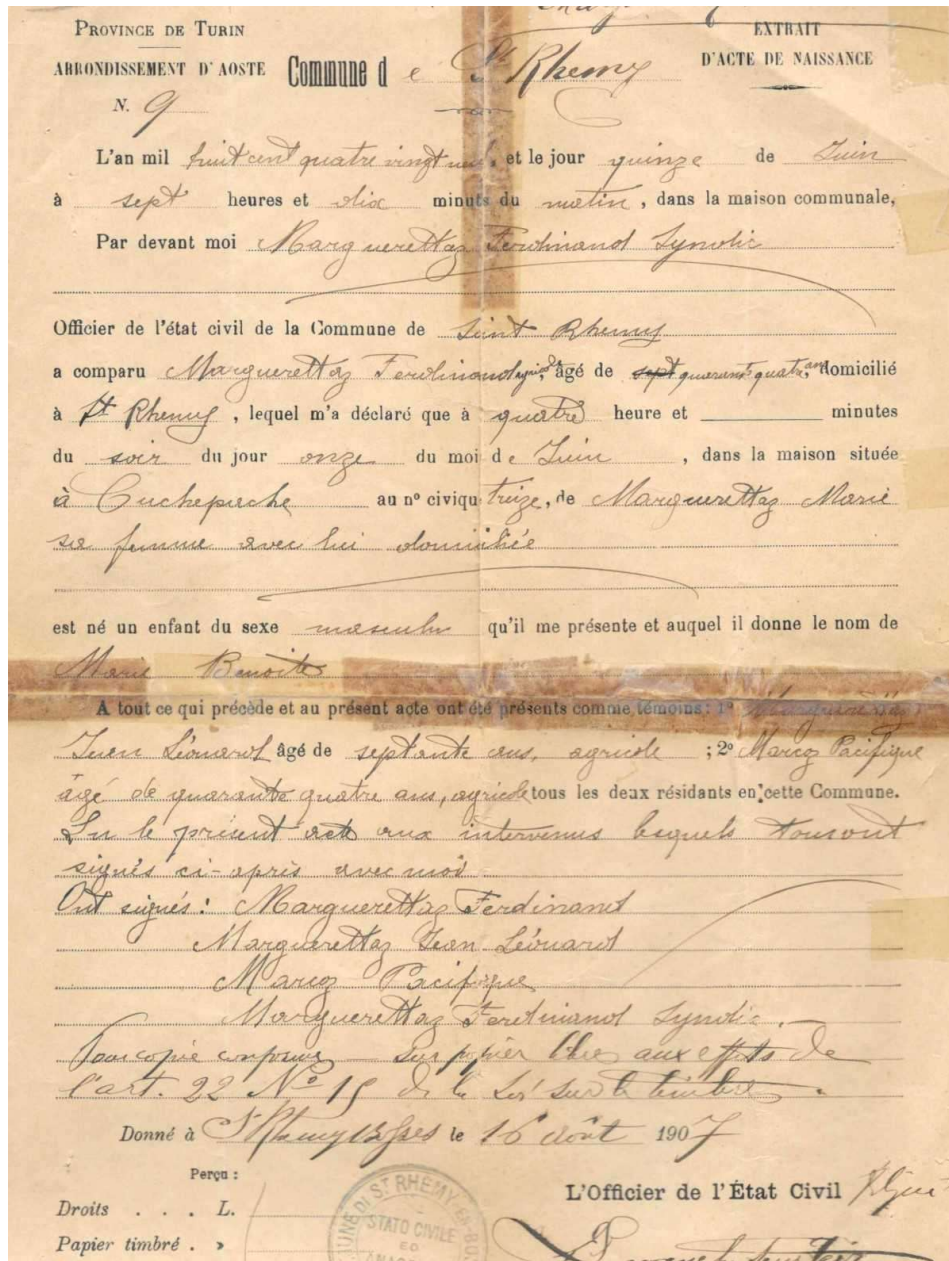


My grandmother, Marie Benoitte Marguerettaz (we called her "Mamou") was born June 11, 1889 in Saint-Rhemy-en-Bosses. She was the youngest of the seven children of Gabriel Ferdinand Marguerettaz (1844-1906) and Marie Marguerettaz (1845-1904). Her siblings were:

- Feliciano (1875-1944)
- Perside (1877-1919)
- Giuseppe (1880-1947)
- Francesco (1882-1959)
- Anselmo (1884-1913)
- Carolina (1887-1944)



Marie's Birth Certificate



The Marguerettaz Family at their mountain house "Berrauz" in the Aosta Valley
 L-R: Bernardo, Ferdinando, Feliciano, Elviro Marguerettaz, Feliciano's wife Delfina Figerod,
 Eugenio, Rosina & Valentina Marguerettaz, and the young girl Fernanda Carrel

I've been told by Marguerettaz cousins in Aosta that Feliciano and Francesco went to the United States in the first decade of the twentieth century. Their intent was apparently to make money to settle a family debt. Ellis Island records show their last place of residence as Paris. From there they traveled to Le Harve and sailed on the ship "La Lorraine", arriving at Ellis Island on June 30, 1906. They are also listed as farmers, each carrying 20 dollars; but the two are destined for Leadville, Colorado, about a hundred miles west of Denver. Lines six and seven in the image below.

THIS SHEET IS FOR SEVERAGE PASSENGERS.

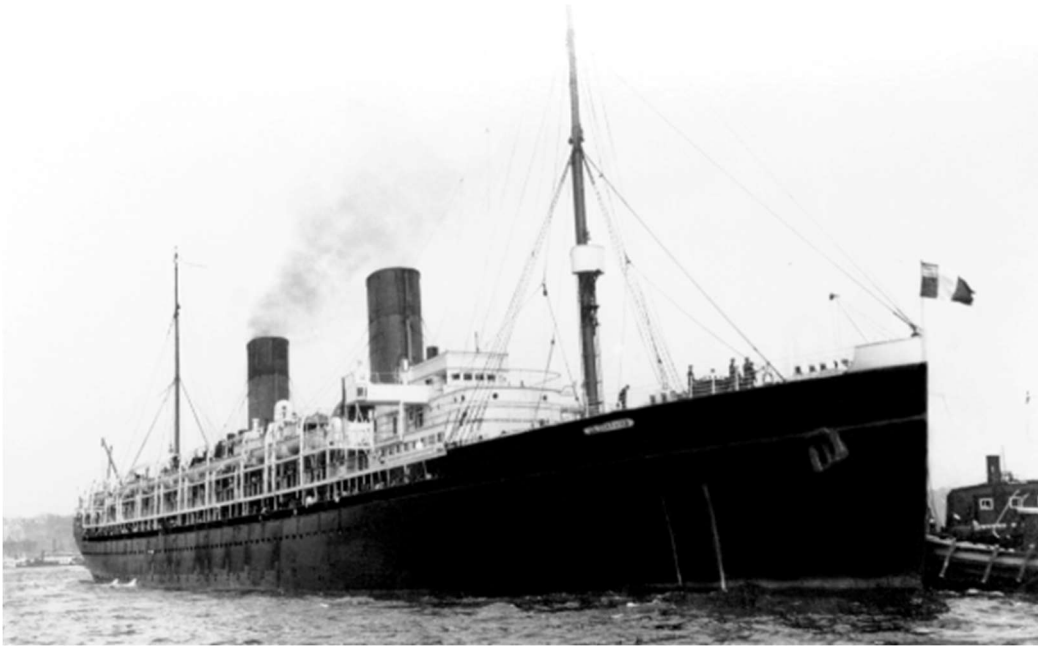
LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE U. S. IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, under Act of Congress approved March 3, 1903, to be delivered to the U. S. Immigration Officer by the Commanding Officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States.

S. S. *La Lorraine*, sailing from *Le Harve* June 28, 1906 Arriving at Port of *New York* June 30, 1906 98

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Rank	Profession	Nationality	Place of Birth	Place of Residence	Married	Value of property	Character of service	Whether going to visit a relative or friend, and if so, who; relative or friend, and his name and complete address	Whether able to read and write English	Whether able to read and write	Whether able to speak English	Whether able to speak	Whether able to read and write	Whether able to speak	Whether able to read and write	Whether able to speak	Whether able to read and write
1	<i>Galloni Giuseppe</i>	M	30	Farmer	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italy	Yes	20	Farmer	Italy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	<i>Costi Francesco</i>	M	35	Farmer	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italy	Yes	20	Farmer	Italy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	<i>DePaulis Giuseppe</i>	M	30	Farmer	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italy	Yes	20	Farmer	Italy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	<i>Rizza Francesco</i>	M	30	Farmer	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italy	Yes	20	Farmer	Italy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	<i>Di Paolo Antonio</i>	M	30	Farmer	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italy	Yes	20	Farmer	Italy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	<i>Marguerettaz Elviro</i>	M	30	Farmer	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italy	Yes	20	Farmer	Italy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	<i>Marguerettaz Delfina</i>	F	30	Farmer's wife	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italy	Yes	20	Farmer's wife	Italy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

June 30, 1906 Manifest for "La Lorraine"



La Lorraine



Feliciano Marguerettaz



Immigration records for Feliciano & Francesco Marguerettaz

Feliciano was married to Delfina Figerod, and also had a very young son.

The 1910 United States census finds Feliciano (listed as "Felicien") living in Conemaugh, Pennsylvania, about seventy miles east of Pittsburgh. I've found no evidence that he ever went to Colorado. The house he is living in and the one next door are occupied by Italian immigrants in a home owned by another Italian immigrant, Giuseppe Biancette and

his wife Celestina. On the other side is a house occupied by Polish immigrants. With the exception of a few women and children all of the twenty-nine people listed on this census page are employed working in the coal mines. Of these twenty-nine we find an Anselme and a Pacific Marguerettaz, Anselme living in the same house as Feliciano. I have no idea if they were related to Feliciano. Also in this boarding house is a boarder named Gasper Savoye. Likewise I have no idea if Gasper is related, but back in Italy a Louis Savoye had married Perside Marguerettaz, a sister of Feliciano.

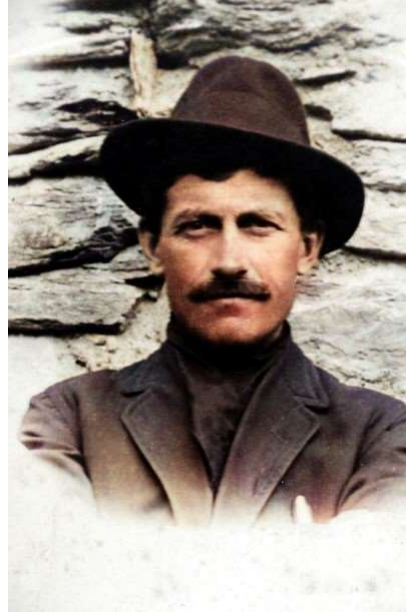
NAME	RELATION	SEX	AGE	DATE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH	ETHNICITY	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	EMPLOYED	REMARKS
Biancato Francesco	Boarder	M	W	24	11	St. Italian	St. Italian	St. Italian	1906	al English
Celestina	Wife	F	W	21	11	St. Italian	St. Italian	St. Italian	1909	Italian
Peter	Son	M	W	3	11	Pennsylvania	St. Italian	St. Italian		
Magneti Bernardino	Boarder	M	W	32	11	St. Italian	St. Italian	St. Italian	1907	al Italian
Magneti Feliciano	Boarder	M	W	35	11	St. Italian	St. Italian	St. Italian	1906	al Italian
Anselme	Boarder	M	W	26	11	St. Italian	St. Italian	St. Italian	1917	al Italian
Savoye Gasper	Boarder	M	W	27	11	St. Italian	St. Italian	St. Italian	1909	al Italian
Pacific Marguerettaz	Boarder	M	W	30	11	St. Italian	St. Italian	St. Italian	1909	al Italian
Byndy Reshe	Boarder	M	W	21	11	St. Italian	St. Italian	St. Italian	1900	al English

1910 United States Census for Conemaugh, Pennsylvania

The census states that Feliciano had arrived 1906, that he is thirty-five years old, and that he has been married for five years. I have not found any United States census record for Francesco, a possible indication that he may have returned to Italy prior to the 1910 census.



Francesco Marguerettaz



Francesco Marguerettaz

Supposedly some, or all of the brothers also spent some time in Orange County, New Jersey employed as workmen, perhaps digging for the placement of water or sewer lines. This photo below shows Francesco, standing third from left in back row with arms crossed, with a crew of other miners.



Feliciano stayed in America for about ten years before returning home, then soon departing, this time with his growing family, for near Paris where they stayed for a number of years before returning to Aosta. They may have intended to return to America, but the First World War intervened and Feliciano and Francesco ultimately remained in the Aosta Valley for the rest of their lives.

Maria, their mother, had died on May 27, 1904 at the age of fifty-eight. Then on February 13, 1906 the father, Gabriel, was kicked in the head by a horse and died at age sixty-one. Feliciano and Francesco left for America four months after this tragedy. Perside, the eldest daughter, had married Louis Savoye in 1905.



Marie Benoite (rear) & Carolina Marguerettaz

By 1907 Carolina had decided to leave. Also departing from Le Harve and sailing on La Gascogne, traveling with no other family she arrived in Ellis Island on November 4, 1907. On the ship's manifest she lists herself as a housekeeper, that her nearest relative back home is Ferdinand Marguerettaz, and that her final destination is

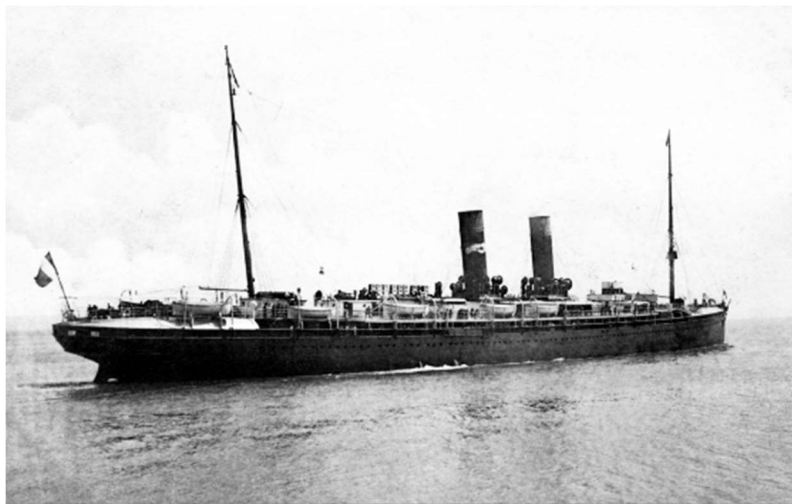
Leadville, Colorado. The Ferdinand she mentions may be her father, as that was his middle name, but if my dates are correct he had died the previous year. Why Leadville is once again used as a destination is a mystery, as no evidence uncovered to date indicates any of the family ever went to Colorado. Carolina's entry is on the next to last line in the below image (note – on the ellisland.org website her surname is misspelled as "Marguerettar").

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, to be delivered

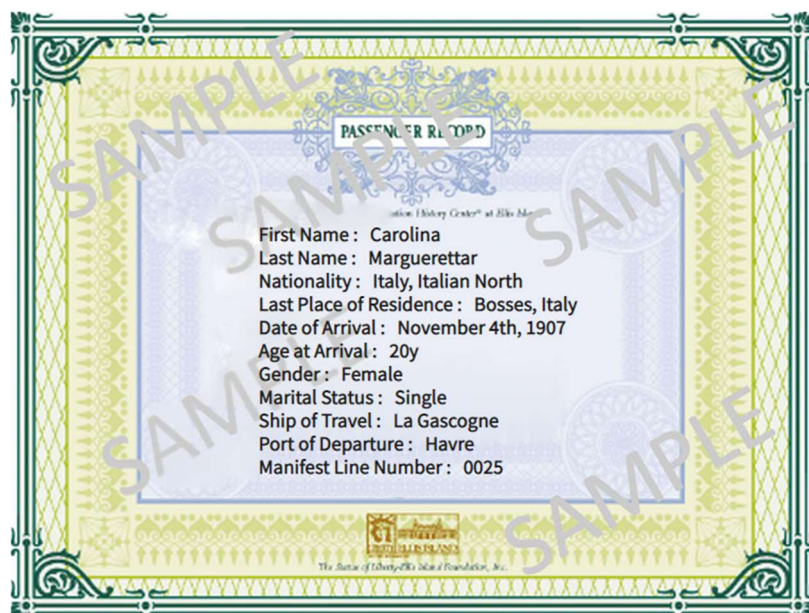
S. S. LA GASCOGNE sailing from Hague 11 OCT 1907

No. on List	NAME IN FULL		Age	Sex	Rank or Occupation	Last Permanent Residence	Last Residence
	Family Name	Given Name					
1	Marshetti	Giuseppe	30	M	Lab	Italy	Italy
2	Bellegrino	Ceschi	15	M		Italy	Italy
3	Dugni	Maria	20	F		Italy	Italy
4	Diqual	Ernesto	21	M	Lab	Italy	Italy
5	Civotto	Eugenio	21	M	Lab	Italy	Italy
6	Geniale	Ernesto	25	M		Italy	Italy
7	Giusti	Art. Giovanni	21	M	Lab	Italy	Italy
8	Conratto	Giuseppe	23	M		Italy	Italy
9	Tomasi	Giuseppe	21	M		Italy	Italy
10	Tomani	Cesare	18	M	Lab	Italy	Italy
11	Goli	Battista	30	M		Italy	Italy
12	Maspero	Stefano	23	M		Italy	Italy
13	Dehabae	Luca	22	M		Italy	Italy
14	Di Cerro	Giuseppe	25	M		Italy	Italy
15	Marretti	Stefano	22	M		Italy	Italy
16	Ruggioni	Carlo	21	M		Italy	Italy
17	Castellani	Luigi	13	M		Italy	Italy
18	Schiavino	Stefano	19	M		Italy	Italy
19	Parpano	Giuseppe	20	M	Lab	Italy	Italy
20	Melone	Antonio	20	M		Italy	Italy
21	Kasneri	Miguel	23	M		Italy	Italy
22	Charvel	Element	24	M		Italy	Italy
23	"	Modelo	24	M		Italy	Italy
24	Coordini	Giuseppe	23	M		Italy	Italy
25	Requardar	Carolina	20	F		Italy	Italy
26	Medici	Paolo	34	M	Lab	Italy	Italy

November 4, 1907 Manifest for La Gascoigne



La Gascoigne



Marie followed Carolina to America in 1910 at age 18, traveling first to Lausanne, Switzerland. Records show she was five feet three inches tall, with dark hair and a fair complexion. She paid 370 francs for her passage aboard the Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm, which departed from Southampton, England and arrived at Ellis Island on May 16, 1910.

Ueberseeische Auswanderung im Jahr 1910.

Agentur: **WEISS & Co.** Nr. der Kontrolle: *411*

Monat der Abreise aus der Schweiz: *Mai*

Dampfer: *Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm*

Einschiffungshafen: *Southampton*

Ausschiffungshafen: *New York*

Bestimmungsort: *"*

Passagepreis: Fr. *370.*

dch. Ag. Lausanne

Persönliche Bezeichnung des Auswanderers:

Name und Vorname: *Margueretta Maria* *Bene-*
detta

Geschlecht: ~~Männlich~~ — weiblich.

Heimat-
gemeinde } *St. Rhein* *Kanton* *Valais*
(Land)

Wohn-
gemeinde } *Lausanne* *Kant.* *Waadt*

Civilstand: Ledig — ~~verheiratet~~ — ~~verwitwet~~ — ~~geschieden~~.

Hat dieser Auswanderer eigenen Beruf oder Erwerb? Ja — Nein.

Beruf oder Erwerb des Auswanderers } *Köchin*
oder seines Ernährers }

Geburtsjahr: 18. *89*

Marie's Swiss overseas emigration record

The manifest, with “Maria” online 6, reveals much about her and her situation. It shows her profession as “cook” and lists her nearest relative or friend at home as “Mr. S. Louis” in St. Remy, Italy. This is most likely Louis Savoye, her sister Perside’s husband. Among the nine of so passengers, we see those from England, Wales, Japan, and Italy, illustrating the “melting pot” nature of the masses heading to the United States. The second page notes that she paid for her passage herself, and that she has arrived with 23 dollars. Her destination is not Pennsylvania or Colorado, but rather the very specific address of 253 West 24th Street in New York City (Manhattan).

PASSENGER RECORD

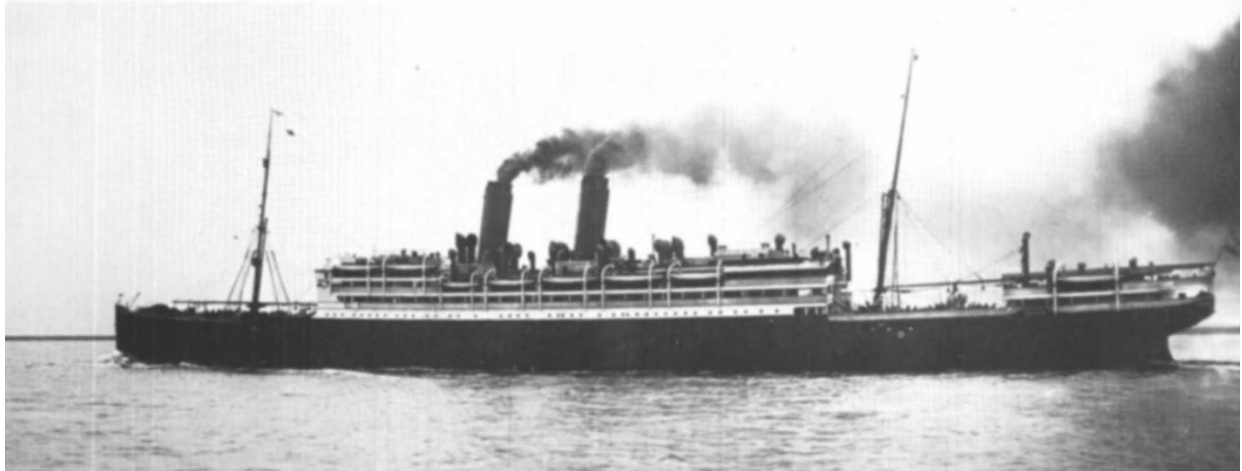
Immigration History Center® at Ellis Island

First Name : Maria
Last Name : Marguerettaz
Nationality : Italy, Italian North
Last Place of Residence : St. Remy, Italy
Date of Arrival : May 16th, 1910
Age at Arrival : 21y
Gender : Female
Marital Status : Single
Ship of Travel : Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm
Port of Departure : Southampton
Manifest Line Number : 0006

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.



Marie Benoite Marguerettaz about the time she left for America



Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm

The ship's manifest notes that Marie is destined for the "French Home." A lookup of the 253 West 24th Street address reveals that it is currently the home of the Jeanne D'Arc Residence. Many immigrant groups formed their own enclaves in New York. What is today known as the Chelsea neighborhood lies north of Greenwich Village and south of the Garment District and Times Square. A 2011 New York Times article looks at what was known as "New York's French Colony." The Colony "...is now largely Catholic, maintaining the churches of St. Vincent de Paul in West 23rd Street and of Jean Baptiste in East 76th Street... Among the other institutions anchoring the district were the Cercle Francaise de l'Harmonie, on West 26th Street, a social hub.... The French Benevolent Society, French Hospital, an orphanage, and several professional groups representing French chefs, waiters, and musicians also made their home in the neighborhood—now Chelsea, which has long since lost any international flavor."

Among these institutions catering to the French ex-pat community was also the Jeanne D'Arc Residence. An 1896 New York Times article documents the opening of this home for "friendless French girls" who come to the United States. Founded under the direction of the Fathers of Mercy of the Church of St. Vincent de Paul, the residence offered a safe place to sleep and also offered job-search services. In his opening address Father Wucher further elaborated "They are looking for positions as femmes de chambre, bonnes d'enfant, and gouvernantes. Many mothers like to obtain French girls for their children. Ladies come here to inquire for girls.... We had a regular intelligence office here. Sometimes we would be called upon half a dozen times a day.... The girls can secure positions without extra charge. The home will always be open to them when they are out of employment, and they are at liberty to come here for part of a day and have a dinner by paying 25 cents, and the use of the house and library. About twenty girls can be accommodated at the home.... Among the French-speaking girls are those from Switzerland and Belgium." Father Wucher closed his address by stating that "the home now belongs to the ladies."

HOME FOR FRENCH GIRLS

**FORMALLY OPENED YESTERDAY BY
ARCHBISHOP CORRIGAN.**

**Unemployed from La Belle France
Now Have a Safe and Comfortable
Retreat in West Twenty-fourth
Street—Under the Direction of the
Fathers of Mercy—An Intelligence
Office to be Established—Gift of
Miss Catherine Theresa Smith.**

Jeanne d'Arc is the Patron Saint. Her picture, framed in red, white, and blue, hung from the ceiling of the parlor of the pleasant little brick house at 251 West Twenty-fourth Street, which is to be a home hereafter for friendless French girls who come to this country.

The Jeanne d'Arc Home, under the direction of the Fathers of Mercy of the Church of St. Vincent de Paul was formally opened yesterday by Archbishop Corrigan in the presence of Canon Dormagen of France, Provincial Saillat of the Order of the Fathers of Mercy, Father Smith and Father Wucher of the same order, Sisters of the church, and a number of invited guests.

A French flag floated gayly from the front of the house all the afternoon, two shields on either side of the front door bore the words "Jeanne d'Arc Home," and inside were masses of red, white, and blue.

New York Times, April 10, 1896



The larger Jeanne D'Arc Home, built in 1911



The Jeanne D'Arc Home today

Marie certainly knew of the existence of the French Home prior to her departure from Europe. One wonders, in light of Father Wucher's comments, if this informed her decision to file her immigration papers from Switzerland, in spite of the fact that residents of the Aosta Valley at the time would almost certainly have been conversant in French. Indeed, Marie's birth certificate is in French, and my grandmother spoke French and sometimes identified herself as



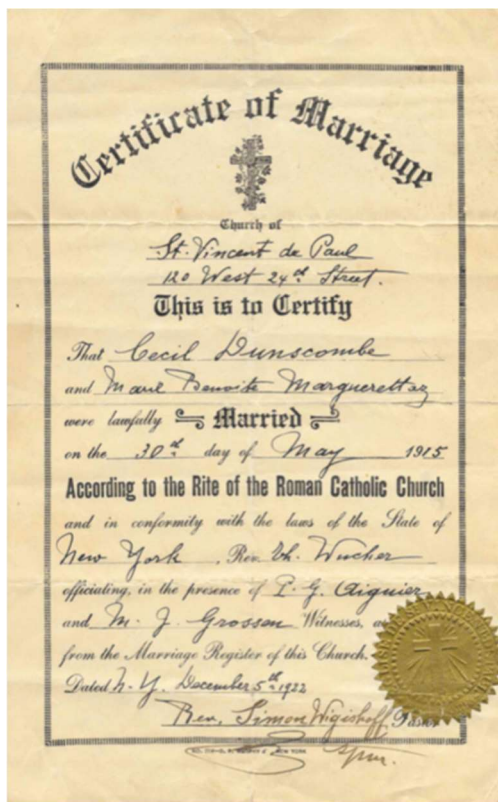
The house in Owego where Carolina lived and worked in 1910 (contemporary photo)

Carolina's position as a servant in a private residence substantiates the claim of Father Wucher from the French Home that many young French-speaking immigrant women at the time were recruited for domestic positions. Her census entry for herself and both of her parents are listed as "Switz (French)." As an aside, Owego is only some ten miles from my residence in Endicott, New York. I have unknowingly driven by the house she lived in many times.

The next development we can document in the lives of the two Marguerettaz sisters is Marie's 1915 marriage. Sometime between 1910 and 1915 she attended a dance or block party where she met my grandfather, an officer in the United States Navy named Cecil Dunscombe. Cecil's parents, especially on his mother's side, had roots that went far back into early American colonial history, including a Pilgrim passenger on the Mayflower. The two married on May 30, 1915, not coincidentally at St. Vincent de Paul Church, in the heart of the French ex-pat community; the same church that had founded the French Home where Marie first lived when she arrived in 1910. The church and the home were both located close to each other on West 24th Street.



Cecil Dunscombe, 1918



Marie & Cecil's marriage certificate



St. Vincent de Paul Church in a contemporary photo

Cecil had an elder sister, Margaret, who had joined an Episcopal religious order, as well as two younger brothers. We can get some sense of the relationship between Margaret, Cecil, and Marie via some passages from surviving letters Margaret wrote to Cecil. In the first, Margaret writes to Cecil from her convent in Tennessee, on November 15, 1915, having just learned of the marriage:

Dear Ce:

Your letter was a bomb of delight! The idea of your (sic) doing so exciting a thing as to marry and not even letting us have a thrill over it!! - And you must have devised how rejoiced I would be to welcome a French sister - why didn't you bring her to my procession and I would have seen you both? Anyway I'll write her a little note of friendship and send it in yours. I congratulate you from the ends of my heart - you have chosen a nationality full of beautiful ideal and of charm and I'm quite sure I'd love her - indeed I do anyway.

The second, posted from the home convent in Peekskill, New York, presumably written sometime in 1916:

I did have such a nice time with you. and am so very glad indeed to have had the opportunity of knowing Marie. She is true gold and I am sure will only become moreso as she grows older - I will write her a line to go in with this tonight. The Mother was anxious to hear if I stayed long enough to really see everyone, as she wanted me to do that and did you know Pa couldn't have come over the other night. I think he needs the rest, and yet felt he must come as long as I was there.

Please excuse this paper - I must find a sheet for Marie - but was in great haste to get you this word that I know will rejoice you. I shall pray for your little house on the Med. if that is the best - that is my part and no small power it is! With much love always

Margaret

And the third, dated February 21, (1918), referencing that Marie and Cecil now have two children:

Dear Ce-

If this letter reaches you, it will tell of loving thoughts and prayers that follow you -- and if you are in the midst of fighting or hardness of any kind, and that can cheer, I shall be very glad.

I can hear so very little of you-- Pa sent me one of your censored postcards from some French town, and it could say little -- I sent it home, because they pray much for you at the convent -- you will never be left alone in the press of whatever you may have to do.

Pa also told me that you are the father of two these days -- a little daughter! -- I wonder if you will have seen her by this time? I've written to Marie -- who seems to me a courageous person, and no hysterical little fly off the handle -- I feel much admiration for her, and always have.

There is also this earlier letter, from Cecil to Marie, indicating that Carolina must have returned to New York City from Owego some time prior to the letter's October 1916 date. It was written in French, demonstrating Cecil's fluency:

United States Atlantic Fleet
U.S.S. Pennsylvania, Flagship

90 Postmaster, New York City
20 October 1916

My dear Marie,

How are you today, my sweet poppet of all that I love? And how does Monsieur his Majesty our son feel? I hope that both, especially you, are taking care of yourself. Is the old hat as pretty as before? It is truly a fashion that suits you well. But I suspect that if you run without running to Abraham & Strauss, (?) and on Smiths St. you will find others just as incomparable. And also one day it is necessary that you visit le Miel Station for a discussion with the doctor. The fresh air will have a (?) effect on the kid; maybe you will have more time to walk in the park when your terrible husband is a little less far. It will be good for you both. Don't forget an appetizing and nourishing dinner each night, it's necessary for the little one.

Here, it's not very good weather. Without a doubt you understand, it is quite difficult to enjoy the splendid weather of the city during Autumn. Every day, rain, fog, wind, and the like. But me, I assess the water like a king his liquor, with you in my heart I am calm. Let me know if you are upset this month, and if the baby has a glass of your milk. (?) the joy of our return will be around the 20th of November; my God you will have to look at the turkeys through the eyes of a connoisseur.

Since I've not been with you, I'm pleased that you have that hospital in your bedroom. My (?) language spoke a few words but it was just to tease you. I ask that you pray to that each day, and that you brush your teeth, too. Give me news of your teeth, visit the dentist. My greetings to Caroline, a good kiss for the little one, and for you my package of herbs for the soup. I send kisses (for you) and am thinking of you and I love you always,

Your husband, Cecil

Marie and Cecil's first child, my father, was born on April 15, 1916. He was given the name Cecil Edward John Ferdinand Dunscombe, each of the four names honoring an ancestor. From a very early age he always went by the first name "Edward."



Cecil, Marie and baby (Cecil) Edward Dunscombe, 1916

Their second child, my aunt, was born on Christmas Day in 1917. She was named Margueite Micheline Dunscombe, thereafter known to one and all as Margie.

The happiness so evident in the photograph above, along with the dreams of a cottage on the Mediterranean, were sadly short-lived. During World War I Cecil was away much of the time, often on convoy duty in the North Atlantic. He took a camera with him and left an album containing many photos documenting life on ship and a river journey through French towns. As the war was drawing to a close in December 1918 he started to lose weight and felt ill. Reporting to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Brooklyn, New York he was diagnosed with diabetes as his condition worsened. He died on December 10, 1918, less than three years before insulin injections became a therapeutic treatment for the disease.

Sometime during these years Carolina met a fellow Aosta native, a widower named Louis Joseph Marie Gadin, born in Courmayeur in 1881. Gadin and his first wife, Catherine Chamonal, had married on May 19, 1910 in Aosta. A son, Joseph Aloysius Gadin, was born May 7 1911, but Catherine died sometime after.



Louis Gadin



Catherine Chamonal with baby Joseph

Carolina and Louis married on January 16, 1921. She became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1925, the year after Louis was naturalized. Her application states that they were both then living at 221 Gates Avenue in Brooklyn. Following Cecil's death Marie had purchased a house at that address, operating it as a boardinghouse. The 1920 census (see earlier) shows that she was then living at this address with her two children and her widowed father-in-law, John Dunscombe, along with several lodgers.

BRIDE

NAME OF BRIDE		VOL.	PAGE	NUMBER	DATE		
SURNAME	GIVEN NAME				MONTH	DAY	YEAR
Martarana	Posalia	17		40003	Dec	3	1920
Martini	Marguerite	"		40070	"	3	"
Maccia	Josh	"		40087	"	4	"
Macdonald	Anna	"		40097	"	4	"
Marone	Antoinette	"		40132	"	4	"
Marmey	Agastasia	"		40214	"	6	"
Marme	Helen	"		40324	"	"	"
Maloney	Mildred	"		40343	"	"	"
Marinelli	Isorina	"		40352	"	6	"
Mazzola	Maria A	"		40405	"	7	"
McEller	Janne	"		40470	"	7	"
Marcus	Josi	"		40449	"	7	"
Masters	Mabel	"		40455	"	7	"
Marguerettaz	Carolina M	"		40490	"	7	"
Marocco	Anna	"		40558	"	8	"
Marcus	Della	"		40605	"	9	"
Masyroff	Anna	"		40611	"	9	"
Markowitz	Mollie	"		40617	"	9	"
Mandell	Betty	"		40627	"	9	"
Mandel	Minnie	"		40657	"	9	"
Marko	Speda	"		40669	"	9	"
Marcopoulo	Gertrude	"		40687	"	9	"
MacFlynn	Madeline	"		40706	"	9	"
				40720	"	0	"

1920 Marriage Record for Carolina Marguerettaz

On subsequent census reports Louis Gadin lists his occupation as "Mechanical dentist." On the 1925 New York State Census Louis, Caroline, and fourteen-year-old Joseph are living at the 221 Gates Avenue address Marie was living at in 1920. All three state that they were born in France. This census shows that Marie and her two children are now living at 375 Henry Street in Brooklyn and that Marie is running a rooming house.

116360

ORIGINAL

116360

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Act of Sept. 22, 1922
PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

No. 9
W. J. B. C.
5. 1. 1924
W. J. B. C.

FEB 5 1929 9- AM

In the Honorable the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of New York:

The petition of Caroline Gadin, hereby filed, respectfully sheweth:

First. My place of residence is 221 Gates Av., Brooklyn (Give number, street, city or town, and State.)

Second. My occupation is housewife

Third. I was born on the 26 day of April, anno Domini 1887, at St. Remy Italy

Fourth. I emigrated to the United States from HAZRO, on or about the 26 day of October

anno Domini 1907, and arrived in the United States, at the port of New York, on the 4 day of November

anno Domini 1907, on the vessel La Gascoigne (If the alien arrived otherwise than by vessel, the character of conveyance or name of transportation company should be given.)

Fifth. I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on the X day of X, anno Domini X

Six. I am married. My ~~husband's~~ name is Louis, 16 day of November, anno Domini 1881

born at Courmayeur Italy, and now resides at with me (Give number, street, city or town, and State.)

I have no children, and the name, date and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children is as follows:

Married Jan. 16, 1921
Husband naturalized July 24, 1924,

1925 Naturalization Application for Carolina (Marguerettaz) Gadin



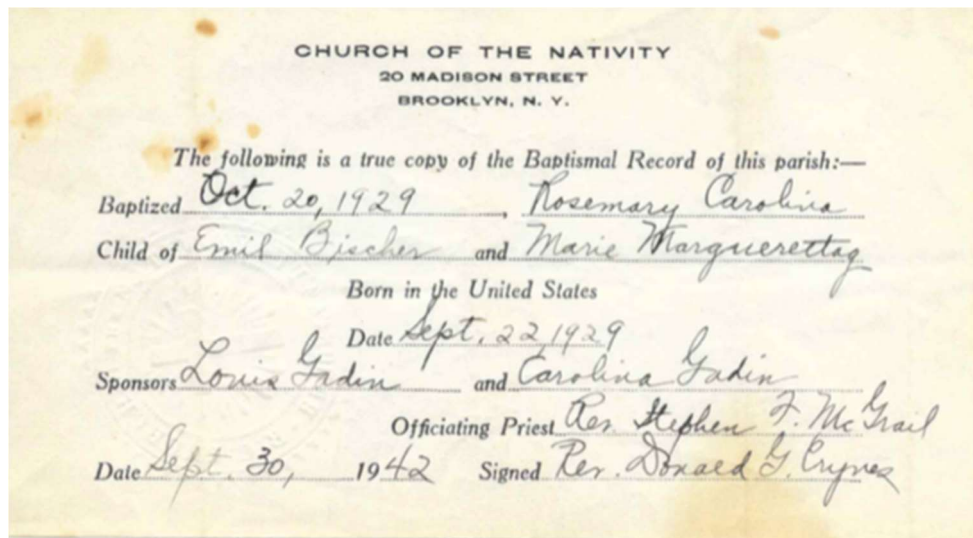
375 Henry Street, Brooklyn



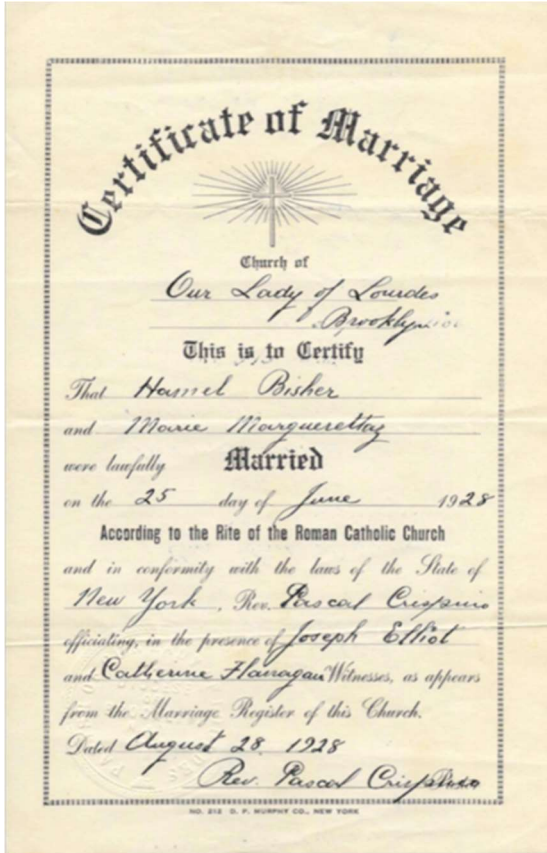
221 Gates Avenue, Brooklyn

Five years later, the 1930 census has Carolina, Louis and the now nineteen-year-old Joseph living at 223 Gates Avenue, Brooklyn, so they just moved to the house right next door. They list their country of birth as Italy, and Joseph is now employed as a clerk with the Western Electric Company.

On June 25, 1928 Marie married Hemel Bisher at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Brooklyn. Hemel, also known as Emil, worked as a mechanic in the merchant marine and was away from home much of the time. He was some ten years younger than Marie. On September 22, 1929 their only child, a daughter, Rosemarie Carolina Bisher, was born.



Rosemarie Bisher's Baptism Record



Bisher – Marguerettaz Marriage Certificate



Hemel Bisher

The 1930 census has the new family, now five including Marie's two children from her first marriage, back at the 221 Gates Avenue address. Emil and Marie are identifying as French although Emil was actually born in Tunisia. Edward's 1936 New York National Guard record shows he is still at the same address as of that year, but by the 1940 census Marie, Edward and Rosemarie are living at 597 6th Street in Brooklyn. Marie's daughter Margie had married Albert Salmon on March 24, 1940, and the newlyweds were also living with them, but Emil is not listed. Marie is still identifying as French. Three lodgers are at the address as well. But later that year when Edward registers for the military draft he lists his mother's address as 509 8th Avenue.

1940 finds Louis and Carolina still at the 223 Gates Avenue house, but Joseph is no longer living with them. On August 31, 1934 he had married Josephine C. Downey and was living at 621 East 21st Street in Brooklyn.



597 6th Street



509 8th Avenue

With the war the decade of the 1940's saw many changes. Edward married Edith Schweikert on December 26, 1941 and was drafted in the U.S. Army a few months later, eventually being stationed at Cap Drum in Watertown, upstate New York. Margie and Al Salmon's son Steve was born in 1943, and Edward and Edith's daughter Barbara in 1944. Then on January 25, 1944 Carolina died, age fifty-six. She was buried at Calvary Cemetery in Queens County, New York. She had no children, but had raised Joseph as her own.

GADIN — CAROLINE, on Tuesday, January 25, beloved wife of Louis **Gadin**. Survived by her sister, Marie Dunscombe. Reposing at the Funeral Parlors of J. J. Sullivan, 486 Classon Avenue. Solemn requiem mass Church of the Nativity, Friday, January 28, at 10 a.m.

Her husband Louis eventually returned to Aosta, where he died in 1970. His son Joseph worked in New York until retiring with Josephine to Florida, where he died in 1990. He and Josephine are buried in Fountains Memorial Park in Homosassa Springs, Florida. They had no children.

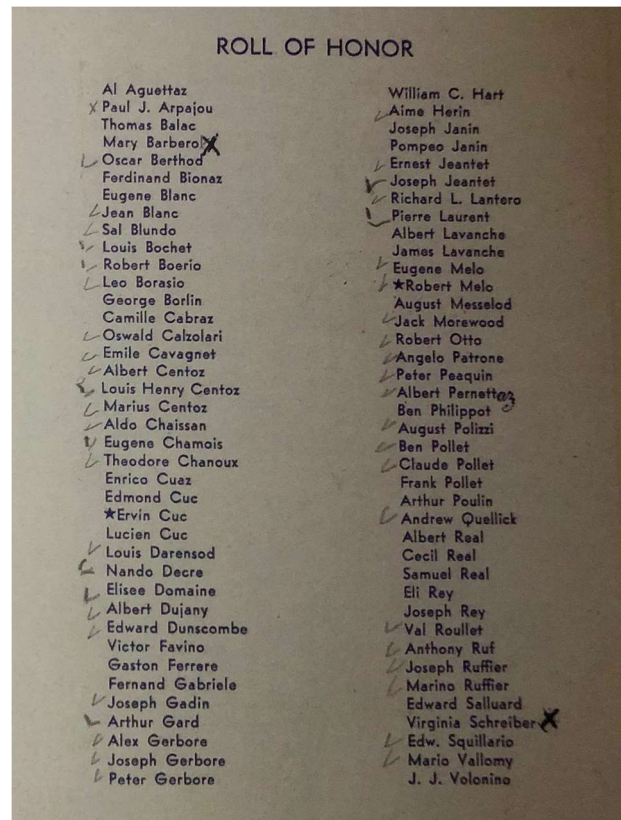
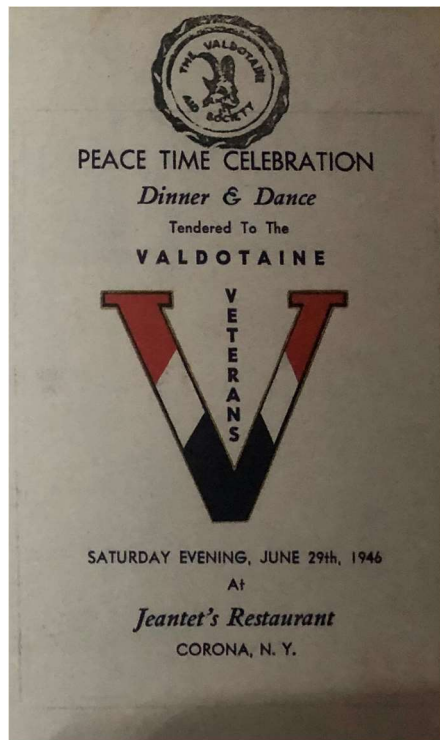


Joseph Gadin, 1921



Joseph Gadin ca. 1940

A fraternal organization of emigres from the Aosta Valley, La Valdôtaine Société de Secours Mutuel de New York was formed in 1909. Stefania Roulet and Carlo A. Rossi published an extensive history of La Valdôtaine in 2019 titled La Vallée d'Aoste en Amérique. Following the Second World War the Société held a banquet in 1946 at Jeantet's Restaurant in the Queens borough of New York City. I've taken the liberty to include the following two photos from page 80 of the Roulet/Rossi book.



A close perusal will show the names of Joseph Gadin and my father, Edward Dunscombe, toward the bottom of the left-hand column on the Roll of Honor. Both names have a check-mark next to them, perhaps indicating they were in attendance. I like to think that Marie was as well. I remember meeting Joe Gadin when he attended my sister Barbara's wedding in 1967. I also have a memory of attending a dinner at La Maison Blanc Restaurant, which I believe was in Manhattan, sometime in the early 1960's. I think this may well have been a gathering of members of La Valdôtaine.

The following photograph was taken circa 1950. It shows Hemel Bisher in the rear, Marie, Margie's son Stephen Salmon, and Marie's daughter Rosemarie (in front), taken in Brooklyn sometime circa 1950.



Edith (Schweikert) Dunscombe, Marie, and Margie (Dunscombe) Salmon, ca. 1946



Margie, Rosemarie, & Edward, Marie's three children ca. 1932



Rosemarie and Marie, ca. 1955



Marie at a family barbecue in Brooklyn, ca. 1965

Marie passed away in Brooklyn on February 2, 1967 at the age of seventy-seven, having never again seen the lovely mountains of her homeland. As of 2022 she has twenty-six descendants, twenty-one still living. All of us owe our lives to this courageous woman, who at the age of twenty left everything she knew behind to create a new life in America, suffered the devastating loss of her young husband, but persevered.



Marie rests at The Evergreens Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York

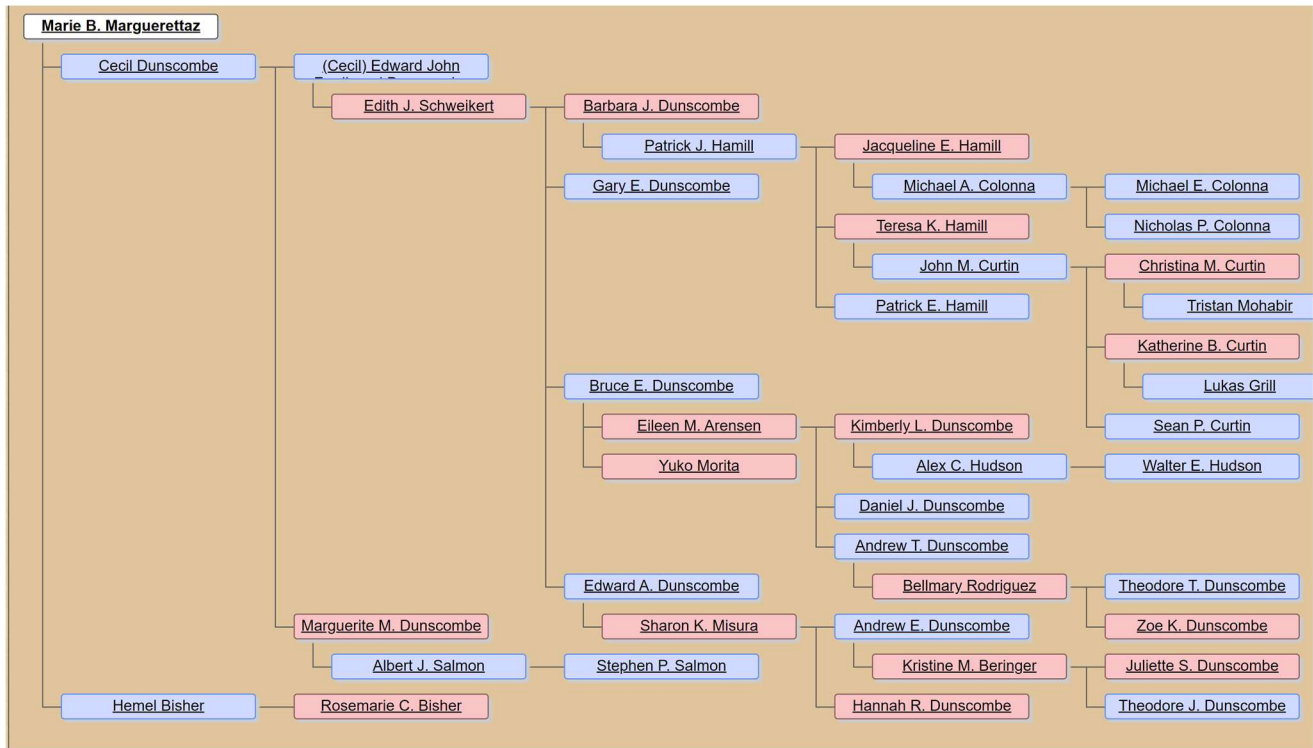
In 2019 my wife and I took a trip to Italy and visited Aosta. We had e-mailed Marguerettaz cousins before and they welcomed us into their homes, leading us on tours of Aosta and Courmayeur. They threw a big barbecue in Saint-Rhemy to welcome us. In 2015 I had met one of the cousins when she took a trip to New York, but other than that had never met any of them. My father had corresponded with another cousin during from the 1970's till about 2000. Marie had also had some correspondence with her family in Italy.

One hundred and nine years had passed since had Marie left for America. However, two wars, an ocean, and a century were unable to break the bonds of family. When Marie walked out her front door as a young girl, she saw the Alps. She would wind up spending many of her later years in basement apartments. When she looked out her window, her view would be the feet of people passing by. She was part of two families – the one she left behind and the one she created in America; a story similar to many immigrants. As I stood in St. Rhemy and viewed its mountains, in the company of my newfound family, I felt that Marie was with me, and that the breach had been repaired.

Grazie nonna, grazie mille.



Barbecue at Saint-Rhemy en Bosses



Descendants of Marie (Marguerettaz) & Cecil Dunscombe