

TEP
FAM

QCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

Will/Grundy Genealogical Society

honors a pioneer,

Giovanni Franco Tepatti,

who lived in Will County in 1884.

At the time of his death in 1908, several newspaper articles referred to Giovanni Tepatti as "the first Italian in Joliet." A son of Tommaso and Catterina (Bergagna) Tepatti, he was born on the fourth day of October 1855 at Pont Canavese, province of Torino, in the Piedmont region of Italy.

As a young man, Giovanni emigrated from his home in Italy and, around 1884, settled in Joliet where, except for a short period of time spent in Spring Valley, Bureau County, Illinois, he resided the remainder of his life. On 26 December 1885 he married Emma Elizabeth Dirkes, a native of Peckelsheim, Westphalia, Germany, the daughter of Villa Dirkes. Two children - Thomas and Gertrude - were born to the couple. Thomas died in Spring Valley at the age of one month.

In the early years of his residency in Joliet, Giovanni worked as a blacksmith for the Globe Stone Company on Linden Street. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States on 2 April 1888.

Beginning in 1895, he is listed in the city directory of Joliet as living at 585 S. Chicago St.; his occupation was saloonkeeper. He continued in that line of work until his death. At one time he considered running for the Joliet City Council, but apparently changed his mind about doing so.

Known during his years in the United States as John Teapot, Giovanni died on the 8th of May 1908 at the age of 53. His death record gives the cause of death as tuberculosis. Burial was in St. Patrick's cemetery, Joliet.

NOTE: WGGG member Michael Vidmar is a descendant of Giovanni Tepatti.

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Queries

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

WGGSSQ welcomes queries! Please give names, localities, and a time frame. Type or print clearly and include your name and address. We reserve the right to edit any material or to reject any queries which are not legible. Please limit each query to no more than 50 words. There is no charge for members of WGGSS, but there is a charge of \$2.00 to non-members. Send to WGGSSQ Editor, P. O. Box 24, Wilmington, IL 60481-0024.

#320
COTTON
CULLEN Seeking information on relatives/descendants of Almeda Cotton, b. c1854, dau. of Garrett L. and Mariah (Jeffrey) Cotton; m. Feb. 1, 1876, in Greenfield Twp, Grundy County, Joseph Cullen, b. c1855. Garrett d. 1891 and is buried in North Cemetery at Essex, Kankakee Co. Mariah d. March 2, 1898, probably buried in unmarked grave adjacent to father.

Holms S. Young, 3928 N. 20th St., Lincoln, NE 68521-1619

#321
COTTON
SAVAGE Seeking information on relatives/descendants of Charles H. Cotton, b. c1852, son of Garrett L. and Mariah (Jeffrey) Cotton. Was this the same Charles H. Cotton who married Annie Savage, Sept. 28, 1877, in Kankakee County? All other children of Garrett & Mariah Cotton are known.

Holms S. Young, 3928 N. 20th St., Lincoln NE 68521-1619

#322
COTTON
FERGUSON Seeking information on relatives/descendants of Nicholas Cotton, b. Apr. 24, 1823, d. June 25, 1910, and wife Almerna, b. July 14, 1830, d. Sept. 15, 1908, buried in North Cemetery in Essex. Nicholas may have twin brother to Garrett L. Cotton. Almerna's maiden name may have been Ferguson. 1870 Census shows Nicholas and Almerna Cotton living in Essex Twp., Kankakee County.

Holms S. Young, 3928 N. 20th St, Lincoln NE 68521-1619

#323
GRIFFITHS Seeking any information on my husband's grandfather, Rev. Thomas M. Griffiths and wife Theodocia. They immigrated from South Wales 1881, lived briefly in Chicago, had five children in Braceville 1883-1888. Moved to Dawn, Missouri c1890. Served churches (probably Baptist) in Braceville and Braidwood. When and where did they live in Braceville? Any record of those churches?

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