

Zanin/Sandona Family



Antonio & Angela Zanin



Back Row: Matteo, Reno, Angelina, Mary
Seated: Teresa, Anna
Front: Robert, Yolanda

My grandfather, Antonio Zanin, was born in Montecchio Preclacino, Italy, on May 1, 1886. In 1907, at the age of 21, he left Italy for the United States. Antonio departed from Havre, France, aboard the S.S. *La Bretagne*, arriving in New York on his way to Pullman, Illinois, on March 5. Following a short stay, he returned to Italy to marry Angela Mistica Campagnolo. The couple married on February 20, 1909, in Montecchio Preclacino. Antonio and Angela had three children in Italy: Peter (Anna Sandona), born in Pramaggiore on December 7, 1909; Anna (Gene Dallosto), born in Chions on November 30, 1910; and Mario (Constance Smith) born in Annone Veneto on October 27, 1912. Antonio returned to Rockford to work and establish a home for the family. He found work at Emerson-Brantingham and later at J.I. Case. Angela and the children departed from Naples aboard the S.S. *Canopic*, arriving in Boston, Massachusetts, on December 23, 1919, and continuing to Rockford. The family lived at various addresses in near southwest Rockford in the Preston-Avon-South Street neighborhood. Their fourth child, Louis (Rose Dazzineo), was born in Rockford on April 28, 1923. My father, Peter Zanin, married Anna Sandona in 1934 and established a residence at 1106 W. State Street, where I was born in 1936. From State Street we moved to 808 Houghton Street. From Houghton we moved to 1144 Cedar Street, where my brother, Ronald, was born in 1940. Our next move was to 1134 Cedar Street, where my sister, Shirley, was born. Our final move was to 2407 School Street, where my mother gave birth to my youngest sister, Kathleen, in 1948. Throughout our moves my father worked for Rockford Fiber Container (Weyerhaeuser), where he spent 49 years in machine repair and maintenance. Prior to having children, my mother worked for Nelson Knitting.

My grandfather, Matteo Sandona, was born in Caltrano, Italy, on April 22, 1885. When he was 22 he departed from Havre, France, aboard the S.S. *La Provence*, arriving in New York on February 22, 1907, on his way to Kensington, Illinois, and later Rockford. Teresa Fasciotti was born in Verona, Italy, in 1892. Matteo returned to Italy to marry

Teresa. They were married in Caltrano, Italy, in 1912. Following a short stay in Italy, Matteo returned to Rockford for work and to establish a home. Teresa departed Genoa, Italy, aboard the S.S. *Hamburg*. She arrived in New York on March 31, 1913, continuing to Rockford, where she joined her husband. Matteo and Teresa established residence in the Venetian neighborhood in Rockford, living on South, Green, and Seldon Streets. Matteo worked for W.F. & John Barnes and later Ingersoll. In 1914 Teresa gave birth to Anna, my mother. She would have five more children: Angelina (Anthony Zanocco), born in 1915; Reno (Gene Buratti), born in 1916; Mary born in 1920; Robert (Mary DiSanti), born in 1926; and Yolanda (Wally Scott), born in 1928.

As I researched this article, memories from my youth pushed into the forefront.

- I remember the many boxes of grapes being delivered for the annual fall wine-making ritual at both nonnos' houses.
- I remember Nonna Sandona taking me to the movies on Give-Away Night. The theater would give away dishes to adult patrons on designated nights. We would walk down South Street to the path at the side of Ebaloy Foundry, follow the path through the railroad yard, past the Tinker Cottage suspension bridge, then across the platform at the Illinois Central passenger station. We were then on South Main heading to the theater.
- I remember my father taking me with him to Bedin's tavern, where the patrons would keep me supplied with pop, chips, and candy. I would sit in the booth with the window overlooking the railroad tracks. There I would watch the freight trains pass. If I was lucky, I would see the pride of the Illinois Central, the Streamliner *Land o' Corn*, slow to a stop at the passenger station.
- I remember walking (no other transportation was available) to school at St. Mary's. From first to fifth grade, regardless of weather, we walked to school--east on Cedar, down the grade, across the CB&Q/CM&StP railroad tracks, up the grade passing Condon Seed Company. It was a left turn up Winnebago past the Colonial Bread Bakery with its inviting aroma. In the next block we passed the Sealtest Ice Cream Company, followed by the A&P Grocery Store. At the end of the block was Allen Chapel. Cross Elm Street and we were at St. Mary's.

Although the buildings may have been leveled on the corner of Avon and Curve, the area where I spent much of my youth, I can still visualize Giacomo DalSanto's house. Next door was Tony DallOsto's house. There across the street was the house where my grandparents lived, and there on the corner was Lena Briscoe's grocery store. The past may be fading, but these images are vivid in my memory. As Archie Bunker would say "Those were the days."

Submitted on 12/28/2014 by Eugene Zanin for the Genealogy Project for Culture & Education Committee of GRIAA "Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families."