



BHC-MSS 0059
Guide to the Papers of the Gazzolo Family
By Meghan Rinn
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Gazzolo family

Title: Papers of the Gazzolo Family

Dates: 1876-1930s [Bulk 1900-19177]

Quantity: 1 manuscript box, 1 oversize folder

Abstract: This collection focuses on the Gazzolo family, whose patriarch Luigi came to the United States from Genoa. Gazzolo became a citizen in 1876, and he married his wife Maria Arata in 1886. The collection documents Italian-American life at the turn of the 20th century, with a focus on correspondence and estate papers following Luigi's untimely death at sea.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History:

This collection focuses on the Gazzolo family, whose patriarch Luigi came to the United States from Genoa. Gazzolo became a citizen in 1876, and he married his wife Maria Arata in 1886. The couple had four children, Bernard, Mary, Luigi, and Malvina (sometimes spelled Melvina.)

Luigi worked on steamer boats that ran from New York to Connecticut, holding the rank of mate at his death. It was on one of the steamers he worked on, the Rosedale, that saw Luigi die at sea in 1895 due to a crash. The family adjusted to the loss of Luigi over the next several decades, which is documented in the collection.

Malvina married a member of the Nevins family (see BHC-MSS 0058) and remained in Bridgeport for most of their lives.

Scope and content:

Much of the collection focuses on the Gazzolo family following the death of Luigi in 1895. This includes clippings about the accident, administrative papers for the estate, guardian papers, and account books.

Also present is correspondence between family members and a small number of photographs that capture Italian-American life in Bridgeport at the turn of the century.

Arrangement note:

Arranged chronologically with photographs placed at the end of the collection.

Administrative information

Provenance:

Donation of Christopher Nevins, a direct relative of the Gazzolo family through Malvina (sometimes spelled Melvina) in 1996. Accession # 1996.02

Preferred Citation:

Papers of the Gazzolo Family (BHC-MSS 0059), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings

Personal Names

Gazzolo, Luigi

Gazzolo, Maria

Nevins, Malvina

Subject tracings

Boating accidents

Bridgeport, Conn.

Italian American families

Working class Italian Americans

Detailed box and folder listing

1. Baptism, marriage, and similar papers, 1876-1922
2. Newspaper obituaries related to the crash of the steamer Rosedale and Luigi Gazzolo's death, 1895
3. Estate papers of Luigi Gazzolo and Louis Gazzolo, 1895-1916
4. Administration and guardian papers related to Luigi Gazzolo's estate, 186-1913
5. Estate of Bernardo Gazzolo, 1902-1905
6. Guardian and other accounts, 1906-1908
7. Account books, 1907 and undated
8. Letters to Mary Gazzolo from May Gazzolo, 1907
9. General correspondence, 1902-1917
10. Photographs, greeting cards, 1901-1914
11. Photographs, 1894-c. 1930s?

Oversized folder 1, photograph of unidentified police officers, undated