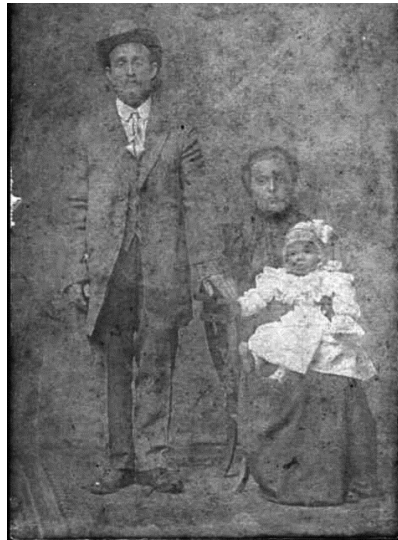


A History
of the
Abramo Filippini Family
of
Ladd, Bureau County, Illinois



August 2018
Updated 1 March 2024

Researched and Written by

Ken Pinter
Grandson of Abramo and Anna Filippini

Forward

Notice of Update: This story was originally written in 2018. This version reflects additional new information found through continued research, as of February 2024.

I never really had much of an interest in family history during most of my life. Then, around 2002, I started to research my ancestors on the Pinter side of my family. This project consumed a large part of my spare time for the next six years. As I wrapped up that project, I set my sights on my Mom's side of the family...the Filippinis of Italy and Bureau County, Illinois.

As with all family research projects, I began with an idle interest in the people and places. As I got further into the project, however, I found that I wanted to know every detail possible about them and I wanted to know them personally.

Then of course I wanted everyone else in the family to have the same knowledge as I had acquired.

Finally, I became committed to knowing everything possible about the Filippini family of Bureau County.

The result is this report and picture album.

I sincerely hope that you will find this as fascinating as I did and that you will in some way be able to connect to our ancestors through reading this report.

If you find errors in this report, please let me know at once.

If you have more to contribute, please let me know even sooner. This project is a work- in-progress. I suspect it will never be completed.

I can be reached at kenpinter@aol.com.

Thanks, and I hope this report proves informative to you.



Introduction

Genealogical research is a never-ending process. Just when you think you know it all, something else pops up. Nevertheless, it is an extremely rewarding process. It is also an addictive process. You start out simply trying to find out who is this and that person, and you end up getting so close to your ancestors that you feel that you know them personally. And, because they accomplished so much with so little in an era that had few conveniences to make their lives easier, you begin to hope that you are worthy of being their descendent.

The Filippini family of Bureau County Illinois is such a family.

Abramo and Anna Filippini came to America in the time frame of 1906 to 1908, raised a family of 7 children, and tried to establish a better life. Tragedy and hard work confronted them. In spite of this, however, they succeeded in raising a family and enjoying their lives in America. At the time this report was first written, there were over 135 direct descendants of Abramo and Anna. But, the list is incomplete.

Scope

The period of time between Abramo and Anna's birth and today is a span of about 150 years. As I began my research and then decided to write this story, it became obvious that the family grew significantly between the early 1900s and today and that it was impossible for me to write about that period and do it any justice.

Therefore, this report is limited in scope to the period of the late 1700's to the mid-1950s.

Acknowledgements

Genealogy research is both a rewarding and a frustrating effort. It is most definitely a joint effort. Lots of sharing happens. Today it is called networking. It is important to recognize and thank my resources for the story you are about to read. My resources, in no particular order, are:

Persons

- ✓ Julia Filippini Pinter
- ✓ Margaret Filippini Korte
- ✓ Michael Filippini
- ✓ Sauro Agostini
- ✓ Loris and Delia Filippini
- ✓ Nina Ellerbrock Lane
- ✓ Bob Ellerbrock
- ✓ Kathy Pinter Hein
- ✓ MaryAnn Korte Jalley
- ✓ Carol Ann Philippini Pohlman
- ✓ Julia Hamilton
- ✓ Michele Filippini Hanck
- ✓ Others

Places

- ✓ www.ancestry.com (census data)
- ✓ www.genealogy.com (ship records)
- ✓ www.ellisland.com (ship records)
- ✓ www.familysearch.com (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons))
- ✓ Bureau County Court House and staff
- ✓ Many other Internet sites as cited in the text.

Things

- ✓ Village of Ladd 1890-1990 Centennial Book
- ✓ [Greetings from Ladd, Illinois! May Sunny Days be Yours Always](#) - by Jim Piacenti

Other References of Interest

See end of this paper for additional web sites of interest

...plus, everyone else who may have contributed a story or picture or a tidbit of information about the family.

Accuracy of Content

I have made every effort to be as accurate as possible when writing this report. However, it is not impossible for there to be an inaccuracy here and there. When I was unsure about something, I noted that uncertainty. When information from two or more sources was in conflict, that conflict was mentioned.

The reader should notify me if inaccuracies are noticed in the report.

I apologize for any inaccuracies that might exist and any names that may have been inadvertently omitted.

Notes on Spellings

The reader should assume that spellings in this report have been double-checked for accuracy and that there are no accidental misspellings in the report.

A Note About Certain Italian Names

The Italian alphabet has 21 letters. Five letters (J, K, W, X, Y) are missing compared to our alphabet. For example, there is an "I" but there is no "J". This issue becomes apparent in certain names found in the Filippini/Cecchini tree. One is the given name Jacopo. In Italian documents, this name is spelled Iacopo, but is written as Jacopo in non-Italian documents or translations such as this one. Similarly, the surname Jacometti is spelled Iacometti in Italian documents, but Jacometti in other documents. But, in terms of pronunciation, the "I" is pronounced YA. So, Jacopo/Iacopo is pronounced YA-ko-po (the YA is emphasized). In this story, I will spell those names with the "J".

Italy's Administrative Organization: Country, Region, Province, Comune, Frazione, Localita

Before exploring the Filippini family, we should have a basic understanding of how the country of Italy is administratively organized.

Italy today is divided into 20 regions. One of these regions is Tuscany. Tuscany became a part of the Kingdom of Italy in 1861.

Regions are divided into provinces. Tuscany, the region, is divided into 10 provinces. One of these provinces is the Province of Pistoia. The Province of Pistoia is administered from the town of Pistoia. It is typical that the province and its administrative town have the same name.

Provinces are divided into comunes. Pistoia, the province, is divided into 22 such comunes. A comune is sometimes referred to as a municipality although in many cases it is a larger geographical area. Comunes in Italy are named for a city or castle or a big village in the area defined as the comune. In some cases, the comune is named the same as the location of its administration. In other cases, and for historical reasons, the location of the comune's administration may not be the same name as the comune. This varies from comune to comune.

One of these communes, in the province of Pistoia, is Sambuca, also known as Sambuca Pistoiese. Sambuca Pistoiese is an example of a comune whose administrative location is not named the same as the comune. Sambuca is in fact a castle and the Comune of Sambuca Pistoiese is the area containing the castle and the surrounding villages. The castle and the villages comprise the Comune of Sambuca. Its administrative office is found in the village of Taviano.

Italians will also refer to smaller geographic areas within a comune. The smaller areas are known as frazioni (plural) and localitas. A frazione (singular) (translates to "fraction") is an administrative subdivision of a comune and may include one or more small villages surrounding the principal town (which may be also known as a frazione). It is roughly equivalent to a parish or ward or hamlet.

A localita (translated as "place") is an area and is not necessarily a village. A localita may be a village or other small geographic location. It might be an area where people live but which does not have the administrative distinction that a frazione has. These areas remain under the influence of the comune in which they are located. In many cases in Italy, a localita may be comprised of just a few buildings along a mountain road.

In addition to the above, in the time that Abramo and Annina lived in Italy, and perhaps today, there was a religious administrative structure that more or less overlaid the administrative structure described above. For example, one such religious administration is/was San Pelligrino al Cassero (sometimes referred to as a parish). The village of Stabiazioni is a localita and is found within the administration of the church of San Pelligrino al Cassero. The village of Case Pieli may also be called a localita but its church parish is unknown as of this writing.

Throughout this report you will see references to a variety of these villages and areas. In many cases, the spelling is taken directly from the document or source used in the research. The way in which some of this is recorded can cause some confusion. Here is a list of these names:

- Sambuca Pistoiese – a comune. Stabiazioni, Case Pieli, and San Pellegrino are all within the Sambuca Pistoiese Comune.
- Stabiazioni – a village where Abramo was born. It is attached to the frazione of San Pellegrino and is near to the village of San Pellegrino.
- Case Pieli – a small village or localita of Sambuca Pistoiese where Anna was born.
- San Pellegrino – an area of Sambuca, and a village, also a frazione per Wikipedia
- San Pellegrino al Cassero – same as San Pellegrino – the term “al Cassero” is used to distinguish it from other villages with the same name. For example, there are at least five San Pellegrino’s in Italy. One, San Pellegrino Termes, is where the S.Pellegrino water is found and bottled. In the case of San Pellegrino al Cassero, there is also a nearby castle named Cassero.

The above can be very confusing to Americans who are used to the concept of State, County, Township, town or village or city, etc. But, of course, it is quite clear to Italians.

In summary, as we will see later, when Abramo, who was born in the physical village of Stabiazioni, stated to various officials that he was born in San Pelligrino, as he did on a few occasions, he meant that he was born and baptized in the territory of the church of San Pelligrino.

When he told officials that he was born in Sambuca, he was referring to the Comune of Sambuca where he was born and officially registered.

In Abramo and Annina’s time, the Comune of Sambuca had nearly 6000 residents while Stabiazioni had around 100 residents. Forests covered about 65% of the land. The rest was cultivated fields. Little is known about Case Pieli and nothing can be found online about this localita.

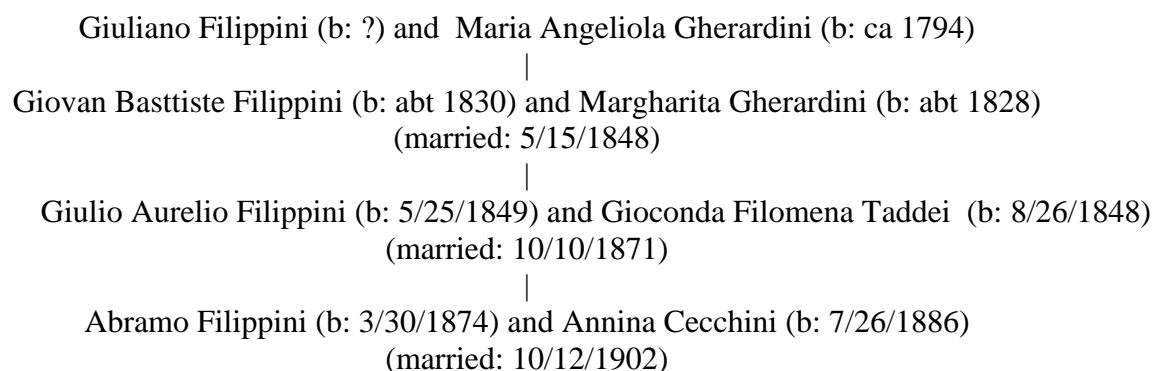
Today, the Comune of Sambuca Pistoiese is an area of about 30 square miles. It is comprised of 13 frazioni and many other smaller villages. It has a population of about 1600 people (in 2004). The population decline has been attributed to a heavy migration over the years to America and other countries. It is situated at an altitude of about 1654 feet above sea level, on average. The area is quite hilly. Today, forests cover about 90% of the land.

The Filippini Family of Italy in the 18th and 19th Centuries

First, I will discuss the history of the Filippini family as we know it today. Then I will look at the Cecchini family history.

Note that Tuscany entered the 19th century as a part of France but was later taken by the Austrians. Gran Duca Leopoldo II (Grand Duke Leopold II) ruled Tuscany from 1824 until 1860. During this time, Tuscany experienced unparalleled economic and intellectual growth. Nevertheless, the locals were becoming more discontent with this ruler and in 1849 they began to take steps to become independent of Austria. At one point, Leopold was forced to leave Tuscany but he returned in 1849 and ruled until 1860. Some years before war broke out in Tuscany that ultimately led to the demise of Leopold. The people of Tuscany voted to join the Kingdom of Italy under King Vittorio Emanuele II (Victor Emmanuel II) in 1861.

We now know the names of Filippini ancestors back to about the 1790s. Here is a simple branch diagram of the Filippini line. Again, note that a lot of information is unknown so far:

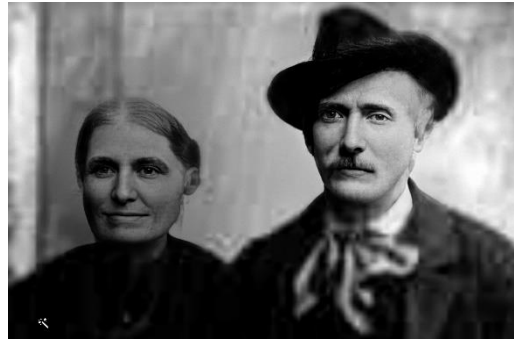


The first known Filippini family member is Giuliano Filippini, as shown above. He married Maria Angeliola Gherardini on unknown date, but sometime before 1830. They had a family of unknown size. One son, Giovan Battiste, was born in about 1830 in San Pelligrino (or San Pelligrino al Caserro).

Giovan Battista married Margharita Gherardini in 1848 and had children. One child was a son named Giuliano Aurelio Filippini who was born in 1849, also in San Pelligrino.

Note: examination of the various birth and census records from Sambuca Pistoiese reveals that the various families associated with our family line seemed to stay in the Comune of Sambuca. Few if any names appear from other comunes.

Giuliano Filippini married Gioconda Taddei (see picture below) in San Pellegrino al Caserro in 1871 and raised a family of at least 6 children as seen in the following table:



Name	Born	Died	Married
Giuliano Filippini	5/25/1849		10/10/1871
Gioconda Taddei	8/26/1848		
Abramo	3/30/1874	10/26/1954	Annina Cecchini
Giovan Battista			???
Amos	3/1/1884	9/23/1970	Caterina Filippini
Benjamino			n/a
Faustina	2/26/1887		?? Tosi
Olinto	9/10/1889	1/18/1908	n/a

- Note: this list is derived from the 2002 Filippini Family Tree report produced by Mike Filippini. Some details are available about the Amos Filippini family and about Olinto. These details will be presented later. Nothing about the other children is known to this author.
- Their first-born child, a boy, was Abramo Filippini (this author's grandfather).

Abramo Filippini was born and raised in the village of Stabiazioni, Comune of Sambuca Pistoiese, Province of Pistoia, Region of Tuscany, Kingdom of Italy, on 30 March 1874.

The dates for Olinto were taken from the headstone of an Olinto Filippini who is buried next to Abramo in the Ladd Cemetery. It is now known that the Olinto buried here is the brother of Abramo.

While Abramo Filippini was born in Stabiazioni, various research documents represent his birth differently, as you can see below:

Ellis Island arrival records record that he was born in S. Bucca (actual spelling...probably Sambuca), Italy. Based on the discussion about Italy's administrative organization, this means that Abramo was born in the Comune of Sambuca Pistoiese (correct spelling).

Abramo's papers, wherein he applied for citizenship, list his birthplace as San Pellegrini al Cassero, Italy. Similarly, Abramo's daughter Julia's certificate of birth, prepared in 1937 (even though her birth was in 1919), states that both Anna and Abramo's birthplaces are San Pellegrino al Cassero, Italy. This is consistent with the discussion above that San Pellegrino al Cassero is a region administered by the church at San Pellegrino.

Stabiazioni

Stabiazioni is a small mountain village north of the town of Pistoia. It sits at an elevation of 750 meters (about 2250 feet) and is comprised today of approximately 25 buildings built on either side of a narrow mountain road that parallels what is now route SS64 connecting Pistoia and Bologna. The name Stabiazioni is derived from the old Longobard word Stabizzo that means literally "animal pen" or "yard for animals". The Longobards (or Lombards) were a Germanic people who lived in the mountains surrounding Stabiazioni in the Middle Ages.



It is believed that Abramo continued to live in Stabiazioni, with Anna, until he migrated to America in 1906.

Most of the buildings in Stabiazioni, including Abramo's home, have been restored and are used as summer homes today. While the home that Abramo lived in has been restored, it has a cornerstone in the foundation that is dated 1658. Relatives of Abramo's brother Amos own the home today. (See picture of the home at right).



Various photographs of the home in Stabiazioni and included in this report and album show a room spanning across the road from Abramo's home to a building on the other side of the road. This overpass is utilized as a bedroom today, but it used to be a passageway from the house to a stable across the street.

The road that passes through Stabiazioni and under the overpass described above is the "Via Francigena of Sambuca". It was part of the Via Francigena. This medieval route was heavily traveled by pilgrims traveling from Germany, Scandinavia, Austria and other Northern points to Rome, and back again. It was the main road from Pistoia to Bologna until 1860 when what is now SS64 was constructed in the valley. Many pilgrims passed under this overpass on their way to and from Rome in ancient days.

Via Francigena

As mentioned above Stabiazioni is situated on one of the alternative paths of the Via Francigena.

The Via Francigena was a very important path of travel for pilgrims traveling from Canterbury, England (northern-most point), through France and Switzerland and Northern Italy, to Rome and points south in Italy in the European Middle Ages. It was a significant method of communication in this time meaning that due to the mix of people travelling this route, much cultural exchange occurred over the time that the pilgrimages continued.

The southbound route was actually known as the Via Romea while the northbound route was known as the Via Francigena.

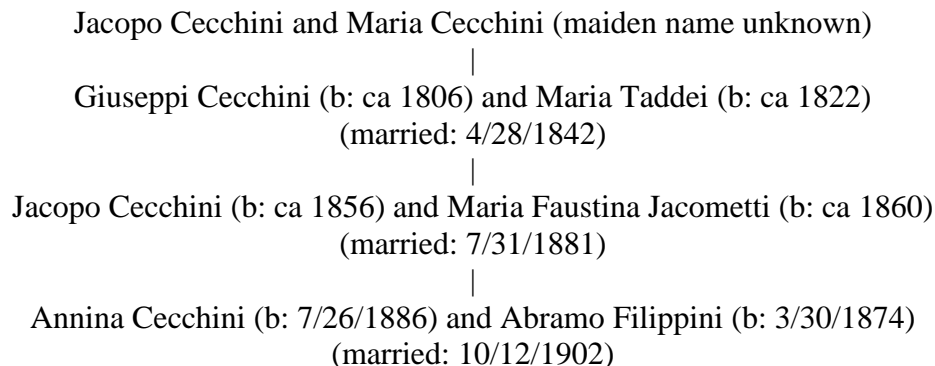
To get a feeling for the time frame, Sigerico, Archbishop of Canterbury, traveled the route in 990 AD in 79 days and documented his return route to England. That route took him through Lucca which is far to the west of Stabiazioni.

However, there is relatively new archaeological evidence that suggests that, after about the year 1050 AD, a route variation to the path of the Via Francigena took it east to Poretta Terme and then on to Pistoia via the castle of Sambuca and Passo della Collina. This evidence suggests that the road passed through Stabiazioni. The route variation was built by the Comune of Pistoia (another comune in the Province of Pistoia) to connect the various villages, castles and fortifications so as to provide places to change horses and protect the pilgrims at night from bandits that patrolled the area.

The Cecchini Family of 18th and 19th Century Italy

Annina's maiden name was Cecchini.

We now also know the names of our Cecchini ancestors back to about the 1790s. Here is a simple branch diagram of the Cecchini line. Again, note that a lot of information is unknown so far:



Other spellings have been found but this is the correct spelling. The likely pronunciation is Check-ee'nee.

Annina (Anna) Cecchini was born on 26 July 1886 in the village of Case Pieli which was a localita in the Comune of Sambuca Pistoiese, Province of Pistoia, Tuscany, Italy.

Annina's papers, wherein she applied for citizenship, state she was born in Sambuca Pistoiese, the comune.

This chart shows the Cecchini family of Case Pieli:

Name	Birthdate	Notes
Jacopo Cecchini	Abt 1856	
Faustina Jacometti	Abt 1860	
Candida	1/11/1882	Possibly died in childhood before 1891
Annina	7/26/1886	Married Abramo Filippini
Giulia	8/30/1888	
Candida	2/25/1891	
Giuseppe	7/24/1893	
Maria	8/21/1896	
Paolo	3/30/1900	

Unfortunately, this is all the information available on this family so far.

Annina went by the name Anna later in her life. However, her children and grandchildren called her Nonni or Nonna. They probably used the two terms interchangeably without recognizing the difference. Officially, in Italian:

- Nonno is Italian for grandfather
- Nonna is Italian for grandmother
- Nonni is the plural form referring to both

Case Pieli

Case Pieli is a very small village just off of the main road SS64 and very close to the village of Corniolo. This village is about 1 ½ miles north of Stabiazioni. While it was a thriving village in Annina's day, today it is almost completely abandoned, and the rock buildings are in ruins.

In the terminology of Italian administration, Case Pieli was a localita in the Comune of Sambuca Pistoiese.

The village of Case Pieli was built on hilly terrain. It is comprised of perhaps 10-12 buildings. Each building was constructed of stones, and many had roofs made of flat stone. Some of the buildings were two stories high. It requires a hike of perhaps a mile of switchbacks and an elevation change of 500 feet to reach the village. Today most of the buildings are in severe disrepair, with, in some cases, collapsed ceilings/roofs. A few houses have



been renovated and are used as summer homes, but access is by a winding path up from the main road below, or by a backroad.

The Marriage of Abramo and Anna

According to Sauro Agostini:

“Case Pieli (where Anna was born) isn't in the territory of the church of San Pellegrino. At that time traditionally the wedding was in the church of the bride, so probably it was in the Bellavalle church or in the Sambuca church. Only after 1929 the religious wedding was valid also for the national administration, so probably Anna and Abramo had 2 weddings, one in the church and another in the Comune of Sambuca Pistoiese”.

Note: Bellavalle is a small village also along route SS64 north of Case Pieli.

Various documents found in this research give conflicting information on certain important dates for Abramo and Anna. This is true for their marriage.

For example, according to their Declarations of Intent to become citizens, Abramo and Annina were married 28 October 1904 in San Bucca (actual spelling) aka Comune of Sambuca Pistoiese, Italy.

However, according to both a copy of Abramo's birth certification which he requested from Italy in 1939, and the record of their marriage as found in the Comune of Sambuca Pistoiese records office in Taviano, Italy, he and Anna married on 12 October 1902.

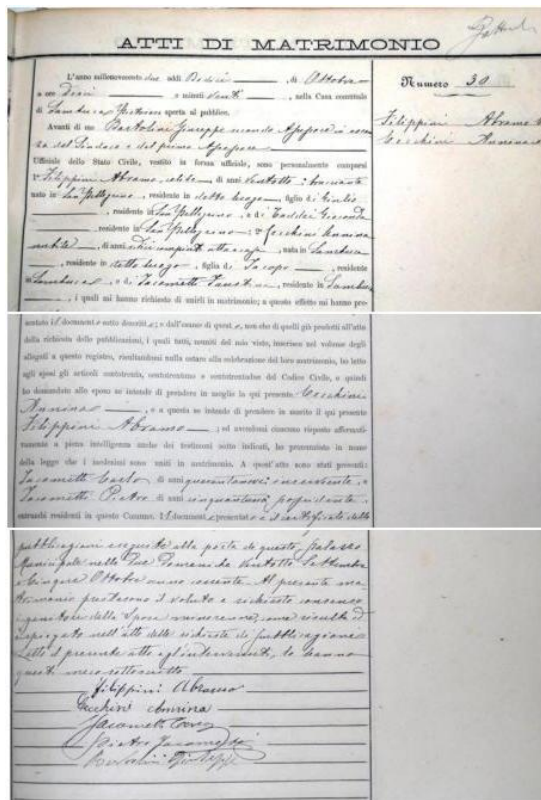
Any record of their marriage in Bellaville or other church parish is unavailable, so all we have is their marriage as recorded in civil records, that being 12 October 1902.

The 1902 civil marriage record of Abramo and Annina is shown below and contains the following actual information:

Date: 12 October 1902, 10:20 AM
 Abramo, age 28, a laborer:
 Born in San Pellegrino
 Father: Giulio Filippini
 Mother: Giaconda Taddei
 Mother and father are residents
 of San Pellegrino

Annina Cecchini, age 16, living at home
 Born in Sambuca
 Father: Jacopo Cecchini
 Mother: Faustina Jacometti
 Father and mother are residents
 of Sambuca

Witnesses to the marriage:
 Carlo Jacometti, age 49
 Pietro Jacometti, age 56



There is also wording in the document that acknowledges the consent of Annina’s parents due to her being a minor, age 16.

As you will see in the next section, in October, 1906, about 4 years after the 1902 marriage date, Abramo departed Italy, leaving Annina and Tuscany behind, in order to start a new life for Annina and himself in America. He ultimately settled in Ladd, Illinois.

It is not known what Abramo and Annina did for a living in the two-year period before Abramo left for America. Possibilities include mining or farming or woodcarbon (charcoal) production.

Abramo and Anna’s First Child

Abramo and Anna married in 1902 as stated above. While is not uncommon in this time for newly married couples to immediately start a family, there is no evidence so far of a child being born until 1906.

Abramo and Anna’s first known child was a girl named Ada Filippini. Ada was born in mid-September 1906. The exact date cannot be found so far. The following month, in October, after her birth, Abramo left Anna and Ada and migrated to America, settling in Ladd, IL.

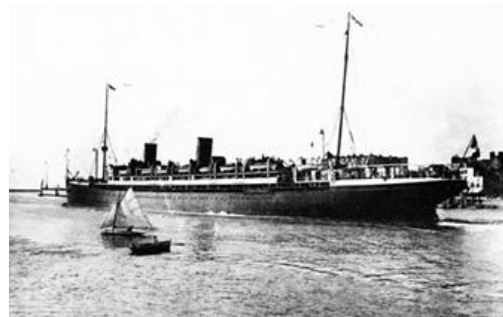
Over the next few months, winter set in and baby Ada got sick with perhaps the Flu, and she died on 2 January 1907. Winters in the mountains of Sambuca Pistoiese can be harsh. Abramo was in Illinois at the time and could not risk losing his job by returning to Italy. Anna was age 21 when Ada died.

Anna endured the grief, but persevered, and in 1908, migrated to Ladd to reunite with Abramo.

Abramo and Aninna Arrive in the United States

According to Ellis Island information, Abramo sailed to America from LaHavre, France, on 6 October 1906 and arrived in New York by himself on October 13 or 14, 1906, at the age of 32. LaHavre was a popular point of embarkation for immigrants traveling from Europe to America. Theodore Roosevelt was the President of the United States when Abramo arrived in America.

On the manifest, the date October 13 representing the date of arrival was crossed off and 14 written in. Sometimes there was a delay in disembarking at Ellis Island so that may explain the change.



The ship that Abramo traveled on was SS La Touraine. The ship's manifest contains the following information about Abramo:

- He travelled in Steerage.
- He was born in S. Bucca (actual spelling...that is, the Comune of Sambuca Pistoiese).
- He could read and write.
- He was a 32-year-old laborer, married, but traveling without his wife.
- His destination was Ladd, IL, to visit his cousin Oreste Filippini.
- He was 5'6" tall, and had fair complexion, brown hair and blue eyes.
- He had never before visited the US.
- He was carrying \$10 or \$30 (illegible writing).

There will be a little more detail on Oreste Filippini later. The actual ship's manifest is visible on www.ellisland.org and in the album section of this report.

There were others on the ship bound for Ladd. In particular, there was Angelo Filippini, a single male, age 28, who was visiting his sister Angela Filippini in Ladd. He was also from Sambuca. The relationship to Abramo, if any, is unknown.

After Abramo successfully made it through the entry process at Ellis Island, he traveled to Ladd, Illinois, perhaps by train, and secured employment in the coal mines.

On November 28, 1908, Annina Filippini sailed from LeHavre France, also on the SS La Touraine. She travelled without her husband Abramo since he was apparently not able to return to Italy to accompany her to America. Instead, an individual, also named Abramo Filippini, accompanied her

on her journey. They docked in New York on 6 December 1908. Theodore Roosevelt was still the President.

The ship's manifest records the following information about Annina:

- She travelled in Steerage.
- Her name is Annina Checchini Filippini (actual spelling in record)
- She is a 22-year-old married housewife.
- Her destination was Ladd, Illinois, to visit her husband Abramo.
- She could read and write.
- She listed her father-in-law Giacomo Filippini in Sambuca as her nearest relative in Italy (Note that this is in conflict with the fact that Abramo's father's name is Giulio)
- She was born in Sambuca. She was 5'2" with fair complexion, blond hair and blue eyes.

She and Abramo also travelled with another individual named Antonio Filippini. Antonio was destined for Scranton, PA. The relationship of Antonio to Abramo, if any, is unknown.

The fact that Annina's escort was also named Abramo is confusing, but examination of the ship manifest makes it clear that Anna and this Abramo were not married. Instead, this Abramo was married to a woman named Maria who was at home in Sambuca, Italy, when he sailed with Annina. Annina clearly indicated that she was bound for Ladd, IL, to visit her husband Abramo. The manifest for escort Abramo describes him as being 28 years old, 5' 5", black hair, blue eyes, a married laborer who could read and write, and was also travelling from Sambuca to Ladd, IL, to visit his cousin Oreste Filippini. It can be assumed that this Abramo was a family member who was escorting Anna to America.

The arrival date for Annina shown above corresponds with the date shown on her Declaration of Intent to become a US Citizen. There is a conflict in Abramo's date. Ellis Island says 1906, his Declaration of Intent says 1907. The 1906 Ellis Island manifest is most likely correct.

Please refer to the separate picture album that accompanies this report. Many Filippini family pictures can be found here plus copies of the ship manifests.

The Decade of 1900 to 1910

This was an eventful decade for Abramo and Annina (referred hereafter as Anna):

They married in 1902 in Italy.

They tried to start a family in Italy, but their first child died in infancy.

Abramo traveled to America by himself, probably to gain employment and seek out a new home for himself and Anna. He went to work as a coal miner in Ladd, Illinois along with other fellow Italians.

Finally, Anna joined him in Ladd, Illinois, and they settled down, purchased a home in December, 1910, and began their family with the birth of daughter Dina.

The 1900 Census

Clearly, Abramo and Anna were not in the USA in 1900. However, there are two entries in the 1900 Census for Ladd. IL that should be noted:

O. Phillippine (could be Oreste)
Single, age 26, born March 1874
Coal miner, living in a boarding house
Immigrated 1898

D. Phillippenes (this person is unknown)
Age 33, born August 1866, immigrated in 1893, Coal miner
Married to Rita, age 30, born March 1870, immigrated in 1899

These will be discussed below.

The 1910 census

Note: The various and incorrect spellings of names listed below are as found in the census pages.

The 1910 Bureau County, Hall Township, Enumeration District #11 census contains two Abramo Filippinis. The first one was spelled Abraham Phillippini, age 30, occupation Miner, living in a boarding house in Ladd Village. His entry into the US was noted as 1909. This Abramo is probably the person who accompanied Anna to the US in 1908.

The following table shows our Abramo and Anna's family in 1910:

Name	Age	Born	Notes
Abramo Filippini	35	3/30/1874	
Annina Cecchini	24	7/26/1886	
Dina	7 mo	9/19/1909	
Satimo Phillippini	22		Boarder
Guido Gherardini	19		Boarder
Pelegriini Phillipini	37 or 39		Boarder

The relationship of Satimo Phillippini, Guido Gherardini, and Pelegriini Phillipini to Abramo and Anna remains undetermined at this time.

This census indicated that Anna had given birth to two children, one of which survived as of 1910. (Census data frequently gives an X/Y number for the wives/mothers where X was the number of children who the mother gave birth to, while Y was the number of children alive when the census

was taken.) This supports the fact that Anna and Abramo had a child in Italy who died in Italy in 1907.

The census information indicates that the house in Ladd was rented by Abramo as of the April 1910 census date. Abramo and the boarders were listed as being coal miners. It is not possible to tell from the census data where this rented house was in Ladd. It is known that Abramo purchased the only home he ever owned (on Chicago Street) in December 1910, 6 months after the census was taken. Perhaps he was renting the home and then purchased it. Perhaps it was a different home. Perhaps it was a house built by the coal mine company for their employees. The census data does not clarify this.

The Grantee/Grantor records in the Bureau County Court House show the following:

In December 1910, Abramo and Anna purchased lot 2 of block 9 in Ladd for \$625. This is in fact the house on Chicago Street, second from the corner, where they lived all of their lives. This purchase was apparently paid off in July of 1912. William Howard Taft was President when Abramo bought his house.

Abramo and Anna received a deed for lots 3 and 4 in 1933 which means they purchased these lots in that time frame. Lot 3 is the lot on which Alma's house stands while lot 4 is the vacant lot next to them.

Note on census data: Census takers had the daunting task of visiting each household in the United States and attempting to record a very large amount of data about the residents, many of whom could not speak English. In the case of the Ladd, IL, it is probable that the census takers recorded what they heard and thus this might explain the various spelling errors found in the raw census data for the Filippini family.

Abramo Registers for Military Service

WWI was in progress in 1917 but men were not volunteering in the US at a rate needed for the war. So, the government initiated a Draft. All males born between 1872 and 1900 were required to sign up. On three occasions in 1917 and 1918 these men were required to register.

On 12 September 1918, Abramo registered for military service in the US. A copy of his registration was found on ancestry.com. He was 44 years old and was not yet a citizen of the US. Other descriptive information on his registration card includes: medium height, medium build, blue eyes and grey hair and had no disqualifying characteristics. The form indicated he was a coal miner for the Illinois Third Vein Coal Company. His nearest relative was Anna Filippini of Ladd. In 1918, Woodrow Wilson was President.

80% of the registrants were never called to service including all non-citizens which included Abramo. The fighting ended on 11 November 1918 and the war officially ended on 28 June 1919.

The 1920 census

Here is the family in 1920 in Ladd in Hall Township:

Name	Age	Born	Notes
Abrama Phillipini	46	3/29/1874	
Annina Cecchini	34	7/26/1886	
Olinto	9	~1911	
Erma	7	~1913	
Deno	6	~1914	
Delmo	3y10mo	~1916	
Julia	1mo	1919	

Spellings are as found in the census.

The family is living in a house on Chicago Avenue, the same house that we are familiar with. The census shows that both of them entered the US in 1907. This is an apparent error. It shows Abramo as a coal miner. As of 1920, Abramo and Anna were not citizens of the US.

Erma (or Irma) was actually the name originally given to Alma. She changed her name to Alma some time in her teenage years.

Dina is not listed in the 1920 census. She died on 6 February 1914 at the age of about four and a half years. It is thought that her death might have been caused by complications due to the measles.

The 1930 Census

By 1930, the Abramo Filippini family was complete according to the following table:

Name	Age in 1930	Born	Died	Married
Abramo Filippini	56	3/30/1874	10/26/1954	12 October 1902
Anna	43	7/26/1886	6/20/1981	
Ada	-	Abt 9/1906 In Italy	1/2/1907 in Italy	--
Dina	-	9/19/1909	2/6/1914	--
Olinto	19	12/8/1910	9/12/1982	Mary Cioni
Alma Anne	17	8/24/1912	4/28/2006	Frank Ellerbrock
Dino Benjamin	15	4/3/1914	1/16/1993	Dorothy Rose Grivetti
Delmo Robert	14	3/14/1916	2/7/2007	Bertha Buckingham Dorothy Campbell Rose Petree
Julia Patricia	10	11/24/1919	6/28/2007	Harold Pinter
Margaret Ann	7	6/20/1922	10/1/2006	Glenn Korte
Paul James	3y11mo	4/6/1926	12/10/2001	Geraldine Mae Zimmerman

In 1930, they valued their home on Chicago Ave which they owned at \$1000. At this time, Abramo was a digger in the coal mines. Herbert Hoover was President in 1930.

Olinto's occupation was glass washer at a glass factory.

Alma was an operator at the clock factory.

Dino was a laborer at a cheese factory.

This chart details the growth of the family from 1910 to 1930, based on US census data. Ada is not included because she died in 1907.

Name	Age in 1910	Age in 1920	Age in 1930
Abramo	35	46	56
Annina	24	34	43
Dina	7 mo	--	--
Olinto	--	9	19
Erma (Alma)	--	7	17
Dino	--	6	15
Delmo	--	3 yr 10 mo	14
Julia	--	1 yr 9 mo	10
Margaret	--	--	7
Paul	--	--	3 yrs 11 mo

The 1940 Census

Here is the family in 1940:

Name	Age	Born	Died	Notes
Abramo Filippini	66	3/30/1874	10/26/1954	
Annina Cecchini	53	7/26/1886	6/20/1981	
Dino Benjamin	26	4/3/1914	1/16/1993	Laborer for the WPA
Julia Patricia	20	11/24/1919	6/28/2007	Clerk in hardware store
Margaret Ann	17	6/20/1922	10/1/2006	
Paul James	14	4/6/1926	12/10/2001	

Olinto and Alma were married and were living in their own homes. Delmo was working in Peoria, Illinois, and it is not clear if he was married in 1940.

Abramo's home which they owned was valued at \$300. Curiously, most of the homes in the neighborhood were also valued at \$300.

Abramo and Anna had informed the census taker that they had completed the 3rd grade in school but since they attended school in Italy, it is not clear what this means.

The 1950 Census

Here is the family in 1950. Everyone was out of the household by 1950 except Paul:

Name	Age	Born	Died	Notes
Abramo Filippini	76	3/30/1874	10/26/1954	
Annina Cecchini	63	7/26/1886	6/20/1981	
Paul James	26	4/6/1926	12/10/2001	

No other census data is available. The 1960 census will be released in 2032. As a reminder, a law stipulates that the census bureau must wait 72 years before it can release raw census data (as it exists on ancestry.com, for example) to the public.

The Naturalization of Abramo and Annina

Note: the spellings presented here are as they were found on their applications.

Abramo applied for U.S. citizenship in 1926 by filing a Declaration of Intention. The following actual information was found on his application:

- ✓ Application Date: 22 May 1926
- ✓ Occupation: Coal Miner
- ✓ Age: 52
- ✓ Birth Date: 29 March 1874
- ✓ Birthplace: San Pellegrini al Cassero, Italy
- ✓ Description: White, fair complexion, grey hair, blue eyes, 170 pounds, 5' 5" in height.

He was granted citizenship on 18 September 1929 soon after Herbert Hoover was sworn in as President of the United States.



Anna applied for citizenship in 1931 by filing a Petition for Citizenship. The following actual information was found on her application (note: her application did not contain the same detail as Abramo's):

- ✓ Application Date: 8 July 1931
- ✓ Birth Date: 26 July 1886
- ✓ Birthplace: San Bucca, Italy
- ✓ Married: 28 October 1904 in San Bucca, Italy, to Abramo Filippini
- ✓ Arrived in the US: 6 December 1908
- ✓ Name recorded on arrival: Arnina Checchini Filippini

She was granted citizenship on 6 January 1932. Herbert Hoover was President.

Both were required to renounce their allegiance to Victor Emanuel III, King of Italy.

Note that this information is copied dated directly from the various official documents. In some cases, the dates are in conflict.

Passports

No records of passports issued to Abramo or Annina can be found in Ancestry.com's passport records so far even though Ellisland.com suggests that immigrants were required to have a US passport to enter the United States.

The Passing of Abramo and Anna

Abramo died in Ladd 26 October 1954 at the age of 80. His daughter Julia related that he was sitting in the living room, and simply fell off of his chair and died apparently without any suffering. The cause of death was a cerebral hemorrhage.

Anna continued to live alone in the same house purchased in 1912. She was partially deaf and had very poor eyesight but managed to live alone and take care of herself. She died peacefully in her sleep in Ladd on 20 June 1981 just shy of her 95th birthday.

Abramo and Anna are buried in the Ladd Cemetery located east of the town. A flat granite headstone marks their resting place.

In addition to Abramo and Anna's headstone, two other headstones are situated next to them. They are:

- Dina, born 9/19/1909, died 2/6/1914 at age 4 – Dina was Abramo and Anna's first child born in the U.S.
- Olinto, born 9/10/1889 and died 1/18/1908 at age 18 - Abramo's brother.

The above dates were recorded from the headstones.



Olinto Filippini

It was mentioned earlier that there is an Olinto Filippini buried next to Abramo and Anna and Dina. This individual had been unidentified for many years. Now it is safe to assume that he is Abramo's brother.

According to Ellis Island ship arrival records, Olinto Filipini (actual spelling in Ellis Island records) sailed from La Havre, France, on the SS La Gascogne in steerage quarters on 26 October 1907 and landed at Ellis Island, New York, on 4 November 1907.

The ship manifest showed that Olinto was 18 years old on arrival making his birth year 1889. This matches the birth date of 10 September 1889 on Olinto's headstone. In addition, the ship manifest states that Olinto was visiting his brother Abramo Filippini in Ladd, IL. Abramo had arrived about a year earlier.

Other personal information on Olinto indicates he was 5'2" tall and had fair complexion and auburn hair. He was carrying \$30 upon arrival. The ship's manifest indicates he was born in Sambuca (probably the comune of Sambuca Pistoiese).

Olinto was traveling with two other relatives. They were apparently traveling together since they were all together on the manifest and the manifest was not in alphabetical order:

1. Settimo Filippini, age 19, who was traveling from Firenze (Florence) to Ladd to visit his cousin Abramo Filippini. Settimo listed his nearest relative in Italy to be Domenico Ceccherelli.
2. Abramo Jacometti, age 18, who was traveling from Firenze (Florence) to Ladd to visit his cousin Abramo Filippini. Abramo listed his nearest relative in Italy to be Guiseppi Jacometti.

Settimo and Abramo listed their birthplace as Sambuca.

Unfortunately, for unknown reasons, Olinto died in Ladd on 18 January 1908, just about two months after his arrival. The closeness of his death to his arrival suggests he may have contracted a disease on board the ship, but this is unknown. If any major illness had been detected at Ellis Island upon arrival, he would have surely been deported back to Italy.

Oreste Filippini

Since the name Oreste Filippini has appeared several times in the story of Abramo Filippini's arrival in the US, it seems appropriate to document as much as is possible about this person.

The manifest for Abramo's arrival in the US indicates that he was visiting his cousin Oreste Filippini in Ladd, IL. In order for Oreste to be Abramo's cousin (assuming first cousin), he would have to be the son of one of Abramo's father's brothers: that is, the son of one of Giulio Filippini's brothers.

In addition, Annina's escort Abramo also indicated that he was visiting his cousin Oreste in Ladd, IL. This makes Annina's escort Abramo a cousin to her husband Abramo.

According to the manifest for the ship La Savoie, Oreste Filippini arrived for the second time in America on 25 October 1902 at age 28 with presumably his wife Angelina, also age 28. Both were from San Buca (Sambuca). This data would place Oreste's birth at around 1874, the same year as Abramo. This age and date also match to the 1900 census data.

There was another Filippini (Angelo) on this ship but his connection, if any, is unknown.

The manifest says that Oreste had been in the US before, in the time frame 1899 to 1902, visiting his brother-in-law (possibly Dominico Filippini).

On 12 October 1912, Oreste again is found arriving in the US from LaHavre, France, on the ship La Provence. This time, Oreste is listed as a married laborer, age 38, from Sambuca. Oreste lists that his nearest relative in the country he came from (Italy) was wife Angiolina Filippini in Sambuca and that he was going to Ladd, IL to visit cousin Mambino Tosi (spelling is uncertain due to handwriting). He had about \$60 and indicated that he had been to the US before, in 1909. (Note: a Mambino Tosi was found living in a boarding house in Ladd, IL, in the 1910 census).

There was another Filippini on this ship: Angiolo Filippini, age 35, going to visit Pelligrino Filippini in Ladd. He listed his nearest relative as mother Rosa Filippini in Sambuca.

The author was not able to find clear proof of Oreste Filippini's life in Ladd Illinois other than the ship manifest as mentioned above and a 1900 census record as described below.

The 1900 census data for Ladd, IL lists an O. Phillippine. The census taker interpreted the first initial as a D but it could easily be an O. This person was a single person of age 26 and was a border and coal miner in Ladd IL. He was born in March 1874, the same as Abramo. The census data indicates he immigrated to the US in 1898. This could be Oreste Filippini but there is currently no way to be sure.

Similarly, there is no reference to this person in the 1910, 1920, or 1930 census. Both the spellings of Filippini and Philippini were used in the search and so all various spelling variations of these two names were found during the searches.

Note: There was also a D. Phillipines, age 33, in Ladd in 1900. He was married to Rita, age 30, and was also a coal miner.

The relevance of the above Oreste Filippini information to our family is only that he seems to be the first of this Filippini family to journey to America. The importance of this person is that he may be the first family member that Abramo saw on arrival in Ladd.

It is curious that Oreste’s entry into the US is documented twice yet he appears to have never been counted by any of the 10-year census except possibly the 1900 census. Perhaps he was not in the US in 1910 since he is shown re-entering the US in 1912. Perhaps he died before 1920. Perhaps he returned to Italy before 1920. For sure, there is no Oreste Filippini buried in the Ladd Cemetery. Other cemeteries have not been checked. We may never know any more than this about Oreste Filippini.

Interestingly, there is an Ignazio Filippini buried in the Ladd Cemetery. He was born in 1872, died in 1937. His relationship to the family, if any, is also unknown.

Other Filippini Families

As might be expected, there are numerous other unrelated people with the Filippini name found in other parts of the US. There is a particularly strong presence in California, and Cook County, Illinois, as found in the 1910, 1920, and 1930 census data.

The Amos Filippini Family

Abramo had three younger brothers. One of them was Amos Filippini. A limited amount of information is available on this family. Here is the complete Amos Filippini family.

Name	Born	Died	Married
Amos Filippini	3/1/1884	9/23/1970	
Caterina Filippini			
Dina		Died in childhood	
Dina		Died in childhood	
Alfredo		Died in childhood	
Arnaldo		Died in childhood	
Alfonso	7/17/1912	1980	
Giulio	4/13/1919		Lina Tonetti
Arnalda	4/26/1921		Girolamo Vielmi
Alfredo	1/9/1923		Maria Letizia Danna
Arnaldo	2/7/1925	4/1975	Rosetta Melidone
Irma	7/15/1929		Giovanni Magnello

Loris Marzia Evelina Dario Andrea Sara	1/4/1932	2/26/2008	Delia Taddei Sauro Agostini Franca Santiloni
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The duplication of names in the above table is confirmed and is not a misprint.

One of Amos' children is Loris Filippini. Loris is first cousin to Abramo and Anna's children. Loris and his wife, Delia Taddei, both deceased, have two children, Marzia and Andrea. These families make their home in Pistoia, Italy. Sauro Agostini, husband of Mariza, had been an invaluable source of family history information, and has graciously hosted multiple visits from USA Filippini family members over the years.

Carlo Filippini

In early 1945, Alma Ellerbrock (daughter of Abramo and Anna) made an inquiry to the Legation of Switzerland in Washington DC. Her interest was in an individual named Carlo Filippini who was an apparent Prisoner of War in the United States. Carlo had apparently attempted to make contact with his two uncles living in the US: Abramo and Giovanni Filippini. It is not clear how Alma knew of the existence of Carlo. In order for Abramo to be Carlo's uncle, Carlo would have to be a son of a brother of Giulio Filippini.

(Note: During and after WWII, Italian soldiers captured by US soldiers were brought to the US and held in POW camps.)

The Legation suggested that Alma contact Carlo at the POW camp in Arizona and provided an address.

There is no information available to suggest whether or not Abramo and Carlo ever communicated with each other.

Life in 19th Century Northern Italy

Italy was one of the poorest countries in Europe in the 19th century. This began to change with the industrial revolution in the North while the South continued its feudal and backward ways.

It is difficult to know today what life was like for Abramo and his family in the time frame of 1874 to 1906. If they lived his entire life in the Comune of Sambuca (all indication are that they did) then it is safe to assume that they led a poor agricultural lifestyle since Stabiazioni and the surrounding areas are very rural and mountainous.

A search of the Web produces little documentation as to rural life in Northern Italy in the late 1800's. One article comes close even though it seems to talk about an Italian family that had

migrated to southern Switzerland. I have included quotes from that article below to help us understand life in this time frame:

From:

http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/specials/swiss-italian_migrations/the_land_of_emigranti/Opening_the_door_on_19th_century_rural_life.html?siteSect=22506&sid=10306200&cKey=1236250925000&ty=st

“It's the break of day. Inside the kitchen of a cramped, two-room house, polenta is being cooked over an open fire, filling the kitchen with smoke.”

“A few people huddle around the burning embers: an old woman sits on a wooden bench, a man and a couple of barefoot toddlers stand. The door is kept ajar to let out the choking fumes.”

“This is the type of 19th century scene that unfolded at the start of each day in villages of upper Ticino – the Sopraceneri.”

<< some text omitted here >>

“The pots hang again from the low ceiling; the cutlery – consisting of a bread knife and not much else – is back on the fold-down, wooden table.”

Giovanni Buzzi, an expert on the history of rural Ticino, recounts what life must have been like around 1850 – the start of the first wave of mass migrations overseas.

"The diet was very poor and monotonous. There was polenta [porridge-like dish made from boiled cornmeal] and bread made from rye," he says. "They had chestnuts to see them through the winter months, and potatoes. The chestnuts were dried and either ground to make flour or cooked in water or milk.”

<< some text omitted here >>

“A typical family was made up of five to ten people – adults and their children, an unmarried aunt or two, an uncle and perhaps a grandparent who had reached the ripe old age of 40.”

“But they rarely lived under one roof.”

“Children from the age of five and other young people, Buzzi explains, would have moved between the various primitive structures tending the livestock – consisting of a couple of cows, sheep and a goat - only coming to the main house in the village a few times a year.”

<< some text omitted here >>

“Chestnut groves were normally common property but the individual trees were privately owned, with a single tree sometimes belonging to several families. "As many as five families could feed themselves from the fruit of one tree. They often fought over every chestnut," Buzzi says.”

“The wooded slopes were also part of the common lands but deforestation was a problem in the 19th century as the villages exported most of the timber to northern Italy where it was used as fuel to feed the factories of industrialized cities like Milan.”

“Families generated a meager income by exporting the cheese made from the milk of their livestock as well as the butchered meat from the animals.”

“One cow was kept at the main house to provide milk for the children and older people.”

"They used the little money they had to buy material for clothes or salt, which was important. It really wasn't a money economy," the expert adds.

Information from Sauro Agostini in Pistoia substantiates this description. He discussed the hard life of the area and the dependence on chestnuts as a food source.

He also discussed the fact that the men would often travel to a distant location, in particular to Maremma in southern Tuscany, to cut wood and produce “wood carbon” (charcoal) during six to seven months of the winter season. Maremma is an area south of Pistoia and along the coast of the Tyrrhenian Sea (part of the Mediterranean Sea off of the west coast of Italy).

It is unknown if Abramo and other members of his or Aninna’s family participated in the wood carbon industry at any time in their lives.

The wood carbon industry in 19th century Italy was large. This industry was responsible for the creation of charcoal (wood carbon). The process involved cutting trees into manageable pieces and then burning this wood to an incomplete combustion process thus producing charcoal that would be sold as a heating source.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (translated from Italian).

The **charcoal** is the job of turning wood into charcoal. It was a very widespread in Italy until the middle of last century, in the mountain village and the hill where there was plenty of firewood, which is the raw material. The art is to cut firewood in the woods, paste them in open-plan and open (called *ial*) stacked in charcoal or poiàt and initiate the combustion process leading to the slow carbonization namely the transformation of wood which is an organic compound in coal.

In the past, charcoal was used as a substitute of coal fossil and for some special purpose high power due to adsorption. Now the coal plant, also known as charcoal,

is required to replenish the grill and ovens for pizzerias. The charcoal has strong adsorbent properties, but this type of charcoal is produced by a process of dry distillation or carbonization artificial.

The coal miners, in order to do their job, had to leave the country since the start of spring until late autumn and moved with his family in the mountains where there was wood to be cut and where it was necessary to monitor day and night pojat for 5 or 6 days, for 30 to 40 quintals of wood about 6 maybe up to 8 tonnes of coal.

Women, as well as participate in the production, tended to every other thing the family needs, including the burden of raising and educating their children and when it happened to complete their pregnancies.

The lives of coal miners (A poem by Gianpaulo Capelli de Bondone)

(Translated from Italian)

Charcoal, the last of March
left Bondone
when there was still tops on the snow
I go for the season.
The wife, kids and girls,
goats and chickens
all loaded on the truck
and walked up there in the mountains,
where they were not yet filled the leaves.

The house?
a hut of logs!
The bed?
spruce branches and leaves of corn as a mattress
and where you went to sleep,
happened to be born a beautiful child,
poor, beautiful and naked as the Child Jesus!

How many labors: cut wood, bring it to the "ial"
work from early morning to late evening,
always hungry for muttering guts,
at night, to guard the "pojat"
with the thought of raising children
and no longer get afflicted!

To eat?
polenta and milk,
and days of celebration a piece of cheese
and drink. bucket of water.
And if someone was in the summer to find you,

maybe your pastor di Bondone,
was your exceptional hospitality, and with the heart davi
that you had more good.

Charcoal,
Bondone at your work do not anymore!
In the square Levata there is a beautiful monument
dedicated to you, that testifies to your past!
And now to remember
a Hail Mary to Our Lady
and Child in her arms.
Charcoal,
here on earth: the poor, torn, tired, dirty!
Up there in heaven, we are sure,
that from the Lord you have been well rewarded. "

Life in Early 20th Century Ladd, IL

It is difficult to determine exactly how life was in Ladd for the Filippini family. This much we do know:

- Winters were cold and wet, summers were warm and nice.
- Trips to the mine and to the market and to school were done on foot or by horse-drawn buggy regardless of weather.
- The family “did without” for the most part although they were well fed it would seem and they were able to purchase/build a comfortable and sturdy home and later purchase a car.
- They lived under the constant threat of loss of income due to mine accident or death or closing.
- Their family life was very much confined to Ladd. The children who attended high school had to go to the town of Spring Valley which may have been the furthest they had ventured out up to that point.
- The family did well, relatively speaking, raising 7 children in America after immigration.

Additional insight can be derived by reading the section of this paper titled Life in the Ladd Coal Mine presented later in this report.

The Whippet

It was reported that the family at one time owned an automobile known as a Whippet. It is probable that Abramo was not the driver of this car since he apparently never had a driver’s license. The car was either owned/operated by Paul or was perhaps a car shared by some members of the family. However, since Paul was born in 1926 and the Whippet was only produced in 1927 to 1930, this car must have been about 15-20 years old when it was owned by the family.

The Whippet was built by the Willys-Overland Company of Kansas.

Black Lung Disease

Abramo Filippini was a coal miner for a large part of his life in Bureau County, Illinois. He probably began his career in around 1906-8 and continued until 1942, a period of about 34-36 years. He spent most if not all of his career in the mine itself breaking up and loading coal and breathing the resulting coal dust. It was reported by his children that he developed a disease known as Black Lung Disease.

According to Wikipedia:

Black lung disease, also known as *coal workers' pneumoconiosis* (CWP), is caused by long exposure to coal dust. It is a common affliction of coal miners and others who work with coal, similar to both silicosis from inhaling silica dust, and to the long term effects of tobacco smoking. Inhaled coal dust progressively builds up in the lungs and is unable to be removed by the body, leading to inflammation, fibrosis, and in the worst case necrosis.

Coal workers' pneumoconiosis, in its most severe state, develops after the initial, milder form of the disease known as **anthracosis** (*anthrac* - coal, carbon). This is often asymptomatic and is found to at least some extent in all urban dwellers due to air pollution. Prolonged exposure to large amounts of carbon dust can result in more serious forms of the disease, *simple coal workers' pneumoconiosis* and *complicated coal workers' pneumoconiosis*

One family story is that Abramo's daughter Alma applied to the US government or some other entity via a congressman, for compensation for this disease based on an unknown law or settlement. It seems that the family was awarded approximately \$14,000 or more for his disease.

The most likely law that allowed this to happen is documented in the CDC (Center for Disease Control) web site: www2.cdc.gov :

Title IV of the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 authorizes a benefits program, providing medical payments and cash stipends for miners totally disabled because of pneumoconiosis arising out of employment in underground coal mining, as well as for surviving spouses of coal miners whose death resulted from the disease or who were entitled to Black Lung benefits at the time of death.

The French Army

Another story in the Filippini family is that Abramo was at one time a member of the French Army. The period of time that this might have occurred was about 1892 to 1906. Abramo would have been 18 years old in 1892 and he emigrated to America in 1906. This range of time would put him at the age of 18 to 32.

Another part of this story is that he had the nickname of Galiano (unsure of exact spelling) and that this name was derived from his French Army experience. Apparently he brought this nickname to America because he was known around Ladd as Galiano.

A study of French military history reveals three important facts that relate to the story that Abramo might have been a member of the French Army:

- France was engaged in many wars over the years but it apparently engaged in no military activity between the end of the Franco-Prussian war (1870-1871) and World War I with the exception of its conquest of Algeria which lasted from 1830 to 1900. Many members of the Legion were killed in the South-Oranais Campaign that lasted from 1897 to 1902.
- The French Foreign Legion existed in the time frame that Abramo's would be eligible.
- After 1830, foreigners were not allowed to be members of the French Army, but they were allowed to be members of the French Foreign Legion. It is not known how long this restriction remained in effect.

From Wikipedia:

The **French Foreign Legion** (French: *Légion étrangère*) is a unique unit separate from the regular French Army, established in 1831. The legion was specifically created as a unit for foreign volunteers, to be commanded by French officers; it is however also open to French citizens, who amount to 24% of recruits^[1]. After the July Revolution of 1830, foreigners were forbidden to enlist in the French Army. The Legion was also seen as a convenient way to dispose of numerous recently-displaced foreign nationals (many of whom were thought to hold revolutionary political beliefs) by sending them to Algeria to fight in the French campaign of colonialization.

The Legion was primarily used to protect and expand the French colonial empire during the 19th century, but it also fought in all French wars including the Franco-Prussian War and both World Wars.

We have no definitive information about Abramo's involvement with the French military other than the fact that two of his children reported that he was involved but that their knowledge of the details was lacking. The following is speculation about what might have happened:

It is possible that Abramo in fact enlisted in the French Foreign Legion. If he did so, he may have done it to benefit from the pay that its members received. In addition, France offered French citizenship to Legion members after 5 years of service so there was incentive for a poor Italian to enlist. If he did enlist, then he would have spent some time in Algeria in training and in the service of the Legion because Algeria was the Legion's training ground. He may not have fought in any major wars. However, a battle in Algeria known as the South-Oranais Campaign lasted from 1897

to 1902 and was costly to the Legion. It is remotely possible that Abramo could have been involved with this war.

Abramo's membership in the French Foreign Legion and any actual experience in battle may never be known.

Notes from an Interview with Julia Filippini Pinter, June 2004

(Note: the following are the original notes taken in the interview. Much of this information has been incorporated into this story.)

Julia indicated that the house that we know of in Ladd on Chicago St. was the only house that the family had in Ladd. She recalled that the house had no plumbing until Margaret married in 1946. She also recalled that the dining room as we know it upstairs had a stove in the early days, and that is where the family would huddle in the winter. She recalled that they lived downstairs in the basement but would go upstairs to sleep, in many cases two or three to a bed. The house had no closets, but they put their clothes in large wardrobes. Later, they installed a coal burning furnace in the basement, and it was later converted to gas.

Abramo was a coal miner. He worked in the Ladd mine as well as other mines in the area. He apparently car-pooled (or buggy-pooled) to work because they did not have a car until later.

She indicated that the family bought a car named a Whippet. (This car was built in the 1927-to-1930 time frame by Willys-Overland of Kansas).

Abramo, known by his friends as Galliano, apparently developed black lung disease, and Alma at one point wrote a letter to their congressman, and was able to secure some form of payment as compensation for the disease.

Julia indicated that their meals were comprised of polenta, stews, chicken, and homemade ravioli, and veal. The ravioli was typically served in a broth and not in a sauce. The ravioli was usually followed by a meat dish. She also described that the polenta was typically served on a white cloth placed at the center of the table. Sauce (like a spaghetti sauce) was placed on top and then everyone would help themselves.

They had a garden and raised much of what they ate. They did not eat pizza.

Julia said they didn't have much in the way of toys. They frequently made their own toys and had at one time a swing made of an old tire. She recalled having a doll that was shared and that they frequently would make paper dolls.

At home they spoke Italian much of the time. Her parents became naturalized citizens and in order to do so they had to learn the pledge of allegiance and recite it in English.

Anna would frequently take a wheelbarrow down to the railroad tracks to pick up coal that had fallen from railroad cars. This would be used in the stove.

While in high school, Julia played basketball for the Girls Athletic Association. She played forward. She described her uniform as being bloomer-style pants.

The Ladd Centennial Celebration Book, 1990

The Ladd Centennial Celebration book indicates that Abramo and Anna settled in Ladd on 8 December 1908, 2 days after landing in New York. This date is also written in Anna's Petition for Citizenship to become a US citizen.

It further indicates they were married in San Bucca Pistoise (actual spelling in book), Italy on October 12, 1902 and that they built or otherwise purchased their home in Ladd in 1912. This contradicts the marriage date of 1904 listed in Anna's Petition for Citizenship to become a US Citizen. But we know that they probably had two different wedding ceremonies.

Finally, it indicates that Abramo quit working in the Ladd mines when it closed in 1924 and then worked in mines in Peru, Mark, and Spring Valley, IL until he apparently retired from mining in 1942. From 1942 until the end of WWII, he and Anna worked at the Hemp Plant in Ladd.

Notes from an Interview with Julia Filippini Pinter and Margaret Filippini Korte, June 26, 2005

(Note: the following are the original notes taken in the interview. Much of this information has been incorporated into this book.)

One major piece of information that came from this interview is that Abramo and Anna apparently had a child while still in Italy. It was reported that this child, name unknown, died while being held by Anna and that this occurred while Abramo was in the USA, which was probably the time from between 1906 and 1908. See the discussion above about baby Ada.

Another piece of information is that Abramo was at one time a member of the French Army (or he participated in a French War...the exact details are not clear). It is unknown how and when this occurred or why considering he was Italian. In addition, the name Galiano, which was Abramo's nickname, apparently came from this experience in the French Army. See the discussion above.

Dina, the first child born in the USA, had the measles and this may have caused her death.

These points were made regarding the family's eating habits in Ladd:

- They raised and ate chickens.
- They had a large grape vine in the back yard which produced enough grapes to make jellies and wine (Note: I recall this grapevine covering a rather large arbor in the years when I visited there as a child.
- Eggs and bacon were rare and considered a delicacy.
- The family ate a lot of oxtail.

- Oatmeal was a major food.
- Ravioli was served in a chicken broth, not a sauce.
- They raised cherries, apples, and vegetables plus plums and apricots...plums and apricots were then canned.
- Polenta was a frequent food, including at lunch.
- A pig was occasionally purchased for eating.

Both Abramo and his son Olinto worked in the mines. They would return from work covered in black soot and with many head scratches. They somehow were able to ride a bus to the mine.

The Whippet car was apparently a family car and was driven by more than one of the children. Abramo did not drive. Margaret said it belonged to Paul.

They apparently would buy and send clothes of various types back to relatives in Italy. One funny story that was told is that after this effort to send clothes to Italy, some relatives wrote back that they did not like the color choices!

Sleeping arrangements were such that the kids slept three to a bed and in what was later the house's dining room. On hot days, they would all sleep on the porch.

The children would be reprimanded if they spoke English while at home.

Abramo died of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Dino became a boxer at a young age and it was mentioned that he boxed a few rounds with Joe Lewis at one time in his career, probably associated with the Golden Gloves competition that began in 1928.

The family apparently did not have a Christmas tree in the very early years. Christmas stockings were used and were stuffed with fruit and nuts.

The girls had a doll to share and the boys had a wagon. The girls played hopscotch, the boys played kick the can. They had no bicycles.

The family made wine from the grape vines. They stomped the grapes in a large vat. The wine was special and Anna would forbid opening the wine except for special occasions.

Julia and Margaret used these words to describe their dad and mom:

Dad – easy going and happy

Mom – loving, caring

Everyone walked to school, but they wanted to come home for lunch to see mom and have polenta for lunch.

They all went to Church on Sunday.

Alma made clothes for her sisters.

There used to be a swing under the grape vine arbor.

Sometime between 1928 and 1934, Anna received a letter from Italy that her mother had died.

Dino delivered cheese for the Bernardini dairy...at age 14.

Text of email from Sauro Agostini, Pistoia Italy, to Mike Filippini, early 2002

Dear Mike and Anna,

I spoke with Loris, but he doesn't know of Abramo and Olinto before they immigrate to America. He knows that Abramo went a first time alone, after some years he came back, married Anna and went to America again. So, I don't have any specific story, but I can write about how was the life in Stabiazioni, where things didn't change significantly until after the second world war.

The life was very hard. Usually people had enough to not die of hunger, but only if working like a dog. The main food was chestnuts. From dried chestnuts they obtained chestnuts flour, that was the base for a lot foods and dishes. Wheat flour was a luxury and it was used for making pasta on Sunday and Holidays only. Wheat didn't grow well in the mountains, so the production was low.

The "neccio" (plural "necci") was the main way of cooking chestnut flour. The traditional way of cooking "necci" is a beautiful real show. We have, before, to find chestnuts leaves. Not all the leaves are good, we must choose flat leaves. The leaves are washed. A cream is made with flour and water. Special, perfectly round flat stones are placed on the fire and stay there until they are very hot. The cooker creates a stack with a stone, some leaves, some chestnuts cream, other leaves, another stone and so on. The stack is reversed, to have all the "necci" cooked the same time. The result is a lot of sweet. crepes called "necci". These were the bread for all the day.

This cooking technique is disappearing today, but Delia, Loris's wife, is capable to cooking this way and a couple of time per year she cooks necci with the very, very old method of the stones and the fire.

The most part of the mountains between 500 and 900 meters (1500-2700 feet) are covered by chestnuts trees. They cultivated wheat, maize, vegetables, potatoes and other things, but the production was low, because the winter was long and the cultivation techniques very poor.

In the Winter there was nothing to do, so all the men went to Maremma for 6-7 months. Maremma is in the south part of the Tuscany and they went there to cut trees and to make wood carbon.

The house in Stabiazioni, from which Abramo went to America, is very old. The date "1530" is sculpted on one of the house stones. Probably it was built on the ruins of a previous castle that controlled the Middle Age road from Pistoia to Bologna. The road was very frequented because it

was one of the roads used by the north European pilgrims to go to Rome. It (the home) was restored 18 years ago.

Once time, about 200 people lived in Stabiazioni; now, in Winter, only 10 people live there, but in summer, specially in August, the Village lives again. People like to spend some vacation to find again a style of life far only 18 Km (10 miles) from Pistoia but at least 100 years from the frenetic life in the cities.

I'm mixing a lot of different stories in this e-mail, but I hope that some would be interesting for you.

Greetings to all. Sauro

<< end of email >>

Life in the Ladd Coal Mine

It is known that Abramo Filippini spent most of his working life in the United States working as a coal miner in and around Ladd, IL. His military registration form lists him as a coal miner for the Third Vein Coal Company. This may be the company that managed the Ladd mine although there are many references to the Whitebreast Fuel Company and the Ladd Coal Company in documentation about Ladd. In fact, this was the career of many Italians who lived in and around Ladd.

The Ladd Coal mine was first opened in 1890. (This is the year that Ladd officially became a municipality). It thrived until the decline of Northern Illinois coal mining and was closed for good in December 1924. Abramo probably went to work for them soon after his first arrival in the United States in 1906. It is possible that for the first years, or until he was able to acquire his home on Chicago Street, that he and maybe Anna lived in a "camp" near the coal mine, as this was frequently how workers were housed in the early years of coal mining. Or maybe they boarded with Oreste or another acquaintance in Ladd. This is unknown.

Abramo's work title was "digger" which meant his job deep in the mine was to pick and then shovel coal into mule drawn carts. The mules pulled the carts to the main shaft and the coal was then hauled to the surface to be loaded onto trains. Diggers in the early 20th century were paid by the ton, around \$1.00 per ton, and it is said that diggers could load 5-6 tons in a single day of back-breaking labor.

In 1915, Abramo was one of about 675 mine workers in Ladd. By 1924, when the mine closed, he was one of about 400 workers who lost their jobs. But, there was mine work to be done in other areas and so he worked the rest of his mining career in mines near Peru, Mark, and Spring Valley. If he did in fact work until 1942, that means he quit mining at the age of about 68! (Then he and Anna went to work in the hemp factory in Ladd.)

A very interesting study regarding immigrants and the Illinois coal mining industry was published in 1920. You can see this report on line at:

<http://www.archive.org/details/immigrantcoalmin00abbo>

Some key paragraphs from this report (titled: “The Immigrant and Coal Mining Communities of Illinois”) are reproduced here:

CHANGES IN ILLINOIS MINING COMMUNITIES

There have been important racial changes in the history of mining in Illinois. The pioneer workers were American, English, Irish, Scotch, Welsh, German, and a few French and English Canadian. In 1890 only 7 per cent of the employees in the mines and quarries of Illinois were from non-English speaking countries other than Germany and the Scandinavian states. By 1899 about 25 per cent were from France, Italy, Russia, Austria-Hungary, and Belgium. With the opening of new fields from 1902 to 1907, and the consequent extraordinary development of coal mining in the Middle West, the number of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe in these fields increased. This was especially true of Illinois. In some of mining towns the recent immigrants displaced the older immigrants, but in many places the coming of the Italian, Lithuanian, and Russian was coincident with the opening of the new mines. At present there are mining communities in Illinois in which practically the entire population are recent immigrants from southern and eastern Europe. Poor roads and lack of other transportation facilities have resulted in an isolation of some of these communities not found in any of the industrial towns of the state.

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HISTORY OF RACIAL CHANGES

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The Italians were among the first of the recent immigrants to go into mining. As early as 1899 they were the largest foreign group with the exception of the Germans and there probably are now twice as many Italians as there are of any other one nationality working in the coal mines in Illinois. They had a part in the development of the northern mines as well as in the more recently opened southern ones. The Poles were next in importance to the Italians in 1899; but since that date they have not been entering the mines in great numbers, and, more than the other nationalities, they have left for industrial employment in cities and towns, so that in the mining communities they are at present surpassed in numbers by the Lithuanians as well as by the Italians

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FOUR COUNTIES SELECTED AS BASIS OF THE STUDY

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Coal production is declining in Bureau County, and instead of the problems that come with mushroom towns, it has those of the all but deserted village. In many of the towns there is discontent among those who wish to leave for more profitable fields of employment and are prevented from going because they own property which they cannot sell.

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Bureau County is, however, representative of the older coalfields whose mines have been largely developed by foreign labor. As early as 1900, 21.6 per cent of its population was foreign born and by 1910 the foreign born formed 23 per cent of its total population. The four main groups were Swedish, German, Italian, and Russian, the last two being numerically much the more important. The mines are in the southeastern part of the county, and here the foreign born have constituted a larger per cent of the population than in the county as a whole. For example, in Spring Valley only 8 per cent were native born of native parentage, and 42 per cent were of foreign birth. Exclusive of the Lithuanians and Poles in Spring Valley the miners of Bureau County are now almost entirely Italian, with a few Slovaks and Belgians, but practically no Croatians, Serbians, Magyars, and others who are to be found in the southern and central field. The original workers in these mines were said to be English speaking men who came from the Braidwood field, just south of Bureau County, which gave out just as the Bureau County mines were being opened. The non-English speaking foreign born soon began to come. At first there was opposition to them on the part of the English-speaking miners and many of the latter left. By 1899 as many as 58 per cent of those reporting their nationality were from eastern and southern Europe. The Italians were among the first to come. The Coal Report of 1899 shows that even then 780 out of a total of 3,071 miners in the county were Italians.³ A partial census taken by an Italian priest in Spring Valley in 1911 showed that at that time many of the Italian families had lived there twenty to twenty-five years and that there were some second and even third-generation Italians in the community.

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PREVIOUS OCCUPATIONS OF THE IMMIGRANT MINERS OF ILLINOIS

Immigration from Eastern Europe has been in the main a peasant migration, so that it is not surprising to find that in the mines, as in the factories, most of the men were farm laborers or farmers before they came to the United States. The experience of 380 of the 556 men from whom schedules were secured had been limited to farming before they emigrated. Only 43 had worked in the mines in Europe. Of this number

was as interesting group of 14 Lithuanians who had first gone from the farms of Lithuania to the coal mines in the vicinity of Glasgow, Scotland, and from there had come to the United States; there were also 6 Sicilians, all of whom had worked in the sulphur mines in Villa Rosa, in Sicily; there were 5 French miners who had worked in the coal mines of France before they emigrated; and, indicative of the movement of Italians to France and Germany, there were 3 North Italians who had previously worked in both French and German mines. A very large per cent of all immigrants coming to the United States are destined to friends or relatives already here; and instead of attempting to begin the American experiment unaided or unadvised, they rely upon the advice or help of relatives or countrymen. The knowledge of employment opportunities that the friends or relatives have is usually confined to their own immediate environment. This explains the fact that 425 of the 556 men from whom Schedules were secured had never worked at anything but mining in the United States: it also explains why those immigrants who were skilled workers in a trade for which there was no market in the particular community to which this tie of relationship or friendship led them never followed their trade here. In the course of the schedule-taking men were found working in the mines who had been millers, carpenters, bricklayers, shoemakers, tanners, blacksmiths, and clerks in their European homes. A few of them preferred mining to their old trades, but most of them had gone into the mines because they were in a mining district and they took it for granted that they could not find work at their trade. Most of them had come to a camp or a town which had grown up around a mine, and unless it was on the edge of an industrial town, mining was at least the easiest choice. Over and over again those who had been farmers or farm laborers at home said that they worked in the mines because it was the best-paying job they could get when they came; some of them said they preferred farm work, but "it takes too much money to be a farmer here" and farm hands are not so well paid as miners.

LIVING CONDITIONS – HOUSING

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In Bureau County, housing conditions were better. There, out of 115 families for whom schedules were secured, 39 families lived in four-room house 3 in fewer, and 68 in more than that number. In 80 of the homes visited, in the four counties in the course of the inquiry there were two or more persons per room: in 7 the rate was three or more persons per room.

ILLITERACY AMONG THE MINERS AND THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES OF THE MINING TOWNS

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Attempts to show that a knowledge of English could be made a test of loyalty to American ideals or of the moral worth of the individual have always failed. So also have attempts to promote a love of the United States by disparaging the cultural, spiritual, or economic contributions of the non-English speaking nationalities. In determining the per cent in the Illinois mining towns who have not learned to read, write, or speak English, or have not become citizens, the Commission has attempted to do neither of the above. It has, however, assumed that for participation in the life of the community a knowledge of English is necessary. It is important, therefore, to both the individual and the community that it be within the range of reasonable possibility for all those who reside in the United States to learn English and become acquainted with current community problems and their historical setting. The important fact which emerged from this study was not so much the numbers who are still separated from us by language barriers but the almost complete lack of provision which had been made for the removal of that barrier. It may be safely assumed that all foreign-born residents would like to know English. This desire is weakened by many facts. Our language must be learned by these men and women during the leisure hours that come after a long working day. This is the most important reason why the desire to learn English remains for many a mere desire. After a miner has acquired the vocabulary of his work more English is of little economic value to him, as most of the foreign born in the mining towns remain miners or miners' helpers. To become licensed miners they must work two years at the face of the mine and take an examination which is given in English. This examination is, however, a technical one and a knowledge of the working terms, together with the practical experience they have had, is said to enable them to pass it without general English vocabulary. The men then do not need to know English either to hold a job or to get the first promotion. But, although not an economic necessity, they realize the value of a knowledge of the language of the country. They know they are handicapped at the union meetings, which are conducted in English; they know how difficult travel is for them and how shut off they are from Americans because they do not speak our language. Even those who do not expect to remain in the United States would be glad to return with a knowledge of English. Despite the seeming acquiescence in their isolation, it may be assumed that all of them desire American contacts, and although it is the cause of many a heartache, are proud of their Americanized children. To what extent they are offered an opportunity to share in what is available for their children is the question of real importance. In the 26 mining towns and cities covered in the investigation only four offered classes of any kind for adults last year. In three of these communities, evening classes were held in the school building and taught by day-school teachers, but the expenses of the classes were met out of a fee charged those who attended. These were men who were being coached for their naturalization examinations. In the fourth place, Springfield, there has been a regular evening school; since its legality was questioned, the school has been kept open by contributions mainly from the Daughters of the American Revolution. It is not surprising therefore to find, as the following table shows, that only 63 out of 556 men and 16 out of 527 women from whom schedules were secured were able to both read and write English. Forty-nine other men and 11 other women were able to read but not

to write the language. A larger number, 421 men and 247 women, had learned to speak English many of them very poorly but still sufficiently to make themselves understood at work or at the store. While only 80 of the men and 107 of the women were unable to read and write in their native language, 493 of the men and 509 of the women were illiterate from an English standpoint. The immigrant women always have more difficulty in learning English. In some of the mining towns the feeling that a woman only needs to know how to look after the housework affects not only the learning of English by the mothers but is the cause of the girls being kept out of school at the earliest possible date, sometimes in violation of the compulsory education law. In a few places some efforts had been made to break down this prejudice. In one town, for example, the priest had organized a class for the women, but although a number of them came they were said to be so timid that little progress was made.

THE PROFITS OF THE MINER

Before the war the wage scale for the mines was negotiated by the mine operators and the Union. During the war the Fuel Administration was an important factor in these negotiations. Since the Armistice there has been much public discussion, bitterness, and confusion in connection with rate-fixing, and a long controversy as to whether agreements made for the period of the War were or were not still binding, and whether the government control should be continued. In the discussion of hours and wages there has been little appreciation on the part of the public of a most important factor in the problem. Most of the men work on a tonnage basis, so that, as for all piece work, the saying is "the miner is paid what he earns." His own skill is, however, not the only factor in his earnings. In the United States as a whole the annual and the daily output of coal per underground worker is greater than in any country in the world, notwithstanding the fact that the working year is usually shorter here than in other countries.¹ Whether the coal bed is faulty, whether the seam is thin or deep, whether machinery can be and is used, the general mine equipment, the car supply, and the accident rate are among the factors that determine what the worker can earn. These factors, with the same wage scale, produce the greatest inequalities in payment from mine to mine and field to field. They are, however, factors which the miner knows, and he is able to forecast what his earnings will be if he has the opportunity to work. What he does not know is how many days of work he will have. This is true in Illinois as in other mining states. In the year ending July 1, 1919, out of 38 counties in which at least 100 men were employed in mining there were only 11 counties in which, out of a possible 308 working days, the average number of days worked was 200; in only 3 counties was the average as high as 225. (Footnote: The Annual Coal Report of Illinois does not give the wages the men receive; no pay-roll study was attempted, and the men in most cases do not know accurately what their yearly earnings are). The men usually do know pretty accurately what their highest and lowest pay checks have been. This question was asked those who were interviewed in the course of the investigation. In Bureau County, out of 96 men from whom schedules were

secured, only 18 said they had ever received as much as \$80.00 (payments are made every two weeks), and not one of them had had as much as \$90.00. For some the maximum pay check was \$60.00 and \$65.00. The minimum sometimes ran as low as \$5.00, \$10.00, and \$12.00. In Bureau County the men who were paid on the day basis were considered the best paid, while in the richer southern fields exactly the reverse was true. The range of payment in Franklin and Williamson counties was much higher. In the southern counties one man reported a check of \$156.00 for two weeks' work. He is a shot firer, a Lithuanian, who was 36 years of age when he came to the United States; has been here ten years, and has lived eight years in this town. His lowest pay check was \$3.00 in 1919. He reports his yearly earnings as \$2,400. The man has a wife and four children, owns his own home, and has a cow and chickens. He still hopes to be able to farm. Some other concrete examples are: A Russian Pole, was 37 years old when he came to the United States, and has lived for seven years in the town in which he was interviewed. His maximum pay check was \$92.00 for two weeks' work in 1919, the lowest \$12.00. His wife reports that their bills at the company store are usually \$40.00 to \$45.00 and that he often draws very little in cash. He has four children, and he has saved enough to buy an automobile. In the four counties covered in this Investigation the average number of days worked was as follows: Bureau 206, Franklin 202, Sangamon 225, and Williamson 183. A Ruthenian, has lived eighteen years in the United States, eight years in Illinois, and four years in the camp in which he now lives. His highest check in 1919 was \$60.00. He reports that he earned about \$900.00 that year. He has a wife and three children, the oldest eight years of age. He has one boarder, who pays \$7.50 a week. The wife says they "spend everything they earn for food." They trade at the Union store when they have money. They can get credit at the Ruthenian grocery store when work is slack. A Croatian, was 36 years of age on arrival in the United States and six years in Illinois. His highest pay check in 1919 was 148.00, and his lowest \$8.00. He usually gets from \$30.00 to \$40.00. He estimates his annual earnings at \$900.00. He has six children; the two oldest are employed in the mine on a \$3.00 a day rate. His wife says that they spend about \$35.00 every two weeks for food and that they are always in debt. A Croatian, was thirty-six years of age on arrival in the United States and came to the town in which he now lives fourteen years ago. During 1919 his highest pay check was \$80.00 for two weeks' work. Often his pay check was as low as \$10.00 or \$15.00. His wife reports that it costs about \$30.00 every two weeks for food. There are seven children, the oldest 11 years of age. He belongs to a Croatian benevolent society. In Sangamon County work was as a whole more regular than in Williamson or Franklin counties. Still, in the individual mines, there is much irregularity. One man whose highest pay check was \$145.00 had a total yearly income of \$1,776.00. Another who was 36 years of age on arrival, has been twenty years in the United States and thirteen in Springfield, had received a maximum pay check of \$110.00 and a minimum one of \$8.00 in 1919. He thinks his average has been about \$40.00. He has seven children, the oldest 9 years of age. This irregularity of work not only means that the yearly income is far below what the rates of pay would lead the public to expect, but it means that a wise expenditure of what they do receive is impossible. A budget system cannot be planned on this uncertain outlook. As one

discouraged mother said, "You put it in the bank today and have to draw it out next pay day." Alternating between a large check and a very small one and credit usually means foolish expenditures when the pay is exceptionally good and deprivation when the pay envelope is slim. The accidents which are almost the common lot of the miner complicate very greatly this problem of making both ends meet.

THE HAZARDS OF THE MINER

There had been no great mining disasters in Illinois before the Cherry Fire, when 259 men were killed, and there has been none since that time. There have been only two mining disasters in the United States resulting in a greater number of fatalities. Cherry is to Illinois a warning of the kind of tragedy that may, but we believe never will, occur again. However, every year there are some fatal accidents and a very much larger number of non-fatal ones. Falling slate, rock and coal ; gas, powder and shot explosions ; trolley wires, mine cars and locomotives; falling down shafts and other accidents take their yearly toll of men. The rate of men killed for every 1,000 employed in the mines of Illinois was 2.43 in 1914; 1.80 in 1915 ; 1.69 in 1916 and 2.77 in both 1917 and 1918. Of the 208 fatal accidents in 1919, 116 of the men were American born and 92 foreign born. The non-fatal accidents are, of course, much more frequent. In the State 138,811 days were lost during the year ending July 1, 1919, by 2,515 men who were injured and returned to work. In Williamson County alone there were 323 men during that year who were so seriously injured that they lost thirty or more days of work. Altogether 18,967 days of work were lost by these men in Williamson County. 3 In Franklin County, during the year 1919, one man out of every thirty-two employed in the mines was injured so that he lost at least thirty days of work and the time lost through injuries of this magnitude amounted to 29,784 days. 4 The actual loss of time would be shown to be much greater if the minor injuries which require men to stay at home a few days or a few weeks were included These figures are open to the general criticism which can be made against most accident figures in the United States. As they do not take into consideration the number of hours the men are employed the accident exposure rate cannot be determined. Of this number 23 were Italian, 15 were Lithuanian, 12 Austrian. 7 Scotch, 5 German, 5 Russian and the remaining were representatives of eleven other nationalities. These figures do not include time lost by twenty men in Williamson and two men In Franklin Counties who had not returned to work at the end of the year. 33 The Compensation Law has made payment for injuries much more certain and so has reduced the family suffering which used to be incident to a miner's accident. Still half-pay means real privation and even this is not always collected. The Miners' Union maintains a legal department, which looks after the men's cases, but still unfair settlements are sometimes accepted through ignorance or to avoid the delay of an appeal to the Industrial Board.

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Italian Given Names Found in the Abramo Filippini Family

From: <http://italian.about.com/library/weekly/aa052301a.htm>
with help from Sauro Agostini:

Abramo Derived from the Hebrew *'Abhram* or *'Abraham*, name of the Biblical founding patriarch of the people of Israel, meaning "father of the people."

Anna: Derived from the Hebrew *Hannah* meaning "grace" or "graceful." Second most popular feminine Italian name due to its religious origin.

Dina: Derived from the Hebrew *Dinah* "with he who judges." Is also the shortened form of the diminutive for many names such as **Bernarda** and others. Feminine form of Dino.

Dino: Derived from the Hebrew *Dinah* "with he who judges." Is also the shortened form of the diminutive for many names such as **Bernardo, Corrado, Riccardo**, and others.

Olinto: Son of Hercules who founded the city by the same name in Thrace.

Paolo (Paul): Derived from the nickname and Latin first name *paulus*, diminutive of *paucus*, "little, not big," and means "small, modest."

Alma: Taken from the Latin adjective *almus* "who nourishes, gives life to" and used as the title for many Roman divinities.

Irma: A Germanic compound name, with the first element *irmin-* or *ermin-* meaning "large, powerful."

Margaret: Derived from the Hebraic language and means pearl, or pure as a pearl. The Italian spelling is Margherita and means the flower "daisy". This meaning has endured for more than 1000 years.

Julia: Spelled Giulia in Italian. It is the feminine version of the male name Giulio.

Delmo: Name of Germanic origin deriving from *athala* "of noble birth," or *alda* "old" and *helma* "helmet, protection," Latinized into the medieval form of *Adhelmus* or *Adelmus*.

Oreste: Derived from the Greek name *Orestes*, composed in turn from *oros*, "mount," and means therefore "inhabitant of mountains, mountain dweller."

Gioconda: Derived from the Latin word "locunda" and means "happy".

Giulio: From the Latin surname *Iulius*, probably a derivative of *Iovis* "Jupiter."

Galiano: Not in this listing

Ada: A name of German origin, meaning noble, nobility, or island or "first-born female". It is found in many other languages.

Abramo and Anna Filippini's Children and Grandchildren

Olinto Filippini Family

Name	Born	Died	Married	Children
Olinto Filippini	12/8/1910	9/12/1982	1/19/1935	
Mary Cioni	1/19/1916	9/10/1979		
Louise Ann	9/6/1935	10/27/1987	Theodore De Serf	3/7
Lynn	1/9/1937		Joann Riva	3/6

- Olinto was a bricklayer and/or a coal miner
- Olinto was called “Specs” by his brothers and sisters.
- Mary had a business making raviolis (see note below)

Note. In these tables you will see a number such as 3/7 under the Children column. In the above table, for example, the 3/7 means that Louise and Ted had 3 children and those 3 children produced 7 offspring. Missing numbers indicates that the author does not have the actual data.

Alma Filippini Ellerbrock Family

Name	Born	Died	Married	Children
Frank Ellerbrock	10/28/1901	2/12/1980	1/18/1934	
Alma Anne Filippini	8/24/1912	4/28/2006		
Nina	7/6/1937		David R. Lane	4/5
Robert	12/8/1940	7/30/2021	Joann VonderOhe Maureen Taken	3/3

- Frank was a bricklayer.
- Frank and Alma lived most of their married life next door to Abramo and Anna.

Dino Filippini Family

Name	Born	Died	Married	Children
Dino Benjamin Filippini	4/3/1914	1/16/1993	6/7/1941	
Dorothy Rose Grivetti	10/24/1921	1/9/2000		
Edward Anthony	10/21/1942		Maria Stragapede	1
Gary Joseph	9/26/1946		Kathy J. Ratkiewicz	2
Laurie Jean	2/25/1948		James R. Kearney	1
Marcia	1/25/1949		Delbert John Pinter	4
Linda	7/21/1950		Burton B. McRoy	0
Monica	8/18/1952		James G. Dale	0
Michael	11/30/1953		Patricia Marie Squier	2
Bernadette	4/24/1962		Patrick Moncher	2

- Dino was a boxer in his youth.
- Dino owned a gas station in Ladd.

Delmo Filippini Family

Name	Born	Died	Married	Children
Delmo Robert Filippini	3/14/1916	2/7/2007		
Bertha Mae Buckingham	12/25/1918	7/2/2004		
Carol Ann	8/27/1947	8/23/2020	Leo Pohlman	5/5
Dorothy E. Fosen Campbell	11/12/1915	10/29/1994	7/19/1961	
Dennis (stepson)				
Rose Mary Petree			3/1/1996	
No children				

Julia Filippini Pinter Family

Name	Born	Died	Married	Children
Harold Philip Pinter	4/28/1914	11/1/1988	9/22/1940	
Julia Patricia Filippini	11/24/1919	6/28/2007		
Kenneth Ray	5/4/1947		Christine Flagge Diane Rachal Newberry	2/4 2/2 *
Kathy Ann	12/6/1951		John Francis Hein	3/6
Kim Marie	6/26/1964		Bruce Spengler	2/0

*= from previous marriage

Margaret Filippini Korte Family

Name	Born	Died	Married	Children
Glenn A. Korte	5/6/1923	2/2/2005	6/1/1946	
Margaret Ann Filippini	6/20/1922	10/1/2006		
James V.	1/16/1948	9/22/2007	Theresa G. Polcyn	8/9
Cheryl	11/14/1952		Greg J. Samolinski	3
Mary Ann	3/2/1956		Michael A. Jally	3
Christine M.	12/25/1961		John Worwa	2

- Jim's wife Theresa, and his mother, Margaret, were killed in a car accident in 2006. Jim was severely injured and recovered somewhat but died about eleven months later due to complications.

Paul Filippini Family

Name	Born	Died	Married	Children
Paul James Filippini	4/6/1926	12/10/2001	4/21/1951	
Geraldine Mae Zimmerman	1/22/1926	3/2/2003		
Paula	5/22/1952	4/8/2019	Randall Michael Sheedy	2
Arlette Sue	7/2/1953		Gregory Martin Woodshank	2
Michele Ann	2/17/1956		James Jay Hanck	2
Nancy	4/12/1961		Greg Galletti	2

- Paul worked in the “rubber plant” near Ladd.
- He had a large garden in his back yard. He lived most of his married life next door to Abramo and Anna.

Abramo and Anna Filippini Descendant Count as of June 2002, partially updated 2008

Children	9/7 (9 born, 7 survived)
Grandchildren	24
GreatGrandchildren	62 (count is incomplete)
GreatGreatGrandchildren	39 (count is incomplete)
Total direct descendents	134 (minimum)

Ravioli

Ravioli, as made and consumed by this Filippini family, are not what you might expect them to be based on ravioli sold at local supermarkets. In fact, the Filippini ravioli was more like tortellini.

Ravioli were typically small, about the size of a quarter. They were made by first cutting a flattened dough ball into squares maybe 2 inches on each side. Then a dab of meat sauce was placed on the square, and with a twisting action of both hands the dough was turned into a small package with the meat in the middle. They were then frozen or dried for later use.

The ravioli were typically boiled in a chicken broth, like a soup, and sometimes, but not often, prepared with a red sauce.

Recollections

This section contains a list of Recollections contributed by members of the Filippini family:

From Ken Pinter

Behind Abramo and Anna's house in Ladd was an arbor. An extensive grapevine grew on this arbor. That must have been the source of grapes that Abramo used to make his wine and Anna her preserves.

For many years during my childhood, going to Ladd on Sunday was the norm. An early dinner occurred in the house and was typically comprised of spaghetti followed by fried chicken and other sides. Seems like that at times raviolis were served in a broth. I guess this lasted until the family outgrew the house at which time the event was moved outside.

Uncle Paul had a big garden behind his house.

For a number of years after I was born, the Filippini outhouse remained in the back yard out near the alley...unused as far as I knew.

Mom used to make Polenta and Bagna Couda at home. For those readers who don't know, BC was a sauté of butter and anchovy paste in which we dipped chunks of cabbage. She pronounced it "bunya calda"...at least, that is what it sounded like to me.

I can recall Aunt Mary making raviolis at grandma's house.

Mom and her siblings spoke Italian at the family get-togethers since Abramo and Anna could not speak English.

Grandpa would call out Cousin Cheryl's name but it came out as "Shaaaaadow". At least it sounded like "shadow" to me.

There was a concrete platform on the side of the house and a hand operated water pump on top of this platform.

They called Uncle Olinto "Specs". For years as a kid I didn't know why. Much later I found that it was because he wore glasses. Duh!

Family reunions were held in the yards of Uncle Paul, Grandma, and Aunt Alma for years until the gang got so big that they had to move it to the park.

Uncle Paul's Studebaker. Uncle Glen's yellow convertible. Cousin Bob's VW Bug. He actually let me drive it once (I steered, he shifted).

The door in the floor of the upstairs dining room that led to the basement, a place I never went.

From Nina Ellerbrock Lane

I can remember Grandma and Grandpa walking home from the hemp factory during the war. Both Dino and Paul were in the service, along with your dad and Uncle Glenn. They both looked so tired, having walked in from the factory which was just west of town.

Also before they put the kitchen up where the porch once was, the kitchen downstairs always had the coal stove going, where grandma made bread often, and sometimes fried some of the dough and spread it with butter. So good!!! At that time they had no refrigerator and the ice man delivered ice a couple of times a week, I think.

Then, of course, who could forget the outdoor privy? There was one at our home too, before all the remodeling.

I can recall before they had TV, that they would be playing casino. It was a card game and they taught me how to play too, so we could play together. Also I remember Grandpa and Bob and I and Paul all sitting under the grape arbor between our home and theirs. And when it was in season, he had a sprig of basil behind his ear. Also I remember how many times the poor man had ulcer attacks. He would have to drink cream and watch his diet. Today, a few shots of antibiotics and he'd be cured. Grandma came to our home at least once a day just to talk to mom and see what was going on. Grandpa spent a lot of time in the garden, and he was very proud of it.

(Note on basil from a web site: “..... In Italy, where a common name for basil is kiss-me-Nicholas, it is considered a sign of love. An Italian girl with a sprig of basil behind her ear is looking for a kiss, a man with basil in his lapel is looking for a mate....”)

I wonder if you remembered at grandmas when she cooked on Sundays, I can remember her making polenta and putting it on a dishtowel in the middle of the table. There was some kind of stew or meat sauce to eat with it. And did I tell you about the ice box in the back room near the furnace? They had ice delivery once or twice a week. Also milk delivery. I recall her kneading bread dough and baking it in the coal? wood ? stove in the kitchen downstairs. You probably know, they never had a car. I think when Paul got his, that was the first time they were able to ride. And not very often.

From Kathy Pinter Hein

She used to make her own pasta for ravioli. I'm not sure if she made spaghetti or not. I remember riding in Uncle Pauli's Studebaker to go get root beer. We used to take Grandma wherever we went. How we all fit in that car, I don't know. I guess we were all little so we could all fit.

From MaryAnn Korte Jalley

One interesting story was sitting by the grapevines in the back yard and always getting in trouble with Nonni for eating them because she liked to make jelly with them. We also liked to play in the outhouse and she didn't like it because she was afraid we would get hurt.

From Carol Ann Philippini Pohlman

Ken, I don't know why but my mom said that when my dad signed his marriage license on the day of their wedding, he signed it Delmo Philippini. He told mom that it was originally spelled that way in Italy but had changed through the years and he wanted to go back to the original spelling. Who knows why? My mom was shocked but went along with it. In later years, many of the family wondered why I spelled my name so different. I had no explanation, I was as surprised as they were.

From Michele Filippini Hanck

She told me she (Ada) died in bed with her. I believe she had the flu or something, she never told me her name only that she was a girl. When I asked about the trip here never would answer my questions. Oh how I treasured those nights with her. She would wait for me on Thurs mornings to come over and have coffee with her. Aunt Alma and I were the only ones that she would let wash her clothes but only certain ones. I miss her so much.

Copy/paste these next two links into your browser and then zoom in as needed to see aerial views of Casa Peli and Stabiazioni:

<http://maps.google.it/maps/ms?hl=it&ie=UTF8&msa=0&ll=44.083115,10.984172&spn=0.004085,0.00677&t=h&z=17&msid=115754582891099901740.00045f6e36bedfce08eff>

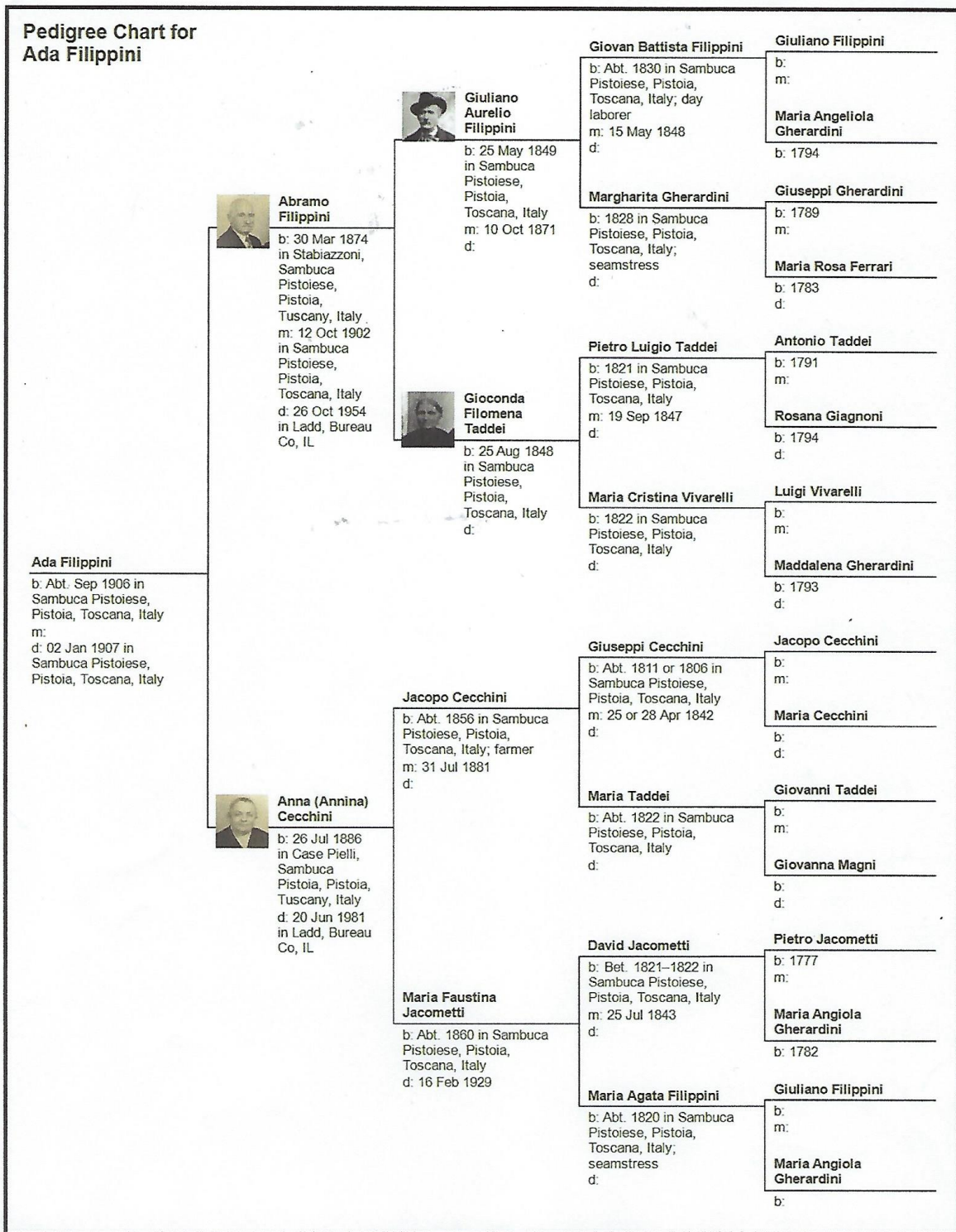
http://maps.google.com/maps?source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=stabiazioni&vps=1&jsv=196c&sll=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=29.716225,41.835938&ie=UTF8&hq=stabiazioni+loc:&radius=15000.000000&split=1

Google:

- ✓ Tuscany
- ✓ Pistoia
- ✓ Sambuca Pistoiese
- ✓ San Pellegrino al Cassero
- ✓ Ladd Illinois Coal Mine
- ✓ Coal Miners Life Illinois

Filippini/Cecchini Partial Family Tree Diagram

Showing baby Ada's ancestry



<< The End >>