

BRUSCATO - ALONGI FAMILY



**Joseph P. Bruscato – Mary T. Alongi
September 20th, 1936**

Angelo Custodio Bruscato of Vicari, Sicily and Teresa Italiano of Corleone, Sicily came to America by way of the Port of New Orleans to work in the sugar cane fields of Louisiana. We remember our father telling stories of his father bringing water to workers in the fields. They married in 1894 in Taft, Louisiana. They moved to Rockford, Illinois sometime prior to 1914 where Angelo worked for Rockford Gas Company. They had 11 children. Their 7th child was Joseph P. Bruscato. They resided at the NW corner of Cunningham and Winnebago. Giovanni Alongi of Aragona, Sicily married Maria Cipolla of Aragona, Sicily on February 29th, 1908 in Aragona, Sicily. They came to America in 1909, returning to Sicily in 1911. They came back to America on April 19th, 1913 to Rockford, Illinois by way of Ellis Island Port of New York. John Alongi worked 36 years at Sundstrand Machine Tool Company. They raised their children at 1222 Ferguson St. John and Maria had 8 children. The 3rd child, our mother was Mary T. Alongi.

Joseph P. Bruscato and Mary T. Alongi married September 20th, 1936 in Rockford, Illinois. Joseph worked as a dairy and bread delivery man until 1945 when Joseph and Mary went into business as Grant Park Grocery on Kishwaukee Street. They purchased the Northwest and Southwest corners of Fitch Road and Kishwaukee Streets in 1947. On the northwest corner they opened a restaurant known as Cape Cod. They purchased a building from Camp Grant which was becoming the Greater Rockford Airport. They moved and attached it to their restaurant which eventually turned into Bruscato's Central Food Store, operating both restaurant and grocery store simultaneously. For short period of time when the restaurant was closed and the grocery store was enlarged, it was operated as one of many neighborhood grocery stores (The old Ma & Pa & Family operation) until the advent of the large grocery chains, eventually closing the store. They remained in the food business with a restaurant named Genevas on 7th street finishing with the Snack Bar in the Winnebago County Court House. They lived in and raised their children on the Southwest corner of Fitch Road & Kishwaukee Street until their deaths.

Joe & Mary had 4 children.

- 1) Jessica who married Michael Ruvolo
- 2) Angelo who married Carol Nadolny. They had 4 children: Joseph, James, Jay and Mary
- 3) Mary Sylvia who married Robert Koberg. They had 3 children: Robert, John, and Mark. After Roberts death, Mary Sylvia married William Gaffney
- 4) John F Bruscato a bachelor until death. June 16th, 2007.

Through miscommunication, literacy, and basic misunderstanding of English, our name which in Sicily was Abruscato was Anglicized into Briscoe which name we were known by until 1950 - the "legal" entry name of Bruscato was resumed.

Submitted by Angelo Bruscato and Jessica Ruvolo for the Genealogy Project - Culture and Education Committee of GRIAA "Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian families".