

JULIANO/VACCARELLO FAMILY HISTORY



On 9-27-1923 Giovanni Giuliano arrived at Ellis Island on the "Conte Rosso" from Napoli. After serving two years in the Italian Army, he left his home and family in Aragona, Sicily at age 23 for a better life in America. Giovanni was the son of Gregorio and Giovanna (Calleia) Giuliano. He had siblings Alphonso, Maria, Stella, Asunta and Cologero. While being processed through immigration he became John Juliano after being told "Giu" in English is spelled with "J".

John had a cousin in Chicago who helped him get settled and find employment at Brach's Candy. He lived in Chicago for two years. Since his cousin had a girlfriend in Rockford, the two men often made trips to the city. At some point during these visits John met Josephine Vaccarello who had immigrated at age nine in 1920. She came with her parents, Michele and Antonina (Zammuto) Vaccarello, brothers Thomas, Sam, and Peter and sister Angelina. They arrived from Palermo on the "Providence" to Ellis Island on 10-12-1920. We know Michele left a sister, Cologera and brother Salvatore in Aragona. It is unknown if his parents were still living. Michele, now spelled Michael, and his family moved directly to Rockford to join the Zammuto family who had already settled.

Josephine worked at Rockford Men's Hosiery on Wyman St. She and John were married on 9-4-1932 and Josephine became a homemaker. John opened a grocery store with Vince LaRosa at South Main and Island Ave. Later, he opened his own store, a Royal Blue Grocery located at Kishwaukee and 16th Ave. His last store was located at the corner of 18th Ave and 18th St. After closing up shop, he worked as a meat cutter for Tony Castrogiovanni at Sanitary Meat Market and later at Charles St. Grocery. In the 1960's, he left the grocery business and worked at Sundstrand until retiring in 1970.

For several years John and Josephine lived at 1016 S. Church, sharing a three story home with Josephine's sister, Ang (Peter Sacco) and their mother, Antonina. Later John's family moved to 2115 W. State St.

John and Josephine had four children, Joan (Sam Maurici), Nina (Sam Mandala), Lee (Arleta Peck), and Michael (Ann Mandala).

In the 1950's, John's brother Cologero and sister-in-law Vincenza (Gaziano) Giuliano immigrated to Rockford. The brothers had not seen each other since 1923. Like many immigrants John never saw his parents again and only made one trip back to Aragona in 1970.

In 2000 Lee and Arleta and Mike and Ann traveled to Aragona and met first cousins and the last remaining aunt. She was still living in the house where John had

lived. They also met several Vaccarello cousins. The surprise of the trip came during a visit to the Aragona cemetery. They discovered the family name is actually Giuliana, not Giuliano! What is also surprising is that all known branches of the family use either Giuliano or Juliano and the spelling as Giuliana has been lost.

Pictures:

John and Josephine Juliano wedding picture 1932
John and Josephine Juliano 50th wedding anniversary with children 1982
(L to R Lee Juliano, Joan Maurici, Josephine Juliano, John Juliano, Nina
Mandala, Mike Juliano)

Submitted on April 12, 2016 by Lee and Arleta Juliano for the Genealogy Project for Culture and Education Committee of GRIAA "Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families".