



# The Craco Society

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## Immigration Barriers

Although the massive influx of immigrants changed America in the 30 years prior to WWI by providing the labor to remake the country, forces were building against immigration. Fear and prejudice would erect barriers to the entry of additional new arrivals and create impressions about Italian-Americans that still impact us today.

In the early 1900s many Americans of northern European ancestry regarded Italian immigrants as undesirable foreigners who were “not quite white.” Similar prejudices existed for other nationalities and ethnic groups.

Some anti-immigrant activists feared Italian-American support for what they considered radical labor organizations. Others associated Italian-Americans with mysterious criminal organizations, such as the Mafia (or the Black Hand) and other secret societies. They demanded Italian-Americans abandon their distinctive ways in order to become “100 percent American.”

With the approach of WWI, US citizens worried how immigrants would act if European war broke out. When the US entered WWI, one-third of the nation’s population was born outside the US or had a parent who was an immigrant. About 20% of the US soldiers in WWI were foreign born. Although many were not citizens, immigrants were drafted, serving without protest and with loyalty to America while earning citizenship when offered to immigrants serving as soldiers in 1918.

Although immigrants' contributions in war and peace benefitted America, fear and prejudice of Italians and other nationalities and ethnic groups led Congress to pass laws to severely restrict immigration in the 1920s.

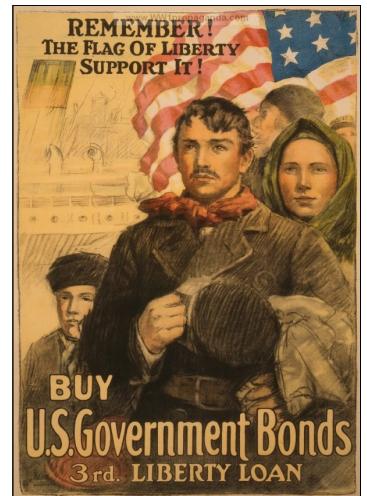
*“Some anti-immigrant activists ... demanded Italian-Americans abandon their distinctive ways in order to become “100 percent American”*

Political developments in Italy during the 1920s and 1930s added to anti Italian prejudice when the fascist dictator Benito Mussolini dominated Italy.

When the United States entered World War II, the government, even though there was a history of immigrants’ loyalty, proceeded to classify even naturalized citizens as “enemy aliens.” Fearing that Japanese, German, and Italian immigrants might betray their adopted country for their former homelands, extreme measures ranging from registration to arrests and internment were implemented.

About 600,000 Italian-Americans were classified as “enemy aliens.” In February 1942 all so-called enemy aliens, including some longtime U.S. residents, were forced to evacuate “prohibited” zones.

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WWI posters targeting immigrants.

# The Crachesi Immigrants 1911-1920

From 1911-1920 there were 276 individuals who passed through Ellis Island giving their last residence as Craco. The number of entrants during the period of WWI was very low with none arriving from 1916-1919.

(Note: names are presented as spelled in the Ellis Island database to facilitate locating individual records.)

## 1911

Allesandro, Giuseppina  
Allesandro, Luigi  
Allesandro, Pietro  
Allesandro, Vittoria  
Baffizzi, Bartolomeo  
Borresi, Ottavio  
Borresi, Rosa  
Branda, Margherita  
Branda, Pasquale  
Cantasano, Angelo  
Cantasano, Ma. Giusseppe  
Cantosiano, Angelo  
Cantosiano, Ma Guiseppa  
Caricato, Nicola  
Caricato, Rosa  
Colabella, FSCO. Antonis  
Colonna, Marie Carmela  
Cononacola, Angela  
Costopoulos, Johannis  
Durresi, Ottavio  
Elia, Anna  
Esposito, Giulia  
Gesualdi, Maria Vincenza  
Gigliano, Isabella  
Giove, Lorenzo  
Graliano, Vincenzo  
Lanria, Giuseppe  
Lanria, Lucrezia  
Lauria, Anna Maria  
Lauria, Antonio  
Lauria, Vinceuzo  
L'Episepia, Leonardo  
L'Episepia, Michelina  
Lo Spinoso, Maria Guiseppa  
Lo Spinoso, Vincenzo  
Lo...bio, Nicoletta  
Lobasca Benedett, Damensca  
Lobasca Benedett, Giovanni  
Lobasca Benedett, Ma. Filamona  
Lobasca Benedett, Vincenhina  
Loporekio, Nicola  
Mari, Giuseppe  
Mastronardo, Nicola  
Matarese De Cesare, Maddalena  
Matarese De Cesare, Stella  
Matarese De Cesare, Teresa  
Matarese De Cesare, Vinceuzina  
Matera, Giuseppe  
Morano, Porzia  
Mormando, Pasquale  
Pascariello, Mariantoma  
Pascariello, Tommaso  
Pugliese, Maria Sperma  
Rinaldi, Eugenia  
Rinaldi, Pietro  
Ritonto, Canio

Rocconova, Isabella  
Sanmartino, Maria  
Santalucia, Antonia  
Scarcia, Giuseppina  
Simonetti, Angioletta  
Soldo, Franiesio  
Spera, Francesco  
Tanico, Vito Domenico  
Tasio, Rosa  
Virgollito, Giuseppe  
Viverita, Anna

## 1912

Andrisani, Vincenzo  
Branda Zaffarese, Maria Caterina  
Branda, Lorenzo  
Branda, Lorenzo  
Caricato, Rosa  
Caricato, Vincenzo  
Chiarito, Angela  
Chiarito, Isabella  
Chiarito, Ma Gaetana  
Chiarito, Nicola  
Colabella, Andrea  
Colabella, Teresa  
Cotuglio, Giuseppe  
Croce, Maria  
Croce, Vincenzo  
De Santo, Donato  
DelRosso, Michele  
Demma, Ginlia  
Frumenta, Angelia  
Frumenta, Camilla  
Gaeta, Elizabetta  
Galante, Antonio  
Galasso, Antonia  
Giuliano, Vito  
Grandiano, Vito Domenico  
Grossi, Antonia  
Grossi, Donato  
Grossi, Maria Giuseppa  
Lanero, Antonetta  
Laparchio, Francesco  
Lauria, Francesco  
Lauria, Giuseppe  
Libanati, Maria  
Loppinoso, Nunzio  
Lotpinuso, Angelo  
Lotpinuso, Folomena  
Manhise, Amedeo  
Marteno, Maria  
Mastronardi, Antonio  
Mastronardi, Maria Vittoria  
Matera, Antonia  
Matera, Frazia  
Matera, Giuseppe  
Matera, Isabella  
Matera, Marla  
Matera, Pasquale  
Matera, Vincenzo  
Matira, Andrea  
Matira, Pasquale  
Moliterni, Cosino Damiano  
Morinando, Antonio  
Morinando, Gaetano  
Mormando, Gaetano  
Mormando, Vitantonio

Palmari, Picho  
Palumbo, Tommaso  
Pellegrino, Angelo  
Potenza, Giuseppe  
Raccanove, Francescantonio  
Rinaldi, Angiolina  
Rinaldi, Anna Lucia  
Rinaldi, Pasquale  
Rinaldi, Pietro  
Rinaldi, Vincenzo  
Rubertone, Isabella  
Rubertone, Pietro  
Rubertone, Pietro  
Santalucia, Fortunato  
Santalucia, Maria Filomena  
Spera, Donato  
Tanico, Antonio  
Venita, Carmine  
Vitasella, Angela  
Zaffarese, Carlo  
Zaffarese, Carmela  
Zaffarese, Isabella  
Zaffarese, Pasquale

## 1913

Agatiello, Domenico  
Agatiello, Maria Rosa  
Anzillotti, Francesco Paeto  
Brigante, Angelo  
Brigante, Filomena  
Brigante, Giuseppe  
Brigante, Maria  
Camburiello, Teresa  
Chiarito, Pietro  
Curcio, Nicola  
D'Alefsio, Maria  
De Cesare Curcio, Isabella  
DeCesare, Rosa  
Di Giovanni, Nicolino  
Di Santo, Grazia  
Di Santo, M. Rosa Grossi  
Giannetto, Junocenzo  
Lacovino, Antonio  
Larnbbi, Angelo  
Lavieri, Francesco  
Lavreri, Giuseppe  
Lorenbio, Giuseppe  
Lospinuso, Nunzia  
Marmo, Andrea  
Matera, Antonia  
Parziale, Dominico  
Parziale, Gi...lia  
Parziale, Pasquale  
Pemquines, Vincenzo  
Prisco, Donato  
Rinaldi, Antonetta  
Rinaldi, Antonio  
Rinaldi, Filomena  
Rinaldi, Francesco  
Rinaldi, Maddalena  
Rinoldi, Antonia  
Rivicello, Teresa  
Riviello, Giovanni  
Rubertone, Vitantonio  
Scandiffio, Pietro  
Verola, Cosimo  
Vitale, Angiolina  
Vitale, Vincenzo

# The Crachesi Immigrants 1911-1920

*continued from page 2*

## 1914

Adinaldi, Domenico  
Bagone, Giuseppe  
Bitonto, Canio  
Colabello, Antonia  
Colabello, Giuseppe  
Colabello, Pasquale  
Colabello, Rosa  
Conte, Nicola  
De Castole, Francesco  
Iacovino, Michele  
Janico, Andrea  
Laino, Vincenzo  
Mari, Giuseppe  
Mari, Giuseppe  
Marmando, Pasquale  
Pinald de Cesare, Marie Maddalona  
Rinald de Cesare, Antonia Marie  
Rinald de Cesare, Antonio  
Rinald de Cesare, Francesco  
Rinald de Cesare, Maria Filomena  
Rinald de Cesare, Rosa  
Rinaldi, Antonio  
Vignola, Maria Giuseppa

## 1915

Mari, Giuseppe  
Matera, Giuseppe  
Narinna, MaVincenzia  
Rinaloti, Angelantonio  
Rinaloti, Dominico  
Rocanova, Nicola  
Saugne Vitelli, Maria

## 1920

Avletta, Egidio  
Bitondo, Cenio  
Cantasano, Angelo  
Cataldi, Rosa  
Cataldo, Nicola  
Colabella, Domenico  
Colabella, Rosa  
Consoli, Pasquale  
Cotugno, Rosa  
D'Alessio, Maria  
De Cesare, Nicola  
De Costole, Antonio  
Diprimo, Pietro  
Diprimo, Salvatore  
Disanto, Donate  
Dolcemele, Angiolina  
Dolcemele, Elisabetta  
Francavilla, Antonio  
Francavilla, Giuseppe  
Fusco, Barbara  
Fusco, Domenico  
Fusco, Maria  
Fusco, Pasquale  
Giamuzzi, Antonio  
Grieco, Carmine  
Grieco, Nicola  
Guida, Vittoria  
Laino, Giuseppe  
Lanietta, Vincenzo  
Lanletta, Paolo  
Laperchia, Liborio  
Laviero, Filippo  
Libertini, Mumeiata

Lsirela, Francesco  
Manghisi, Beniamino  
Mastrangelo, Maria  
Matera, Andrea  
Matera, Domenico  
Matera, Giuseppe  
Matera, Nicola  
Moliterno, Eustecchio  
Mormando, Gaetano  
Mormando, Nicola  
Mormando, Nicola  
Mormando, Pasquale  
Mormando, Salvatore  
Pucci, Giuseppe  
Rigibone, Giuseppina  
Rinaldi, Domenico  
Riviello, Giuseppe  
Rocanova, Salvatore  
Sammartino, Berardino  
Santalucio, Geatano  
Sarubbi, Giuseppe  
Satalucia, Rosa  
Serrafico, Pasquale  
Serrafico, Pazquale  
Sillari, Isabella  
Stramcitello, Michelangelo

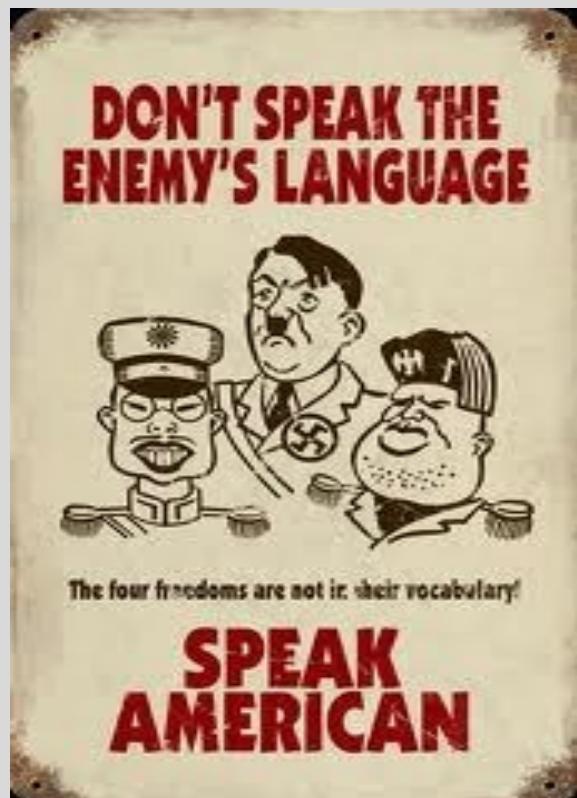
## Immigration Barriers

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The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested 1,521 Italian — American resident aliens between December 1941 and June 1942. Many were quickly released, but about 250 spent up to two years in internment camps in Oklahoma, Montana, Tennessee, and Texas.

Restrictions against most Italian — Americans were lifted in October 1942. However, some naturalized Italian — Americans were forced to evacuate areas declared sensitive by authorities and were not allowed to return until Italy surrendered to Allied forces in September 1943.

These wartime experiences caused long-term changes in the Italian—American community. Propaganda calling for all so-called enemy aliens to “Speak American” led many Italian-Americans to stop speaking their mother language. Others Americanized their names or otherwise shied away from their heritage to avoid suspicion.



*WWII posters aimed at immigrants living in America.*

# Basilicata Focus: Traditional Dress

Dialects throughout Italy have distinguished unique local cultures and identified where individuals came from. Additionally, traditional dress was a characteristic of locality and became recognized as an art form.

In 1783 King Ferdinand IV of Bourbon commissioned the painting of the most significant costumes of eight provinces of his kingdom. Two artists, Antonio Berotti and Stefano Santucci traveled through the region of Basilicata between 1785 and 1797 to paint images of typical clothing in 24 towns. These beautiful images are preserved in a book containing a brief historical profile of 24 municipalities in Basilicata and color prints of the traditional folk costumes for each town.

Vincenzo Falasca, President of the Basilicata Institute for Archaeological Research, based in Grumento Nova, is the author of the publication “Costumi popolari tradizionali della Basilicata del 1700 e 1800” ([“Traditional folk costumes of Basilicata of 1700 and 1800”, in English](#)).

Besides this publication, others in Italy are working to save the traditional dress and also music and dance. [Donato Vena](#) maintains a troupe of singers and dances that perform music and dance in traditional dress.



*Donato Vena in traditional garb*



*Vena's troupe members in the clothing of Pisticci circa 1900.*

Venna has a [YouTube Channel](#) that shows several performances. Their efforts are appreciated and worthwhile as they preserve the beauty and culture that is shown in the following images from the “Costumi popolari tradizionali della Basilicata del 1700 e 1800.”



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# Basilicata Focus: Traditional Dress



Donna di Alianello



Donna di Aliano



Donna di Episcopia



Donna di Ferrandina



Donna di Avigliano



Donna di Brienza



Francavilla s. Sinni



Donna di Grumento



Donna di Carbone



Castronuovo di S.A.



Donna di Lagonegro



Uomo di Lagonegro



Donna di Colobraro



Donna di Craco



Donna di Latronico



Donna di Moliterno

# Basilicata Focus: Traditional Dress



Donna di Montemurro



Donna di Noepoli



S. Chirico Raparo



S. Costantino A.



Donna di Pomerico



Uomo di Pomerico



S. Giorgio Lucano



S. Paolo Albanese



Donna di Potenza



Donna di Rivello



Donna di Senise



Donna di Stigliano



Donna di Rotondella



Sant'Arcangelo



Donna di Teana



Donna di Tramutola

# Basilicata Focus: Traditional Dress



Donna di Tursi



Donna di Viggiano



Donna di S. Costantino



Donna di Oliveto



Uomo di Viggiano



Uomo di Craco



Donna di Saponara



Donna di Terra



# Basilicata Focus: Traditional Dress



Donna di Tiana



Pastore di Matera



“Ferrantina” 1820



“Brigante del Pollino”



“Uomo e Donna del Paese di Muro Lucano” del 1800

