



# The FERRYMAN

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DOBBS FERRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Quake hit hardest in Naples, Salerno, Avellino and Potenza Provinces.

## DOBBS FERRY FAMILIES HEAR NEWS OF RELATIVES SURVIVING EARTHQUAKE IN HARDEST-HIT PROVINCE AVELLINO

The devastating earthquakes of Nov. 23 deeply affected the Italian community in Dobbs Ferry. The majority of the earliest families to immigrate from Italy to this village came from Province Avellino, the area hardest hit by this tragic event. Following are a few of their stories:

Filomena Ricciardi reports that a relative of hers from Milan traveled to Calitri to find that Filomena's first cousin and his family were safe but that their home and jewelry store had been demolished. Miss Ricciardi and her family are still trying to get a telephone call through to other relatives in Naples.

Matilde Abate came to Dobbs Ferry in 1971 as a young bride from Calitri in Province Avellino. Her husband's second cousin, Filomena Ricciardi, a lifelong Dobbs Ferry resident, learned that Matilde's mother's house was destroyed.

There was much destruction in the village, but not much loss of life. Filomena  
(continued page 2)

## From Province Avellino...

Within the short space of 20 years—from 1890 to 1910—the first immigrant settlers of many of the present-day families of Dobbs Ferry's large Italian community arrived in America.

They came, in large part, from the mountain villages of province Avellino outside Naples—the small villages of Zungoli, Ariano, Calitri, Serino.

From Zungoli came Francesco Venuto, Gerardo Grande, Leopold Baviello, Luciano Materazzo, Giovanni Delmerico, Clemente Raffa, Vincenzo Annichiarico, brothers Elia and Moses DeLuca—and Petruzzelli, Golio, Vitagliano, Baiano, DePaolo, Bucci, and Tisi.

From Ariano came Scaperrotta, Leggiere, and Schiavo. From Calitri came Francesco Ricciardi in 1890, Pasquale Connola and later his bride-to-be, Antonietta DeRosa, with her two brothers Michael and Vitale DeRosa, and still later John DeRosa with his cousin Frank. In 1907 Michael Frontignano arrived from Serino.

From other parts of Italy came Francisco Yozzo of Calabria, Marzio Orlandi of Rome, and Joseph, Angelo and Anthony Paino of Lipri, Sicily.

Still others who arrived at the turn of the century were Del Grande, Frasca, Pellegriano, and Zevola.

---from Life of a River Village

# Earthquake Shocks Felt By Families

by Pam Caldara &  
Janet Rosenberg

Americans of Italian descent in Dobbs Ferry were shocked and frightened by news of the earthquake that rumbled through the area around Naples on Sunday, Nov. 23. Many residents of Dobbs Ferry have relatives in Zungolio, which is 40-50 miles outside the hardest hit areas but nonetheless felt the tremors.

Among villagers contacted by the *Enterprise* were Sarah Golio, whose niece Emma is Mrs. Nicholas Caruso. Mrs. Golio said that close relatives of her niece's live in Frigita, within the disaster area, and that because news was impossible to get, Emma Caruso's sister-in-law flew to Rome in order to learn about the family's welfare. There was no phone service between Frigita and Rome but a radio message to Mrs. Caruso's sister-in-law got through, saying that her relatives had been evacuated and were safe.

Carmela Frey, Mrs. Otto Frey, has relatives in Avellino, one of the towns in the province of Naples in which there was a great deal of destruction. During a recent visit to Avellino, Mrs. Frey remembers seeing a great number of houses on the side of a mountain, and thinking, "God help us if there is an earthquake. They would all come down." Theresa Tisi also has relatives in Avellino. As of November 28 she had still not been able to get any phone calls through and did not know the fate of her relatives.

The residents of Dobbs Ferry hope for the well-being of all their neighbors' relatives and friends who live in the stricken area.

## DOBBS FERRY FAMILIES HEAR NEWS OF QUAKE SURVIVORS (cont.)

Ricciardi explained, "They escaped because when they felt a preliminary tremor and the lights went out, they left their houses and went out into the fields, where they stayed all night.

"A few from the village went back into their houses to get things in the early morning and were killed."

Gina and Giuseppe Clasadonte of Seneca Street are relative newcomers to the community. They rejoiced when they received a phone call from Avellino from Gina's sister saying that the family was safe. Mrs. Clasadonte's mother had returned to Dobbs Ferry recently after a visit to her family in Avellino.

Pat and Mary (Bonadies) Venuto, both lifelong residents of Dobbs Ferry, had been planning their first trip to Italy this year to visit the birthplace of Pat's father, Crescenzo Venuto, who came to Dobbs Ferry many years ago from the tiny village of Zungoli. They wonder now if they are too late.

## LOCAL CHURCHES AID QUAKE VICTIMS

At an inter-faith service held on Thanksgiving Eve at the convent chapel at Mercy College, Monsignor Green of Sacred Heart Church appealed to all Dobbs Ferry houses of worship to contribute aid and to offer prayer for earthquake victims.

Thanksgiving Day collections at Sacred Heart Church and Zion Episcopal Church were donated to Italian relief organizations. Our Lady of Pompeii Church is collecting money, clothing and blankets. Aldersgate Methodist Church contributed their Sunday offering to the Casa Materna, a Methodist orphanage outside of Naples.

## ITALIAN HILLTOWNS

Italian hilltowns are believed to have been built on their spectacular sites mainly during the 11th to the 13th centuries. Often walled and surrounding a castle, they served as a defense against enemy marauders. Use of the hillsides also preserved the limited agricultural land of the valleys below.

# How to Donate

Father Peter Toscani, pastor of Our Lady of Pompeii, will be conducting a clothing and blanket drive. There will be a special collection taken up at the Italian Mass on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 10 a.m. Mass will include special prayers for the earthquake victims and parishioners will be asked to contribute to the "Fund for Earthquake Victims." All donations will be sent to Cardinal Corrado Ursi, Archbishop of the Province of Naples, in charge of distributing money at the site. Father Toscani will also help anybody who is seeking information about possible earthquake victims.

The Daughters of Italy will also be helping disaster victims. Money may be sent to Mrs. Frank Yozzo in care of Pam Caldara at the Embassy Club (60 Palisades Street, Dobbs Ferry).

Checks, money orders or other donations can sent to these groups:

F.I.A.O. Italian  
Earthquake Fund, 1088  
Central Ave., Scarsdale or  
C.I.A.O. Italian Earthquake  
Fund, 184 Waverly St.,  
Yonkers 682-2900; 682-3126

Italian Historical Society of America, Brooklyn Savings Bank, 211 Montague Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.

Progresso Disaster Fund, 15 Emerson Street, Emerson, N.J. 07630 or P.O. Box 935, Washington Bridge Station, New York, N.Y. 10033.

Italian Earthquake Relief Fund, c/o Banco di Napoli, 277 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017, Account No. 01 17 18,

Lieut. Gov. Mario M. Cuomo: IDEA, an acronym for Italian Disaster Emergency Assistance — will serve as a clearing house for information on the types of aid needed in Italy. IDEA would not seek donations in its own name but would try to prevent the wasteful duplication of relief efforts. He said the group would attempt to ensure that the right kind of aid went where it was most needed.

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