

The Castelli Family



There is still a mystery as to why my Great-Great Grandparents came to America and eventually settled in Rockford, IL. Guiseppe Castelli, (known later as Joseph Costelli), was born in Italy on March 12, 1864 to Luigi Castelli and his wife (a Bardelli). He came to America on January 9, 1893 at the age of 28. Orsola Mosca was born in Italy on November 8, 1896 to Rocco and Catherine Mosca. Guiseppe and Orsola married in Rockford, IL on November 8, 1896. By 1900, they had set up residence along North Madison Street at 221 Hill Street. In 1902, they lived at 215 Prairie Street, and in 1905, they lived at 757 North Madison Street. Finally, in 1907, they moved to 835 North Madison Street, where my Grandma still lives -105 years later! They had four children, Mary (1899), Angelo (known later as Michael Costello) (1900), Charles (who died as an infant in 1902), and Theresa (1906).

My Great-Grandfather, Eligio Castano, was born in Somma, Lombardo, Italy on June 9, 1895 to Guiseppe and Pasqualina Bogni Castano. He came to America on March 8, 1912. He too, lived all along North Madison Street - 624 (1914), 823 (1915), 708 (1917-1921), 710 (1922-1925), 781 (1926-1933). He married Mary Castelli on January 20, 1917 in Rockford, IL. They had five children, Joseph (1918), Ralph (1919), Catherine (who died at two months of age in 1920), Alice (1921), and Lillian (1923). After Joseph died on June 26 1933, Eligio, Mary, and their family moved in with Orsola on 835 North Madison Street. Orsola died on August 28 1946.

My Grandfather, George Anthony Perrone, was born in Rockford, IL on February 24, 1922 to Paolo (Paul) and Calogera (Catherine) Guzzardo Perrone. His family lived at 1021 Winnebago Street until 1940 when they moved to 912 Rockton Avenue. He married Lillian Castano on February 15, 1942. They lived with the Perrone family until moving to North First Street, Rockford IL. They had four children, a son who died at birth (1944), Beverly (1946), Paul (1950) and David (1956). When Mary Castelli died on January 23 1945, George, Lillian, and their family moved in with Eligio on 835 North Madison Street. Eligio died on June 25 1966. George died on October 21, 1991.

My Father, LeRoy Edgar Johnson ("John") was born in Ogilvie, MN on June 14, 1944. After completing his duty in the Navy, he moved to Rockford, IL where his best friend from the Navy lived. He met Beverly Ann Perrone and they married on June 8, 1968. They lived in various spots throughout the city until eventually moving to North First Street in 1970 – just on the other side of the alley from 835 North Madison Street! In 1972, they moved a few houses north where they still live there today. (Page 2 continued on the back)

They had two children Andrea Marie (1971) and Timothy Lee (1973).

As for me, I'm Andrea, and I was born in Rockford, IL on April 10, 1971. I spent a lot of time at my Grandparent's house growing up. I married Shawn Patrick Burns on October 10, 1998. We lived in Roscoe, IL for 5 years before moving back to Rockford, IL in 2003. We have three children, Connor (2002), Alex (2006), and Ava (2008). We have taken our kids to see my Grandma several times on 835 North Madison Street. I'm sure they do not realize how neat it is that our family has lived there for over 100 years.

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