

Luigi and Carolina Dodaro Family



Luigi baking for St. Joseph's Day at the age of 100.



Luigi & Caroline wed in 1918

Luigi Dodaro was born in Cosanza, Italy on 10/14/1884 to Anthony and Serafina Dodaro. After the death of his first wife during the birth of their daughter, Maria, on 10/06/13, he left his daughter with his parents and two sisters, Maria Dodaro Orso and Angelina Dodaro Felia, to follow his brother Dominic to Canada for a better life and the commitment to return for Maria when he could care for her.

After their Canadian bakery burned to the ground, Dominic and Luigi moved to Chicago and opened Piemonte Bakery at 159 Kensington. Then in 1914, Luigi started Piemonte Bakery in Rockford at 1122 Rock. St. He also bought the house on the property where he and Carolina lived until her death in 1972. At the time, he paid \$14,000 for both properties.

Carolina was born in Arezzo, Italy to Dominic and Francesca Bartolini. She had one sibling, Joe, who owned Florence's Café with his parents, in Mishawaka, Indiana for many years.

Carolina and Luigi were married at St. Anthony's on 1/23/1918. Irene was born on 11/8/18 and Frances was born on 7/5/20. In 1928, Luigi and Carolina traveled to Italy to bring Maria to America to be raised with their other daughters.

Maria (Eimo Galvanoni), Irene (Bill McKeever) and Frances (Tony Castrogiovanni) were also married at St. Anthony's years later.

Luigi continued to work at his bakery until he died on 2/17/1985 leaving 7 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren all of whom graduated from college. His youngest grandson, Steve McKeever, who was always by Luigi's side, continues to run Piemonte Bakery today, 102 years later.

Submitted on 9/19/16 by Tina McKeever Bacon for the Genealogy Project for Culture and Education Committee of GRIAA "Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families".