



# *The Bolton Scholarship Fund*

*Investing in the future...*

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## Maneggia Family Scholarship

Established 2004

It is a privilege to be able to support the Maneggia Family Scholarship to provide financial assistance toward a Bolton High School graduate's future education while remembering the many contributions that our Maneggia family members made to the Bolton Community. It is also a chance to return to the community the relief once felt when a \$150 scholarship from Manchester High School allowed me to complete my senior year and graduate from UConn.

The Maneggia Fund began when my mother, Jane Maneggia passed in 2004. She was the last member of the family's second generation to live in Bolton. Jane was a member of the Bolton Scholarship Fund committee, actively supported the creation of the Bolton Senior Center, and participated in other town committees.

Our Grandparents, Andrew Edward and Jenny (Virginia Casazza) were the first American-born generation of Italian immigrants and the first Italians to arrive in Bolton. Concerned with their children growing up in Brooklyn's tenement environment, they purchased the farm from the William A. McLean family in 1904. They arrived in Bolton with 4 children in tow and became both a dairy and fruit producer. Besides milk, they sold cherries, pears, strawberries, apples, and apple cider. They named the farm The Crystal Springs Farm in recognition of the springs flowing from the wooded hillside across from Route 6. In 1904, the farm ran both sides of the highway beginning from the brook culvert below South Road in Bolton to South Street in Coventry, and along Steele's Crossing Road to the railroad crossing - now the Hop River State Park Trail walking path. The family grew, adding four 4 more children. Between 1904 and 1955, the farm served as the summer retreat for New York City relatives and friends.

Andrew became active in town activities. These included teaching English to newly arrived Italians in the basement of the Congregational Church, serving as Second Selectman in 1913, and serving many years on the Bolton Education Board. He served as the town's tax collector before the existence of the present-day town tax office. People came to his home to pay their taxes. Andrew was also a well-known fire warden and was involved in clearing hazardous brush in the town's forests. While he was clearing brush on Andover's Crocker Farm, Andrew discovered the forgotten grave of Captain Simon Smith who died from smallpox when returning to New London from the French-Indian Wars in 1760. Fearing contamination, the town had refused to bury Captain Smith in their cemetery. Today, the grave silently remains preserved with its black fence enclosure aside the Boston Hill Road in Andover for folks to see and visit.

Eventually, as practiced in Europe, each Maneggia child inherited part of the family land - the area across from Route 6 now called Hop River Road. The Hop River side of the farm was eventually sold in 1955 and homes were built along the road. The Greek-style home across from Steele's Crossing Road entrance remains intact with its two-car garage and barn - plus our family's special memories.

Upon Andrew's sudden death in 1931, his son Anthony ("Tony"), a carpenter, became the tax collector and continued the practice of receiving tax payments in their home. Tony assisted in building St. Maurice Church on Hebron Road. His wife, Mamie was his assistant, a registrar of voters, and was instrumental in forming the Ladies of St. Maurice when the parish opened. In addition to Tony, four other children remained in Bolton, Pete, Thomas (Tom), Paul, and Margaret. Pete developed a successful Sand and Loom business that contributed to the building of town roads and sanding of them during the winter months. His wife, Pauline, was his bookkeeper and coordinated deliveries.

Tom was the only WWII soldier sibling and was a guard at the White House during the war. Besides Tom, our next generation of boys also served in both the European and Pacific Campaigns to protect our country. After the war, Tom worked in the former Gray Typewriter Factory in Hartford, while his wife, Dorothy, worked at the former Pioneer Parachute Company in Manchester.

Son, Paul, remained on the farm until it was sold in 1955, providing a home for their mother Jenny until she passed in 1946. Besides running the dairy farm and working as a carpenter, Paul was the manager of Bolton's inter-county baseball team that competed on Sunday afternoons. He later began little league activities for the town's children. Paul followed in his father's shoes as the fire warden. During his tenure as Bolton Fire Chief, he insured dress uniforms were purchased for the Bolton Fire Department Volunteers. Both he and his wife, Jane, were original members of St. George Episcopal Church when it started out in the Bolton Elementary School in 1958. Both were active in the church. Paul used his carpentry skills with the aid of his son to build the crosses still in existence in and outside the church on Route 44A. Jane worked at the former A&P grocery store on Center Street in Manchester and was active service on Bolton committees.

Daughter, Margaret, worked in the town as a registrar of voters before working at the Manchester Knitting Mills once located at the Manchester Green, and later at the former Mott's Grocery Store near the Manchester Green area. Her husband, Ray Holland, was a mechanic in the Manchester Cheney Mills.

Time has passed with special memories of a farm that was once the center of our family's activities, where we all developed a love of baseball. At this time, only three third-generation Maneggia families remain in Bolton.

Now you know a little about our Maneggia family's role in developing Bolton's future. We congratulate you as you graduate from Bolton High School and offer the Maneggia family's blessings, and wish you the best for your success and happiness in your life's journey and future pursuits.

Nancy (Maneggia) McNamara  
1 August 2022

The Maneggia family congratulates you as you graduate from Bolton High School and wishes you success in your chosen field of study reminding you of how fortunate you are to begin life's journey in Bolton.