

ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

visit: www.LouisvilleItalians.com

Editor - Mary Perry

March 2011

Membership - Mary Perry

Kentucky – Indiana sud

Messaggio del Presidente

Dear IAA Members:

Each month, my message includes an invitation for members to show support of their Italian heritage by attending IAA events. While I will continue to issue that invitation again later in my message to you, I also want to offer another rather special way you and your family can show your pride in your Italian heritage. More specifically, I want to make a special appeal to members of the IAA to consider submitting vintage photographs of their family to be included in the newsletter as part of the IAA Family History Project. In addition to being placed in the newsletter and viewed by other IAA members, these photographs will also be archived on the IAA website "Family History Project" link. The ultimate destination of these photographs will be to be put on display as part of the IAA's contribution to the Ronald L. Mazzoli Reading Room and Italian Heritage Center, which will be located in the University of Louisville main library. In addition to becoming one of the largest collections in the University Archives and Records Center, the Mazzoli Papers Project will serve as the anchor for the Italian Heritage Center (IHC). The IHC will share space in the area of the reading room that will include exhibits and displays highlighting the contributions made by the early Italians to Louisville (e.g., decorative tile businesses and produce industry) and the surrounding areas (e.g., coal miners in Eastern Kentucky). The IHC will also serve as an electronic depository for information and photographs of the Italian families who settled here, both past and present. Once stored in the electronic archives of the IHC, the material will be featured in rotating displays and exhibits for visitors to the Mazzoli Reading Room to see. So, if you would like to become part of the historical story of the Italians in Louisville, make it a point to scan electronically any photographs, historical documents (e.g., immigration papers), and/or family heirlooms you wish to contribute to the IAA archives. It will be extremely helpful if you can include descriptive information (e.g., names and ages of individuals in the photos, dates and locations when and where photos were taken, and background information about the photo, document, or heirloom). The more descriptive information you can provide, the more meaningful it will become to those who view it. Any items submitted should be in the form of a JPEG file and E-mailed as an attachment file to me at bcarducc@ius.edu. If you do not have an electronic scanner available to you, a JPEG file of any photograph or document can be created easily for you at any of the Fedex Kinko's stores throughout the city for a very nominal fee.

So, don't just let those wonderful family photographs collect dust in boxes. Instead, you and your family can become part of our local history by sharing them with others. To help get this submission process started, a photograph of my grandfather in his Italian military uniform can be viewed at the end of this newsletter.

Finally, as I do each month, I want to once again remind you to continue to show your support of the IAA by bringing your family and friends to the monthly gatherings. The IAA's next monthly gathering will be to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19th at St. Joseph's Church. As always, information regarding all of the IAA-sponsored events is provided in the *UNISCALI* ("Join Us") feature of the newsletter. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming IAA events, as well as receiving your submission for the IAA Family History Project.

Warmest regards,
Bernardo J. Carducci, President



Micaela Angeline Patenaude	3/1
John Beatty	3/8
Walter Carpenter	3/13
Fred Moir	3/18
Sam Flitt	3/22

See Newsletter Page 2
For
March 2011 Membership Event
And
First photo and article for the
IAA Family History Project

MARCH 2011 MEMBERSHIP EVENT

Feast of St. Joseph Mass and Dinner Celebration—March 19, 2010

On Saturday, March 19th, the IAA will participate in the Feast of St. Joseph Mass and Dinner Celebration sponsored by St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Since the event is open to the public, you can invite your family, neighbors, relatives, friends, and co-workers to join us. As is the tradition for the Feast of St. Joseph, prior to the mass, there will be a short procession with the statue of St. Joseph from the street into the church. IAA members are encouraged to arrive early for the mass and gather outside of the church to participate in or observe the procession. After the mass, there will be a pasta dinner in the cafeteria next to the church. In support of the celebration, IAA members are encouraged to wear green, white, and red clothing. A more complete list of the details for this event is presented below.

Date: March 19, 2011

Location: St Joseph's Catholic Church, 1406 E. Washington St., in the heart of the Butchertown neighborhood of east Louisville, 40206 (There is free parking on the street near the Church.)

Schedule of Events:

- **3:15 p.m.:** Gather at the steps in front of the St. Joseph's Church to organize the procession with the statue of St. Joseph
- **3:30-3:50 p.m.:** The procession with the statue of St. Joseph along Washington St. and into the church
- **4:00-5:00 p.m.:** Mass in honor of St. Joseph
- **5:00-7:00 p.m.:** Pasta dinner in the cafeteria next to the church.

Dinner Menu: The pasta dinner will include spaghetti with marinara sauce, salad, and bread.

Price of Dinner: \$6.00 per adult

RSVP/More information: Contact Bernardo Carducci at 502-432-3169 or E-mail at bcarducc@ius.edu

Directions: St Joseph's Church is located at 1406 E. Washington St. in the heart of the Butchertown neighborhood of east Louisville, 40206. To get to St. Joseph's Church from East Main St. or Market St, turn on to Wenzel St. heading towards the river and then make a right turn on to Washington St. and go about five blocks to Adams St. There is free parking on the street near the Church.

Membership Dues are *DUE*

Yearly membership for IAA is \$15 for adults and children under 18 are free. Membership forms are on our website. Send dues to Italian American Association of Louisville, c/o Mary Perry, 7809 Windgate Drive, Louisville, KY 40291



IAA Family History Project



Luigi Carducci, grandfather of IAA member Bernardo J. Carducci, in his military uniform at 17 years of age (1916). Luigi served in the Italian Army from 1915 to 1921 and was a POW from 1916 to 1918. Luigi arrived in Boston in 1922 and moved to Detroit in 1927.

The Buffalo, NY and Avigliano, Italy Connection

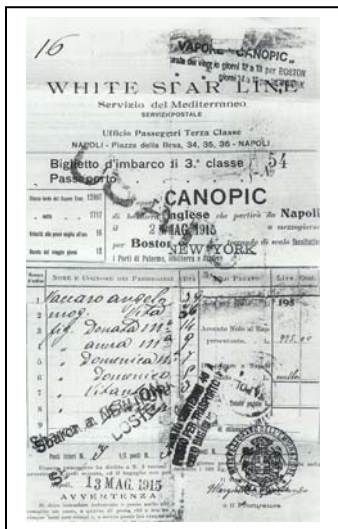
By Angelo Vaccaro

(While Finding GrandPa Vaccaro -We Found Grandma Vita Crensenza Grippa)

In 2008 Del Marie and I traveled to Avigliano, Italy in the Province of Potenza, in hopes of finding my grandfather Angelo Vaccaro's farm, to return with some soil for burial with the ashes of my Father and Mother. Del Marie had written seven (7), yes, seven Angelo Vaccaros in Avigliano, in hopes one would respond saying that there was some connection to a relative who immigrated to Buffalo, NY in 1915.

Of the seven, only Angelo Vito Vaccaro responded, with an address in Avigliano, Italy. It was sent, through an e-mail from Angelo Vito's son and daughter-in-law, Giacomo and Enza Vaccaro. He expressed a desire to "give us hospitality even if we do not have a relationship". It seems Giacomo's grandmother, Vita Crensenza Grippa was born in Buffalo, NY in 1913 and "may have known our family". This was not a statement of a direct family connection, but Angelo Vito was kind and generous to offer to meet with us and provide hospitality to strangers, which is remarkable.

The Buffalo, NY and Avigliano, Italy Connection Continuation



Angelo Vaccaro, my grandfather, left Naples in 1913 with his wife and six children. Grandma Vaccaro was pregnant and when they arrived at Ellis Island, she was asked “how old is the child?”. She was confused and did not know which child they were referring to, my youngest uncle or of her pregnancy. They said she was unstable or “batso” and sent the family back to Italy the next day. On their return in 1915 they settled in Buffalo, NY. My Father, Rocco Vaccaro was born in Buffalo, NY soon after they arrived. He married Mary Teresa Elizabeth Spada, my grand mother on her side was Mary **Battaglia** Spada (REMEMBER THIS)

Meanwhile back to ITALY>>>>



When we arrived in Avigliano, we met Angelo Vito and his brother Donato, along with Giacomo and Enza who gave us a tour of Via Vaccaro, the “cantina where my Grandfather drank wine”, a view of the Chapel Vaccaro, and then graciously offered lunch at a very nice restaurant off the piazza. During lunch were talking, all through lovely Enza Vaccaro’s translation, I mentioned that my Aunt Tanny told me, just before she turned 100, that she was baptized in Bella and not in Avigliano. She was the only one of her siblings that was baptized outside of Avigliano, because the Vaccaro family had owned a farm near Bella at the time. That was the key for Angelo Vito. The Vaccaro family lived on more than one farm over the years and Bella was one of the farm areas. We were connected, and he said “Tomorrow I will show you the farms”. We are Cousins.

As our conversation continued, Giacomo mentioned that Angelo Vito would like to know if it would be possible to find the records of his mother-in-law Grandma Grippa’s birth and the location where she lived in the US. Although she was born in Buffalo, NY, she returned to Avigliano at age 9, with her parents. She married and had children, one of which is Incoranata, his wife. Grandpa Grippa, her husband, was captured during WWII, while fighting for the resistance and died in a camp before the war ended. After the war, she wanted to return to the United States, but her children were not US citizens and would not be allowed entry to the US. So, she would not leave her children and stayed in Avigliano, Italy to raise her family.

Grandma Vita Crensenza Grippa had been a strong child and continued to maintain her strength throughout her life. She had been rewarded by having a wonderful husband and a family that loved her dearly and gave her beautiful grand children and great grand children to continue that LOVE for her.



LtR...Donato, Giacomo, Elena, Enza, Angelo Vito, Angelo (me) and Del Marie. P.2 Incoranata Vaccaro,

It took a while, but on my next visit to Buffalo, NY, my brother, Tony, and I went to the Erie County Court House to check vital records. As you would guess all records were in microfiche and it took some time to locate the years and conduct the search. We found a record for Vita Crensenza Grippa, born on August 20, 1913. I couldn’t wait to send the e-mail to Giacomo and give him the good news. WE FOUND GRANDMA GRIPPA’s birth record! She lived at 4 Peacock St. which was in the “five points”, the “Hook” or “Dante” district (otherwise known as “Little Italy”) behind City Hall, bordered by the Erie Canal and Buffalo River.

CITY OF BUFFALO—BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
STATE OF NEW YORK.
COUNTY OF WARE.
CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF BIRTH.
Full Name of Child *Vita Vincenza Grippa* (To child in last sex column, insert sex.)
Place of Birth *4 Praxidilla St*
SEX OF CHILD *F* (Male, Female or other?) Number in order of birth *2* (If child is illegitimate, insert illegitimate.)
DATE OF BIRTH *Aug 20 1913*
FATHER *Gustav Grippa* MARRIAGE *Anna Vincenza* MOTHER *Maria Vincenza*
RESIDENCE *4 Praxidilla St* RESIDENCE *4 Praxidilla St*
AGE *W 28* AGE *W 27*
OCCUPATION *Laboer* OCCUPATION *Housewife*
MARRIAGE (If marriage in New York State, give date and place.)
I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was born alive at—*12 48* on the date above stated.
Signature: *Charles Battaglia*
Date: *May 26, 1913*
Address: *119*



While reading the birth certificate, with great joy, I noticed the doctor's signature on the bottom of the document; Dr. Charles Battaglia. That was MY Great Uncle Charles Battaglia, my mother's uncle, my grandmother's brother!! The attending doctor on the birth certificate is MY Great Uncle Charles Battaglia, who lived and worked in the Dante (five points) District. We were excited!

We went to Italy to find my Grandfather Vaccaro's farm in hopes of bringing back some soil to place with his son's ashes. Our hopes turn to dreams when we found family. Who would ever have thought that this would also lead to our finding a connection to my mother's side of the family. My Great Uncle Charles Battaglia was the attending doctor at the birth of Grandma Grippa. This would have never come to the light of day if Angelo Vito had not given us HOSPITALITY and my Aunt Tanny had not kept the ORAL history of the family. She was 100 before she told me the key information that allowed the connection to be discovered. Don't wait to talk to family members about their past. It is never too early, but it may be too late.

Grazi, Angelo Vito.

Grazi, Aunt Tanny



**Remember
Italians also speak
with their hands**