

Joseph Bianchi and Antonia Bonzi
(1885-1932) (1885- 1916)



My name is Charles Joseph White [Bianchi]. My father's name was Arthur John White [Bianchi]. My mother's name was Lena E. Cannova White. Both of my parents were born in America. My dad was born in Rockford and my Mom in Bryan, Texas.

My Grandfather, Joseph Bianchi A.K.A. Joseph White was born on June 14, 1885 in Ferentino, Italy. He sailed from Naples, Italy to America on February 11, 1903 on the vessel Victoria. He arrived at Ellis Island, New York, NY on March 1, 1903. He somehow got to Rockford, IL

Joseph Bianchi A.K.A. Joseph White married Antonia Bonzi in Rockford. It is believed Antonia Bonzi [born 1885] emigrated from Milan, Italy around the same time period as Joseph did. Her family lived in the St. James area of Rockford. My Grandfather's address was 844 North First Street, Rockford, IL. Joseph Bianchi worked as a janitor and a gardener. His change of name occurred because of his gardening business. He worked on many homes in the North Second Street area and other large homes.

My grandparents, Joseph and Antonia, had three children. I was told Antonia was cooking on the coal stove, caught on fire, and ran out of the house in flames. She died from her burns in 1916.

After Antonia's death, Joseph placed his three children, Arthur, Viola, and Henry, in St. Vincent's Orphanage in Freeport, IL they were there from April 1916 to April 1917.

Joseph then married Myrtle Roop. At that time his children came to live with them. Joseph and Myrtle had seven children together.

Joseph Bianchi /White died August 27, 1932. He had previously built a stone bird bath which is now on his grave site in St. Mary's Cemetery on Auburn Street. My parents Arthur John White [Bianchi] died on August 6, 1987 and Lena Cannova White died on April 18, 2003.

Submitted on June 19, 2012 by Charles Joseph White [Bianchi] for the Genealogy Project -- Culture and Education Committee of GRIAA- **"Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families"**