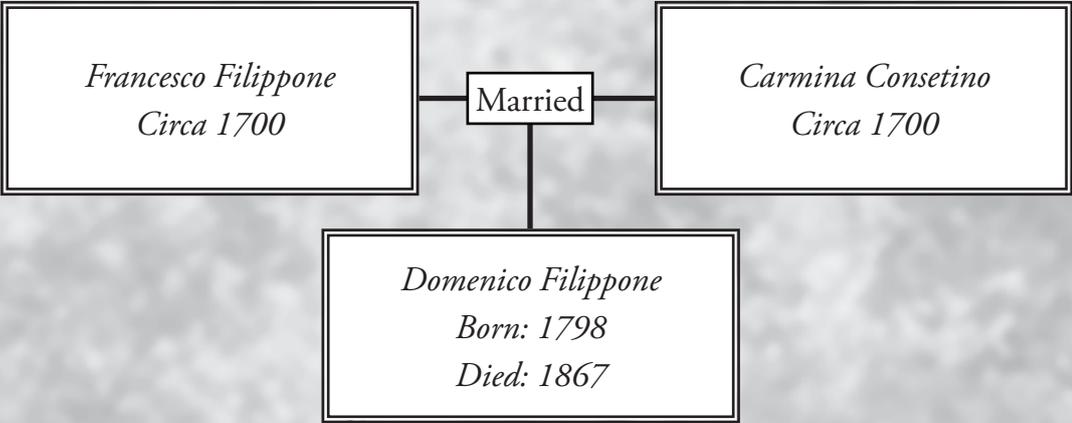


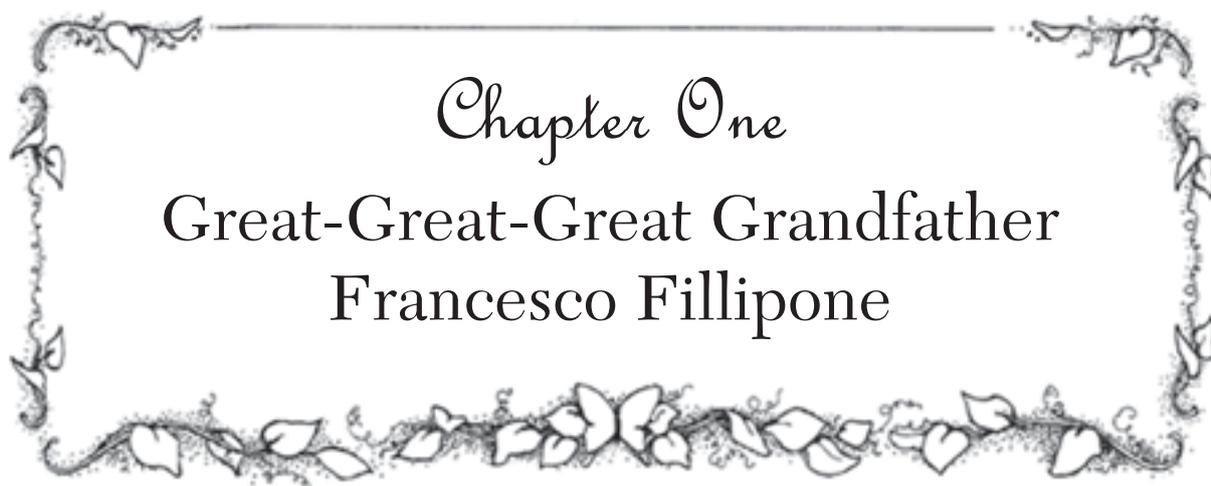


Francesco Filippone

married

Carmina Consentino





Chapter One
Great-Great-Great Grandfather
Francesco Fillipone

The First Leaf of the Filippone Family Tree



With greatest pleasure, I begin the first part of our family history with the first 'leaf' found, with Great-Great-Great-Grandfather, Francesco Filippone, who was born sometime in the 1700's. Records show that he married Carmina Consentino. Their union produced a male child, named Domenico Filippone, in 1798.

It is most likely they had more children, however no further records have been found to date.





Chapter Two
Great-Great Grandfather
Domenico Filippone

More Leaves Begin to Bud



With Domenico Filippone the second generation of our ancestors began. He lived his life around Palmi working as a labourer and lived to the age of 69, passing away on 24 January, 1867.

Sometime during the early 1800's, he met and married Teresa Tedesco who also was from that area. Records show they had five children including Carmine, our Great Grandfather.



At the time of his birth, Calabria belonged to the Spanish Bourbon King, Philip V, who formed The Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Six years later, Napoleon Bonaparte of France made himself President of the Italian republic, and then King of Italy. Continual war for greater possessions forced Napoleon to abdicate the throne of Italy in 1814.



The congress of Vienna eventually took control, returning Italy to its independent states and restoring the Bourbon King of Spain. 1816, finally saw the formal union of the Kingdom of Naples with the Kingdom of Sicily into the new Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Giuseppe Garibaldi invaded in 1860, which led to the unification of Italy and The Kingdom of Italy in 1861, with King Victor Emmanuel II of the House of Savoy being proclaimed its King.



Friedrich Leopold Graf zu Stolberg-Stolberg (7 November 1750 – 5 December 1819), was a German poet, lawyer and translator.

*In 1797, he and his wife took a grand tour through Germany, Switzerland and Italy, where he documented his trip in a series of letters, *Travels through Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Sicily*.¹*

Fredrick Leopold, Count of Stolberg, wrote: "I'm leaving, deeply moved by this most beautiful province of beautiful Italy, the closest to the sun that everybody loves. This great land is cooled by the breeze of the two seas, by the gentle winds from its high montains, by the shady wood, by

the numerous creeks and rivers. Sights of the sea, of the beaches of Calabria, of the channel, views of the open sea, of the Lipary Islands, of the Aetna Mountain, everything glorified by the splendor of an extraordinary nature fill my life of beautiful memories."

In 1806 the French Hellenist and political writer Paul Louis Courier, (January 4, 1772 – April 10, 1825) described the province of Reggio Calabria in his writings:

"We are at the lowest, of the boot in the most beautiful country of the world. Looking at these rocks surrounded by myrtle and aloe or at the palm trees down the valley, you have the impression of being near the river Ganges or the Nile...

The sight of nature is breathtaking...and what about the perfume and the scent in the air around the city of Reggio... You can smell the fragrance for miles..."



1: Frederic Leopold Stolberg (1796-7), *Travels through Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and Sicily*, Translated by Thomas Holcroft, London: G.G. and J. Robinson

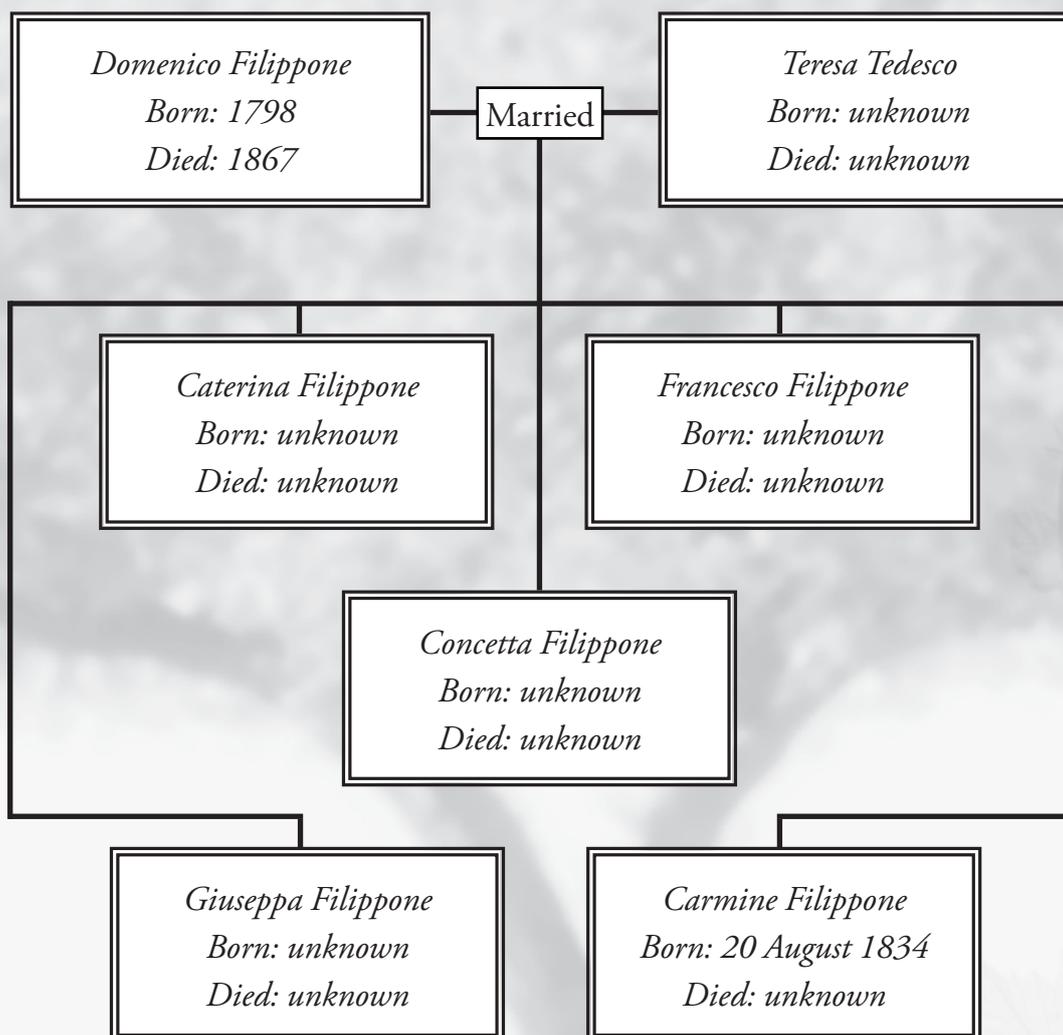


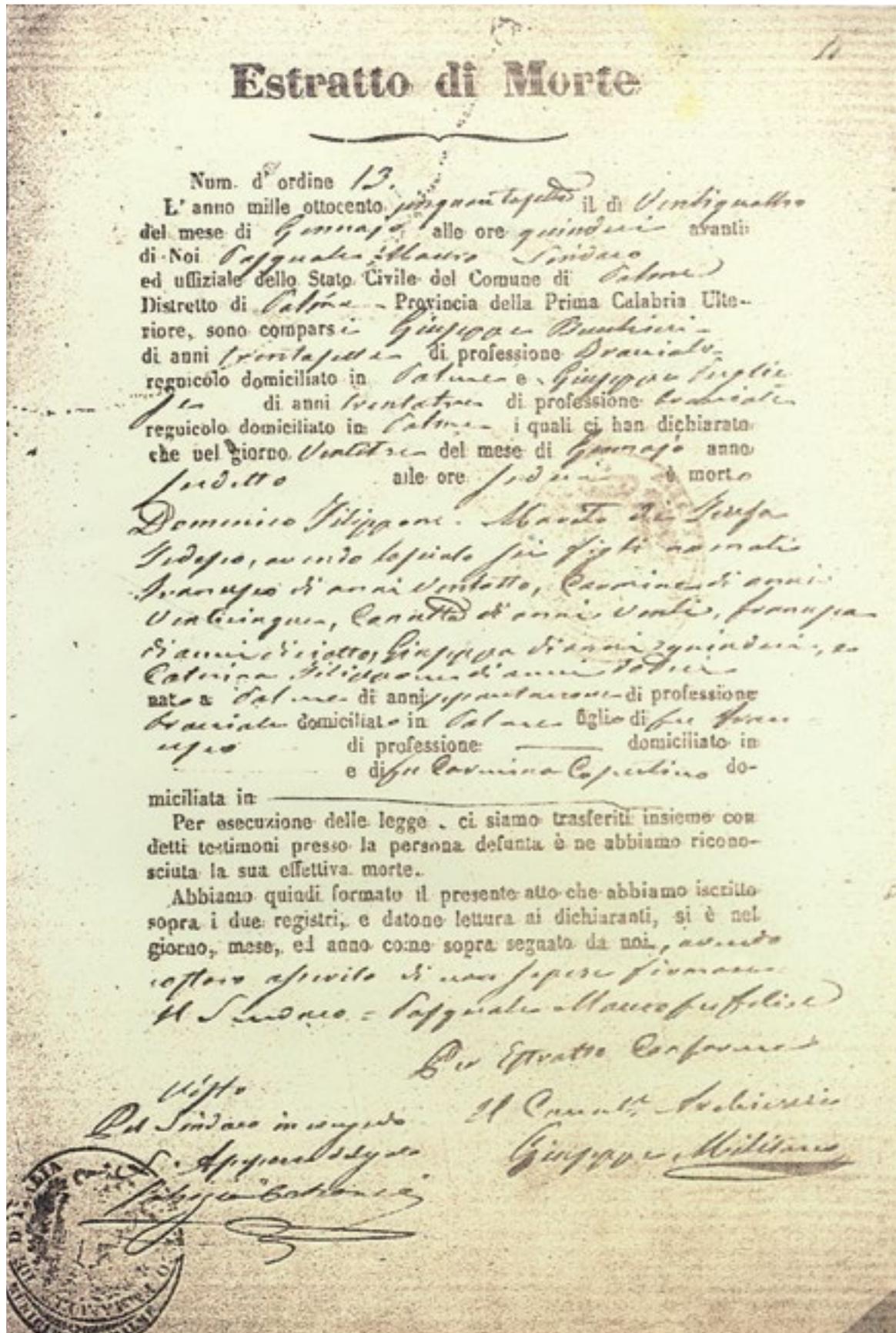
Domenico Filippone

married

Teresa Tedesco

Family line: Francesco Filippone and Carmina Consentino





Copy of Death Certificate of Domenico Filippone 1798 – 1867 showing the age of his children at the time of his death, Francesco 28, Carmine 25, Concetta 20, Francesca 18, Giuseppe 15 and Caterina 12

Chapter Three

Great Grandfather Carmine Filippone

Branches Stem from other Branches



Carmine Filippone, the third generation of the Filippone tree and my Great Grandfather was born on 20 August, 1834 when his father Domenico Filippone was 36 years old. His birth certificate shows that Carmine Pugliese and Francesco Pugliese, both of Palmi, were present to confirm the birth of Carmine to Teresa Tedesco. Carmine lived in Palmi, just as his ancestors did and, like his father, he worked as a labourer around that area. At the age of 27, he married a local girl by the name of Fortunata Scarcella.

They were married on 13th September, 1861, at the Church of San Nicola, Palmi in Reggio Calabria, Italy. The original Church of San Nicola was built in the fourteenth century. Unfortunately, the 1783 Palmi earthquake destroyed it completely, however, it was rebuilt by the time Carmine and Fortunata married. During its completion, the earthquake of 1894 caused further damage, only for it to be severely destroyed once again by the earthquake of 1908. Rebuilt once again and completed in 1932, today the parish of San Nicola is shared with the parish of Oppido Mamertina and is also known as the Mother Church.

1

Estratto di Nascita

—

Distretto di *Palone* — Comune di *Palone*

Num. d'ordine *195* —

L'anno mille-ottocento *trantiquattro* —
 il di *Venti* — del mese di *agosto* —
 alle ore *ventuna* — avanti di Noi *Dominico*
Mauri Secondo Eletto —
 ed Ufficiale dello Stato Civile del Comune di *Pal-*
one — Distretto di *Palone* — Provincia
 della Prima Calabria Ulteriore; è comparso *Domen-*
nio Filippone — di anni *quaranta* —
 di professione *braviale* —
 domiciliato in *Palone* *Castello Buffasi* quale ci ha
 presentato un *maschio* — secondo che abbiamo
 ocularmente riconosciuto, ed ha dichiarato che *Coste-*
so è nato da *Isabella* *Isabella* d'anni *trantotto*
 sua moglie legittima domiciliata con esso,
 e da lui dichiarante che nel giorno *Venti*
 del detto mese, *Isabella* alle ore *venti* nella
 sua casa —

Lo stesso è inoltre dichiarato di dare al *puerale* —
 suo figlio il nome di *Carmine Filippone* —
 La presentazione e dichiarazione anzidetta, si è fatta
 alla presenza di *Carmine Pugliese* —
 di anni *cinquantotto* — di professione
braviale — domiciliato in *Palone* —
 e di *Franco Pugliese* —
 di anni *cinquantotto* — di professione *braviale* —
 domiciliato in *Palone* —
 testimoni intervenuti al presente atto, e da esse Sig.
Domenico Filippone — prodotti.
 Il presente atto che abbiamo formato all' uopo è
 stato iscritto sopra i due registri, letto al dichiarante
 ed ai testimoni, ed indi nel giorno, mese ed anno,
 come sopra firmato da noi, avendo il dichiarante
 detto, di *testimoni* ed *opere* di non sapere per
 — *Domenico Mauri Secondo Eletto* —
Vesto —
Per Estratto conforme
Manuel Archibugi
Giug. Militano

INDICAZIONE
 del Battesimo
 Num. d'ordine *195*
 L'anno mille-ottocento *trantiquattro* —
 il di *ventuno* —
 del mese di *agosto* —
 in Parroco della Chiesa di
San Nicola —
 ci ha restituito nel di *Ven-*
tuno del
 mese di *agosto* —
 non *ispirato* —
 il notamento che noi gli
 abbiamo rimesso nel gior-
 no *Venti* —
 del mese di *agosto* —
 non *ispirato* —
 del controscritto alla di
 nascita, in più del quale
 ha indicato che il Segra-
 mento del Battesimo è sta-
 to amministrato a *Carmine*
Filippone —
 nel giorno *Venti* *agosto* —
 In vista di tal notamen-
 to dopo di averlo cifrato,
 abbiamo disposto che fos-
 se conservato nel volume
 dei documenti, al foglio *195* —
 Abbiamo inoltre accu-
 sato al Parroco la ricezione
 del medesimo, ed abbiamo
 formato il presente atto
 ch'è stato iscritto sopra i
 due registri, al margine
 del corrispondente atto di
 nascita, ed indi abbiamo
 firmato.
 L'Ufficiale Civile.
Domenico Mauri



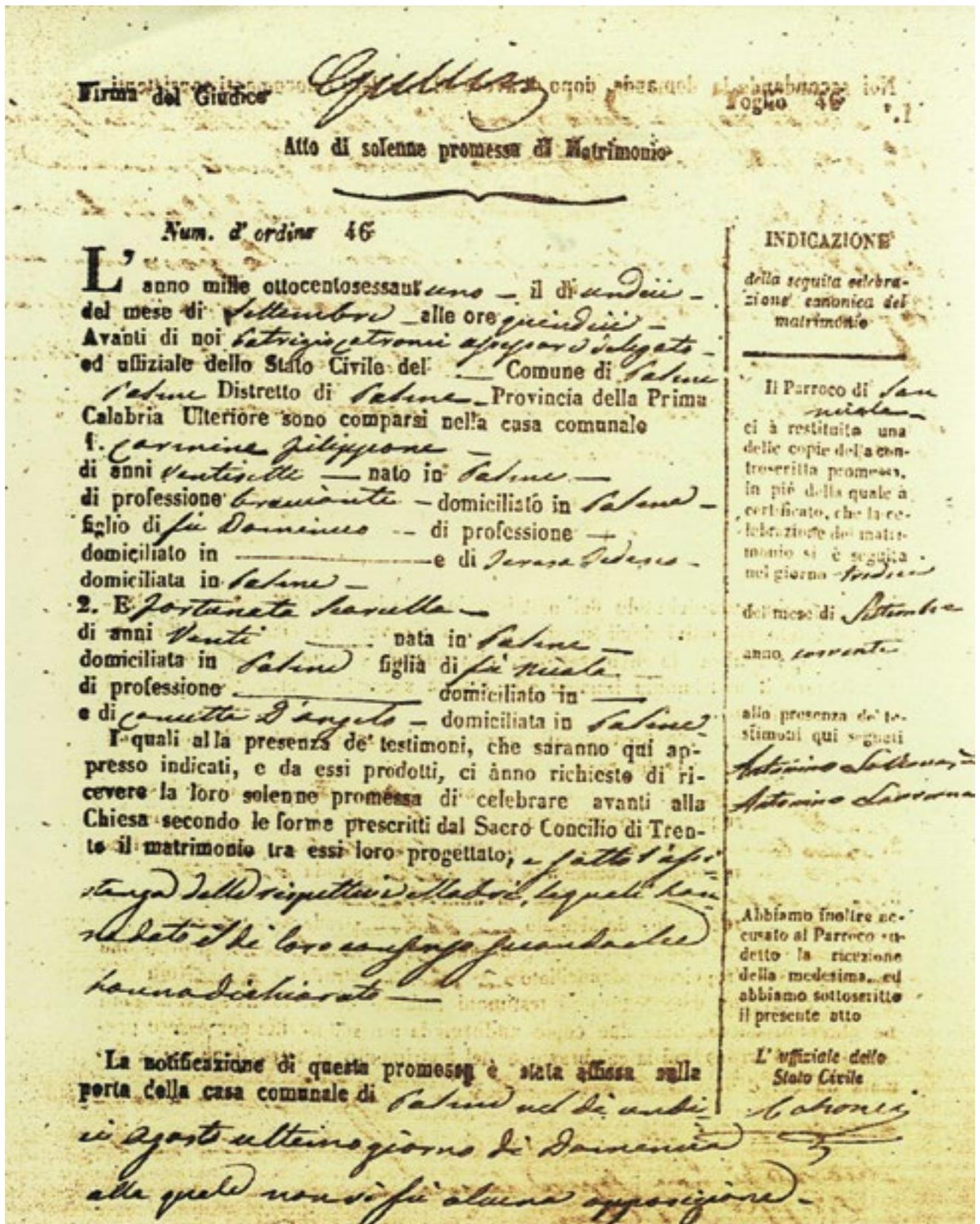
Birth Certificate of Carmine Filippone



The Saint Nicholas Cathedral or Mother Church as it is today. Originally built in 1310 it was the only church in Palmi until 1733. After the earthquake of 1783 many people who lost their lives were buried under the construction of the new church. After the 1908 earthquake, rebuilding was a very slow process until finally open for the local parishioners in 1932. Being one of the oldest churches of Calabria it is protected by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage since 2011



*Local people standing in front of the interior of San Nicola with statues of the Madonna of Carmine, St. Rocco and painting of Christ's crucifixion.
Could any of the people posing in this photo be a relative?*



Firma del Giudice

C. Filippone

10 luglio 1869

Atto di solenne promessa di Matrimonio

Num. d'ordine 46

L'anno mille ottocentosessantuno - il di undici - del mese di settembre - alle ore quindici - Avanti di noi *Matteo Petroni* *procuratore delegato* - ed ufficiale dello Stato Civile del Comune di *Sabine* - *Sabine* Distretto di *Sabine* - Provincia della Prima Calabria Ulteriore sono comparso nella casa comunale

1. *Carmine Filippone* - di anni *ventisei* - nato in *Sabine* - di professione *bruciante* - domiciliato in *Sabine* - figlio di *fu Domenico* - di professione - domiciliato in _____ e di *Isabella* - domiciliata in *Sabine* -

2. *Fortunata Scarcella* - di anni *venti* - nata in *Sabine* - domiciliata in *Sabine* - figlia di *fu Nicola* - di professione _____ domiciliato in _____ e di *Concetta D'Angelo* - domiciliata in *Sabine* -

I quali alla presenza de' testimoni, che saranno qui appresso indicati, e da essi prodotti, ci hanno richieste di ricevere la loro solenne promessa di celebrare avanti alla Chiesa secondo le forme prescritti dal Sacro Concilio di Trento il matrimonio tra essi loro progettato, e fatto *in presenza delle rispettive famiglie, le quali hanno dato il loro consenso, e si sono dichiarate* -

La notificazione di questa promessa è stata affissa sulla porta della casa comunale di *Sabine* nel di undici *di agosto* ultimo giorno di *Domenica* - alla quale non si fu alcuna opposizione.

INDICAZIONE

della seguita celebrazione canonica del matrimonio

Il Parroco di *San Nicola* ci à restituita una delle copie della controscritta promessa, in piè della quale è certificato, che la celebrazione del matrimonio si è seguita nel giorno *undici* del mese di *Settembre* anno *corrente*

alla presenza de' testimoni qui seguenti
Antonio Scuderi
Antonio Scuderi

Abbiamo inoltre accusato al Parroco suddetto la ricezione della medesima, ed abbiamo sottoscritto il presente atto

L'ufficiale dello Stato Civile
Matteo Petroni

Marriage certificate of Carmine Filippone and Fortunata Scarcella



*Italy before unification
- 1860*



*Italy after unification
- 1861*



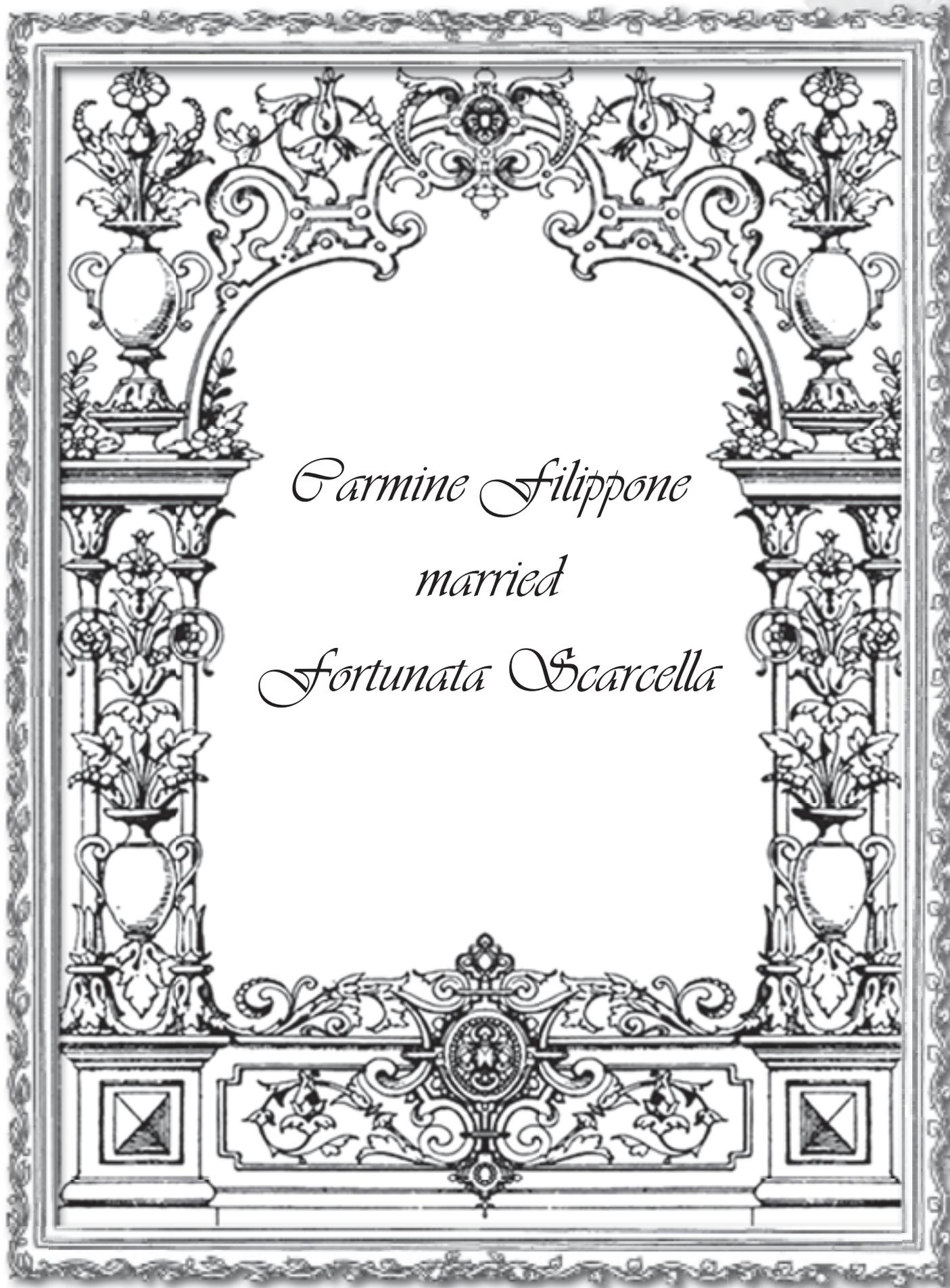
Carminé and his family lived through the 19th century, during a turbulent period in history, as the modern country of Italy emerged for the very first time in 1861.

There were many prominent events that shaped the country, the most recognised being the rise of the Italian unification movement. Known as the *Risorgimento*, it was the social and political developments that eventually succeeded in the unification of many different states into what is now the modern nation of Italy.

Many of our families from Palmi helped shape the region to what it is today – through the land, food, warfare, struggle and the desire for independence. Many who fought were peasants, seeking a chance for something better. Life in Calabria was very hard as they were constantly dominated by wealthy landlords who hired the local peasants to tend their lands. Only one road crossed the north to Reggio in the south; the railroad was non-existent and 90% of the towns had no internal or external roads.

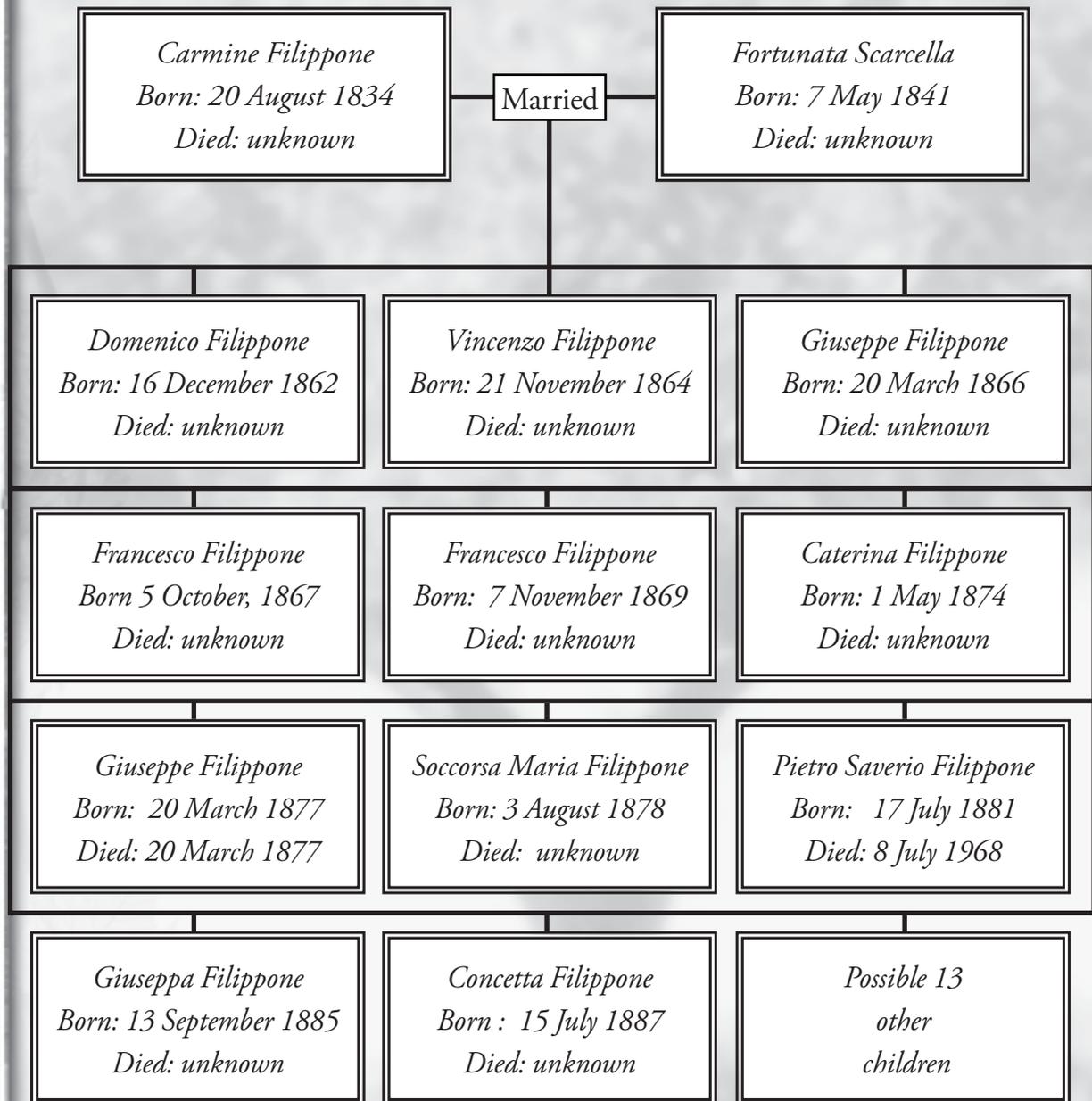
It was during the following years that many of Carminé's descendants left their country of birth, for unknown worlds, to create a new life of freedom for themselves.





Carminie Filippone
married
Fortunata Scarcella

Family line: Francesco Filippone and Carmina Consentino
Domenico Filippone and Teresa Tedesco



Chapter Four
Great-Great-Great-Great Grandfather
Pietro Scarcella

Another Tree Begins from a Single Sprout

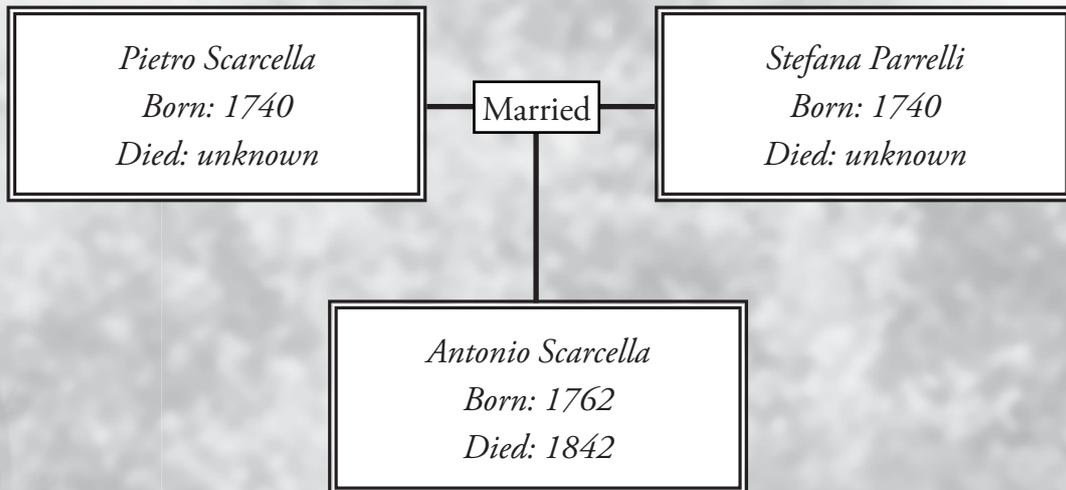


ur ancestor, Pietro Scarcella, was born in the early 1700's. To date, not much more is known about him other than the fact that he married Stefana Parrelli and lived in Palmi, Reggio Calabria. Likely they had many children, however, one record, of a son

they named Antonio, was discovered in the archives at Stato Civile di Reggio Calabria. During my investigation of our family history, the Scarcella surname is commonly found in Palmi and the surrounding hamlets.

A few years ago, I was contacted by a Scarcella family living near Perth in Western Australia. Exchanging information we were able to confirm that we were related.







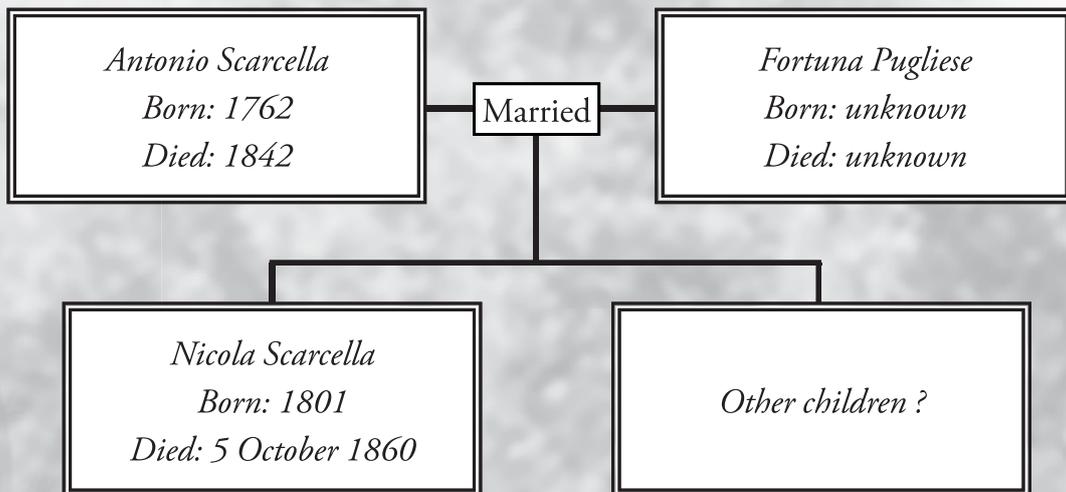
Chapter Five
Great-Great-Great Grandfather
Antonio Scarcella



Antonio Scarcella was born sometime in 1762 and died on the 31st August, 1842. He married a local girl called Fortunata from the Pugliese family, and no doubt had many children, as was the custom in those days. As the Pugliese name keeps appearing in our family history, I imagine the families were well known to each other and quite possibly lived close to each other. Living from one century into another, they would have experienced many events and changes of government as history tells us and, no doubt, had the pleasure of seeing their children growing up and marrying. The family extended, when their son Nicola was born, and had the blessing of becoming Grandparents when their Grandchild Fortunata was born and given the name of her Grandmother. This joy was short lived, however, as Antonio passed away one year later, in 1842. No further details regarding Fortunata Pugliese have been sourced as yet.



Family line: Pietro Scarcella and Stefana Parrelli



Estratto di Morte

Num. d'ordine 152 -

L'anno mille ottocento *quarantadue* il dì *ventuno*
del mese di *Agosto* alle ore *indici* avanti
di Noi *Paolino Cardona* *Divisione 11. da S. Indio*
ed ufficiale dello Stato Civile del Comune di *Palma*
Distretto di *Palma* Provincia della Prima Calabria Ulte-
riore, sono comparsi *Casquale Detupalo*
di anni *vinghanta* di professione *Linajolo*
regnicolo domiciliato in *Palma* e *Francesco Polonio*
di anni *quingenta* di professione *gallinara*
regnicolo domiciliato in *Palma* i quali ci han dichiarato
che nel giorno *ventuno* del mese di *Agosto* anno
quattro alle ore *sei* *Stallone* è morto
Antonio Scarcella *Udovo di Portofino Ca-*
gliari

nato a *Palma* di anni *ottanta* di professione
bracciante domiciliato in *Palma* figli di *fu Pietro*
di professione _____ domiciliato in _____
e di *fu Stefano* *Barilli* do-
miciliato in *Palma*

Per esecuzione delle legge - ci siamo trasferiti insieme con
detti testimoni presso la persona defunta e ne abbiamo ricono-
sciuta la sua effettiva morte.

Abbiamo quindi formato il presente atto che abbiamo iscritto
sopra i due registri, e datone lettura ai dichiaranti, si è nel
giorno, mese, e l'anno come sopra segnato da noi, *avendo*

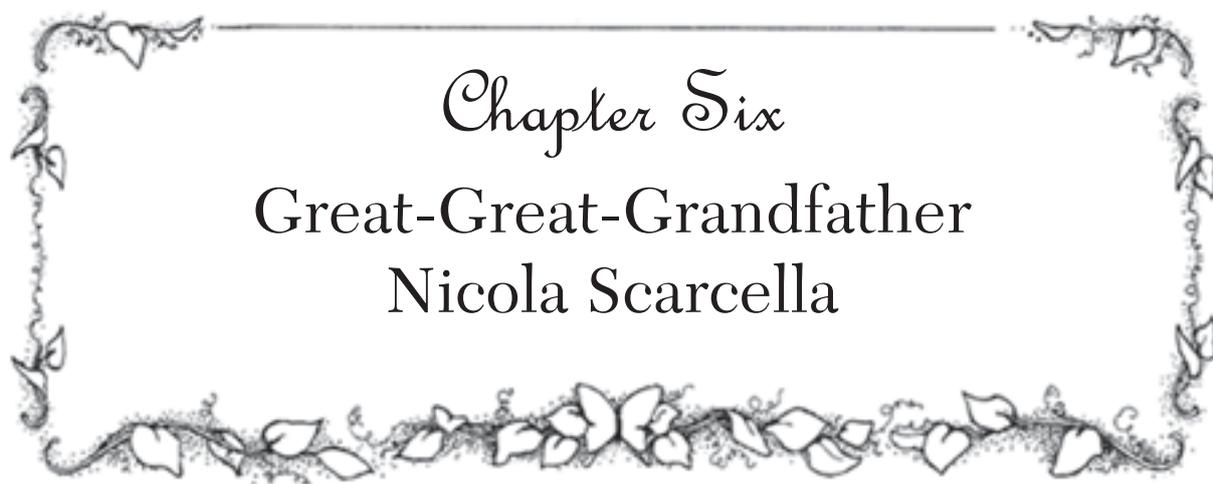
costato a spese di non pagate giorno
da Divisione 11. da S. Indio: 2
vino Cardona

Uff. S. Indio
del Sindaco in consiglio
L. Spigola delegato
Palma Cardona

Per Estretto Conforme
Il Casale S. Indio
Giuseppe Militano



Death certificate of Antonio Scarcella 1762 - 1842



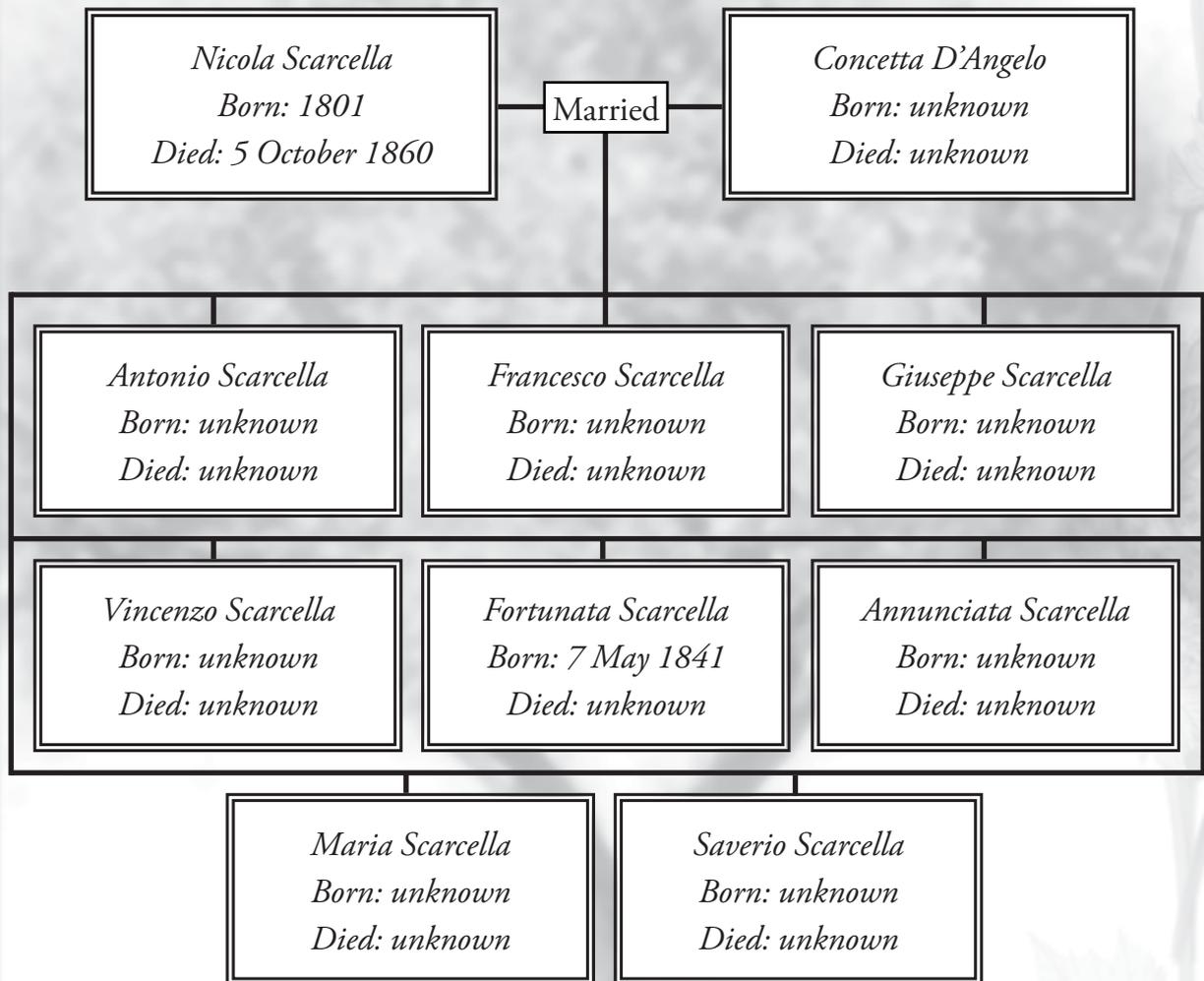
Chapter Six
Great-Great-Grandfather
Nicola Scarcella



Nicola Scarcella was born in 1801 and passed away on 5th October, 1860. He married Concetta D'Angelo with whom he went on to have a large family of five sons and three daughters. One of these, Fortunata Scarcella, would become our Great Grandmother who married Carmine Filippone. As was the tradition, Nicola named his first born son after his father, Antonio, and Fortunata, being the first female, was named after his mother.



Family line: Pietro Scarcella and Stefana Parrelli
Antonio Scarcella and Fortunata Pugliese



Estratto di Morte

Num. d'ordine 152 -

L'anno mille ottocento *quarantadue* il dì *ventuno*
 del mese di *Agosto* alle ore *tredecim* avanti
 di Noi *Paolo Cardona* *Divisione II. da S. Lucia*
 ed ufficiale dello Stato Civile del Comune di *Palma*
 Distretto di *Palma* Provincia della Prima Calabria Ulte-
 riore, sono comparso *Calisto Petrucci*
 di anni *vingunta* di professione *linguista*
 regnicolo domiciliato in *Palma* e *Francesco Orlando*
 di anni *quaranta* di professione *gallinatore*
 regnicolo domiciliato in *Palma* i quali ci han dichiarato
 che nel giorno *ventuno* del mese di *Agosto* anno
quattro alle ore *sei* *Stellione* è morto
Antonio Scarcella *Udace di Portofino Ca-*
gliari

nata a *Palma* di anni *ottanta* di professione
bracciante domiciliata in *Palma* figlia di *fu Pietro*
 di professione _____ domiciliato in _____
 e di *fu Stefania Casella* do-
 miciliata in *Palma*

Per esecuzione delle legge - ci siamo trasferiti insieme con
 detti testimoni presso la persona defunta e ne abbiamo ricono-
 sciuta la sua effettiva morte.

Abbiamo quindi formato il presente atto che abbiamo iscritto
 sopra i due registri, e datone lettura ai dichiaranti, si è nel
 giorno, mese, ed anno come sopra segnato da noi, *secondo*

costato appreso di non sapere giorno
no. II. Divisione II. da S. Lucia. B.
via Casella -

Uff. S. Lucia
 del Sindaco in comando
Calisto Petrucci delegato
Francesco Orlando

Per Estente Conforme -
 Il Carante Giudicario
Giuseppe Militano



Death certificate of Nicola Scarcella

Estratto di Nascita

Distretto di *Palma*

Comune di *Palma*

Num. d'ordine *123*

INDICAZIONE

del Battesimo

Num. d'ordine *123*

L'anno mille-ottocento *quarantuno*
 il di *sette* del mese di *Maggio*
 alle ore *tre* avanti di Noi *Giuseppe Sordani*
 ed Ufficiale dello Stato Civile del Comune di *Palma*
 Distretto di *Palma* Provincia
 della Prima Calabria Ulteriore: è comparso *Fortunata Scarcella*
 di anni *quarantuno*
 di professione *Martina*
 domiciliata in *Palma*, la quale ci ha
 presentato un *parto* secondo che abbiamo
 ocularmente riconosciuto, ed ha dichiarato che
il figlio è nato da Conetto Sordani
di anni trentadue, ved. Virgilio Sordani
alla età di anni quarantuno, di professione
regista, coniugato, domiciliato in
Palma, nel giorno primo del 1841
presso di casa all'indirizzo di
nella Casa di loro abitazione.

L'anno mille-ottocento
 il di *otto* del mese di *Maggio*
 il Parroco della Chiesa di *San*
 si è restituito nel di *otto* del
 mese di *Maggio*
 anno *1841*
 il notamento che noi gli
 abbiamo rimesso nel gior
 no *sette*
 del mese di *Maggio*
 anno *1841*
 del controscritto atto di
 nascita, in piè del quale
 ha indicato che il Sagra-
 mento del Battesimo è sta-
 to amministrato a
Fortunata Scarcella
 nel giorno *sette* *Maggio*

La stessa è inoltre dichiarato di dare alla *venuta*
Bambina il nome di *Fortunata Scarcella*

In vista di tal notamen-
 to dopo di averlo cifrato,
 abbiamo disposto che fos-
 so conservato nel volume
 dei documenti, al foglio
123.

La presentazione e dichiarazione anzidetta, si è fatta
 alla presenza di *Gabriele Gulli*
 di anni *trentatuno* di professione
Capotipo domiciliato in *Palma*
 e di *Aleandro Dajati*
 di anni *quarantuno* di professione *Martina*
 domiciliato in *Palma*
 testimoni intervenuti al presente atto, e da essa *Sig.*
Fortunata Scarcella prodotti.

Abbiamo inoltre accu-
 sato al Parroco la ricezione
 del medesimo, ed abbiamo
 formato, il presente atto
 ch'è stato iscritto sopra i
 due registri al margine
 del corrispondente atto di
 nascita, ed indi abbiamo
 firmato.

Il presente atto che abbiamo formato all' uopo è
 stato iscritto sopra i due registri, letto al dichiarante
 ed ai testimoni, ed indi nel giorno, mese ed anno,
 come sopra firmato da noi, *avendo cessato di*
funzione di non poter più

L' Ufficiale Civile,
Giuseppe Sordani



Fortunata Scarcella
Palma
Giuseppe Sordani
Palma
Palma

Birth certificate of Fortunata Scarcella

Chapter Seven

Grandfather Pietro Saverio Filippone



When Leaves Begin to Entwine



Grandfather Pietro Filippone was always referred to as Nonno Pietro in our family. It is with regret that my brother and I never met him, as we were both born in Australia – and he passed away when I was seven years old.

Family stories regarding Nonno Pietro, revealed him to be a very humble and loving person and highly respected in the town of Taureana in Palmi, where he lived throughout his life. As it was the tradition of giving nicknames in those days, Nonno was known as Pietro ‘Iacinto’. He was named this for his favourite type of fish, which he liked to catch along the Costa Viola.



Nonno Pietro worked as a labourer, building stone houses and fences, which I was privileged to see during my visits there in 1979 and 2002. It was an extraordinary feeling, when I touched a stone wall he had built near the church of San Fantino, in which his name was engraved at the top right-hand corner. As we travelled around the area, my Zio Antonio would often point out the houses Nonno Pietro built, which were still standing in excellent form all these years later.

Nonno was also famous for playing the guitar, and even had a song written about him. My cousin, Giuseppe in Taureana, gave us a copy of it in 2002. Unfortunately, I have been unsuccessful in locating it and, sadly, it is most likely is lost forever.

Nonno was a member of a small band that played for special occasions and family gatherings. He taught himself how to play the strings, and the few bars he strummed were popular with the ballads he was known for. Accompanying the tambourine for the *Calabrese Tarantella* dance was his specialty.

He married his cousin, Carmela Filippone – in Europe, first cousin marriage was considered the norm and very prominent amongst royalty. It was quite common amongst southern Italians, with nearly 50 percent of cousin marriages taking place throughout the rural areas during the early 20th century. Nonno and Nonna had five sons and three daughters. From these eight children the Filippone family tree continued to grow, with leaves entwining throughout the generations and sprouting into other parts of the world.





*Formal portrait of Nonno Pietro Saverio
Filippone and Nonna Carmela Filippone*



*Nonno Pietro and Nonna Carmela with
their son, Giuseppe Filippone – 1964*



Nonna and Nonno with their grandson, Giuseppe Filippone, son of Antonio Filippone – in front of the house at Taureana. The house had a kitchen, one bedroom, and a small veranda at the back.

In 2002, my father, my sister Lena and I stayed there during our holiday and slept in the same bedroom where Nonno, Nonna and all eight children had slept



In this photo Zio Antonio is holding the famous guitar that Nonno

Pietro played. Zio Antonio also knew how to play the violin'

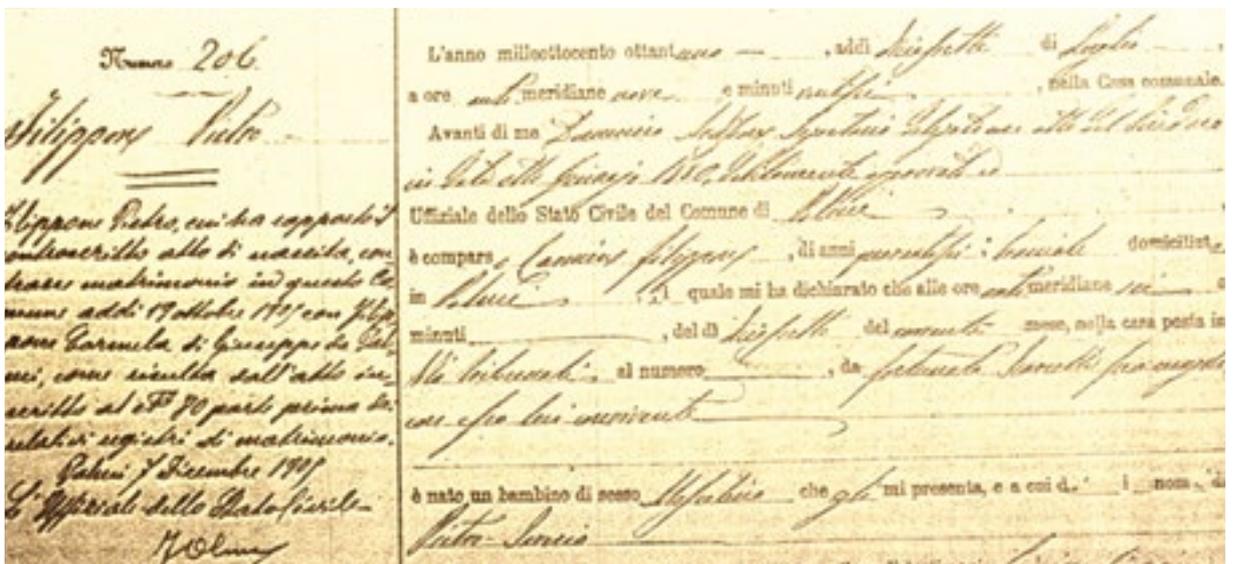


On my visit to Italy in 2002, my Zia Maria from Torino had a photograph of Nonno Pietro in complete uniform, wearing his impressive feathered morello hat. I also had the honour of holding his medals, which left me with a profound sensation of reverence for the Grandfather I never met

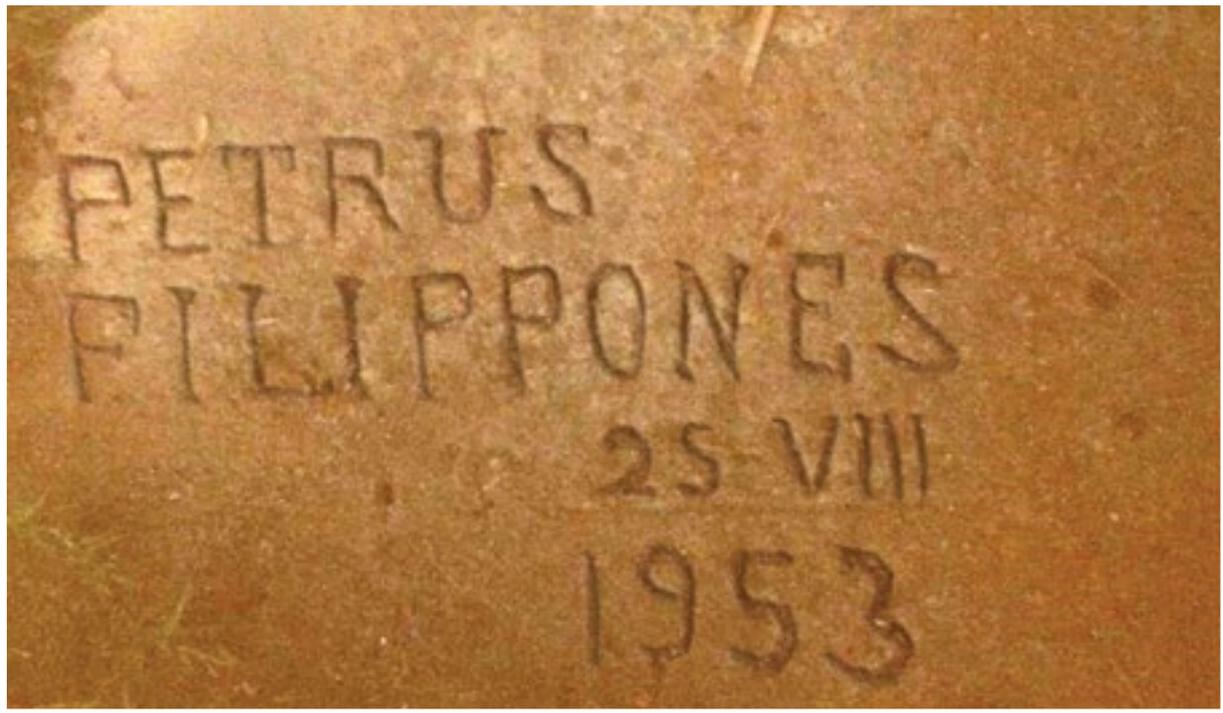




Nonno Pietro, in his later years, resting in comfort on his veranda



Pietro Saverio's Birth Certificate



Nonnos signature on a stone wall he built in 1953. This was shown to me in 1979 while walking through San Fantino Archaeological Park, on the way home to Taureana



Nonno Pietro's final resting place at the Cimitero di Palmi, Reggio Calabria



Dietro Saverio Filippone

married

Carmela Filippone