

## THE MARBLE CLIFF QUARRY, ARLINGTON, MARBLE CLIFF VILLAGE AND SAN MARGHERITA

The Marble Cliff Quarry, consisting of about 800 acres, has been in operation since the 1850s. Originally the work required 500 men and many mules and horses *to* remove the rock in the man-made canyon.



Marble Cliff Village, is a section of land west of Grandview Heights, south of Upper Arlington and Hilliard, that bore the same name as the quarry. The area developed due to large numbers of Italian immigrants brought in by Salvio Antonio Casparis who immigrated in 1890 from Italy. He organized the Casparis Stone Company. Originally the area, known as Arlington, was home to wealthy Columbus families who wanted to escape downtown.

Another nearby area, now known as San Margherita- was founded about 1903 by Italian immigrants who were primarily stonecutters, coal miners and charcoal makers who came for better wages and better lives for their families. The area sprung up along Trabue Road and the area now known as McKinley Avenue and the old Dublin Road.

These first settlers lived in what were called "quarry houses" and later built homes on one acre lots with 60 foot fronts with long back yards. The yards were used for gardens, grape vines, pigs and chickens. Many descendants of the original Italian families still live in the area.

St. Margaret de Cortona Church was built on Trabue Road after a drive in 1921 to build a church. By 1936 a frame parish hall was erected at 3388 Trabue Road. Later another church was built on Hague Avenue in 1968. The parish lines were encompassed by the Scioto River, Trabue Road, Roberts Road and Jones Road.

By Esther G, Marsh and Patricia L Garbrandt, 2003

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