

History of
Guiseppe (Joseph) & Maddalena Girardin
(1894-1953) (1894-1989)



Joseph Girardin born April 21, 1894 in Piovene Rocchette, Italy – Veneto Region.

Maddalena Girardin born December 16, 1894 in Piovene Rocchette, Italy – Veneto Region.

I, Velia, am the daughter of Joseph and Maddalena DePretto Girardin. My father left Italy at the age of 19 in 1913 and traveled to Argentina, South America to find work. He resided there for 3 years. In 1916 he came to North America through New York, his destination was Rockford, Illinois. In Rockford he resided with friends and found employment at W.F. & John Barnes. He joined the Army in 1918 – served 6 months and then received an honorable discharge when the war ended.

In 1920 Joseph returned to Italy working as a baker in Maddalenas father's bakery. On April 16, 1921 Maddalena and Joseph were married. My brother, John Mario was born on September 16, 1922. In July of 1924 Joseph again returned to Argentina because of political unrest and resided there until 1926. That year he returned to Rockford, Illinois again residing with friends and working again at W.F. & John Barnes where he was employed for 40 years.

In 1927 my father sent for my mother Maddalena and brother John. Their first residence was in the 700 block of Corbin Street. On July 31, 1928, I was born. In October, 1928 my parents purchased a house at 621 South Avon Street and resided there the rest of their lives. Joseph died

on September 22, 1953 at age 59. Maddalena died on April 13, 1989 at the age of 94. They are buried in Calvary Cemetery in Winnebago, Illinois.

My brother John married Olivia Segalla on May 25, 1947. Olivia was born on May 10, 1925 in Caltrano, Italy, Veneto region. She came to America as an infant. She passed away on January 13, 1999 at the age of 73. They have 4 sons, Allen, Jeffery, Mark and John Jr., 9 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

On September 23, 1950 I married Bruno R. Mioni, he was born in Hurley, Wisconsin on January 4, 1929 and he died on May 14, 1997 at the age of 68. I have 2 children, Katherine L born November 30, 1951 and Joseph M. born April 21, 1955. Katherine married Michael A. Baez on June 6, 1981 and they have 2 sons, Marc C. born May 14, 1984 and Michael J. born January 29, 1990.

Son, Joseph Michael, Sr. married Josephine C. Basile on April 28, 1979. They have 4 children, Joseph M. Jr., born March 6, 1984, married Lauren Swords on April 12, 2014, Nicole P. born January 10, 1985, married Michael Padron on October 30, 2015, Katherine E., born October 2, 1986, and Madeline A., born September 28, 1990.

Joseph and Maddalena had 6 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren at the time of their deaths.

To my delight growing up, I was fortunate to have 2 neighborhood grocery stores near-by. Penny candy and nickel ice cream cones was to die for.

Walking east on Cedar Street pass the C.B.&Q. Railroad tracks on my way to Roosevelt Jr. High School or a trip downtown. Walking to the Rialto Theater on South Main Street again through the railroad tracks (Illinois Central Railroad) for the dinnerware giveaway night. With the price of your movie ticket you received a piece of dinnerware or glassware. All our neighbors had sets of Rialto dishes (they are now called Depression dishes or glassware).

I also, remember on Sunday, December 7, 1941 being at the Rialto Theater when the movie was interrupted to announce the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Everyone was in shock and left the theater. I was 13 years old.

In the photograph are Guiseppe Girardin and Maddalena DePretto marriage photograph taken on April 16, 1921.

Submitted by: Velia Girardin-Mioni on October 17, 2016, for the Geneology Project Culture and Education committee of GRIAA.