



## The Crachesi in New York 1890 — 1900

The conditions in New York City between 1890 -1900 began to change making it a little more hospitable for the Crachesi arriving in that period.

The efforts of Jacob Riis and others succeeded in razing the tenements at Mulberry Bend and new housing replaced it but there were still many living in substandard housing and poor conditions in the 1890s.

As the stream of Italians coming to Manhattan increased, the Missionary Fathers of St. Charles Borromeo, an order popularly known as the Scalabrini Fathers, was dispatched to America by Pope Leo XIII to assist the struggling immigrants. The Scalabrini Fathers opened their first mission in New York in 1887 and within a year established their first church in the US there.

When individuals or families left Craco they were joining relatives or friends in New York. In Craco, they lived together in such close proximity that even though they were in a large city it may have seemed a bit like their old town. But New York was so different.

Unlike Craco, their agrarian skills were almost useless. However, the farmers' habits of not wasting anything and working at hard tasks developed over years in the fields back home, served to make them competitive in a country desperate for unskilled labor. They easily found work as laborers or if they possessed a trade there was ample opportunity in the community to apply their skills.

The earliest Crachesi coming to America brought skills such as tailors, barbers, and shoe makers and were able to serve the growing Italian community in Lower Manhattan. Those without skills found opportunities as laborers in construction, pushcart men, sanitation workers, or in the waste paper and rag trades.

*“When individuals or families left Craco they were joining relatives or friends in New York.”*

By the end of the decade in 1900 New York City had changed dramatically. There were now over 200,000 Italians who were packed into a small area. Those who had come to New York earlier had made gains, establishing themselves and creating a new community that gave Italians access to goods and services that never existed in America before.

They were operating 10,000 botteghe (shops), 2,750 barber shops, 250 butcher shops, 1,300 delicatessens, 2,300 shoe repair shops and 200 banking and industrial companies under Italian ownership in the City. Added to this were 200 incipient labor unions, Italian societies, mutual aid, and fraternal organizations.

Among these were several businesses operated by the Crachese families in different fields including:

- Barbers: Curcio, Ferrante, Rinaldi, Spera, Viggiano
- Paper stock/Rag Dealers: Benedetto, Mormando, Muzio
- Tailors: Marrese

The Crachesi were also able to start their own mutual aid society in 1899, the “Società S. Vincenzo Martire di Craco” that would be a cohesive force and focal point for 40 years.

These gains enabled the next wave of immigrants arriving in the next decade to become the largest group immigrating from Craco. ■



*See who these immigrants from Craco were on page 3*

# Basilicata:

## Matera and Its Hills

The section of Basilicata that contains Matera and its hills hosts a charming collection of localities. The ancient land includes clay laden hills and deeply cut precipices.

[Aliano](#), situated on a hilltop, was the town where [Carlo Levi](#) was interred. It has two museums with his documents and artwork.

[Cirigliano](#), a tiny town (pop.451), has three historic chapels that contain ancient art and sculptures.

[Colobraro](#), overlooking the Sinni Valley, dates back to 1000AD. It contains several ancient churches but is also notorious for brigands that lived in the surrounding woods in the 19th century.

[Craco](#), situated along the Salandra-Cavone Valley, has two modern sections, Sant' Angelo and Peschiera along with Craco Vecchio, the ancient section that is now deserted.

*“The ancient land includes clay laden hills and deeply cut precipices.”*

[Ferrandina](#), situated on the Basento River, is surrounded by olive groves that yield [maiatica](#) olives. The town holds several historic religious sites that contain exceptional artworks.

[Grassano](#), a typical hilltown was inhabited by Knights of Malta during the Crusades that made it a model farming community.

[Grottole](#), the name of this ancient village comes from the caves that are at the foot of the town. In the adjacent woods is the Shrine of Sant' Antuono.

[Matera](#), this large town serves as the second provincial capital of Basilicata. Inhabited since Paleolithic Age it was made a UNESCO site in 1993 and is universally known for its unique [Sassi](#) complex.

[Montalbano Ionico](#), is an “agro-industrial” town dating back to Hellenistic times. Among the churches there is Santa Maria d'Episcopio that houses the wooden bust of San Maurizio, the head of the Theban Legion. Spreading out from the town is the “Giardini dell'Isca” a large grove planted entirely of fruit trees.

[Montescaglioso](#), this ancient settlement is situated on a hilltop overlooking scenic views of the Brandano Valley. It holds several churches that date from the many periods of Basilicata's history.



[Pomarico](#), founded by Greeks in 845BC it contains several historic buildings. Outside the town is the Manferrara forest which is home to many unique plants and animals.

[Tricarico](#), known as a resort, this medieval town is among the most important historic locations in Basilicata.

[Tursi](#), scented by surrounding orange groves the town dates to 410AD. Like so many of the towns it shows the signs of the various inhabitants of Basilicata. ■



# The Crachesi Immigrants 1891—1900

*“The population of Craco was 2,015 in 1881...by the turn of the 20th Century 25% of the town was living in America.”*

From 1891-1900 there were 480 Crachesi who arrived in New York Harbor. The overwhelming majority landed in the last three years, which coincided with the burning of Ellis Island and the use of the Barge Office on Whitehall Street in Manhattan as the immigration station in New York.

The population of the town of Craco in 1881 was 2,015, so by the turn of the 20th century 25% of the town was now living in America. Emigration from the town continued over the next two decades adding 1,000 individuals and with the growth of the earlier immigrant families there were more Cracotans living in New York in 1921 than in Craco. The names of those who arrived in New York from 1891-1900 are:

## 1891—Entered via Castle Garden

Fittipaldi, Vincenzo  
Grasso, Angelo  
Seccafico, Giuseppe

Maronne, Giuseppe  
Maronne, Michele  
Mastronardi, Nicola  
Rofania, Antonio

## 1892—Ellis Island

Guariglia, Margherita  
Guariglia, Maria  
Manghise, Pietro  
Tanico, Fedele  
Tanico, Vito Domenico  
Tuzio, Filomena  
Vozzi, Ambrogio

## 1893—Ellis Island

Acquavivo, Giuseppe  
Azzone, Pasquale  
Biancuni, Antonio  
Carciero, Francesco  
Carciero, Leonardo  
DeCesare, Nicola  
di Pierro, Rosa Maria  
Ferrante, Nicola  
Fugzi, Angela

Fugzi, Innocenzo  
Fugzi, Rosa  
Gaetano, Angelo  
Gaetano, Domenico  
Gaetano, Giuseppe  
Gesualdi, Nicoli  
Grossi, Nicola  
Lombardi, Vito  
Luchetti, Giulia  
Mastronardi, Maria Gaeta.  
Mastronardi, Vincenzo  
Matera, Alessio  
Matera, Giuseppe  
Matera, Prospero  
Moglie, Maria  
Parisi, Apollina  
Rinaldi, Antonia  
Rinaldi, Domenico  
Sirillo, Antonio  
Sirillo, Rosa  
Tanico, Maria Cattarina  
Tuzio, Giuseppe  
Viggiano, Lucia

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## The Marrese Tailor Shop



*This 1892 photograph of Pasquale Marrese (standing extreme left) on the roof of his tailor shop at 53 Spring St., Manhattan shows the gains the earliest Crachesi had made. Marrese, a tailor in Craco arrived in New York in 1890 and was able to employ a large group of family and “paesani.” Life in America proved bitter sweet; while he was finding success here in 1891 his son-in-law was killed by another Cracotan (see story on page 6) but by 1899 he would be one of the incorporators of a mutual aid society for Crachesi in New York.*

# The Crachesi Immigrants 1891—1900

*continued from page 3*

## 1894—Ellis Island

Muzio Nicola  
Pargiallo, Maria  
Zaffaresa, Maria Giuseppa

## 1896—Ellis Island

De Marco, Gesualdo  
Gaetano, Paolo  
Mastronardi, Maria

## 1897—Ellis Island & Barge Office

Alderssio, Domenico  
Alderssio, Teresa  
Alderssio, Vincenzo  
Baldassarre, Brigida  
Baldassarre, Giulia  
Berardone, Gaetano  
Calabrese, Maria  
Cantasano, Antonia  
Cantasano, Maria  
Caricato, Francesco  
Colabello, Donato  
Colabello, Paolo  
De Felice, Sebastiano  
De Santi, Rosa  
D'Elia, Veiola  
Famigheti, Maria  
Forgione, Antonio  
Gallo, Maria  
La Gualana, Vincenzo  
Lucchetti, Antonia Maria  
Lucchetti, Filomenia  
Maronna, Porzia  
Matera, Angela  
Matera, Maria  
Matera, Rocco  
Matera, Vito  
Novelli, Giovanni  
Parziale, Domenico  
Pirretti, Leonardo  
Rinaldi, Antonio  
Riviello, Anna Lucia  
Riviello, Maria  
Rubertone, Leonardo

## 1898—Barge Office

Brunetti, Ma. Teresa  
Calabrese, Grazia  
Calabrese, Vincenzo  
Cantansano, Antonio  
Cantansano, Giuseppe  
Cantasano, Angela  
Carciato, Nicola  
Carulli, Carvallo

Castellano, Donato  
Cigliano, Domenico  
Cigliano, Ma. Cristina  
Colabello, Fortunato  
Colabello, Paolo  
Colabello, Pasquale  
Colabello, Santalucia  
Curci, Antonia  
Curci, Domenica  
Curci, M Giuseppa  
De Cesare, Angela  
De Cesare, Isabella  
De Costale, Francesco  
De Costale, Pietro  
Di Santi, Donato Antonio  
Di Santi, Francesco  
Di Santi, M. Rosa  
Di Santi, Maria  
Di Santi, Nicola  
Di Santo, Donato  
Di Santo, Maria Rosaria  
Episcopia, Angela  
Episcopia, Giulia  
Episcopia, Leonardo  
Episcopia, Maria  
Episcopia, Rosa  
Ferrante, Antonia  
Filippo, Rosa  
Forgione, Giovanni  
Forgione, Ma. Teresa  
Forgione, Pasquale  
Galante, Angela Maria  
Galante, Antonia Maria  
Galante, Francesco  
Galante, Ma. Maddalena  
Galante, Margherita  
Galante, Pasquale  
Galante, Vincenzo  
Gesualdi, Antonio  
Gesualdi, Francesco  
Grassi, Giovanni  
Grassi, Matteo  
Grieco, Giuseppe  
Guarino, Alfonso  
Guarino, Angela  
Izzo, Giuseppe  
Lanidaro, Francesco Antonio  
Lanidaro, Francesco Antonio  
Lanivara, Antonio Mario  
Lanivara, Nicola  
Lanivara, Vincenzo  
Leone, Vitantopio  
Lorubio, Antonio  
Marano, Antonio

Marrese, Vincenzo  
Matera, Vitanlonio  
Mele, Domenico  
Padula, Maria  
Petroccelli, Michele  
Porraco, Giuseppe  
Ragone, Gerardo  
Ragone, Giuseppe  
Resoldi, Maria  
Rigirone, Giuseppe  
Rigirone, Vincenzo  
Rinaldi, Domenico  
Rinaldi, Francesco  
Rinaldi, Vincenzo  
Riviello, Antonio  
Santalucia, Francesco  
Santalucia, Rosa Maria  
Serillo, Domenico  
Simonetti, Carbo  
Spera, Donato  
Spera, Gaetano  
Spera, Giulia  
Spera, Isabella  
Spera, Nicolotta  
Spera, Vincenzo  
Tuzio, Giuseppe Nicola  
Tuzio, Vincenzo  
Ubaldi, Rosa  
Vaccaro, Francesco  
Vaccaro, Vincenzo  
Viggianno, Prospero  
Viggianno, Rosa  
Vitorello, Giuseppe  
Vitorello, Vicolo  
Zaffarese, Antonia  
Zaffarese, Ma. Giuseppa  
Zaffarese, Teresa  
Zaffarese, Vicenzo

## 1899—Barge Office

Artuso, Saverio  
Basile, Antonio  
Benedetto, Paolo  
Calabrese, Giuseppe  
Candeloro, Eustacchio  
Candeloro, Rosa  
Cantasano, Francesco  
Carantino, Petronilla  
Caricati, Antonio  
Caricati, Maddalena  
Castaldi, Nicoletta  
Cigliano, Michele  
Contasano, Costantino  
Conte, Giacomo

# The Crachesi Immigrants 1891—1900

Conte, Pietro  
Costanzo, Dco. Antonio  
Costanzo, Ma. Filomena  
Costanzo, Nicola  
D'Addiego, Pietro  
De Fino, Angelo  
DeCesare, Paolo  
Dolcemele, Rosa  
Episcopia, Giovanni Andreo  
Forgione, Domenico  
Forgione, Ma. Vincenzo  
Galasso, Giuseppe  
Gesauldi, Pasquale  
Grieco, Giuseppe  
Grieco, Ma. Maddalena  
Grieco, Pasquale  
Griego, Angelantonio  
Grossi, Cantasano Atonia  
Grossi, Giuseppa  
Guariglia, Nicola Maria  
Hermanela, Antonio  
Hermanela, Giuseppe  
Laurio, Vito Gaetano,  
Leone, Maria Teresa  
Lisanti, Nicola  
Loporchio, Ferdinando  
Loporchio, Leonardo  
Loporchio, Ma. Carmela  
Lorubio, Donato  
Lorubio, Giuseppa  
Lorubio, Maria  
Marone, Giovanni  
Mastronardi, Gaetano  
Mastronardi, Vito Antonio  
Matera, Vincenzo  
Miadonna, Silvio  
Morrmando, Fracesa Saverio  
Motarrose, Anna Maria  
Motarrose, Ma. Giovanna  
Motarrose, Rosa  
Padovani, Ma. Teresa  
Padovani, Pietro  
Padovani, Rosa  
Parziale, Giulia Ma.  
Pascariello, Antonio  
Pugliese, Francesco  
Rago, Nicola  
Rigirona, Nicolo  
Rinaldi, Francesco  
Rinaldi, Nicola  
Riviello, Antonia  
Riviello, Gaetano  
Riviello, Giuseppe  
Rubertone, Domenica  
Rubertone, Domenico

Seicsaccatti, Caterine  
Sillari, Giuseppe  
Sillari, Giuseppe Antonio  
Sillari, Maria Isabella  
Sillari, Michelangelo  
Sillari, Giulia  
Simonetti, Carlo  
Sirillo, Giuglielmo  
Spera, Leonardo  
Stabile, Vincenzo  
Tursi, Domenico  
Tuzio, Nicola  
Venita, Angela Maria  
Venita, Ma. Teresa  
Ventomiglia, Egidio  
Ventura, Rocca  
Viggiano, Prospero

## 1900—Barge Office

Artuso, Antonio  
Bilanceri, Maria  
Branda, Angela  
Branda, Antonia Maria  
Branda, Isabella  
Camberlengo, Angiola  
Camberlengo, Antonio  
Camberlengo, Carmello  
Camberlengo, Nicola  
Camberlengo, Teodora  
Cantasano, Maria  
Caputo, Pietro  
Caruso, Vittoria  
Caruso, Vittoria Stella  
Castellano, Giovannina  
Cigliano, Domenico  
Cigliano, Margherita  
Cigliano, Vincenzo  
Conte, Pietro  
Conte, Vitantonio  
D'Alessandro, Giovanni  
D'Alessandro, Vittoria  
De Costale, Antonia  
De Costole, Pasgia  
Di Gilio, Maddalena  
Di Gilio, Maria  
Di Pierro, Leonardo  
Di Santo, Basilio  
Di Santo, Francesco  
Dodici, Carmina  
Elia, Angelo  
Ferrante, Antonia  
Ferrante, Francesco  
Ferrante, Innocenzo  
Ferrante, Michele  
Fezza, Carmine  
Fezza, Maria

Fezza, Pasquale  
Fittapaldi, Camela  
Forza, Maria  
Francavilla, Carlo  
Gaetano, Antonio  
Gallipoli, Pietro  
Gesaldi, Nicola  
Giustiniani, Italiano  
Grossi, Carlo  
Guariglia, Antonia  
Guariglia, Antonio  
Guariglia, Austragio  
Guariglia, Camillo  
Guariglia, Carmilla  
Guariglia, Giovanni  
Guariglia, Lucregia  
Guariglia, Margherita  
Lambio, Vincenzo  
Lauria, Anna  
Lombardi, Antonio  
Lombardi, Caesar  
Marano, Pasquale  
Marchese, Francesco  
Marmo, Andrea  
Marrese, Giuseppe  
Marzano, Francesco  
Montesano Vittorio Stello  
Mormando, Leonardo  
Mormando, Vincenzo  
Paduano, Antonio  
Pignataro, Nicola  
Rinaldi, Isabella  
Rinaldi, Ma. Caterina  
Riviello, Anna Lucia  
Riviello, Maria  
Riviello, Rosa  
Rosso, Egidio  
Santalucia, Angiala Maria  
Santalucia, Giuseppe  
Santalucia, Teresa  
Santalucia, Vincenzo  
Sarubbi, Giovanni  
Seccafico, Giacomo  
Seccafico, M. Giuseppa  
Seccafico, Guglielmo D.  
Spera, Vincenzo  
Toce, Antonio  
Toce, Paolo  
Toci, Domenico  
Toci, Giuseppe  
Toci, Ma Teresa  
Vaccaro, Pietro  
Veltre, Maria Maddaleana  
Ventura, Antonia  
Viggiano, Pasquale  
Zaffarese, Vittoria

# Murder on Mulberry Street

Conditions in New York City between 1890-1900 changed significantly over the prior decade making it a bit more hospitable for immigrants. The Cracchesi arriving, especially towards the later part of the period, saw a different place from that experienced by their fellow townspeople only a few years before.

It is from this period before the turn of the century that stories emerge, from both public and private sources, giving us an understanding about their daily lives and experiences here in America.

After public outcry over the living conditions, sections of the area known as “Mulberry Bend” were being raised and new tenement buildings were being erected. Conditions in these newer buildings were better but were still surrounded with older structures and crowding that added stress and difficulty to everyday life.

An example of how living in close quarters may have turned ugly can be found in the court records for [The People and State of New York against Leonardo Larrubia](#). The case revolved around the November 15, 1891 murder of Vincenzo Rivirit (mis-spelling of Viverito; this error occurred in the court record with the other Cracotan names too.) Viverito was the husband of Maria Marrese (the daughter of Pasquale Marrese the Cracotan tailor).

Appearing as witnesses in the case were a list of the familiar Cracotan names: Pasquale Marrese, Maria Ferrante, Pasquale Calabrese, Nicola Rubertone, Vitantonio Matera, Angela Mormando, Donato Mormado, Maria Mastronardi, Francesco Lauria, Pasquale Riviello, Vincenzo DeCesare, Francesco Camberlengo, Domenico Manghise, Maria Viverito, Francesco D’Addurno, Rosa D’Addurno, Hannibal Cutugno, Caterina Episcopia, Vincenzo Episcopia, Vincenzo Matera, Isabella Calabrese, Caterina Muzio, Nicola Muzio, Domenico Avena, Giovanni Donadio, Caterina Santalucia, Francesco Elia, Prospero Viggiano, Maria Zafferese, and Vincenzo Maffei. Hannibal C. Cutugno was sworn in as the interpreter and

provided the translation of witness testimony from the Cracotan dialect to English.

The opening witness was Pasquale Marrese, whose testimony provided the following background. Vincenzo Viverito returned to Craco from living in New York and married his daughter Maria Giuseppina Marrese in April 1890. Before Viverito returned to Craco he was living in New York City with Rosa D’Addurno. After Viverito left, Rosa D’Addurno began living with Leonardo Larrubia at 47 Baxter Street. Rosa wrote a letter to Pasquale Marrese before the wedding telling him of her relationship with Vincenzo and threatened ill towards the couple if they married but the wedding took place. When Vincenzo Viverito and his wife Maria Marrese arrived in New York in December 1890 the stage was set for direct conflict.

On the evening of Sunday November 15, 1891 Vitantonio Matera was holding a christening party at his apartment on 47 Baxter Street. Friends and neighbors attending included Larubbia and Viverito. Larrubbia supplied the music by playing the accordion while Rosa D’Addurno played the tambourine. There was dancing until Larubbia and D’Addurno left at about 6pm. They were followed out by Vincenzo Viverito. Five minutes later shots rang out in the street and Viverito was mortally wounded.

As the other witnesses appeared we get more details about the event but also vignettes of their daily lives and interactions. Nicola Rubertone testified he taught Rosa D’Addurno’s son, Pasquale Calabrese, how to write (Pasquale testified he wrote the threatening letter to Pasquale Marrese for her). Angela Mormando and Maria Mastronardi testified about their observations of events that evening while they washed clothing at the fire hydrant outside their home at 47 Baxter Street. Francesco Lauria gave testimony about being at the public urinal on the street with Larubbia and Viverito after they left the christening. Words were passed between them and a fist fight broke out. He tried to

separate them but Larubbia (who had been knocked down in the fight) got up and pulled a pistol shooting Viverito three times. Viverito, still conscious, asked to be carried home, while still holding the wooden pipe he always smoked in his teeth.

Fifteen year old Vincenzo DeCesare testified that he worked but was playing in the street that evening and saw the shots fired. Domenica Manghise (sister of Pasquale Marrese) testified that she had a dispute with Rosa D’Addurno in July, during the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, over money Rosa owed Domenica’s husband and during that encounter Leonadro Larrubia threatened her with his pistol.

Francesco D’Addurno testified that he worked as a longshoreman with Larrubia for four months and they discussed committing a crime and how to get away with it if you had enough money to run away to another part of America (Francesco also testified he was the godfather to Vincenzo Viverito and Maria Marrese’s infant son). Then the defense put on its case.

Defense witnesses then appeared with Caterina and Vincenzo Episcopia testifying about a fight at an Easter Sunday celebration at Larubbia’s house where Viverito threatened Leonardo and struck Rosa. Isabella Calabrese (daughter of Rosa D’Addurno) also testified to events at that event. Maria Zafferese (aunt of Leonardo) added testimony that Vincenzo Viverito visited her often and threatened to harm Leonardo. Nicola Muzio testified he knew Larrubia since he was a boy and that Viverito was a “quarrelsome man.” Caterina Santalucia, refuted the testimony of 15 year old Vincenzo DeCesare (she reported that everyone called him “Jimmie” and not Vincenzo) saying he could not have observed anything because he was playing “morro” with Antonio Benedetto. Sixteen year old Donato Mormando (son of Nicola Mormando and Caterina Muzio) testified to his observations as he was going out from his home at 47 Baxter St. to get two pints of beer.

# Murder on Mulberry Street

Forty year old Rosa D'Addurno then took the stand and testified about her life and relationships with both men ultimately claiming Vincenzo Viverito felt Leonardo Larubbio had committed a "cornuto" against him, even though he now had his own wife, making that the reason there was bad blood between them.

Francesco Elia, a butcher with a shop at 5 Roosevelt St., Prospero Viggiano and Vincenzo Maffei, barbers with a shop at 169 Park Row, all testifying to the good character of Leonardo Larrubia. Then 25 year old Leonardo Larrubia took the stand in his defense testifying he arrived in New York three years ago.

He moved in with Rosa in December 1891 and confirmed he had quarrels with Viverito before the shooting. He told of purchasing a pistol for fifty cents from an Italian returning home in November 1890. He carried it every Sunday when he was dressed up in his vest pocket and whenever he had "lots of money on my person" (he was carrying \$175 the night of the shooting). That Sunday he was going to visit a sick cousin when he met Francesco Lauria who invited him to play cards and they drank "a couple of pints of beer" before Vitantonio Matera arrived and asked him to play

his accordion at the christening. He provided his account of the fight and shooting and was also compelled to

mention his imprisonment in Italy for assaulting Nicola Torraca and

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*Five years after the event, The Journal, a New York newspaper published an article on January 26, 1896, titled "The Blood Oath Has Stained New York's Records Red" that inaccurately depicted the shooting and story of the incident. The drawing above from the article, had a caption reading, "In the Midst of Merrymaking There Was a Shot, a Shriek, and the Guests Scattered." Although only a small part of the full page article, the piece carried negative conations about the individuals involved and also Italians living in New York as a whole.*

## Larubbia's New Chance

Immediately after the conclusion of the trial, Leonardo Larubbia's lawyer filed an appeal. Larubbia was returned to the infamous jail on Baxter St. called "The Tombs." He had been held there since his arrest on November 17, 1891.

The appeal was argued on October 23, 1893, with the defense pointing out several errors that took place during the original trial. The decision was delivered on November 28, 1893. His conviction was reversed based on doubt about evidence which elevated the crime to second degree murder. The appeals judges cited enough evidence supporting manslaughter.

However, Larubbio was not freed but continued to be held in The Tombs awaiting retrial. His second trial concluded on July 9, 1894 with a verdict of guilty and a sentence of two years and two months. A relieved Leonardo broke out in

tears after escaping the life sentence from the first trial. He was transported to Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, NY to serve the sentence on July 10. His admittance record from there describes him as being 5 feet 5<sup>3/4</sup> inches tall, weighing 125 pounds, with black hair, brown eyes, and very dark complexion. His sentence was commuted by 4 months and 20 days with his release coming on April 20, 1896.

Leonardo was the son of Donato LoRubio (b. 1815, Craco) and Vittoria Zafferese (b. 1817, Craco). He was born on Nov. 27, 1864. At the time of his arrest in New York he was working as a longshoremen. Rosa D'Addurno was born in Craco on May 18, 1844 to Pietro D'Addurno and Angiolella Ferrandina. Rosa married Michele Calabrese (b.1826, Craco) on July 16, 1863. They had seven children before Michele died in Craco on Dec. 21, 1886. The following year, she immigrated to the US along with her daughters Isabella Calabrese, Angiola Calabrese, and sons Pasquale and Giuseppe Calabrese. Isabella, who testified at the trial married Alessandro Cipressa in New York while Angiola

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# Murder on Mulberry Street

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threatening Domenica Parziale with a knife for being a witness against him. The jury returned a verdict on June 2 of second degree murder and Larrubia was sentenced to life in prison.

This interesting snapshot of a tragedy played out amongst Cracotans in New York while the majority of them were struggling daily to improve their lives.

Many of the witnesses that appeared in the trial were slowly gaining ground. We know that Prospero Viggiano and his brothers all had long and successful lives. They also were responsible for sponsoring others who came from

Craco and helped them learn the trade. Others, such as the Benedetto and Mormando families, were staking claims in the paper stock, rag, and junk businesses. The Benedettos are attributed for starting the first major recycling center in New York City in 1896, where they collected rags, newspaper, and trash with a pushcart. This allowed other Cracotans in this trade to have someone who they knew, trusted, and could converse with in their native dialect to conduct business.

The culmination of all the Cracotan efforts and achievements in New York up to this point came in 1899 with the

creation of the *Società San Vincenzo Martire di Craco*. Organized as a mutual aid society, by seven individuals representing the community this group would be a central focus of Cracotans in New York for almost half-a-century. Pasquale Marrese, the witness in the Larrubia trial and successful tailor with a business on Spring St., was among the incorporators.

As the Cracotans in New York faced the turn of the 20th century the stage was set for a wave of new immigrants to join them in the next decade. ■

## Larubbia's New Chance

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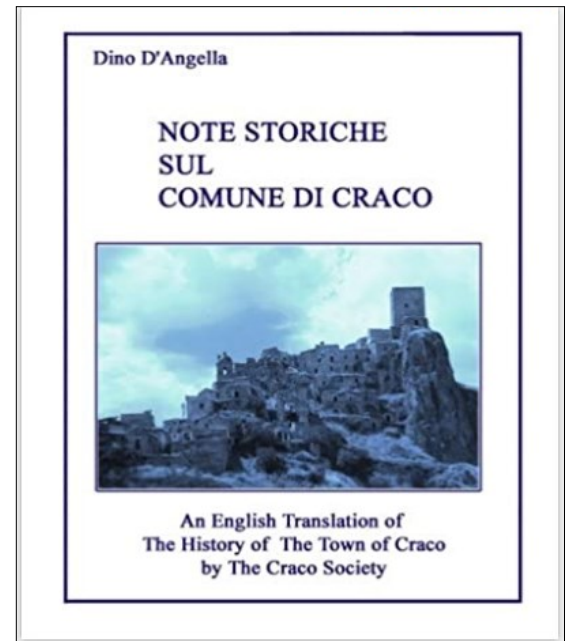
married Antonio Grancio there. Both sons also married in New York. Pasquale marrying Maria D'Elia (b.1879, Craco) and Giuseppe married Isabella Di Lorenzo.

After Leonard's release from prison he returned to New York City. On April 23, 1896 he married Rosa at City Hall. She

used her married name of "Calabrese" on the record. A translated copy of the record was filed in Craco on June 27, 1902. Both Leonardo and Rosa returned together to Craco. On September 21, 1908 Rosa died there. Shortly after Leonardo married Maria Caterina Rubertone (b.1876, Craco) on Dec. 31, 1908.

## History of Craco on Amazon.com

Since 2013 with the publication of the English translation of *Note Storiche sul Comune di Craco*, the history of the town, the Society has been interested in making it more widely available. It is now on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and can be ordered online directly from there. ■



### How to contact us - Come contattarci

The Craco Society  
14 Earl Road  
East Sandwich, MA 02537 USA

EMAIL: [memberservices@thecracosociety.org](mailto:memberservices@thecracosociety.org)



VISIT: [www.thecracosociety.org](http://www.thecracosociety.org)

