

## Crachese Life in NY 1911-1920

The decade was marked by unrest and the reform of social problems in the US.

Labor unions grew as people sought protection from poor working conditions. Underscored by the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire and child labor in factories, mills, and mines, states passed minimum age laws. Women striving for equality held the first Suffrage parade in 1910 and the passage of the 19th amendment in 1919 gave them voting rights.

The decade ended with two major events that impacted the rest of the century, World War I and the Spanish Influenza.

While America became the most industrialized country in the world during this period creating both nationwide prosperity and profound social changes, Italian immigrants were still a despised minority, suffering discrimination in housing and employment. Stereotypes about poverty, clannishness, illiteracy, high disease rates, and alleged proclivity toward criminal activities underscored a view among some in this era that southern Italians were a degenerate "race."

World War I became a "pivot point" for immigrants in America. Italy's alliance with the US and immigrants' service in the US military provided them some acceptance. The war also produced nationalism among Italian immigrants promoting assimilation at a faster rate.

During this decade the Crachesi in America concentrated on getting ahead. There were many marriages creating new families. Working hard to make gains for their families some started out on their own to seek greater opportunities rather than continue as employed laborers. In 1910 John A. Sarubbi, who was born in Craco in 1887 and arrived as a 12 year old, started a general contracting company that would grow into a large family business.

On January 11, 1911 Antonio Camberlengo started his boxing career as "Italian Joe Gans." Others were integrating into American ways but still maintaining their Italian cultural identity.

On April 2, 1913 several Cracotans, Leonardo Rubertone, Vitantonio Mastronardi, Nicola Grieco, Leonardo Loporchio, Antonio Lorubbio, Domenico Ferrante, and Donato Viggiano and 53 other Italians formed the Dante Lodge No. 936 of the Sons of Italy in Manhattan. The Società di San Vincenzo Martire di Craco, flourished as families grew.

In 1917 during WWI, a Royal Italian Commission visited New York City. On June 24th the Società headed a parade to honor the dignitaries led by its president Giuseppe Rinaldi. This was Joseph Rinaldi who signed the 1899 charter; he had given up barbering and now owned a café on Worth Street.

WWI impacted the Crachesi on two continents. In America they gained economically by the demand for material from the warring European nations. The Waste Reclamation Service, established by the US government to increase war material, benefitted those Crachesi in the paper stock business. By 1917 there were several who had ventured into business on their own and were established as owners in the paper and rag recycling business. These businessmen also provided employment and income for family members and other paesani. These entrepreneurs included familiar Cracotan surnames like: Benedetto, Camperlengo, Cantasano, Colabella, Donadio, Episcopio, Francavilla, Grieco, Mastronardi, Mormando, Ragone, Tocci, and Viverito.

However, there were great losses too as loved ones on both continents were drawn into the fighting. And after the war came an unexpected consequence—the Spanish Influenza, that caused great havoc in the tenements inhabited by the immigrants in New York. ■

# The Crachesi Immigrants 1911-1920

From 1911-1920, 276 individuals 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 to 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. Giuseppe  
Cantosiano, Angelo  
Cantosiano, Ma Guiseppa  
Caricato, Nicola  
Caricato, Rosa  
Colabella, Fsc. Antonis  
Colonna, Marie Carmela  
Cononacola, Angela  
Costopoulos, Johannis  
Durrresi, 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'Episespia, Leonardo  
L'Episespia, Michelina  
Lo Spinoso, Maria Guiseppa  
Lo Spinoso, Vincenzo  
Lo...bio, Nicoletta  
Lobasca Benedett, Damensca  
Lobosca Benedett, Giovanni  
Lobosca Benedett, Ma. Filamona  
Lobosca 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, Guiseppe  
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, Angiolella  
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  
Cotugrio, Giuseppe  
Croce, Maria  
Croce, Vincenzo  
De Santo, Donato  
DelRosso, Michele  
Demma, Ginlia  
Frumenta, Angela  
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  
Loppinuso, 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, Vitantanio  
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  
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  
Lavrieri, Francesco  
Lavrieri, Guiseppe  
Lorenbio, Giuseppe  
Lospinuso, Nunzia  
Marmo, Andrea

# The Crachesi Immigrants 1911-1920 *continued*

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

**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, Guiseppe  
Mari, Guiseppe  
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  
Narina, MaVincenria  
Rinaloti, Angelantonio  
Rinaloti, Dominico  
Roccanova, 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, Guiseppe  
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, Guiseppe  
Rigibone, Giuseppina  
Rinaldi, Domenico  
Riviello, Giuseppe  
Roccanova, Salvatore  
Sammartino, Berardino  
Santalucio, Geatano  
Sarubbi, Giuseppe  
Satalucia, Rosa  
Serrafico, Pasquale  
Serrafico, Pazquale  
Sillari, Isabella  
Stramcitello, Michelangelo



**125th feast of San Vincenzo Martire di Craco in New York City ~ October 25, 2026**

**Save the Date and Join the Celebration**

# Craco and Remembering the Men of WWI

World War One had a tremendous impact on the people from Craco, those living in the town and in New York City. The war started in Italy in 1914 and the US entered the conflict in 1917. The losses of nine young men had a huge impact on the Cracotan community in both locations. The extent of this is visible today in tangible forms that attempt to reflect the great emotional impact that was suffered by the tightknit community. Everyone from Craco knew these men and was probably related to one of them.

The most impressive tribute to the lost soldiers was the War Monument in Craco Vecchio. The history of Craco, *Note Storiche Sul Comune di Craco*, mentions the following about the Monument:

*About the “civil” monument there is little to write. The War Memorial, in Craco Vecchio, was inaugurated in 1932 with great ceremony. Today, the new monument stands in Craco Peschiera in the green of a beautiful garden.*

A view of the War Monument in Craco Vecchio, while under construction, is in the 1929 film segment of the Society’s video, “[Visits through Time](#)” which can be accessed on the Society’s website.

The monument commemorates Cracotans who died in WWI including both those in the Italian and US armed forces (*insert center left*). A similar plaque of just the US WWI dead is mounted on the front of the Church of the Transfiguration on Mott Street in New York and includes individuals from New York’s Little Italy (*insert lower left*).

In Craco Vecchio, these men and those who subsequently died in WWII were remembered on Italy’s Armistice Day which is celebrated on November 4th to commemorate the armistice signed with Austria at Villa Giusti to end WWI warfare on the Italian front. In Craco, the priest would celebrate a special mass to remember those Cracotans who had lost their life in the wars followed by a remembrance ceremony at the monument led by Colonel Rinaldi.

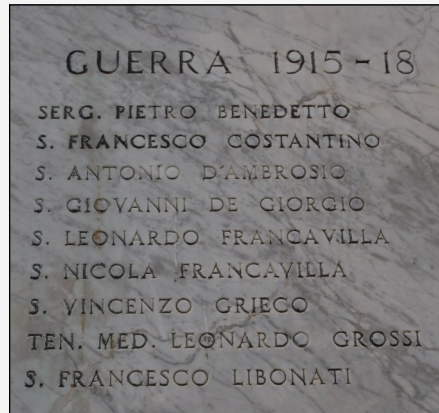
The colored postcard image from Cav. Simone of the original monument in Craco Vecchio provides a valuable insight into the town before the Frana. It allows us to see the background buildings and how they appeared. They were inhabited by the following families, from right to left: Giuseppe Iannuzziello, Antonio LoPorchio, Francesco Vitelli, Vincenzo Rinaldi, Antonio Grossi, Giuseppina Parziale, Francesco Gallotti (this home was formerly the church of San Giovanni), and Giuseppe Pucci.

There was also a very small laneway that led from this area to the Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II. The original monument site

can be located on the website’s [CRACO MAP](#) in the area marked as #539.



*Craco Vecchio’s WWI Memorial Park from a colorized postcard image in the Cav. Simone collection (shown above) provides a view of the original monument after it was completed. With the abandonment of Craco Vecchio the obelisk was moved to Craco Peschiera where it stands today (shown lower right). An inscription on it (shown lower left) that lists the Cracotan men who died in WWI that includes men from Craco in the Italian Army and men of Cracotan descent from New York who were in the US Army.*



## 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)

