

Noé Carlo (Charles) Guidi and Tecla Giuseppa Marelli



I am Charles Michael (Mike) Saunders the grandson of Noé Carlo (Charles) Guidi and Tecla Giuseppa Marelli. Charles was born in Borsano, Varese, Italy on May 12, 1876, the son of Angiolo Guidi and Angiola Sassi, and my grandmother Tecla Marelli was born in Bolladello, Varese, Italy on August 19, 1882, the daughter of Innocente (Samuel) Marelli and Giuseppa Teresa Marelli. Charles left Borsano at the age of 16 and immigrated to the United States with his brother Carlo Gerolamo Guidi, age 23. They were given permission to leave Italy by King Umberto I on November 13, 1892 at Gallarate, Lombardia, Italy, Registration No. 26, and Passport No. 1226. They arrived in the United States at Ellis Island, after a winter transit of the Atlantic, on February 3, 1893 aboard the India. Upon arrival Charles took the train alone to Rockford and his brother Carlo went to Brookline, Massachusetts, where he died in 1951. Tecla arrived in the United States when she was six months old. Tecla, her mother Teresa, brother Stefano and her uncle Charles Marelli arrived at Castle Garden, New York, on March 28, 1883 aboard the Chateau Leoville and then traveled to Rockford to join her father who came to Rockford before 1882. The Marelli family was one of the first Italian families in Rockford joining the Maffiolis who arrived shortly before. Charles and Tecla were married at St. Mary's Church Rockford on November 4, 1899. Upon his arrival in Rockford, Charles worked as a shoemaker until ca. 1910, and then worked as a saddle maker for Hess & Hopkins Leather until ca. 1923 when he began working as a carpenter which he did for the remainder of his life. Charles was also a charter member of the Columbia Band, comprised of young Italian men, which was chartered in 1899 and played the bass horn. Charles and Tecla had six children, Steven Angelo (Burnetta Alma Upton); Alice (Sister Frances Regina, Sisters of Loretto); Mary Margaret; Catherine Louise (Edward J. Gallagher); Margaret Mary (Arthur Francis Keith); and, Rose Francis (Henry Joseph Saunders). Charles died on May 11, 1967 and Tecla died on March 16, 1947.

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