

Alfred and Amelia (Antonio) Rossi

Alfredo Rossi was born Alfredo Da Vita in Giffoni Valle Piana¹ Italy on 21 MAR 1871. In his family history, son Eugene related that his father was a soldier in the war against the Turks. However, the Italo-Turkish war occurred after Alfredo settled in the United States. It is likely that Alfredo fought in the unsuccessful First Italo-Ethiopian War 1895 - 1896. After the war, Alfredo immigrated to Buenos Aires.² While in Argentina, Alfredo changed his surname from Da Vita to Rossi. We have no idea why, and we do not know the reason he left Argentina, but likely it was to seek greater opportunity in the United States. Alfredo's immigration record indicates that he left Buenos Aires, Argentina

No.	Age	Sex	Occupation	Port of Origin	Destination	Remarks
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¹ Giffoni Valle Piana is a town and comune in the province of Salerno in the Campania region of south-west Italy.

² From 1857 to 1940 a total of 44.9% of the entire immigrant population to Argentina came from Italy, exceeding migration from any other country (including Spain at 31.5%)

with a stop at Santos, Brazil aboard the steamship Tintoretto and arrived in New York on 13 OCT 1905. The record shows him age 24 at the time of arrival. Family records indicate that his birthdate was ten years earlier than the immigration record indicated. It is most likely that he shaved a few years off his age to put himself in a better position to find a job.

Alfred (his name in his adopted country) was a barber. One of his work associates told him about Amelia Antonio, a girl born to Italian immigrants living in Norwood, New Jersey, about 20 miles north of the George Washington Bridge. Alfred went to Norwood to meet Amelia, and three weeks later they were married. On January 13, 1909, Eugene Rossi, the couple's only child, was born.

The Rossis owned barber and beauty shops at different locations in Manhattan. Their original shops were on Broadway between 81st



A Photocopy of a tintype of Amelia and Alfred Rossi taken 1906 or 1907

and 82nd streets, with an apartment in back. In addition to average New Yorkers, Alfred Rossi had some select clients. When actor Douglas Fairbanks Sr. came to New York, he would seek out Alfred Rossi to come and do a 'cut and shave' at his hotel. Amelia was the hairdresser for several prima donnas of the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Among her clientele was Costanza Gigli, wife of the Metropolitan's famous tenor Beniamino Gigli, successor to the great Enrico Caruso.