

Caroline Pozzi ( 1879-1958)

Antonio Chiodini ( 1873-1949)



My name is Janet Carole Chiodini Staehling, the granddaughter of Antonio (Anthony) and Caroline Pozzi. My paternal grandfather was born in Magenta, Milan, Lombardy Italy on June 9, 1873. His parents were Angelo and Andrea Chiodini. My paternal grandmother, Caroline, was born in Sumirago, Varese, Lombardy, Italy on April 13, 1879. Her parents were Victor and . Antonia Pozzi. Antonio left Italy with his family at about the age of 11 and Caroline left Italy with her family sometime between the age of 3 and 7 . They came separately through the port of Galveston, Texas and settled up the Guadalupe River to about Victoria, Texas where other family members and others from their region in Italy had settled. Their families emigrated to America to find work. The work they did in Texas was mostly farming, but before they came to Rockford, Antonio started buying and selling land. Antonio, age 23 and Caroline, age 17, were married in Victoria, Texas on December 6, 1896. They had 12 children--11 were born in Victoria, Ft. Worth or Childress, Texas. Judeta ( Jay), Rose, Marian, Robert, Paul, (my father), Mary, George, James, Emma, Victor, and William. Their 12th child, Charles was born in Rockford, Il. While in Texas, all the children received convent education for their religion, receiving the sacraments and other basics . After the family came to Rockford, the older children went to work, while the younger children continued their schooling at St. James in Rockford.

In 1919 they took a covered wagon to St. Louis, MO and then boarded a train for Rockford, Il, where they had family. They settled at 528 N. First St. The family came to Rockford for work and family. Their daughter Rose stayed in Texas with her family. She married Angelo Zandonatti there. They then came to Rockford in 1941 and settled in the First St. area. (continued on page 2)

Antonio worked from his home selling coal for Perrecone Coal Co., and then turned to real estate with the help of his sons. He bought houses, rehabbed them and resold them. He also owned land on the east side of Rockford , in the vicinity of East High School and other areas.

He did all of his work from his home, having one of the first telephones in the First St.area. He was able to help all of his sons start their own businesses. One of my favorite memories of him was that he always had lemon drops for everyone who visited him.

Caroline was a homemaker. Her greatest hobby was crocheting and she crocheted edging for handkerchiefs, pillowcases and sheets for her daughters and granddaughters and others. Caroline also helped her husband in his business by balancing the accounts and paying the bills.

They belonged to St. James Pro-Cathedral in Rockford. Antonio ( Tony) was a member and past president of the American Lombardy Society (Club), and a member of the Verdi Club. Caroline was a member of the American Lombardy Auxiliary, Verdi Club Auxiliary and the Altar and Rosary Society at St. James. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1945 with Mass at St. James and dinner at the Faust Hotel. All their 12 children and families were in attendance. Their children married, had children and had businesses either in Rockford or elsewhere in the U.S. Many Christmas celebrations were at their home on First St. as well as other gatherings.

Antonio died in 1949 at the age of 76, survived by his wife, 7 sons, 4 daughters, 30 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. One son, Marion, pre-deceased him. Caroline died in 1958 at the age of 79, survived by 6 sons, 2 daughters, 35 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren and 1 sister. Her husband, two sons and two daughters pre-deceased her.

This family was close no matter where they lived. As many as we're able would get together for weddings, anniversaries, birthdays and many picnics. Family was most important to them.

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