**The Genealogy of the Manganaros of Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily, Italy**

A report on the direct ancestors of XXXX, starting with Michele Manganaro (abt. 1830-after 1855) of San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily, Italy descending to XXXX’s grandfather, XXXXX

**Researched and written by Rachael Dang 2022**

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# Manganaro Family Origins

Manganaros in the 1800s inhabited San Cataldo, a Sicilian town (comune) in the province of Caltanissetta, Sicily, Italy. Family members began to immigrate to the United States in the early 1900s, some settling in Pittston, Pennsylvania:[[1]](#footnote-1)

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# Michele Manganaro and Luigia Palermo

Abt. 1830- Aft. 1855

## Life Summary

Michele Manganaro was probably born around 1830, probably in San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily, Italy. He married Luigia Palermo (daughter of Clemente Palermo and Filippa Giordano) around 1850, most likely in San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily, Italy[[2]](#footnote-2).

At this time, Sicily was experiencing unrest with revolts against the Bourbons (Spanish rule) due to a failure to fix the issues and problems that Sicily faced. This came after a lackadaisical approach, as the Bourbons thought that the problems would simply be fixed with better administration. This failed to help the Sicilians and they revolted against rule and experienced bombings and stringent crackdowns due to these revolts. The economy suffered, which led to the mass emigration of the grandchildren of those born during this time. If you visit Liberty Island/Ellis Island’s passenger records you would see Manganaros, Leonardis, DiPrimas, Scarantinos, etc traveling from San Cataldo and starting their new life in Pittston’s Italian neighborhoods. Michele and Luigia’s descendants were active in the San Cataldo Society in Pittston, and most were buried at Saint Roccos’ Catholic cemetery.

| Name | Birthdate/ Place | Marriage date/ Place | To whom | Death date/ Place |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Michele Manganaro | Abt. 1830[[3]](#footnote-3) Probably San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily | Abt. 1850 Probably San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily | Luiga Palermo | After 1855 Probably San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily |
| Luigia Palermo[[4]](#footnote-4) | 1833 San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily | Abt. 1850 Probably San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily | Michele Manganaro | July 20, 1903 San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily |

Children of Michele and Luigia are below. I was only able to find a record of your ancestor, Salvatore. This could be for several reasons:

1. Other children were born, but their record is not digitized, and you will need to visit San Cataldo to find their records.
2. Salvatore is an only child

| Name | Birthdate/ Place | Marriage date/ Place | To whom | Death date/ Place |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Salvatore Manganaro[[5]](#footnote-5)** | **1855 San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily** | **Abt. 1860 Probably San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily** | **Angela Marie Leonardi** | **February 6, 1894 San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily,** |

## Birth Source(s)

I did not find a birth sources online. This could be because of several reasons:

1. Births were not consistently recorded via the Napoleonic record method at that time.
2. They were born in a different town that has not yet digitized the record (I searched all of Sicily) and you will need to figure out if they were born elsewhere (please note that Salvatore and Luigia’s death records list their place of birth as San Cataldo)
3. The record in San Cataldo has not yet been digitized and you will need to visit the town and search for the record in the archives

## Marriage Source(s)

I did not find a marriage source online. This could be because of several reasons:

1. Marriages were not consistently recorded via the Napoleonic record method at that time.
2. They were married in a different town that has not yet digitized the record (I searched all of Sicily)
3. The record in San Cataldo has not yet been digitized and you will need to visit the town and search for the record in the archives
4. They were not married

## Death Source(s)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | "Italia, Caltanissetta, Stato Civile (Archivio di Stato), 1820-1935," database with images, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKMQ-FKJB : 15 March 2018), Luigia Palermo, 20 Jul 1903; citing Death, San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Italy, Archivio di Stato di Caltanissetta (Caltanissetta State Archives), Italy. |

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|  | "Italia, Caltanissetta, Stato Civile (Archivio di Stato), 1820-1935," database with images, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKMQ-J1T2 : 15 March 2018), Salvatore Manganaro, 06 Feb 1894; citing Death, San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Italy, Archivio di Stato di Caltanissetta (Caltanissetta State Archives), Italy.  Note: Spouse’s name shows Marianna instead of Maria. |

# Salvatore Manganaro and Angela Maria Leonardi

1855 – 1894

## Life Summary

Salvatore Manganaro was born in 1855, probably San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily. He married Angela Maria Leonardi, probably around 1860, most likely in San Cataldo. He died in San Cataldo in 1894.

| Name | Birthdate/ Place | Marriage date/ Place | To whom | Death date/ Place |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Salvatore Manganaro | 1855 San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily | Abt. 1860 Probably San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily | Angela Marie Leonardi | February 6, 1894, San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily |
| Angela Maria Leonardi | 1861 San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily[[6]](#footnote-6) | Abt. 1860 Probably San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily | Salvatore Manganaro | Probably Pennsylvania, USA |

I found records for the following children: Your ancestor is bolded in the list below.

| Name | Birthdate | Birth place | Marriage date/ Place | To whom | Death date | Death place |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Michele Manganaro | Feb 9, 1880 | **San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily** | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Luisa Manganaro | 1884 | **San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily** | Unknown | N/A died at 1yr | July 24, 1885 | **San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily** |
| **Gaetano “Anthony” Manganaro[[7]](#footnote-7)** | **June 12, 1886** | **San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily** | **Abt. 1892 Probably San Cataldo, Caltanisetta, Sicily** | **Rosario**  **Di Prima** | **Feb 14, 1942** | **Pittston Hospital, Jenkins Township, PA** |
| Luigia Manganaro | Dec 14, 1889 | **San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily** | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Catalda Manganaro | May 13, 1893 | **San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily** | Unknown | Unknown | October 30, 1894 | **San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Italy** |
| Possible Luigi Manganaro[[8]](#footnote-8) | Unknown | **Probably.San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Sicily** | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |

## Birth Source(s)

I was unable to find a birth source for Salvatore and Angela. Birth dates are pulled from Salvatore’s death record and Angela’s immigration paperwork.

Birth sources for their children:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | "Italia, Caltanissetta, Stato Civile (Archivio di Stato), 1820-1935," database with images, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:2V7R-JVM : 15 March 2018), Salvatore Manganaro in entry for Michele Manganaro, 09 Feb 1880; citing Birth, San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Italy, Archivio di Stato di Caltanissetta (Caltanissetta State Archives), Italy. |
|  | "Italia, Caltanissetta, Stato Civile (Archivio di Stato), 1820-1935," database with images, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:2V7Y-QD9 : 15 March 2018), Salvatore Manganaro in entry for Catalda Manganaro, 13 May 1893; citing Birth, San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Italy, Archivio di Stato di Caltanissetta (Caltanissetta State Archives), Italy. |
|  | "Italia, Caltanissetta, Stato Civile (Archivio di Stato), 1820-1935," database with images, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:2V7T-P36 : 15 March 2018), Salvatore Manganaro in entry for Luigia Manganaro, 14 Dec 1889; citing Birth, San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Italy, Archivio di Stato di Caltanissetta (Caltanissetta State Archives), Italy. |
|  | "Italia, Caltanissetta, Stato Civile (Archivio di Stato), 1820-1935," database with images, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:2V7T-S21 : 15 March 2018), Salvatore Manganaro in entry for Luisa Manganaro, 15 Mar 1884; citing Birth, San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Italy, Archivio di Stato di Caltanissetta (Caltanissetta State Archives), Italy. |

## Marriage Source(s)

I was not able to find a marriage record for Salvatore and Angela. This could be because of several reasons:

1. They were married in a different town that has not yet digitized the record (I searched all of Sicily) and you will need to figure out if they were married elsewhere.
2. The record in San Cataldo has not yet been digitized and you will need to visit the town and search for the record in the archives
3. They were not married

## Census source(s)

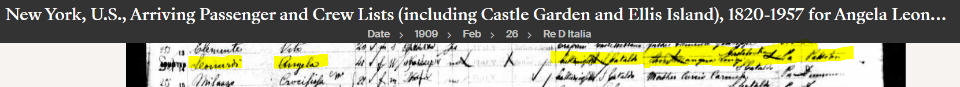
I was unable to find any census records for Angela Maria Leonardi after she traveled to the United States in 1909. There is a Marie Falzone in 1920 that is the only woman in Pittston (in Ancestry.com records) who meets the criteria. (born +-2 from Angela’s date of birth in Italy) living at 146 Elizabeth Street. Marie Falzone may not be a remarried Angela, but I am including this record in case you would like to do further research. Or, another theory is that` Angela could have traveled back to Italy and passed away before 1960 (100 years from birth).

A picture containing diagram

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## Immigration record(s)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | This record has several transcribing errors and I put a request in to fix:   1. The spelling of Angela’s last name to “Leonardi” 2. The birthplace to: “**Caltanissetta”** 3. **The other birth place to: “San Cataldo”** 4. Last known residence to: “San Cataldo, Caltanissetta” 5. Final destination to: “Pittston, Pennsylvania” 6. I could not update the person in old country, but it appears to be “son: Luigi Manganaro” |





## Death Source(s)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | "Italia, Caltanissetta, Stato Civile (Archivio di Stato), 1820-1935," database with images, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKMQ-J1T2 : 15 March 2018), Salvatore Manganaro, 06 Feb 1894; citing Death, San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Italy, Archivio di Stato di Caltanissetta (Caltanissetta State Archives), Italy. |
|  | "Italia, Caltanissetta, Stato Civile (Archivio di Stato), 1820-1935," database with images, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKMQ-JH17 : 15 March 2018), Salvatore Manganaro in entry for Catalda Manganaro, 30 Oct 1894; citing Death, San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Italy, Archivio di Stato di Caltanissetta (Caltanissetta State Archives), Italy. |
|  | "Italia, Caltanissetta, Stato Civile (Archivio di Stato), 1820-1935," database with images, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKMQ-JMK8 : 15 March 2018), Salvatore Manganaro in entry for Luisa Manganaro, 24 Jul 1885; citing Death, San Cataldo, Caltanissetta, Italy, Archivio di Stato di Caltanissetta (Caltanissetta State Archives), Italy. |

Angela Maria Leonardi:

I did quite a bit of research on Ancestry.com and searched for any woman born +-2 years from her date of birth in Italy who resides in Pittston. The only woman who fit the criteria on Ancestry.com was Mary (Maria) Falzone. Maria was living with her husband, Salvatore (Samuel) in 1920 and there was a boarder with the last name Scarantino. I could not find a marriage record that would verify whether this Maria was Angela Maria Leonardi. There is quite a bit of coincidence, but I have seen many coincidences in my genealogical research and this Maria may not be your Angela. I am including Maria’s death certificate for further research if you would like to research more.

Text

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**Matching information**:

1. Maria is Angela’s middle name. It is possible she decided to go by that name when she lived in Pittsburgh
2. They live on the same street as the Manganaros (166 Elizabeth Street)
3. A Scarantino is boarding with her in the 1920 census provided earlier in the report. The Scarantinos were Angela’s daughter-in-law’s relatives (your ancestor, Rosario DiPrima)
4. Maria’s father’s last name is listed as “Leonardo” on the death certificate
5. The census provided for Maria earlier in the report lists arrival date as 1909, the same year as our Angela

# Resources

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sources are pulled from Ancestry.com unless otherwise noted in the footnotes or by citing the source on the page | Ancestry.com |
| Family Search – you can register free to view records | Familysearch.com |
| Firms that Italy recommends Americans use in order to dig into genealogical records. Italian registrars require the exact dates and the information needed to pull a record and will not do any research | <https://it.usembassy.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/67/2016/05/ACS-Genealogical.pdf> |
| How to obtain vital records in Italy when you know the exact dates and names  For dual citizenship applications, one must obtain certified copies of vital records. (Birth and marriage records) | <https://it.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/local-resources-of-u-s-citizens/obtaining-vital-records/> |
| Newspapers.com | [www.Newspapers.com](http://www.Newspapers.com) |

If you decide to do further research into your ancestors, you will find records sporadic and harder to find the closer prior to 1800. Before the 1800s, it was not a routine practice to record birth, marriages, or deaths for those not wealthy. Vital record keeping only became routine when Napoleon came to power and required that all birth, marriages, and deaths be recorded in a specific format.

**The original records for Sicilian towns (comuni) can be found in various locales.** Catholic church records (Registri Ecclesiastici) may exist at the parish church where they were recorded, or in the main church (Chiesa Matrice) of the town, or at diocesan offices. Civil records are kept in the Anagrafe (Registry Office) of each comune. On my visits to Sicily, it’s a thrill to have a clerk produce the original thick, dusty civil registers containing the records of my ancestors from the 1800s. The civil records are referred to as the Registri Stato Civile (Records of Civil Status). At the time the civil records were made, a clerk wrote out two virtually identical copies. One was kept at the comune, and one was sent to the Tribunale (District Court). After 75 years, the Tribunale sends the records to the Archivio di Stato, the “State Archives” at the comune’s provincial capital city.[[9]](#footnote-9)

# Thank you

Thank you for the opportunity to research and report on your family history. If you would like any other branches researched or assistance with genealogy in general, please contact me through Etsy and I will work out a custom order for you. I look forward to future business with you!

Diagram, text

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1. Map screenshots taken from “Bing maps” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Marriage confirmed by Salvatore’s death record that lists Michele and Luigia as parents [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “About” birth and “after” death dates are calculated by: (1) reviewing the birth dates of children or marriage dates and subtracting 20 years OR (2) reviewing birth dates of children and noting that death was after the last record of their child’s birth. These dates are estimated and are not considered actual birth or death dates. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Information taking from Luigia’s death record [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Information taken from Salvatore’s death record [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Birth date and birthplace taken from Immigration records [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Gaetano’s records are in his section of the report [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Angela documents that she last lived with “son Luigi Manganaro” in San Cataldo in her immigration paperwork [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Coniglio, Angelo**.** Finding Your Sicilian Ancestors: I Know My Ancestral Town – Now, What? <https://www.timesofsicily.com/finding-your-sicilian-ancestors-i-know-my-ancestral-town-now-what/> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)