

VULTAGGIO NOTES

My mother, Filippa Vultaggio Scafuro, loved to say that, while she was born in Sicily, she was conceived in Brooklyn. My children should understand that my tendency to embarrass them in front of their friends is an inherited trait. I can only hope that their friends are as understanding as mine. Over the years I have enjoyed visits with many friends whose primary purpose was to see the woman who had always delighted them with her wit, warmth and worldly wisdom—my mother. In 1994 Filippa accompanied me on the drive to deliver her grandson Gerrit to Brown University. On the return trip we had arranged to stop in Connecticut to visit my dearest friend from childhood, Judy Waldorf Hopkins, whom I had not seen in many years. When the door opened, it was to Filippa that Judy rushed and threw her arms around. I couldn't conceive of the visit unfolding any other way.



<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/sicily-resurgent-84924388/?no-ist>

[Click here for 1675 Dahill Rd Google Street View](#)

the Town of Vultaggio Home Page <http://home.comcast.net/~tvultaggio112646/vult.htm>

(NB: FTS always said she suspected the Vultaggios came from northern Italy; there are some *Vultaggios* there and conjecture that the name is related to "voltage" and comes from the Latin *vultabbio* for "small hut" . The Latin word for Hut is Tabernus, Tabernus is defined as: booth, hut, cottage, hove, small shop, inn, tavern.

<http://www.cavo.it/vultaggio/benso-index.html>

The Vultaggio family has done considerable research on the etymology the Vultaggio name and the search for the original home of the Vultaggio clan.

First, the name Vultaggio and Vultaggio are interchangeable. In translating from Latin, these vowels are often interchanged. The

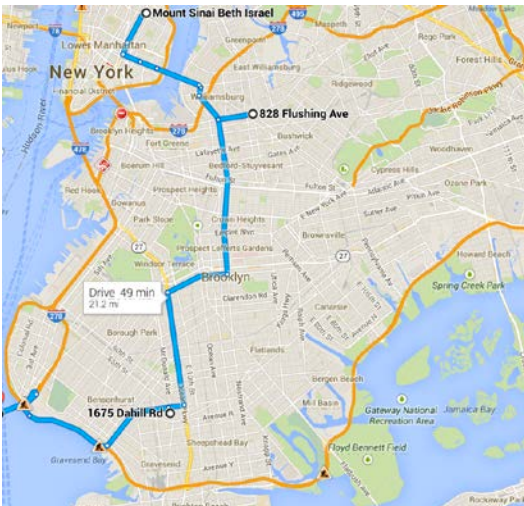


of

derivation of the name has been revealed in a book which my father obtained during his research. The town was NOT named after Allesandro Volta. It predated Count Volta by many years. This book on the history of Voltaggio was written in Voltaggio and is entirely in Italian. According to this book, the ancient Ligurians which inhabited the area prior to the Romans used huts to create shelters from the elements. These huts were called Ooltabio. It was changed over the years to Ooltabio... Ooltabium... Vultabium.... Voltaggio.

Below is a "logo" of the castle, found in the history book referred to above. This is the only characterization of the castle from such an early time. It shows the Latin name for Voltaggio as Vultabium and, more importantly, shows the interchangeability of the "o" and "u" in the name.

Check this out on Google: "scopello castellammare del golfo Trapani Sicily Italy oceans 12"



NOTE ON BROOKLYN & Williamsburg. Grandma and Grandpa originally settled in the Williamsburg area. The opening of the bridge would have facilitated later opening a barbershop in lower Manhattan.

In 1898 Brooklyn itself became one of five [boroughs](#) within the City of Greater New York, and its Williamsburg

neighborhood was opened to closer connections with the rest of the new city. Just five years later, the opening of the [Williamsburg Bridge](#) in 1903 marked the real turning point in the area's history. The community was then opened up to thousands of upwardly mobile immigrants and second-generation Americans fleeing the overcrowded slum tenements of Manhattan's [Lower East Side](#). Williamsburg itself soon became the most densely populated neighborhood in the United States. The novel [A Tree Grows in Brooklyn](#) addresses a young girl growing up in the tenements of Williamsburg during this era.

1880 09 06: Stefano Vultaggio. In the year 1880 on the 6th day of September at 11:30 AM before me, Vito Mattarella, mayor of Castellammare, appeared Vultaggio, Vito-age 38-villager, residing at Via Caprai #3, declaring that at 2:14 AM(6 Sept) his wife -Fontana, Giuseppa (housewife) daughter of Vincenzo, gave birth to a baby boy named Stefano. "Witnesses to this statement were Asaro, Leonardo, sailo - age 43 and ???, Paulo - farmer - age 45

1887 04 13: (From Alien Registration Form dated 2/19/1942 - No. 3433208) Filippa Vultaggio (FPV) born in Salemi, Trapani, Italy,

Father: Francesco Paulo Pedone, a horse and wagon peddler, and Marianna Fiorentino, a midwife.

ESW: At the turn of the last century, Filippa's Grandmother Marianna Fiorentino was a midwife in Brooklyn. Midwifery was a profession sometimes clouded by charges of witchcraft because of its practitioners' knowledge not only of the mysteries of childbearing, but the practices necessary to prevent or stop it. Certainly there was some mystery in the family surrounding her life, both professional and personal. According to family lore she had a hereditary scholarship to study midwifery at the University of Palermo, a scholarship her daughter, my maternal Grandmother (Grandma V, a.k.a., Filippa Pedone Vultaggio), declined because she couldn't stand the sight of blood. Widowed with a young daughter and several sons, Signora Fiorentino made her way - without her young children - from the town of Salemi in Sicily to America. I had assumed the name Fiorentino came from the much younger man she married after arriving in the States, but apparently this was her maiden name which she had either retained or reverted to after her first husband died.

1893/4 to 1901 Marta's notes indicate FPV was sent to a convent to be educated and cared for but couldn't stay there after age 14. Her parents didn't want her home alone with two young brothers and their friends so they sent her to the US. Both(?) of her younger brothers would come to the US.

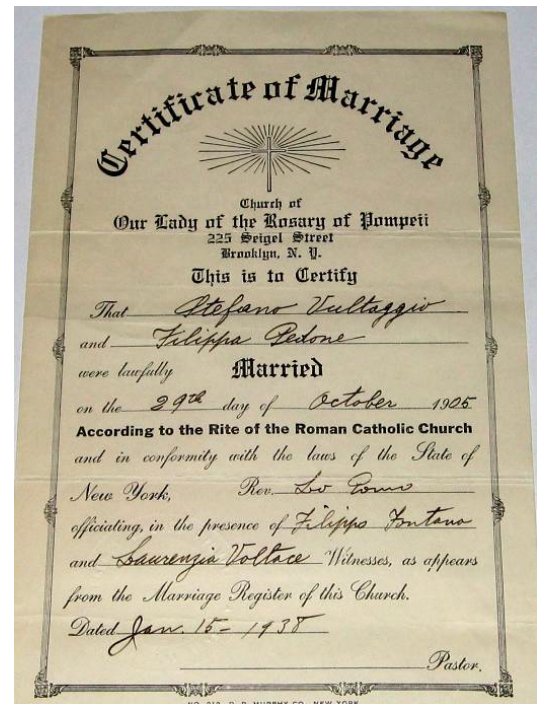
ESW: **Get Thee to a Nunnery**

When her mother emigrated to the United States, Grandma V was left behind in a convent in Salemi. It is unclear if her mother put her there to protect her from the potential ravages of her brothers' friends or if she went of her own accord after an unhappy ending to a romance. In her last years she spoke often of this early love to my cousin Joanne. While in the convent, Grandma V made many friends, but friendship proved insufficient reason to remain. The good Sisters were later to supply her with the trousseau of beautiful linens that would become family treasures passed along lovingly to succeeding generations. Leaving convent and / or broken heart behind, "Grandma V" sailed off to America where she settled in, not with her mother, but with her recently married brother in Brooklyn. The addition of another woman to the household was apparently not to her sister-in-law's liking and a plot was soon underfoot to marry her off. Grandma V's brother was a barber. He had a young assistant from Castellammare del Golfo, Stefano Vultaggio, who was considered suitable and, more importantly, immediately available. Grandma V had met him only once before being told that she was to marry him. Embarrassed and angry, she refused. Belligerence and disobedience not being qualities admired by Sicilian men, her brother decreed the marriage would take place in one week on October 29, 1905. After the ceremony, the young bride locked herself in her room, opening the door only for the meals her sister-in-law proffered. Grandma V did not believe in wasting food. On the third day she arose and began what she said was a good marriage.



Detail from Trousseau nightgown

ESW ALTERNATE VERSION: I recall Mary telling me that Marianna had left for the US after her husband died, leaving Grandma V (FPV) in a convent. While FPV liked the nuns, she didn't want to become one, was jilted, and decided to leave the convent and go to the US. Presumably she couldn't live with Marianna who had married a much younger man (whom she would later divorce after finding him *in flagrante delicto*). However, when she died, she left her house to FPV whose husband resented this either because Marianna had married and divorced a younger man or it came through his wife whose mother could afford to own property or – purely conjecture on my part - it was purchased with the proceeds of her profession, midwife, which not only assisted at births, but performed abortions. ... We don't know what happened to her second husband after she discovered him in flagrante and threw him out of her home. Signora Fiorentina left her home at 1675 Dahill Road in Brooklyn to her daughter (my "Grandma V") whose husband apparently resented either his wife's inheritance, his mother-in-law's income, or the profession which generated it.



1901 At age 14 FPV arrived in the US where she lived with her older brother Anthony and his wife. Anthony owned a barbershop at 38 Morrell St., Brooklyn (NB Morrell Street is listed as "obsolete" but ran from Debevoise Street to Remsen Street, roughly the route of Flushing or Park Ave, now partly overrun by the BQE.)

1903 Ellis Island records Marta found indicate Stefano came to the US in 1903; Uncle Will thought his father had come before Grandma, i.e., before 1901.

1904? Photo of Stefano with Vincenzo Fontana (Stefano's cousin?) and Unidentified man (Ancona?-compare to 1920 photo of Ancona Family)

1904-09 Photo identified as Lorenzina Vultaggio (later referred to as Lorenza/Zia Lorenza) taken in ROME. This is the same person we met in Sicily in 1969, She was married to a man named Nicolo.

1905 Certificate of Marriage – copied Jan 15, 1938:

Church of Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii, 225 Seigel Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.

This is to certify that Stefano Vultaggio and Filippa Pedone were lawfully married

On the 29th day of October 1905 According to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church

and in uniformity with the laws of the State of New York...in the presence of Filippo Fontana (SV's cousin?) and Lorenzina Voltace Witness, as appears from the Marriage Register of this Church dated Jan. 15, 1938. . Note: *Voltace* was likely a misspelling of *Vultaggio*.

Stefano and Filippa lived behind the barbershop at 38 Morrell St., Brooklyn.

ESW: For a time the couple lived behind the barber shop at 800 Flushing Avenue in Brooklyn. Filippa (Grandma V) and Stefano had a beautiful baby girl, Giuseppina, whom Stefano adored. As was not uncommon among Sicilian immigrants of that era, the couple planned to remain in the States only long enough to save for a house or farm in Sicily. With their treasure secured and a new baby on the way, the young family eagerly set sail for their homeland. But before the ship docked, diphtheria claimed little Giuseppina. Then Stefano became seriously ill and an operation and hospitalization claimed all their funds. Disheartened, the family sailed back to the States, this time with two-year old Filippa in tow. Still grieving for the "beautiful Giuseppina" and perhaps angry over the family's misfortune, Stefano would tell the child who had lived that she was not beautiful like the child who had been taken from him. While cruel, perhaps this is what drove Filippa to excel, to please her father and prove herself worthy of his affection.

FTS: wrote that Grandma V told her that, "before the first child was born, they enjoyed going to the opera-and they stood." – her emphatic underline...standing meant they didn't buy the more expensive seat tickets, just entrance tickets.

1909 03 Giuseppa Maria (GMV1) born to SV & FPV.

{FTS: "My father had decided to send Mama and Baby G.M. back to Castellammare to see if she would like to live there permanently. He would join them later. He felt he had saved enough money to be comfortable. (I don't know whether he intended to continue barbering in Castellammare and work on the family owned property - primarily olive trees). My uncle , Bartolomeo, always sent us oil and cheese. Whether the cheese was produced from the property (I didn't see any sheep or cows when I was there in 1932) I don't know."}

{MV: Stefano's sister Lorenza was in the U.S. for a number of years but eventually returned to Sicily and took over the olive farm property.}

1909 –Oct-Nov. Grandma V and GMV return to Sicily {FTS: Mama must have arrived in Castellammare in October or November of 1909. She realized then she was pregnant.

1910 06 03 Filippa Theresa Vultaggio – FTS - born. {FTS: "My birth certificate – copy needed before getting married in 1937: In the body of the certificate it states the I was born at #2 Via Aprai on the 7th of June 1910 at eight o'clock (at 20 hours) – Vultaggio Filippa daughter of Stefano and Filippa Pedone. Registration was made on June 10, 1910.

1910 08 GMV1 dies; {FTS: "Giuseppa Maria died in August 1910. When my father received the news he immediately booked passage for Sicily.} {Mama's (FPV) story as told by FTS: "Remembering the beautiful child that had died – he took one look at me and said – She's ugly – throw her into the sea. Honest to goodness- Mama's words; I heard them often enough"}
{FTS: "Shortly after his {SV's} arrival, he became ill. No diagnosis possible in Castellammare, they went to Palermo to see some specialists. He was hospitalized-Papa in one room, Mama and I in the next. When he was finally operated they found he had an "ossified appendix." This illness used up

most of their money – so back they came to the good old US of A to 38 Morrell St. Subsequent operation in Palermo to remove an ossified appendix used up most of their money. They returned to the U.S. to 38 Morrell St. I don't know or remember if they came back together or separately – but it was early 1912- Mama always said I was about 1 ½ years old when she came back. It was winter.

1911-11-04 Stefano Vultaggio returns to US. Passenger Record, Castellammare, Sicily, Age 30 on arrival, married. Ship: Prinzess Irene. Port of Departure: Palermo, Sicily, Italy

1912 01 19 Date of Arrival

Ship Manifest for Argentina sailing from Palermo

Filippa Pedone Age 28; Filippa Vultaggio 10m (listing was incorrect, FPV was 25 & FTS was about 19 months)

1913 03 03 Birth of first son Vito (named after Stefano's father, later went by William) at 828 Flushing Ave. As a child Will cut his cheek with a razor when they lived behind the barbershop. (Did they live behind the barbershop at 828 Flushing Ave as well as on Morrell St.)

NOTE: When last checked there was Pawn Shop at 828, but a barbershop was located next door at #826.

FTS: "One of my fondest memories as a child is listening to my parents reading to each other... Did you know that both Mam and Papa loved opera, loved to read and how anxious they were for us to have an education?"

1916: Daughter Josephine born

Filippa's brother Anthony Pedone grew tired of the barbershop (in NYC?), left it to Stefano to manage and opened a grocery store during WWI. Anthony lived in the Rockaways and sold wine on the side as well. Grandma V's younger brother {FTS: "Joseph Pedone, was also a barber in Brooklyn. He went to California after a failed marriage to a Jewish woman. He remarried in California and had two sons."}

NOTE: The 1940 US Census shows a Joseph Pedone born around 1892 – 5 years after Grandma V, living in Sacramento, with Gertrude Pedone, two sons and two daughters. The record indicates he was born in New Orleans (?)

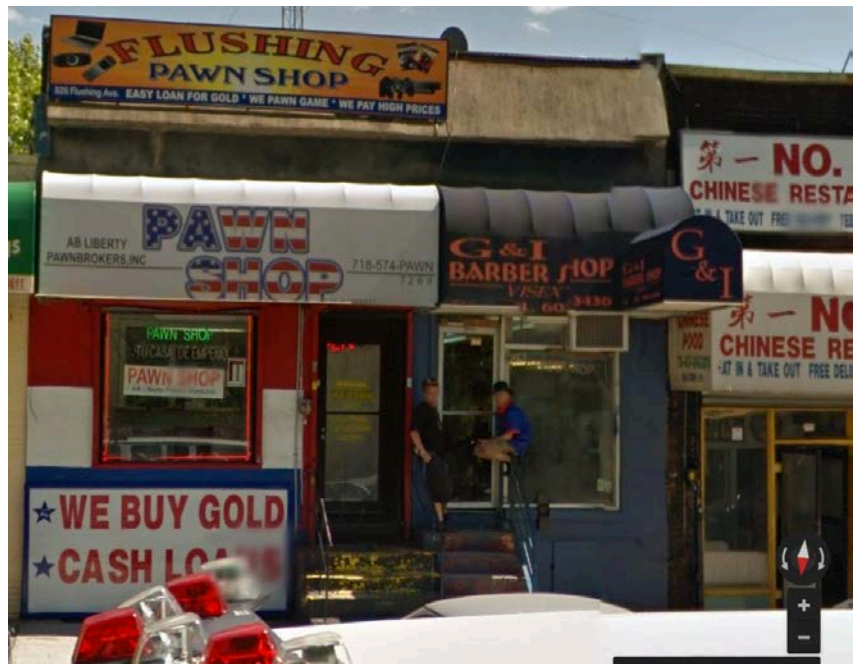
{MV: Another brother, Pasquale Pedone moved to California and was never heard from again.}

1920 Stefano went into a partnership with FTS' Godfather, Ciaravino, setting up a barbershop on 6th Ave. & 13th St., NY. NB The Ciaravino family was known in Brooklyn for bootlegging.

Photos of Joseph Pedone and Ogata Pedone (brother-Pasquale?)

1923 11 {FTS: "Papa received regular citizenship November 1923. My name is on it as Fannie, age 13. I have what is called derivative citizenship since I was born in Sicily. I'm looking for his citizenship papers – next time I go to my deposit box at the bank."}

1926 FILIPPA ENTERS COLLEGE got into Vassar but...live at home...doctor from barbershop learned to play bridge ... Her maternal grandmother died (Joanne sending death notice)... Family inherited Dahill Rd home...



1675 Dahill Road, Brooklyn - 1938 - Grandma making tomato paste



and today - compliments of Google Street View



1927 Frank Paul Vultaggio born, named after Filippa's father Francesco Paulo Pedone

ESW

An Italian major at Barnard, Filippa heeded her advisor's warning regarding anti-Italian discrimination and earned her certification to teach French and Spanish as well. She was a strong defender of Italian and Sicilian language and culture and would frequently point out that the selection of standard Italian in the seventeenth century had come down to a writing contest between the poetry of Sicily and the literary achievements of Tuscany. Sicilian poetry is thought to have predated and been emulated by the Tuscans, including her beloved Dante. However, it was the language of another Tuscan, Petrarch that won out even over Dante whose writing was considered too steeped in the dialects of the common people. Filippa was deeply offended by the popular American characterization of Italians, and Sicilians in particular, as Mafiosi. She had good reason to

be sensitive to this issue since the town in which she was born, Castellammare del Golfo, was a Mafia stronghold and the birthplace of Giuseppe Bonnano (1905-1984, a.k.a. "Joe Bananas"). There was even some hint that a relative of his, perhaps an uncle, who delivered milk to the Vultaggios had asked for Filippa's hand in marriage. Grandma "V" purportedly squashed any such notion declaring her daughter too young – and perhaps thinking back to her own arranged marriage. For his part, Bonanno, orphaned and pursued by the fascists for his anti-Mussolini activities while at a maritime college in Sicily, had fled to the United States at the age of 19 and came to live in Brooklyn with his uncle, Peter Bonventre, a barber. Brooklyn had seen a large influx of emigrants from Castellammare, many of whose families were closely interrelated. The influx led to a power struggle within the existing mafia hierarchy. In New York, the "Castellammarese War" (1927 – 1931) ended with the recognition of five "Families" one of which was headed by Joe Bonanno.



Filippa, circa 1920, attired for Barnard's quadrennial Greek games



See Sicilian Language Notes.doc

1930 FTS graduates from Barnard about the time of the [Castellammarese wars](#)



1932 FTS visits Stefano's brother Bartolomeo Vultaggio in CdG

ESW: Mom visited Bartolomeo on the farm (actually in Alcamo which is two miles from CdG) in 1932. From her photos he had several sons. I'm not sure why Lorenza would be managing the farm unless Bartolomeo died before his sons were old enough to manage the business. See Sicilian

Language Notes.doc, the Poet [Cielo d'Alcamo](#) and [Alcamo](#) – originally a Muslim settlement. Mary mentioned that Dad FXS used to call Mom FTS his little Arab.



FRANK AND FIL The Italian Lesson

Frank's doctor told him he was in danger of losing his voice and that singing might help. This was probably just sage advice from an older man to a very stressed younger one, struggling to help support his family during the Depression while trying to better himself through a strenuous course of education. Frank took his doctor's advice and joined a group that met at Barnard or Casa Italiana for singing, dancing and other things "cultural". There he met a beautiful, but cool, young Italian major. Deciding he was in need of more "culture", Frank inquired as to whether the young woman would be interested in giving him private Italian lessons. It was the Depression, after all, and she could hardly refuse the extra income. A few days later, Frank appeared on the doorstep of the Vultaggio family's home on Dahill Road in Brooklyn and Filippa escorted him into the dining room. When the lesson was over and Frank had left, Filippa's mother stepped out from behind the curtains where she had been hiding and declared, "That young man is not here to learn Italian." Grandma V was a wise woman.

1937 Filippa's engagement did not meet with her father's approval. Her marriage meant the loss of a major source of income for the family. Judging from my parents' subsequent efforts on behalf of their parents and siblings, his concerns were unfounded. Filippa carefully planned and paid for her wedding arrangements, taking special care with the exquisite outfit she would wear—a lace coat and cathedral length train over a simple satin halter dress she that would also wear for many formal dances in the coming years. She put a deposit on the best lace she could afford for the trim, but when she returned to pick it up, the embarrassed shop owner informed her that he had mistakenly allowed someone else to purchase the lace reserved for her gown. The good news was that she could pick out any lace in the store for the same price. Filippa had a very good eye which quickly settled on an Alençon lace many times the value of her original selection. She and Frank were married on June 3, 1936. Her beautiful bridal bouquet hung in the living room of the house on Dahill Road until Filippa's father passed away six months after the wedding. Thirty-five years later a seamstress eyed Filippa's bridal gown and me in turn and delivered

her verdict. "The fabric is too fragile to alter, you'll have to alter yourself." On June 20, 1971, several pounds lighter, I walked down the aisle in my mother's gown.

1937 07 01 CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

Sts. Simon and Jude Church, 295 Avenue T, Brooklyn, NY

Francis Scafuro and Filippa Theresa Vultaggio

1938 Stefano died of (lung?) cancer; Photo shows Grandma making tomato paste at 1675 Dahill Rd

1941 Mom and Grandma V visit Pedones (___ & son Robert) in Worcester, MA

1942 02 19 {FTS: " I do have the certificate of identification she had to carry with her when she registered as an alien on Feb. 19, 1942."}

Alien Registration No. 3433208

Name Filippa Vultaggio
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)

RIGHT INDEX FINGERPRINT

Birth date April 13- 1887
Born in Malemi, Trapani
or near (City) (Province) (Country) Italy

Citizen of Italy
subject of (Country)

Length of residence in United States 38 yrs., 2 mos.

Address of residence 1675 Dahill Rd
Brooklyn Kings NY
(City) (County) (State)

Height 5 ft., 1 in.

Weight 128 lb.

Color of hair Brown

Distinctive marks Scar over right eye

(Signature of holder) Filippa Vultaggio

(Signature of Identification Official) Lucia V. Kelly

Application filed in Alien Registration Division. Copy filed with Federal Bureau of Investigation office at NEW YORK, N.Y.

16-26150-1

From ALIEN REGISTRATION FORM dated 2/19/1942 - No. 3433208:

FPV was living at 1675 Dahill Rd, Brooklyn, Kings, NY

Height 5'1" Weight 128lb Scar over right eye

Alien Registration Form (1942) indicates Length of residence in US

38yrs/2mo suggests immigration late 1903 or early 1904 at age 16

Discrepancy likely due to brief return to Sicily late 1909 to early 1912

1944 01 05 Letter addressed to Mrs. Dominick Ciaravella, 1392 West 30th Street, Los Angeles, CA

1951 {FTS: "Mama was granted citizenship not quite automatically. She filed a petition for citizenship in August 1951. It was granted, but I don't have the official document. "}

1957 Photo of Lorenza (66) and Nicolo (76)...must have returned to Sicily?

1969: When Mom, Joanne and I visited Lorenza in 1969, a few years before her death, her nephew (Vito? Bartolomeo's son?) was managing the family property /marketing the olive oil through the EEC-Common Market ...

We (FTS, Joanne and I) Zia's nephew /Bartolomeo's son (?) in Sicily in 1969. We didn't like him very much; neither did Lorenza who he complained was cutting up his mail, including important regulatory info from the EEC for marketing the olive oil. He had a very nice wife named Rina and ran a bar in Rome.

Handmade items are both heirlooms and relics in our family. Store bought potholders come and go, but the fragile dusty rose circle that Grandma V made holds a cherished place in my kitchen right next to the two cheery little white squares with their red crocheted roses and green petals made by her younger daughter Josephine. Grandma V also knitted beautiful blankets for Mary and for me as



wedding presents. Mary's was an elegantly fashioned pale pink affair; mine was a raucous patchwork of squares, each in a different pattern and yarn that represented the remains of her many projects over the years; Grandma V saved everything. She would point to each square and tell me, "This is Willy's sweater, and this one is..." and so my new life was joined to my family's with bright red yarn.

1978: Grandma V died at age 91

1990 ESW: Claudia graduated from Barnard in 1990 as Filippa celebrated her 60th reunion. Both were captured in a photo on the cover of the alumni magazine that year. While Filippa displayed the photograph in her home, she made her daughters promise not to tell her neighbors that it had been her 60th reunion since she had graduated when she was only 20 and she didn't want her neighbors to calculate that she was now 82 instead of a very young 80.



Linens and Lace

As an adult Filippa traveled to Europe, South America, the Middle East, and China. As a child her library card was her passport. Filippa loved to read and liked nothing more than dashing off to the library with the expectation of fresh new worlds to explore. But on a Saturday or summer's morning, her journey of just a few blocks had to start with a few inches – a few inches of lace, that is. Her mother worked hard as a seamstress and, as the fashion was to edge all linens and just about every item of clothing with lace, young Filippa was required to crochet a certain number of inches of lace each day before setting off for school or the library or play.

A chore though it was then, crocheting was a skill she came to enjoy and which all in the family would come to appreciate over the years as gifts of baby blankets and beautiful bedspreads poured with love from her fingers. I still recall her working feverishly as we drove to Washington for her granddaughter Lisa's wedding. I had promised a tiny crocheted purse for each of the bridesmaids to carry and was still one short of the mark. I could hear Mom thinking, "You shouldn't leave these things to the last minute." But she said nothing and was finishing the last stitch as the bell hop opened our car door.

This was the first wedding of a grandchild. For Filippa this meant apportioning the family linens to make sure each of the next generation would go forth and entertain properly. Thank goodness for those nuns back in Sicily who had sent so many table linens over the years! We weren't quite sure what to do with the anomalous pink cloth, but the other snowy white ones were each unfurled and refolded, several times, napkins were allotted, and each grandchild was assured of a grand table. Table setting was not a chore in my youth, it was a privilege bestowed when one was considered old enough and careful enough to handle the sterling and the crystal and the Rosenthal china and to place each piece on a cloth whose wrinkles Filippa had banished. Mary and I were lucky in receiving maternal visits that frequently coincided with postprandial ironing chores. And Filippa had imparted a few tricks like emptying out the salt shaker on the red wine spilled by an errant guest or stretching out soaking wet linens on flat surfaces to dry. I had seen her perform this magic trick many times in hotels while traveling with my father who required starched white handkerchiefs for his banker's suits. She would hang them dripping wet on the tiles of the bathroom wall, then peel them off dry and wrinkle-free the next morning. I never hesitate to get out one of her beautiful linen napkins for a casual cup of coffee with a friend since I know I can wash it, spread it wet on a glass table and peel it off looking as if Filippa had just ironed it for me.

2000 ESW: In 2000, I cajoled my daughter Kate into applying to Barnard despite her preference for wild environments of the non-urban variety. It was understood that she was applying so that Grandma Fil could accompany her on her interview. What is unclear is who actually was interviewed – Kate or Filippa. Kate obligingly walked with her Grandmother down memory lane, pausing every few steps as memories traversed the older woman's face brushing away the wrinkles to reveal the young girl in her periwinkle gown tripping lightly on her way to a dance on the arm of some dashing and forever nameless beau.

FTS Address

987-A Buckingham Drive, Manchester, NJ (from 1986 to 2003)

Prior Residences: Allendale, New Jersey (from 1943? to 1986)

Brooklyn, NYC, NY (from 1912 to 1943)

Birth: 6/3/1910, Castellammare del Golfo (Trapani), Italy

Parents: Filippa (Pedone) and Stefano Vultaggio

Married: 7/1/1935 to Francis X. Scafuro (deceased, 1968)

Daughters: Mary S. Odyniec, Chevy Chase, MD / (Dr. Norman A. Odyniec)
Elizabeth S. Webbink, Montclair, NJ / (Mr. Gregory R. Webbink)

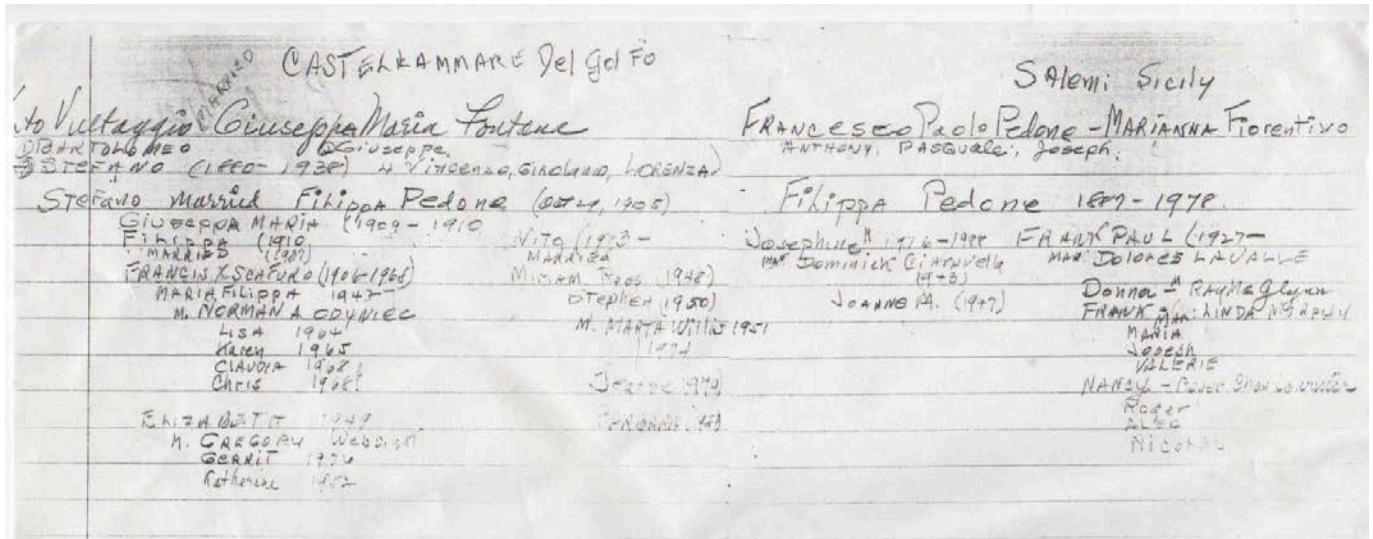
Grandchildren: Lisa Odyniec Donovan, San Francisco, CA / (Dr. John Donovan)
Karen E. Odyniec, New York, NY
Claudia F. Odyniec, Washington, DC
Christopher J. Odyniec, Bethesda, MD / (Mrs. Laura Masotti Odyniec)
Gerrit H. Webbink, Providence, RI
Katherine E. Webbink, Wellesley College senior

G.G.Daughters: Francesca and Marisa Donovan, San Francisco, CA

Education: Barnard, Class of 1930

Occupation: Teacher of Italian, French, and Spanish

Retired from: New York City School System



Bonanno & the Castellammarese War

[http://books.google.com/books?id=7ifa_6ZAOKcC&pg=PA110&lpg=PA110&dq=bonventre+bonanno+b
rooklyn+uncle&source=web&ots=CEsFxJAxK&sig=K6odonBrSsYZyV-5YLh3XQb1fgU](http://books.google.com/books?id=7ifa_6ZAOKcC&pg=PA110&lpg=PA110&dq=bonventre+bonanno+b
rooklyn+uncle&source=web&ots=CEsFxJAxK&sig=K6odonBrSsYZyV-5YLh3XQb1fgU)

His uncles home: 4009 Church Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Bonanno

Giuseppe "Joseph/Joe" Bonanno (January 18, 1905 – May 12, 2002) was a Sicilian-born American **Mafioso** who became the boss of one of the infamous **Five Families** of New York City. He was nicknamed "**Joe Bananas**", a name he hated due to the implication that he was crazy.

Joseph Bonanno was born in Castellammare del Golfo, Sicily, Italy, to Salvatore Bonanno and Catarina Bonventre. In 1906 the 26-year-old Salvatore took his young wife and one-year-old son to the United States. They settled in Brooklyn, where Salvatore operated a bar/restaurant. In 1911 Salvatore was summoned by his brothers to return to Castellammare because the Buonanno family business was being threatened by a rival family. Salvatore died in Sicily in 1915, followed by his wife, Catarina, who died in 1920, making Joseph an orphan at the age of fifteen. In 1921 Joseph enrolled in a nautical college in Palermo.

The following year, Benito Mussolini rose to power and, with the aid of the "iron prefect" of Palermo, Cesare Mori, began a ruthless crackdown against the Mafia, who were perceived as an unacceptable threat to the exclusive power of the Fascist regime. Hundreds of Sicilian citizens – many of whom were not Mafiosi – were arrested and subjected to torture and execution.

Appalled by these harsh measures, Bonanno and his friend Peter Maggadino joined an anti-fascist student group. As a result of his anti-Mussolini activities an arrest warrant was issued, forcing Bonanno and Maggadino, along with five other student protesters, to flee Italy, first by freighter to Marseilles, then to Paris and finally to Cuba. From Cuba, Joseph was smuggled to the western shore of Florida by boat. He eventually returned to the same area in Brooklyn, near Roebling Street and Metropolitan Avenue, where he had lived as a boy thirteen years earlier. Joseph, now nineteen years old, lived in the home of his uncle, Peter Bonventre, a barber. Before long, the youthful Bonanno affiliated himself with the neighborhood Mafiosi, also mainly from Castellammare, and began a life of crime as a bootlegger and illegal lottery operator. Much later, in 1938, Joseph left America and re-entered legally at Detroit, finally becoming a naturalized citizen in 1945.

[edit] The Castellammarese War

Almost from the beginning, Bonanno was recognized by his accomplices in Brooklyn as a man with superior organizational skills and quick instincts. He also became known to the leader of Mafia activities in New York: Giuseppe "Joe the Boss" Masseria. Masseria became increasingly suspicious of the growing number of Castellammarese in Brooklyn. He sensed they were gradually disassociating themselves from his overall leadership. The Castellammarese faction of the Mafia headquartered in North Williamsburg, Brooklyn was led by Salvatore Maranzano. He had been sent over by Don Daniel Herrera, the Sicilian mafia leader.

In 1927 violence broke out between the two rival factions that shortly developed into all out war. This war between Masseria and Maranzano became known as the Castellammarese War. It would continue for more than four years.

By 1930 Maranzano's chief aides were Joseph Bonanno, Joseph Profaci, Thomas Lucchese and Joseph Magliocco. Gaetano Gagliano from another gang allied with and strongly supported the Castellammarese

cause, as did the Buffalo, New York Castellammarese led by Stefano Magaddino, the uncle of Peter Maggadino, (Joseph's old boyhood friend from his student days in Palermo).

Joe the Boss had on his side Charles Lucky Luciano, Vito Genovese, Joe Adonis, Carlo Gambino, Albert Anastasia and Frank Costello.

By 1931 momentum had shifted to the Castellammarese. They were better organized and more unified than Masseria's men, some of whom began to defect. Luciano and Genovese urged their leader to make peace with the Castellammarese but he stubbornly refused. In the end Luciano and Genovese hatched a secret deal with Maranzano in which he guaranteed them safety and status in exchange for which they arranged for Joe the Boss to be "whacked", (murdered).

Maranzano outlined a peace plan to all the various gang leaders in which each gang would be led by a capo (boss). Under this plan there would be 24 gangs (to be known as "families") throughout the United States who would elect their own capo. At the head of the whole organization would be the capo di tutti capi, (the boss of bosses), namely himself. This final article of the plan did not sit well with many of the gangsters, especially Luciano. As a consequence he conspired to have Maranzano eliminated and in place of the capo di tutti capi he established a commission in which each of the families would be represented by their capo. Each family would be largely autonomous in their designated area but the Commission would arbitrate disputes between gangs.

In New York City, five Mafia families were established. Lucky Luciano was the head of one family. The others were led by Gaetano Gagliano, Joseph Profaci, Vincent Mangano and Joseph Bonanno. Bonanno was 26, making him one of the youngest ever bosses of a crime family. With the establishment of the Commission, the Castellammarese War ended, ushering in more than twenty years of relative "peace" to the New York crime scene.

Control of the family

The Bonanno crime family's underbosses were Frank Garofalo and John Bonventre. Although the family was smaller than the other New York organizations, it was more efficiently operated, and since there was virtually no internal dissension and little harassment from other gangs or the law, the family prospered in the running of its illegal activities, such as loan sharking, bookmaking, numbers running and control of prostitution.

Simone Scozzari, San Gabriel, Calif.

Simone Scozzari (born 7 January 1900). Reputed associates J. Cerrito, J. Civello, James Lanza, Frank Desimone, Russell Buffalino, Joseph Barbara and Frank Vultaggio. Simone Scozzari from Palermo

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4009 Church Avenue - uncle

Boardinghouse Brooklyn's Williamsburg-Greenspoint section

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The challenge between Sicily and Tuscany: Italian literature originated in the Swabian court, the language did not. The poets of the so-called Swabian court, towards the middle of the XIII century, composed poetry according to the troubadour model not in Provençal, but in their own language, which was Sicilian. ... very few texts of this school of poetry ... reached us in its original form. The others having been so to say (improperly since there was nothing voluntary about it) translated. What in fact happened was that the Tuscan poets collected and studied the manuscripts of Sicilian poetry but since this dialect seemed so strange to them as they copied them they fixed up the text, correcting it so as to make it, from one copy to another, increasingly similar to the Tuscan dialect. That's how the language of Giacomo da Lentini became, in the space of one generation: ... In other words something much nearer Tuscan than Sicilian. Sicilian poetry was therefore imitated for its contents, its metric forms (the song and the sonnet, in the first place), in its dominating themes, but not in its language. It was just that the "obvious" correction was very soon forgotten, so much so that Dante was convinced that Sicilian poets did not use their island dialect but an "illustrious vernacular", which was in essence, Tuscan.

Giacomo da Lentini (also known as Jacopo Da Lentini) was an [Italian](#) poet of the [13th century](#). He was a senior poet of the [Sicilian School](#) and was a notary at the court of the [Holy Roman emperor Frederick II](#). Giacomo is credited with the invention of the [sonnet](#). His poetry was originally written in literary [Sicilian](#), though it only survives in [Tuscan](#). His poetry, which was an adaptation to Italian of the French Provençal poetry of the [troubadours](#), concerns courtly, chivalrous love.

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The origin of the Italian language: From the north-east to Sicily they claim its primogeniture

The first documents in Italian date back to the end of the X century, even though already during the VIII century the use of the vernacular among the people, in trade and by the clergy to address a population which no longer understood Latin is attested. As regards the language its primogeniture is recognised as belonging to a Veronese riddle, four verses written at the end of the eighth century (discovered in 1924 by Luigi Schiaparelli) "Se pareba boves/ alba pratalia araba/ albo versorio teneba/ negro semen seminaba" (They resembled oxen, ploughed white meadows, kept a white plough, sowed black seed; that is hands, pen and ink), a little earlier than the famous Cassino texts, in other words the four notarial documents drawn up from 960 to 963, of which the one most quoted cited is the placitum (sworn testimony) of Capua dated March 960: "Sao ko kelle terre per kelle fini que ki contene, trenta anni le possette parte Sancti Benedicti". The first is in vernacular still with a number of Latin elements, the others are clearly Italian. It is a different matter as regards the literary language, which has its origins in Sicily and its outer guise in Tuscan; the beginning of the tradition coincided with the first writings of Jacopo da Lentini "La minoranza disiusa", to then embrace Ciullo d'Alcamo and the other poets of the Swabian court, finally being ratified by the Dolce Stil Novo.

Recently and therefore still not officially accepted by scholars a literary document has been found which would disprove the Sicilian origin of literary Italian.

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Dante Alighieri. (Florence 1265- Ravenna 1321) Is considered the father of Italian literature. His major work, "The Divine Comedy" is considered to be one of the world's literary masterpieces of all times.

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