



Chapter V-B

[NY Edition]

Patarino Famiglia Lineage
United States of America

1885 to 1979
Generation XII and XIII

Patarino Family - Generation-to-Generation

The Chapter V generation-to-generation family lineage in this *Storia del Cognome Patarino* is published in four different Editions. Each subsequent Edition includes the previous chapters for a complete generational story. It made sense to only publish the personal stories of one's actual ancestors in each Edition. The ITALY Edition comprises Chapter V-A, which includes our ancestors from Castellaneta, Italy. The NY Edition comprises Chapters V-A and -B, which adds my great-grandfather and grandfather who immigrated from Italy to New York. The CO Edition comprises Chapters V-A, -B, and -C, which adds my father and his children who left New York and moved to Colorado. Finally, the IN Edition comprises Chapters V-A, -B, -C, and -D, which adds my story of living in New York, Colorado, Florida, and Indiana.

Our ancestors over hundreds of years lived in Castellaneta and developed and displayed the characteristics of strength, endurance, resilience, and adaptability. This Chapter V-B generation-to-generation lineage begins with **Vincenzo Patarino** who was born in 1885 in the commune of Castellaneta, *Terra d'Otranto* province, Kingdom of Italy, and immigrated 4,000 miles to Brooklyn, New York in 1912 with his wife Filomena, and sons Egidio and Leonardo. The Chapter finishes with my grandfather **Egidio Antonio Patarino** who was 4-years old when he immigrated, and he combined both the traditional values of southern Italy and his new home in Brooklyn and as an adult became profoundly American.

It was not a forgone conclusion that our family would endure such a challenging transition from the small rural community of Castellaneta with about 10,000 people to the large metropolitan New York City with over nine million people. The immigration stories of our family are amazing and show their intuitive sense of the broader world and their fortitude and tenacity to prosper amid life's challenges. Our family endured and thrived because they had the innate strength, endurance, tenacity, and adaptability that was passed down to them from generations of Patarino's and it made all the difference.

500+ Years of Lineage for our Patarino Surname

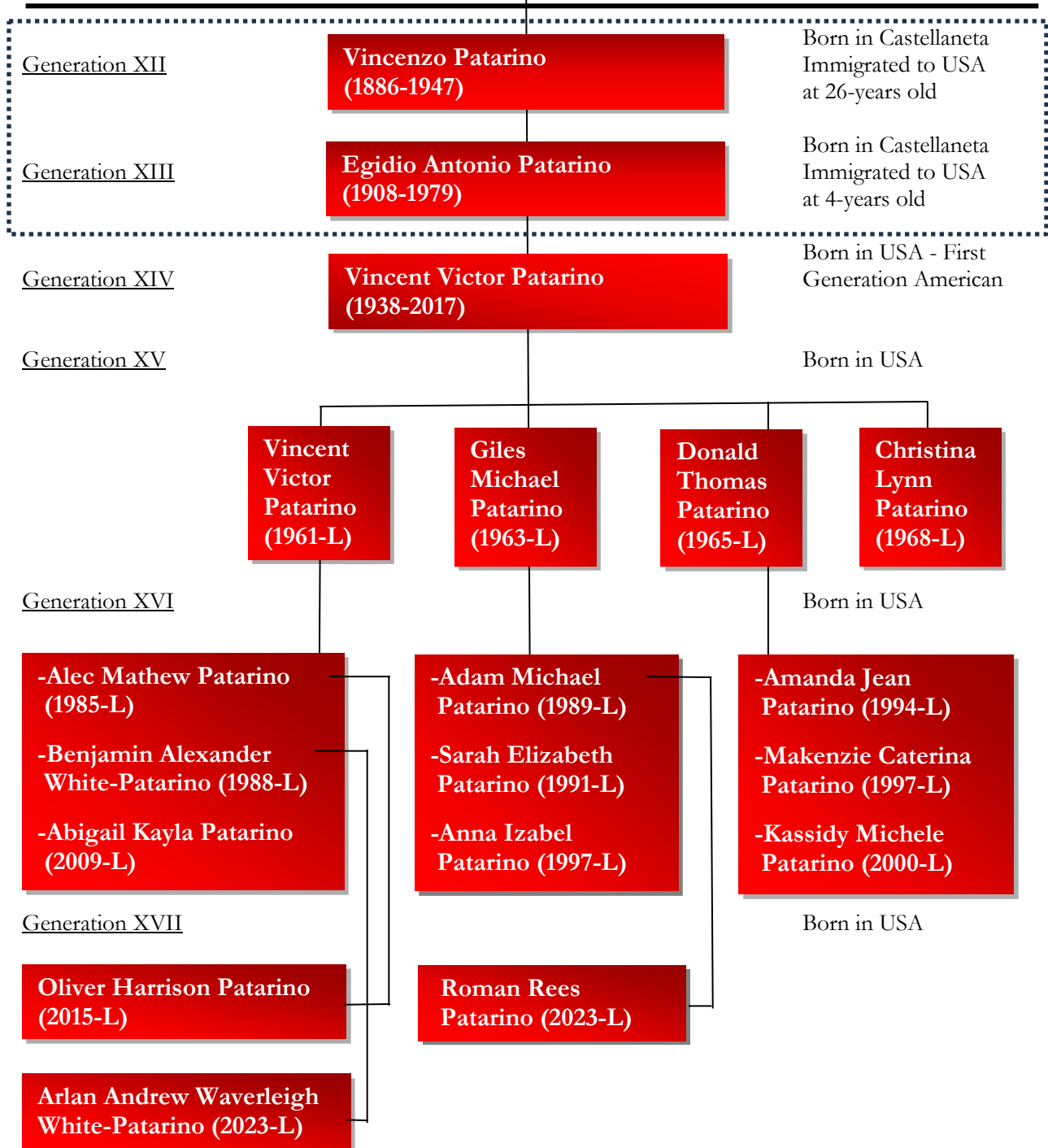
17 Famiglia Generations



CHAPTER V-A - ITALY



CHAPTER V-B, -C, -D – UNITED STATES



Chapter V is a history of each Patarino in our 500 year lineage, generation-to-generation, starting in 1482. Enjoy our family story.

Generation XII



Vincenzo Patarino (1885 – 1947)



Vincenzo Patarino was born in Castellaneta, *Terra d'Otranto* province (in 1927 changed to Taranto province, Puglia region), Kingdom of Italy on October 15, 1885, and died in Brooklyn, New York on March 11, 1947. His parents were Egidio Santo Anselmo Domenico and Giovanna Fedele Pulignano. He married **Maria Filomena (“Philomena”) Mancini** in Italy in 1907. She was born in 1888 in Castellaneta and died in Brooklyn in 1955 and her parents were Vito Leonardo Mancini (1865-1903) and Giuseppa Andresini (1867-?). Vincenzo’s occupation was as a **blacksmith**. They lived in Brooklyn, New York and had five children:

1. M-Egidio (“Jules”) Antonio Patarino (1908-1979); Immigrated in 1912
2. M-Leonardo (“Leonard”) Vito Patarino (1910-1983); **Immigrated in 1912**
3. F-Jennie (“Jean”) Patarino (1913-2008)
4. M-Joseph Patarino (1916-1974)
5. F-Josephine Virginia Patarino (1925-2016)

Vincenzo Patarino

Vincenzo may have been named after his father Egidio’s brother, Vincenzo Gaetano Francesco Saverio Patarino (1839-1915) (Generation X). As his parents’ fifth child born, the traditional Italian naming convention did not apply, so it was acceptable for them to honor an uncle or aunt or a Roman Catholic Saint, by using their name for their son’s given name.

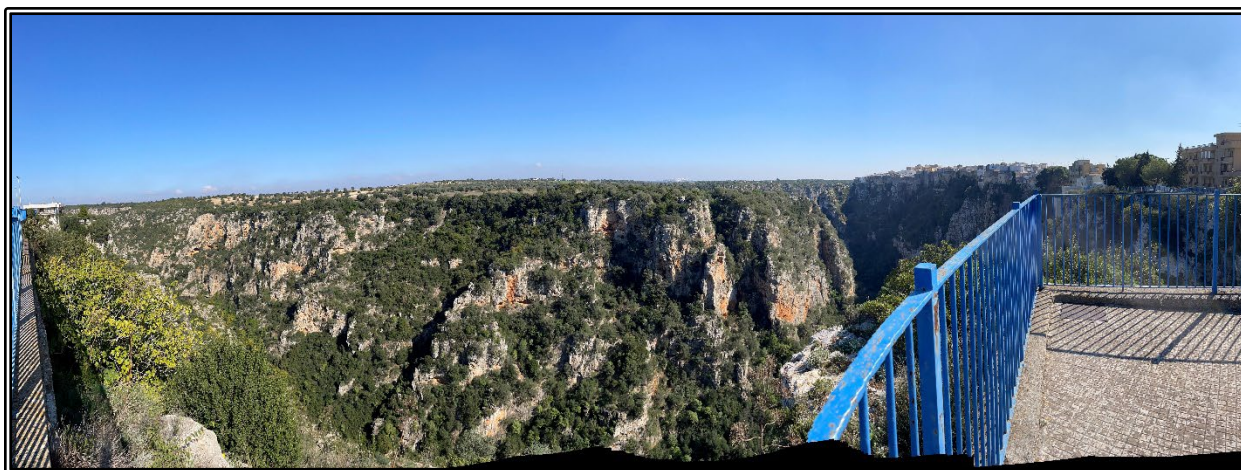
Vincenzo was born was raised in a house on *Vico Patarino* about 100 feet from *Chiesa San Domenico*, the family’s church for several generations. According to family members, the house was demolished in the mid-20th century due to being dilapidated. The alley’s historic designation was given in the 19th century to honor the family’s prominence in the community.



Vico Patarino and the location of the foundations of the family home in 2022



Vincenzo and Filomena in the 1940's in Brooklyn, New York, married 1907 in Castellaneta

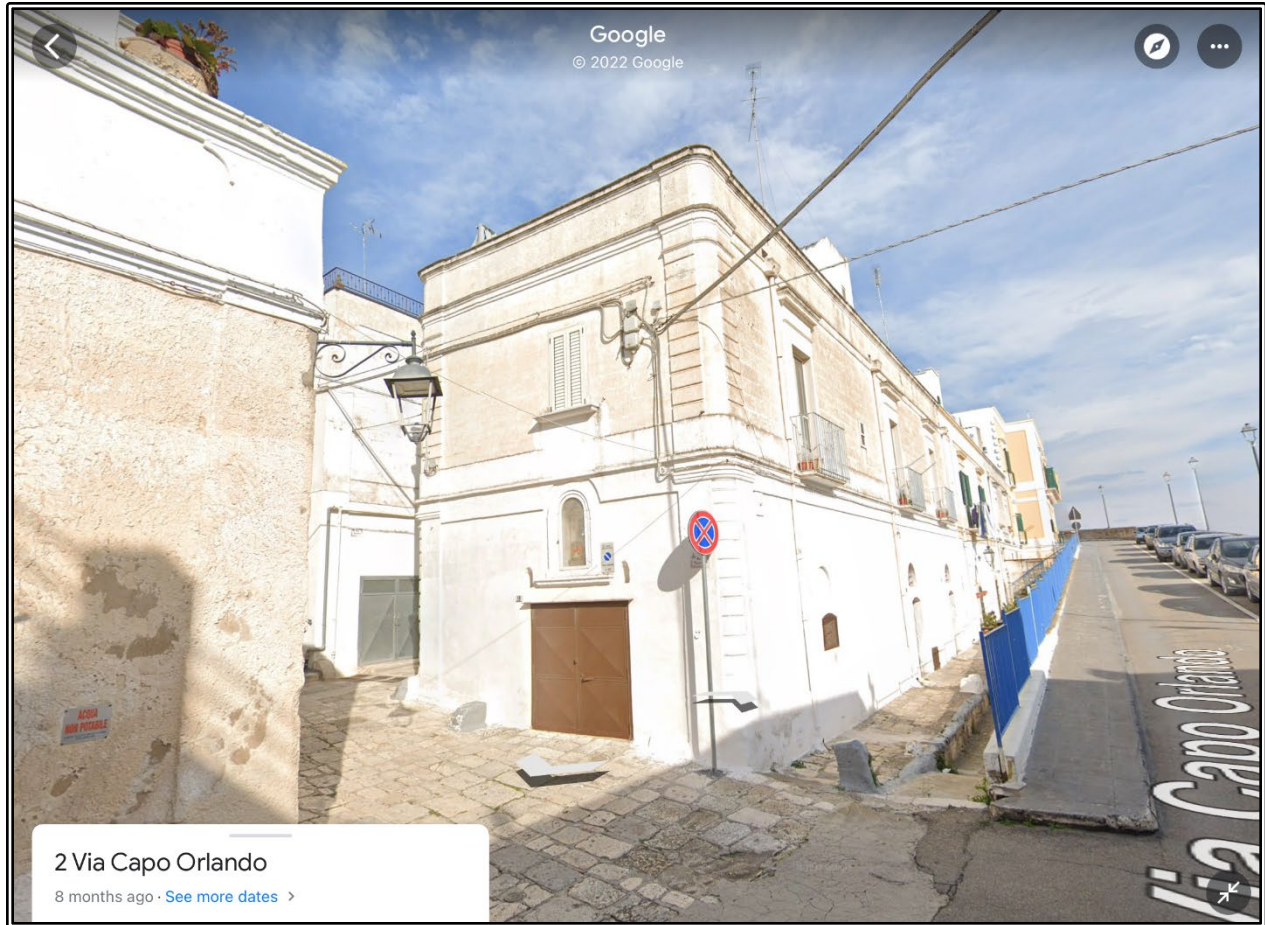


Castellaneta, located on the edge of the *Gravina*, home of Vincenzo and Filomena, in 2022



Filomena about 1911 in Castellaneta, Italy (we have no pictures of Vincenzo when he was young)

Filomena Patarino



After Vincenzo and Filomena were married in 1907, they lived in a small apartment on the second floor of a house on *Via Capo Orlando*, in the old town area of Castellaneta, where their children were born, Egidio in 1908 and Leonardo in 1910 (pictured in 2022, our Patarino cousins showed us the home where Vincenzo's children were born).



Castellaneta in the early 20th century (left-*Via Roma* approaching town; right-the piazza)

Puglia and Castellaneta become Depopulated

In southern Italy, the beginning of the 20th century marked a turning point. The years between 1887 and the early 1890's was the darkest period of modern Puglian history. The popular protests after the devastation of unification, *il Risorgimento*, and the brigand's civil war, went from the people chanting "Work!" and "Bread!" to more combative language such as, "Down with town hall!", "Down with the landlords!", and "Out with the thieves". The frustration of the people transitioned from angry demonstrations to spontaneous local riots. (Violence and the Great Estates in the South of Italy, by Snowden, 1986)

By 1900, the new unified Kingdom of Italy was one of the most overcrowded countries in Europe. Italy's population in 1861 was 25 million and by 1911 it was 35 million (everyculture.com). In 1900, due to the desperation for a better life, emigration from southern Italy began to increase for those that could raise the 150 to 200 lire needed for a steerage passage to New York City or Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In 1881, a census in southern Italy found that over one million day-laborers were chronically under-employed and were highly likely to become seasonal workers to economically sustain themselves. **Between 1895 and 1905, the region of Puglia became the region in Italy with the highest death rate and "consistently set national records for death by the diseases of poverty, malnutrition and poor sanitation."** (Violence and the Great Estates in the South of Italy, Apulia, 1900-1922, by Frank M. Snowden, 1986).

In 1901, a milestone occurred in the Puglia region with the proclamation of the first agricultural strike in southern Italy. Between 1901 and 1906, there were 37 strikes by agricultural workers, and in 1907, 45 strikes, many of which led to violence. In 1908, Puglia became the region with the second highest farm worker unionization, with peasants demanding wage increases and other rights. In 1908, there was a drought that was the worst in living memory, resulting in over fifty percent crop failure. In Puglia and southern Italy, agricultural employment collapsed, and hunger was seen on a horrific and unprecedented scale. (Violence and the Great Estates in the South of Italy, Apulia, 1900-1922, by Frank M. Snowden, 1986).

"At this time the Commune of Castellaneta also began to become de-populated with families immigrating to the United States" (www.castellaneta.altervista.org). In 1911, the population of Castellaneta was 10,814. By 1921, the population of Castellaneta had fallen by 18% to 8,859 (*Il Mio Paese*:

Castellaneta, by Colucci Giovanna and Difonzo Bianca).

The political upheaval, riots, strikes, natural disasters, epidemics, famine, organized crime, new forms of taxation, and economic adversity left people in southern Italy frustrated and angry. Puglia was always a harsh, cruel land whose people lived a hard life but these



conditions at the start of the century prompted southern Italians to seek a better life in other countries. The southern Italians realized they had nothing to lose by emigrating.

Vincenzo Emigrates to the United States

In 1905, Vincenzo's brother Nicola, who was the oldest child of Egidio and Giovanna, was the first family member to leave Castellaneta and emigrate to the United States. Nicola was followed by his brothers, Francesco in 1906, and Salvatore in 1910, while Vincenzo remained in Italy. By 1912, Vincenzo's brothers had been living in the United States for six years and it's probable they were writing letters home telling the family that they were able to find work.

When the sons of Egidio immigrated, they listed their occupation on passenger manifests and censuses as "carpenter", "wheelwright", and "blacksmith". These were all skills their father Egidio used as a master carpenter building ornate horse-drawn carriages and mule-pulled work carts. Undoubtedly, Egidio trained his sons to help him in his business, but there was probably no need at the time for such highly skilled carpentry work in Castellaneta or the region. His sons needed to find skilled work that paid enough money to support their families and live a good life. In the United States, his sons had a chance to achieve that dream.

Following his brothers and other southern Italians, **Vincenzo emigrated to the United States in 1912**. He was 27-years old and traveled alone as a third-class steerage passenger. He didn't bring Filomena, Egidio, and Leonardo with him because he wanted to first find work and a safe place to live.

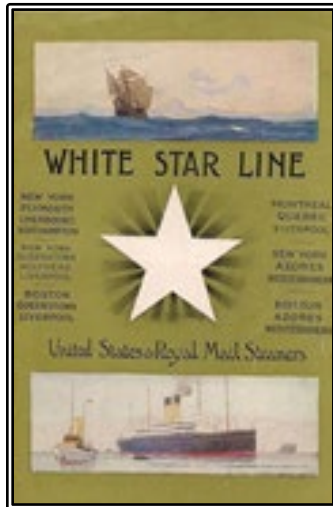
When 26-year-old Vincenzo landed at **Ellis Island** in the port of New York, he traveled from the Port of Naples on the **RMS Cedric**, which was 700 feet long, 75 feet wide, with five decks, and carried 2,875 passengers (ellisland.org). On the passenger manifest, he identified his occupation as a wheelwright (a carpenter like his father). To view the original copy of the Passenger Record and the original Arrival Documents, go to www.ellisland.org.





Ellis Island in the early 20th century

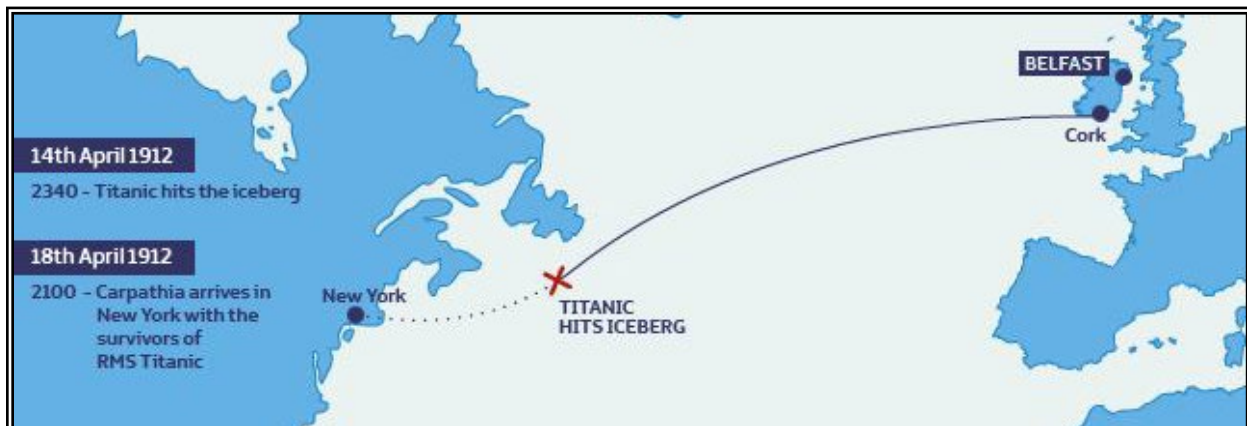
Did our family have a bit of luck? (hint: the RMS *Titanic*)



Our family's arrival in America could be considered luck, or even a miracle since Vincenzo arrived within two days of an event in history that will not soon be forgotten. The RMS *Cedric* was built by Harland and Wolff Ltd. and was owned by the White Star Lines. She set sail on her maiden voyage in 1903 from Liverpool, England to New York City, which was the only route she ever used to cross the Atlantic. The RMS *Cedric* was the second of White Star's series of ships known as the "Big Four". These four ships were the largest ships in the world for a short period of time. The RMS *Cedric* traveled across the Atlantic Ocean without incident for eleven years until it was delayed on April 14, 1912. After arriving in New York, the crew of the RMS *Cedric* was ordered to delay its voyage back to England; they were to wait until the RMS *Carpathia* arrived in New York with survivors from the **RMS *Titanic***.

The RMS *Titanic* and the RMC *Cedric* were both built and owned by the same company and in early April 1912, both ships were traveling across the Atlantic Ocean at the same time. The RMS *Cedric* set sail on April 4, 1912, from Liverpool and arrived in New York City on April 12, while the RMS *Titanic* set sail on April 10, 1912, from Queenstown. Both ships used the same identical sea lane from England to New York City. The RMS *Titanic* was on its maiden voyage and was considered the largest ship in the world surpassing the "Big Four" as it was 882 feet long, 92 feet wide, with nine decks and carrying 2,435 passengers.

The standard route of the RMC *Cedric* across the Pacific Ocean is indicated in the picture below of the 1910 White StarLine United States & Royal Mail Streamers log. The route of the RMC *Titanic* across the Pacific Ocean in 1912 is also pictured below. Note they are identical routes across the ocean.



RMS *Titanic* route on April 14, 1912 (bottom), just a bit further north than the RMC *Cedric* route (top)

Of all the RMS *Titanic*'s epic storytelling, one of the most extraordinary stories is of the **68-year old Persian named Abdu'l-Bahá**, known in both the American and European press as a philosopher, a peace apostle, even to some as the return of Christ. After an offer of passage on the RMS *Titanic* from his American admirers who had sent him thousands of dollars for a ticket and begged him to sail in opulence, he declined and sailed on the more modest RMS *Cedric* arriving in New York City on April 12. Did Abdu'l-Bahá bring a bit of luck to the SS *Cedric*? Was it luck or destiny that Vincenzo Patarino arrived safely in America on April 12, 1912, while 1,514 people died on the *Titanic* only two days later on April 14 while sailing almost the same sea lane? What do you think?

Filomena and her Children Emigrate

Eight months after Vincenzo emigrated, Filomena followed and emigrated with their son's Egidio and Leonardo, leaving the Port of Naples on November 9, 1912, and arriving at the Port of New York and Ellis Island, on December 2. The family traveled on the ***SS Stampalia*** under the name "Maria Filomena Mancini", her full maiden name. "Patarino" was written next to Egidio's and Leonardo's names; Egidio was 4-years old, and Leonardo was 2-years old. Their passenger tickets were paid for by Vincenzo, and they were in possession of about \$20. Filomena stated that their destination was Port Chester, New York to join her husband.

The family initially lived at **134 Williams Street, Port Chester, New York**, which is located about 35 miles north of New York City and on the state line between New York and Connecticut. Vincenzo had found work as a blacksmith and carpenter at the **shipyards in Stonington, Connecticut**, about 100 miles east of Port Chester. Vincenzo was successful in finding work that paid well and finding a safe place for his family to live, but the downside was the amount of traveling he had to do between work and home. It is likely that he thought of his traveling as a small sacrifice to have his family back together again. During this time, Vincenzo's brothers lived in a tenement apartment building in the Brooklyn Navy Yard area. This allowed them to find jobs at the Brooklyn Shipyard, but the area was overcrowded with poor immigrants, overrun with gang and ethnic violence, and was not a safe place to raise a family. Vincenzo's choice of living in Port Chester was certainly a good decision for his wife and children even though he lived separated from his brothers and his extended *famiglia*.

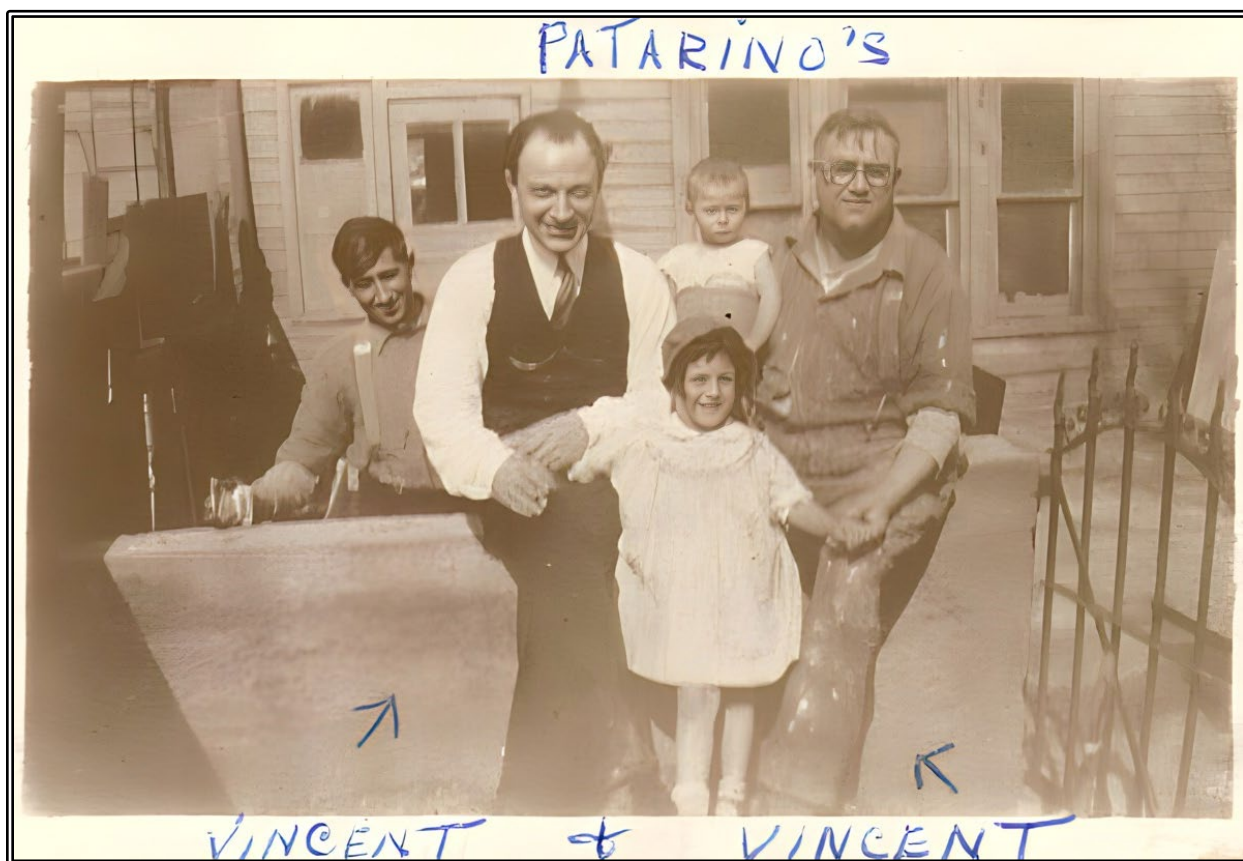


Once in America, Vincenzo started using the **nickname, "James"**. A common nickname for men in Italy named Vincenzo was "Cenz", which in English sounded like "chains" or "chains-sa". To Americans, this sounded like the given name James, so many Italians in the United States named Vincenzo would sometimes use the nickname James or Jimmy.

Vincenzo and Filomena felt safe enough in Port Chester to start growing their family, Jennie was born in 1913 and Joseph was born in 1916.

On Vincenzo's 1918 U.S. World War I Draft Registration Card, his occupation was noted as a blacksmith in the shipyards of Stonington, Connecticut and he stated he had brown eyes and black hair. The name on the draft card was listed as, "Vincenzo or James Patarino".

REGISTRATION CARD A			
SERIAL NUMBER 3403	NAME Vincenzo or James Patarino		ORDER NUMBER 5550
2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: 134 William St. Port Chester, Westchester Co. N.Y. (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)			
Age in Years 32	Date of Birth October 15 1885		



Vincenzo (at right) about 1918 with his children Egidio, Jennie, and Joseph. He was with his first cousin Vincenzo Patarino (1898-1975) from Italy (he came to the United States twice, trying to emigrate, but returned to Italy ultimately in 1929). His cousin worked as a dental technician.

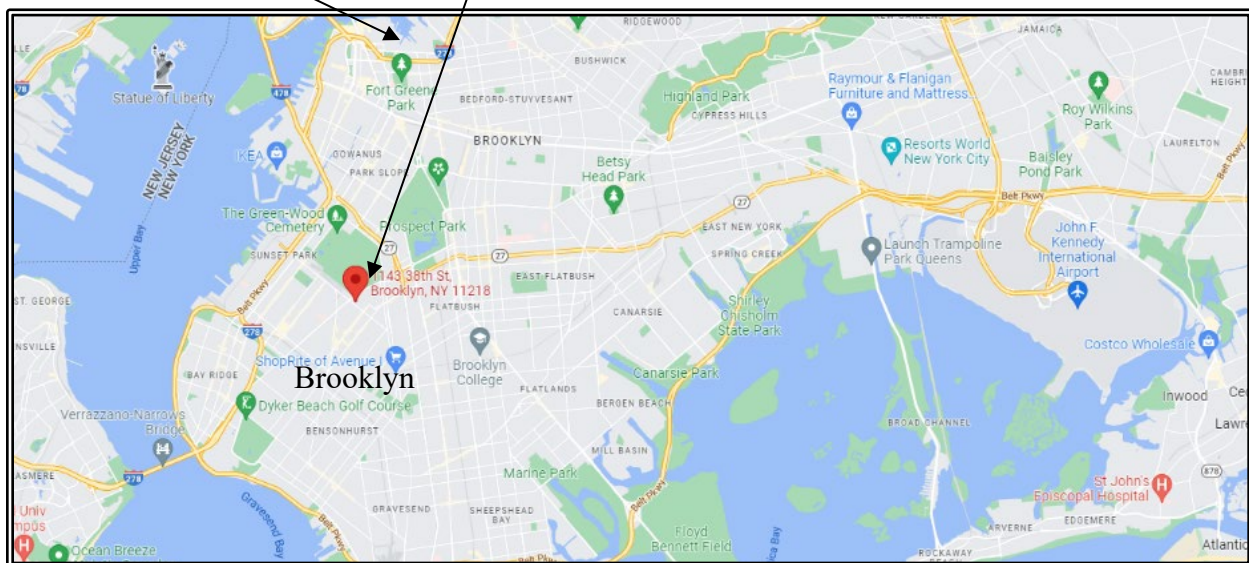
The Family Moved to Brooklyn, New York

Vincenzo and his family lived in Port Chester until about 1919, when they decided to move to the Brooklyn neighborhood of Borough Park. By the 1920 U.S. Federal Census, Vincenzo was renting a house (pictured below in 2022) at **1143 38th Street, Brooklyn, New York** (note the Census taker recorded the family's information on January 6, 1920). The house was a few city blocks from the distinguished Green-Wood Cemetery, Sunset Park, Prospect Park, and the 38th Street Train Yard. The family was now using the Americanized names of James, Philomena, Jules, Leonard, Jenny, and Joseph. Vincenzo stated that he could read and write but Filomena could not. Vincenzo stated that he was working as a **blacksmith in the horseshoe industry**.



Brooklyn Ship Yard

1143 38th Street, Brooklyn (near Green-Wood Cemetery)





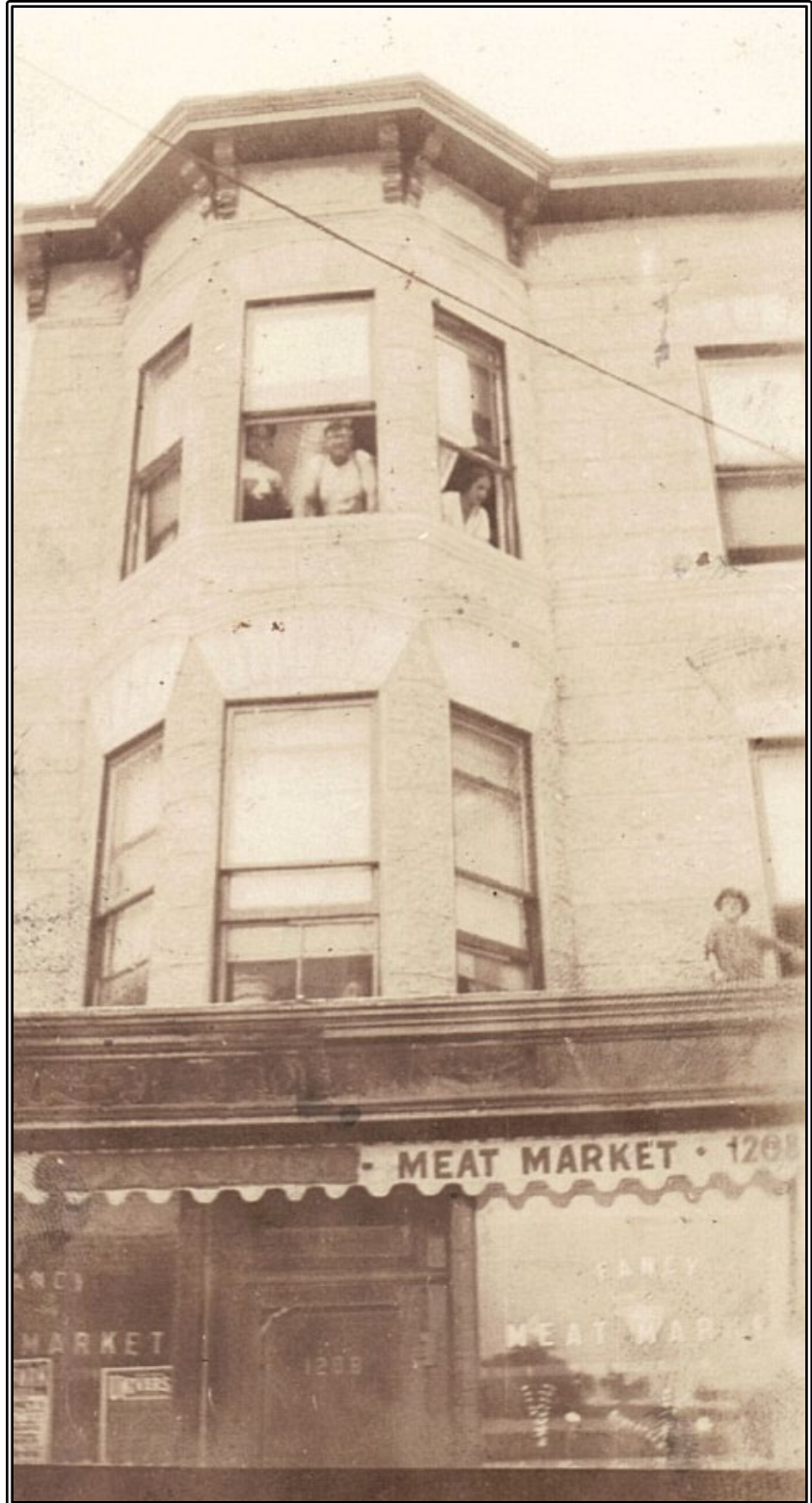
Vincenzo's and Filomena's children Egidio, Leonardo, Jennie, and Joseph about 1919

Vincenzo's and Philomena's fourth and youngest child Josephine was born in 1925. By the 1930 U.S. Federal Census, the family was living at **1208 39th Street, Brooklyn, New York**, about one city block from their previous home on 38th Street. In the Census, Vincenzo stated that he owned his home, and it was worth \$8,000.

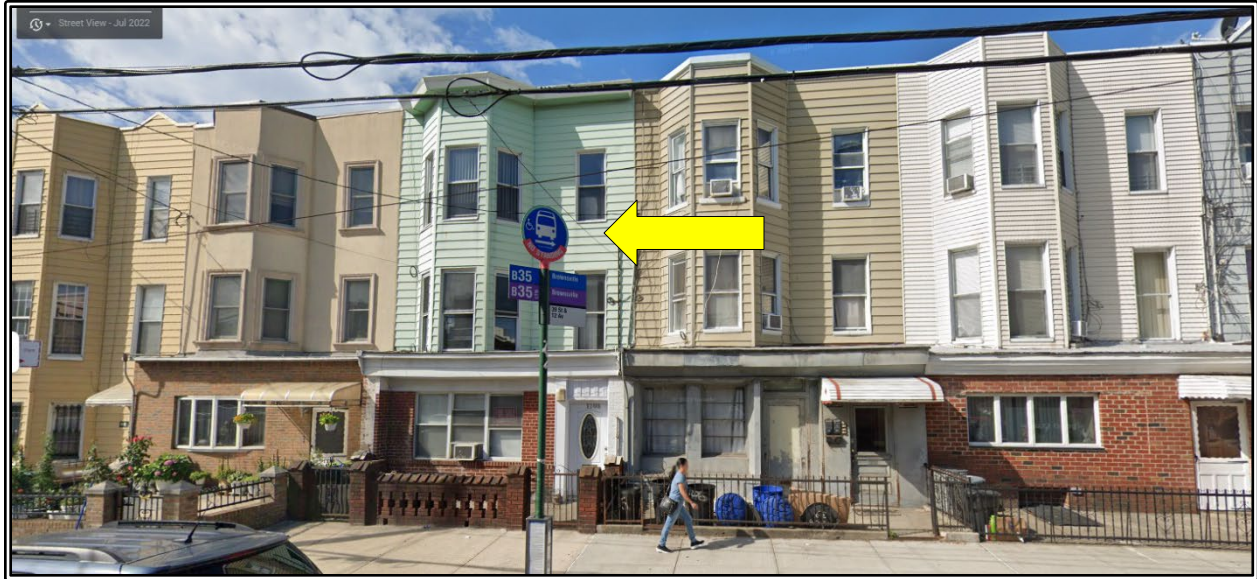
The Census stated that Vincenzo's occupation was as a blacksmith, Jules' (Egidio) occupation was as an ironworker, and Leonard's occupation was as a laborer at an ice plant. The entire family except for Vincenzo was speaking English.

From the time that Vincenzo and Filomena entered the United States, they stayed away from living in overcrowded tenement buildings. They lived in different row houses, which were groups of low-rise residential buildings usually two to five stories tall and built for the growing middle class.

In front of the family's row house was a meat market. It was typical in the 1920s for small family owned businesses to line the streets.



This 1928 photo shows the Patarino family's home at 1208 39th Street. You can see Vincenzo in the third floor window standing next to Jules, Philomena is in the 3rd floor window to the left, and Josephine is standing on the roof.



The Patarino family's home at 1208 39th Street, Borough Park, Brooklyn in 2022

In the 1920s, the New York City borough of Brooklyn had over 2 million people living in it. If it had been a city, it would have been the third largest in the United States behind New York City and Chicago. Even as a major city, most of Brooklyn was still being improved with sewer and water line construction, and street paving. Only the downtown area near the Brooklyn Bridge was paved and included more modern utilities. The following photos were taken in the 1920s and provide a glimpse of what the area looked like near the Patarino home's at 1143 38th Street and 1208 39th Street (which were only one block away from each other). The following pictures show Brooklyn in the 1920s:

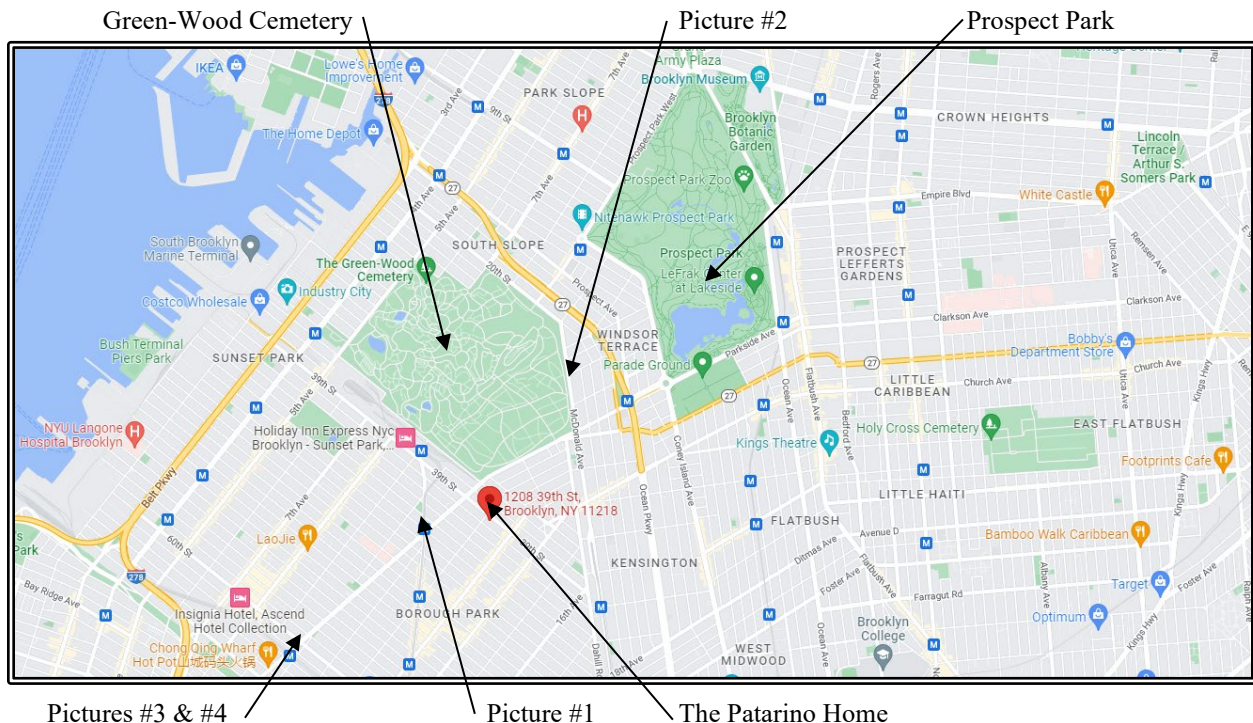




Photo #1: March 14, 1924, looking southeast from 10th Avenue and 42nd Street. New Utrecht Avenue is on the right. This was the proposed park in the Sunset Park area (now Brizzi Playground). This was one-half mile from the Patarino home. (*Images of America Brooklyn in the 1920s*, by Eric Ierardi, 1998, p.92)



Photo #2: December 20, 1924, looking south on Gravesend (now McDonald) Avenue from Seely Street with Green-Wood Cemetery on the right. (*Images of America Brooklyn in the 1920s*, by Eric Ierardi, 1998, p.20)



Photo #3: May 4, 1923, looking west at 60th Street about 150 feet from 10th Avenue. (Images of America Brooklyn in the 1920s, by Eric Ierardi, 1998, p.89)



Photo #4: May 4, 1923, looking south at Ft. Hamilton Parkway from 60th Street. (Images of America Brooklyn in the 1920s, by Eric Ierardi, 1998, p.87)



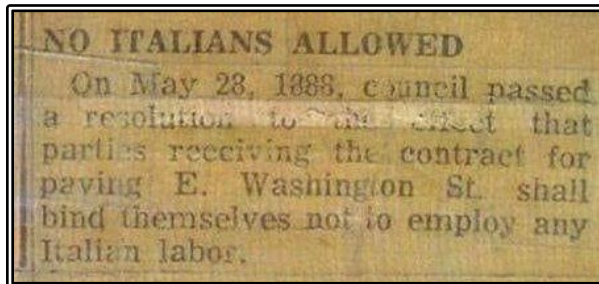
Coney Island in 1925 (this was a newspaper clipping from 1955 that Vincenzo saved)



Vincenzo and Jules (Egidio) working as blacksmiths for the ACE Company in Brooklyn in the 1930s

Vincenzo's and Filomena's Life

Vincenzo's grandson Vincent Victor Patarino recalled, *"Vincenzo was someone who lived his life according to the same famiglia-centered values that his forefathers lived back in Castellaneta, Italy. He was a tough Italian man who was intimidating because of his personal confidence in himself. He moved his family over 4,000 miles from a small rural community in southern Italy to the large metropolitan city of Brooklyn, found good paying jobs as a blacksmith, was able to grow his family, and he ultimately achieved his goal of providing for his family and keeping them safe. Who wouldn't be confident? In his later years, he had problems with his legs and knees and was frequently in pain. He liked to drink wine and his family was known to get upset when he would drink too much."*



The family certainly faced ethnic discrimination in employment, housing, and in society. As Italian immigrants, they learned that they needed to remove part of their own cultural identity to assimilate as quickly as possible into American society. Americans considered immigrants from Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean world as undesirable, of low intelligence, and inclined to

committing crimes and getting diseases. *"Italian immigrants were commonly described as superstitious, violent, brawlers, seditious, and mobsters...[the] label given to them was 'dago', that according to the most reliable hypothesis was a Latinization of dagger"* (*"Italian Immigration in the United States"*, by Giuseppe Piccoli, 2014, Duquesne University). These local attitudes created a hostile environment where Italian immigrants found it difficult to fully integrate and assimilate into society.

To Vincenzo's family and other Italian immigrants, loyalty and conformity to the group was very important in personal behavior, life choices, and interpersonal relations. Hence the highest social status was attributed to those that contributed the most to the group's needs with material and non-material help. For example, boys had to work to help increase the family's income, and daughters remained at home to take care of younger children, and to cook and clean. This was proven in the Patarino family U.S. Census information, which stated that Vincenzo and his sons were all working, while his daughters remained at home to support the family

While Vincenzo and his family lived in Port Chester and then the safer Borough Park neighborhood of Brooklyn, his brothers Nicola and Francesco, his sister Maria, and all their families lived in tenement buildings in the Navy Yard and Fort Greene Park area of Brooklyn. This area included Irish, Russian, and Italian immigrants, overcrowded tenements, and Irish and Italian gangs roaming the streets harassing residents and those working at the Navy Yard and its supporting businesses. In the late 1910s, the infamous Al Capone, who was a teenager, lived one city block away from Nicola's family. Al Capone was part of the Navy Street Boys, a local gang (in the 1920s, he moved to Chicago as a Mafia boss). In 1918, the Navy Street Gang, another gang who had its headquarters in a coffee shop on the same block as Francesco's and Maria's families, murdered another crime family boss in the street, right in front of where they lived. By 1920, both Francesco and Maria must have felt unsafe, lonely, and tired of the discrimination and

harassment they encountered. Likely finding it difficult to assimilate, they decided to move back to Castellaneta. It's important to note that their father Egidio Santo Anselmo Domenico Patarino died in May 1919, and their mother may have needed more help from her children, which would have been another important reason to move back home. After 1920, Nicola and his family also left the Navy Yard area for a safer place to live in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Gravesend, about 2 miles east of where Vincenzo lived. Vincenzo's decision to first find a good paying job and a safe place to live in the United States before his wife and sons immigrated, was a great decision and probably allowed his family to assimilate quicker into American society. After Francesco left the United States, Salvatore moved in with Vincenzo's family.



Vincenzo Patarino (sitting), Salvatore Patarino (brother of Vincenzo), and Vincenzo's daughters Jennie (left) and Josephine (right) about 1929.



Vincenzo with Filomena and their daughter Jennie in the 1920s



A young Filomena with her mother Giuseppa Andresini at her First Communion about 1900

The photo below was taken in the 1930s during a **New Year's Eve party** and includes many of Vincenzo Patarino's family members. Pictured around the table starting at Vincenzo (yellow circle) and then counter-clockwise: Vincenzo Patarino, Vincenza Patarino (wife of Egidio), Egidio Antonio Patarino (son), Filomena Patarino (wife of Vincenzo), Josephine Patarino (daughter), Salvatore Patarino (brother of Vincenzo) and Jennie Patarino (daughter). Based on the picture, the man to the left of Vincenzo is probably Vincenzo's brother Nicola.



In the 1940 U.S. Federal Census, Vincenzo (Vincent) still lived at **1208 39th Street, Brooklyn, New York**. He lived with his wife Filomena and his children, Leonardo (Lenny), Jennie (Jenny), Josephine, and Joseph who was now married to Mary. Vincenzo's brother Salvatore was still living with the family. Egidio (Jules), and his wife Vincenza, and their 1-year old son Vincent were also living in the family house and paying \$32 per month in rent. Vincenzo was also renting to three boarders, Sebastian, his wife Julia, and their daughter Maria, who paid \$32 per month in rent. There were fourteen people living in the house, which was valued at \$2,166. The 1930s were difficult for the family as they lived through the Great Depression, which was probably one reason why the entire family lived together. The value of the house also decreased in value during that time, which could explain why they had boarders in the home paying rent.

Vincenzo was no longer working at 54-years old. Lennie was working as a die-maker in advertising making \$1,000 a year, Jennie was working as an operator in a factory making \$728 a year, Joseph was working as a truckman for a wholesale meat company making \$1,300 a year, and Egidio was working as an assembler at a gas range dealer making \$1,380 a year.

On August 21, 1945, Vincenzo and Filomena finally both became naturalized United States citizens. This was 32 years after they immigrated in 1912. Vincenzo was 60-years old, and

Philomena was 57-years old. It's interesting that they waited so long to become citizens. Vincenzo's bother Nicola became a citizen in 1912, seven years after he immigrated, and his brother Salvatore became a citizen in 1918, eight years after he immigrated. Even Vincenzo's son Egidio became a citizen in 1939, when he was 31-years old. Could it be that Vincenzo was having health issues and wanted to be sure that he died as an American citizen? Or did they wait so long to become citizens because they never really assimilated into the American culture and were holding on to their southern Italian heritage?

No. 6606836	
Name PATARINO Filomena	
residing at 1208 39th St B'klyn	
Age 57 years.	Date of order of admission Aug 21st 1945
Date certificate issued Aug 21st 1945 by the	
U. S. District	Court at Brooklyn, New York
Petition No. 427028	
Alien Registration No.	
A. R. #1154017	
<i>Filomena Patarino</i> (Complete and true signature of holder)	

No. 6606972	
Name PATARINO Vincenzo	
residing at 1208 39th St B'klyn	
Age 59 years.	Date of order of admission Aug 21st 1945
Date certificate issued Aug 21st 1945 by the	
U. S. District	Court at Brooklyn, New York
Petition No. 427024	
Alien Registration No.	
A. R. #1566135	
<i>Vincenzo Patarino</i> (Complete and true signature of holder)	

Filomen's and Vincenzo's 1945 United States Naturalization Cards



Filomena in Prospect Park, Brooklyn in the 1950s



Vincenzo and Filomena in the 1940s

On March 11, 1947, two years after becoming a naturalized citizen, Vincenzo died at 62-years old. He was buried at Holy Cross Cemetery, in the Brooklyn neighborhood of East Flatbush, Kings County, New York.

In the 1950 U.S. Federal Census, Filomena was 61-years old and living on the first floor of her home at 1208 39th Street, Brooklyn, New York. Her two daughters, Jennie (Salvi) and Josephine (Messina) and their husbands and children were living with her on the upper floors. The Census misspelled Filomena's surname as "Patasino". Five years after Vincenzo died, Filomena died in May 1952. She was buried at Holy Cross Cemetery in North Arlington, New Jersey. There is no doubt she missed Vincenzo and their full and complete life together.



Filomena and her brother Giovanni (left) and his son in about the early 1940s



Maria Filomena Mancini (right) and her sister Maria Giuseppa Mancini (left) about 1930s



Filomena and her grandson Vincent Victor Patarino (son of Egidio) at his Confirmation about 1950

Life in Brooklyn from the 1920s to the 1940s

We don't have any information regarding Vincenzo's life in Brooklyn from the 1920s to the 1940s, but we do know it was a dramatic time for Americans and especially for immigrants.



How did the family deal with the Great Depression after the stock market crash in 1929? New York City and especially Brooklyn and its docks and

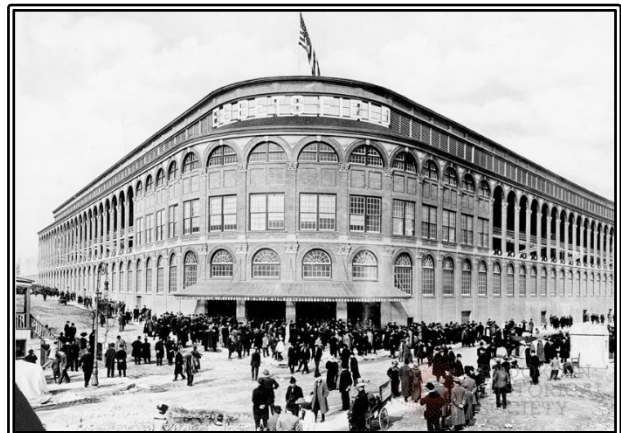
industrial/manufacturing parks were hit hard when plants closed in Wallabout, Sunset Park (where the Patarino family lived), and Red Hook. These areas were decimated with thousands of immigrant workers out-of-work and evicted from their tenements apartments and homes. Red Hook, just 2 miles from where the Patarino family lived, was the location of what was known as "Tin City", one of two Hoovervilles in Brooklyn throughout the Depression ("A Look Back at Tin City, red Hook's Homeless Settlement During the Great Depression", Brownstoner.com, 2018). In Brooklyn, breadlines and Salvation Army meal stations were familiar sights. The family did not lose their home, so we assume that Vincenzo, Egidio, and Leonardo were able to continue working and supporting the family.

We know that the family enjoyed going to baseball games and supported their Brooklyn Dodgers. The Dodgers played baseball at Ebbets Field, which was located on the east side of Province Park, about 2 miles from the Patarino family's home. The Dodgers were in the World series in 1916, 1920, and 1941 before Vincenzo died. Although the Dodgers didn't win the pennant until 1955, did Vincenzo and his sons enjoy going to games? We know that Egidio played baseball when he was young and loved attending Dodgers' games.

We know that during World War II, Egidio worked at the Brooklyn Navy Yard as a welder working on ships, but how did the family feel about the war? We assume that during this time, the family supported the United States and not their birth home of Italy. Interesting that Vincenzo and Filomena both became naturalized American citizens on August 25, 1945, four months after Germany was defeated in Europe on May 7, and one week before the official end of the war on September 2.



Shacks in the Red Hook area of Brooklyn about 1932



Ebbets Field in the 1920s



Vincenzo's and Filomena's children, Egidio (left) and Leonardo (right) in the 1960s. Leonardo never had any of his own children. He was trained in opera singing and once sang at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

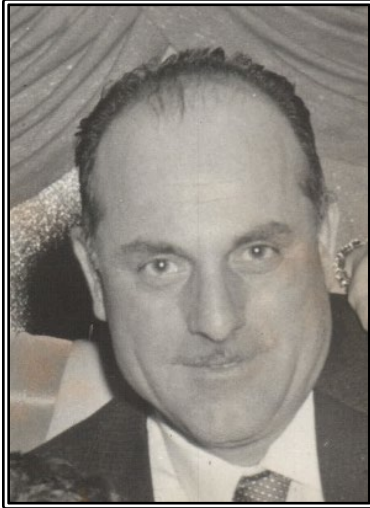


Vincenzo's and Filomena's daughter Josephine in the 1940s, was a singer in New York City with a natural melodic voice; she was known as Jo-Jo-Patti. Vincenzo would not let her travel for a singing career. She was the godparent of Giles Michael Patarino, Egidio's Grandson.

Generation XIII



Egidio Antonio Patarino (1908 – 1979)



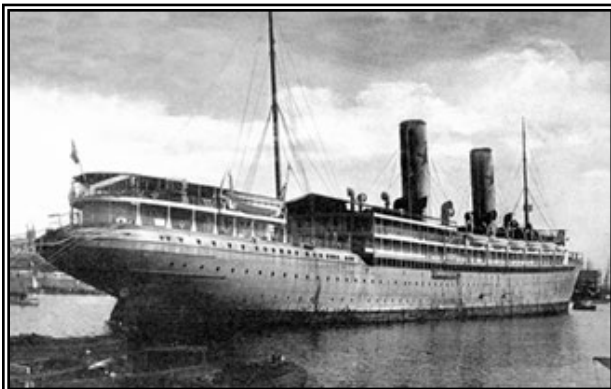
Egidio Antonio Patarino was born in Castellaneta, *Terra d'Otranto* province (in 1927 changed to Taranto province, Puglia region), Kingdom of Italy on January 20, 1908, and died in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York on February 7, 1979. His parents were Vincenzo Patarino (1885-1947) and Filomena Mancini (1888-1955). As the first-born son, he was named after his paternal grandfather, Egidio Patarino.

He married **Vincenza Luciano** on July 7, 1935, when he was 27-years old. She was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1911 and died in Indiana in 2004. Her parents were Vincenzo Luciano (1884-1983) and Fiorentino ("Filomena") Riccio (1891-1982). Egidio went by the nickname, "**Jules**". Jules's profession was as a welder and a construction business owner. They had one child:

1. M-Vincent ("Vinny") Victor Patarino (1938-2017)

Egidio was born and baptized in Castellaneta, Kingdom of Italy, but he was raised as an American. On December 2, 1912, when Egidio was only four-years old, he emigrated to the United States and passed through Ellis Island. He traveled with his mother Filomena and brother Leonardo on the passenger ship *SS Stampalia* in third-class, which left the port of Naples on November 19, 1912, and arrived in New York City fourteen days later. His father emigrated eight months earlier. The *SS Stampalia* (pictured below) was built by Cantieri Navale Riuniti from La-Spezia, Italy in 1909, and weighed 8,999 gross tons, was 476 feet long and 55 feet wide, had a service speed of 16 knots, and could hold 2,500 passengers (100 first-class and 2,400 third-class). The *SS Stampalia* was later sunk by a German submarine in the Aegean Sea in 1916.

Egidio Antonio Patarino



Fun Fact: Given Name "Egidio": Egidio was named after his grandfather Egidio Santo Anselmo Domenico Patarino. The name Egidio in English is Giles, which is from the old French Gilles. Variations and nicknames are Gil, Gilles, Gyles, Jiles, Jyles, and Jules. Egidio Antonio Patarino used the nickname Jules and Julie all his life. His grandson was named after him using the given name Giles.



COMUNE DI CASTELLANETA

PROVINCIA DI TARANTO

CERTIFICATO DI NASCITA

SI CERTIFICA

che PATARINO Egidio Antonio
nacque in CASTELLANETA addì 20 Gennaio 1908
da Vincenzo e da Mancini Filomena
atto N. 33 Parte 1 Serie - dell'anno 1908

Si rilascia in carta libera per uso amministrativo

Castellaneta, 17 agosto 1954

L'Impiegato Responsabile

LO/DO



L'UFFICIALE DELLO STATO CIVILE

[Handwritten signature]

Egidio's Certificate of Birth (officially certified in 1954)

DIOCESI DI CASTELLANETA

COMUNE DI Castellaneta PARROCCHIA DI S. Nicola - Cattedrale

ATTESTATO DI BATTESIMO

di Patarino Egidio Antonio

Io qui sottoscritto Parroco attesto di aver trascritto dai libri dei Battezzati
 Anno 1908 vol. 21 pag. 24 N. 29 la seguente particola:
 L'anno 1908, il giorno 30 del mese di gennaio
 da Don Massimo Margherita con licenza del - Parroco di questa
 Chiesa di S. Nicola - Cattedrale in Castellaneta
 è stato battezzato il bambino, nato il 20-1-1908
 da Vincenzo Patarino, figlio di Egidio
 e da Filomena Mancini, figlia di fu Leonardo
 coniugi della Parrocchia suddetta, al quale è stato dato il nome di
Egidio Antonio - Padrino: Eliza Sampietro
Don Massimo Margherita
 IL PARROCO

ANNOTAZIONI

nessuna

Cresimat il _____
 da Mons. _____
 Vescovo di _____
 adrin _____

In fede si rilascia il presente per uso matrimonio.

Castellaneta, li 10-8-1969

IL PARROCO
S. Luigi Gotti

Visto: Si dichiara autentica la firma del Sac. Luigi Gotti
 1969
 Castellaneta, dalla Curia Vescovile, 12-8-
 il Cancelliere
Sac. Leonardo Ololfe

PARROCCHIA DI S. NICOLA
 CATTEDRALE DI
 CASTELLANETA

CURIA
 VESCOVILE
 CASTELLANETA

Egidio's Record of Baptism at the Cathedral of St. Nicolas in Castellaneta (officially obtained in 1969)

During the 1920s and 1930s, Egidio grew up living with his parents at 1208 39th Street in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Borough Park. The 1930 U.S. Federal Census recorded that his father Vincenzo was an unemployed blacksmith, his brother Leonard was an unemployed laborer at the ice plant, and **Jules was employed as a union worker.**



Egidio in the backyard of his parents' home in Borough Park in the early 1920s



Egidio standing proudly with the family car in Brooklyn in 1926

During the late 1920's and 1930's, America was amid the Great Depression. To help his family earn money, Egidio learned the trade of a blacksmith from his father. In the late 1920's, he worked with his father at the **"ACE" company**, and in the 1930's he worked as a gas range assembler for the **"Welbilt Gas Range Company"** (Welbilt was founded in 1929 by Henry and Alexander Hirsch to primarily make residential gas ranges and was in the New York City borough of Queens). By the 1940 U.S. Federal Census, Egidio was making \$1,340 per year as a welder, the highest earner in the family, and paid his father \$32 per month in rent. Egidio only had a 6th grade education.

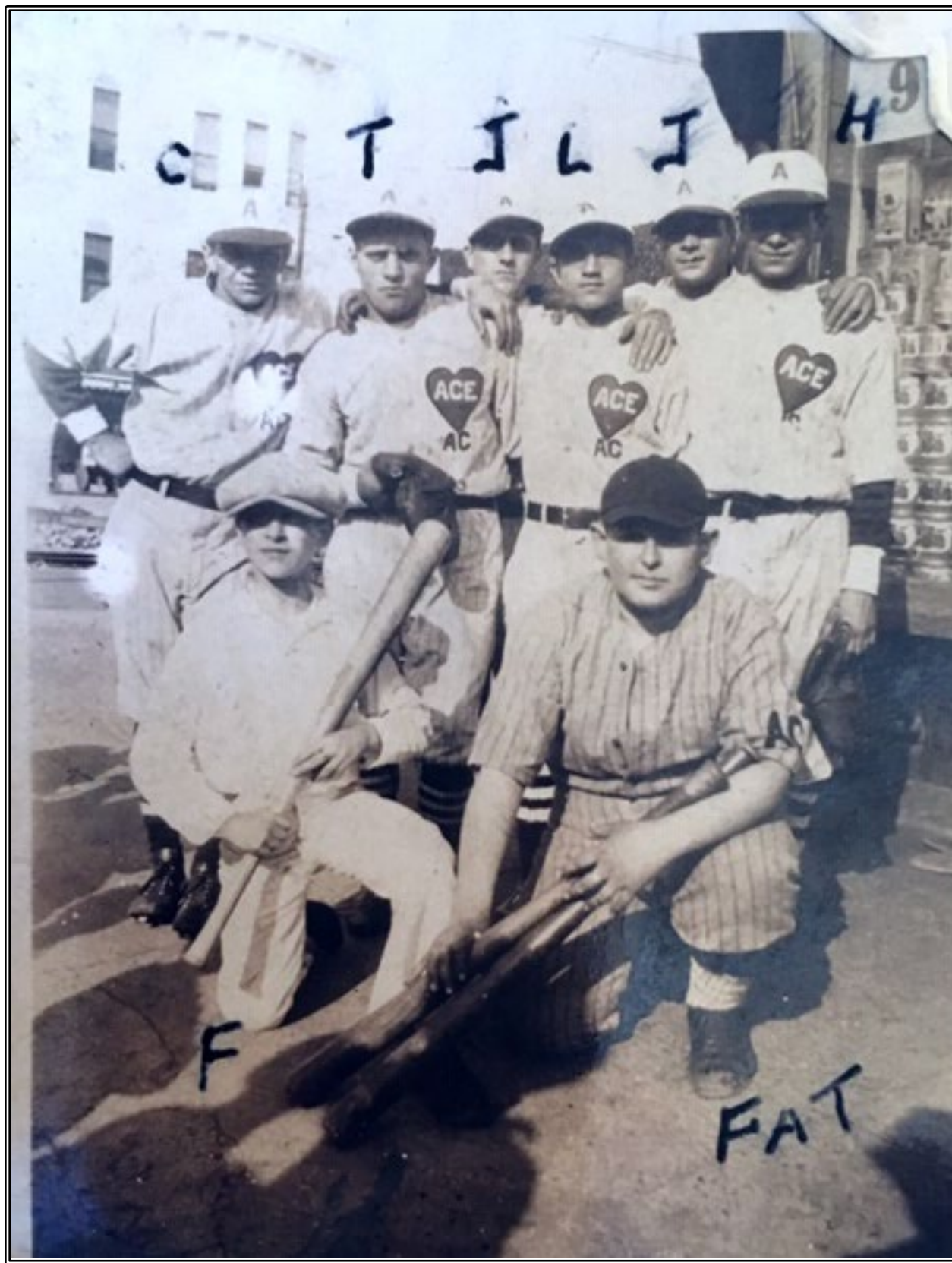


Egidio working in the blacksmith shop in Brooklyn in 1924

Egidio loved American baseball as he was growing up and then as an adult. He joined his company ACE's baseball team in the 1930s. Note in the picture below, Egidio is playing baseball in an empty lot next to a building in Brooklyn.




Egidio playing baseball in the 1930s



Egidio in the 1920's pictured with his company's baseball team; he is standing back-center under the "J" for Jules

On July 20, 1933, Egidio filed his **Declaration of Intention** with the U.S. Department of Labor to become a United States citizen (see Declaration below). On his Declaration, he noted his **occupation was as a blacksmith** and listed his address as 1208 East 2nd Street, Brooklyn. He was 25-years old with dark brown hair, grey eyes, weighed 135 pounds, with a visible distinctive mark, a scar on his left hand index finger and a scar under his right eye. As required at the time, he renounced any allegiance to Victor Emmanuelle III, King of Italy.

TRIPPLICATE (To be given to declarant)		UNITED STATES OF AMERICA No. 216630	
1h		21914	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DECLARATION OF INTENTION (Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)			
STATE OF NEW YORK		DISTRICT Court	
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK		In the Court of UNITED STATES at BROOKLYN, N. Y.	
I, Egidio Antonio Patarino (Full name, without abbreviation, and any other name which has been used, must appear here)			
now residing at 1208 East 2nd Street Brooklyn, Kings New York (State)			
occupation blacksmith , aged 25 years, do declare on oath that my personal description is:			
Sex male , color white , complexion fair , color of eyes grey			
color of hair dark brown , height 5 feet 4 inches; weight 135 pounds; visible distinctive marks			
scar on index finger of left hand; scar under right eye			
race South Italian ; nationality Italian			
I was born in Castellanetta Italy (Country), on January 20 1908 (Year)			
I am not married. The name of my wife or husband is			
we were married on (Month) (Day) (Year), at (City or town) (State or country); she or he was			
born at (City or town) (State or country), entered the United States			
at (City or town) (State), on (Month) (Day) (Year), for permanent residence therein, and now			
resides at (City or town) (State or country) I have no children, and the name, date and place of birth,			
and place of residence of each of said children are as follows:			
I have not heretofore made a declaration of intention: Number _____, on _____ (Date)			
at (City or town) (State) (Name of court)			
my last foreign residence was Castellanetta Italy (Country)			
I emigrated to the United States of America from Italy (Country)			
my lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was at New York City N.Y. (State)			
under the name of Patarino, Egidio , on December 2, 1912 , (Year)			
on the vessel S. S. Stambetta (If other than by mail, state mode of arrival)			
I will, before being admitted to citizenship, renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly, by name, to the prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of which I may be at the time of admission a citizen or subject; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to reside permanently therein; and I certify that the photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a likeness of me: So HELP ME GOD:			
		Egidio Antonio Patarino (Original signature of declarant without abbreviation, also alias, if used)	
Egidio Antonio Patarino		Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court,	
at Brooklyn, NY this 17 day of July		anno Domini 1933 - Certification No. 2-379132 from the Commis-	
sioner of Naturalization showing the lawful entry of the declarant for permanent		residence on the date stated above, has been received by me. The photograph	
affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a likeness of the declarant.		Samuel J. [Signature]	
[SEAL] Deputy Clerk of the U.S. District Court.		By _____, Deputy Clerk.	
FORM 2302-L-A		U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR	
NATURALIZATION SERVICE		U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1931	



Egidio with “Bill” the dog, and his sister Josephine, nicknamed Fifi, in 1927

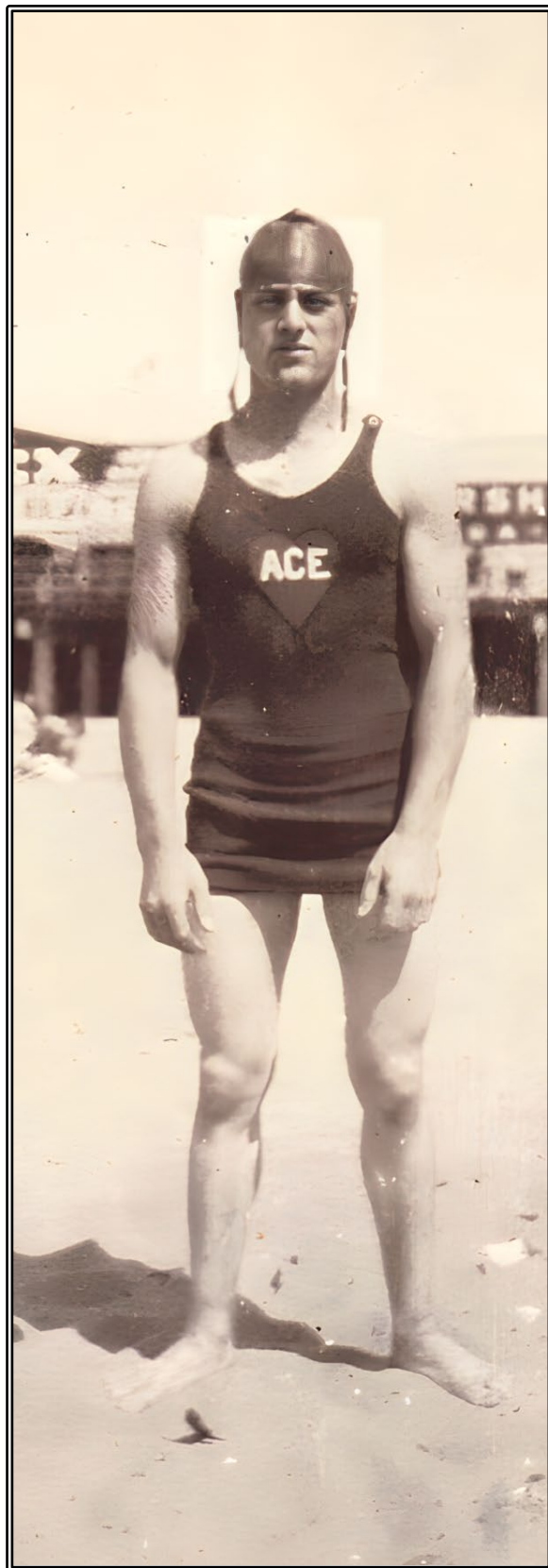
Egidio meets Vincenza

In the early 1930s, Egidio met **Vincenza Luciano** and they started dating. The country was in the depths of the Great Depression, but Egidio was working and was able to live a somewhat ordinary life. In the 1930 U.S. Federal Census, Vincenza was 29-years old, lived with her parents Vincenzo and Filomena Luciano at 1026 16th Street in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Borough Park, and **worked as an operator at an underwear company**. Vincenza used the nickname “Vinnie” and lived across from Prospect Park about 1.5 miles from Egidio.





Vincenza Luciano at Coney Island Beach in 1921



Egidio and Vincenza at Coney Island Beach in the 1930s



Vincenza posing near Egidio's home at 1208 39th Street, Brooklyn in the 1920s

On July 7, 1935, Egidio and Vincenza were married. They lived at **2178 East 2nd Street, in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Gravesend.** On July 16, nine days after he was married, Egidio submitted a second Petition for Naturalization for U.S. citizenship. His original petition was submitted in 1931 and had not yet been acted upon. He finally received his naturalization on July 16, 1936. Did Egidio marrying an American help push through his application?



Jules' and Vincenza's home (2022)

Brooklyn Bridge

Province Park

1026 16th Street, home of
Vincenza's parents

Green-Wood Cemetery

1208 39th Street, home of
Egidio's parents

2178 East 2nd Street, home
of Egidio and Vincenza in the
Neighborhood of Gravesend
(an Italian enclave)

Coney Island

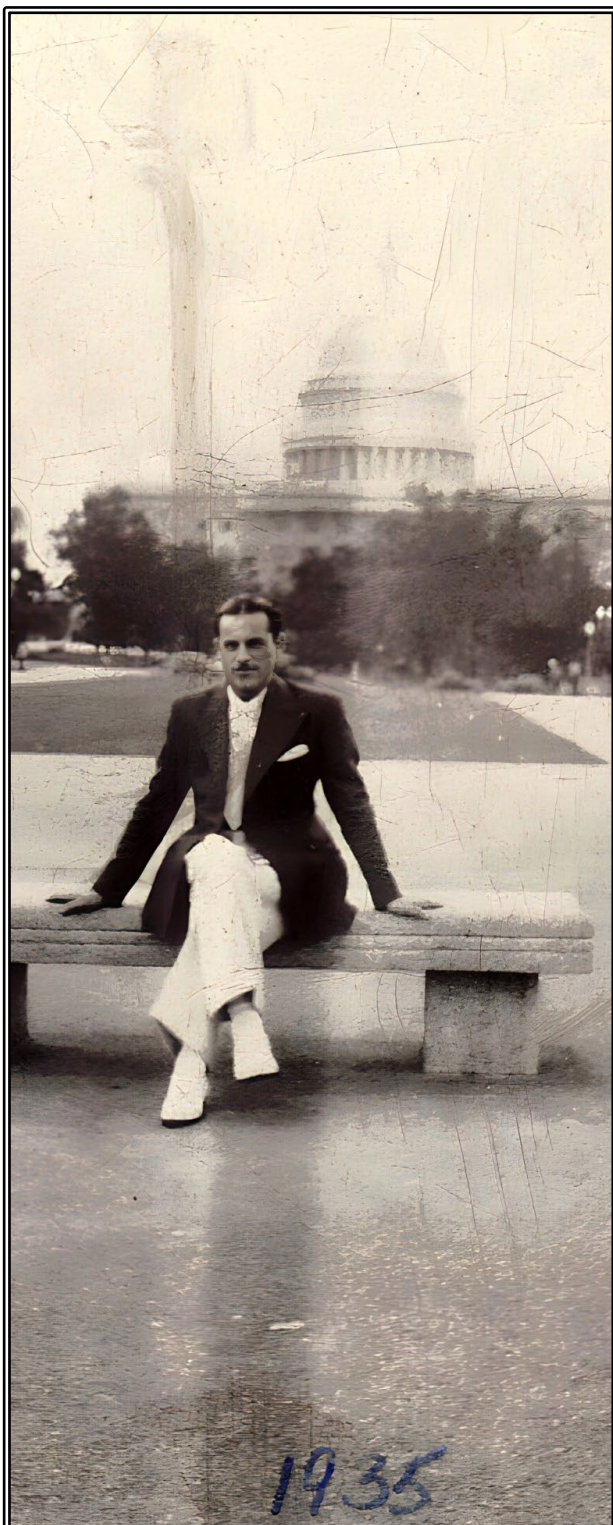


Map of Brooklyn 2022



Egidio and Vincenza on their wedding day in 1935

For Egidio's and Vincenza's honeymoon, they took a trip to **Washington, D.C.** It's important to restate, that this was in the middle of the Great Depression, and they were able to afford renting their own home without living with their parents and could afford to take a vacation, which meant that they had enough money to live comfortably for the times. Egidio was pictured at the U.S. Capital and Vincenza at the Supreme Court building.



SERIAL NUMBER 2736		1. NAME (Print) EGIDIO ANTONIO-PATARINO (First) (Middle) (Last)		ORDER NUMBER 1480
2. ADDRESS (Print) 1208-39 ST 1140 - 45 St. B'K KINGS N.Y. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)				
3. TELEPHONE	4. AGE IN YEARS 32 DATE OF BIRTH 1 20 1908 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	5. PLACE OF BIRTH ITALY (Town or country)	6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A	
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS MRS VINNIE PATARINO (Mr., Mrs., Miss) (First) (Middle) (Last)			8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON WIFE	
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 1208-39 ST B'K KINGS N.Y. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)				
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME WELBILT GAS RANGE CO.				
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 57-46 FLUSHING AVE. MASPETH-QUEENS-NY (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)				
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.				
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1 (over)		Egidio Antonio Patarino (Registrant's signature)		

1940 World War II Registration Card stating Egidio's employer was Welbilt Gas Range Company

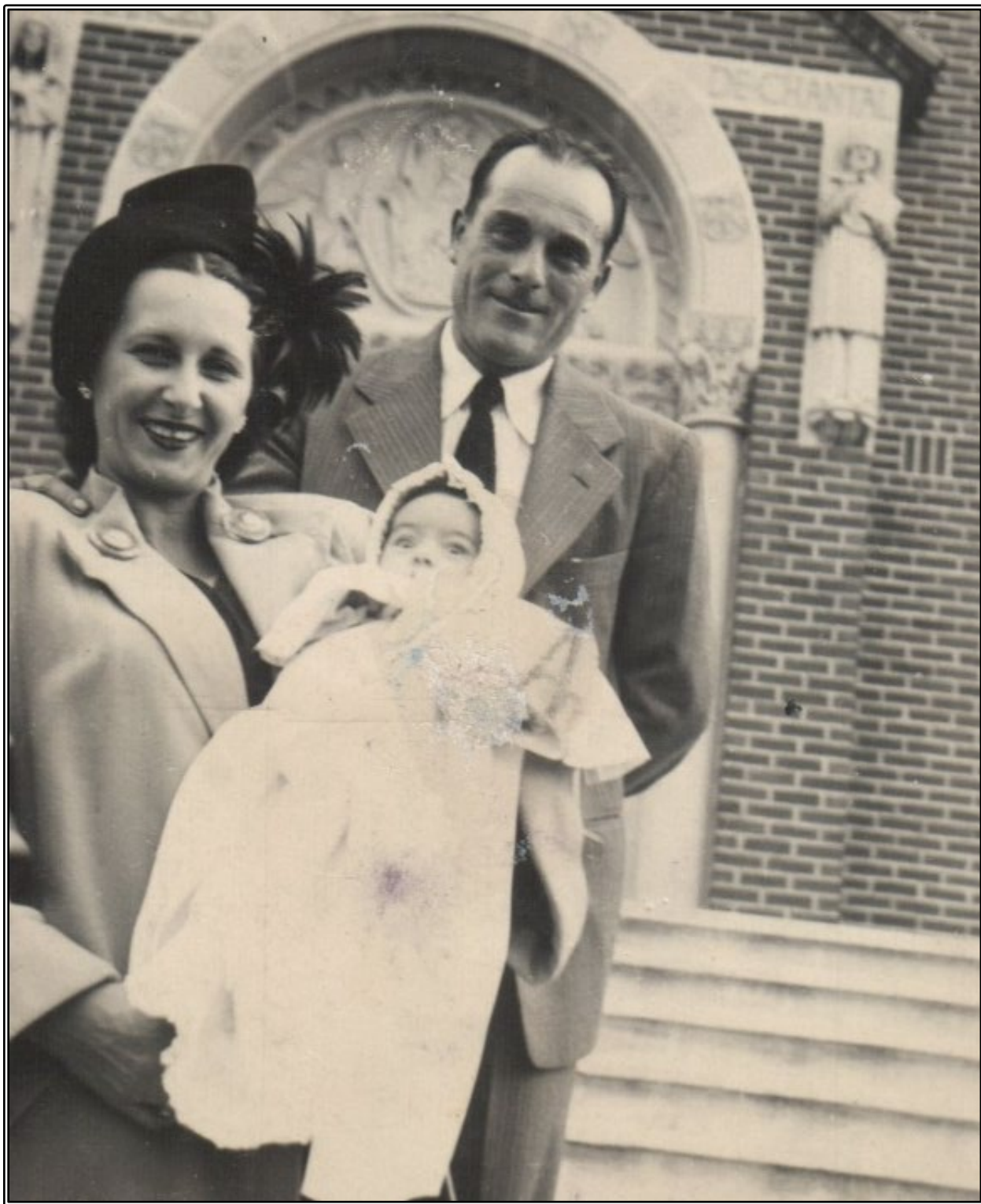


Egidio with his car in 1939



Egidio with his car in 1942

In September 1938, Egidio and Vincenza had their one and only child, **Vincent Victor Patarino**, named according to Italian tradition after his paternal grandfather, Vincenzo Patarino. Vincenza was 27-years old and after delivering Vincent, she was never able to have any more children.



Vincenza and Egidio outside the church after Vincent's baptism in 1938



Vincenza and Egidio with Vincent at church in 1941.

Life in Brooklyn

In the 1940 U.S. Federal Census, Egidio and Vincenza were back living with Egidio's parents at **1208 39th Street in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Borough Park**. The later years of the Great Depression were probably hard on the Patarino family. At that time, Vincenzo and Filomena had the entire family living with them, which included fourteen people including themselves: their son Jules and his wife Vincenza and son Vincent (2-years old); their son Leonardo; their son Joeseeph and his wife Mary; their daughters Jennie and Josephine; Vincenzo's brother Salvatore; and a boarder Sebastian Normandy and his wife and daughter. The Census stated that both Egidio and Vincenza had attended school though the sixth grade and that Egidio was working as an assembler at a gas range company, WelBuilt Gas Range Company.

During **World War II**, Egidio received a letter from the Italian government asking him to return to Italy and fight for the Italian military and the Axis powers. This made him angry since he was now a naturalized United States citizen. To support his adopted country during World War II, Egidio volunteered to work in the **Brooklyn Navy Yard** as a welder building war ships; he also figured this would keep him out of the fighting.

Egidio later told his son how many lazy people there were at that time, and he considered himself very patriotic for helping the war effort. The Brooklyn Navy Yard employed tens of thousands of workers building warships, frigates, and submarines for more than a century. During World War II, it included more than 300 buildings and six dry docks supporting the war.

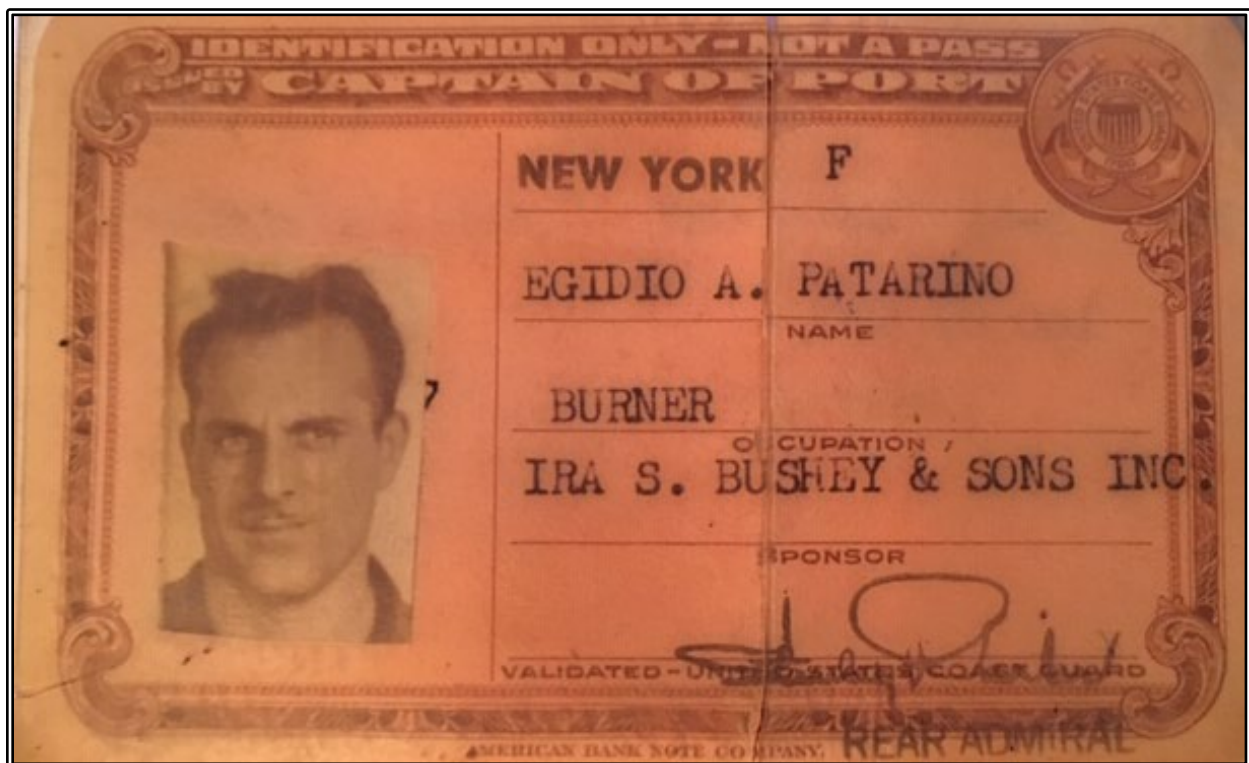


Navy Yard crews, including burners and welders, leaving the shipways for lunch. Images of America, The Brooklyn Navy Yard, by Tomas F. Berner, 1999, page 94.



With the end of the Great Depression, men lining up to fill job opening on May 24, 1940, as the Navy Yard announced an accelerated construction schedule and second shift. Images of America, The Brooklyn Navy Yard, by Tomas F. Berner, 1999, page 80.

After working for the Navy Yard, Egidio worked for **IRA S. Bushey & Sons Incorporated as a welder**. IRA S. Bushey & Sons Inc. was a shipyard located in the Gowanus Canal in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn at the foot of Court Street. The company was founded in 1885 and settled in Brooklyn in 1905. The company built new vessels for the U.S. Government (Navy, Coast Guard, Army), and private owners, which included tankers, oilers, tugboats, and barges.



In the 1950 U.S. Federal Census, Jules (42-years old) and Vincenza (39-years old) lived at **1140 45th Street**, about six city blocks from Jules' parents' house. There were twelve people living in the house. Egidio, Vincenza, and Vincent were living in one bedroom on the second floor with another couple living in another bedroom, and a family of seven living on the first floor. Egidio and Vincenza probably moved out of his parents' house when Egidio's father Vincenzo died in 1947. At that time, Egidio's sisters were both married with children, and they needed more space in the family home for their husbands and children. Egidio was supporting his family as a **concrete construction worker in the building trades**. The Census misspelled Egidio's name as, "Eidigo Paterino".



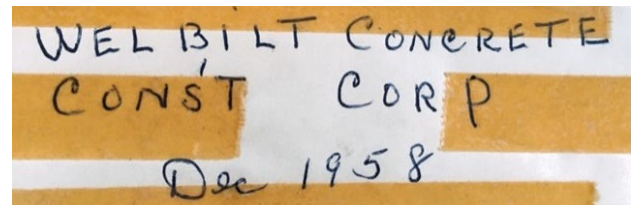
1140 45th Street, Brooklyn in 2022

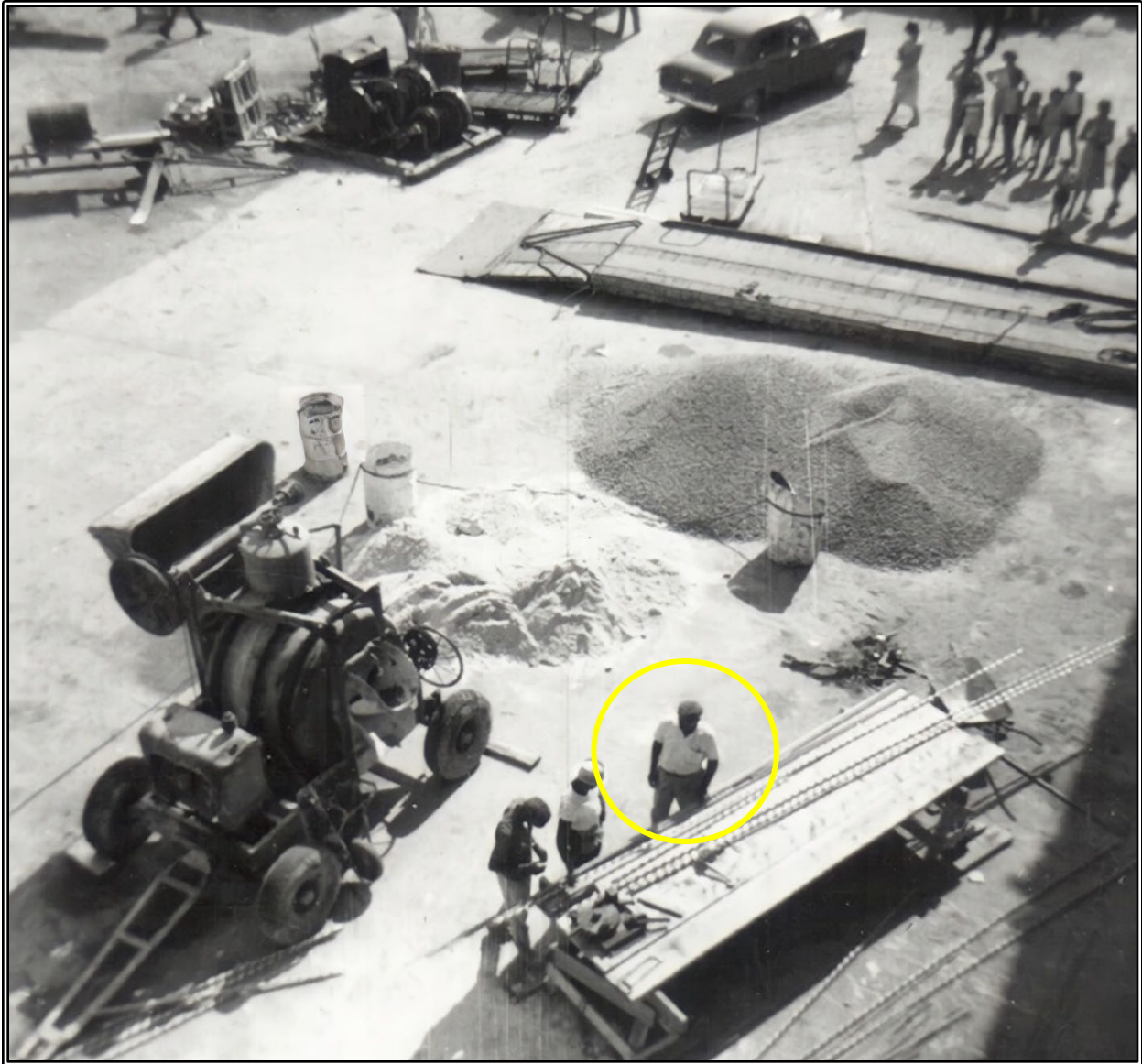


Egidio and Vincent at Coney Island Park about 1946

In the 1950s, Egidio joined five other families, whom he had worked with when he was cleaning and repairing rental concrete formwork and they started a construction company. They called the company, **Welbilt Concrete Construction Corporation** and they performed local concrete construction for commercial projects. Their office was located at 2135 Mill Avenue in Brooklyn.

Egidio was the partner who dealt with the local officials, building inspectors, and unions. He told stories of how he routinely had to pay them off to continue working. Egidio never discussed whether he had to deal with the local Mafia families who were deeply involved with the local unions and racketeering activities in the construction trades. He retired from the company in 1969. Egidio is pictured in 1958 with his partners.





Egidio on one of his construction sites in the 1960s (he is in a white shirt and hat in the center of the photo). The equipment at the bottom-left is a 1960s cement mixer and steel reinforcing bars are laid out on the table.

On May 7, 1952, Vincenza's parents Vincenzo and Filomena bought a house at **2132 West 5th Street in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Gravesend**. In 2002, Vincenza told her grandson Giles Michael Patarino, ***"our house on West 5th Street was located in an area where mafia families lived, and they helped keep the neighborhood safe from others and some bad elements."*** The house was purchased in the name of Vincenza Patarino, but it was for the benefit of Vincenzo and Filomena, meaning that Vincenza would care for her parents in the house until their deaths. Vincenzo and Filomena lived on the first floor and Egidio, Vincenza, and Vincent lived on the second floor. Later in 1969, a "Memorandum of Understanding between Egidio and Vincenza Patarino, Fiorentino Luciano and Vincenzo Luciano" was executed between them to reimburse Egidio and Vincenza for improvements made to the house (on May 7, 1985, after Filomena died, the house was sold for \$80,000, with \$4,400 reimbursed to Vincenza and the remaining amount split among the family).



2132 West 5th Street, Brooklyn, located one city block from Avenue U in Gravesend, in 2022. Because the house didn't have a garage, Egidio would park his car across the street at a neighbors' house. The basement was not lived in and was accessed from the back of the house by a narrow stair and was used for family storage.



In 1958, Egidio's and Vincenza's son Vincent got engaged to Fanny Bavaro. Egidio's **Aunt Mary (Vita Maria Ausilia Placido)** attended the engagement party while on a trip she made to Brooklyn from Castellaneta, Italy. Mary gave Egidio the **Historical Family Document** (Chapter II) while on this trip. Aunt Mary was known to have lived in a house where she occupied the basement floor. She had a "secret" room in the back of the basement that no one could enter. In the room she made her own Italian liquors, which were clear and tasted like liquorish. This was basically "moonshine". In this 1958 photo, Egidio and his siblings are with Aunt Mary (starting at the left are, Joseph, Josephine, Aunt Mary, Jennie, and Egidio). Mary was 70-years old in this picture.

On May 30, 1959, their only son Vincent married Fannie Bavaro (she later changed her name to Rachel Marie). Jules and Vincenza celebrated with their entire Patarino and Luciano families.



Vincent's and Fanny's wedding; Egidio and Vincenza (right) and Vincenza's parents Vincenzo and Philomena (left)



On November 9, 1974, Vincenza's parents celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with a church service at the Church of the Good Shepard. It included a "ritual for the renewal of their marriage vows" that was performed by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Brooklyn.



Egidio and Vincenza at their son's wedding in 1959

Between 1961 and 1968, Vincent and Fanny gave Egidio and Vincenza four grandchildren, Vincent Victor in 1961, Giles Michael in 1963, Donald Thomas in 1965, and Christina Lynn in 1968. They loved their grandchildren and the opportunity to spend time with them, but these visits became rarer over time as Vincent and Fanny moved out of Brooklyn to Staten Island in 1962, then to Monsey (upper state New York) in 1965, and finally to Boulder, Colorado in 1968. Vincent's and Fanny's children grew up without spending a lot of time with their grandparents. The only connection was occasional visits back to Brooklyn and holiday phone calls.



A very rare photo above of the family on a visit to Brooklyn in 1972 with Vincenza, Vincent, Fanny, and the grandchildren (left to right) Donald, Giles, Vincent, and Christina (Egidio is taking the photo)



Egidio's Trip to Castellaneta in 1969

In the summer of 1969, Egidio went on a trip to Italy from late July to early September. Egidio was born in the small town of Castellaneta in 1908 and emigrated with his parents to the United States in 1912. **Castellaneta was his *commune natale* or native town.** Making this journey was probably something he had wanted to do for his entire life and finally after 61 years, his dream became a reality. While in Italy, Egidio visited the cities of Rome, Capri, Avellino (the native town of his father-in-law Vincenzo Luciano), Naples, Pompeii, Florence, Venice, Milan, Taranto, Bari, the Castellana-grotte (the spectacular underground caves), and Castellaneta.

From Egidio's personal travel documents and the postcards that he sent his son Vincent, we know that he was in Castellaneta on July 26 since he was cashing American Express Travelers Checks at the "*Cassa di Risparmio di Castellaneta*" (saving bank). The address book he used during his trip notes the family members he visited in Italy, which included many first and second cousins. While Egidio was in Castellaneta, he became sick and was in bed for two weeks. He left Italy on September 9 from the Rome-Campano Airport on a Trans International Airlines Super DC-8 passenger jet. After his trip, he lost a lot of weight and had health problems; Vincenza blamed his poor health, "on the water in Italy" and always believed that this was the beginning of his kidney disease, which he died from in 1979.

While in Castellaneta, Egidio stayed with his first cousin **Egidio ("Gigano") Patarino (1914-1991)** for meals and then with **Angela Vita De Bellis** (Gigano's daughter) to sleep. His cousin Gigano, the son of his father's brother Francesco Patarino (1887-1952), was born in the United States and then in 1920, the family moved back to Castellaneta. Gigano's son, Francesco ("Ciccio") remembered Egidio's visit (in 1969 he was becoming a new father and planning to name his son Egidio). Ciccio described Egidio as, "*a very happy and easy-going person. His family nicknamed him 'Jo-Jo', because of his joyful personality and nature.*" The family also noted that Egidio was upset while he was in Italy because his son was moving his family from New York to Colorado, breaking up the *famiglia* (information gathered in 2022 during Egidio's grandson Giles Michael Patarino's visit to Castellaneta). Egidio's address while in Castellaneta was "Via Roma 44 Castellaneta Taranto 74011 Italy", which was the address of Gigano's clothing store (see below). When Egidio returned to Brooklyn, he told many stories about his cousin Gigano who owned a "haberdashery", which was a hat and clothing store.

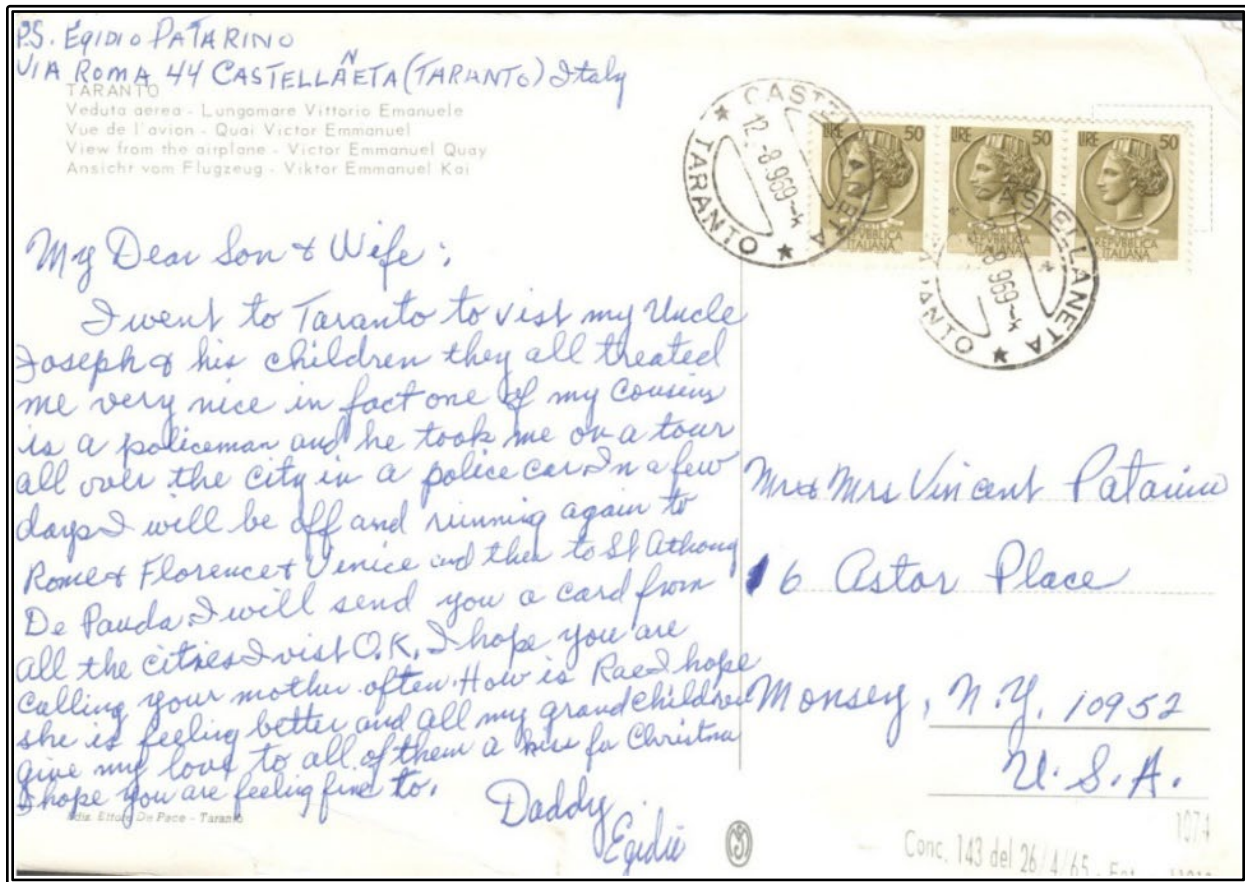


The original store, known as **PATARINO Abbigliamento dal 1936**, was founded in 1936 by Egidio (“Gigano”) Patarino when he was 20-years old. His maternal grandfather, Egidio Pistoia, had a clothing store that sold in bulk, and he helped his grandson open the store. The clothing store, which sold the latest trends and most prestigious brands of men’s and women’s clothing, leathers and furs, remained in the same location until the summer of 2022, when the family was forced to close it due to poor sales after the COVID-19 pandemic. On November 26, 2016, Ciccio hosted a party to celebrate the Patarino clothing store being in business for 80 years.



The Patarino dal 1936 in the 1960s (top-left) and in 2018 (right, bottom and previous page)

Once back in the United States, Egidio sent Ciccio a necklace for his new baby with the inscription, “Egidio Patarino” (information provided in 2014 by Gianpaolo Patarino, grandson of Gigano Patarino).



Egidio also visited his first cousin **Egidio Patarino (1919-2006)**, the son of his father's brother Giuseppe Patarino (1889-1976). The entire family of Giuseppe was living in Taranto (postcard at left, located about 20-miles from Castellana). Egidio noted in one of his postcards that he visited his **Uncle Joseph** (Giuseppe) and his sons Egidio, Salvatore, and Nicola (who was a policeman and took Egidio on a tour of Taranto in his police car).

Joseph's daughter Giovanna remembered Egidio's visit to Taranto, *"he visited Taranto a few times and on two occasions he stopped to eat with my family. My mother prepared pasta and beans and Egidio loved the taste of the paesana soup"* (information provided in 2014 by Marika Patarino, granddaughter of Giuseppe Patarino).

Egidio spent time with his cousin **Michele Patarino (1922-1983)**, the brother of Gigano and son of his father's brother Francesco. Together they visited Rome, Naples, and Pompeii. They met in Rome with **Anna Maria Immacolata Germinario (1982-?)**, the sister of his father, and her daughter Antoinetta Villorresi and son-in-law Fabio.



Egidio also visited with other cousins like the family Mancini (his mother Filomena's family), family Luciano (his wife Vincenza's family from Avellino, Italy), family Nocco (his father Vincenzo's brother Francesco's daughter Giovanna and her family), and other family members. The following family pictures were taken during his trip to document his Italian *famiglia*.



Cousin Gigano (right) and his son Ciccio (middle) in the family's clothing store



Egidio and his cousin Michele



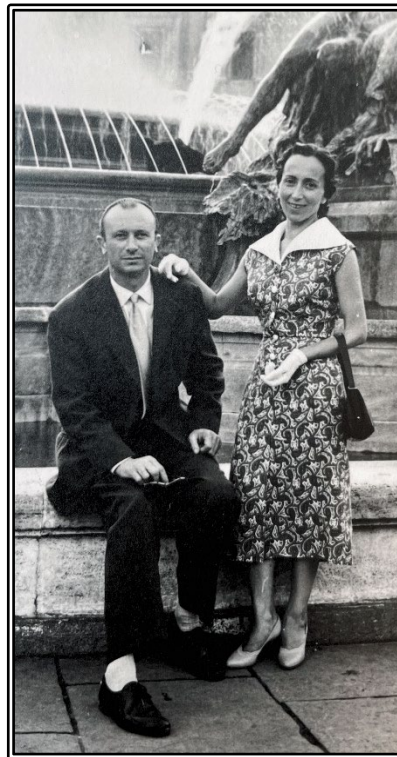
Cousin Gigano Patarino (upper left) with his family (counter clockwise): wife Lilliana, son-in-law Enrico De Bellis, daughter Vita (in green dress), son Mario, and Vita's daughters Paola, Isabella, and Anna Maria.



Cousin Gigano Patarino (center) surrounded by family members, his brother Michele (lower-left), and Jules



Cousin Egidio Patarino (far right) from Taranto surrounded by his siblings and family



Aunt Anna Maria Patarino (far left) with her daughter Antoinetta, son-in-law Fabio (far back), grand-nephew Carmelo (right), and great-grand-niece Anna Maria (front) in Rome 1969; picture-right: Antoinetta and Fabio



Cousin Angela Vita Mancini (center) with her family. Angela was the daughter of Filomena's brother Giovanni Mancini (Filomena was Jules' mother). The family in 1969 lived in Castellaneta.



Cousin Giovanna Patarino (standing), her husband Nicola Nocco (sitting to her right) and their daughter (left) with her family. Giovanna was the daughter of Francesco and Vita Patarino (Francesco was the bother of Egidio's father Vincenzo Patarino).



G M Patarino 06-2024

Fun Fact: We are all family. Egidio was born in 1908, emigrated to the United States in 1912, and it was another 57 years before Egidio traveled back to Italy to meet and visit his famiglia in Castellaneta, the native town of his birth; he was 61-years old. Egidio was a small child when he emigrated to the United States, so in many ways he behaved like a first-generation born American and didn't think nor act like an Italian immigrant. His matured curiosity and desire to meet his Castellanetani cousins probably came from the fact that his cousin Egidio (nickname "Gigano"), the son of his uncle Francesco, was born in Brooklyn in 1914 and then moved back to Castellaneta about 1920. Egidio probably remembered playing with his cousin when they were children and wanted to meet him again, which he did. After Egidio's visit in 1969, it was another 53 years before Egidio's grandson, Giles Michael Patarino made a similar trip to Castellaneta in 2022 to meet his Italian famiglia. Giles was Egidio's namesake ("Giles" is the English translation for "Egidio") and became interested in his extended Italian Patarino family about 15 years earlier. Giles' trip was profound for him, especially since he brought his wife Stacia, son Adam Michael, and Adam's wife Aubrey. They met cousins that Giles' grandfather had met in 1969 and learned about the Patarino family's native town of Castellaneta. Most special was when his Italian family took them in and immediately treated them with genuineness, love, and as valuable family members. This is the definition of Italian culture and a famiglia-focused life. Pictured below are Giles, Stacia, Adam, and Aubrey with some of the descendants of Francesco Patarino, the brother of Vincenzo Patarino, who was Giles' great-grandfather.

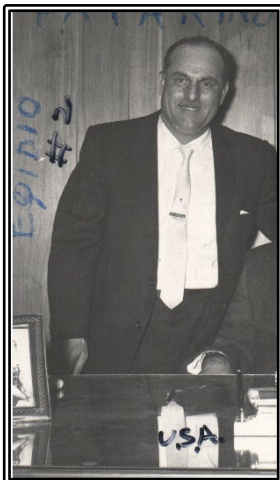


Egidio understood the value of his *famiglia* and showed it every day through his loving and joyful personality. He traveled four thousand miles to spend three months in Italy, meeting and visiting all his cousins and reconnecting with his southern Italian culture. Egidio's son Vincent, as a first-generation born American, never visited Italy to understand the Italian idea of *famiglia*. But 53 years after Jules' 1969 visit to Castellaneta, Egidio's grandson Giles Michael Patarino, journeyed in 2022 to the Patarino family's *commune natale* of Castellaneta and shared, ***"it was an incredible experience to meet my second and third cousins and retrace my grandfather Egidio's footsteps. Our Patarino famiglia, whether they are in the United States or Italy, are our legacy. To meet the descendants of Francesco Patarino who was born in Brooklyn and returned to Castellaneta was a moment in my life that I will never forget."***

The use of "Egidio" as a given name

The name "**Egidio Patarino**" became a common name for Patarino's in the United States and Castellaneta due to Italian naming conventions where the first born son is named after the paternal grandfather. The first named Egidio in our family was Egidio Santo Anselmo Domenico Patarino (1848-1919). Marika Patarino in Castellaneta (granddaughter of Jules' uncle Giuseppe Antonio Patarino and daughter of Egidio Patarino from Taranto) recalled the following story told by her father about the first cousins named Egidio:

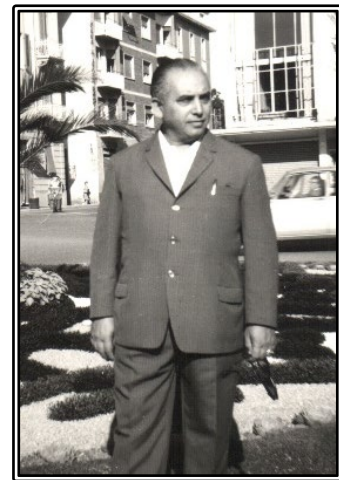
"Upon Egidio's arrival in Italy in 1969, he was in the company of his two first cousins named Egidio. The Italian passport official asked some general information about his visit, where he was staying, and who the men with him were. The three cousins answered one after another: I am Egidio Patarino born in Castellaneta and living in New York (Jules, son of Vincenzo Patarino born in 1908), I am Egidio Patarino born in New York and living in Castellaneta (son of Francesco Patarino born in 1914), and I am Egidio Patarino born in Castellaneta and living in Taranto (son of Giuseppe Patarino born in 1919). Of course, all three cousins were grandchildren of Egidio Santo Anselmo Domenico Patarino. The passport official thought the three Egidio's were teasing him. It took some time for him understand that they were serious."



Egidio Patarino (born 1908)
Castellaneta to NYC



Egidio Patarino (born 1914)
NYC to Castellaneta



Egidio Patarino (born 1919)
Castellaneta to Taranto



Jules kept many photo albums during his lifetime, which he passed down to his son Vincent and then to his grandson Giles (Italian: Egidio). He loved the idea that there were so many family members named Egidio living in New York and southern Italy. After his trip to Italy in 1969, he added the following pictures into his photo album of all his living *famiglia* with the given name Egidio:

- | | | |
|----|--------------|--|
| #1 | 65-years old | Egidio, son of Nicola* |
| #2 | 61-years old | Egidio, son of Vincenzo* |
| #3 | 55-years old | Egidio, son of Francesco* |
| #4 | 50-years old | Egidio, son of Guiseppe* |
| #5 | 27-years old | Egidio, son of Salvatore* |
| #6 | 6-years old | Giles (Italian: Egidio), grandson of Egidio #2 |
| #7 | 1-month old | Egidio, grandson of Egidio #3 (pictured at bottom right in 1972) |



*Nicola, Vincenzo, Francesco, Giuseppe, and Salvatore were all sons of Egidio Santo Anselmo Domenico Patarino (1848-1919), the first Patarino named Egidio. They all followed southern Italian naming conventions when they had children. Descendants of these men, also continued using the given Egidio for their children.

Retirement Years

Egidio spent his retirement years living in Brooklyn. He spent many hours in his backyard garden, completing repairs to their home, and visiting family. Vincenza stayed busy caring for her parents and spending time with her large Luciano family. Egidio and Vincenza took trips to Bermuda and loved resort vacations in Florida and the Catskill mountains.

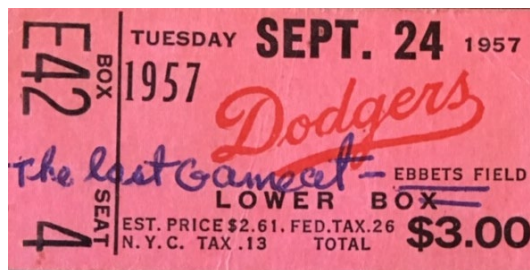
Egidio's grandson and namesake, Giles Michael Patarino, remembers sitting with his grandfather in 1978 as he was shown many photo albums of Egidio's life. The photo albums included pictures of Egidio's youth, his trip to Castellaneta, his American and Italian family members, and lots of pictures from his life. Egidio was proud of his Italian heritage and culture. He worked hard to pass on this heritage to his son and grandchildren. Egidio was known for his work ethic and being very organized in his work and life. During his entire life, he was a caring husband, father, son, brother, and grandfather.



On February 7, 1979, at 71-years old, Egidio died from a heart attack after being in the hospital for three weeks. He battled kidney disease for several years due to his lifelong high blood pressure, which finally resulted in his being on kidney dialysis. During one dialysis treatment during his hospital stay, Egidio was having the 'itches' so bad that his doctors tied him down (yes, believe it or not), and while tied down, he had a heart attack and died. Vincenza lived for many years after Egidio died. On March 11, 2004, she died of old age at 93-years old. At that time, she lived in Indiana near her son Vincent, who was caring for her. Egidio and Vincenza are buried together in **St. John's Cloister Mausoleum at St. John's Cemetery**, unit 3, section VVV, crypt numbers 45 and 45A located in the New York City borough of Queens. St. John Cemetery is an official Roman Catholic burial ground. Egidio and Vincenza were both wonderful examples of the meaning of a *famiglia*-centered life.



Fun Fact: The Dodgers. Both Egidio and his son Vincent loved baseball and on September 24, 1957, they attended the last game of the Major League Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field with 6,702 fans in attendance (this is their ticket). The Dodgers defeated the Pittsburgh Pirates, 2-0. The following season, the Dodgers moved to Los Angeles. The Dodgers played in Brooklyn from 1884 to 1957.





Egidio and Vincenza sharing a birthday moment in 1976

Egidio's and Vincenza's grandson, Giles Michael Patarino, remembered a visit that he and his father Vincent made to Brooklyn in 1978 to visit his grandparents: *"At the time, I was living with my dad, and this was the first time in many years that one of my parents had taken me on a visit to see my grandparents. During the entire visit, grandpa and grandma were so loving to me. I distinctly remember talking with grandma in the kitchen while she was cooking, and she kept feeding me food that came out of a huge pot of gravy on the stove where she was cooking meatballs, beef, and sausages. The day before, grandpa and I had walked down Avenue U to buy meat, fresh bread and bagels (grandpa had me eat a bagel that melted in my mouth), fruit, fresh mozzarella, and deserts. I was a teenager and it seemed odd to me that for the first time in my life, everyone on the streets looked like me; they were all Italians. It was during that visit that I instinctually knew something was missing in my life. I needed my grandparents, and I felt the intense loss of the family-centered life that they adhered too."*



Giles Michael Patarino, grandchild of Egidio and Vincenza, during a 1977 visit to Brooklyn



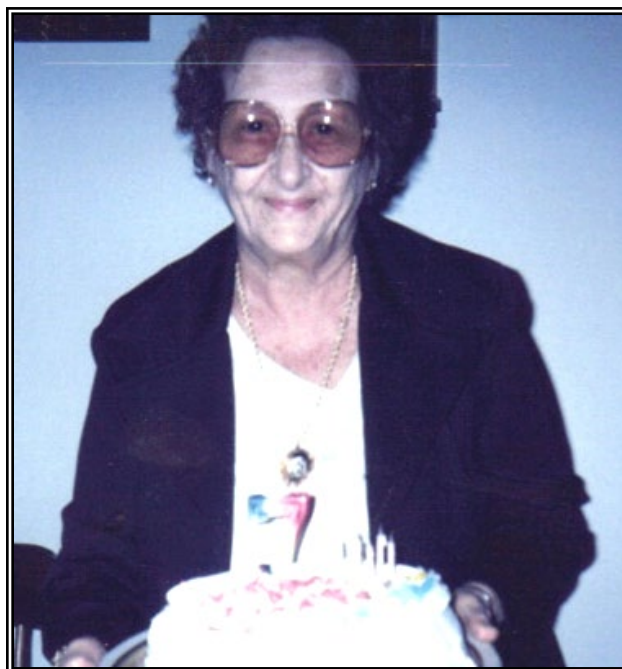
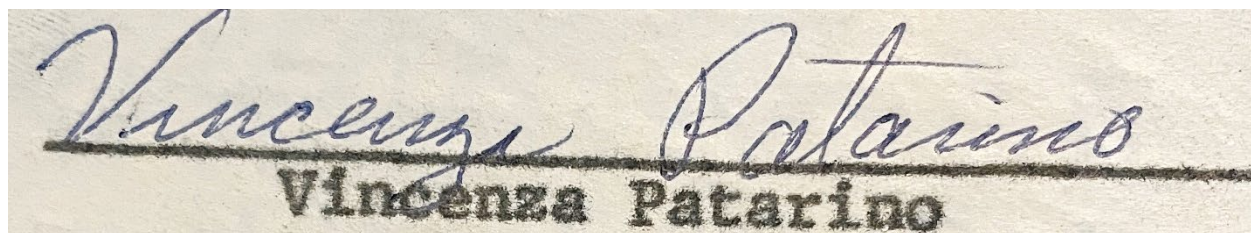


Egidio and Vincenza in the mid 1960's

Vincenza (Luciano) Patarino (1911-2004)

Vincenza was born in the United States on February 2, 1911. Her parents, **Vincenzo Luciano** (1884-1983) and **Filomena Riccio** (1891-1982) both immigrated to the United States from the **commune of Avellino, Campania, Italy**; Vincenzo in 1903 and Filomena in 1896. Vincenza was a housewife and spent her life caring for her husband, son, and parents. She was a strong Italian woman and was known for playing any game of cards and using strong language that even surprised the men.

Filomena's family immigrated to America before 1902 and left her living with her grandmother in Italy. Filomena's parents immigrated first because they were "showing" her to other families, ultimately matchmaking her with Vincenzo Luciano. Filomena was 5-years old when she immigrated, 15-years old when she married Vincenzo, and 16-years old when she had her first child. Filomena was almost continuously pregnant between 1907 and 1925, having a total of nine children. Vincenza was the fourth oldest child and the first daughter and therefore spent her teenage years helping her mother care for her younger siblings. Vincenza was always close with her family and spent many hours spending time with her sisters and brothers. For more detail regarding the Luciano and Riccio families, see Endure and Thrive - The Fortitude of a Southern Italian Family, Volume II: Our Unique Famiglia Journeys.



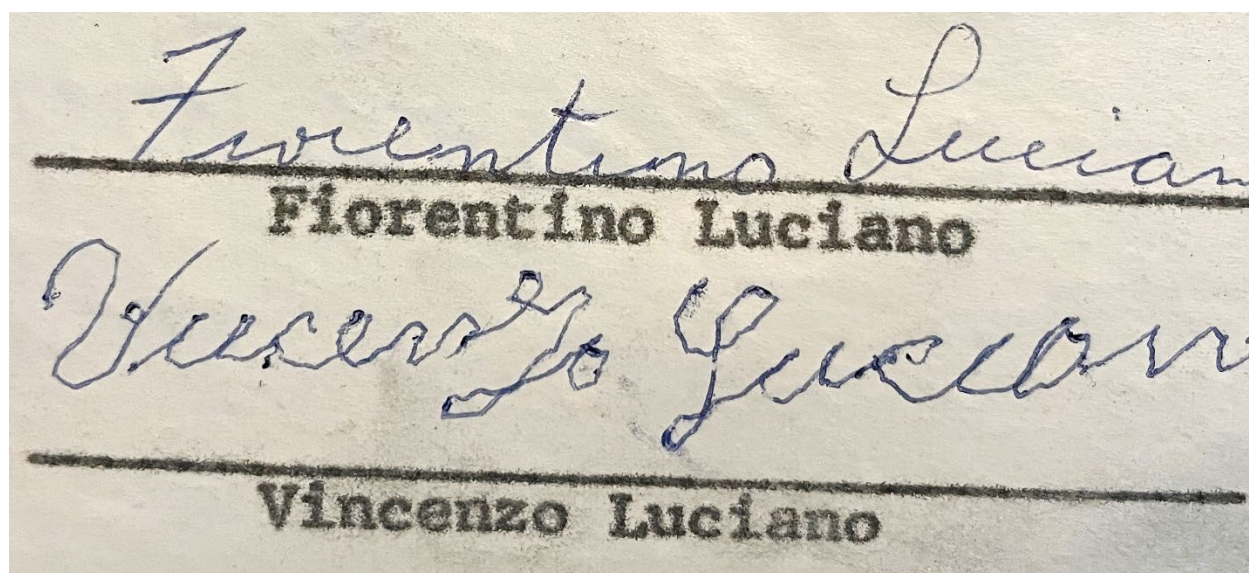
Vincenza in the late 1920s, about 18-years old, and in 1991, at her 80th birthday party



Vincenza (Luciano) Patarino in the 1940s



A Luciano family birthday party in the 1930s (Vincenza is in the third row, far right; Egidio is in the back row in the center, Vincenzo and Filomena are seated in the second row, 5th and 6th from the right)



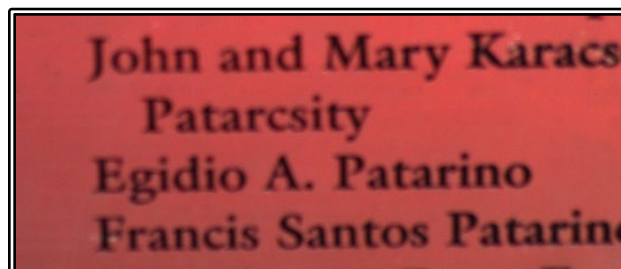
The Ellis Island American Immigrant Wall of Honor

In the 1980's, **Ellis island** was restored as a museum, and to help pay for the costs, an **Immigrant Wall of Honor** was built where families could have their ancestor's name chiseled into the granite as a sign of respect, a memorial of their ancestor's journey to America, and to commemorate their family's passage through Ellis Island. **Vincent Victor Patarino**, Egidio's son, paid to have the name "**Egidio A. Patarino**" chiseled into the Wall on panel 333 to record his father's special place in our family's history and his passage through Ellis Island in 1912.





Vincent Victor Patarino (Egidio's son) and his granddaughter, Sarah Elizabeth Patarino (Egidio's great-granddaughter), in 1994 point to the name of "Egidio A. Patarino" carved on the Wall of Honor



Donald Thomas Patarino (grandson of Egidio) visits the Wall of Honor in 2010

Chapter End Notes

When Vincenzo and Filomena left southern Italy and immigrated to the United States, they took great risks moving their family from their historic *commune natale*, but they did not feel intimidated. They carried with them their southern sense and the innate knowledge of civilizations, the knowledge of how people endure and thrive. America offered honest pay for honest work and that was all they needed to get ahead. Vincenzo took whatever work he could get, and he was not too proud to do the hardest and dirtiest work spurned by others. He took jobs in welding and construction where he could apply the skills that his father had taught him in Castellaneta. The family denied themselves physical comfort and saved every penny.

Vincenzo and Filomena brought their values of work, family, and traditions with them to America, not their valuables. They carried with them an inherited fortitude, which made all the difference in raising their children in a new country and giving them the opportunity to succeed in life. As their son Egidio Antonio Patarino grew up, he was surrounded by family and naturally embraced the traditional culture of southern Italy but at the same time, he adapted to the new surroundings and culture of New York City. As an adult, he learned the trades of welding and carpentry from his father and applied his skills to get ahead in life, ultimately becoming a part owner in a construction company.

Vincenzo, Filomena, and all their children showed the innate traits of strength, endurance, resilience, and adaptability, and within one generation, their children were able to elevate themselves into the middle class of America. Because of their grit, tenacity, and courage to create a new life, they endured and thrived amid life's challenges.