

Two of Bryson City Cemetery's
"Unknowns"

Andrew Thomas Essensa and
Lena Rosa (or Rosa Lana Decina)

Andrew Thomas Essensa

04 December 1862 – 14 April 1912



Andrew Thomas Essensa Family

Annie Coffey
12 Jul 1858 –
16 Jan 1908



Andrew Thomas Essensa
4 Dec 1862 –
14 Apr 1912

Source for all pics:
Ginger Farris on
findagrave.com



Mabel Scarlet
26 Jan 1888 –
19 Jul 1984



Rachel Minnie
18 Apr 1890 –
23 Jul 1981



Samuel Wesley
22 Sep 1893 –
21 Nov 1918



Hedley A.
Apr 1897 –
14 Mar 1918

Andrew Thomas Essensa

- Born in New Brunswick, Canada
- Married Anna Catherine Coffey (died 1905) in 1883 in New Brunswick and had 4 children.
- Lived for many years in McKean County, Pennsylvania
- Last census prior to his death: living in the Cranberry area of Mitchell County, working in the lumber industry
- However, he appears to have worked for a logging company – either Montvale or Ritter – at the time of his death

Andrew Thomas Essensa



Greater Smethport Area, McKean County, PA on 13 September 2017

Source: webcamgalore.com

Andrew Thomas Essensa



Montvale Lumber Logging Train; Eagle Creek (Swain County)

Source: digitalheritage.org

Andrew Thomas Essensa Death Certificate

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH—DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS.

County Swain City Prison City Registered No. 6

No. _____ Street _____ Ward _____

FULL NAME A. H. Essensa

[If death occurred in a Hospital or Institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.]

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS.			MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		
SEX <u>Male</u>	COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	SINGLE MARRIED WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (Write the word) <u>Married</u>	DATE OF DEATH <u>April 14</u> 191 <u>2</u>		
DATE OF BIRTH <u>Sept. 8</u> 18 <u>57</u>			I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended the deceased <u>March 31</u> 191 <u>2</u> to <u>April 14</u> 191 <u>2</u>		
AGE <u>57</u> years _____ months _____ days			that I last saw him alive on <u>April 14</u> 191 <u>2</u>		
OCCUPATION Trade, Profession or particular kind of work <u>Lumberman 70</u>			and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <u>4 P.M.</u> M.		
BIRTHPLACE (State or country) <u>Canada</u>			The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: <u>Pneumonia</u>		
PARENTS NAME OF FATHER <u>Wesley Essensa</u>			CONTRIBUTORY (Secondary) <u>A. M. Pearce</u> M. D.		
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) <u>unknown</u>			(Duration) _____ yrs. _____ mos. <u>16</u> ds.		
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>unknown</u>			(Signed) _____ M. D.		
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) <u>unknown</u>			<u>4-19</u> 191 <u>2</u> (Address) <u>Prison City</u>		
THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.			*State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS OF INJURY; and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL.		
(Informant) <u>May Joie Essensa</u>			LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (FOR HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, TRANSIENTS OR RECENT RESIDENTS)		
(Address) <u>Prison City N.C.</u>			At place of death _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. State _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.		
Filed <u>4-19</u> 191 <u>2</u> <u>J. H. Wilson</u> Registrar.			Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death? Former or usual residence _____		
			PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Prison City N.C.</u>		
			DATE OF BURIAL <u>4-19</u> 191 <u>2</u>		
			UNDERTAKER <u>None</u>		
			ADDRESS _____		

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

Andrew Thomas Essensa estate cash

North Carolina

Swain County.

In Re Andrew Essensa, deceased.

} Final Report of Josie A.
Essensa, Administratrix of
T.A. Essensa, deceased.

To the Clerk of the Court of Swain County.

I herewith submit my final report as Administratrix.

I have received from all sources cash as follows:

Bank of Commerce	\$1143.11
Bryson City Bank	\$1700.00
Unaka National Bank	\$1529.42. ^{1487 10}
Note, J.A. Martin,	\$ 506.25.
One Mortuary policy	\$1000.00
Two horses	\$ 200.00
Commissary Supplies	\$ 38.81.
Logging Out-fit and tools	\$ 27.00
Set of Harness	\$ 6.00
Peevy Handles	\$ 6.25
Nails __to Geo W. Cagle	\$ 3.14
One wagon and frame	\$ 37.00
One saddle	\$ 8.00
One horse "Charlie"	\$ 41.00
Two collars	\$ 6.00
Over-paid dues on Mortuary policy	\$ 15.20
For work of horses	\$ 18.35
Two horses (assigned as year's allowance)	\$ 300.00

TOTAL

602105
~~3671.57~~
6372.64
3143.10

Aunt. Cook dis covered in Bank

\$ 9515.79

Andrew Thomas Essensa estate payments

Those underlined are also buried in the BC Cemetery

I beg leave to further report that I have made the following payments and distributions.

<u>R.M.Thomason, C.S.C. for official work</u>	\$ 11.70 ✓
	2.50 ✓
<u>R.M.Thomason, C.S.C. Commissions</u> 5721.05	\$ 10.44 ✓
A.R.Brewer for attending horses and care of Mr.Essensa during sickness as per voucher.	\$ 97.26 ✓
<u>J.H.Ditmore, To account made by Mr.Essensa</u>	\$ 38.34 ✓
Carrie Fisher for services during sickness	\$ 6.00 ✓
<u>Dr.A.M.Bennett, Medical attention</u>	\$ 57.50 ✓
Bryson City Drug Company	\$ 11.90 ✓
<u>W.W.Wheeler, carriage at funeral</u>	\$ 1.50 ✓
W.M.Banks for digging grave	\$ 3.00 ✓
Will Martin, for hay for horses	\$ 7.85 ✓
<u>J.H.Wilson, feed for horses</u>	\$ 24.45 ✓
<u>J.A.Brogden for carriages and stable rent</u>	\$ 10.00 ✓
Mr.H.W.Carter for printing Creditor's Notice	\$ 3.00 ✓
Boy for assisting in hauling lumber	\$ 1.25 ✓
A.R.Brewer for attending horses	\$ 27.12 ✓
Paid for feed for horses	\$ 12.85
Expenses to Fontana for commissary supplies	\$ 11.29 ✓
Dr.Dunn, Medical attention, Mr.Essensa	\$ 30.00 ✓
W.R.Thomas feed furnished Mr.Essensa	\$ 9.80 ✓
<u>D.K.Collins for funeral supplies</u>	\$ 45.80 ✓
Mr.HW.Carter, for Notary Public fees	\$.50 ✓
<u>To Mrs.Picklesimer, board of Andrew Essensa, Jr. before death of Mr.Essensa</u>	\$ 16.75 ✓
Drayage, day of sale	.25 ✓
Three books of stamps, 25 cents each	.75 ✓
<u>To Mrs.Shelley for room</u>	.50 ✓
T.F.Deitz for Tombstone	\$ 170.00 ✓
	<u>609.80</u>

Lena Rosa (or Rosa Lana)

October 1887 – 28 October 1935



Her death certificate

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK.—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

B.V.S. Form 8

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH 351

1. PLACE OF DEATH
 County Swain Registration District No. 87-50 Certificate No. 16
 Township _____ or Village _____ of _____
 City Byron City N.C. No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its Name instead of street and number)
 Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth? yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.

2. FULL NAME Rosa Lanza in Decima 250
 (a) Residence: No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____
(Usual place of abode) (If nonresident give city or town and State)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. SEX Female 4. COLOR OR RACE Italian 5. Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word) married
 5a. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND or (or) WIFE of Augusto Decima
 6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) _____
 7. AGE Years 48 Months _____ Days _____ If LESS than 1 day, _____ hrs. or _____ min.
 8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. seamstress
 9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc. _____
 10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) _____ 11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation _____

12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) _____ (State or country) Italy
 13. NAME Luigi Lanza
 14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) _____ (State or country) Italy
 15. MAIDEN NAME Maria Paisira
 16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) _____ (State or country) Italy
 17. INFORMANT Dr. A. M. Bennett (Address) Byron City, N.C.
 18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL Place Byron City, N.C. Date Oct 29th 1935
 19. UNDERTAKER none (Address) _____
 20. FILED 12-31- 1935 Eric Wilson REGISTRAR.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) Oct 28th 1935
 22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from July 1st 1935 to Oct 28th 1935
 I last saw him alive on _____ 1935 death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at 10 P. M.
 The principal cause of death and related causes of importance in order of onset were as follows: Cancer of Uterus & Ovary Date of onset _____
 Contributory causes of importance not related to principal cause: _____
 Name of operation _____ date of _____
 What test confirmed diagnosis? _____ Was there an autopsy? _____
 23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following:
 Accident, suicide, or homicide? _____ Date of injury _____ 1935
 Where did injury occur? _____ (Specify city or town, county, and State)
 Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place. _____
 Manner of injury _____
 Nature of injury _____
 24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? _____
 If so, specify AM Bennett M. D. (Signed) _____
 (Address) Byron City, N.C.

Lena Rosa (or Rosa Lana)

What do we know about her?

- Her parents were Luigi Lana and Maria Daiipra.
- Her husband was Augusto Decina (or Deceina).
- She was born in Italy and lived in San Vittore del Lazio prior to her immigration to the United States.



Source: visitlazio.com

Lena Rosa (or Rosa Lana)

- She immigrated on 06 November 1918 and was processed at Ellis Island.
- Returned to Italy in 1924
- Returned to US in 1925, to “rejoin husband”



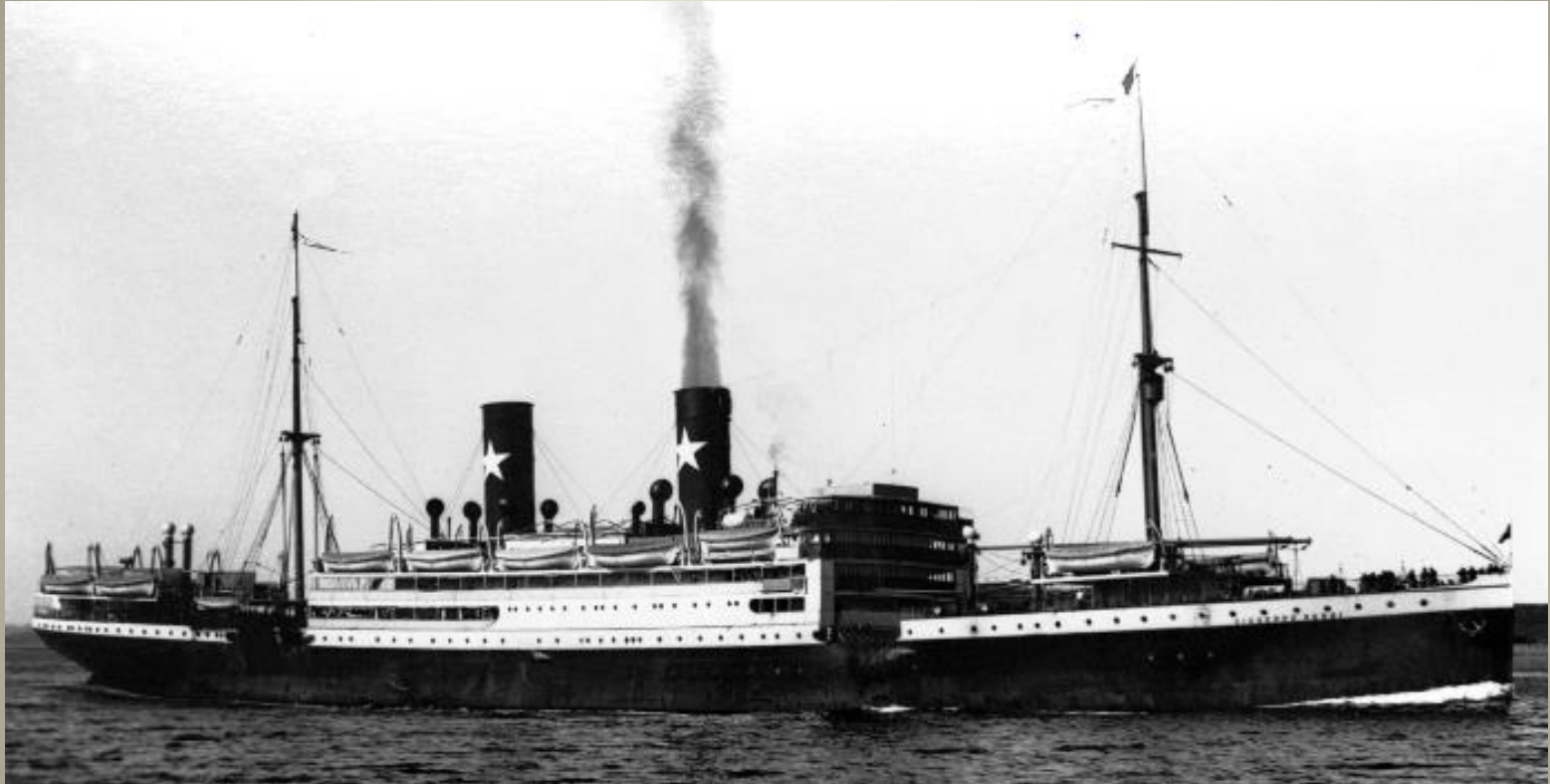
An Italian Female Immigrant

Source: publicdomainreview.org

Decina	Rosa	33	f	M	H.Wife	no	no	"	"	"	"	S.Vittore	mother, Maria	do
													S.Vittore del Lazio	

Source: libertyellisfoundation.org

Lena Rosa (or Rosa Lana)



The Giuseppe Verdi

Source: libertyellisfoundation.org

Lena Rosa (or Rosa Lana)

What do we not know?

- Why was she here?
- Did she have any children?
- How was her burial plot obtained? (Ivan?)

One possibility for her presence in Swain County:

- The CCC, which employed Italian stone masons to assist with building (thanks for the tip, Don!).
- Perhaps her husband was one of these workers.
- The CCC was operating in Swain County in the month and year of her death.

Lena Rosa (or Rosa Lana)



Construction of the Elkmont Bridge by the CCC

Source: [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov)