

22 Apr 2005

From: Cathy Madonna Youngblood

Good morning, Mark!

So, you have decided to climb onto Uncle Donato's Wild Ride too. This man is actually a total mystery to me and I think there was a cover-up about him among the family. Here's the story - moving backwards throughout his life:

- May 22, 1910

Donato Carlini dies and is buried in Highland Cemetery, New Castle, CO. I have been to his grave site. Baby Boy Carlino is buried with him (died ca. 1917) - this child, age 9 months, was the son of Antonio & Lucia (Mariani) Carlini/Carleno (Note the child was 9 months old and had no name. Really, he had no name! There is no record of his birth at the county courthouse and the Catholic church in New Castle burned with all it's records. The child was almost a toddler - what did they call him? - "Hey you".) There is a marble marker for Donato:



Photo from:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/co/costones/garfield/highland.htm>  
[Highland Cemetery Headstones, Garfield County](#)

His obituary from the New Castle Newspaper was on the front page during the week of his death. It read, "Donato Carlini a well-known Italian died Sunday morning and was buried Tuesday in Highland Cemetery. He had been an invalid for a long time but did not take to his bed until about 4 weeks ago. He will be favorably remembered by many."

According to my Grandfather, Quirino Madonna, (don't know how he knew this but I do believe it to be partially true as all of the family stories that he passed along to me have "come true"). He was a woodworker and had a wood shop in New Castle. He was medium height (5'6" or 5'7") and resembled his brother, Tony. Donato lost an eye in some sort of accident. Gramps could be wrong about the eye as other sources have said it was the brother, Tommaso who was blind. Could be that it is true but I have long assumed that it was confused and that it was Tommaso who was blinded in an accident, and then returned home to SPA, dying there in the 1940's. Both Gram & Gramps were adamant that Donato had NEVER been married - looking back, they were almost too certain of this fact about someone neither had ever known. Maybe they didn't know about Donato's marriage!

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- Mid-April 1910

We find Donato in the Garfield County Census, West New Castle - my Gram showed me her house in New Castle - I believe it is the same one. Lucia and her boys had arrived at Ellis Island on 22 March 1910, so were brand new to the home. Note that young Ben's name here has been noted by the enumerator as Daniel - can't figure out how the census taker got that out of Beniamino, even with a heavy Italian accent. Note that Donato states that he has been married once for 11 years, that he is a naturalized citizen who first came to the US in 1881. Donato's marriage would have taken place in 1898/99. If his obit is factual, he may have already been bedridden at the time of the census.

#### FROM GARFIELD COUNTY GENWEB PAGE

1910 Garfield County Census, E.D. 46, Precinct #10 - West New Castle, Page 3A

D#/F#/Name/R/S/C.Age/MS/#Y/MC/#L/BP/FBP/MBP/YO1/NA/SE/OCC/TYB/OIR/House/CWV/B/D

D#20, F#20

Carlina, Donantonio, Head, Male, White, Age 46, M1, 11, -, -, It-Italian/It-Italian/It-Italian/1881/NA/Y/Laborer/Odd Jobs/Rent/House/-/-/-

Antonia, Bro, Male, White, Age 31, M1, 9/-/-/It-Italian/It-Italian, It-Italian/ 1895/A1/Y/Miner/Coal Mine/

Lucia, S-I-L, Female, White, Age 27, M1, 9, -, -, It-Italian, It-Italian, It-Italian, 1910, A1, Italian, None

John, Neph, Male, White, Age 8, s, -, -, -, It-Italian, It-Italian, It-Italian, -, -, Italian, none

Daniel, neph. Male, White, Age 5, s, -, -, -, It-Italian, It-Italian, It-Italian, 1908, -, Italian, None

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- March 18, 1909

The Plot Thickens! The next possible reference I have found to Donato would place him in Pueblo, CO possibly - at least divorce proceedings were filed there. IF the man mentioned below is the Donato in question, looks like he and Cristina divorced - maybe that's why my Gram always said that he never married - what a scandal that would have been!!! The Madonna's of that era have a history of covering up divorces in the family (it's a long story). The Carleno/Carlini's weren't as secretive about it but maybe the "older" generation was. Uncle John

Carleno (oldest son of Tony & Lucia) made marriage and divorce a hobby - made it sort of hard to cover up. What happened to Cristina and the children? Little Lola would have been born in 1900 and Elena in 1902, give or take. That's just about right for a marriage which would have taken place in 1898/1899.

<http://www.sctc.state.co.us/Marriages/divorces.aspx>

#### Colorado Divorce Detail

Petitioner: Carlino, Christina

Respondent: Carlino, Danato

Docket #011236

County: Pueblo

Date: 03/18/1909

Decree Type: Divorce

- 
- October 17, 1904

Donato witnesses the naturalization of Emiliano Frazzini in Trinidad, CO. Note Trinidad is just a hop, skip and a jump down I-25 from Pueblo. Even in 1904, it wasn't that far from Pueblo to Trinidad. I also remember my Dad talking about Trinidad and I seem to think (it's more of a feeling) that it was in connection with the Carleno family. But I can't put my finger on it - I'll ask my Mom if she might remember anything when she is here in early May. It will not make any confirmations but may be a linking clue, if she knows anything.

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- May 4, 1904

Here we find Donato returning from SPA with his wife, Cristtina (Cristina) Martino (maybe di Martino - doesn't take a rocket scientist to make that assumption). They are both citizens according to the records at Ellis. Most likely, they had been on a visit back to the Old Country.

#### ELLIS ISLAND DATABASE

Carlino, Donatangelo Antonio, age 39, male, married, able to read & write; date of arrival: 4 May 1904; ship: Princess Irene; port of departure: Naples. He was US Citizen discharged on pier; last residence: San Pietro Avellana; Final Destination: Denver, Col. In possession of \$140. Traveling with him was:

Wife: Carlino Marlino, Cristtina, age 27, female, also US Citizen (looks like her surname is Martino but like Donato, extra names are written in)

Daughter: Carlino, Iola(?), age 4

Daughter: Carlino, Elena, age 2

Other: DiMartino, Gennaro, age 34, porter, from SPA (his entry is incomplete and looks as though it was underlined (or possibly poorly crossed out)!!!

- 
- Sometime in 1902

Daughter Elena is born.

- 
- Sometime in 1900

Daughter Iola is born.

- 
- June 16, 1900

We find Donato is Pitkin County, CO (county seat is Aspen). (Thanks for this one Mark - it certainly does fill in a bit and makes sense to me.) I will try to check out and see if I can discover where Precinct 21 was but once again, I will take an educated guess and say that it is Redstone, CO - working for John Osgood in his coal mines. I know a bit about the history of Redstone and have spent quite a bit of time there. The coal mines there were probably considered "safer" than the old Vulcan in New Castle, which had blown in 1896 killing 40-some miners. For more history of Redstone see:

### [Redstone Colorado History](#)

(Note the photo of the Redstone Castle on the lower right on that web site: I used to play on the castle grounds with my sisters back in the 60's - my Mom's folks lived up the road about a 1/4 mile.)

My other, g-grandfather, Rocco Madonna, and his brothers worked in Redstone for a while. They may have been in Pitkin County around the same time as Donato. Younger brother, Tony (Antonio) is probably off in SPA getting married to Lucia Mariani around this time (they were m. Feb 1901). Donato is alone and his wife and children are not with him. Were they in Trinidad, Pueblo, Denver or possibly New Castle (which seemed to be the base of operations for Donato)? That's a lot of territory to cover looking for them. Census record gives us this information:

Donato Antonio Carlino, Lodger, White, Male, born December 1864, age 35, married for 29 years He had been in the US since 1881 for 19 years (he was only 16 or 17 years old when he came here). He was already a naturalized citizen by 1900. Donato was a day laborer on his own account, could read & write, but could not speak English

OK, so we know from this that he is working away from his family. I also think that all of these tidbits are about 1 person. There are a couple of inconsistencies in this entry (as there seem to be in most everything about Donato). He also came to the US as a boy! Why? He was one of the older brothers and would have inherited the masseria, most likely. Surely, he must have picked up some of the language in the 19 years he had lived in the US. One would have to be a stump to be in a place that long and still not have developed communication skills!!!

Maybe Donato meant he had just been married 2 years and the enumerator got it wrong and put 29. Maybe even though he had only been married to Cristina for a short time, it felt like 29 years. If they were later divorced, it may never have been a happy marriage. Oh, that brings up a question! Maybe it was an arranged marriage. Ok - so there are quite a few inconsistencies here!

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- October 29, 1899

ELLIS ISLAND DATABASE - Carlino, Donatangelo, Italian, US Citizen, San Pietro, arrived 29 October 1899, age 34, male, married; ship: California; Port of Departure: Naples; profession: Laborer; destination: New York;

In US before: 1881-1898

Just a point of interest my g-g'pa, Rocco Madonna, also arrived at Ellis on the ship "California" but in June of 1897.

- 
- Before October 29, 1899

Donato gets married to Cristina in late 1898 or earlier in 1899. Did they get married in SPA? When we first see her in 1904 on the pier at Ellis Island, she is already a citizen. If he married her and brought her over from SPA, did she attain her citizenship by virtue of her marriage to Donato, a naturalized US Citizen? So by this time, Cristina might be pregnant with little Iola. Why isn't Cristina with Donato at this time? I believe from family tradition that Donato's parents died about 1896. It could have been a bit later but he could possibly have been called back to SPA at the time of his parents death. I don't see Cristina at Ellis except for the one time in 1904 (doesn't mean she isn't there) but in that case, Donato would have had to go back again in 1901 because little Elena was born in 1902 (+/-). Did he not return again until 1904 with Cristina and the little girls? His brother, Tony, was married in Feb. 1901 - maybe he went back for that and to see his wife and baby. Did they all possibly make other trips back and forth through other Ports of Entry???

- 
- Sometime in 1890

Curse that Census that isn't there!

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- September 16, 1886

Could this be our Donato??? Unfortunately, not much to go on and there were actually Carlino's in other locations in Italy. He seems pretty firm about coming in 1881.

<http://www.italians-world.org/Italy/BancaDatiGb.htm>

Name: Donato Carlino

Sex: Male

Occ. Peasant

Literacy: Unknown

Destination: Unknown

Last Res: Isernia

Transit: Emigrante

Travel compartment: Ponte

Port of embarkment: Marseilles & Naples

Ship: Britannia

Date of Arrival: 9/16/1886

- 
- Sometime in 1881

Donato gives information in later years that he came to America in that year as a 16 or 17 year old. He gives this information many times, so we can assume it to be so. Where was he all that time? When did he gain his citizenship? A search for his citizenship papers would encompass a huge territory. There is no guarantee that he



achieved his citizenship while in Colorado. Could be he went to NY or PA or any number of other locations before finally coming to CO. Where to start!!!!??

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- 21 December 1864

Donato is born in SPA to Beniamino Antonio Carlino and Maria Giovanna Quaranta.

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Here we are at the end of Uncle Donato's Wild Ride. I think all these notes with the possible exception of the 1886 arrival on the Britannia are probably Donatangelo Carlino. I also think everything about him was hushed up because of his divorce. It's possible that even my Gram and her siblings didn't know he had been married. My BIGGEST Question is - What happened to Christina and the girls? There has never been a mention of them that I know of at all. Even cousin Onelia, daughter of Domenico Filippo Carlini and Maria Elisabetta Mariani, had big question marks about Donato on the chart she drew for me back in 1970. That would lead me to believe that they did not return to SPA where there would no doubt have been rumors and gossip, at least, if not knowledge of the relationship. There are so many places to look for her and for the girls that she is like a needle in a haystack - Trinidad, Pueblo, New Castle, Denver and yes, back in Italy. Elena & Iola would have been 1st cousins to my Gram so I am very curious about them. There has to be a story here and no doubt a good one. I wonder if we will ever know.

Now you have "the Donato Notes".

Best of best,  
Cathy