

Dear Mayor Casale, City Administrator Ruggiero, Councilman Nelson, Councilman Rembert, Councilwoman McCredo, Councilwoman Grant, Councilman Mansfield, and Councilman Kyriacou,

First, I'd like to thank you for taking your time to read my letter! I appreciate all you do and have done for the city of Beacon. My family has a long history in Beacon that traces back to the early-mid 1900s. I am writing to petition to get a secondary street named in their honor. I will do my best to demonstrate why it would be important to both my family and the history of Beacon.

Things are obviously changing in Beacon and while I am enjoying it's renaissance- my cousin, who owns my grandparent's home is in the process of selling it. I am aware that things change with time, but I would truly like anyone who finds themselves traveling or living on this street to know about the family who basically occupied it for over 50 years.

This was prompted by my cousin, who now owns my grandparent's house on Henry Street. My grandfather built this house with his own hands, after World War II. His father and sisters lived right next door. I would like to take you through the history of some of the members of my family, who contributed to this area:

Salvatore Scalzo Sr.

My great grandfather came over here from Catanzaro, Italy, in the late 1800s. He did so by traveling to Ellis Island by himself when he was 14. He settled in Storm King, NY- not the one we know currently- but there was a Storm King approximately where the tunnel is on Route 9 in Cold Spring.

This is where he started his family. He also became the caretaker of Bannerman's Castle at this time. He traveled across the Hudson, by row boat, to take care of the grounds, before the explosion. My grandfather and great aunts had many stories of being entertained by Mrs. Bannerman in her home, while she played the organ by candle - light.

When Storm King was paved over, for Route 9, my great grandfather moved his home to Henry Street in Beacon, NY. He also bought the land up to Madame Brett's home. He sold portions of it- but retained some land for both his sons to build homes for their future families.

He was a member of St. Rocco's Society until his death.

My great grandfather was once the oldest man in Beacon and was included in a parade and honored. He died at 102 in 1992.

Eleanore Chiarella Scalzo

My great grandmother was born in Dutchess County- to immigrant parents from Italy. They opened a boarding house in Storm King, and this is where she met my great grandfather. When they were married and settled in to their home, she was the first Postmaster of Storm King- which was also a feat, because she was a woman, almost completely unheard of for the early 1900s..

Salvatore Patrick Scalzo Jr.

My great grandfather built and lived in the home on 25 Henry Street. This is where he raised his family after World War 2. He was a World War 2 hero, being injured 3 times. He received a Purple Heart for his first injury- then subsequently received Oak Leaf Clusters- while fighting for Beacon, NY.

He fought in the 4th armored division, under General Patton, and participated in the Battle of the Bulge.

He was a great community member, as well as a member of St. '.

When he returned from War, he worked for IBM, in it's Dutchess County hayday- submitting grants to better their operations.

Another interesting fact about him is while my grandfather was in boot camp in California, Hollywood was filming the blockbuster film Sahara. He was actually chosen as an extra to play a NAZI in the film! I have the original script from the movie.

Ramona Scalzo

My great aunt was ahead of her times. She was an independent and single woman, whom worked for IBM in the mid 1900s and was also an avid world traveler.

Besides this, she contributed to Beacon, NY, until her death.

My Aunt Mona worked in the accounting department at IBM, East Fishkill. She was well traveled and, after her retirement, she spent time gardening, reading, and following the Yankees. She was a member of Court Liberatta, Catholic Daughters of America, where she was a past Regent, and Beacon Historical Society and a parishioner of St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist Church.

Anthony Scalzo

Unfortunately, I never got to meet my great uncle Anthony. He also never got to build on the land my great grandfather bought for him on Henry Street. He signed up at 21 years old to fighting in the army for Beacon in the Korean War.

While there, he was on a mission to see if the enemy was within the area his regiment was in. Unfortunately, they were. He was shot and died several days later, in Korea, from his injuries. My great grandparents were informed around Christmas time that he had passed away.

If you walk to Main Street, in front of the Memorial Building, his name is on the War Memorial in the front. He is THE ONLY name listed under the Korean War. He is literally the only person from Beacon to die in the Korean War. He and my family paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country and city.

Therefore, I am requesting that the street name be changed from Henry Street to Scalzo Street. Your consideration would be greatly appreciated.

For your enjoyment, I am attaching a Poughkeepsie Journal Article on the history of my family with Bannerman's Island. My great grandfather, aunts, and grandfather are included in the History of Beacon book volume 1- for their memories of Bannerman's Island.

<https://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/news/2017/05/24/4-generations-family-honor-bannerman-islands-groundskeeper/342991001/>

I truly thank you so much for your consideration and time. It is because of their hard work and sacrifices that I find myself to be a successful contributing member of society as a teacher in Wappingers today. They truly lived the American dream and inspire me everyday. Even if I am unable to get the street named altered, I had to try! I am extremely proud of their story!

Thank you so much for your time,

Nicole M. Scalzo