

Peter Martignoni and Catherine Domino
(1910-1972) (1910-2005)



Catherine & Peter in front of the Gas House on Avon St.

My name is Shirley Martignoni Fedeli, the daughter of Peter Martignoni and Catherine Domino. My father, Peter, was born in Rockford, IL on January 2, 1910. My father's family was from the province of Varese, Lombardy. My father, Peter was the only son to survive and the family lived on the corner of South Avon and Green Streets. Many of the families from Lombardy, Italy settled in this area and since it was near the city's Gas & Electric Company, they were known as "The Gas House Gang", in fact, my grandfather (Nonno) worked there as a fireman!

My mother, Catherine was born in Plaquemine, LA on November 4, 1910. My mother's family was from the towns of Poggioreale/Roccamena, province of Palermo, Sicily. My mother's family moved to Rockford, IL since there was work available here. Originally, they lived on Rock Street in southwest Rockford, but moved to Hall Street located on the eastside of town.

When they married in St. Anthony of Padua Church on November 4, 1934 they lived with my Nonno and Nonna Martignoni on 325 S. Avon Street. I was born on August 19, 1935. When I turned two, my parents purchased a home at 3230 Auburn Street. We considered this the far west of the city where one could enjoy the lush fields and catch minnows in Kent Creek. It was a wonderful place for family. As a child I played with the neighbor children in the no-longer open Central Park across the street. I attended 1st and 2nd grade at St. Mary School in downtown Rockford, and 3rd through 8th at the St. Peter School. Muldoon High School and Rockford College completed my education. While at Rockford College I met Eugene Fedeli and on October 24, 1959 we were married at St. Bernadette Church. I taught at Bloom School for a few years then Lisa Marie was born on September 12, 1968. Lisa also attended Rockford College and met Christopher Hughes while there. Later they were married at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Rockford, IL on December 1, 1995. On September 4, 1999, Alexandra Catherine Hughes was born.

Submitted on May 5, 2013 by Shirley Martignoni Fedeli for the Genealogy Project for Culture & Education Committee of GRIAA-"Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families"