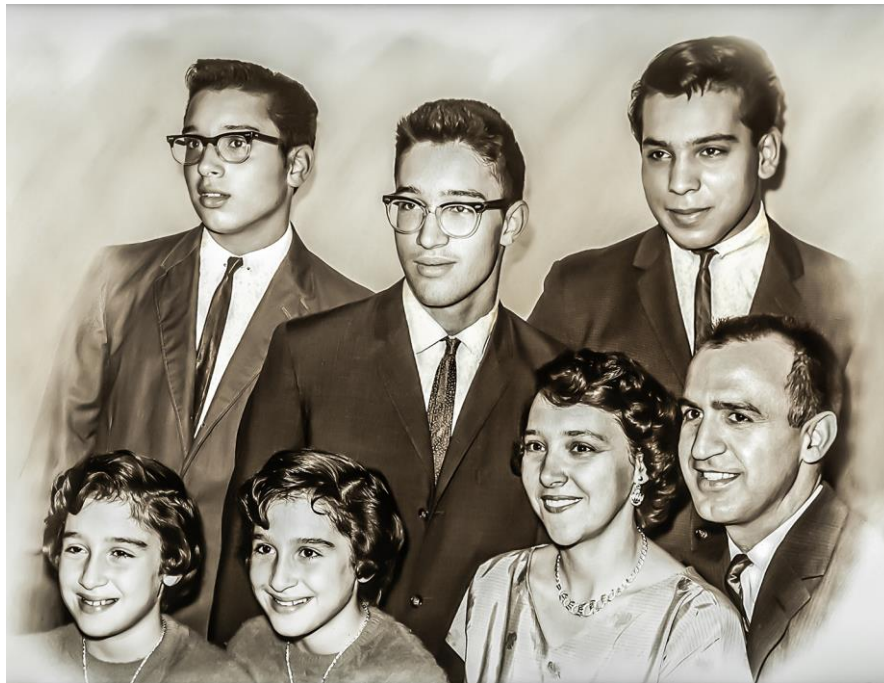


Scalisi, Abbate, Di Benedetto and Allotta Families



Rosalia Abbate 1890 - 1954	Carlo Scalisi, I 1887 - 1975	Carlo Scalisi, II 1922 -	Mattia Di Benedetto 1921 - 2011	Salvatore Di Benedetto 1894 - 1975	Maria Carmella Allotta 1902 - 1972
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My paternal great grandparents were Carlo Scalisi and Rosalia Abbate, and Salvatore Di Benedetto and Maria Carmella Allotta.

Carlo Scalisi was born on February 22, 1887 in Bisacquino, Sicily. Rosalia Abbate was born on September 20, 1890 in Sambuca Zabut, Sicily. Carlo arrived in New Orleans aboard the SS Manila on October 22, 1900. Rosalia arrived in New Orleans only a few days earlier on October 18, 1900. They were married in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on April 14, 1912. Their first four children were born in Louisiana: Giuseppa (Josephine), Giuseppe (Joseph), Carlogero (Alex) and Paola (Pearl). In approximately 1920 they relocated to Illinois and settled in South Rockford, occupying homes on Court and Church streets. There they had their remaining five children: Rosalia, Carlo (Carl), my paternal grandfather, Biaggia (Priscilla), Alberta and Giuseppe.

Salvatore Di Benedetto was born on February 15, 1894 in Vicari, Sicily. Maria Carmella Allotta was born in 1902 in Louisiana, the daughter of Rosario and Mattia Tortorici from Belmonte Mezzagno, Sicily. Salvatore arrived in New Orleans aboard the SS Palermo on September 5, 1913. Salvatore and Carmella were married in Louisiana when Carmella was approximately 15 years old. They moved several times between Louisiana and South Rockford, where they occupied many homes, including one on Winnebago Street next to the viaduct. They had seven children: Giuseppina (Josephine), Giusto (Gus),

Mattia (Martha), my paternal grandmother, Rosario (Roy), Serafina (Sarah), Rose, and Jeannette.

Carlo worked as a custodian for the American Insurance Company, located next door to the Coronado, and was also an avid gardener and professional landscaper. Carlo also served as president of the St. Mary Society in Rockford in 1940, '41 and '42. Salvatore worked as a moulder at Gunito Foundry and was a handyman who bought, fixed and sold homes for profit.

My paternal grandparents, Carl and Martha, met while they were in grade school. Martha and her friends watched Carl and his friends play baseball at South Park and one day he gave her a ride home on his bicycle. They soon fell in love. Carl and his parents, following strict Sicilian tradition, met with Martha and her parents in their home to formally ask for her hand in marriage. Salvatore was reluctant, as a protective father, but Carmella favored Carl because he would always bring her fresh fruit when he came to visit Martha. They were engaged and were married at St. Anthony of Padua Church in South Rockford on December 26, 1942.

Carl and Martha lived together in several homes around South Rockford, including Wall Street, Ferguson Street adjacent to Zammuto's, and Island Avenue. They had five children: Carl (Sonny), Samuel (Buddy), Daniel, my father, and twins Rose and Patricia. Carl and Martha relocated to Whitman Street in 1962, where Carl currently lives, to a home previously owned by Salvatore. Carl worked for 40 years at Rockford Register Star as a mailroom worker and retired in 1983. Martha, after her youngest children were in grade school, began working at Woodward Governor as a heat treatment inspector. After eleven years she retired in 1985.

Daniel attended St. Anthony's grade school and later Boylan and West High Schools. He met Libby Carol Wolf, my mother and Rockford native, in 1968. In late 1968 Daniel was drafted into the U.S. Army and served his country for thirteen months in Viet Nam. Upon his return in 1970, he and Libby were married at St. Anthony of Padua Church and soon after enrolled in the University of Illinois and relocated to Champaign-Urbana. In 1976, Daniel accepted a job in Brush, Colorado and relocated there with his wife. In 1981 they had their first child, Marta Danielle, and in 1985 they had their second and final child, me, Carlo Mattia Scalisi.

I was born and raised in Brush, but from about eight years old spent every summer in Rockford with Carl and Martha. In 2003 I relocated to Rockford and spent several unforgettable years living with and learning from my grandparents. In 2012 I received my Confirmation and First Holy Communion at St. Anthony of Padua in South Rockford, continuing the important role that this city, neighborhood and community has played in my family for nearly a century.

In the family photograph taken approximately in 1961 in the front row left to right: Rose, Patricia, Martha and Carl II; in the back row left to right Daniel, Samuel and Carl III.

Submitted By Carlo Mattia Scalisi on December 31, 2016 for the Genealogy Project for Culture and Education Committee of GRIAA "Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families".