

Amedeo Pietro Riganti
(1902-1978)

Agnes Notari
(1908-2003)



My name is Ann Marie Riganti Schneeman, the daughter of Amedeo Riganti and Agnes Notari. My father, Amedeo, was born in Mornago, Varese, Lombardia, Italy on September 27, 1902. His parents are Francesco Riganti and Luigia Cerutti, and he had three sisters, Luiga, Petronilla, and Maria, all born in Mornago also. My mother, Agnes, was born in Beloit, Rock, Wisconsin on May 26, 1908. Her parents are Giulio Notari and Lisa Lunardelli, who were born in Tuscany, Italy. Amedeo left from the port of Genoa, Italy to come to America to find work and arrived in New York through Ellis Island on July 14, 1920 at the age of seventeen. His two sisters, who suggested he come to America, Piernia Riganti Galvanoni and Maria Riganti Sala were living in the North Madison-North First Street area of Rockford. When Amedeo arrived he lived with his sister Maria and her husband Alfred at 751 North Madison Street. He arrived on Sunday at 3:00 am and went to work at a manufacturing factory on Monday and felt at home there since most of his co-workers were Italians. He left that job and a "paisani" in Oglesby told him about a job at a cement plant there. Living quarters were very bad, six men in a room and one in a closet plus carrying cement was laborious. A job at Rockford Desk furniture plant brought him to Rockford in 1922. His goal: to get good enough on the job to work upstairs in the finishing room and soon achieved this goal. Then for a short time (depression era) he worked for the city as a garbage collector- his pay was food. About 1932 he found employment with a new company, Weiman Furniture, for 20 cents an hour. Through the years he became Finishing Department Supervisor and worked there 35 years until retirement in the 1960's. Agnes moved with her parents from Beloit to the North Madison-North First Street area of Rockford. She attended St. James Catholic Grade School, helped take care of her widowed cousin, Rena Pagani Bertolasi's children and enjoyed going to Harlem Park and dancing with her friends on the Riverboat. She worked in her father's grocery store and enjoyed wearing fashionable dresses, some of which were designed and made by her mother. Amedeo and Agnes met in the neighborhood, fell in love, and married in St. Anthony Catholic Church on June 1, 1929. They lived in Rockford all their lives, at 715 North First Street and 1024 Parkwood Avenue. Their wedding reception lasted two days at her parents home backyard at 742 North First Street. They honeymooned at the Faust Hotel, which was completed April 1929, then visited her cousin in Hammond, Indiana. Amedeo was a hardworking, ambitious immigrant determined to build a good life for himself, wife and daughters. His social life centered around visiting his sisters and friends at the Lombardi and Verdi Club for a game of cards (Chapano), and bocci. He was a good dancer and enjoyed Italian food,

and on special occasions, polenta, bagna calda, panetone, with family and friends. After the meal all would sing Italian songs. Friends said when Amedeo set a goal for himself he wasn't happy until he achieved that goal. His yard was as polished as his furniture. He tried earnestly to achieve "Lawn of the Month" award. He gave unselfishly to improve his family lot and felt it was his duty to give as well as receive. Agnes had a beautiful singing voice, cared for her husband, daughters, grandchildren and had an orderly home. She was a wonderful Italian cook and baked delicious pastries. She was charitable, enjoyed fine needlework, crocheting quilts and baby blankets for her family and had a flair for design. She had roomers and boarders at their home on North First Street. Amedeo and Agnes had two daughters, Elizabeth Louise(Tootsie) and Ann Marie. Tootsie married Richard Petrauskas and had a daughter Linda Ann. Linda is married to Dan Landerholm. Dan has a daughter Tonya from a previous marriage. Tootsie's second marriage was to Norman Nielsen and they had a son Craig. Craig and Amy Richardson had a son Brody. Craig is married to Jill Lindquist. Ann Marie married Gerald Thomas Schneeman(Gary) and they had three children: Gerald Thomas, Ann Marie and Anee Mara. G. Thomas married Carolyn(Carrie) Howard and they had Caitlyn Marie and Jakob Amedeo. Ann is married to Joseph Thomas Carmine and they had Amedeo Joseph and Amelie Mara. Tootsie and Ann Marie's family live in the Rockford area except Linda and Anee live in California. Amedeo left his journey on earth January 2, 1978 and Agnes followed twenty-five years later, October 18, 2003. Grazie Amedeo and Agnes for your example of love and committment to family that will live on in the generations until we are all together eternally.

Submitted on July 9, 2012 Ann Marie Riganti Schneeman by for the Genealogy Project--
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