

Gualtieri Miscellaneous Information / History

The following is miscellaneous Gualtieri family information or history.

Once I get more of it, I will try to do a better job of organizing it.

□ **Salvatore**

I found some records that show great grandpa Antonio's name as Antonius Guatieri. They also showed great grandma Giuseppina Garro's name as Losephina.

Everyone in Rovito called Salvatore (Nonno) Gualtieri "Verracchio". Some called him "Il Vecchio" (The old one)

Salvatore bought the mountain land – Numento di Timpone – on June 28, 1933 for 60,000 lira.

Salvatore bought the land he built his house on from Valente Giuseppe in 1906. He built the house in 1907.

Salvatore was 80 years old when he married his second wife.

- **Antonio** (Salvatore's oldest son) was in the Italy Infantry in the Italian Alps. He travel by skies and wore a hat with a big feather in it.

Some of Antonio's siblings and other relatives called him: Taton, Taton. I don't know why.

Salvatore was really angry when his son Antonio decided to move to America. Since he was the oldest son he was suppose to help look after his siblings and to take over from this father. Things must have gotten ugly since Antonio never talked about his father after he moved and he never wanted to go back to Italy. Also, when he left the political and economic conditions were not at their best.

- When **Giuseppe** (Salvatore's second son) visited Rovito, he and Francesco would sing and sing. One time they recorded it on cassette.

- **Francesco** (Salvatore's third son) was a shoemaker.

- **Luigi** (Salvatore's fourth son) was a janitor at the school in Rovito.

Luigi was in the Spanish War. He was a Corporal. He had asthma very bad and as a result was given a medical release from service.

- **Stanisalo** (Salvatore's fifth son) was a twin, however, the twin died at birth.

Stanisalo loved to sing and to play the harmonica.

- **Damiano** (Salvatore's sixth son) was in the African / Ethiopian War. He was captured and imprisoned in Yugoslavia. Damiano and 2 other guys from Spezzano ?? Picollo escaped and they walked all the way back to Rovito. (I was told Spezzano Picollo but I can not find a town

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with that name, I did find Spezzano, Modena, Emilia-Romagna, Italy and Piccolo, Perugia, Umbria, Italy)

- **Giovanni** (Salvatore's seventh son) move to Canada.

- **Amelia** (Salvatore's only daughter) married in Italy and they moved to Chicago.

The following are note from a conversation Carmella had with her mother in response to my request:

News and Information: Amelia Grisolia's birth date is: February 22, 1919. (By the way, my paternal Grandmother's maiden name was Gualtieri. Mom claims she was not related to her mother-in-law but they may have had a common ancestor.)

Here are my thoughts and memories of the Gualtieri family in response to your e-mail:

My mother was born Amelia Josephine Gualtieri and she has always told me stories of her parents and her brothers. She still remembers many things about her childhood. For example she knows when each of her brothers were born. Your father Tony was born in 1900, Joe in 1903, Frank in 1904, Louis in 1907, the twins Stanley and Steven (Stefano) were born in 1909, Damien (Damiano) in 1914, and John was born in 1917. Steven died when he was just a baby and Grandma had another boy who was stillborn.

Did you know that Grandpa went to America in the 1920's to work in the Pennsylvania coal mines? He returned to Italy and then he went back to the USA again to work in Louisiana. Then in 1926 when my mother was seven, he was home for good. That was the last time he went to America and never went back there again.

While he was in the United States, Grandpa mailed packages that were shipped overseas. Mom received many gifts from him such as pretty dresses and ribbons of many different colors. Mom (your Aunt Amelia) remembers Grandma scolding her before putting the ribbons in her hair. "Don't you dare touch your hair, I'll comb it for you before you tangle it all up," she said as she braided her daughter's long, chestnut-brown hair.

Mom has fond memories of her brothers, especially Uncle John. The two of them were very close because they were only two years apart. Uncle Damien was the animal lover and he always brought food out to the dogs. Mom recalls the day he and John got into a fight one day because John kicked the cat out. But she also remembers how much fun they all used to have together. She laughed so hard when her brothers dressed as women during Carnilevale. (Mardi Gras, the equivalent to our Halloween.)

Uncle Frank was a shoemaker and a talented artist who loved to sketch animals. He bought the Encyclopedia of American Birds and when he gave me the big picture book, I took out my notebook and pencils and began drawing pictures of the birds too. Then I won the art contest at school, so I must have inherited his artist ability as well. He opened up a shoe repair store while living with us in Chicago in the 1960's, then he then he went back to Italy a few years later to live.