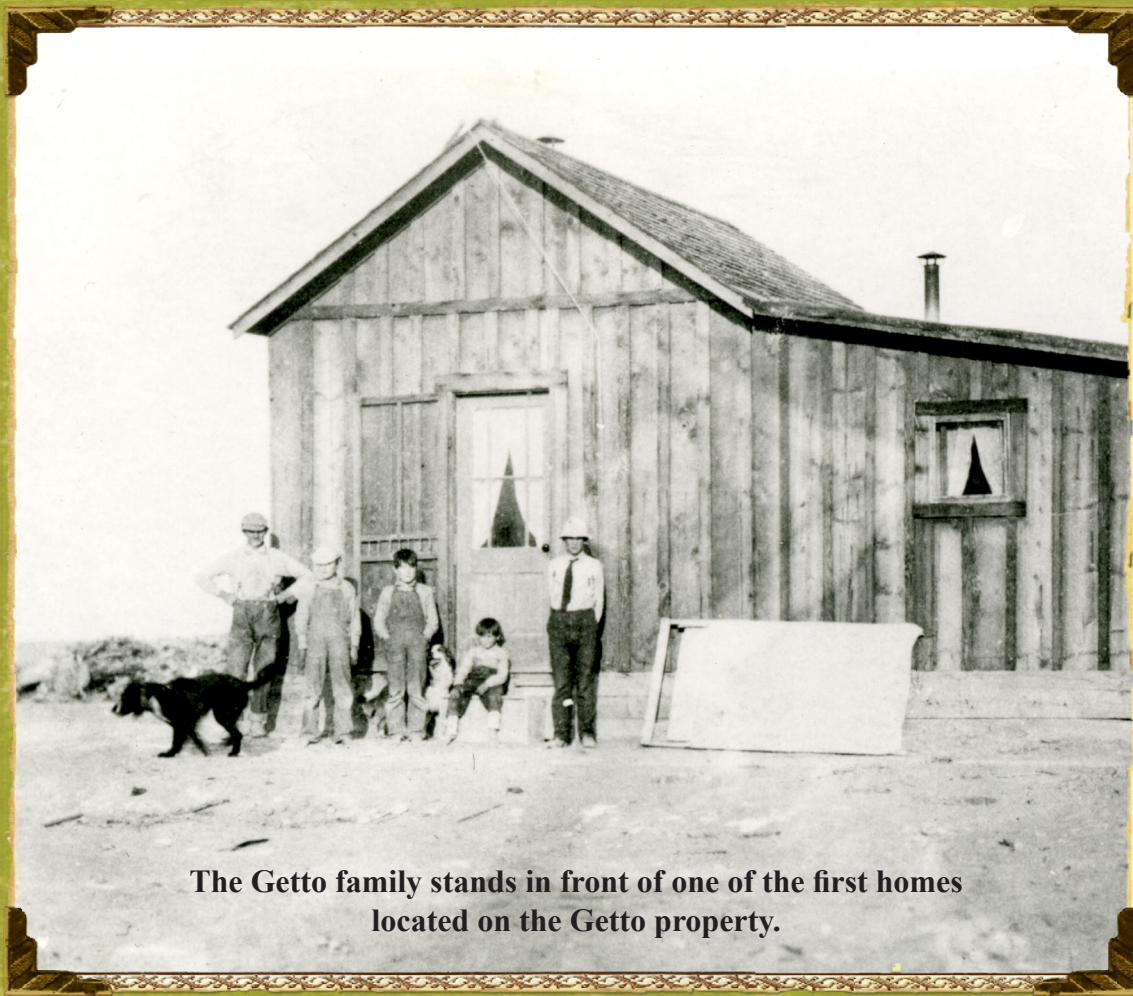


NEVADA CENTENNIAL

Ranch & Farm Awards Program

2011



The Getto family stands in front of one of the first homes located on the Getto property.

Celebrating the Nevada
Heritage of John and Andrew
Getto and their Families
1911 ~ 2011

Love of the Land, Love of Family — Common Bonds Lasting Through the Centuries

It was late October 1911 when John (1880-1964) and Andrew (1884-1971) Getto, and their good friend Ed Frazzini purchased a 145 acre farm in Churchill County. In addition to the property, they also purchased wagons, a scraper, cultivator, and harrow, an assortment of tools, implements, harnesses, several head of horses and livestock, and about 30 tons of alfalfa hay, for \$10 in gold coin. Now, 100 years later, the equipment, hay, and livestock are gone, but the family thrives and continues to contribute to the rich history of Nevada.

John immigrated to the United States in 1904. He left northern Italy and came to Reno when he was 23 years old. He worked on the first reclamation project in the United States, the Newlands Reclamation Project. From there, he headed to the booming mining towns of Goldfield, Silver Peak, Mary Mine, and Tonopah, where he met Ed Frazzini, a fellow countryman. They started a small business which included a bar, mining supplies, and clothing.



Pictured above (l to r): Desolina and Andrew Getto, Mary Getto Bria (sister) and Mike Bria, Angelina and Joe Getto (brother), and Carolina and John Getto.



Seated above (l to r) are Fremont Bria, and Joe, Andrew, and John Getto .

Andrew, John's younger brother, left Italy for Switzerland where he worked in a coal mine. He immigrated to the United States, arriving in Reno around 1906. He worked as a bricklayer and helped build some of the apartments around Fourth Street. A man named Galetti got Andrew interested in truck farming and tried to get him to buy some land. Andrew wasn't interested because the land was too rocky. John talked Andrew into moving to Tonopah to work in the mines.

A sugar beet factory had been growing in Fallon, so the Getto brothers and Frazzini moved to Fallon in 1911. The enterprising men set up a diner at the La Industrial Hotel which Frazzini built. Later that year, they purchased a ranch from Charles W. Foote, and started a second-hand furniture store in town. Frazzini assumed management of the furniture store in the early part of 1912, while John and Andrew took over the ranch, each taking the portion on opposite sides of the north branch of the Carson River, known as Old River, that runs between the two properties.

In June of 1912, Carolina Gillio (1888-1978) and John Getto were married. They had three children, Robert, Sr., Elena Getto Cunningham, and Elsie. Robert is very proud that he lived the first 89 years of his life in the home where he was born. Robert's son, John, currently farms the original land, raising alfalfa hay and teff grain.

A bachelor at 36, Andrew went to Italy to meet a distant cousin his the family had picked out for him to marry. Andrew wanted nothing to do with her, but he met Catarina Desolina Longo (1895-1972). He told Desolina that if she could make it to America, he would marry her. She saved for five years and borrowed money from her sister to make the trip, but had to flip a coin to decide



Robert Getto is proud of the beautiful home where he lived the first 89 years of his life.



Cooling off in the river in 1930 were Desolina, Andrew, Mike Bria, four Bria children, and Virgil (*far right*).

if she would marry Andrew or stay in New York, which would be a much more exciting life than the desert life in Nevada. Nevada won, and Desolina and Andrew were married in 1923. After 41 years of bachelorhood, Andrew was married and soon became the proud father of two children, Virgil and Mary. Virgil has lived on the farm his entire life. Virgil's eldest son, Mike, currently farms the original land, raising alfalfa hay, grain, and pasture.

Virgil says life was much harder in those early years. "They worked extremely hard, preparing and leveling their land for the new irrigation project being built at the Lahontan Dam. With horses and backbreaking work, they raised hay, sugar beets, grain, and potatoes. They also raised chickens, turkeys, and pigs; fed beef cattle; and milked cows, selling the cream for butter and feeding the skimmed milk to their animals. They were pretty much self sufficient in those early days, and raised their families in this way."



Andrew (*above*) loads sacks of wheat from his harvest.

The Getto Families are being inducted into the Nevada Centennial Farm and Ranch Program in recognition of their rich history, long-time contributions, dedication to agriculture, and their commitment to the future of Nevada and Nevadans.

Sources: *Getto Family has been here for 75 years*, Fallon Eagle Standard newspaper article, Oct. 27, 1978; *Christmas traditions and memories*, Fallon Star Press newspaper article, Dec. 23, 2005; Bunny Corkill, Researcher, Churchill County Museum, 2011.

Inducted October 15, 2011

Received from E. D. Frazzini, John Getto and Andrew Getto the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) gold coin of the United States of America as payment in full for the following described personal property which I have sold and delivered this day to the said E. D. Frazzini, John Getto and Andrew Getto (to each an undivided one-third interest) and which I warrant to be free from all debt and incumbrance of any nature or kind whatsoever:--

- One bay gelding named "Dick"
- One bay mare named "Babe"
- One white mare named "Bina" with sucking colt.
- One black mare named "Dina" with sucking colt.
- One black mare named "Margaret" with sucking colt.
- One gray mare named "Kit"
- One bay 3-year-old cold named "Tim"
- One bay 2-year-old mare named "Daisy"
- One brown horse mule named "George B" 2½-year-old
- One black sucking colt named "George"
- One back sucking colt named "Queen"
- One spotted roan cow named "Roaney"
- One black 2-year-old heifer named "Fillie"
- One red steer 1½-year-old named "Doc"
- One roan 1911 heifer calf named "May"
- About 30 chickens
- 3 Pekin ducks
- 2 wagons, 2 scrapers, 2 plows, 1 cultivator, 1 harrow, 1 tail board scraper, about 30 tons of alfalfa hay in stack, together with all other tools, implements, harness, and appliances for use in the cultivation and carrying on of the ranch owned by me and located about one and one-half miles north of the City of Fallon, County of Churchill, State of Nevada, more particularly described as the west one-half of the south-east quarter, (W½ of SE¼), the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter (SW¼ of NE¼) and all that portion of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter (SE¼ of NE¼) lying north of the channel of the Carson River, sometimes called "Old River" all in Section nineteen (19), township nineteen (19) N, Range twenty-nine (29) E, M. D. B. & M.

And by these presents I do hereby sell and deliver all and each of the personal property herein enumerated and referred to to the said E. D. Frazzini, John Getto, and Andrew Getto.

Dated, Fallon, Nevada, October 30th, 1911.

Signature Witnessed by

[Handwritten signature]

CW Foote

Fallon Nev

January 12 / 1912

*I sell all my interest
to John Getto and Andrew Getto
E D Frazzini*