

**Angelo Salvatore Giangreco** 

March 6, 1902 – Sept 5, 1987

## Racalmuto, Sicily

# Introduction Historical Information

I have received permission to use the following historical information as published by **Sam Migliore**, **PhD** from his work entitled: *Hamilton's Racalmuto: Immigration*, *Cultural Identity*, *and the Festa del Monte*. I use it as an introduction, in order to provide an appropriate context.

Hamilton, Canada is 30 miles outside of Toronto. At this time, there are more descendants from Racalmuto living there than in Racalmuto, Sicily.

As Leonardo Sciascia, the famous Racalmutese writer, stated in Racalmuto for the inauguration of a painting exhibit titled "Ritratti racalmutesi 800" (on June 27, 1981):

Quando un popolo, un paese, una collettività grande o piccola che sia, non è disposta a perdere la memoria, vuol dire che non è disposta nemmeno a perdere la libertà.

"When a people, a nation, a social community (whether large or small) is unwilling to lose its collective memory, it means that it is unwilling to lose its liberty".

Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, has had a history characterized by foreign influence, invasion and domination. When the Greeks arrived in Sicily at approximately 750 B.C., they identified three distinct peoples as occupying the island: the Sikels in the northeast (from the mainland of Italy); the Elymians in the west (from what is today Turkey or the Middle East); and, the Sicans in central Sicily (see Brea; Finle; Correnti, A Short History).

The Greeks referred to the Sicans as the original peoples of Sicily. Within a relatively short period of time, however, the initial Greek colonies expanded to the point where much of the island became Hellenized (Leighton; Smith & Serrati; De Angelis). Since the 3rd Century B.C., Sicily has come under the control or influence of various peoples—Carthaginians; Romans; Vandals; Byzantines; Arabs; Normans; Swabians; Angevins; the Aragonese; Spaniards; Austrians; and, more recently, mainland Italians (see Ahmad; Correnti, A Short History; Finley; both entries for Mack Smith; Norwich; Quatriglio; Runciman).

Sicily officially became part of the newly united Italian state under King Vittorio Emanuele II in **1861** (*Mack Smith, A History of Sicily: Modern Sicily, After 1713; Correnti, A Short History*). This extended period of foreign domination, and often exploitation, created severe social and economic problems for the region.

Italian unification did not improve conditions in the south, including Sicily. As a result, many southern Italians chose out-migration, and later emigration. Some of the more popular emigration destinations included Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, and the United States. "Between 1876 and 1915 more than seven million Italians immigrated to the Americas" (Harney 16).

Dr Migliore continues his work with a focus on Racalmuto and La Festa della Madonna del Monte. Racalmuto is located in a predominantly agricultural area of south-central Sicily. It has a population of about 10,000 inhabitants. Today, the town often is referred to as il paese di **Leonardo Sciascia**. Sciascia (1921-1989), through his extraordinary works of literature and political essays, has helped raise Racalmuto's profile on both the Sicilian and the International scene. The history of the town, however, mirrors the history of Sicily in general.

Although the municipality of Racalmuto officially came into existence around 1232, by order of Emperor Frederick II of Swabia (see Martorana 85; Regione Siciliana 30), the community's roots reach much deeper into the area's historic and prehistoric past. The origins of the community, for example, can be traced to a 9th Century village constructed by the **Arabs**. The name **Racalmuto** comes from the Arabic **Rahal Maut**, meaning "dead" or "abandoned" village. The Arabs named the village Rahal Maut to signify that it was built on or near the ruins of an archaeological site (Martorana; Messana; Parisi; Regione Siciliana).

Within the general vicinity of Racalmuto, a number of archaeological sites or materials have been found dating back to the **Sican** and **Greco-Roman** periods. With the **Norman** conquest of the second half of the 11th Century, various customs and practices were introduced, or reintroduced, to the area—including Christianity as the official religion.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is an important religious figure in Mediterranean countries such as Spain and Italy (see Carroll; Primeggia "La Via Vecchia"; Wolf 294-296). In Sicily, Mary, the Madonna, is recognized officially as the patron saint of the island (see Correnti, Leggende di Sicilia 71-75)

At a more local level, the people of Racalmuto recognize Maria SS. del Monte as their patron saint.

The area, however, is also known for its salt and, in the past, sulphur mines. The town also serves as a centre of commerce for a number of smaller communities in the vicinity.

Some of Leonardo Sciascia's writings actually focus, directly or indirectly, on Racalmuto itself – for example, Le parrocchie di Regalpetra and Morte dell'inquisitore. These two works are published together, in English translation, as <u>Salt in the Wounds</u> (1969).

According to Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum (7-9), this special devotion to Mary may be linked, indirectly, to a much older **Earth Mother** tradition dating back to the prehistoric period in Sicily. (For a discussion of the myth and cult of Mary in the Christian tradition see Warner.)

According to Racalmutese legend, the origins of this devotion to Mary dates back to a set of miracles that took place in the early part of the 16th Century (Martorana; Messana; Migliore, "Religious Symbols"). While on a hunting expedition in North Africa in 1503, Prince Eugenio Gioeni and his companions took refuge from a storm in a nearby cave. In the cave, the first miracle occurred; a mysterious female voice led the party to the discovery of a beautiful statue of the Madonna with child. Prince Gioeni quickly moved to take the statue back to his home in Castronovo, Sicily. To reach Castronovo, however, he and his companions had to travel through Racalmuto. The citizens of Racalmuto were deeply moved by the beauty of the statue, and the holy figure it represented. Count Ercole del Carretto of Racalmuto made every effort to convince Prince Gioeni to allow the statue to remain in Racalmuto. From friendly discussion, the two sides quickly moved to armed conflict over possession of the statue. At that moment, however, the oxen transporting the cart carrying the statue of the Madonna went down on bended knee, while the wheels of the cart sank into the ground. Both sides recognized that a second miracle had just taken place. It was the Madonna herself that made the decision for the statue to remain in Racalmuto. To commemorate the event, the people of Racalmuto built a church on the hill over-looking the town (on the spot where the miracle had taken place), and promised to celebrate a festa in Mary's honour every year.

Maria SS del Monte is the patron saint of Racalmuto, Sicily. Each year, the people of Racalmuto celebrate a festa in honor of the Madonna del Monte. According to local tradition, this **festa** has a long history- a history that spans **over 500 years**. This history, however, is not limited to a particular time and place. La Festa del Monte is something both historical and current, something of great importance to the Racalmutesi in Sicily, in other parts of Italy, and to the Racalmutesi emigrants around the world. It is also something forward looking. It not only tells us something about the past and people's current feelings and attachments, but also their desires for the future.

For many of the Racalmutesi of Hamilton, Ontario, Maria SS del Monte (and the festa celebrated in her honor) has become an important symbol of both their religious faith and their cultural identity. The celebration of the Festa del Monte has become a significant means of expressing and maintaining a sense of attachment to one's native or ancestral place of origin. It is one of the means by which the immigrant generation has mapped out a terrain of "belongingness" within their new socio-cultural environment, and created a way to celebrate their cultural identity with their children (see Fortier; Orsi; Sturino, "Italians"; Varacalli et al). From this point of view, to truly understand oneself and to maintain a sense of dignity and liberty as a Canadian of Racalmutese heritage, it is important to retain the memory of a collective past.

As a phenomenon that has this type of meaning and significance for the Racalmutesi, the Festa del Monte is a topic worthy of further discussion (see Varacalli). This article is my (i.e. Migliore) attempt to unravel some of the details associated with the historical process of creating a new place for oneself and one's children, without losing sight, and memory, of the past.

Migliore, Sam. "Hamilton's Racalmuto: Immigration, Cultural Identity, and the *Festa del Monte*," *Italian Canadiana* 20 (2006): 67-102.

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Dr. Migliore was inducted into the Vancouver Italian Cultural Centre Hall of Fame in 2013.

## **Angelo Salvatore Giangreco**

March 6, 1902 – Sept 5, 1987

Nestled on the side of a mountain, Racalmuto, Sicily (near Agrigento) is a small town steeped in old world charm. The idyllic landscape continues to be populated with sheep even though donkeys have given way to cars and the highway looms adjacent to the old road. The heartaches of those poor villagers who had to leave such a beautiful place must have been deep

One can only imagine what went through the minds of Angelo Giangreco (age 5) and his sister Grazia Giangreco (age 20), as they clung to their mother Paola Cino (age 38). Leaving home (Via Roma 36 - Racalmuto) for a far off land was traumatic enough; traveling steerage class on an ocean liner for about two weeks added to their mounting fears and depression.

Being sent back on a return voyage because no one came to 'claim them' at Ellis Island must have been devastating. Yet, Paola Cino drew strength from within herself and found the courage to return to America on yet another ship, probably the next ship out. The ship manifests shows the trio taking two trips to NYC within one month. This time she would make it. One can only surmise the horrific tale.

They initially traveled on the **Algeria** from Palermo and arrived in New York City on **Nov 6, 1907**. Waiting at Ellis Island for a relative to claim them took a few days which must have seemed like an eternity when you are hungry. The manifest notes that 'Nobody' was their contact in NYC. It also shows that Paola and Grazia could neither read nor write. Paola listed her occupation as housewife. Where was her husband Vincenzo Giangreco? Had he abandoned them? These were desperate times! It certainly looks like no one came to Ellis Island to sponsor them and they were sent back to Italy.

I can't find any record of (my paternal grandfather) **Vincenzo Giangreo** on any manifest. I am not sure ...but the story goes that Vincenzo Giangreco, husband to Paola and father of Angelo and Grazia, was not admitted into the US because one of his hands was deformed. However, even if that were the case, his name would have been on the ship manifest. Was he was sent back, not to be heard from again... or did he not board the ship in Sicily? I need to recheck the US Census. The Canadian relatives (Cino side) in Hamilton (near Toronto) do not know anything about Vincenzo Giangreco. I find this rather sad, as I would like to plug the holes in this story. However, I do think my guess work is accurate, because on second (or fourth) look, I notice a line drawn through their three names on the ship's manifest. Does this mean they were not admitted and sent back to Italy on the very ship which was to have brought them to a land of opportunity (only to reject them)? Unfortunately, I think so.

The information I have (from a cousin in Hamilton (near Toronto), Canada) indicates that Vincenzo had worked for the salt mines in Racalmuto by transporting salt crystals via donkey to the market place. <a href="http://courses.washington.edu/sicilia/pdf/Bre%20SaltSicily.pdf">http://courses.washington.edu/sicilia/pdf/Bre%20SaltSicily.pdf</a>

This heartbreaking story continues. Interestingly enough, there is another ship's manifest showing Paola Cino (age 38) along with her children Grazia Giangreco (age 20) and Angelo Giangreco (age 5). The **Germania** arrived at Ellis Island (via Naples) on November 13, 1907. This time Paola lists a contact in NY named Luigi (her brother). It looks like Paola had survival skills. She was desperate. Paola had no one to turn to in Italy and no contacts in NY, so she fabricated a story. My guess is that others on that ship had done so, as well. I get chills just thinking about it. This time she listed her occupation as laborer. My Cino cousin in Canada tells me that Luigi (Paola's brother) never left Sicily. This further 'confirmed' my suspicions. (However, Vincenzo Giangreco's death certificate was found - he did emigrate.) My guess is that Paola and Grazia did sewing (piece work) which was very common among the Italian and Jewish immigrants living in the Lower East Side. BTW: a visit to the Tenement Museum in New York's 'Little Italy' is very eyeopening. So many families were cramped into such small apartments where they also did work.

It looks like Grazie married soon after her arrival in NYC, because I found yet another manifest that shows that Grazia Giudice *born 1887* (age 30), Calogero Giudice *born 1880* (age 36), Aurelio Giudice (age 3) and Giuseppa Giudice (age 2) departed from Palermo on the **Giuseppe Verdi** and arrived at Ellis Island on **May 30, 1916**. I do not know when / where Grazia Giangreco married **Calogero Giudice**. Here it indicates that they are going to see **Vincenzo Giangreco** at **245** 2<sup>nd</sup> **Avenue NYC**. (That's between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets) Vincenzo is listed as father to Grazia, father-in-law to Calogero and grandfather to each of the children. Was he listed as a 'cover' for them, as it was required that a relative be listed; or did he actually live in NYC with them? I do believe this was a 'cover' story for the immigration authorities.

If I recall the story correctly, Calogero wanted his children to be born in Sicily and so the cross-Atlantic journey was made. They may be in the US Census under **Calogero Giudice.** I have checked, but have not found this information.

As noted and as far as I understand, the reason they all went back to Sicily was because Calogero wanted his children to be born in Italy. Go Figure! I can't imagine another round trip in steerage class. It's amazing they survived!

Another manifest shows that Angelo Giangreco (age 10) and his mother Paola Cino (age 44) left from Naples on the **Cleveland** and arrived at Ellis Island on **Dec 23, 1913**. I am not sure why they went back to Sicily ... or why they even returned to NY... or the whereabouts of Vincenzo Giangreco. Was he actually in NYC? *Naples is quite a distance from Palermo and it was now winter. The crossing must have been horrible*.

From Ellis Island they all went to live in one of the tenement buildings on the Lower East side of NYC. It was where the Italians congregated. Grazie was married to Calogero Giudice, who now with children of his own, was not too thrilled about being saddled with his mother-in-law and her son. Needless to say, he did not take kindly to his new young 'brother-in-law', and was rather abusive. Before too long, Dad was selling newspapers on the street corners and contributing to the 'family income'. The trauma of his new lifestyle was much more problematic for Dad than he would ever admit. My father rarely spoke of his childhood. I am pretty sure that Calogero's employment was erratic (doing odd jobs), as they had to move from one tenement to another all in the Lower East Side (LES) because of non-payment of rent.

My father told me that at one point (at about age 13) he got on line to register for school, but he was so ashamed that they were going to assign him to the third grade with the 8 year olds that he got off the line. That was one of his biggest regrets. Education was so very important to him.

In later years, I encouraged him to take the GED exam, but he felt it was too late. He was autodidactic, i.e. self taught. His primary interests were in current political affairs, world history, classical music and opera. He had an extensive classical music record collection of 78RPMs

After having worked as a newsboy selling the Jewish News on the Lower East Side street corners for 6 or so years, Dad applied for a job at the New York Times. Too young to join the pressman's union, they gave him odd jobs until his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. He remained at the NY Times for over 40 years until his retirement in 1962. Working nights, Dad would bring the newspaper home every morning. He was a union man and very loyal to his employer, so we were not allowed to read any other newspaper (i.e. Daily News or Post). Therefore, I was clueless about all the comic strip characters and unable to discuss them with my peers. Not a big deal.

I have a copy of my father's Certificate of Naturalization dated May 4, 1925 Vol. 232 No.57729. He was 23 yrs of age, single, and living at 35 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street in NYC. I am guessing he was living with his mother whom he was supporting. I visited that building (now condos) and there is a photo of it below.

In 1931 my father took a trip to Italy when he was 29. He returned to NYC from Naples on the **Augustus** on **Sept 15, 1931**. His address was listed as **27 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**, *but he was actually living at a hotel on Times Square (near work)*. Maybe 2<sup>nd</sup> Street was where his sister and her family were living.

The 1940 US Census - Line 26 shows my father living at 122 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street. It may have been a hotel. It looks like he made \$2,900/yr. ...a lot more than most. I know the pressmen's union was strong and that working nights at the NY Times paid well. The pay may have been time and a half or double time for the Saturday shift for the Sunday Times. The press machines were very noisy. OSHA wasn't around then.

Before he met my mom (in 1940 at a B&B in the Catskill Mountains NY) and married (in 1941), he took several international trips. I gained my love for travel from him. The NY Times was hard work, but it paid well. The 1940 US Census notes this (see below). Dad owned several good suits, top coat, hat, etc. He only shopped at Weber & Heilbroner at Herald Square. He felt that one didn't need much; as long as it was quality. That's where we shopped for him for birthdays and other occasions.

In the mid 1960's after my father retired, he returned (with my mother) to his home town of Racalmuto, Sicily. They also visited my mother's childhood home in Calatafimi (near Trapani).

In 1993 we (Tim, Pam, and I) visited Racalmuto (and Calatafimi), albeit for a short stay. It was a great opportunity. I returned in 2008 since I was better able to speak Italian and could make myself understood. This time I was determined to find the local Communale (City Hall). While there, I inquired about my father's birth registration. In no time at all, the representative proudly opened the 1902 book of birth records and found the listing, including the address of the house where he and his sister were born (Via Roma 36 in Racalmuto). Photos are included below. I made a bee-line for the address. During my month long stay in Sicily, I spent time getting to know my parents' homeland. As noted, my mother's family is from the lovely town of Calatafimi (near Trapani). That's another story.

Grazie and Calogero continued to live on the Lower East Side ... at one point on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave near 4<sup>th</sup> Street on the same side of the street as the Provenzano Funeral home 43 Second Ave and a cigar store. Maybe their apartment was at **45 Second Ave.** (see photo below) They had three children: Gaetano, Aurelio, and Giuseppa. Grazie and Calogero never learned how to speak English, so I never had a real relationship with either of them. Calogero (Uncle Charlie) was always rather sad. He didn't smile much, if ever. I do remember Grazia (Aunt Grace) bringing us her home made cookies and a large Hershey (chocolate) bar when they visited us.

We lived in Brooklyn, NYC at 1393 Willoughby Ave apt 3B (a one bedroom apt with one bathroom for six of us ... don't ask). In 1956, we moved into a small new house with three bedrooms and one and half bathrooms) with a backyard - just a few blocks away at 218 Seneca Ave There my maternal grandfather (Paolo Pace) had the entire finished basement to himself. The exception was when we had our teen-age parties; then he had to stay 'upstairs'. Since Dad worked nights, being close to the subway was very important. Our stop was Jefferson Street on the 14<sup>th</sup> St Canarsie Line - now the L train. We used the subway for HS/College/work/etc.

Angelo Giangreco (Dad) 3/6/02 and his wife Constance Pace (Mom) 10/20/07 had three children: Paula (me) 9/21/42, Nancy 10/20/43 and Vincent 1/2/47 *I will write about us later*. My parents meet at a small resort in the Catskill Mountains – a popular get away spot for many New Yorkers. As children, we spent several summer vacations in the Catskill Mountain resorts which catered to Italian families. There was another section in the Catskills which catered to Jewish families. It was known as the Borsch Belt. We also took trips to Tennessee where the publishers of the NY Times owned a huge resort (Rogersville, TN). They offered reasonable summer vacations for their employees. We drove from Brooklyn to Florida a number of times (in our Oldsmobile). I was especially impressed with the drives through the

mountain areas along the Appalachian Trail. The mosquitoes in FL were a challenge, but the beaches were wonderful.

Back to the family:

Grazia Giangreco and her husband Calogero Giudice had three children:

Gaetano (Gerald / Jerry) He and his *first wife* Ruth Caldwell had two children: Gerald and Christine who were raised by Irene, his second wife. His third wife Ruth was with him at his death. He was an arrogant man who worked internationally as a chemical salesman for either Dow or Drew. I think he may have sold napalm, because when I questioned him about the type of chemicals he sold, he was rather evasive. I was there at Belleview Hospital during the last days of my aunt / his mother's life (Grazia) in 1962. *Grazia died at her daughter's (Giuseppa) / Josephine) home and is buried at Calvary Cemetery in Queens NYC)*.

Aurelio (Charlie) He and his wife Ruth had three children: Barbara Jean, Patricia, Charles Henry He and their daughter Patricia died at early ages. He, Patricia, and Barbara died of a kidney disorder. I have no idea what he did for a living, or if Ruth worked. I remember that when Patricia died, it was horrible. The wailing at the funeral home was overwhelming.

Giuseppa (Josephine) She and her husband Lawrence (Buddy) Steinhauser had three children: Dolores, Grace and Lawrence. I am pretty sure she did secretarial work and he worked construction. We visited them at their home on Long Island; they were always very hospitable. At one point Buddy was drafted and served in Korea. Josephine took her three children (Dolores, Larry and

Grace) and stayed with 'grandma and grandpa' Giudice during his absence. Yes, they were back on Second Ave (near 4<sup>th</sup> Street) in a very small apartment.

Although Dad bought a plot at **Calvary Cemetery** in Queens, so he could be buried next to his mother. However, we buried him in Henderson / Las Vegas (Palm Cemetery on Eastern), so Mom could visit his grave. She is buried beside him.

**Paola Cino Giangreco** is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Queens NY. Although it is customary for Italian women to keep their maiden names, Paola is buried as Paula Giangreco. Further investigation has shown that two burial plots were purchased by Angelo Giangreco on March 26, 1923 at

Old Calvary Cemetery - Section 48 - Plot 282 #15 / #40

Burial dates: 3/26/23 Paula Giangreco and 12/5/24 Vincenzo Giangreco

Gravestones read: Paula Giangreco 1863-1923 and Vincenzo Giangreco 1851-1924

**Death certificates** note the following information:

Pauline Giangreco - St. Vincent's Hospital NYC- death March 25, 1923; 10 yrs in US

address: 35 East 1st St NYC; Father: Angelo Cino; Mother: Nicholina Francesca

Cause of death: chronic cardiac disease & chronic myocarditis

AND

Vincent Giangreco - Bellevue Hospital NYC- death December 4, 1924; 11 yrs in US

address: 35 East 1st St NYC; Father: Salvatore Giangreco; Mother: Grazia

Cause of death: hemorrhage to cerebrum left; hemophlegm, bronchopneumonia

And so the mystery continues, as to how / when Vincenzo Giangreco entered the US. Dad never spoke about this father and shared very little of his childhood; it was all too painful.

The Giudice Plot is at Calvary Cemetery No 4 Section 63 Grave #1/2 Plot #19

located at 49-02 Laurel Hill Blvd., Woodside, N.Y. (Giuseppa Giudice - Josephine Steinhauser)

When **The Immigrant Wall** was being built (1990) on **Ellis Island**, I paid to have my father's name listed and joined The Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island Foundation. It was a thrill to have visited it twice, especially on the first day that Ellis Island was open to the public. The TV 11 crew followed me to find his name and interviewed me for the evening news. (That's another story.)



The Algeria (1891)

Built by D. and W. Henderson and Co Ltd, Glasgow, Scotland, 1891. 4,510 gross tons; 375 (bp) feet long; 46 feet wide. Steam triple expansion engine, single screw. Service speed 12 knots. 1,126 passengers (26 first class, 1,100 third class). One funnel two masts, Steel hull and two decks. Sister to SCINDIA. Built for Anchor Line, British flag, in 1891 and named Algeria (1891). 1902 to 1908 Leghorn to Naples and New York service. Also serviced the Liverpool to Calcutta trade. Sold to German owners, in 1912 and renamed Cyrill. Sold to Lloyd Italiano, Italian flag, in 1914 and renamed Virginia. Scrapped in 1923.

#### Nov 06, 1907 from Palermo

Angelo Giangreco, age 5 / Grazia Giangreco, age 20 / Paola Cino, age 38

First Name: Angelo
Last Name: Giangreco

Ethnicity: Italy, Italian South
Last Place of Residence: Racalmuto, Sicily
Date of Arrival: Nov 06, 1907

Age at Arrival: 5y Gender: M Marital Status: S

Ship of Travel: Algeria (1891)

Port of Departure: Palermo Manifest Line Number: 0015

#### S.S. Algeria 1907

Next is a copy of the manifest from the first trip which was on the SS Algeria. No husband is listed.

NB: # 13,14,15 have lines drawn under their names ... I am guessing it's because they had no one to 'claim them' and listed 'Nobody' as their contacted that were sent back to Italy .. only to return one month later on the Germania. NOTICE the line drawn under each of their names.

What does that mean? It looks to mean that they were not admitted.

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The **Germania** was built by Messrs. Caird & Co., at Greenock. She was 2,900 tons measurement and 2,123 tons register, with all the modern improvements in machinery available at the time. On the maiden voyage from Hamburg to Southampton, the Germania averaged, against strong head winds, a rate of twelve knots per hour. Her saloon was most elegantly fitted up in every respect, the panels were adorned with paintings of scenes in Germany, England and the United States. There was a first-rate piano and a good library on board for the use of the saloon passengers. The steerage accommodations were also described as excellent. The space between the decks was 8 1/2 feet high, and was thoroughly ventilated. The Germania was the seventh steamship built by Caird & Co., for the Hamburg American line.

The Germania 1907 – second voyage (see manifest)
First three passengers listed: Paola Cino 38; Grazia Giangreco 20; Vincenzo Giangreco 5

#### S.S Germania 1907

This is their second trip – now on the Germania (one month later) ... again no husband is listed. Paola Cino was desperate. She was a survivor. It certainly seems to be the case.

**NB:** My cousin, **Maria Cino, MD** of Toronto, Canada (family lives in Hamilton, Canada) created an intricate **CINO family chart** for which I am grateful: **Paola Cino** is the daughter of Nicolina & Angelo Cino; granddaughter of Calogera & Calogero Cino

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On the Germania, Paola is listed as laborer and Grazia as a servant. They are stamped 'admitted'. Neither can read or write. They list her brother Luigi Cino as their contact. HOWEVER ... according to cousin Vincent Cino in Hamilton, Canada, Luigi Cino never left Racalmuto. It appears that Paola Cino honed her survival skills; she lied.



Original 1914 Builder's Model of the **SS Giuseppe Verdi** displayed at the Italian American Museum - Mulberry Street NYC

The Italian American Museum is seeking to establish contact with immigrants who made the journey to America aboard the Giuseppe Verdi passenger ship from 1915 to 1928. Passengers who were on board the ship as young children would likely be in their late 80's and 90's today. Many settled in the greater New York City area, and may have remained here.

According to IAM president Dr. Joseph V. Scelsa, the Museum is planning a special program about the Giuseppe Verdi and would like to have passengers present if possible. The ship made numerous transatlantic trips during its years of operation, carrying as many as 2,200 passengers per journey, mostly from the ports of Naples, Genoa, and Palermo to Ellis Island.

The Giuseppe Verdi was built in 1914 and was owned by Transatlantica Italiana S.A. di Navigazione. In 1928, it was sold to Japanese owners and renamed Yamato Maru. It was torpedoed and sunk by a US submarine in the Philippines in 1943.

ITALIAN AMERICAN MUSEUM SEEKS PASSENGERS FROM SS GIUSEPPE VERDI Passengers or their families are urged to contact the Italian American Museum's public relations representative at 212-262-8800, or by email, <a href="mail@jjcpr.com">mail@jjcpr.com</a>.

#### Giuseppi Verdi ship 1916:

This page notes Calogero Giudice / and his family Giangreco ... Grazia, Aurelio, Giuseppa <a href="http://libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger-details/czoxMjoiNjEwMTQ2MDYwMjE1Ijs=/czo5OiJwYXNzZW5nZXIiOw=="http://libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger-details/czoxMjoiNjEwMTQ2MDYwMjE1Ijs=/czo5OiJwYXNzZW5nZXIiOw==

#### This page notes Calogero Giudice / and his family are heading

for Vincenzo Giangreo 424 Second Ave (his father-in-law) Is this true? I cannot find any record of Vincenzo Giangreco (ship manifest or US Census) Also noted is that Giuseppa was baptized in 3/3/1915 at Our Lady (Madonna) de Loreto Church. I found that strange. LINE 5,6.7.8 It may have been that they only had a baptismal certificate and not her birth certificate, as she was an infant (not needing a passport).

http://libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger-details/czoxMjoiNjEwMTQ2MDYwMjE1Ijs=/czo5OiJwYXNzZW5nZXIiOw==

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More info: <a href="http://www.angelfire.com/ok3/pearlsofwisdom/ships.html">http://www.angelfire.com/ok3/pearlsofwisdom/ships.html</a>



#### Cleveland

Hamburg-Amerika Line 1909-1914, 1926-1933 Print 1540b

Another manifest shows that Angelo Giangreco (age 10) and his mother Paola Cino (age 44) left from Naples on the **Cleveland** and arrived at Ellis Island on **Dec 23, 1913**.

I do not know why they went back to Sicily, or why they even returned to NY, or where Vincenzo Giangreco was. Maybe this is when Vincenzo Giangreco entered the US, because his death certificate notes that he lived in NY for 11 years. He died in 1924, so he may have entered under another name.

http://libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger-details/czoxMjoiNjEwMTQ2MDYwMjE1Ijs=/czo5OiJwYXNzZW5nZXIiOw==

The Lower East Side of Manhattan is where most immigrant groups lived, especially the Italians and those of Jewish descent (Eastern European: Russian, Polish, Hungarian)

Dad spoke about two churches on the Lower East Side. Links to websites are noted below.

Church of the Nativity at 44 Second Ave NYC (212) 674-8590 (1842-1970 replaced with new building) <a href="http://keepnativitychurchopen.tumblr.com/">http://keepnativitychurchopen.tumblr.com/</a>

June 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm honoring Dorothy Day ... Mary House of the Catholic Worker

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church of the Nativity %28Manhattan%29

http://www.yelp.com/biz/church-of-the-nativity-new-york

Our Lady of Loreto 300 Elizabeth Street near Bleeker St (1891 -?) Dad mentioned this church, as well.



Angelo Giangreco at age 9 Cassin's Studio 294 Bowery NYC



Giuseppa (Josephine) Giudice at age 9 Rappaport's Studio 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NYC

The photo - on the occasion of his Communion; 1911 is stamped on back. Communion photo for Giuseppa, dad's niece (C1924) Dad was only one of the many poor immigrants who had a tough life on the Lower East Side, but he transcended it. He loved NYC. My guess is that the studio had these clothes on hand for the photos.

Photo of **Angelo Giangreco** taken circa 1910 at Cassin's Studio **294 Bowery** (now CHEF restaurant supplies)

Photo of **Giuseppa Giudice** (Josephine) taken circa 1920 at Rappaport's Studio **35 Second Ave** *This photography studio may have been above the movie theater.* 

**The Bowery Hotel and Museum** is located at 220 Bowery NYC I contacted the hotel and they are interested in a copy of my father's photo and his naturalization certificate ...sent via e-mail on 6/29/2015

The **Italian American Museum** on Mulberry Street had an exhibit recently on the S.S. Giuseppi Verdi, the ship on which my father's sister Grazia Giangreco and her husband Calogero Giudice returned to the US with their children in 1916. Pam and I visited the museum about 10 years ago.

**122 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street NYC**: This is the site of the hotel where my father stayed before he married and while he was working at the NY Times. The building was recently sold for \$13.5 million. http://masseyknakal.com/neighborhoods/Penn-Station by Cushman & Wakefield

**35 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street NYC**: This is the address listed on my father's naturalization certificate 1925 In 2013 the sale of a 3 room condo in this building was for \$533,000 (625 sq ft) Built in 1900 ... 5 stories ...10 units The building is owned by Paris Bowl Corp. <a href="http://www.corcoran.com/nyc/Listings/Display/2300162">http://www.corcoran.com/nyc/Listings/Display/2300162</a>

**27 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NYC**: This is the address listed on the Augustus (Ship) manifest which departed Naples Sept 5, 1931 and arrived in NYC Sept 15, 1931. At 29 he finally had enough money to travel back 'home' for a vacation. One can only imagine what he felt. This time he traveled Cabin Class.

#### **BIRTH RECORD**

#### Angelo Salvatore Giangreco ... Racalmuto, Sicily

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This is the page on which my father's birth was recorded in **1902**. YES, I found the City Hall in Racalmuto and asked to see the ledger. It notes Angelo Salvatore Giangreco's parents: Paola Cino and Vincenzo Giangreco. The date of birth is 14<sup>th</sup> of March; but he always insisted that it was the 6<sup>th</sup> of March. The custom was to wait 8 days to officially register a birth because of infant mortality.

He was born at home: Via Roma No 36 Racalmuto, Sicily.



This is the clerk in the Communale office in Racalmuto, Sicily where the birth records are kept. He found the book and the page within 10 minutes of my request.



Via Roma 36
Racalmuto, Sicily
This is the very house where my father was born.
I visited in 2008.

### Naturalization Certificate dated May 4, 1925 notes his address at 35 East 1st Street NYC.



35 East 1<sup>st</sup> street NYC
Address where my father lived in 1925
when he became a US citizen.



Here I am at the front door. I visited one of the condo owners 10/1/2009



45-47 Second Ave built in 1900 – 4 stories (8 units) – now condos (Fire escapes are gone)

I am pretty sure this is where they also lived, especially the Giudice family.

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FIXE	Petition, Volume 202 Namber 37/29
	Description of holder Age 23 years height 5 feet, 4 inches; color, 11 Kel 2; complexion.
	Marks work
	Name, age and place of residence of wife way was returning to wife it husband was naturalized AFTER September 22.1922
	Names, ages and places of residence of minor children (Strike through voords referring to children it holder of this certificate is a married woman)
	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK SS: Angelo A rangeles (Signature of holder)
E	Beitremembered that Might Leanspreed
1100	then residing fut number f State  State  State  State  New York who previous
	to her naturalization was a subject of May having applied to be admitted a
	citizen of the United States of Umerica pursuant to law und at a Stated term of the District
	in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and 95 the court having found that the petitioner had resided con
	tinuously within the United States for at least five years and in this <del>firstern</del> for at least one year immediately praceting the tate of the filing of her petition, and that said petitioner intends to resulte permanently in the United States, had in all
	tate of the fiting of 55% petition, and that said petitioner intends to reside permanently in the United States, had in all respects complied with the law in relation thereto, and that she was entitled to be so admitted, it was thereupon
	ordered by the said court that he be admitted as a citizen of the United States of Umerica.
1	In testimon purcel the seal of said court is hereunto affixed on the 4 day of MAY
	in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and 25 and of our Independence the
1	eguly of faustagu
W,	Norr. Under act of September 22,1922 husband's naturalization does not make roife a citizen.  Deputy Clerk. 7 Official character of attestor.)

Dad (age 29) took a trip on the S.S. Augustus and returned to NYC via Naples on Sept 5, 1931. This time he was listed as an American Citizen on the manifest.

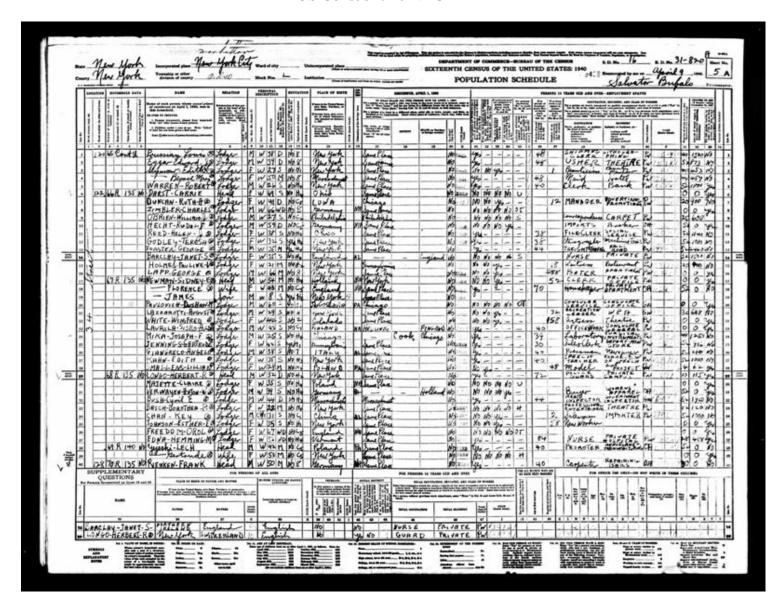
 $\label{thm:copy} \textbf{His listed address of 27 East 3}^{rd} \ \textbf{Street NYC is written over Times Square Hotel} \ (\textbf{unable to copy/save}) \ \textbf{http://libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger-}$ 

details/czoxMzoiOTAxMTk4OTkxNzEyNCI7/czo4OiJtYW5pZmVzdCI7

Dad took another trip (age 35) on the S.S. Roma arriving in NYC from Palermo on July 16, 1937 Hotel Breslin NYC is listed as his residence.

http://libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger-details/czoxMjoiOTAxNzYyOTg2NjQzIjs=/czo4OiJtYW5pZmVzdCI7

#### **US Census 1940 NYC**



**US Census 1940 - Line 26** – It looks like Angelo Giangreco (my father) made \$2,900/yr. ...a lot more than most. I know the pressmen's union was strong and that working nights at the NY Times paid well. The pay may have been time and a half or double time for the Saturday shift - the Sunday Times.



Angelo Giangreco married Constance Pace on Sept 7, 1941 – St Aloysius Church on Onderdonk Ave Ridgewood section on the Queens / Brooklyn border.

She borrowed the wedding dress from Giuseppa Giudice (married name: Josephine Steinhauser)





L-R: Pace - Maria, Constance, Paolo, Angela L-R: John Ciancimino?, Providence, Constance, Angelo



1393 Willoughby Ave apt 3B Brooklyn Six of us lived in a one bedroom / 1 bath apt



Knickerbocker Park with Paula and Nancy



Birthday Party 1946 or 1947 at 1393 Willoughby Ave apt 3B Brooklyn, NYC Seated L-R: Josephine (Giuseppa Giudice) Steinhauser, daughter Dolores, Paula, Nancy, Mimi, Grace? Stand L-R: Constance (Pace), her father Paolo Pace, Angela, Laura, Barbara Josephine, Sam Bruccoleri



At the beach (probably Rockaway)
Nancy, Vincent and Paula with Mom (Constance) early 1950s

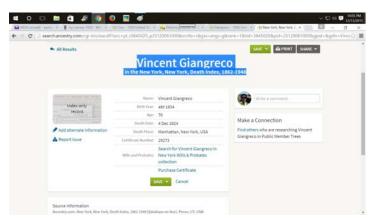
I know that Dad was very proud that his three children graduated from College (a dream he would never realize for himself).

Dad would have been doubly proud of our children and enjoyed knowing them as the fine adults which they are: Gregory - Claremont McKenna College '90 Phi Beta Kappa; Princeton University '99 and Pamela - University of Arizona '95



Grave - Henderson, NV





I started this project in 2001 a few years after placing my father's name on the **Immigrant Wall** at Ellis Island. At that time, I printed out the various ships' manifests. Now I am able to save them as jpgs. It has taken me quite a while to refocus on this project, as it is very time consuming.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to **Sam Migliore**, **PhD** (Kwantlen Polytechnic University) for allowing me to include his extensive research on the history and culture of Racalmuto and to **Earl Cullison** (Tim's cousin) who helped me on my renewed search to track down the manifests for the various ships, the US Census reports, and other related documents. We met last year as a result of my google search while I was researching Tim's roots. Earl has offered to help me build a Giangreco family page on Ancestry.com

This project continues to be a labor of love. I plan to also write my mother's story - Constance Pace, some of which is in my book, <u>Daughters of the American Dream</u> (essays in English and Italian)

I hope that you enjoyed reading this and hope it will inspire you to do some genealogical research on your family. My plan is to post this on my website for others to enjoy. **www.paulacullison.com** 

## Paula Giangreco Cullison 12/20/2015

Sicily

Racalmuto is located just north of Agrigento.



http://www.bestofsicily.com/roadmap.jpg