

4 generations of family honor Bannerman Island's groundskeeper

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(Photo: Courtesy photo)

Town of Poughkeepsie resident Sandy Scalzo and her family make an annual outing to Bannerman Island to honor a family patriarch and her late husband.



Erin Simmons, left to right, Sandy Scalzo, Nick Scalzo, Amanda Scalzo, Jeff Scalzo, Nicole Scalzo, Joy Ann Simmons, Amelia Simmons (fourth generation), Luke Simmons and Caroline Simmons gather for a family portrait on Bannerman Island May 7. (Photo: Courtesy photo)

Four generations of the Scalzo family, 11 family members, took a tour boat May 7 to the island to honor Salvatore Scalzo, her husband Richard's grandfather. Salvatore Scalzo, who came to this country from Calabria, Italy, in 1904, at the age of 14, was a groundskeeper at Pollepel Island, today known as Bannerman Island. He lived to be 103, Sandy Scalzo said.

Salvatore Scalzo's first and only grandchild, Richard Scalzo, Sandy Scalzo's husband, died in 2004.

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"Every year, around the anniversary of my husband's grandfather's passing, the family gets together to celebrate his life," Sandy Scalzo said. "This was the 13th year, and his brother, Nick, suggested we go to Bannerman's Island, where their grandfather, Salvatore Scalzo Sr., worked for many years, first as a builder then as a gardener. The year was around 1918.

"We represent the second, third and fourth descendants of Salvatore," she said. "It was an overcast day, but still beautiful. Most of us were surprised to learn the castle was not their home. The residence was a short walk from the ruins of the castle and in pretty good shape."

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Salvatore Scalzo Sr. is shown
circa 1925. (Photo: Courtesy photo)

