

Honorary Family Members

45th Family Party

"2014"

Gaetano Morelli

1877-1941

Caterina Ventura

1884-1929

Gaetano Morelli

Aug. 24, 1877---Nov. 10, 1941



Gaetano left Italy from the port of Genoa on May 14, 1899 with his mothers brother Salvatore Bruno sailing to America on a four mast sailing ship called the S.S. EMS built in Glasgow, Scotland in 1884. They arrived in New York at Ellis island on May 25, 1899 and Gaetano was 21 years old. Upon there arrival they then traveled to Pueblo, Colorado to live with his mother's other brother Gabriel Bruno.

While living in Pueblo Gaetano met a beautiful young lady named Caterina Ventura. Although they both came from small villages near each other in Italy it is believed that they didn't know each other before coming to America. They met, dated, fell in love and moved to Green River, Utah where Gaetano became employed by the railroad as an train car inspector.

Gaetano and Caterina had ten beautiful children (Michael, who died as an infant, Fortunata who died at the age of 13 yrs/9 mo) Della, Mike, Emery, Frank, Henry, Lillian, Carl and Kenneth. Gaetano was a loving father, however he was also strict, believing his children should be respectful and well behaved. He taught his boy's to love hunting and fishing and certainly hard work.

In 1929, at the young age of forty-five Caterina, passed away while giving birth to their last child Kenneth. Gaetano loved his wife very much, and her passing was extremely devastating. Life was very dismal at the Morelli home during the next year. Gaetano required that his children wear black out of respect, and the piano, which once filled the house with music was silent.

In 1941, the children were informed that Gaetano had lung cancer and knew this would be terminal. The family rallied to help out with Emery returning from college & Della taking care of the younger children. On November 10, 1941 at the age of sixty-four, Gaetano passed away.

Gaetano and Caterina were blessed with ten children and has grown to 21 grandchildren, 44-great-grandchildren, 56 great-great-grandchildren and 11 great, great, great grandchildren.

Gaetano and Caterina created a legacy in their lives and the family has flourished and stayed united celebrating holidays, weddings and family parties. They left their parents and family in Italy never to see them again to start a new life in America and we are their posterity.

Caterina Ventura Morelli

1884-1929



Caterina Ventura was born in Spezzano Piccolo, Italy to Antonio and Maria "De Cicco" Ventura On May 2, 1884. Caterina left Italy from the port of Naples on July 21, 1903 sailing to America on the S.S. Lahn, a German steamship. She arrived in New York at Ellis Island on August 5, 1903 at the young age of nineteen. Upon her arrival she went to Pueblo Colorado to live with her older sister Angelina Ventura Tropea.

Thirty- four days later she marries Giuseppe Marsico on September 8, 1903. She was only married to this gentleman for a short period of time. Sometime after her separation she met Gaetano Morelli who was also an immigrant from Calabria Italy. Although they both came from small villages near each other it is believed that they did not know each other before coming to America. The young couple met, dated, fell in love and moved to Green River (Elgin), Utah where Gaetano became employed by the railroad as a train car inspector.

In 1906 Caterina had their first child a girl and they named her Fortuna Marie after Gaetano's mother. Caterina and Gaetano were a good match and loved each other very much. They would often speak to each other in Italian and tease each other. They had ten beautiful children Michael {who died as an infant}, Fortuna Marie {who died at the age of 13yrs/9mo}, Della, Mike, Emery, Frank, Henry, Lillian, Carl and Kenneth.

Caterina made sure her family was united. It was mandatory that the family ate together without exception, but the children did not mind, as their mother was an incredible cook. After supper Henry and Frank would put on a skit for everyone. Caterina and Gaetano were blessed with a beautiful family of ten children, twenty-one grandchildren, 44 great-grandchildren and 52 great-great-grandchildren & 11 great-great-great grandchildren.

On May 04, 1929 Caterina passed away giving birth to their tenth child Kenneth. She was only 45 years old and had only been in America for 26 years. She was a amazing woman teaching herself how to read and write English, giving birth to ten children, raising her family and still being able to save enough money and have the knowledge to find, negotiate and purchase several homes.

In 2008, the Gaetano and Caterina Morelli Heritage Foundation was created in Gaetano and Caterina's memory. Caterina and Gaetano left their parents and their families in Italy never seeing them again to start a new life in America, and we are their posterity.