

Terranova



Louis Terranova married Angelina Verona in Aragona Sicily. In May 1910, at the age of 23, Louis came to America aboard the Principe Di Piemonte arriving on May 16, 1910. He traveled to Chicago to stay with a cousin Conti Giralanno. After working in the coal mines in Ladd, IL, Louis saved enough money to send for his wife Angelina. Angelina arrived in 1916. Unfortunately, their two children born in Sicily died there.

In the 1920s, Louis and Angelina settled in Ottawa, Illinois on Marquette Street. They worked with family members who owned a produce warehouse and store selling fruits and vegetables. Most of their children were born in Ladd or Ottawa: Joe, Catherine (Katy), Marie, Teresa, Sam, John, Louis, Helen, and Lily. Louis and Helen died in infancy.

The family moved to Rockford and the children attended St. Anthony of Padua school and lived in South Rockford close to St. Anthony parish. Joe and John both served in the US Army in Europe during the Second World War. Joe became the first administrator of Rockford Clinic and was also a founding member of Crusader Clinic. Katy worked for many years at Barber Colman. Teresa married Bob Bradley and they raised their family in California, while Marie raised her family in Alabama and North Carolina. Sam worked for the City of Rockford for many years. John was a meat cutter and managed the meat department at several Rockford grocery stores over time, including Kroger's, Pacemaker and Courtesy Foods. After retiring as a meat cutter, John worked at Bob's Hardware store in Rockford. Lily was a secretary at St. Anthony School for many years and then worked as a unit clerk and volunteer coordinator at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford.

Below is the genealogy of Louis and Angelina Terranova, there were a total of 11 children, 9 of whom were born in America (the two oldest children born in Sicily died in childhood there).

Joseph (named after his brother who died in Sicily). Joe married Virginia (Ginny) Moon and they had 5 children: Paul, Sandi, Patty, Steve and Vicky

Catherine (Katy) was named after her sister who died in Sicily. Katy married Jim Smith and they had one child: Barbie

Marie: Married Paul Jones and they lived in Mobile, AL, and later, Greensboro, NC. They had 3 children: Janet, Paula, and Curtis.

Teresa: Married Bob Bradley and they lived in Whittier, CA. They had 2 children: Kathy and Scott.

Sam: Married Jenny Arbisi and they had 3 children: Richard (Ricky), Theresa Jo (Terry), and Louis

John: Married Bernice Novotney and they had 5 children: JoAnn, Karen, John Jr., Louis and Marguerite

Louis : Born in 1926 and died at a few months of age

Helen: Born in 1928 and only lived a few months

Lily: Married Frank Tartaglia (divorced) and they had 2 children: David and Judy

Louis Terranova died in 1959 and Angelina (Verona) Terranova died in 1973 and all of their children have since passed on but not before raising their own families, many of whom grew up in Rockford and several grandchildren of Louis and Angelina live and work in the Rockford area who continue to pass on the heritage left to them by Louis and Angelina Terranova. In October 2015, Louis' and Angelina's grandson, John Terranova Jr (son of John Terranova Sr.) received the GRIAA Special Recognition Award at the GRIAA Hall of Fame dinner for his charitable work in the community through his charitable organization, Helping Kids and Families Fund.

Attached is a photo of the Terranova Family celebrating the 50th wedding anniversary of Louis and Angelina in 1959. Seated are Angelina and Louis Terranova. Standing from left to right are Catherine (Katy), Lily, Marie, Sam, John, and Joe Terranova (not available for the picture was Teresa Terranova).

Submitted on August 2, 2016 by Louie Terranova (son of John and Bernice Terranova) for the Genealogy Project for Culture and Education Committee of GRIAA "Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families".