

CRAPISI – MIGLIORE FAMILY



Antonia Migliore was born on (12-December-1886) in Sambuca, Sicily in her home at Via Infermia. The town of 6,000 sits on the side of a hill overlooking a large lake surrounded by many vineyards in the province of Agrigento. Her parents Calogero Migliore (12-November-1852) and Vincenza Cicero were married on (11-December-1881). Antonia had 2 brothers; Paola (22-December-1900) and Giacomo (Jack) (12-December-1894) and 3 sisters; Audenzia (07-April-1889), Elizabetha (?) and Margherita (25-September-1896). In 1909, Antonia and her sister Audenzia (Mary) left Palermo Sicily by boat for Naples and then sailed Naples to New York (Ellis Island). They arrived in New York on 22-April-1909 aboard ship – Anacona. They arrived via train in Rockford, Illinois several days later even though they had been separated in New York and had to take separate trains to Rockford. Many residents from Sambuca previously had settled in Rockford and provided some comfort for their arrival. Antonia's brother Giacomo followed from Sambuca several years later and arrived in New Orleans where he stayed for awhile. There he met his wife and eventually moved to the Rockford, IL. area (Lena, IL). Antonia's remaining sisters and brother remained in Sambuca and some of each of those families are still living in Sambuca as of 1-January-2016.

Tommaso Crapisi was born on (07-June-1885) in Santo Stefano Quisquino, Sicily at his home on Via Cusmana. It is a remote town of 5,000 in the hills about an hour north of the town of Agrigento. His parents were Francesco Crapisi and Rosa Scarino. Beyond this information very little is known about his time in Sicily until his 1908 documents in Rockford, Illinois. It is thought that he had a brother Antanasio that remained in Sicily. Tommaso is known to have had a sister who remained in Sicily her entire life. Carmela (27-April-1877) was born in Pizza Armana in a mountain town southeast of Palermo in the Palermo province and northwest of and very close to where Tommaso was born. She was married (28-September-1922) and lived with her husband Luigi LoCasio in Lucca, Sicily.

Tommaso had 2 sisters that came to the United States around 1904. Rosa Crapisi-Samaritano (04-March-1883), who was born in the same town as Tommaso, settled in Rockford, IL and? Crapisi-Guadagno (Chicago, IL). Tommaso was thought to have come to the United States around 1902 and to Rockford in 1908. Once in Rockford Tommaso lived on River St.

Tommaso Crapisi and Antonia Migliore were married on 27-june-1909 just 3 months after Antonia arrived from Sambuca, Sicily. They were the first couple married at St. Anthony Church in Rockford, IL as well as the first to stand up as god parents for a baptism at St. Anthony. While married they lived in Rockford on West St and then Loomis St. before finally settling on 1020 Montague St. Antonia's sister (Audenzia) lived temporarily with Antonia's family until she was married a short time later. The 5 Crapisi children that survived (2 did not) included daughters Rose (Albert Ditomassi); Carmela (Alex Armato); Virginia (Carl Moscato). The sons were Frank Crapisi and Alex Crapisi (Reva Baker) and both sons were born with both Italian and American citizenship.

Antonia worked at home. Though taking care of children and the home took most of her time, Antonia did enjoy neighborhood friendships. She would take walks to pick dandelion greens at Levings Lake Park with her friends Mrs. Rotolo and D'Angelo. The large garden behind the house required lots of work in the late summer to get everything in and canned. A daughter with a disability and who died at age 8 required near full time care as well. In addition, her sister Audenzia (Mary) and brother Jack and their children lived close enough for visits.

Tommaso worked at Rockford Mirror Works as a silverer (25 years) and later at Ingersol (7 years). He served 2 terms as alderman for the 5th ward during the 1920's. In addition, to his work Tommaso managed a property on Hulin St. for his brother in law who lived in Lena. He picked up rent and did repairs. Tommaso returned in 1950 to Lucca, Sicily where his sister (Carmela) and brother-in-law (Luigi LoCasio) lived. They went on an extended trip throughout all of Italy and Sicily before he returned to Rockford. He returned to New York from Naples on the TS/S Atlantic on 25-November-1950 after a 10 day trip on the ship. The ship log had his age listed wrong (55) when he actually was 65. Antonia refused to return to Sicily since she was sick on her original trip to the United States due to very rough seas and she did not wish to take the risk of a similar such trip.

Antonia died at home in 04-November-1953 and Tommaso died in 20-June-1969.

Submitted on 15-January-2016 by Thomas A. Crapisi for the Genealogy Project for Culture and education Committee of GRIAA "Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families."