

The Angelo Turiciano Family



Angelo Turiciano was born July 15, 1896 in Castellamare, Sicily to Guiseppa and Anthony Turiciano.

Guisseppa (Goia) family owned the Goia Hat Company. Anthony did farming work and left for America when the four children were young.

To help out, young Angelo, walked his goats around the village and sold their milk.

The oldest son, Anthony, was in the military when the rest of the family came to America. He came later and met and married Antionette Licari.

Angelo, his twin sister Anna, younger brother Vito, and mother Guiseppa Gioa Turiciano (Josephine) came to America to join their father. They left Palermo, on the ship "The Italia" and arrived at Ellis Island May 11, 1912. They made their way to Rockford and joined their father, renting Mr. Joe's house in the 1200 block of S. Court Street.

Their father left after a few years, seeking other employment. The family stayed. Angelo was in the Army about a year. With the war ending, jobs were scarce, so he did some moonshining to feed the family.

Vito married Yudora Peterson. His sister, Anna, married Salvatore Mera, around 1919. Salvatore's mother, Josephine, died of pneumonia around the same time. Angelo was visiting her, or someone, at Rockford Hospital (maybe on Chestnut St.) when he met Angelina Rebecca. She was visiting her sister Rose.

They courted according to tradition and married October 12, 1920 at St. Anthony's Church.

They lived on Rock Street, where they had three children. Sam (Charlotte), Joseph (Marie Abruzzo) and Josephine (Gerald Varalli).

They then moved to the 1200 block of S. Main St where Mae Jean (Harley Doyle) was born. In 1931 they moved to 1209 S. Court St. where their daughter Sara (Walter

Vaughan) and youngest son Anthony (Joanne Calvert) were born. They raised their family, gardened, canned everything, had beautiful flowers and a grape arbor by the garage. He made his own wine with his wooden press and let it to ferment in wooden barrels. He used a long white grape from California, sent by railroad to the IC depot on S. Main St.

He worked at the old water works, at 100 Park Ave. till it burned down in 1953. It was then rebuilt at 1111 Cedar St. All the records were destroyed. He worked long and hard with others to make new maps, as he knew where all the pipes, connections, and main valves were.

Angelina was a very good cook, sugo, meatballs, bread, homemade pasta, cookies, and Sunday dinner was always at their house. A lot of family and friends enjoyed meals with them, homemade wine, and playing cards.

They enjoyed many happy years together.

As soon as he retired, he became ill and dies in the VA Hospital in Madison, WI, July 19, 1962. A few months later Angelina suffered a massive stroke and lived in a nursing home until she dies in 1986.

Submitted on Aug. 24, 2014 by Becky Brauer for the Genealogy Project for Culture and Education Committee of GRIAA "Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families".