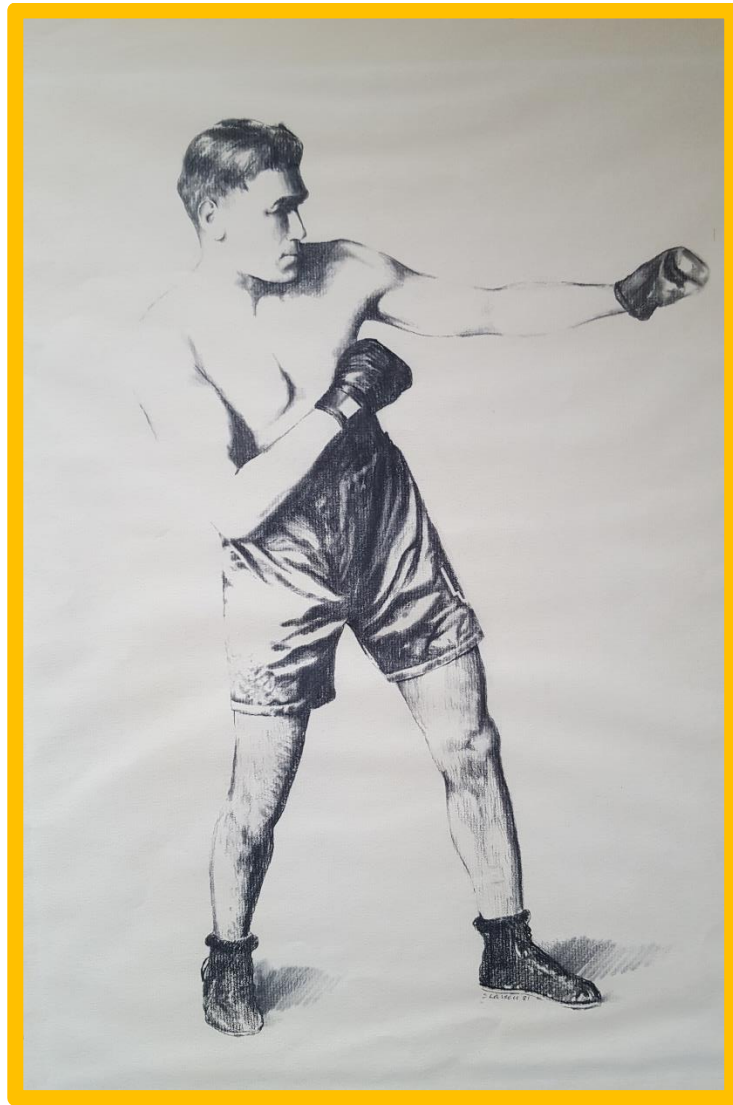


# Italian Joe Gans



Antonio Camberlango

1891-1951

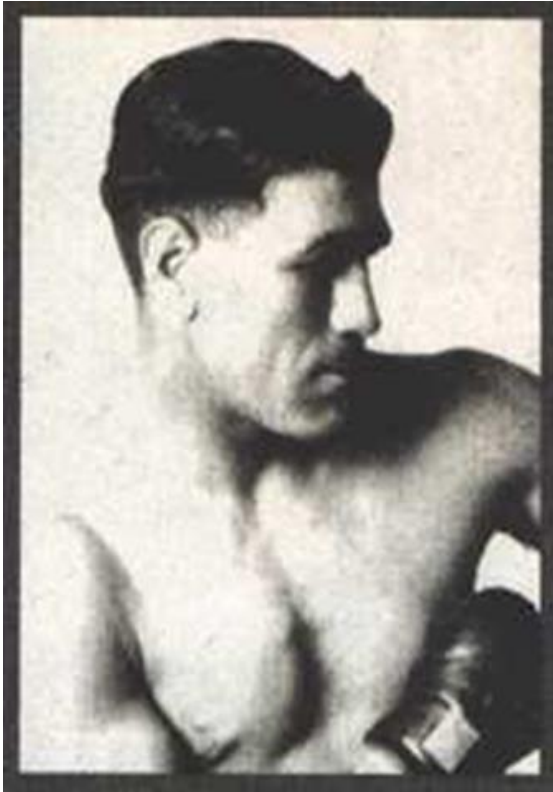
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## The Preliminaries

Among notable Italian Americans in the US during the early 20th century was Antonio Camperlengo—a well-known prize fighter and Middleweight Champion.

Antonio was born February 16, 1891 in New York City. He was the oldest of the eight children of Michele Camperlengo and Maria Teresa Fornabaio. Michele arrived from Italy in 1884 and married Teresa in Manhattan, New York in 1890. Young “Antonio” became Anthony as the family strove to assimilate into the new culture in Manhattan’s Little Italy section at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They moved to Brooklyn, New York, which then had a population of one million people with one-third being immigrants. It was in an era of industrial expansion and population growth that created the environment where Anthony was raised.



By age 13, he had started his fighting career and it would last twenty-five years more.

During this period, when young Anthony was developing his boxing skills, Joe Gans the first African American boxing champion was active and very popular. Gan’s skills influenced many aspiring boxers including young Anthony. In 1910 Joe Gans died and many fighters that came along after him adopted his name. Boxing records show 38 fighters billed as “Young Joe Gans” alone including Anthony Camperlengo who used the name very early in his career.

With many others fighting under that name it wasn’t too long before the fight promoters began changing fighter’s names to bill boxers with “handles” that appealed to boxing fans from different immigrant groups that were streaming into New York. So, just as Antonio became Anthony, Young Joe Gans became the “Italian Joe Gans.”

Several fighters that competed as “Joe Gans” were considered good and boxing fans include Anthony among the best of them.

Anthony at 5 feet 6 inches tall fought both as a welterweight (147 lbs. maximum) and a middleweight (160 lbs. maximum). His fighting stance was described as being orthodox.

He debuted as a professional on April 7, 1908, losing a four round bout. Twenty-eight years later, 45 year old Italian Joe Gans ended his boxing career by winning with a knockout at the Ft. Hamilton Arena in Brooklyn. His career included 218 professional fights.

Both his career and personal life included professional contacts with notable boxers and notorious individuals.

## Roots in Southern Italy

Italian Joe Gans is unknown today other than to boxing history fans but in his era he was a widely recognized and well respected prize fighter. Over his lifetime he would undergo many changes and challenges not the least of which was his name.

Starting out as Antonio Camperlengo boxing was such a part of his life that Antonio took on the persona of “Italian Joe Gans,” the ring name he used as a fighter. He was so well known under that name he was called “Joe” throughout his life. And although there was only one Italian Joe Gans, there were several iterations of his name as he progressed through life using aliases for boxing and struggling with challenges of the era he faced as an Italian American.

His Camperlengo surname, which came from his familial hometown of Craco, Italy, is an example. It appeared in various forms in newspapers and legal documents including “Columbino”, “Cumberlan”, and ultimately as “Camberlango” on his tombstone. The final form of the surname is what was passed down to his descendants along with the many rich stories of Italian Joe and their family history.

Although the surname issue is one example of the difficulties Joe faced, he suffered much more. Although the boxing ring made him a local celebrity he had to deal with the challenges immigrants face; being victimized (often by the criminal element of their own nationality) and prejudice. Through all this he maintained a close connection to his family. His triumph over life’s challenges is a testament to the spirit he had to persevere and prevail.

Antonio’s parents were Michele Giacomo Camperlengo and Maria Teresa Fornabaio. They were from a small town in the Southern Italian region called Basilicata. Their home town, Craco is in the province of Matera.

Michele was born in 1862<sup>1</sup> in Craco. The Camperlengo family can be traced back to the earliest public records in that town from 1753.<sup>2</sup> Michele arrived in New York City on April 28, 1884 aboard the SS Columbia making him among the first of the immigrants who left Craco for America. Michele’s two brothers Nicola and Rocco would also immigrate to the US later.

Maria Teresa’s roots also go deeply into Craco but include connections to nearby neighboring towns. In 1871, her father Giuseppe Maria Fornabaio arrived in Craco from the town of Stigliano to marry Nicoletta Manghise. Their first child, Maria Teresa was born on February 11, 1874. Maria Teresa arrived in New York in 1889.<sup>3</sup>

Michele and Maria Teresa were married on Jan. 2, 1890 in New York City. Both of them were living at 47 Baxter Street. The marriage record lists Michele “Camberlengo” age at next birthday as 27 and gives Teresa’s age at her next birthday as 18 years old.<sup>4</sup> Teresa’s actual age was one month short of her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The 47 Baxter Street address they lived at then was also known as “Bottle Alley”<sup>5</sup> and was the subject of several photographs by Jacob Riis, the author of, “How the Other Half Lives” an expose on the deplorable conditions immigrants endured during the 1890s in New Your City. In 1897 the building was

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<sup>1</sup> Public birth records for 1862 in the town of Craco are not available. This date of birth is based on the age listed on the ship manifest when Michele arrived in the US; his gravestone lists his year of birth as 1842.

<sup>2</sup> 1753 Catasti Onciari

<sup>3</sup> Vital Records, NYC 1907 Death Certificate 17104.

<sup>4</sup> Vital Records, NYC Marriage 1890 Certificate 763.

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.barrypopik.com/index.php/new\\_york\\_city/entry/bottle\\_alley\\_47\\_baxter\\_street](http://www.barrypopik.com/index.php/new_york_city/entry/bottle_alley_47_baxter_street)

demolished to create the open space that was named Columbus Park in 1910.



47 Baxter Street, Bottle Alley, ca 1895

Jacob A. Riis photographs from the Collections of the Museum of the City of New York

Antonio was their first child and followed by Giuseppe (1892), Tomasso (1895), Nicola (1897), Rosina (1899), Francesco (1901), Maria Giuseppina (1904), and Vincenzo (1905). All the family would adopt Anglicized given names as they assimilated into American life. Michele became Michael James, Maria Teresa would go by the name of Theresa, while the children became Anthony, Joseph, Thomas, Nicholas, Rose, Frank, Mary Josephine, and James.

Italian Joe gave an interview to the Brooklyn Eagle Newspaper in 1951 that provided some insight into the family. His father Michele was a concrete worker who was 5 feet 6 inches tall, which was the same size Antonio would grow to as an adult. But his mother, Teresa was several inches taller and she hated boxing. The family moved to South Brooklyn from New York City around 1900 when Antonio was about 9 years old.

Italian Joe said, he was told he started fighting as a little kid in the streets. By the time he was 11 years old he recalled fighting 4 round bouts for “anything from a dish of spaghetti to a buck.” But because his mother hated fighting he remembered, “Ma gave me a licking each time she found out I had a fight.”

In fact, he vividly recounted an incident when he was 12 years old fighting at the Pelican Club at 65th Street and 3rd Avenue in Brooklyn saying, “The second round had just ended when Ma climbed into the ring. She had a broomstick. I lit out. Looking back, I saw her and that other boy with the stick, before the seconds piled in and took the stick away from her. I’d have caught the first cracks if she had climbed in on my side of the ring.” Strong women from Basilicata made strong children as we will see from how her children and descendants fared with the challenges life threw at them.

Antonio left school after the fifth grade about 1903 when he was around 11-12 years old. He started working in an iron foundry something that would help him develop strength for boxing but also gave him trade skills he could use later outside of the ring. And his income was a help to his parents with a family that had eight children in it.



Maria Teresa Fornabaio and Michele Camperlengo with Antonio (lower right) and Giuseppe c. 1895

## The Boxing Life

Boxing in that era was unlike today. There was a greater interest in the sport and a broader base of participants at all levels even though few could earn any money from it. Italian Joe once commented, “I was born too soon,” adding, “If I had been born later—when the purses got bigger. But fighting was never my job; I just did it for the extra dough. Through the years I was a riveter—in the Brooklyn Navy Yard and the private shipyards here.” But Italian Joe also had a few other jobs in his life that were more interesting than riveting in a shipyard.



Antonio honed his boxing skills at gyms and sports clubs as an amateur while working in the iron foundry until the family was shaken in 1907 when he was 16 years old.

They were living at 152 20<sup>th</sup> Street when Teresa fell ill on August 14<sup>th</sup>. She was taken to Samaritan Hospital, which had opened in 1906 at 759 President Street. She was diagnosed interstitial nephritis a disease that caused kidney failure, which as it progressed over the next days led to pulmonary edema. On August 19<sup>th</sup> Maria Teresa Camberlengo succumbed and was buried in Calvary Cemetery the next day.<sup>6</sup>

This event created a crisis in the family. Michele could not both work and be home taking care of a household that included five children under ten years old. So, Michele turned to an orphanage for help in housing some of the younger children where they would have care and attention while the older boys who were able to work stayed with him. This brought Michele (who was now Michael) and Antonio (who was now Anthony) together developing a closeness they would carry to the grave.

It also enabled Antonio to pursue his passion openly, making his first appearance in the newspaper as a professional boxer eight months after his mother’s death and starting his new persona.

The Brooklyn Eagle Newspaper mentions “Young Joe Gans” for the first time in a small article about a boxing event at the Swedish American Athletic Club on April 7, 1908. The teenaged Antonio had adopted the name of a sensational boxer of his generation, Joe Gans and personalized it to create a boxing alias - Young Joe Gans. He appeared in the newspaper again in an event held at the Olympia Athletic Club on April 15, 1908. The event was extremely amateurish with boxers appearing in some cases in street clothes and shoes. Antonio’s event is described as, “After a selection on the piano, Kid Stinger and Young Joe Gans entertained for three rounds with Young Joe showing

The police continued their activity last night, when Lieutenant Edward Blaney, under instructions from Inspector Harkins, arrested the principals in the semi-final exhibition at the Swedish-American Athletic Club after the boys had boxed three rounds. Johnny Gale and Sam Osborne were the pair arrested and were pleasing the members with a highly interesting exhibition in which Gale was proving the better boxer, when the bouts were stopped. In the preliminary bouts, which were not interfered with, Kid Smith and Young Joe Gans put up four rounds of good work in which Smith excelled. Frankie Pass and Pat Conway went four rounds and Pat gave Pass a good beating. Willie Donnelly and Kid Fisher were the next pair to appear and Donnelly carried off the honors easily. The bouts were all good. Harry Scroggs and Harry Powers, who were to have appeared in the star bout, will box at the next meeting of the club.

<sup>6</sup> NY Vital records, 1907 Death Certificate No. 17104, name is recorded as “Theresa Coborlindo.”

the better work...” Again, on May 16, a news article described his fight as a, “...bout between Young Joe Gans and Phil, the newsboy, ended slightly in favor of Gans.” And on May 21 the newspaper reported another fight at the Bay Side Athletic Club with, “Young Joe Gans met a tough boy in Jim Spinelli but was entitled to the decision.” Antonio made one more appearance in the newspaper that year. On September 18 the Brooklyn Eagle reported that fifteen hundred people were at the Bedford Athletic Clubhouse to see a series of fights including a tough one for Antonio described by them as, “Willie Walsh after being knocked down twice in the opening round by Young Joe Gans came back strong in the succeeding round and earned the popular verdict...” Antonio had changed to Anthony and now to “Young Joe Gans” a boxing alias he would use for the next several years.

## The Early Rounds

In the first part of the 20th century, the United States was the center of professional boxing and Brooklyn was a big part of the sport. Despite the public's enthusiasm for prizefighting there was far-reaching regulation of it including periods of outright prohibition. In 1900, the State of New York enacted the "Lewis Law," banning prizefights except for those held in private athletic clubs between members. It remained in effect until 1911. Unlike today, boxing champions were recognized by popular consensus and by the newspapers of the day because the laws specified fights should be fought as no-decision bouts. Prizefighting also featured rivalries based on fighters' nationalities as a way of promoting events to the numerous immigrants in America. These were the conditions that would have significant influences on Antonio's early career.

Antonio debuted in 1908 fighting under the name of "Young Joe Gans," after a boxing idol, Joe Gans an impressive fighter in the generation before him. But he may have also selected it for his age.

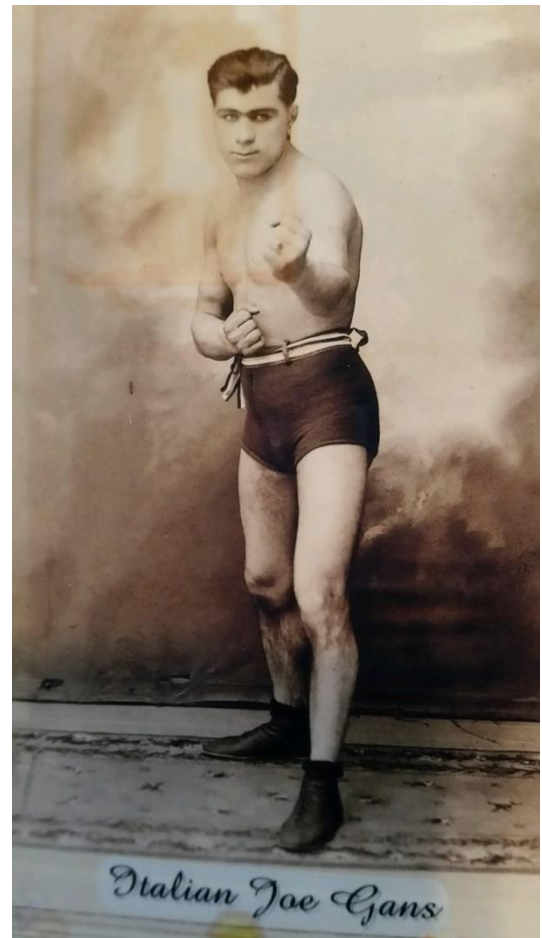
His date of birth was February 16, 1891 making him just seven weeks past 17 years old, which was the earliest age he could fight as a professional<sup>7</sup>.

He must have also learned soon afterwards that his boxing alias could cause confusion. Joe Gans died in August 1910 and some 220 other boxers began to use some derivation of his name including 38 that went by Young Joe Gans.

Antonio's first year's boxing record as Young Joe Gans was two wins and three losses. He made nine more appearances in 1909 fighting in events at athletic clubs, the only legal venues for bouts, in January, February (3 bouts), March (2), April, August, and December. He was building himself up physically and improving his boxing skills posting a record that year with six wins and three losses.

The following year, 1910 Young Joe Gans had 14 fights, with bouts in January (2), February, March, June (2), July, August, October, November (3), and December (2). He was boxing much better recording nine wins, one loss, and four draws, including four knockout victories. He certainly must have attracted the attention of promoters and boxing managers along with fans. But things would change soon.

In January 1911 a New York judge ruled the boxing club membership "scheme" was an attempt to get around the law prohibiting "boxing exhibitions." Then in July 1911, the Frawley Act was passed legalizing ten-round bouts. This confusion didn't stop "Young Joe Gans" or "Italian Joe Gans" either.



September 19, 1909

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<sup>7</sup> The age of 17 years old for fighters to become professional in that era was provided in an email from Dan Cuoco, Editor, International Boxing Record Organization (IBRO) on February 9, 2017.



## The Birth of Italian Joe Gans

He kept a hectic pace that year with 23 fights having 13 wins, four losses and six draws. And the first newspaper report of him fighting as “Italian Joe Gans” appeared for a bout on July 7th, 1911 against Charley Smith at the Brighton Beach Athletic Club in Coney Island, NY. All his other fights that year were still as “Young Joe Gans” but perhaps it was the newspaper article on November 11 about his bout that may have influenced him to change his boxing alias. The article mentions his opponent’s dispute with another boxer using a similar alias to another boxer and goes on to say, “In the matter of Gans, the fighter who made the name world famous is not here to object. Young Joe is an Italian, and a pretty rugged one at that. He has nothing of the cleverness of the old champion, but he has a kick in both gloves that has severed its purpose on numerous occasions.”

Italian Joe’s descendants say he “marched to his own drum” and that can be seen in the aggressive way he pursued bouts. For example, in the month of September 1911 Young Joe Gans fought 5 bouts, the last on September 28th. The following week on October 7th he fought two bouts on the same day!



c. 1912

It must have been an exciting time for him, his family, and followers as this young man was doing something he liked and doing it well. It certainly would have been a source of pride that he was appearing in places like Madison Square Garden in New York City and being called in the newspaper, “a hard hitter and aggressive fighter.”

This drew the attention of promoters and agents. It was during 1912 that “Italian Joe Gans,” the boxing alias he would use from then on throughout his career, fell in with two characters that would become his managers and create problems for him.

In June 1912 the Jamaica Athletic Club was opened in Queens, New York by John Romanelli and “Shorty” Raymond. Italian Joe was on one of the cards winning his fight by a knockout. Joe went on a roll after that chalking up five wins and two draws over the next seven fights. As a young man, with the background he experienced he would have been easily impressed by the interest shown in him and subject to being taken advantage of by these sharp dealers.

Brooklyn Eagle Newspaper articles in 1912 illustrated some of the frustrations Joe faced with societal bias and with bad managers. In an October 12<sup>th</sup> article the newspaper, referring to an upcoming bout against Willie Fitzgerald, an experienced fighter says, “...it will be an

Italian, and one of the toughest boys in his class that that race has ever produced. Italian Joe Gans is not the clever master of the game that the original Gans was...”

Then, John Romanelli one of the owners of the Jamaica Athletic Club and also a Brooklyn undertaker, who had become Joe’s manager, showed his callousness. He was actually Giovanni Romanelli a Brooklyn criminal who used his funeral business as a cover for his illegal dealings and was called the “King of Brooklyn’s Little Italy. When Prohibition started he would be sent to jail in Sing Sing Prison for murder after poisoning 101 people on Christmas Eve 1919 in the Springfield Massachusetts area. He stole wood alcohol that was being exported, adulterated it to appear like alcohol knowing that it

was poisonous, and transported it out of the area to avoid being connected to it.

But in late October 1912 Joe was training for a big fight under Romanelli's management. On Sunday October 27 a headline in the Brooklyn Eagle read, "**Takes Young Joe Gans to a Banquet to Teach Him Self Control.**" Romanelli held a banquet for Joe the night before while he was training for the bout scheduled for the next week with Bull Anderson for the welterweight supremacy of Brooklyn. Romanelli sat Joe next to him at the head of the table but ordered that Joe not be served any food. When asked why he did that, Romanelli said, "In the first place I wanted to have him under my eyes and in the second place I wanted to teach him self-control. That is what every fighter needs in the ring and I think Joe will benefit by the lesson." On October 30, the day of the big fight with Bull Anderson, the morning newspapers hyped it to draw a big crowd. The next day the newspapers called it, "A Great Fight" in an article loaded with ethnic stereotyping saying,

*"If those foolish people who think Teddy Roosevelt is the greatest man in the country today will take a walk through South Brooklyn, especially that part about Third avenue and President street, they will quickly recognize the fact that they have been in error. Joe Gans is the person who has usurped the place of Teddy, and on all sides are heard shouts of "viva, la Joe Gans, viva Italiana Giovanni Romanelli."*

*It has been a recognized fact for a long time that Joe Gans was a great man, but it was last night that his fellow countrymen awarded him a niche in the Hall of Fame. And well was Joe deserving of the honor, for did he not annihilate the terrible Scandinavian bovine, Bull Anderson?"*

Buoyed with this success, Romanelli laid claim to the title of the national welterweight division for Joe selecting opponents and continuing to give newspapers quotes about Joe that were intended to promote upcoming fights and bring in crowds. In one instance a newspaper article reported that Romanelli had made a study of food and training for boxers. It goes on to report he said, "...there is nothing better than spaghetti." Adding, there will be a practical demonstration when Italian Joe Gans fights Willie Fitzgerald, "the fighting harp." Willie was said to be of the corned beef and cabbage school. Spaghetti won out over the corned beef in their bout.

By the end of 1913 Italian Joe had been in 83 fights, and amassed a record of 47 wins, 17 losses and 19 draws with 9 knock out victories. Then 1914 would bring a world of change.



Giovanni "John" Romanelli  
King of Brooklyn's Little Italy  
1920

## Fighting On All Sides

There is no doubt that boxing fans on the first quarter of the 20th century knew “Italian Joe Gans” but probably few if any knew or cared that his roots were from Craco, Italy. In fact, Joe probably didn’t care either as he and his family was trying to carve out their place in America and in particular Brooklyn, New York. The next decade would see his brothers and sisters form their own families and share in his successes and difficulties.

In 1914 Italian Joe was now 23 years old and described by the newspaper as, “boxing in his best form...” He was fighting better boxers with established careers and with the 15 fights during the year he boosted his record to 57 wins 20 losses and 21 draws. He had reached his zenith as a winning boxer.

Joe started 1915 strong including a fight on February 22<sup>nd</sup> with Jack Toland a Philadelphia fighter he had met a couple of times in the previous year. But things surrounding that fight got a little sticky.

At that time, Italian Joe was under the management of Jack Stickim who was actually Giacomo Stabile, another Brooklyn businessman with criminal connections; although it seems unlike prior managers he was not abusive to Joe. After Joe’s training partner, Willie Jones a featherweight, was featured in a newspaper article on February 11<sup>th</sup> announcing that he wanted to be a champion Joe got perturbed. He started his own plan to claim the Welterweight Championship. The Toland fight had been arranged by Joe as a step on that path because Jack Toland was the US Navy Welterweight Champion. A victory over him would allow Joe to challenge Al “One Punch” McCoy who was considered the Brooklyn Welterweight Champion. Things turned ugly when McCoy responded to Joe’s potential challenge by saying to the news reporters that, “he wanted to know something or other about “that wop.” The newspaper writers saw the opportunity and stoked the flames by reporting Joe was “cut to the quick” by that comment. Joe put on his best suit and took matters directly to the sports editor of the Brooklyn Eagle Newspaper to give an interview explaining why he deserved the shot at McCoy. This all came out in the newspaper on February 19<sup>th</sup> just in time to promote the upcoming Toland fight. Meanwhile, in all this turmoil Joe had a falling out with Jack Stickim and moved to a new manager Shorty Raymond, whose real name was Raefale Raimondi. Shorty Raymond was a Brooklyn politician, Deputy Sheriff, and a business partner of John Romanelli. Like Romanelli he would create problems for Joe.

As part of the contract Italian Joe signed with Raymond, he agreed to let the manager decide who he would fight and Shorty had told him not to go ahead with the Toland bout. Once it was clear Joe was going ahead with the fight against his orders Raymond got a court injunction against Joe so he couldn’t fight Toland. Joe went ahead and won the fight against Toland but lost the battle with Raymond.

In between these events, while working on his boxing career, Joe also had also worked on his social life. Three days after the Toland fight, he married Minnie Ullman at Borough Hall in Brooklyn on Feb 25, 1915.<sup>8</sup> Minnie, which may have been short for Wilhelmina, gave her age as 19 year old and birthplace as Russia, the daughter of Morris Ullman and Mary Rosenberg. Minnie was living at 445 Flushing Ave., Brooklyn at the time and gave no occupation. The marriage license recorded Italian Joe’s name as “Anthony Campolengo,” another of the many “differences” in his surname over time. His address was 152 20<sup>th</sup> St., and he listed his occupation as a pugilist.

Then Joe was brought into Brooklyn Supreme Court before Justice Kelby to answer for failing to abide by the injunction and held in contempt. He was fined \$250 which he couldn’t pay and was sent to the Raymond Street Jail. He was required to serve a day for each dollar of the fine unless it was paid in

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<sup>8</sup> New York Vital Records: Marriages Brooklyn record #2444.

the meantime. Joe missed a fight in April but was back in the ring by May.

Later that year Joe and Minnie's son, Michael James Camberlango was born and now out of the grasp of the law Joe could go back to his boxing including a fight with "Sailor Eddy Maher" who Joe beat handily with a 7<sup>th</sup> round knockout. The US Navy Standard, a publication for the servicemen reported on the fight in prejudicial terms.

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### **EXTRA! GREAT ITALIAN VICTORY.**

**Italian Joe Gans handed the poppy punch to Sailor Maher in seven rounds in Brooklyn last month. The Sailor started fine but finished bum. In the first round the gob loomed up like the first hotel sticker from Yokohama on a homeward-bounder's suit case, but after the first frame his chances were about as few and far between as are cabaret meals in the brig. The grand salaam came in the seventh when the Italiano hung a right on the gob's chin. Maher had visions of raviolas and spighet, while the referee counted accurately from 1 up to 10. If these wops want to fight why don't they stay in Europe?**

Italian Joe ended up fighting 14 bouts by the end of 1915. Among those fights was the first of what would become a 22 bout series of fights with "Soldier Barfield." On December 1 they met for the first time in New Haven, Connecticut and Barfield knocked Joe out in the 4th round with a blow to the stomach. Italian Joe got a rematch on Dec. 25th and created a controversy. The news accounts tell us that after seven rounds of brawling Joe, "let go a smash that sent Barfield sprawling to the mat." Barfield and his manager claimed he was fouled. After a ring doctor's examination and ruling that there was no foul Joe was awarded the victory on a technical knockout.

Joe closed out 1915 with a career total of 113 fights that included 64 wins, 26 losses and 23 draws. He also could celebrate seeing his now ex-manager, Shorty Raymond get into trouble after cheating a boxer out of his purse.

At 24 years old it appeared he was progressing with the potential to make a mark in the ring but in 1916 things would change drastically.

## A Smashing Change

His first fight on Feb. 19, 1916 ended in a defeat. He traveled to Boston, Massachusetts on March 3rd and lost that fight, too. Back in Brooklyn on May 30th he lost again to French boxer Albert Badoud. Then he stopped fighting.

Italian Joe had injured his hand in the Badoud fight and began a recovery that would keep him out of action the rest of the year. While he was recovering he changed managers again signing with Jim Donahue. There was some joy that year when Joe's seventeen year old sister Rosina married Giacomo Bassille who had immigrated from Lapari, Messina Italy. Their marriage turned out to be a union that would prove to be significant for the family stability in the future.



Meanwhile, the rest of the world was in flames with World War One raging through Europe and slowly drawing the US into the conflict. But there was also conflict in the boxing world and it would have a greater impact on Joe and his family.

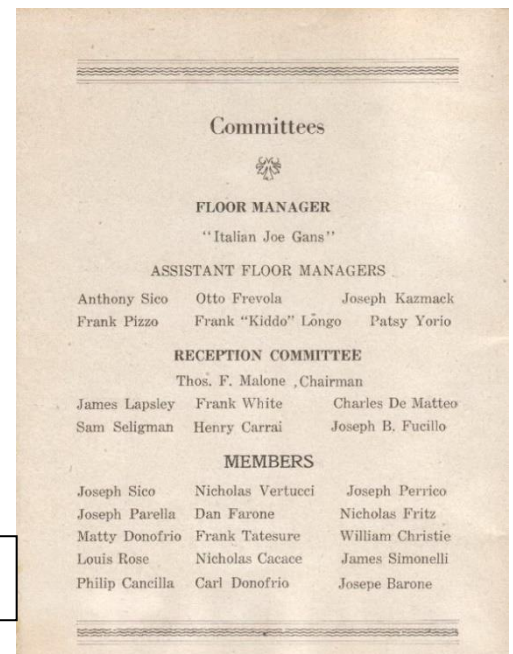
On May 5, 1917 the State of New York passed the Slater Bill, outlawing boxing. By November professional boxing became illegal in New York.

After the US entered WWI in April of that year men were required to register for the draft. Joe filled out his draft registration card on June 5<sup>th</sup>, signing his name as "Tony Campberlang" with an address of 586 Third Ave, Brooklyn. He listed his occupation as "Puglist" (sic) and was married with a wife and child to support.

As Joe and his family were facing both the loss of his profession in New York and the possibility of him being drafted into military service he did what he knew best – he kept on fighting, trying to find ways he could box outside of New York State.

In September he traveled to Lawrence, Massachusetts, a large industrial mill town, for a fight that he lost on a decision to Tommy Robson.

Joe had gotten back to his old manager, Jack Stickim again and took on a new job with his help. Returning World War One soldiers of Irish and Italian ancestry incorporated the Adonis Social Club at 152 Twentieth Street, Brooklyn. Jack Stickim had a connection to the club and Joe was able to become the "floor manager" a position that enabled him to use his notoriety, mingle with guests, and also keep an eye on everyone's behavior. Their involvement in this venture would have a major impact on them in six years.



Adonis Social Club Program  
December 12, 1917

On December 12<sup>th</sup> the Adonis Social Club held their Annual Full and Civic Dress Ball that included dance songs, Irish music, and jazz. It must have been a great evening but Joe had gotten a rematch with Robson the Lawrence Massachusetts boxer at a venue outside of Providence, Rhode Island. The bout was scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup> and it would be disastrous.

Perhaps it was the late evening from celebrating at the social club or the trip to the out of state fight location but Italian Joe was pummelled badly through the first six rounds. Beaten down and exhausted a massive blow landed in the seventh round that knocked him out for the first time in his career. It was such a devastating punch that it took five minutes to revive him. When he came to he got up and showing a sense of humor or bewilderment said, "What munitions ship was that that exploded?"

Since 1915, Joe's fighting record had been going downhill with only 12 wins, 19 losses and 5 draws over the period. With boxing no longer legal in New York Joe and his family could only hope that next year would bring a change in things as he prepared to fight out of state at venues that never provided the kind of atmosphere and good results he enjoyed in Brooklyn.

## Fighting On and Speaking Easy

In 1918 Joe was able to get three prizefights in Allentown and Harrison, Pennsylvania and Jersey City, New Jersey but they were just as frustrating as the other fights he had away from his own area in New York with Joe losing three of them all.

And that wasn't all; on August 1<sup>st</sup> Joe was arrested at Coney Island as an "idler." There was a question about considering pugilists as being employed since boxing was illegal in New York. There was thinking that healthy and fit men in the right age group should be in military service with a war going on. Joe's case, which was heard on August 9, was put on hold until a Special Session court could be held to make the determination about boxing being considered an employment. Apparently, the ruling came down in favor of fighters because no further action was taken. Meanwhile, Italian Joe was making boxing appearances in exhibition matches in Brooklyn that were put on as entertainment to raise money for the war effort. These events included several nationally recognized boxers including Jack Dempsey, the most popular boxer in America then. These events kept Joe's name in the papers giving him visibility and hope.

He was now living at 79 14<sup>th</sup> Street but things became bleak when Minnie, who had been ill, was admitted to the Montifiore Home and Hospital in the Bronx, New York on November 11. She was diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis and laryngeal tuberculosis. On January 11, 1919 Minnie died at age 22 and was buried three days later at the Linden Hill Cemetery.<sup>9</sup>

Joe was now faced with caring for Michael his four year old son alone just as his father had done. He was still working at the social club and he and young Michael took up occupancy in the apartment that was above it along with Joe's father. During this period young Michael and his grandfather would become very close while Joe was away with training, boxing, or at the social club.

Since Joe wasn't able to pursue his professional boxing career in New York he continued going elsewhere for fights. On August 27 he won a bout in Providence, Rhode Island but something else more significant was looming. Prohibition – outlawing the production, transporting, or selling liquor in the United States. It went into effect October 28<sup>th</sup> and changed America over the next 14 years.

Not one to give up easily, Joe found a new manager by 1920 named Chubby Gietz, perhaps because Jack Stickim was busy with other matters. The Adonis Social Club continued to operate but was now a speakeasy and Stickim had an ownership interest in it. Joe's family was still housed above it.

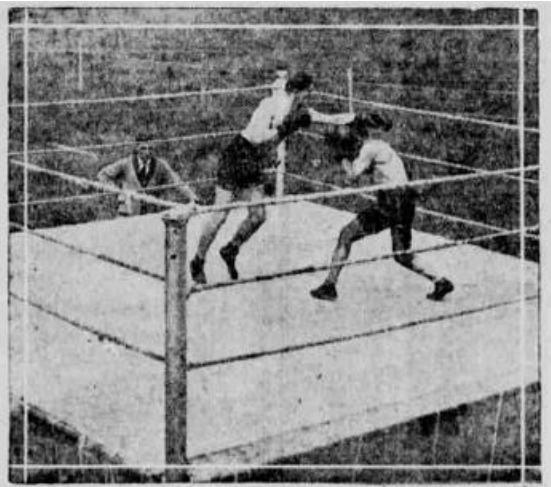
Joe and Gietz knew what was looming when on February 19<sup>th</sup> they announced plans for Joe to make a comeback. They were obviously aware that New York State was going to make a change and adopt a law legalizing boxing. Part of the new rules allowed New York State National Guard armories to be used for boxing and on October 15<sup>th</sup> the State started issuing boxing licenses.

Although Joe didn't have a prizefight in 1920, boxing was still the pre-eminent sport in the United States, and no figure loomed larger than Jack Dempsey, who was the World Heavyweight Champion. Joe had been on a couple of exhibition cards with Dempsey that were held in New York during 1918 to raise money for the war effort. He probably spared with Jack on occasions and his family tells of the two getting into a hot match with tempers flaring. Joe may have even knocked Jack down but Joe was left with a dislike for Jack that would manifest itself when Joe was working his way back into boxing. One thing Joe did in 1920 was to have an exhibition match with Georges Carpentier, the French light-heavyweight champion who had come to America to challenge Jack Dempsey. It took place on

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<sup>9</sup> Vital Records, NYC 1919 Death Certificate 497.

October 25 and Carpentier knocked him down in the first round. But this may have been a setup for what was to come.

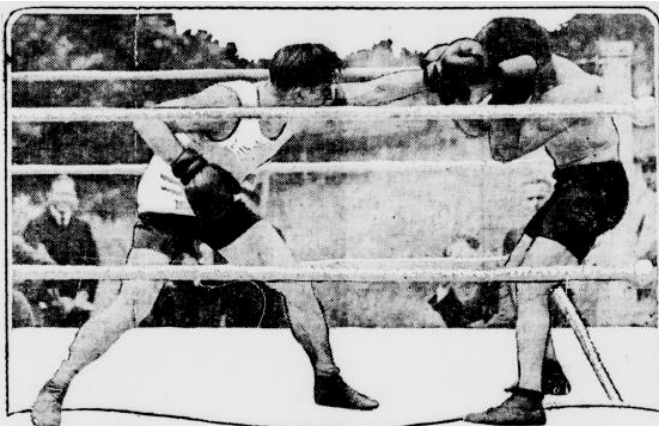


**CARPENTIER IN TRAINING AT MANHASSET, L. I.**  
 Italian Joe Gans is ducking one of Carpentier's punches while Journee, his French sparring partner looks on. Journee closely resembles Dempsey, which is perhaps the reason Carpentier uses him as a sparring partner.

In 1921 the boxing world was abuzz with anticipation as Jack Dempsey was scheduled to fight Georges Carpentier, a war hero and the European Light-heavyweight Champion. Meanwhile, Italian Joe started off with three straight wins and went on to fight 10 bouts. However, the biggest involvement that year for him was with Georges Carpentier.

Joe again signed with a new manager, Charlie Kucker (sometimes called Cooker) who was able to negotiate a deal for Joe to join Carpentier's training camp in Manhasset, New York and get paid \$1,500 to act as a training assistant. Joe arrived there on May 24<sup>th</sup> and would stay until the bout Carpentier fought with Dempsey on July 2<sup>nd</sup> in New Jersey.

Carpentier's manager thought fighting a smaller faster boxer would help in training the French champion. The newspaper reports suggest it was a great experience for Joe with training and boxing taking place every day. The news articles gave Joe national exposure with stories and photographs of him sparring with Carpentier appearing across the country. It was just up Joe's alley and he made such an impression on the camp that he was asked to join the seconds and be in Carpentier's corner when the Dempsey fight occurred. That fight, considered by boxing fans as one of the Fights of the Century, was the first prizefight to have a million dollar gate.



Who said Georges Carpentier didn't have a left hand? In this picture he's shown going after Italian Joe Gans, his sparring partner, so viciously with his left that Joe hurriedly covered up to escape. Georges has been using his right hand almost exclusively in public exhibitions.



The French challenger realizes that Dempsey will try to squeeze him in a corner at Jersey and pummel him at close range. So he's been polishing up on his own infighting methods. He's walloping here at Italian Joe Gans' stomach.

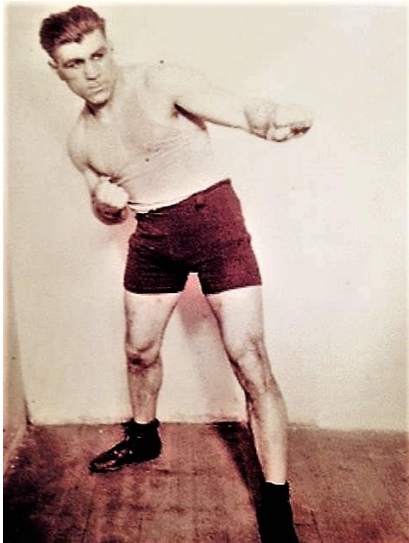


## Banging Away

Italian Joe was back in the game again. During 1921 he was in the newspapers regularly and involved in the biggest sports event of the time. He had relaunched his career and came out of the year with a winning record of 5 wins, two losses and 3 ties. Things were looking up again.

In 1922 the glamour was gone and it was back to the hard work again with Joe registering a mediocre 4 wins, 4 loses and 2 draws. The following year Joe's boxing results were worse with 2 wins, 5 losses and 4 draws.

But 1923 found Joe involved in another small controversy when "Joe Gans Fought Joe Gans."<sup>10</sup> Joe had actually fought another Joe Gans namesake on August 15, 1918 when he lost to Allentown Joe Gans (Arphelius Hicks) in an eight round decision at Harrison, Pennsylvania. This time Joe was facing Cyril Quinton from the Barbados who was fighting as Panama Joe Gans. The promoters hyped the fight by stating that only the winner would be able to continue to use the name "Joe Gans" going forward. They met in a 12 round match on February 6<sup>th</sup> with Italian Joe coming out on top and controversy ensuing. Panama Joe Gans was considered the Colored Middleweight Champion and Italian Joe's manager claimed Joe now held that title. No one else recognized the claim and it was resolved on September 15 when they met for a rematch and Panama Joe out pointed Italian Joe to end his short reign as the Colored Champion.



RING January, 1923

*Merry Christmas!!  
Happy New Year!!*

**TONY KELLY**  
**CHARLIE KUCKER**

*Managers of*

**Italian Joe Gans, 150**  
**Eddie Brady, : 126**  
**Charley Izzo, : 118**

Address 245 West 47th Street  
New York City  
Telephone: Bryant 2455

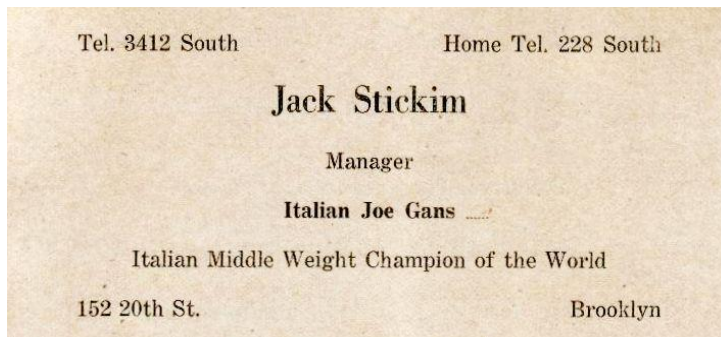
Italian Joe was always a plugger and in 1924 he amassed a record of 4 wins, 3 losses and 1 draw. He also joined the New York National Guard which was permitting boxing and staging fights through their armory network, something that would allow him to keep fighting at the club level and ultimately would extend his career.

When 1925 rolled around Joe would be indirectly involved in something more newsworthy than his fights.

<sup>10</sup> The Fight Forum, <http://www.thesweetscience.com/forums/showthread.php?16476-The-Weird-Side-of-Boxing-The-Nights-Joe-Gans-Fought-Joe-Gans>

## A Shot in the Dark

Italian Joe was still working as the floor manager at the Adonis Social Club and living in the apartment over it. The night life might explain the difference in Joe's recent boxing record. With Prohibition and the lucrative opportunity represented by the illicit sale of liquor the control of the club had changed and was a "speakeasy." Joe's old manager, John Stabile, who went by an alias of Jack Stickim along with other underworld associates now ran the club. Stickim also maintained a front of being a manager for fighters and used the club address as his "business office."



Besides giving Joe a job at the club and place to stay he also gave him a big boost by listing Italian Joe Gans as the "Italian Middleweight Champion of the World" a title that didn't exist.

Although the club's activities were illegal it operated with impunity until an event on December 25, 1925. That night, Joe wasn't serving in his role as floor manager nor doorman; he had been given the night off. Instead, Al Capone was sitting in for him.



Suspects arrested in the Adonis Social Club murders, John Stabile (Jack Stickim) seated lower right, Al Capone standing directly behind him.



Adonis Social Club  
December 26, 1925  
Camberlango apartment is visible above the street level.

The notorious gangster, who was born in Brooklyn, had returned from Chicago to see if doctors could help his son who had been suffering with ear infection problems. Underlying this visit by Capone from Chicago was a simmering gang feud between him and an Irish mob headed by Richard "Peg Leg" Lonergan. The revelry at the club continued through Christmas Night until 3am when the lights inside the club suddenly went out and gunfire erupted killing Lonergan and two of his associates.

The next morning during the police investigation Joe and the family were questioned in their apartment over the club but the newspaper reported they said, "that

whatever the disturbance was it wasn't sufficient to arouse them from their sleep." However, young Michael Camberlango, who was then ten years old, recalled it differently telling his family that when the gunfire started his grandfather Michele threw him under the bed as they all huddled for safety.

Although several arrests were made, including Joe's manager Jack Stickim, no one is ever convicted.

## The Titles

Italian Joe was now 35 years old and had been fighting professionally for 18 years. The number of fights he was having had gone down considerably and his results were not good. In 1926 he had five fights winning only one. But the most important event for him that year was a fight Georges Carpentier had in May. Carpentier was getting a \$13,000 purse for it but earlier that year, Joe had sued Carpentier for the \$1,500 owed him when he served as a sparring partner back in 1921. It remained unpaid and Joe's new manager, Charlie Kucker put a lien on Carpentier's earnings. The New York State Athletic Commission held up the winnings until the debt with Joe was settled.

In 1927 Italian Joe would achieve a couple of personal milestones even though he won only two of the seven bouts he fought that year. It was also the year he earned his biggest single purse for a fight. On August 10<sup>th</sup> Italian Joe fought George Courtney at Ebbets Field in front of 8,000 people. It was a fight of ironies. The referee for the fight was the same one who officiated at Joe's first fight in 1908. Courtney, the much younger man, out-boxed Joe for 9 rounds but failed to put him away. Joe's courageous battle continued into the tenth round when Courtney knocked him down. When Joe got up he was staggering and defenceless. Courtney moved in to throw a final punch but the referee grabbed his hand swinging him around so the punch wouldn't land. Joe lost the fight which was the same outcome as his very first fight under the same referee 19 years before. However there was a big difference in what Joe earned in this bout. In a 1951 interview, Italian Joe said that he was paid

\$2,000 for this fight, his largest single payday. Later that year he would have a victory that provided him with an emotional lift. On Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> he fought Cy Schindell for the Middleweight title belt of the New York State National Guard at the 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment Armory. Joe outlasted Schindell in a 10 round battle to win on points. He had realized one of his dreams; he was now a Middleweight Champion. Cy Schindell quit boxing and became a movie actor.

Joe went into 1928 with a renewed vigor taking on 9 bouts and winning seven. He had become a grand old man of the sport and the newspapers paid him due respect for his perseverance. He had won three bouts in January and February when he fought Frank Konchina on March 16 at the 106<sup>th</sup> Regiment Armory for the Middleweight Championship of the US Army. It was a 12 round fight of fast action that went to Joe on points. He now was holding a second title – middleweight champion. The newspaper, account added that "Joe has no intentions of entering the land of Has-Beenville."

Italian Joe kept rolling with a second round knockout of Cy Shindell in an April rematch to retain the National Guard Welterweight title and then a 4<sup>th</sup> round TKO victory over George Deschner in May.

What might be considered the greatest recognition of Italian Joe came on June 7<sup>th</sup> when the renowned writer, Damon Runyon penned a piece about Joe. Italian Joe was a perfect fit for the "Runyonesque" characters the author made famous. His lengthy piece pointed out the key to Joe's

Cy Schindell



Seymour "Cy" Schindell was born in Brooklyn in 1907. Known as the "Kingsbridge Sledgehammer" he fought Italian Joe Gans three times in 1927-1928. His boxing career was short, only 23 bouts. He was bitten by the acting bug and found some success in Hollywood in the 1930s - 1940s with 159 film appearances. Mostly cast in roles as a heavy or a blue collar worker he also did stunt work. He is most notable for appearing in many Three Stooges comedies but also appeared in *It's a Wonderful Life*.

longevity in the ring was his close adherence to training and watching his conditioning. Runyon summed it up as, “nature and care combined to give him the power to withstand the grind.”

But the grind and age may have been overtaking Italian Joe in 1929 with him recording 4 wins and 4 losses. The last of the bouts that year took place in San Juan Puerto Rico on December 15 against KO Kelly. Joe opened the next year still in San Juan with a January 26<sup>th</sup> bout.

It is the newspaper report about the only other bout he had that year on October 27, 1930 which has a telling headline about him reading, “Italian Joe Loses Fight And Noodle.” Joe was taking a terrible beating from his opponent and when he got up reeling around the ring after a seven count in the fourth round, the referee stopped the fight. But Joe was still full of fight and when his opponent and second went over to him after the fight Joe went after both of them. This led to a near riot in the stands as the two factions had to be pulled apart. Apparently, Joe’s pride was hurt but he was also going to have to face the Boxing Commission and a possible suspension for this boxing faux pas.

## Facing the Facts

By this time the family had reoriented itself around Joe's sister Rose. After the Adonis Social Club incident in 1925, Joe sent his 10 year old son Michael to live with Rose and her family at 679 Third Avenue in Brooklyn, a large apartment building between 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Streets. Meanwhile, Joe's dad would visit his namesake, taking young Michael for the day to go to the park or a silent movie. They were very close after spending time together since Minnie died in 1919. That ended in 1928 when Michele Camberlango died.

By 1930, Michael, who was now 15 was joined at Rose's home by Italian Joe's younger brother Joseph Camberlango. Besides going to school Michael also was hanging around gymnasiums and picking up boxing skills. Something he would use later.

The Boxing Commission suspension of Italian Joe ended in time for him to fight on April 4, 1931, a bout that ended in a draw. Buoyed by that result Joe fought again on April 24<sup>th</sup> but suffered another beating described as "one of his most decisive losses."

After that, Italian Joe painfully faced the facts and hung up his gloves.

He had been in 217 professional fights in the 23 years since 1908 but Italian Joe was no longer able to pursue his passion for boxing as a professional. During the rest of the year and in 1932 Joe didn't have any bouts but kept up his workouts and conditioning. It was a habit he had become dedicated to and one he would continue.

Prohibition ended in 1933 and so did Joe's staying out of the boxing ring. A retired fighter, Phil Franchini, obtained a liquor license to open a beer hall and he used his connections with fighters to host a "smoker" as a promotional event. The event on February 28 brought Italian Joe and Soldier Barfield together for the 23<sup>rd</sup> time in a 3 round exhibition that also included several other noted retired boxers from the last generation. After that Italian Joe was pretty much out of the ring and spotlight except for the occasional news article that mentioned him as a comparison to another fighter or when he made a public appearance at an event.

While Joe was trying to adjust to a life without boxing his son made a big change. Michael joined the Depression Era government organization, the Civilian Conservation Corps and was sent to Utah to work on projects. While he was there he boxed under the name of "Mike Gans." Mike Gans was 6 feet 1' tall and weighed 175 pounds.

Meanwhile, Joe had developed a relationship with Fr. Francis P. Barilla, a local parish priest who was trying to start a new church in Brooklyn that would be the first one dedicated to St. Bernadette in the Western Hemisphere. Fr. Barilla's family owned a bakery in the neighborhood and he was a big fan of Italian Joe, making for the start of the solid relationship. From 1935 through 1936, during the founding of the Shrine Church of St. Bernadette at 8201 Thirteenth Ave., Italian Joe could be seen working on the construction project. Once it was completed he lived in the rectory and on January 30, 1936 the Brooklyn Eagle announced Joe was the sexton for the new church. Although Joe was proud of his new position and the glowing story of his boxing career he made sure everyone reading the interview would be aware of how well Michael, who had just returned for a visit, was doing out west – with nine knockout victories under his belt.



Michael James Camberlango  
1862-1928

## One Last Dance

Italian Joe had one more surprise for everyone in 1936. Perhaps it was from telling all those boxing stories to Fr. Barilla or from hearing about Michael's success that made Joe take one more shot in the ring.



Joe, as Damon Runyon had pointed out always took care of himself, even to the point that there was a small blurb in the newspaper advising people, "That fellow you see running all over the Dyker golf course each morning is Italian Joe Gans."

When the Brooklyn Eagle announced on October 5<sup>th</sup> that Italian Joe Gans would be fighting Frankie Williams it may not have surprised those who knew him. It would turn out to be the last battle for both fighters but Joe was dazzling. Joe knocked Williams out with two left hooks to the jaw within 21 seconds of the first round! Fr. Barilla organized a victory party for Joe at the church rectory where he was feted by friends and family.

The New York Times said about him in his final fight, "Joe is employed as a caretaker and athletic director at the New Shrine Church of St. Bernadette. Today, Joe is a physical marvel, full of endurance, with a pair of strong, sturdy legs, running six miles every morning around Dyker Park golf course and leaving behind his sparring partners who cannot keep up with him."

But, now, it was really over; with 103 victories, 75 losses and 40 draws under his belt that spanned twenty-eight years.

While all those years of training and conditioning had paid off for Joe's body the countless pounding and blows to the head left him with some visible and not so visible scars. He had a "cauliflower ear" and some scars from cuts that were signs of his trade. And he also dealt with "Dementia pugilistica" the neurological disorder which may affect boxers and wrestlers who receive multiple dizzying blows to the head.

Italian Joe's reputation was well established and he was well known so his idiosyncrasies were accepted and in many cases he was sought after to be a guest or celebrity at small local events or restaurants. In 1940, Italian Joe was able to help out his friend Fr. Barilla when St. Bernadette's Church introduced amateur boxing at St. Bernadette's Arena, 82<sup>nd</sup> St. and 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. Joe fought a three round exhibition match when it opened on July 31.

Meanwhile, his son Mike returned to Utah where he met and married Vera Bertanshaw in 1939. Having done well in the boxing ring out West, Michael decided to come back to Brooklyn in 1940 to try his skills in a larger market. It was there Italian Joe's first grandson Anthony Camberlango was born and Joe would make it a point to visit, knocking on the door of Mike and Vera's place and ask, "Whe's da kid?" and then proceed to play with him.

But soon, their lives and that of the entire world would change dramatically.

## Battling on Two Fronts

World War Two had erupted in Europe but the US remained out of it until 1941. On January 27, 1942, just a month after the US entered the war, Mike fought again in Brooklyn winning his bout. Then drawn by the war effort he and Vera moved back to her home in Utah to get her settled close to her family in Blanding, Utah. On March 31, 1944 Michael enlisted in the US Navy after the birth of a daughter, Jeanette Rose Camberlango in Blanding.

In a twist of irony, Italian Joe used the skills he acquired as a youth and went to work in the Brooklyn Navy Yard as a riveter building ships for the war effort. After completing training Michael was assigned to the *USS Flint* (CL 97) a newly launched light cruiser that was commissioned on August 31, 1944.

While Italian Joe was pounding rivets, Michael and the *Flint* were pounding their way across the Pacific Ocean.

Although Joe's name appeared in the local Brooklyn newspapers the articles were related to war time events, making an appearance at a fund raiser, or mentioning his work in the Navy Yard. He reached national prominence again in October 1944 when he appeared in newspapers throughout the country.

"Ripley's Believe It or Not!" was a syndicated newspaper feature, at the time reaching over 80 million readers. There wasn't a person in America who didn't know who Ripley was and they featured Italian Joe in one article that ran on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.



USS Flint



Michael probably saw it in the West Coast newspapers before heading to the Caroline Islands in the Western Pacific where the *Flint* joined the Third Fleet Task Force 38 on December 27, 1944. The ship supported the invasion of Luzon, screening air craft carriers and fending off a Japanese kamikaze attack on January 21, 1945. After resupplying they moved to Iwo Jima to provide cover for Marines. From there she went to assist in the invasion of Okinawa where she brought down several Japanese planes in attacks on March 18-22. After a refit from May 14-24 the *Flint* cruised the Leyte Gulf assisting in air cover operations for the final bombardment of the Japanese home island. With the cessation of hostilities she took station off the Japanese coast to serve as a rescue ship and homing station for transport planes carrying occupation troops. The *Flint* then was anchored in Tokyo Bay. On October 13 she loaded homeward bound servicemen at Yokosuka bringing them to San Francisco Bay on November 28. Michael was discharged four days later.



## The Last Round

With the war over, things were returning to a more even keel. Michael returned to Blanding and found a job with a uranium mining company.

Joe left the Navy Yard and found a job working at Caminiti's Italian Restaurant at 308 Fulton Street as an assistant manager. He was living with his sister Rose's family and maintained

his active life style. Although out of the limelight for years, people in Brooklyn still knew who he was and the Brooklyn Eagle Newspaper did a feature article about him on March 18, 1951. The piece included a contented looking photograph of the now 60 year old ex-boxer. And he showed his old desire to get in the ring saying, "With a month's training I'm sure I could go six rounds. I'd start training tomorrow if someone would give me a bout."

In August, Joe took a trip to the Catskill Mountains in Upstate New York which was a popular vacation spot. On Saturday morning at 9:15am on August 25, 1951 Italian Joe died of a heart attack.<sup>11</sup>

A requiem Mass was held for him by his old friend, Monsignor Barilla at The Shrine Church of St. Bernadette Word on August 28<sup>th</sup>. The crowd was so large they had to stand outside the church building. He was buried at St. John's Cemetery with his father.



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<sup>11</sup> NY State Department of Health Certified Transcript of Death, February 10, 2017.

## Appendix

Table of Managers

Table of Addresses

Boxing Record

### Managers

Manager	Year
Giovanni (John) Romanelli	1912
Jack Stickim (Giacomo Stabile)	1915
Shorty Raymond (Raefale Raimondi)	1915
Jim Donahue	1916
Jack Stickim (Giacomo Stabile)	1917
Chubby Geitz	1920
Charlie Kucker (Cooker)	1921
Tony Kelly & Charlie Kucker	1923

### Addresses Associated with Camperlango Family

Address	Date
47 Baxter St., Manhattan	Jan. 2, 1890 (parents' marriage)
152 20 <sup>th</sup> St., Brooklyn	August 19, 1907 (Teresa's Death)
152 20 <sup>th</sup> St., Brooklyn	Feb. 25, 1915 (Joe's marriage)
586 Third Ave, Brooklyn	June 5, 1917 (residence on WWI Draft Card)
152 20 <sup>th</sup> St., Brooklyn	1917 (Addonis Social Club)
79 14 <sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn	January 11, 1919 (Minnie's Death)
679 Third Ave., Brooklyn	1925 (Basile Household)
673 Third Ave., Brooklyn	1927
1271 83 <sup>rd</sup> St., Brooklyn	1940 (Basile Household)

## Boxing Record

<http://boxrec.com/en/boxer/32093>

### Italian Joe Gans

Alias Young Joe Gans

Birth Name Antonio Camberlango

(Also spelled Camberlengo by some sources)

Hometown Brooklyn, NY, New York, NY

Division Welterweight

*Antonio Camberlango, born 16 February 1891, Brooklyn, NY. Also known as "Young Joe Gans early in his career. Height 5'6". Weight 145-160 lbs. Managed by Charles Kueker, Shorty Raymond, Giovanni Romanelli, Jim Donahue. Died 25 August 1951 at New Paltz NY. Record compiled by Jack Kincaid, Lockett Davis and Paul Zabala.*

*Italian Joe Gans, known as a great exponent of fitness, was one of the many fighters who took on the name of the great Joe Gans. (Another of Italian extraction was known as "Dago Joe Gans.") His record never appeared in a published record book. Perhaps the first to be printed was by Lockett Davis in IBRO Journal #68; the present record is derived from that one, with corrections and additions provided by Wouter Van Alst, Ric Kilmer, Matt Tegen, Robin Nygaard, John Sheppard, Sid Schneck, Bob Yalen and Fred Spero.*

Record to Date, including ND: Won 105 (KOs 27) Lost 74 Drawn 40 Total 219  
1908

Apr 8 Kid Stringer Brooklyn, NY L NWS 3

May 15 Phil The Newsboy Brooklyn, NY W NWS 4

May 20 Jim Spinelli Brooklyn, NY W NWS 4

Jul 10 Young Terry Brooklyn, NY L NWS 4

Sep 21 Billy Walsh Brooklyn, NY L NWS 4

1909

Jan 25 Herman Smith Brooklyn, NY L NWS 4

Feb 1 Willie Hayes Brooklyn, NY W NWS 4

Feb 2 Joe Bennell Brooklyn, NY W NWS 4

Feb 15 George Hoey Brooklyn, NY L NWS 4

Mar 2 Kid McDonough Brooklyn, NY W NWS 4

Mar 16 Young Volkes Brooklyn, NY W TKO 2

Apr 6 Kid Smith Brooklyn, NY L NWS 4

Aug 23 Young Nelson Brooklyn, NY W NWS 4

Dec 14 Jack Larson Brooklyn, NY W TKO 2

1910

Jan 17 Famous Napoleon Brooklyn, NY D NWS 4

Jan 21 Terry Jones New York, NY D NWS 4

Feb 21 Young Joe Hogan Brooklyn, NY L NWS 4

Mar 10 Young Sam Langford Newark, NJ W KO 4

Jun 2 Jim Langford Harrison, NJ W NWS 6

Jun 23 Smoke Jones Harrison, NJ W NWS 6

Jul 21 Young Bolt New York, NY W NWS 4

Aug 4 Tommy Rowan New York, NY W KO 3  
Oct 27 Jimmy Moore Brooklyn, NY W NWS 4  
Nov 1 Kid Bates Brooklyn, NY W KO 4  
Nov 3 Abe Hollandersky Brooklyn, NY W NWS 4  
Nov 17 Young Tack Brooklyn, NY D NWS 6  
Dec 10 Willie Collins New York, NY W KO 3  
Dec 15 Jack Denning Brooklyn, NY D NWS 6  
1911  
Jan 18 Sailor Davis Newark, NJ D NWS 4  
Jan 19 Willie KO Brennan Brooklyn, NY L NWS 6  
Feb 23 Knockout Johnson Harrison, NJ L NWS 10  
Mar 2 Young Joe Jeannette Brooklyn, NY W KO 4  
Mar 29 Joe Sexton Brooklyn, NY D NWS 4  
Apr 24 Sailor Davis Brooklyn, NY D NWS 10  
May 1 Young Patsy Haley Brooklyn, NY W NWS 4  
Jul 7 Charley Smith Coney Island D NWS 10  
Jul 22 Kid Nickey Bronx, NY D NWS 6  
Aug 14 Jimmy Carter Bay Shore, NY W NWS 10  
Aug 25 Ray Hatfield Bronx, NY W NWS 10  
Aug 30 Johnny Harvey New York, NY W TKO 4  
Sep 5 Willie Adams New York, NY W NWS 6  
Sep 15 Jimmy Davidson New York, NY W NWS 6  
Sep 18 Charley Hyland New York, NY W KO 2  
Sep 25 Young Mercier Newark, NJ D NWS 4  
Sep 28 Johnny 'Kid' Alberts New York, NY L NWS 6  
Oct 7 Jack Smith Brooklyn, NY W KO 7  
Oct 10 Smoke Jones Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Oct 12 Dave Kurtz New York, NY W NWS 6  
Oct 28 Johnny Keyes Brooklyn, NY L NWS 6  
Oct 28 Ralph Rose Brooklyn, NY W KO 4  
(Gans fought twice on this date)  
Dec 26 Smoke Jones Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
1912  
Jan 13 Joe Smith Brooklyn, NY W TKO 1  
Jan 27 Jack Lundy Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Feb 22 Terry Mitchell Brooklyn, NY D NWS 10  
Feb 27 Willie Fitzgerald Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
Mar 19 Dick Nelson Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Mar 30 Willie Fitzgerald Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
May 13 Sailor Davis Newark, NJ W NWS 6  
Jun 18 Bert Clawson Jamaica, NY W KO 9  
Jul 2 Young Levine Jamaica, NY D NWS 6  
Jul 8 Kid Graves Brooklyn, NY D NWS 10  
Jul 27 Mike Farrell Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Jul 29 Jack Smith Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Sep 28 Johnny Dohan Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Oct 9 Bull Anderson Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Oct 19 Johnny Dohan Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
Oct 30 Bull Anderson Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Nov 27 Joe Stein Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Dec 5 Young Jackson Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Dec 18 Mike Farrell Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10

1913

Jan 1 Terry Mitchell Brooklyn, NY D NWS 10  
Jan 15 Paddy Sullivan Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Jan 29 Willie Fitzgerald Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Feb 15 Harry Price Brooklyn, NY D NWS 10  
Mar 4 Eddie McMahon Brooklyn, NY W TKO 2  
Apr 9 Benny Franklin New York, NY W NWS 10  
Apr 29 Mike Farrell Brooklyn, NY D NWS 10  
Jun 21 Mike Glover Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
Nov 8 Billy Lewis Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Nov 27 Jack Toland Philadelphia, PA D NWS 6  
Dec 4 Frankie Gale Brooklyn, NY W TKO 3  
Dec 6 Jimmy Fryer Philadelphia, PA D NWS 6  
Dec 25 Tommy Howell Philadelphia, PA D NWS 6

1914

Jan 1 Jack Toland Philadelphia, PA D NWS 6  
Jan 24 Jack Toland Philadelphia, PA W NWS 6  
Feb 21 Joe Hirst Philadelphia, PA L NWS 6  
Mar 28 Young Erne Philadelphia, PA W NWS 6  
Apr 25 Frank Kenny Brooklyn, NY W KO 5  
Jun 15 Young Battling Nelson Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Jul 4 Jack Dougherty Brooklyn, NY W KO 2  
Jul 18 Mike Farrell Brooklyn, NY D NWS 10  
Aug 1 Sailor Cahill Brooklyn, NY W KO 2  
Aug 21 Young Hickey Far Rockaway, NY W NWS 10  
Sep 21 Frank Loughrey Philadelphia, PA W NWS 6  
Oct 12 Joe Borrell Philadelphia, PA W PTS 6  
Nov 2 Willie KO Brennan Philadelphia, PA L NWS 6  
Dec 1 Jack Toland Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Dec 11 Al McCoy New York, NY L NWS 10

1915

Jan 14 Billy Bush Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Feb 5 Tommy Maloney Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
Feb 22 Jack Toland Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Mar 12 Young Hickey New York, NY W NWS 10  
Mar 20 Young Ahearn Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
Apr 19 Billy Glover Brooklyn, NY D NWS 10  
May 25 Kid Graves Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
Jul 12 Jack Kelsey Brooklyn, NY D NWS 10  
Aug 10 Charley Alberts Rockaway Beach, NY W NWS 10  
Sep 20 Paul Dixon Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Oct 16 Terry Mitchell Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
Oct 19 Sailor Eddie Maher Astoria, NY W KO 7  
Nov 13 Terry Mitchell Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
Dec 1 Soldier Bartfield New Haven, CT L KO 4  
Dec 25 Soldier Bartfield Brooklyn, NY W TKO 8

1916

Feb 19 Terry Mitchell Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
Mar 3 Joe Eagan Roxbury, MA L PTS 12  
May 30 Albert Badoud Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10

1917

Feb 5 Young Ahearn Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
Feb 23 Al Thiel Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
Mar 12 Paul Dixon Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Mar 26 Paul Dixon Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Apr 2 Johnny 'Kid' Alberts Brooklyn, NY D NWS 10  
Apr 14 Jimmy O'Hagan Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
May 17 Mike O'Dowd Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
Jun 9 Eddie Billings Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
Jun 22 Lew Williams Brooklyn, NY D NWS 10  
Jul 14 Soldier Bartfield Brooklyn, NY D NWS 10  
Jul 28 Soldier Bartfield Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
Sep 6 Mike O'Dowd Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
Sep 15 Ted Kid Lewis Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
Sep 20 Tommy Robson Lawrence, MA L PTS 12  
Oct 13 Marty Cross Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Oct 27 Soldier Bartfield Brooklyn, NY L NWS 10  
Dec 1 Walter Laurette Brooklyn, NY W NWS 10  
Dec 14 Tommy Robson Thornton, RI L KO 6

1918

Feb 21 KO Willie Loughlin Allentown, PA L NWS 10  
Aug 5 Allentown Joe Gans Harrison, PA L NWS 8  
Sep 21 Stockyards Tommy Murphy Jersey City, NJ L NWS 8

1919

Aug 27 Cleve Hawkins Providence, RI W PTS 12

1920

(INACTIVE)

1921

Jan 20 Billy Richards Newark, NJ W NWS 10  
Feb 22 Joe Pledge Brooklyn, NY W PTS 10  
Mar 14 Tommy Madden Freeport, NY W PTS 12  
Mar 21 Soldier Bartfield Brooklyn, NY L PTS 15  
May 10 Soldier Bartfield Brooklyn, NY D 15  
Jun 20 Augie Ratner Brooklyn, NY L TKO 10  
Aug 29 Dave Rosenberg Brooklyn, NY D PTS 12  
Oct 20 Soldier Bartfield Brooklyn, NY W PTS 12  
Oct 29 Dave Rosenberg Brooklyn, NY W PTS 12  
Dec 12 Phil Bloom Brooklyn, NY D 12

1922

Feb 3 Andy Palmer New York, NY L KO 2  
Mar 11 Mike Carrier Brooklyn, NY W KO 4  
Apr 3 Tommy McAleer Brooklyn, NY D PTS 12  
Jun 19 Dave Rosenberg Brooklyn, NY L PTS 12  
Jul 10 Marty Cross Brooklyn, NY W PTS 12  
Jul 12 Frank D'Annunzio Long Island City, NY W PTS 4  
Aug 12 Tommy McAleer Long Island City, NY D 12

Sep 19 Nate Siegel New York, NY L PTS 12  
Oct 4 Soldier Bartfield Brooklyn, NY W PTS 10  
Dec 4 Lou Bogash Brooklyn, NY L PTS 12  
1923  
Feb 6 Panama Joe Gans New York, NY W PTS 12  
Feb 20 Jack Delaney New York, NY L PTS 12  
Mar 20 Jimmy O'Hagan Albany, NY L PTS 12  
Apr 16 Frankie Laureate Troy, NY L PTS 12  
Apr 23 Henry Melcar Chicago, IL D NWS 8  
Jun 1 Pat Walsh Long Island City, NY W KO 8  
Jul 6 Soldier Bartfield Brooklyn, NY D PTS 12  
Jul 9 Harry Galfund Brooklyn, NY L PTS 12  
Sep 15 Panama Joe Gans New York, NY L PTS 12  
Nov 20 Vic McLaughlin Albany, NY D 12  
Dec 20 Phil Krug Brooklyn, NY D 12  
1924  
May 8 Guardsman George West Brooklyn, NY W PTS 12  
May 29 Vic McLaughlin Brooklyn, NY W PTS 12  
Jun 23 Soldier Bartfield Brooklyn, NY W PTS 12  
Jul 8 Harry Galfund Coney Island, NY W PTS 10  
Oct 2 Ted Moore Brooklyn, NY L PTS 12  
Oct 18 Lew Chester Brooklyn, NY L PTS 6  
Nov 10 Harry Galfund Brooklyn, NY D 6  
Dec 4 Charley Arthurs Yonkers, NY W PTS 8  
Dec 19 Pete Bross Great Falls, MT L PTS 12  
1925  
Mar 21 Jack Eschelman Philadelphia, PA W PTS 10  
Mar 28 Allentown Joe Gans New York, NY L PTS 12  
Apr 30 Johnny Gill Hazleton, PA D 10  
Jul 1 Morrie Schlaifer Woodhaven, NY W PTS 12  
Jul 24 Larry Estridge Brooklyn, NY D 12  
Sep 10 Joe Senter West New York, NJ W NWS 10  
Sep 14 Pete Latzo Scranton, PA L PTS 10  
1926  
Jan 4 Pete Latzo Brooklyn, NY L PTS 10  
Apr 10 Chick Morlano Brooklyn, NY W PTS 10  
May 11 Phil Kaplan Saint Louis, MO L NWS 10  
Aug 3 Harry Galfund Brooklyn, NY L PTS 12  
Dec 4 Billy Franklin Brooklyn, NY L PTS 10  
1927  
Mar 5 Billy Franklin Brooklyn, NY W TKO 7  
May 2 Harry Ebbets Brooklyn, NY D 6  
Aug 10 George Courtney Brooklyn, NY L TKO 10  
Aug 26 Lowell Bobby Brown West Springfield, MA L PTS 10  
Oct 24 Homer Robertson Lynn, MA L PTS 10  
Nov 12 Cy Schindel Brooklyn, NY W PTS 10  
Dec 10 Cy Schindel Brooklyn, NY L DQ 9



1928

Jan 21 George Deschner New York, NY W PTS 10  
Feb 9 Mickey Taylor New York, NY W PTS 10  
Feb 18 Billy Franklin Brooklyn, NY W PTS 12  
Mar 16 Frank Konchina Brooklyn, NY W PTS 12  
Apr 28 Cy Schindel Brooklyn, NY W KO 2  
May 26 George Deschner Brooklyn, NY W TKO 4  
Jul 6 Henry Goldberg Brooklyn, NY L PTS 8  
Aug 24 George Deschner Saratoga Springs, NY W PTS 10  
Nov 17 Nick Palmer Brooklyn, NY L PTS 12

1929

Jan 19 Nick Palmer Brooklyn, NY L PTS 12  
Mar 16 Billy Franklin Brooklyn, NY W PTS 10  
Apr 8 Henry Goldberg Brooklyn, NY L PTS 6  
Jun 3 Henry Firpo New Castle, PA L PTS 10  
Jul 12 Lou Moscowitz Brooklyn, NY W TKO 1  
Aug 16 Henry Goldberg Brooklyn, NY W PTS 6  
Sep 19 Lew Ferry Brooklyn, NY W PTS 10  
Dec 15 KO Kelly San Juan, PUERTO RICO L PTS 10

1930

Jan 26 Esau Stephens San Juan, PUERTO RICO L PTS 8  
Oct 27 Edward Hultgren Brooklyn, NY L KO 4

1931

Apr 4 Isadore Damboise Brooklyn, NY D 8  
Apr 23 Emil Giusto Brooklyn, NY L PTS 8

1932-1935

(INACTIVE)

1936

Oct 5 Frankie Williams Brooklyn, NY W KO 1