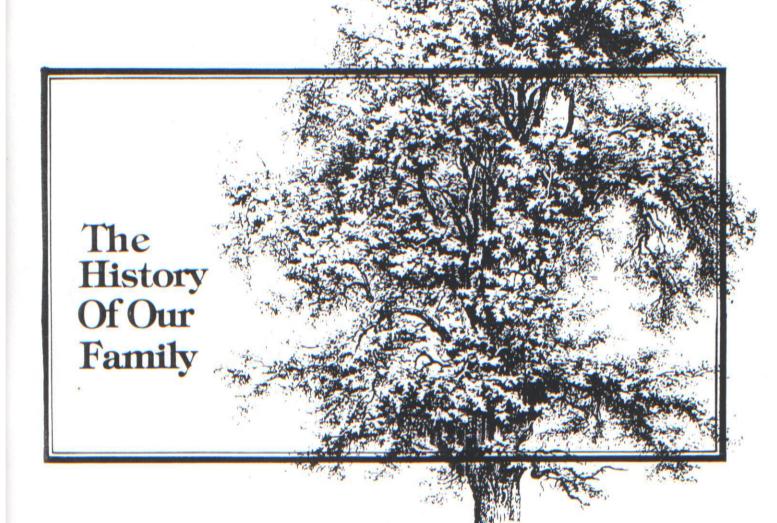


This Book Belongs To:



This Book is Lovingly Dedicated To:

The Monteleones whom we cherish - In life and in memory.

This Record was compiled by:

Nunsiata and Angelina, the daughters of Fabio and Mariana, & Desdemona, Lucia, and Dora, the granddaughters of Fabio & Mariana. and started in 1980. Edited in 1984 by Jean Sellers, a great granddaugter,



Introduction

Most of what is known of a family's history passes from generation to generation be word of mouth. With passage of time, the fading of memories, and the interpretations of the listeners, accounts of this sort are subject to both embellishment and loss of actual fact. All of these probabilities are possible when recounting the story of the Monteleone Thanks to the reminiscenes of Nunziata and Angelina, younger daughters of Fabio and Mariana Monteleone, and the tireless transcribing of their memories by Desdemona, their niece and the daughter of Immacolata, the ancestry of the Monteleones in Italy was traced the early 1800's. Through Lucia, Angelina's daughter in Florida who translated Desdemona's letters, and Dora, Edmondo's daughter in New ork who initiated the project and ser contact between the Italian and American



branches of the family, a history has emerged.

Chapter One: The Parents

The Monteleone Family, called Caporiccio because they all had curly hair, originated in Calabria, Gennaro Monteleone and his three brothers were rich cattlemen. In addition to an enormous cattle ranch, they owned property in both the mountains and the plains regions. Gennaro married Angela Orza, a woman who was both proud and who also came from a rich family. Together they had six children: Fabio, Carmine, Arcangelo, Giorgio, Rosalia, and Luisa. In the year 1860. Gennaro was ambushed in a small passageway between some mountains called "Senga di Palma" and kidnapped. His wife, Angela, was notified that, unless she paid a ransom of a thousand ducats of gold, Gennaro would be killed. Angela sold almost everything to her in-laws to raise the money. With the ransom paid, Gennaro was set free but was, after that incident, much poorer than his brothers even though he and his sons tried to rebuild the family's fortune. Because Gennaro's brothers remained very wealthy, they were able to provide good educations for their children. Many of them became professional people. From that branch of the family came several doctors and two prelates of the Catholic Church: Don Enrico Monteleone of Sarno and Monsignor Ernesto Monteleone who later emigrated to the United States and served in New Jersey.

Chapter Two: Fabio

Fabio, the oldest son of Gennaro and Angela Monteleone, was the only one of their children to raise a family. The others had either died too young or remained single. In 1880, Fabio married sixteen-year-old Mariana Salerno, a tall, slim brunette who loved to make and

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wear stylish clothes. In his youth, Fabio was quite ambitious and worked at two jobs. Mariana, too, was industrious and taught sewing and embroidery to young ladies while maintaining a fashionable clientele who sought her services as a dressmaker. In 1881, their first son was born and was followed, every two years, by another until there were six sons. The births of four daughters completed the family. The ten children of Fabio and Mariana Monteleone were named: Eduardo, Alfredo, Gennaro, Salvatore, Edmondo, Germano, Irma, Immacolata, Nunziata, and Angela.

The Monteleone Family of Sarno was a close-knit one. Most of them lived near one another in an area or block known as "VICO MONTELEONE." The people of the town referred to them as, "I BELLI DI VICO MONTELEONE," because most of the family were so attractive. From among their own relatives, the Monteleones could call upon a Monsignor, a doctor, and a pharmacist to care for their spiritual and physical needs. "Vico Monteleone" still exists but, in recent years, only Nunziata has resided there, in the house that was her Mother's.

Chapter Three: Fabio's Children

Life in late nineteenth century Naples was difficult and presented few opportunities for the young. Eduardo, Fabio's and Mariana's oldest son entered a seminary for awhile but his womanizing ways soon led to his expulsion. Always fascinated with motors and cars, he became a top mechanic. Eduardo was later drafted into the cavalry and married Concetta d'Enrico. They had five children, the eldest of whom was the same age as Eduardo's youngest sister, Angela. During his military career, Eduardo had an affair with a young teacher while he was stationed in Alessandria, an area of the Italian Piemonte region. When his wife, Concetta, learned of it, she broke it up.

Drafted a second time in World War I, Eduardo searched for his former girlfriend. When he found her, he learned that he had fathered her

daughter, Alessandra. In later years, Alessandra contacted

Eduardo's Mother, Mariana, who insisted on meeting this granddaughter
and legitimatizing her. Mariana saw to it that Eduardo legally
claimed his daughter and that he gave her the Monteleone name.

Eduardo was a fun-loving man who favored stylish clothes and excellent
food. He believed, much to the consternation of his Mother, that
life was meant to be free and happy. That is the way he lived it
until his death after surgery in 1948. His wife, Concetta, survived

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him by ten years.

Alfredo, the second son of Fabio and Mariana, was determined to make a better life than the one Sarno offered him. By the time he was fourteen years of age, he had worked in a slaughterhouse, apprenticed as a barber, and saved his ship's fare to America twice. While he proved to be good at cutting hair, he hated it. (Money in Naples may have been scarce but the lice were not.) Influenced by cousins who had already settled in the United States. Alfredo was determined to go there as well. As he accumulated the lire for his passage fee, he hid it in a chicken house. Eduardo found the money and took it. Earning the money for a second time, Alfredo sailed for the United States sometime around 1898. Having kept contact with the cousins in America, he expected to be met by them upon his arrival. When no relatives showed up, he set out on his own. Imagine the fear and confusion of a fourteen-year-old Italian boy upon finding himself in New York's Chinatown, surrounded by oriental faces and pig-tailed men! Finally, reunited with his cousins, he began his forty-two years as an American.

During his first years in New York, "Alfred" learned to bake
Italian pastries, worked on the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway on Long Island,
went to school to learn English and the history necessary to become an
American citizen, and saved for a trip back to Italy to see his family.
When he returned from his visit to Italy in 1904, Alfred brought his
Father, Fabio, with him. A year later, Fabio went back to Sarno to

visit his family and to try to convince them to leave Italy, too.

It was on this trip that Fabio first saw his youngest child, Angela, who had been born during his absence. Unable to prevail upon Mariana, his wife, to leave, Fabio sailed for New York with three more of his children: Edmondo, Germano, and Irma. The four emigrant Monteleone children quickly put down roots in their new country. Alfred, the first to arrive, was now working as a butcher. He married Amelia Bruno in 1906. Their family eventually numbered fourteen children, one of whom died while still a baby. "Edmond" became a butcher, too, and married Rose Cancro. Together, they had four children. "James," who had been a barber in Italy, continued his trade in America and was wed to Mary Safran. They had three sons, only one of whom survived childhood. "Emma" married Martin Apuzzo and their family was increased by the births of seven children.

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Chapter Four: A Legarated Family There were hard times in Italy during those early years of the twentieth century. They were made more difficult for Mariana Salerno Monteleone when she lost her husband and four of her children to a land she was destined never to see. Although her separated children wrote often and begged her to join them, she remained in Sarno until her death in 1938 at the age of seventy-four. (Alfred had sent his Mother the money for passage on more than one occasion.) Mariana's dreams for her family had been destroyed and her sadness increased when she realized that she would never again see her husband nor her four children, nor would she ever see the twenty-eight grandchildren and several great-grandchildren born in America in her lifetime. Plagued by ill health after an unsuccessful hernia operation, Mariana spent her last years in the care of Immacolata with Nunziata and Angelina helping when they could. Letters and news of her husband and family in America brought her joy but also sorrow. When news of her Fabio's death reached her in 1936, she dressed in mourning for the

remainder of her days and never left her home. On the day before her death, she awakened briefly from a coma, smiled, and recited

Chapter Fire: The Family in Italy

the names of her ten children, one-by-one.

As Fabio's family in America increased with the births of grandchildren, Mariana's in Italy did the same. Because Eduardo was in Napoli with his growing family, Gennaro, the third son, became head of the Monteleone family in Sarno. Taking his position seriously, he watched over his younger sisters like a dictator. After his army service, he staved with Eduardo for awhile and then married Gaetanina Del Prete. The celebrant at their wedding was Bishop Enrico Monteleone. Gennaro and Tanina had four children, the oldest of whom Fabio. joined the Merchant Marine and came to America on several occasions while working aboard ships. Later, he married a pharmacist and had two sons, Gennaro and Andreo. Fabio ended his sea-going career and worked in the pharmacy with his wife. Gennaro's second child was Anna, called Ninuccia. Anna never married. She was so helpful to her mother that Tanina never wanted her to leave. Luigi, who looked just like his father, Gennaro, became a Jesuit priest in 1958. One of the first Masses that he celebrated after his ordination was a special one in Sarno for his deceased grandparents, Mariana and Fabio. Ludovico. Gennaro's youngest son, became a tax inspector and settled in Chiavari, near Genova (Genoa). He married the sister-inlaw of the inspector in Sicily who had trained him. They have three children. In 1950, Gennaro had one leg amputated because of phlebitis. He survived eight more years with an artificial leg. Another bout of phlebitis caused his death at the age of seventy-three in 1958.

Salvatore, who had been born on Christmas night in 1889, was Fabio and Mariana's fourth son. As a young man, he was sent to war in Lybia, was wounded, and had plastic surgery. When World War I started,
Mariana feared that he would be drafted again. She wrote to Alfred in

New York and asked him to send money for a ticket to America.

Salvatore wanted his sweetheart, Mariella, to join him but she would not leave Sarno. In 1915, Salvatore arrived in the United States and stayed with Alfred's family. Once he started working, he began writing to another girl in Italy, Guiseppina. They were married by proxy and Guiseppina joined him in New York. Salvatore returned to Italy a few years later, ill with tuberculosis. His doctor, Antonio Monteleone, cared for him until his death in 1920 at thirty-one years of age. Guiseppina remarried soon after his death.

Immacolata, born on the feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1898 was the eighth child and second daughter of Fabio and Mariana. Unlike her fair older sister Irma, Immacolata had curly black hair and dark eyes. When Irma left for America, she was left to do the chores for the whole family. She married a former naval hero, Guiseppe Crescenza, who had been decorated for heroism in Lybia and who had been one of the few survivors of a sunk battle ship in World War I. In 1922, Immacolata and Guiseppe bought tickets to America but were unable to leave when the fascists took over. In 1924, their first daughter was born and named Desdemona by her father, who loved classical music. Confusion soon set in when it was learned that the local pastor had taken the liberty of naming the new baby "Maria Nunzia" instead of Desdemona. Three years later, another girl, Franca, was born to Immacolata. Four days later, Guiseppi died leaving his young widow with two babies. Immacolata cared for her mother until Mariana passed away and later stayed with her married daughters. Franca had wed Paolo Palma and had three children while Desdemona married Luciano Squitieri and had one son. In 1979, both Luciano, Desdemona's husband, and Immacolata became ill. Luciano died less than a month before Immacolata who had suffered from a viral hepatitis infection that led to her death. She was eighty-one years old.



Born in 1903, Nunziata, with blue eyes and dark

straight hair, grew up to be an excellent seamstress. She not only sewed for the family but also for many clients. At times she had as many as ten apprentices working with her to turn out dresses and gowns for weddings. At twenty-five years of age,

Nunzia married Joseph Amore. They had four children, the first of whom died in infancy. With her husband serving in a war in Africa in 1936 and then taken prisoner during the Second World War, Nunzia and her children suffered many hardships. In 1974, Joseph died leaving Nunzia a good pension from his years with the Cirio company. Nunzia, now eighty-one and a great-grandmother, lives alone in Sarno.

Angelina, the last of Fabio and Mariana's children, was born in 1905 while her father was in America. Although Fabio returned to Italy when she was small, Angelina has no recollection of him. When she grew up, she became a home economics teacher and also taught embroidery to many students. A blond, blueeyed beauty, Angelina had many suitors but took none seriously until she met Orazio Giordano, a banker, who wrote love poems to her. Orazio opened a branch of La Banca Del Popolo in Sarno and was wed to Angelina in 1926. Their family included Lucia, who got a Ph.D. and taught science and mathematics, Angelo-Mario, who also taught school, a set of twins and a baby girl all of whom died while small, Maria, and Riccardo, an engineer. Lucia married and moved to Florida. She has three daughters. Angelo-Mario died in 1972, two months before his only child was born. Maria married one of her sister Lucia's former students, Carmine Monteleone (no relation), and has two sons. Riccardo, born in 1945, and his wife Ida have three daughters. Angelina suffered a paralyzing stroke about fourteen years ago. In 1972, she lost both her beloved Orazio and her son Angelo. Now seventy-nine, she still lives in Sarno.



In 1906, Alfred married sixteen-year-old Amelia Bruno who had been brought to America from Cosenza when she was six months old. Like her mother-in-law, Mariana in Italy, dark, curly haired Amelia had a child almost every two years, sometimes less. until the last was born in 1930. In 1914, Alfred moved his family of five small children out of the city to the town of Whitestone. There, Alfred opened a butcher shop in his home. As his business prospered, he moved it to a better location and then a still better one in the same town. By the time World War I began, Alfred and Amelia had eight children. The American army refused to take a man with that many children even though he volunteered. As the family continued to grow. Fabio. Alfred's father, helped Amelia with the younger ones. Finally, the confusion of so many people led him to seek a quieter place to live. Alfred did well in America and was highly respected by those in the town. He loved to go hunting and went often, leaving Amelia to handle the business. In 1940, Alfred died suddenly of an embolism after surgery to remove a kidney. Amelia was left with several young children. Eventually all thirteen of Alfred and Amelia's children married. Among them, they produced forty-five grandchildren and sixty-eight great-grandchildren. While most of Alfred's sons learned to be butchers, only one continued in that trade. The others became auto mechanics, some owning their own service stations, and one became a carpenter. In 1978, Amelia died just before her eighty-ninth birthday. Her funeral was one of the largest the town of Whitestone ever had. It was the last time that all thirteen of her children were together. Within a year, three of them, James, Edward, and Elena, had also died. In 1982, Fabio, another son, passed away.

Edmondo, the fifth son of Fabio and Mariana, was born

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to play the mandolin and sing. He became good enough at it to join a small orchestra and play at weddings. Times were so hard in the south of Italy in those years that Edmondo, too, was lured to America. In 1910, at the age of nineteen, he joined Alfred and learned the butchering business from him. Marrying Rosaria Cancro, Edmondo settled in the Bronx and raised his family.

Salvatore, Dora, Edmondo, and James were soon born. After having stayed with both Alfred and James, Fabio finally moved in with his son Edmondo and daughter-in-law Rose. It was there that he died in 1936. Of Edmondo's children only Dora, married to Albert Cioffi with two daughters and five grandchildren, and James, with two children and one grandchild, survive. Salvatore and Edmondo both died. In 1946, Edmondo passed away at fifty-four years of age. His wife, Rose, at eighty-nine, has many wonderful memories of the early days of the Monteleone family in America

in 1891. He grew tall and handsome and, by the time he was

fifteen years old, had worked hard to earn money. Edmondo loved

James, the sixth and last son of Fabio and Mariana, is remembered by his sisters in Italy as a happy child. Born in 1893, he had dark eyes and dark hair. He loved to play tricks on people, especially his Uncle Giorgio who was old and cranky. James also loved birds, canaries in particular. When he was young, he would get up early to catch birds. After becoming a barber, James decided to go to America with his father. There he opened a barber shop and extended his skills to become a beautician. After his marriage to Mary Safran, James and his family settled down near Edmondo. Three sons were born to James and Mary: Alfred, Jerome, and Edmond. Both Jerome and Edmond died of diphteria within a few days of each other. Alfred married Myra Dubin and had two daughters, both of whom are now married. Alfred and Myra have one grandson. Mary, a diabetic, died before James. In 1973, James passed away and was buried with his brother, Alfred.

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The youngest of the Monteleone children to emigrate to America was Emma, the first daughter of Fabio and Mariana and the pride and joy of her father. Before Emma (Irma) was born, Mariana was so ill that the doctors feared not only for the baby's life but for the mother's as well. Fabio spent a great deal of money for doctors at that time. Emma's birth went so smoothly and Mariana recovered so quickly that all thought it a miracle. Emma found work when she arrived in New York and there she met Martin Apuzzo. Eventually she and Martin were married. They had seven children: Salvatore, Marie, Virginia, Adolph, William, Eva, and Eugene. Both Salvatore and Eugene died young, with Eugene's tragic death a severe blow to Emma. The other Apuzzo children married and added grandchildren to the family. Marie and Virginia had three children each while Adolph, William, and Eva had two apiece. In 1964, Emma passed away after a long and torturous illness. She was sixty-eight years old.

Alterward

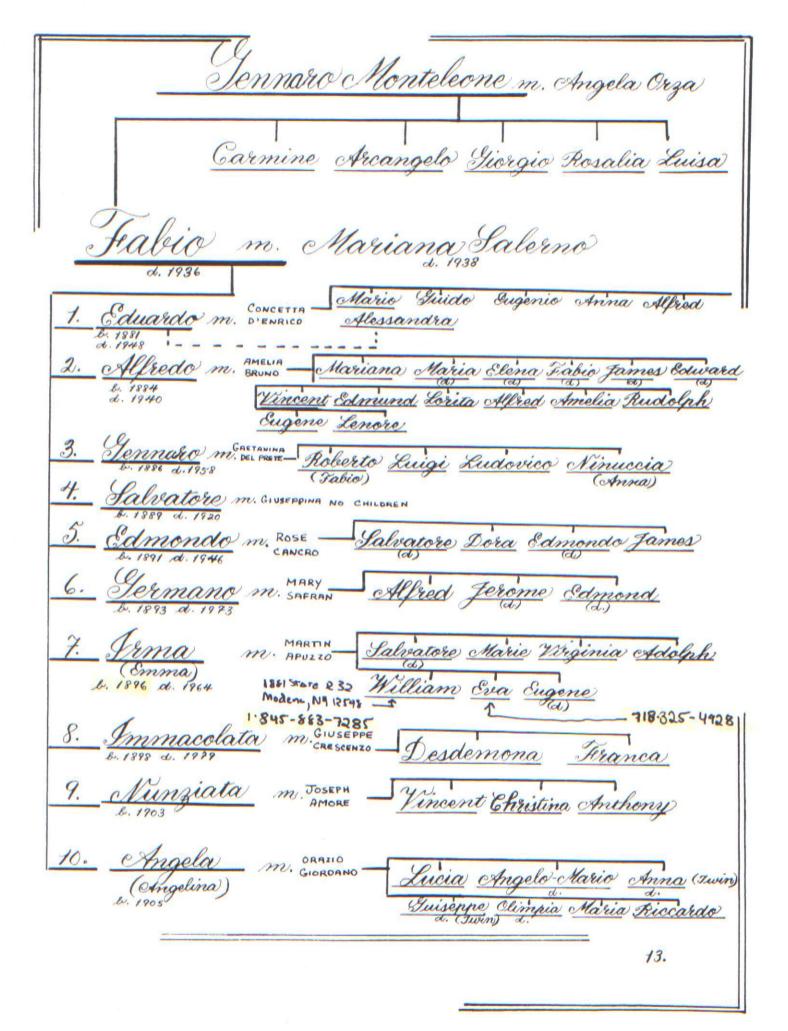
The story of the Monteleone family continues to unfold in both Italy and in the United States. In addition to their 50 grand-children, Fabio and Mariana's descendents include one hundred five great-grandchildren and more than one hundred twenty great-great grandchildren with many more yet to come. To write a complete history of a family this large would be an impossible task, for each member has his or her own story to tell that would easily equal the total of this booklet.

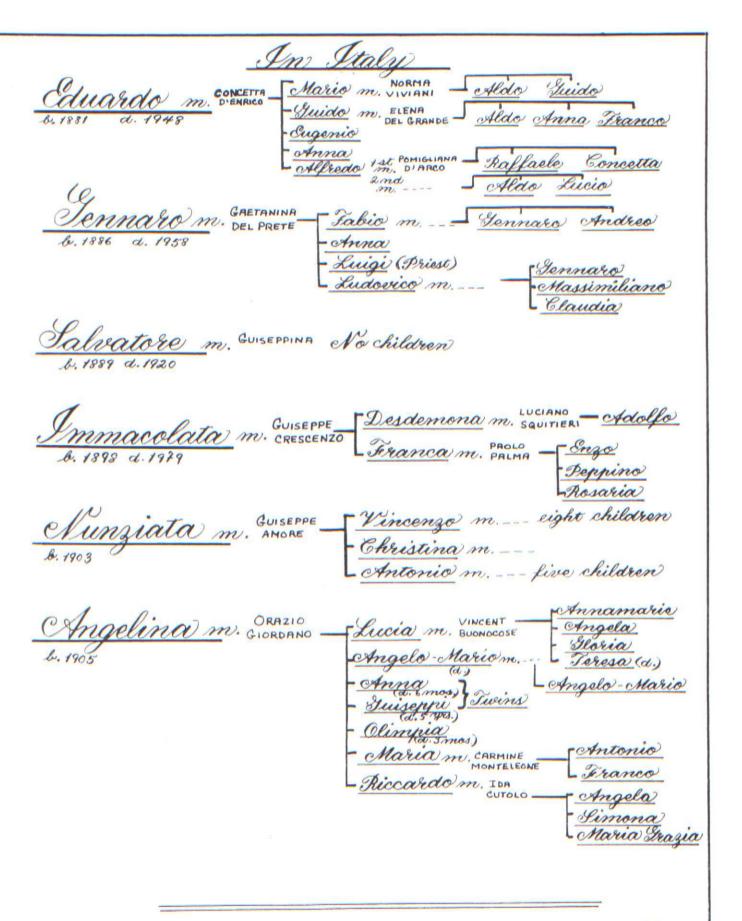
As noted in the Introduction, much of the information recounted herein came via letters from Italy. At times, it was discovered that the dates or facts mentioned conflicted with those known by the family in the United States. Such items were eliminated, when possible, from the narrative.

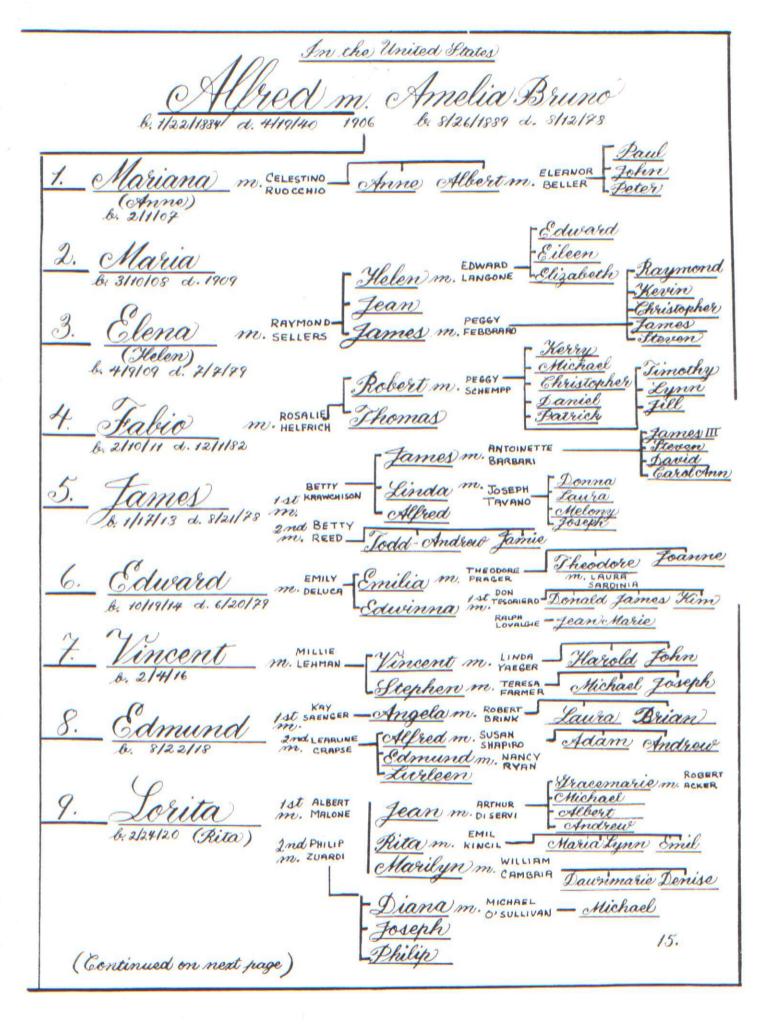
A Note on the Monteleone Origin

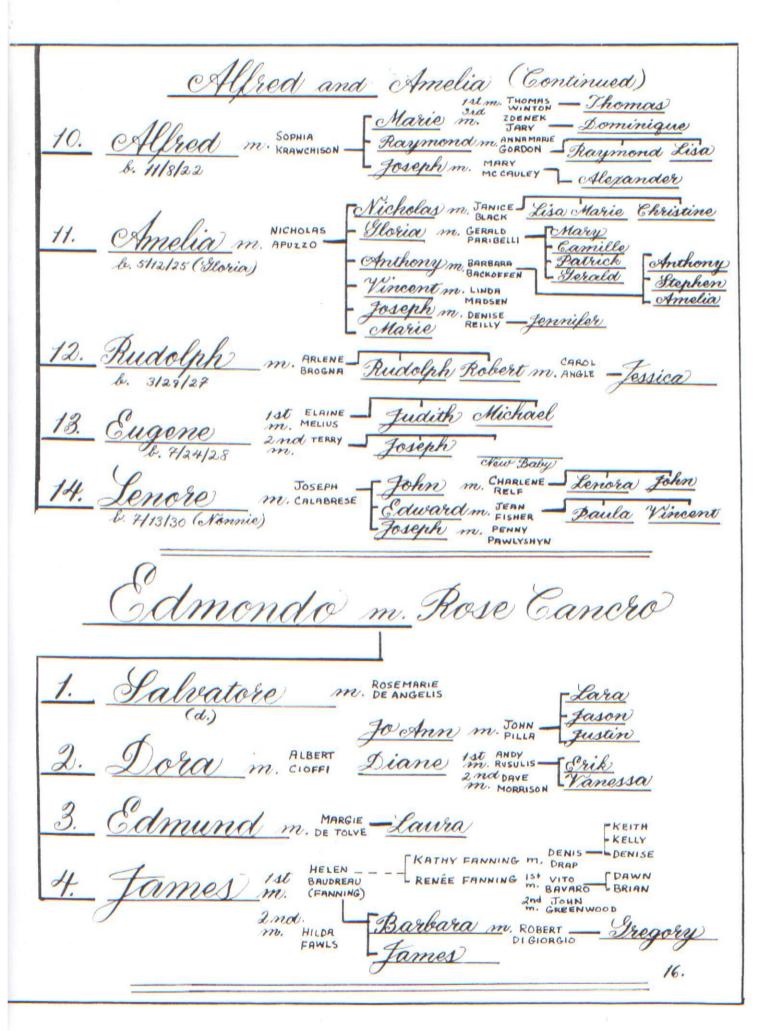
When those in the United States learned that the Monteleone family originated in Calabria, questions arose as to when our ancestors moved to Sarno, near Naples, and whether we are to be considered of Neopolitan or Calabrese descent. Dora wrote to her cousin, Lucia, about this. Here is Lucia's reply:



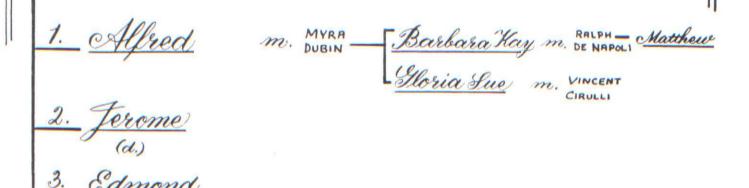








James m. Mary Safran



Emma m. Martin Apuzzo

1. Salvatore	PHIL
2. Marie Mrah 6, 1917	Milliam m. JACQUELYN Christopher April 5, 1910 Christine m. HOWARD Donald Michael Howard
3. Virginia	- Juna m. PETER Cinder
4. Adolph	m. IVY WEN Virginia Barbara m. RICHARD Virginia DE LILLO Virginia
5. William	m. GLORIA GRUTZMACHER Claudia m. SAL SURKIS Brianna William m. NOREEN — Michael
6. Eva	m. GENTILE — Dean m. MAZZOLA GENTILE — Dean m. MAZZOLA GENTILE — GARY 914.777.1545
7. Eugene	914-777-1545

