Guilio Notari and Lisa Lunardelli (1892-1956) (1890-1967)



My name is Ann Marie Riganti Schneeman, the granddaughter of Guilio Notari and Lisa Lunardelli. My maternal grandfather, Guilio, was born in Ponte Buggianese, Pistoia, Tuscany, Italy on August 27, 1882. His parents are Pietro Notari and Faustina Papini and he had three sisters. My maternal grandmother, Lisa, was born in Fosdinovo, Massa Carrara, Tuscany, Italy on January 18, 1890. Her parents are Guiseppe Lunardelli and Agnese Conti and she had 12 siblings. Guilio left from the port of Naples, Italy to come to America to find work and arrived in New York via Ellis Island on September 7, 1902. Guilio traveled to Beloit, Wisconsin and boarded at Marino and Amabile Garvani's (his future wife's sister and brother-in-law's) boarding house. Guilio became employed at Fairbanks Morse as a molder. Guilio's sister, Amelia Notari Veroni, was living with her husband and children on a small farm in Beloit, Wisconsin. Lisa left from the port of Genoa, Italy, arrived in New York through Ellis Island on October 4, 1906 at the age of sixteen, traveled to Beloit to work at her brother-in-law, Marino, and sister, Amabile's boarding house. Guilio and Lisa met at the boarding house, fell in love, and married August 31, 1907 in Beloit, Wisconsin. From this marriage five children were born, Agnes, Mary, Nello, Ann, and Harry. Agnes was born on Third Street in Beloit. Agnes married Amedeo Pietro Riganti and they became the parents of two daughters, Elizabeth Louise (Tootsie) and Ann Marie. Guilio and Lisa moved to Rockford and settled in the North Madison-North First Street area where most Northern Italians settled and lived in this area all their lives. Mary, their second daughter was born at 708 N. Madison Street, April 15, 1910. Mary married Paul Chiodini and they had four children, Janet, Thomas, Michael and Stephen. Nello was born October 8, 1911 at 760 North Madison Street. Nello married Jane Hibbard and their son's name is Joseph. Ann was born September 5. 1916 at 218 Caroline St.. Ann married Anthony Trussoni. Harry was born March 28, 1920 at 756 N. First Street. Harry married Grace Huff and they had a daughter, Mary Catherine. Guilio and Lisa's five children married and lived in Rockford. Guilio worked as a molder, baked and sold Italian bread with a small grocery store with his brother-inlaw, Aneclato Lunardelli at 600 N. Madison Street in 1911. At this time Lisa took in roomers and boarders. He also lived with his family on a small farm on Caroline Street in 1916, and was the proprietor of a grocery store at 758 N. First Street and 626 N. Madison Street in the 1920's. After the grocery store closed he became employed at Sundstrand and Hess and Hopkins Tannery. Guilio loved gardening and had a garden in his backyard at 742 N. First St. and also had gardens at his daughters Agnes and Mary's home. He loved Italian classical music from his homeland, especially the great Caruso and Mario Lanza. He often frequented vaudeville at the Palace Theater at the 100 block of N.Main Street in Rockford. He also loved his wife's Italian cooking. Lisa enjoyed being home, taking care of her husband and children. She was a wonderful cook especially cooking food from their region in Italy. She was an accomplished seamstress, fine tailor, altering clothes, and designing and sewing dresses for her daughters. Lisa was religious and she would be seen with her rosary especially during World War II, praying for the safety of

her two sons, Nello stationed in the Pacific and Harry, who was wounded at the invasion of Normandy. At times she fondly spoke of her home in Italy as a child and gave Italian proverbs to her children. Guilio became ill and died at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota May 24, 1956. Lisa missed her husband, lived at her niece's home, Rena Bertolasi on North First Street for awhile and also lived at her daughters homes. She went to be with her husband on March 2, 1967. A grande grazie to Guilio and Lisa who met and fell in love to give us this bellissima heritage that will live on in the generations until we are all together eternally.

Submitted on August 11, 2013 by Ann Marie Riganti Schneeman for the Genealogy Project for Culture & Education Committee of GRIAA-"Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families"