



AMHS

# NOTIZIARIO

CELEBRATING ITALIAN CULTURE &amp; COMMUNITY SINCE 2000

A Publication of the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society of the Washington DC Area

November/December 2020

## AMHS VIRTUAL WINE-TASTING to Feature Owner of Campi Valerio Vineyard Live from Molise



By Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President — Programs

Regrettably, we cannot meet in person at Casa Italiana this year for our popular wine-tasting event. Instead, AMHS's annual event will be a virtually guided wine lecture and tasting hosted by Veni Vini Amici, including an interview with Molise producer Antonio Valerio, owner of Campi Valerio in Monteroduni, who will be live-streamed from Italy!

Our host, Stephen Yanchuk, has been conducting educational wine-themed lectures since 2018. Both Stephen and his partner Beth have received certificates in wine education and continue their education and studies of the vines. Since March 2020, they have held monthly streaming tasting lectures where the focus is on the soil, terrain, history, culture and even pop culture. Their passion for wine and desire to bring good vibes to the world helped them become a 2020 Wine Spectator Video competition finalist for their video ("A Tale of Three Wine Bottles").

Meanwhile, in the region of Molise near Isernia, archaeological evidence discovered in 1978 shows us the first signs of humankind in Europe during the Paleolithic period 700,000 years ago. It is in this cradle of civilization that Antonio Valerio's family has been making wine since 1836. Along with the 14 hectares of vineyards at Campi Valerio in Monteroduni, the family cultivates 30 hectares of olive groves, as well as raises 250 cattle and 2,000 sheep on the remaining 450 hectares. In all their farming activities, they pay the utmost attention to nature and its sustainability. (For related article on Monteroduni, see page 12 of this *Notiziario*).

Antonio Valerio describes this land as "a place that must be cared for with heart and soul." He has been leading a renaissance in wine from Molise. With 60% of the production being exported, his focus has been on quality and bringing an authentic return to native grape varieties and classic viticulture techniques.

These are the specific wines we will feature, all produced by Campi Valerio:

- 2019 Fannia Falanghina del Molise
- 2016 Calidio Rosso del Molise
- 2016 Sannazaro del Molise Riserva

These wines are available at Calvert Woodley Liquors, 4339 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., and curbside pickup service is available. Two of the wines suggested for the tasting (a white falanghina and the red Sannazaro) are also carried by A. Litteri, 517 Morse St. NE, Washington, DC 20002. If you wish to order these wines, we suggest you do so early.

**So please join us on November 15, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. EST** and let's discover Molise through the stories of wine. *Details on how to join the event, via Zoom, coming soon — keep an eye on your email, as well as the Society's Facebook page and AMHS calendar of events.*

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



### Dear members and friends:

I hope that this message finds you safe and in good health. As we move toward the year's end, it is both striking and disappointing to realize that we still don't have the pandemic behind us. This year's holiday season will likely be very different from any other most of us have experienced. We all continue to make adjustments, often major adjustments, to what used to be our normal routine, all the while hoping that something will emerge — a vaccine, a drug, a treatment — that will put a gradual end to the trail of illness and death that COVID has left.

The AMHS is also trying to adapt to the new reality. We held our first virtual general meeting on Sunday, September 20th. AMHS Board member Sonny Scafetta gave an interesting presentation on Italian American baseball players with roots in Abruzzo. We heard some amusing anecdotes and learned some surprising facts about several successful Italian American athletes who made their mark on a national stage in an important slice of American life. Regrettably, we had some technical problems that prevented some of our members and friends from joining the session. We apologize for our shortcoming in providing access to everyone who was interested, but we want you to know that we are taking steps to ensure that you will be able to take part in future events and meetings without the problems that plagued our first attempted general meeting.

We did hold a virtual event that had no technical difficulties on October 3, when we hosted a discussion of the film "My country". This was the fourth film discussion that we have offered, and, as in the previous three, Italian-American film producer/director Jim Toscano graciously agreed to serve as moderator. The discussion was, as it has been for each film, informative, entertaining and just a lot of fun, and we thank Jim for lending us his knowledge of film and his movie-making experience. Much to our delight, a surprise participant in the discussion was the Italian American director of the film, Giancarlo Iannotta, who was also the film's lead actor. Our thanks go to Jim Toscano for making this happen, as well as to Giancarlo Iannotta for his willingness to join us and answer all of our questions about the film, including how it came about, how he selected the cast, and what his plans are for future work. The entire session was enjoyable and informative and we hope that it helped a little to fill the void left by our in-person meetings.

By the time this message gets to you, we will have hosted another virtual event, which hopefully many of you had the opportunity to attend. Well-known photographer Tony Vaccaro had agreed to deliver a lecture to us on October 30. Mr. Vaccaro grew up in Molise during the Second World War, after which he emigrated to the U.S. His enormous collection of photographs, which earned him a place in the International Photography Hall of Fame, includes scenes from the war, fashion, famous personalities and much else. The event aimed at providing another opportunity for the Society's members to gather (virtually) and celebrate another piece of Italian and Italian American culture.

We are planning to hold our annual wine-tasting event this year, but, of course, it will be virtual. Mark your calendars for November 15, when we will present a wine lecture and tasting that will be guided by Veni, Vini Amici's Stephen and Beth Yanchuk, who are experts in conducting wine-themed educational lectures. This should be a really informative and enjoyable event, the very best that we can offer in the midst of a pandemic. Stay tuned for additional details, including the wines we'll be tasting at home and how everyone can join in.

I would like to alert you to our upcoming annual AMHS scholarship fund raising campaign. As you probably know, the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) discontinued its matching funds program, so we now raise by ourselves all of the funds needed to underwrite the two scholarships that we award each year. Please be on the lookout for our Fundraising Letter. We believe that our scholarship program is the best way to promote the Italian language and culture to future generations, and it is our hope that you share this belief and that we can make this year's campaign more successful than ever.

We have three members who have agreed to stand for election to positions on our Executive Committee. They are Frank Bonsiero, Jeff Clark and Mark Lino. I am grateful for their willingness to lend their talents to our Committee. They will become key players in leading our organization and we are fortunate to have their energy and commitment. I ask you to be on the look-out for a ballot to be sent to you by which you can record your vote on this upcoming election.

Finally, I wish everyone a happy holiday season, mindful, of course, that we will most likely not be able to celebrate it in the same way in which we have in the past. Stay safe and hopefully we will be able to see each other in person sometime in 2021.

*Regards,  
Ray LaVerghetta*

# Noted Italian Baseball Players with Abruzzese Roots Remembered

By **Nancy DeSanti**, 1st Vice President — Programs

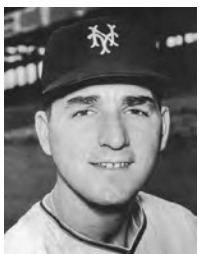
**A**lthough we weren't able to hold an in-person meeting on September 20, 2020, we did have a virtual talk by one of our AMHS board members, Joseph (Sonny) Scafetta, Jr. on the subject of Italian-American pro baseball players with Abruzzese roots.

You may recall that Sonny wrote an article for a recent *Notiziario* on the career of Johnny Antonelli, an accomplished pitcher whose family has roots in Vasto, in the province of Chieti in Abruzzo. But there were some other great players with a similar background, as we found out from Sonny's talk.

First, a little bit about Sonny. He is the son of Giuseppe Scafetta who emigrated from the city of Vasto to Washington in 1915. He is an aerospace engineer and a lawyer specializing in patent law. Sonny has been an AMHS member since 2008 and he is also a member of the National Christopher Columbus Association. He was state president of the Order of the Sons and Daughters of Italy's Grand Lodge of Virginia and he is also the author of a book entitled, "The True & Complete Story of Christopher Columbus."

Sonny based his talk on the book, "*Baseball Italian Style: Great Stories Told by Italian American Major Leaguers from Crosetti to Piazza*," by Lawrence Baldassaro, professor emeritus of Italian at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Baldassaro is also the author of "*Beyond DiMaggio: Italian Americans in Baseball*." The "*Baseball Italian Style*" book, which is available on Amazon, brings together the memories of major leaguers of Italian heritage whose careers span almost a century, from the 1930s up to the present. Among those giving their first-person accounts are eight Hall of Famers (Yogi Berra, Phil Rizzuto, Ron Santo, Craig Biggio, Mike Piazza, Tommy Lasorda, Tony La Russia, and Joe Torre).

In Sonny's talk, he focused on five of the baseball greats with Abruzzese roots. Overall, he noted that the situation was very different for players in the 1930s and 1940s, when Italian-American players were often called derogatory names, and nowadays, with players reporting no discrimination because of their ethnicity. Sonny notes that in the interviews of players from the early days, the hopes and dreams of their immigrant parents for their children did not include baseball.



**Johnny Antonelli** was born in Rochester, N.Y., and his father was from the town of Castelbordino, near Vasto in Chieti. A left-handed pitcher, Antonelli went straight to the major leagues, playing for the Boston Braves

who won a national league pennant. In 1948, the Boston Braves gave him a \$52,000 bonus — the largest in baseball history up to that time — to pitch for them.

After a stint in the Army at Fort Myer in Arlington, Va., he rejoined the Boston Braves and was later traded to the New York Giants. Antonelli made the All Star Team, then moved to the San Francisco Giants. He retired at the age of 32, moved back to Rochester and ran a chain of 28 Firestone tire stores, and died recently just short of 90 years old.



**Tommy Lasorda** was born in Norristown, a suburb of Philadelphia. His father was born in Tollo, in Chieti, and his mother's parents were Abruzzese. He signed with the Phillies but was drafted into the U.S.

Army. Afterwards he was acquired by the Brooklyn Dodgers. He is best known for his two decades managing the Dodgers. In 2020, he marked his 71st season with the Brooklyn/Los Angeles organization. After he finished playing in 1960, he became a scout for the Dodgers, then a coach and eventually a manager, and his team went on to win two World Series. In short, his team had an outstanding record during his tenure.

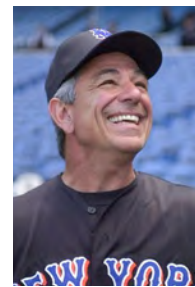
Lasorda managed four All Star Teams for the National League. His illustrious career included

the Summer Olympics in 2000, with his team winning the gold medal. At age 93, he is currently the oldest living Hall of Famer. Lasorda famously said, "I would walk two miles to shake the hand of an Italian, but I would crawl two miles to shake the hand of an Abruzzese."



**Amerigo (Rico) Petrocelli**, who was born in Brooklyn, was signed as a shortstop and third baseman and played his entire career with the Boston Red Sox. He later played on the American All Stars Team. He retired at age 33 due to an injury he sustained when he

was hit in the head during a game, and his hearing was affected. He managed several minor league teams owned by the Chicago White Sox and Boston Red Sox, worked in broadcasting and eventually retired in Florida. He wrote a book about the 1967 Boston Red Sox season, "Rico Petrocelli's Tales from the Impossible Dream Red Sox."



**Bobby Valentine's** family name was originally Valentini, and his paternal grandparents were from Calabria while his maternal grandparents were from Abruzzo. He played several positions for the Los Angeles Dodgers, and after being injured during a game,

he was traded to the San Diego Padres, then to the New York Mets and afterwards to the Seattle Mariners. After retiring at age 29, he was the Mets coach then became the manager for the Texas Rangers but was fired by the owner, George W. Bush, despite a winning season.

He eventually became the first foreign coach in Japan and learned Japanese, winning a Japanese baseball award. Valentine was very popular with Japanese fans, and was known for marketing ideas such as having dedicated autograph sessions and hosting dance classes for fans (he was a competitive ballroom dancer in his youth). Lat-

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# Noted Italian Baseball Players with Abruzzese Roots Remembered

▼ *Continued from page 3*

er on, he became an ESPN analyst and the owner of Bobby V's bar and sports club. He was known for his colorful personality, and he was known to sneak back onto the field wearing a disguise, after having been tossed out.



**Michael Scioscia's** paternal grandparents were from Naples, while his maternal grandparents were from Abruzzo. He became a catcher and spent 13 years with the Dodgers. He retired at age 34, having used the same catcher's mitt throughout most of his career. He went on to manage the Anaheim Angels for 19 years, including 2002 when the Angels won the World Series, and he was named manager of the year in 2002 and 2009.

Early in his career after signing with the Dodgers, he spent the offseason attending Penn State University, working towards a computer science degree. While still a player, he made a guest appearance on the TV show "The Simpsons" in the episode, "Homer at Bat."

*(Note: Another player mentioned in the book is Ken Aspromonte, whose grandparents were from Calabria and Basilicata. During his playing career, he was an infielder for the Red Sox, Senators, Angels, Braves and Cubs. After playing in Japan for three years, he managed the Cleveland Indians from 1972-1974. He was very active in the National Italian American Foundation, becoming executive vice president and a member of the board of directors, and he was a frequent visitor to Washington, D.C. where he would visit his longtime friend, the late AMHS member Angelo Puglisi). ■*

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[www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org](http://www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org).

## From the AMHS Nominating Committee Candidates for the AMHS Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce three exceptional candidates for the AMHS Board of Directors: Frank Bonsiero, Jeff Clark, and Mark Lino (please see their bios, below). If elected, these candidates will replace Rico Allegrino, and Joe and Joann Novello, whose terms on the board expire at the end of this year.

The election shall take place by mail-in ballot, which you should expect to receive sometime in November. We strongly encourage you to vote. The elected board members shall assume office on January 1, 2021. Their term of office is for three years. *(Submitted by the AMHS Nominating Committee: Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, Rico Allegrino, and Peter Bell).*



**Frank Bonsiero** has been an AMHS member, along with his wife, Susan, for eight years. He was raised in Baltimore, Maryland, and lived at an Italian orphanage run by the Pallottine nuns in the Little Italy section of Baltimore. He served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam era. Frank is a graduate of Regis College in Denver, Colorado. Frank spent most of his federal career with the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and the Office of the Inspector General at the Department of Defense. He has worked as a government audit consultant after federal retirement.

Frank has been married for 48 years to his lovely bride, Susan — they have two children and six grandchildren, who range in age from 21 years to seven months. Frank is proud of them all, including the oldest who plays second base for the University of Arizona (look for him in the big leagues in a couple of years!).

Frank currently resides in Clifton, Va. and attends St Andrew the Apostle Church. He loves coming to AMHS meetings and the fellowship that exists. He enjoys celebrating all things Italian. He hopes to serve honorably and proudly.



**Jeffrey (Jeff) Clark** grew up in Utah and has lived the last seventeen years in the District of Columbia. He has worked as the chief financial officer for several small government contractors in the D.C. area and holds an MBA degree and CPA designation. In addition to the AMHS, Jeff is a member of the Lucchesi nel Mondo Tuscany Club and the Centro Espanol de Washington, D.C. He claims Italian heritage through his 6th great grandfather who was a native of Naples and immigrated to New Orleans in the early 1700s.

Jeff currently serves on the AMHS Budget & Finance Committee. He previously served on the Board and was the AMHS Treasurer from 2014 through 2015.



**Mark Lino's** paternal family is from Avellino in the Campania region of Italy. He has been a member of the AMHS for about 15 years and is looking forward to serving on the Society's board. Mark was born in East Boston, Massachusetts and holds degrees from Boston College (B.S.) and Cornell University (Ph.D.). For the past 33 years, he has been employed as an economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture where he works on food policy and programs. Outside of work, he enjoys reading mysteries and wine tasting. ■

# More on Italian Composer Ennio Morricone

**(Editor's note — Our last issue featured an article on the passing of famed Italian composer Ennio Morricone and his AMHS connection. Some aspects of Morricone's life and career were edited from that piece but are included here. Thanks again to AMHS First Vice President Nancy DeSanti for an outstanding article.)**

Ennio Morricone was born in Rome and enrolled at the city's Conservatory of Santa Cecilia at the precocious age of 12. Not surprisingly, since his father was a trumpeter, the son began playing and writing music from the age of 6. He enrolled in a four-year program which he completed in six months. He emerged with a thorough knowledge of the classical tradition, but he found it difficult to earn enough money writing original pieces.

After he married and started a family, Morricone found work as a composer and arranger for Italy's national radio network, wrote music for theater and television, and sometimes worked as a jazz trumpeter.

While the world knew him as the man who made spaghetti westerns with Sergio Leone and Clint Eastwood, Morricone always viewed himself as a composer for whom film work was only a part of his career.

Morricone had first met Leone when they both attended the same elementary school, but it was not until 25 years later that their professional partnership began with *A Fistful of Dollars* in 1964.

So in 1988, it was to Morricone that the writer/director Giuseppe Tornatore turned when he needed a score for *Cinema Paradiso*, a haunting paean to the power of cinema as seen through the eyes of a Sicilian boy, which earned a reputation for helping to spur a revival of Italian cinema.

He later became a favorite of American director Quentin Tarantino, who was an aficionado of spaghetti westerns and European cinema.

Morricone's influence spread widely throughout various forms of popular music. He wrote pop hits for Zucchero and his music has been sampled by Jay-Z. Morricone conducted the orchestra on the 2004 album *Yo-Yo Ma Plays Ennio Morricone*. He was knighted in France and awarded the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival.



*Morricone mural*

tival. Morricone performed regularly throughout Europe, and in January 2016 he started a tour, "60 Years of Music," which visited more than 40 European cities. He played his final concert at the Palazzo Madama in Rome in January.

Morricone was also known as a man of great faith. On the Sunday following his passing, Holy Rosary Church's organist and musical director, AMHS member Maria Marigliano, played "Gabriel's Oboe" from *The Mission* as a Communion meditation piece in Morricone's memory. His score for *The Mission*, evoking the music of the 18th century Spanish Jesuit missions in

Paraguay, is one of his most popular works with a Catholic theme. He also composed the music for the 1983 film, *The Scarlet and the Black*, based on the true story of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty, a Catholic priest who saved the lives of thousands of Jews and escaped Allied POWs in Rome during World War II.

Ennio Morricone's first posthumous album, "Morricone Segreto" ("Secret Morricone"), featuring seven new tracks, was released on November 6, four days before what would have been the composer's 92nd birthday on November 10. The collection spans the 1960 to '80s. ■

## Notiziario Print Edition To Return in January

Due to an abundance of caution in the first months of the coronavirus pandemic, the AMHS did not produce print versions of the *Notiziario*. We were concerned for the well being of those who print the newsletter and of the Society volunteers who gather to seal, stamp, label and mail the copies.

While the virus remains a constant danger, we believe the time is right to resume printing our newsletter as part of our ongoing effort to maintain our community spirit in a time of isolation. We have received assurances from our printing company that they are open and following precautions. Our volunteers will practice social distancing and other safe practices to mail the newsletter. And the best scientific evidence shows that early concerns about contracting the virus by touching mail have been allayed.

We will of course continue to email an electronic version to all members. Those who have not opted out of receiving the print version should look for the January/February issue in their mailboxes on or around January 1, 2021. ■

— Carmine James Spellane, Editor



# THE ROSSETTI CHILDREN

By Joseph "Sonny" Scafetta, Jr.

In the previous issue of the *Notiziario*, I wrote about the life and work of the Italian patriot and poet, Gabriele Rossetti (1783–1854). As noted, Rossetti was condemned to death by the Neapolitan king in 1821, but escaped to London. There he married and had four children, all renowned in the arts in their own right. In fact, many commentators consider the children, particularly two of them, to have eclipsed the accomplishments of the father.

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*No family of artists is considered more numerous and prolific in England than the Rossettis.*

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## Maria Francesca

The oldest child was born on February 17, 1827. Like all of her siblings, she was born in London and baptized in the Anglican Church. Maria Francesca was educated at home and was equally familiar with the languages and literary traditions of both Italy and England. She grew up in a bilingual household headed by her amiable older Italian father who begat her when he was 44 and a younger severe Italo-English mother, Francesca Maria Lavinia Polidori.

After her father's death when she was 27, Maria opened a private day school for small children with her mother and her younger sister. As the eldest child, she sacrificed her personal happiness for the sake of her mother and her siblings to whom she was very close. After the school failed, Maria supported herself by working as a teacher of history and the Italian language. In 1867 at the age of 40, she published her first

two works: *Italian Anecdotes and Exercises in Idiomatic Italian*. Because of her advantage as a native bilingual speaker, the books were widely accepted in English schools.

In 1871 she published *A Shadow of Dante* which was an essay about the poet, his medieval world, and his long pilgrimage. She followed this success the next year with *Letters to My Bible Class* which showed her deepening Christian faith. With her brother William's impending marriage and his desire to occupy their shared house with his new wife instead of with her, Maria decided in 1873 to join the Anglican Sisterhood of All Saints. Three years later, she developed cancer and died at age 49 on November 24, 1876.

## Gabriele Dante

The second Rossetti child was born on May 12, 1828. Torn between opposing views of life represented by his father's self-indulgence and his mother's high moral standards, this first son was never able to free himself from their conflict and so expressed himself in poetry and painting.

He was educated at the junior school of King's College, where his father taught Italian, and at Cary's Art Academy. At the age of 17, he entered the Royal Academy of Art. After two years, he quit to work under the painter, Ford Madox Brown. A year later he joined William Holman Hunt's studio. About this time, he re-arranged and altered his name to Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

In 1849 Dante co-founded the pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood which was formed to do battle against the frivolous art of that time. Its members advocated a return to a pre-Renaissance purity of style with an emphasis on being true to



nature outdoors. Later that year he exhibited an oil painting entitled "Girlhood of Mary the Virgin." During the next year, he showed "Ecce Ancilla Domine!" also called "The Annunciation". To prove his versatility, he published that year his first poems "The Blessed Damozel," "The Portrait" and "My Sister's Sleep." Temporarily switching from oils to watercolors, he produced his two greatest masterpieces "Dante's Dream" in 1856 and "The Wedding of St. George and the Princess Sabra" in 1857.

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*In 1849 Dante and William co-founded the pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood which was formed to do battle against the frivolous art of that time.*

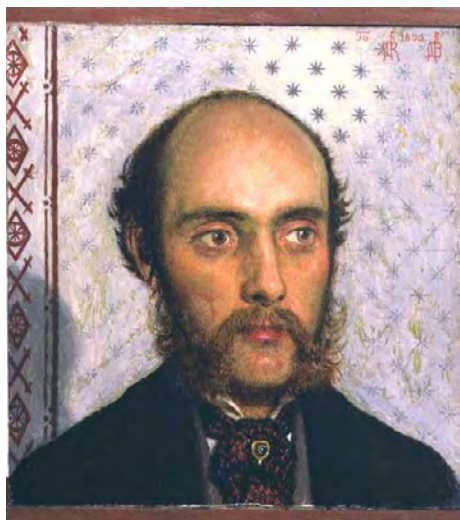
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In 1860, he married his 26-year old model, Elizabeth Siddal. Their only child was stillborn the next year. Despondent, his wife committed suicide by taking a drug overdose in 1862. Rossetti buried a manuscript of love poems with her in the Highgate Cemetery and vowed never to write another love poem.

After her burial, he painted "Beata Beatrix," a posthumous portrait of his wife. Rossetti now

began to earn a fairly steady income from his paintings. A year later he completed a biography of the English poet and painter, William Blake (1757–1827.) In 1866 he started an affair with a separated but still married woman, Jane Burden Morris, who inspired him to return to write love poetry. Three years later he exhumed his wife and retrieved his manuscript which was published in 1870 with the simple title *Poems*. The work was much criticized, more for its manner of recovery than for its content. Depressed by the negative publicity, Rossetti attempted suicide in 1872. Nursed back to health by his mistress, he produced *Dante and His Circle* in 1874. With the success of this book, he started writing another collection of love poems called *Ballads and Sonnets* which was published with wide acclaim in 1881. He also resumed oil painting. His best-known works during this period were “*Proserpine*” shown in 1874 and “*La Pia de Tolomei*” shown in 1881.

However, years of alcohol and drug abuse took their toll on his health and he died a month short of his 54th birthday on April 9, 1882, at Westgate-on-Sea where he had gone to rest and recuperate. At his death, Rossetti had reached a position of artistic prominence and he had a significant influence on the cultural developments of the second half of the 19th century as a leader of the Pre-Raphaelites. Thus, his imaginative genius earned him a place in the top ranks of English visionary artists.



## William Michael

The third Rossetti child was born on September 25, 1829. As a youngster, he was dubbed by his parents as “a good little boy,” calm,

rational and humble, in contrast to his flamboyant older brother.

Like his brother, William was educated in the junior school at King’s College. Instead of taking advanced studies, he became a clerk at the age of 16 in the Excise (later Inland Revenue) Office. When his father became blind in 1847 and could no longer teach, William became the steady financial anchor for the entire family at the age of 18.

In 1849 he co-founded the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood with his older brother and served part time as the first editor of the group’s journal, *The Germ*. His talent as a literary editor was immediately recognized and at age 21 he obtained a part time appointment as an art critic for a magazine called *The Spectator*.

After a series of modest advances in the civil service, he was able to purchase a more comfortable home in London for his parents and sisters in early 1854. His father died there a couple of months later.

As an astute and independent-minded critic, he praised the American Walt Whitman’s “*Leaves of Grass*” in 1855 as a work of poetic genius. During subsequent years, he published studies of Dante and other medieval poets, both in Italian and English.

In 1874 at the age of 45, he married Emma Lucy Brown, the daughter of the painter, Ford Madox Brown. William and his wife had four children. The oldest daughter, Elena Maria, married an Italian named Angeli and became an essayist in her own right.

Also in 1874, Rossetti edited a collection of the poetical work of William Blake. With his attention turned to English writers, he continued in the same vein by editing compilations of the work of William Shakespeare, Percy Bysshe Shelley, John Keats and a volume on the lives of famous English poets.

In 1894 after 49 years of service, he retired as the Assistant Secretary of the Excise Office. He now turned full time to his work as an editor, concentrating on the papers of his family members and other pre-Raphaelites. His last publication was *The Collected Works of Dante Gabriel Rossetti* which was printed in 1911.

William quietly passed away at his home in London during the 90th year of his life on February 5, 1919, the last and longest living member of the Rossetti family.



## Christina Georgina

The youngest Rossetti child was born on December 5, 1830. Like her older sister, she was educated entirely at home. Besides Italian and English, she also learned to read Latin, French and German.

Before she was 12 years old, she wrote her first poem to her mother. At 17 her first volume of poetry simply entitled *Verses* was published privately

*Christina was praised as England’s greatest living woman poet since Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861) for her greatest work The Prince’s Progress and Other Poems.*

by her maternal grandfather, Gaetano Polidori.

In 1850 at the age of 20, she had seven poems printed publicly under the pseudonym Ellen Alleyne in the pre-Raphaelite magazine edited by her brother William. During that same year, she broke off her engagement to a Pre-Raphaelite painter named James Collinson because he became a Roman Catholic.

When her father died in 1854, she started working in the private day school which her older sister had established. Noting a scarcity of good books for youngsters, she started privately writing texts for use in the school.

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# THE ROSSETTI CHILDREN

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Eight years later at the age of 32, she fell in love with Charles Bagot Cayley but refused to marry him because, although he had no religious faith, he declined to become an Anglican. Melancholic about this lost love, she took up her pen again and wrote *Goblin Market and Other Poems* which was published under her own name in 1862. The work was greeted with acclaim by critics.

In 1865 she traveled to Italy, visiting her father's home town of Vasto, for inspiration. Upon her return she wrote *Vanna's Twins*, a semi-autobi-

ographical work about an Italian family living in England. During the next year, she wrote and published her greatest work *The Prince's Progress and Other Poems*. As a result, she was praised as England's greatest living woman poet since Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806–1861).

In 1871, Christina became very ill with a thyroid condition known as Grave's Disease. Although she recovered after two years, her physical appearance was affected. Disturbed by her close brush with death and motivated by her older sister's decision to become an Anglican nun, Christina wrote exclusively on religious topics for the next nine years. She fell into a depression after the deaths of her sister in 1876, her brother Dante Gabriel in 1882 and her mother in 1886 and published only sporadically through 1892.

In May 1892, while she was under consideration to succeed Alfred Lord Tennyson as the national poet laureate, she discovered that she had can-

cer and underwent surgery to have the tumor removed. The operation was not successful, and the malignancy reappeared in a few months.

Realizing that the end was near, she struggled to finish *Verses* which was published in 1893. She then started her last work *Maude*. However, she died on December 29, 1894, at the age of 64, and *Maude* was printed posthumously. After her death, *New Poems* was discovered and published by her brother William in 1896.

## Conclusion

With the story of the father in the last issue and of his four children in this issue, you have the history of the Rossetti family covering 136 years from the birth of Gabriele Rossetti in Vasto, Abruzzo, Italy, in 1783 to the death of the last child, William, in London in 1919. No family of artists is considered more numerous and prolific in England than the Rossettis. ■

## THIS IS YOUR NOTIZIARIO

By Carmine James Spellane, Editor

*The Notiziario belongs to all of us, and we want to hear from you.*

The AMHS is much more than just its meetings. We are a vibrant society of people who care about their heritage and want to learn more. And all of us have stories to tell. We encourage you to submit articles for the newsletter to tell yours. It could be about a recent trip to Italy, honors received by you or your family, milestones such as significant birthdays or anniversaries, reviews of books on Italian topics, or recipes, to name but a few ideas.

All articles can be emailed to [abruzzo-moliseheritagesociety@gmail.com](mailto:abruzzo-moliseheritagesociety@gmail.com) to my attention. As editor, I will carefully review each submission and edit as needed. Please understand that publication of any article is subject to space available and the appropriate nature of the content, but we will make every effort to use your work and photos.

The AMHS is making new efforts to engage our current members and add more to our ranks. A vibrant Notiziario is part of that. As our society approaches its 20th anniversary, let's all help ensure a bright future for our mission to celebrate "all things Italian." ■

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# SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

## AMHS "Girls' Night Out"

By Maria D'Andrea-Yothers

**O**n Wednesday, September 16, 2020, Lynn Sorbara, Nancy DeSanti, Luciana Caleb and Maria D'Andrea-Yothers met for an outdoor, socially distanced dinner. The friends decided it had been too long since they had seen each other (in March!) so why not get together for "a night on the town." They also wanted to support one of their favorite restaurants, Osteria da Nino in Shirlington, Va. The friends shared a delicious meal together and owner Nino Pino, as always, took good care of them. The food and the wine were excellent, the weather was "perfetto," and a wonderful time was had by all.

**Note:** The masks worn by Maria and Nancy (right side of the table) were ordered through Etsy and made by an Italian designer named Paola Campailla from Augusta, Sicily. Paola makes luxury face masks and other items, using distinctive Sicilian fabric patterns. If you're interested, you can visit Paola's website at [www.etsy.com/shop/PaolaCreativeLAB?ref=search\\_shop\\_redirect](http://www.etsy.com/shop/PaolaCreativeLAB?ref=search_shop_redirect)



Who are those masked women? Left to right, Luciana Caleb, Lynn Sorbara, Maria D'Andrea-Yothers and Nancy DeSanti enjoy dinner together.

## AMHS Membership

By Lynn Sorbara, 2nd Vice President, Membership

As of October, the Society had 236 members.

### NEW MEMBERS

*Welcome* to new member Jim Toscano!

### BIRTHDAYS

#### Compleanni a Novembre

Eileen Verna, November 1; Rev. John V. DiBacco, Jr., November 2; Rita Carrier and Michael DeBonis, November 4; Elena Biondi, November 5; Luciana Caleb and Sergio Fresco, November 8; Rocco Caniglia and Joseph Ruzzi, Jr., November 9; Michael McDonald, November 10; Emilia DeMeo, November 12; Edvige D'Andrea, Joseph D'Andrea, Dena DeBonis, and Sabrina de Sousa, November 19; Betsy Ruzzi and Ross Cameron, November 21; Gerard Di Flavis, November 24; Christina Iovino, November 25; and Amelia DiFiore, November 30.

### BIRTHDAYS

#### Compleanni a Dicembre

Rosalie Ciccotelli, December 2; Domenica Marchetti, December 3; Alfred DelGrosso, December 4; Marlene Lucian and Louie Anne D'Ottavio, December 6; Yoni Kay Caniglia, December 7; Frank Bonsiero, and Domenico Cipicchio, December 8; Stephen di Girolamo, December 9; William Lepore and Barbara Gentile, December 12; Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, December 13; Cathy Branciaroli, December 16; Domenico Conti, December 18; Palmer DeMeo, December 19; Elodia D'Onofrio, Carmine James Spellane, and, Linda Travis Plato, December 20; Anna Isgro, December 21; Claire DeMarco, December 22; Brian Pasquino, December 25; Michael Savino, December 26; Margot DeRuvo Gilberg and Father Charles Zaroni, December 29; and Kristine Massari, December 30.

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### Anniversari a Novembre

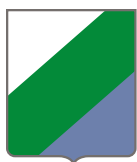
Harry & Joan Piccariello, November 9; and Anthony & Jacqueline D'Erme, November 21.

#### Anniversari a Dicembre

Ray & Michele LaVerghetta, December 11; and David & Cristina Scalzitti, December 27.

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Category	# of Persons
Associate (Couple)	3 x 2 = 6
Associate (Individual)	32
General (Couple)	53 x 2 = 106
General (Individual)	80
Honorary	6
Scholarship	2
Student	4
<b>Total Membership:</b>	<b>236</b>



# ROCCAMORICE

PROVINCE OF PESCARA, REGION OF ABRUZZO

By Nancy DeSanti

The picturesque small town of Roccamorice, in the province of Pescara, has a distinctive shape created by the imprint of the Lavino and Lanello rivers, both of which have dried up. Rising on a rocky crest between the two rivers, the town is located within the National Park of Maiella and is well-known because of the presence nearby of one of the most beautiful monasteries of Abruzzo. One of these iconic rock hermitages was once the abode of a future Pope.

The town has approximately 1,012 inhabitants, known as Roccolani. Of medieval origin, Roccamorice from the 15th until the 18th century was a fief of the Valignani family.

*Every year, on August 25, the inhabitants of Roccamorice, within the National Park of Maiella, take turns to walk the saint back from the hermitage to the town.*

The town is situated on a rock with a number of houses of grey stone. The canyons extending below, creating a natural protection, are sought out by rock climbing enthusiasts from all over. Of course, the biggest advantage for any nature enthusiast is the proximity of the Maiella National Park. Its landscape consists of canyons and vast plateaus, which can be admired from a great height, as well as huts made of bare stone (the so-called tholos, or shepherds' shelters).

A short distance from the town there are two hermitages, for which Roccamorice is famous throughout the whole region. In the 13th century, one of them became a home to the monk Peter of Morrone, who later became Pope Celestine V (who later resigned as Pope). This Eremo di San Bartolomeo is located approximately 5 kilometers from Roccamorice and it blends



*Hermitage of St. Bartholomew*

beautifully into the ledge with a magnificent view of the valley and the silhouette of mountain peaks.

In winter, the road to the hermitage is often covered with a thick layer of snow, although this doesn't discourage enthusiastic hikers. But nature rewards their efforts, revealing unforgettable landscapes. Visitors can enjoy high

slopes, supported in the lower layers by the carpets of forests and hills intersected by winding paths, ending up in the caves. This beautiful view is enriched by the amazing sounds of myriads of singing birds.

A rustic wooden statue of Saint Bartholomew is preserved inside the hermitage. Tradition has it that he was flayed alive, therefore the saint



# ROCCAMORICE

PROVINCIA DI PESCARA, REGIONE ABRUZZO

brandishes a knife and his skin is wrapped around his right shoulder. Not surprisingly, he is the patron saint of butchers and tanners.

Every year, on August 25, the inhabitants of Roccamorice, within the National Park of Maiella, take turns to walk the saint back from the hermitage to the town. Holy water from the hermitage is said to cure a number of ailments — a tradition attributed to the saint's powerful healing abilities.

The hermitage is located along the five-day Cammino di Celestino long-distance trail. ■

## What to See

- The Hermitage of San Bartolomeo in Legio.
- The nearby Hermitage of Santo Spirito a Maiella, already mentioned in the 9th century A.D., and restored several times in later centuries.
- The nearby Parco Nazionale della Maiella.

## Important Dates

- **August** — Festival of the “rustico”
- **August 24-26** — Feast of San Donato
- **August 25** — Procession of San Bartolomeo, from the hermitage to the church
- **Late August** — Cattle Fair

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## Translated by Ennio DiTullio

Il pittoresco paesino di Roccamorice, in provincia di Pescara, ha una forma caratteristica creata dall'impronta dei fiumi Lavino e Lanello, entrambi prosciugati. Sorgendo su un crinale roccioso tra i due fiumi, il paese si trova all'interno del Parco Nazionale della Maiella ed è rinomato per la presenza nelle vicinanze di uno dei più bei monasteri d'Abruzzo. Uno di questi iconici eremi fabbricati con pietra era una volta la dimora di un futuro Papa.

Il comune conta circa 1.012 abitanti, noto come Roccolani.

Di origine medievale, Roccamorice dal XV al XVIII secolo fu feudo della famiglia Valignani.

Il paese è situato su una roccia con numerose case di pietra grigia. I canyon che si estendono al di sotto, creando una protezione naturale, sono ricercati dagli appassionati di arrampicata su roccia. Naturalmente, il più grande vantaggio per ogni appassionato di natura è la vicinanza del Parco Nazionale della Maiella. Il suo paesaggio è costituito da canyon e vasti altipiani, che si possono ammirare da una grande altezza, oltre che da capanne in pietra nuda (i cosiddetti tholos, o rifugi dei pastori).

A poca distanza dal paese si trovano due eremi, per i quali Roccamorice è famosa in tutta la regione. Nel XIII secolo, una di loro divenne la dimora del monaco Pietro di Morrone, divenuto poi Papa Celestino V (che in seguito si dimise). Questo Eremo di San Bartolomeo si trova a circa 5 chilometri da Roccamorice e si fonde con la sporgenza del terreno offrendo una magnifica vista della valle e delle montagne circostanti.

In inverno, la strada per l'eremo è quasi sempre ricoperta da uno spesso strato di neve, anche se questo non scoraggia gli escursionisti entusiasti. Ma la natura premia i loro sforzi, svelando paesaggi indimenticabili e il visitatore può godere di alti pendii, sostenuti negli strati inferiori dai tappeti di boschi e colline intersecate da sentieri tortuosi che portano alle grotte. Questa splendida vista è arricchita da meravigliosi cinguettii di miriadi di uccelli.

All'interno dell'eremo è conservata una rustica statua lignea di San Bartolomeo. La tradizione vuole che sia stato scorticato vivo, quindi il santo brandisce un coltello e la sua pelle è avvolta intorno alla spalla destra. Non a caso, è il santo patrono di macellai e conciatori.

*Ogni anno, il 25 agosto, gli abitanti di Roccamorice, all'interno del Parco Nazionale della Maiella, si alternano per riportare a piedi il santo dall'eremo al paese.*

Ogni anno, il 25 agosto, gli abitanti di Roccamorice, all'interno del Parco Nazionale della Maiella, si alternano per riportare a piedi il santo dall'eremo al paese. Si dice che l'acqua santa dell'eremo cura una serie di disturbi, una tradizione attribuita alle potenti capacità di guarigione del santo.

L'eremo si trova lungo il percorso di cinque giorni del Cammino di Celestino. ■

## Attrazioni del luogo:

- L'Eremo di San Bartolomeo in Legio.
- Il vicino Eremo di Santo Spirito a Maiella, già citato nel IX secolo, e più volte restaurato nei secoli successivi.
- Il vicino Parco Nazionale della Maiella.

## Date da ricordare:

- **agosto** — Festa del “rustico”
- **24-26 agosto** — Festa di San Donato
- **25 agosto** — Processione di San Bartolomeo, dall'eremo alla chiesa
- **Fine agosto** — Fiera del bestiame



# MONTERODUNI

PROVINCE OF ISERNIA, REGION OF MOLISE



*Monteroduni panorama*

By **Nancy DeSanti**

The beautiful small town of Monteroduni is located about 40 kilometers west of Campobasso and about 11 kilometers southwest of Isernia. From the top of a hill, Monteroduni overlooks the whole valley of the Volturno river.

It has approximately 2,140 inhabitants known as *Monterodunesi*.

The town's name may derive from the ancient name of the river Volturno, *Olotrunus*. Sights well worth seeing include the Pignatelli Castle, built by the Lombards in the 9th century and later enlarged under the D'Evoli family.

In the area around Monteroduni, there was a battle in 1193 between Berthold of Künsberg, the commander of Norman troops, against the Swabians for the supremacy of Southern Italy. In the 13th century under the D'Ardicourt family, Monteroduni passed in 1281 to the Evoli, then in the 14th century to the De Sus and in the 15th century to the D'Afflitto. In 1668, the fiefdom passed to the Pignatelli family, who kept it until the suppression of the feudal system in 1806.



*Portale di ingresso del Castello Pignatelli*

The Pignatelli family is one of the most prominent families among Italy's nobility. Of Longobard origin, the Pignatellis were among the protagonists of Italian history from 1100 to the end of 1800.

The most prominent sign of the family's presence in the area is the Pignatelli Castle in Monteroduni. Strategically built to control the Volturno river valley in a well-defended position, it stands out against the background of the



# MONTERODUNI

PROVINCIA DI ISERNIA, REGIONE MOLISE

Translated by Ennio DiTullio

Mainarde and Matese ridges. For centuries, the castle was the center of Monteroduni's economic activities until, during the Renaissance, it became the residence of the Pignatelli family.

One popular event in the town every August is a jazz festival honoring Salvatore Massaro, an Italian-American whose family traces its roots to the town. Born in Philadelphia as the son of an instrument maker, he became known as Eddie Lang. During the 1920s, he gave the guitar a prominence it previously lacked as a solo instrument in jazz bands and the big bands of that era. For this reason, musical experts call him the father of the jazz guitar.

Also, and importantly for AMHS members who are interested in participating in our virtual winetasting on November 15, the owner of the Campi Valerio vineyard, headquartered in Monteroduni, will be giving us a presentation live-streamed from Molise. The Valerio family has been making wine since 1836. Along with the vineyards, they cultivate olive groves and raise cattle and sheep. (For more information on the upcoming virtual winetasting, see page 1 in this *Notiziario*). ■

## What to See

- The medieval Pignatelli Castle, beautifully preserved, with round towers and a typical sextiacute portal, once belonging to the Pignatelli della Leonessa family.
- The church of Santa Maria in Altissimis, built between the 11th and the 12th century.

## Important Dates

- **September 22-24** — Grape Harvest Festival
- **September 29** — Feast of St. Michael Archangel, the patron saint
- **August** — “Eddy Lang Jazz” Festival, in honor of Italian-American musician Salvatore Massaro.

La bellissima cittadina di Monteroduni si trova a circa 40 chilometri a ovest di Campobasso e circa 11 chilometri a sud-ovest di Isernia. Dalla sommità di una collina, Monteroduni domina l'intera valle del fiume Volturno.

Conta circa 2.140 abitanti conosciuti come Monterodunesi.

Il toponimo potrebbe derivare dall'antico nome del fiume Volturno, Olotrunus. Da vedere il Castello Pignatelli, costruito dai Longobardi nel IX secolo e successivamente ampliato sotto la famiglia D'Evoli.

Nella zona intorno a Monteroduni ci fu una battaglia nel 1193 tra Berthold di Künsberg, comandante delle truppe normanne, contro gli Svevi, per la supremazia dell'Italia meridionale. Nel XIII secolo sotto la famiglia D'Ardicourt, Monteroduni passò nel 1281 agli Evoli, poi nel XIV secolo ai De Sus e nel XV secolo ai D'Afflittito. Nel 1668 il feudo passò alla famiglia Pignatelli, che lo mantenne fino alla soppressione del sistema feudale nel 1806.

La famiglia Pignatelli è una delle famiglie più importanti della nobiltà italiana. Di origine longobarda, i Pignatelli furono tra i protagonisti della storia italiana dal 1100 alla fine del 1800.

Il segno più evidente della presenza della famiglia nella zona è il Castello Pignatelli a Monteroduni. Strategicamente costruito per controllare la valle del fiume Volturno in posizione ben difesa, si staglia sullo sfondo delle creste delle Mainarde e del Matese. Per secoli il castello fu il centro delle attività economiche di Monteroduni fino a quando, durante il Rinascimento, divenne la residenza della famiglia Pignatelli.

Un evento popolare in città ogni agosto è un festival jazz in onore di Salvatore Massaro, un

italo-americano la cui famiglia affonda le sue radici nella città. Nato a Filadelfia come figlio di un liutaio, divenne noto come Eddie Lang. Durante gli anni '20, ha dato alla chitarra un risalto che in precedenza mancava come strumento solista nelle band jazz e nelle big band di quell'epoca. Per questo gli esperti musicali lo chiamano il padre della chitarra jazz.

Inoltre, cosa importante per i membri AMHS che sono interessati a partecipare alla nostra degustazione virtuale del 15 novembre, il proprietario del vigneto Campi Valerio, con sede a Monteroduni, ci darà una presentazione in live streaming dal Molise. La famiglia Valerio produce vino dal 1836. Insieme ai vigneti coltivano uliveti e allevano bovini e ovini. (Per ulteriori informazioni sulla prossima degustazione virtuale, vedere la pagina 1 in questo *Notiziario*). ■

## Attrazioni del luogo:

- Il medievale Castello Pignatelli, ben conservato, con torri circolari e tipico portale sestiacuto, un tempo appartenente alla famiglia Pignatelli della Leonessa.
- La chiesa di Santa Maria in Altissimis, costruita tra l'XI e il XII secolo.

## Date da ricordare:

- **22-24 settembre** — Festa della vendemmia
- **29 settembre** — Festa di San Michele Arcangelo, patrono
- **agosto** — Festival Jazz “Eddy Lang Jazz”, in onore del musicista italo-americano Salvatore Massaro.

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[www.oliopignatelli.com/en/history](http://www.oliopignatelli.com/en/history)

# The AMHS Shop

Please make sure to check out the cool merchandise AMHS has to offer:

**"Traditional Cuisine of Abruzzo and Molise" cookbook** (2nd printing) **\$5.00**

**Buon Appetito Chef's Apron** **\$20.00**

**T-Shirts** **\$20.00**

- Men's sizes:  
S / M / L / XL; Crew neck;  
50% cotton/ 50% polyester
- Women's sizes:  
S / M / L / XL; V-neck;  
90% cotton/10% polyester

**AMHS Tote Bag** **\$30.00**

17" W x 6" D x 13½" H;  
bottom 12" W; handle drop 9";  
100% durable cotton fabric



This year, we are pleased to offer our newest merchandise item, the AMHS baseball cap

**AMHS Baseball Caps** **\$15.00**

We offer merchandise through these outlets:

- At bi-monthly AMHS general society meetings;
- using the order form on the AMHS Shop website (pay by check).

The proceeds from merchandise sales go toward the AMHS Annual Scholarship Fund. We thank you for your patronage! If you have any questions regarding AMHS merchandise, please contact Michele LaVerghetta, (410) 707-4611.

## The Reluctant Pope

By Joseph "Sonny" Scafetta, Jr.

When Pope Benedict XVI abdicated the Throne of St. Peter in Vatican City on February 28, 2013, all the news media in the world reported that he was only the second pope to do so in the last 719 years. However, most of them did not report who was the prior pope to abdicate the office.

Pietro Angelerio was born about 1210 to Angelo Angelerio and Maria Leone in the community of Sant'Angelo Limosano (population 380 in the 2004 census) in the province of Campobasso in the region of Molise. When he was 17, he left home to become a Benedictine monk at Santa Maria of Faifula in the diocese of Benevento. In 1230, he left the monastery to become a hermit in the mountains. In 1239, he settled in a solitary cavern on Mount Morrone and became known as Pietro da Marrone. In 1244, he went with two other hermits to live in a similar cave on Mount Maiella in the region of Abruzzo. During that same year, the threesome gathered around them other hermits to form a new religious community as a branch of the Benedictines.

Twenty years later in 1264, Pope Urban IV approved the new institution. Because of the severity of its penitential practices, the new order under Pietro as its Superior General had grown rapidly until it had 36 monasteries and more than 600 monks at the time of its papal approval.

After 28 years, in early April 1292, Pope Nicholas IV died in Rome and the 12 cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church assembled in Perugia, Italy, in what would be the last non-conclave election of a pope. However, they remained deadlocked for the next 27 months. In June 1294, Pietro wrote a letter of apocalyptic foreboding to Latino Malabranca Orsini who was the Dean of the Sacred College of Cardinals. On July 5, 1294, Orsini received Pietro's letter and was inspired to offer Pietro's name to the assembled cardinals. Pietro was elected unanimously at the age of 84. Upon learning of his election, he initially refused to accept the tiara of the pope. However, he was finally persuaded by a deputation of cardinals accompanied by King Carlo II of Naples. So, on August 29, 1294, he was crowned in the Basilica of Santa Maria di Collemaggio in the city of L'Aquila in the region of Abruzzo. He took the name Pope Celestine V.

After three months, the new pope constructed a wooden hut in his papal apartment. He stated that he preferred to live humbly in the midst of so much splendor. During his short papacy, he issued two important decrees. First, he renewed a decree of Pope Gregory X that had established stringent rules for papal conclaves after a similarly prolonged election. These rules remain in effect. Second, his final decree declared the right of the pope to abdicate for any reason. This decree also remains in effect. Thus, on December 13, 1294, he abdicated the throne after only five months and eight days in office.

Eleven days later, on December 24, 1294, Cardinal Benedetto Gaetani was elected as Pietro's successor and took the name Pope Boniface VIII. Fearing that those who opposed his election would try to set Pietro up as an anti-pope, Boniface had Pietro imprisoned in the castle of Fumone near Ferentino in the region of Lazio. After 17 months, Pietro died there on May 19, 1296, at the age of 86. He was buried at Ferentino, but his body was later moved to the Basilica in L'Aquila where it remains. He was canonized 17 years later by Pope Clement V as Saint Celestine V on March 5, 1313, in the new papal home in Avignon, France. No subsequent pope has taken the name Celestine. ■

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Jon M. Sweeney, *The Pope Who Quit* (Random House 2012)



*Main panel of a triptych with St. Peter Celestine (pope Celestine V) and monks.*



VIRTUAL MEETING

# AMHS Virtual Wine-tasting "Select Wines of Molise" With Host Stephen Yanchuk

Featuring  
**Antonio Valerio**  
Owner of Campi Valerio  
Monteroduni, Molise



*Instead of our annual wine-tasting in Casa Italiana,* this year we will have a virtual event featuring the wines of Molise. Our special guest will be Antonio Valerio, owner of Campi Valerio in Monteroduni, Molise, who will be live-streamed from Italy. Our host will be Stephen Yanchuk, who has been conducting educational wine-themed lectures since 2018. His recent video was featured in *Wine Spectator*.

This event is free; however, participants will need to purchase their own wine (see details, below). Information on how to join this Zoom event will be provided, via email, and on the AMHS Facebook page and website, at a later date.

These are the specific wines we will feature, all produced by Campi Valerio:

- 2019 Fannia Falanghina del Molise
- 2016 Calidio Rosso del Molise
- 2016 Sannazzaro del Molise Riserva

These wines are available at Calvert Woodley Liquors (and the Falanghina and Sannazzaro are available at A. Litteri). We suggest you order early.



*Please join us for this fun event!*

For further information or questions, please contact  
Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, (703) 473-4033 or Chris Renneker, (850) 339-9473.



## AMHS NOTIZIARIO

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