

Vincenzo and Elvira Marinelli Family



My grandparents Vincenzo Marinelli and Elvira Salvatori Marinelli were both born in Ferentino, Italy. Vincenzo's birthdate was May 14, 1881, and Elvira Salvatori's was February 28, 1894. Vincenzo first visited the United States with his brother Ambrogio in 1905. Vincenzo married Elvira on October 1, 1913. He departed for the United States, from Naples, on the ship Ancona, on December 28, 1913. He left behind his parents, Basilio and Anna, a brother Tomaso, who emigrated to Monaco, and a sister Maria. Vincenzo's other brother Ambrogio also moved permanently to Rockford. Vincenzo arrived in New York, New York on January 12, 1914. On November 5, 1916, Elvira, along with their son Louis, departed from Naples for the United States on the ship named Dante Allegheri. To the best of my knowledge, she left behind her parents, Staniglio and Anna, a sister Elena, and brothers Salvatore and Cesare. Elvira had a brother Louis, who also lived in Rockford. I do not know when he came to this country. My grandmother and son Louis arrived in New York, New York on November 22, 1916.

Through word of mouth I learned that my grandmother and her son spent their first night in Rockford in a home across the street from the present St. Anthony Church with Zeke Giorgi's mother. The first place that I know where my grandparents lived was in an apartment that was part of a dwelling directly behind the present St. Anthony Church. This structure was where the present garden and statue of the Madonna are located. It was here that my grandparents had their second child Basil Marinelli. From southwest Rockford the family moved across the river to an apartment on 1411 Christina Street. The street was in a predominantly Polish neighborhood. It was while living at this location that my mother Anna A. Marinelli was born. When she was about seven years old, (1932), the family purchased a home (628 16th Ave). They paid \$2500.00 cash for the bungalow. 16th Ave. was predominantly an Italian neighborhood. The Gambini, DiTullio, and Giardini families were some of the neighbors who lived on this street.

I am aware of three jobs that my grandfather had. He was a ticket taker at the movie theater (I think the Capitol), he worked at R Mal Corporation, and finally, Roper Corporation. My grandfather Vincenzo died on May 19, 1940.

My grandmother was a marvelous housekeeper, cook, and baker. She made delicious homemade pasta, sugo, chicken soup with homemade noodles, and pasta fagioli. On Christmas Eve she would make pickled smelt, homemade fritelle filled with

either cauliflower, anchovy, bacala, or apples, and a meatless pasta dish with tuna sugo. We still have this for our traditional Christmas Eve meal. On the day before Ash Wednesday, she would make wonderful deep-fried pastries, and on Easter she would make a delicious meat and cheese pizza, along with a sweet pizza ricotta. We also still make these delightful foods for Easter. Another memorable treat were her wine cookies. (Presently my daughter's favorite.)

My grandmother, and eventually my family, Lyle and Ann Sherbine, their children, (me), Elvira (Vira), and Lyle (Jim), lived on 628 16th Ave. until 1961. We moved to 904 Prestwick Pkwy, where my grandmother lived until her death on June 14, 1973. My father Lyle was born in East Moline, Illinois on May 24, 1920, and died on April 9, 2009. My mother Ann was born on June 25, 1925, and died on October 10, 2011. My parents were married at St. Anthony Church on September 23, 1944. They remained very active in this parish for their entire lives. My parents, grandparents, and uncles are buried in the Marinelli/Salvatori plot located at St. James/St. Mary Cemetery. My brother and I attended St. Anthony School. I attended both Muldoon and Boylan High Schools; my brother, Boylan High School. I presently live in Rockford; my brother in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. Ann and Lyle have a total of 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Although this is a very sketchy history of my grandparents' years in the United States, it is a way of making sure that they will be remembered as being one of the many families that came from Ferentino, Italy to Rockford, Illinois. I am very proud of this heritage.

Submitted on 4/21/15 by Elvira (Vira) Sherbine Rudnicki for the Genealogy Project for Culture and Education Committee of GRIAA "Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families.