Chapter 5. 1908 to 1917: The Early Years

Summary

John and Romano worked as coal miners in the Centerville area until at least 1915, leaving in 1916 or 1917 to move to Illinois. Two of Romano's children – Pauline and Romey – were born in Iowa.

Romano Ullian and his wife Teresa Soardi Ullian

John's brother Romano was the fourth child of Antonio Francesco Ullian and Maria Mascarello. Born in Mason Vicentino, Vicenza, Veneto, Italy on 23 Jun 1879, he was 11 years older than John. While in the U.S. he was typically known as Romano Ullian, the name he used did vary: he was Romano Valentino Ullian in church records in Italy and on his Petition for Naturalization in the U.S.; Valentino Ulian on his Italian Army discharge certificate; and Valentino Ulliani on the ship manifest for his voyage to the U.S.

Romano had served in the Italian Army prior to coming to the U.S. He is the "Ulian Valentino" named in a discharge certificate from the Italian Army as a soldier (serial number 10232) in the 62nd Company, 6th Alpine Regiment, Vicenza. The certificate was signed 14 Sept 1901 at Verona. A photocopy of the certificate was sent to John's son Gino by Romano's grandson Tony *[Anthony Stuart Ullian]* in about 1999, identifying the certificate as his grandfather's.

Copy

Mod. n° 80,
§ 928 del Regolamento sul Reclutamento.
N. 34 del Catal. (R. 1899).

Categoria 1ª (2)
Classe di leva 1879 (3)
Anno di nascita 1879

Corpo cui fu trasferito all'atto del congedamento (4) 6° Alpini Magazzino Vicenza

REGIO ESERCITO ITALIANO

(1) 6° REGGIMENTO ALPINI

FOGLIO DI CONGEDO ILLIMITATO

per (5) fine di ferma

che si rilascia a (6) Ullian Valentino

Soldato (62ª Compagnia)

N° di matricola (7) 10232 (62) il quale prende domicilio nel Comune di Fara

Mandamento di Marostica Distretto militare di Vicenza

(8) Durante il tempo passato sotto le armi ha tenuta buona condotta ed ha servito con fedeltà ed onore

A Verona addì 11 Settembre 1901

Firma del Titolare (9) Ullian Valentino

Il Comandante del Corpo
Colonnello

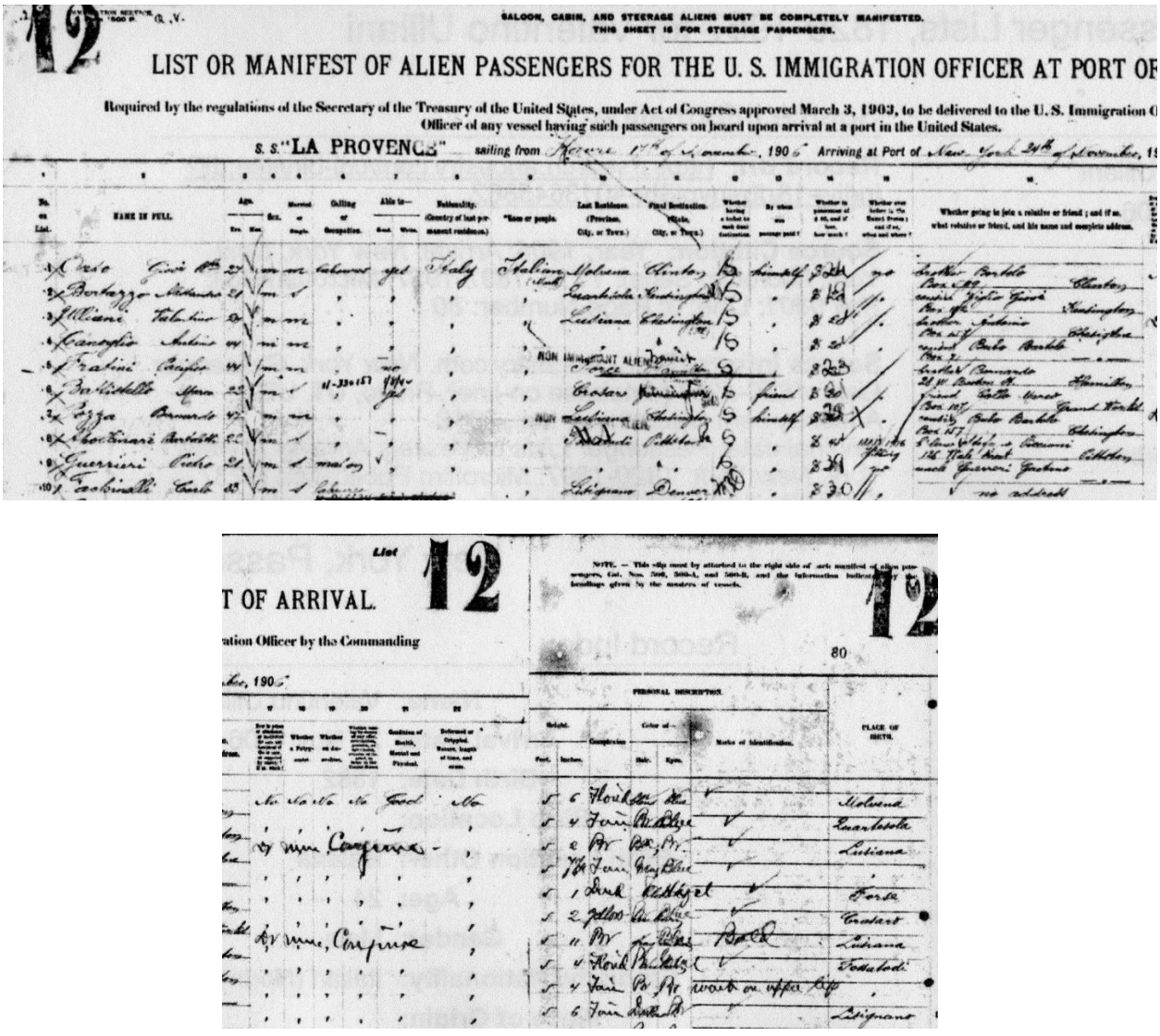
REGGIMENTO ALPINI UFFICIO MATRICOLA

Con di Fara Vicentino

SINDACO

Valentino/Romano Ullian's Certificate of Discharge from the Italian Army

Five years after his Army discharge Romano sailed on the *S.S. La Provence* from Havre, France, on 15 Nov 1906 and arrived at the Port of New York on 24 Nov 1906, according to the ship's manifest and his Petition for Naturalization filed 8 Dec 1926. The ship's manifest for that voyage lists him as Valentino Ulliani, and shows his birthplace as Lusiana, Italy. Lusiana, Vicenza, Veneto, Italy is about 8 miles from Fara Vicentino, which church records and his Petition for Naturalization show as his birthplace. He was a 27-year-old laborer going from his home in Lusiana to join his brother Antonio, PO Box 157 in Chesington *[Kensington]* Illinois.



SALOON, CABIN, AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY MANIFESTED.
THIS SHEET IS FOR STEERAGE PASSENGERS.

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE U. S. IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, under Act of Congress approved March 3, 1903, to be delivered to the U. S. Immigration Officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States.

S. S. "LA PROVENCE" sailing from Havre 15th of November, 190 5 Arriving at Port of New York 24th of November, 19

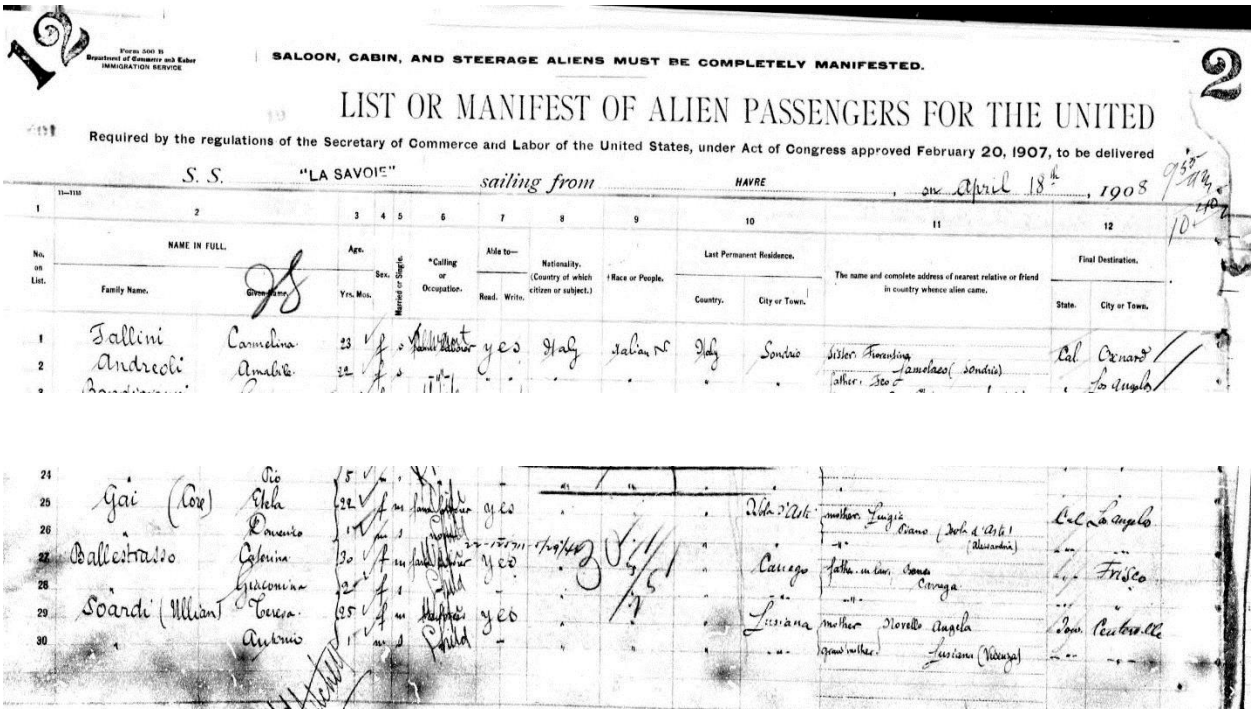
T OF ARRIVAL.

ation Officer by the Commanding

ber, 190 5

Valentino Ulliani *[Romano Ullian]* Is Listed on the Third Line of the Ship Manifest.
He arrived from Havre, France on 15 Nov 1906 Onboard the *S. S. La Provence*
[From Ancestry.com]

About eighteen months after Romano arrived, his wife Teresa Soardi sailed with their 22-month-old son Antonio on the *S.S. La Savoie* from Havre on 18 Apr 1908 and arrived in New York on 28 Apr 1908. Thus Romano left Italy when his first-born son was 4 months old. Teresa was at the time a 25-year-old married housekeeper living in Lusiana. Her nearest relative in Italy was her mother, Angela Novello. She was going to join her husband Romano Ullian of RFD 5, Centerville, Iowa. Teresa was 5'4" tall, light complexion, with auburn hair/eyes, and had $16 with her. Antonio also had a light complexion and auburn hair/eyes. Both were born in Lusiana, according to the manifest.



SALOON, CABIN, AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY MANIFESTED.

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, to be delivered

S. S. "LA SAVOIE" sailing from HAVRE on April 18th, 1908

Teresa Soardi and Antonio Ullian Are Listed on Lines 29 and 30 of the Ship Manifest. They arrived from Havre, France Onboard the *S.S. La Savoie [from Ancestry.com]*

Sometime between his arrival in the U.S. in November 1906, and his wife's departure from Havre in April 1908, Romano had arrived at the coal fields of Centerville IA instead of, or perhaps after spending some time in the industries of, Kensington IL.

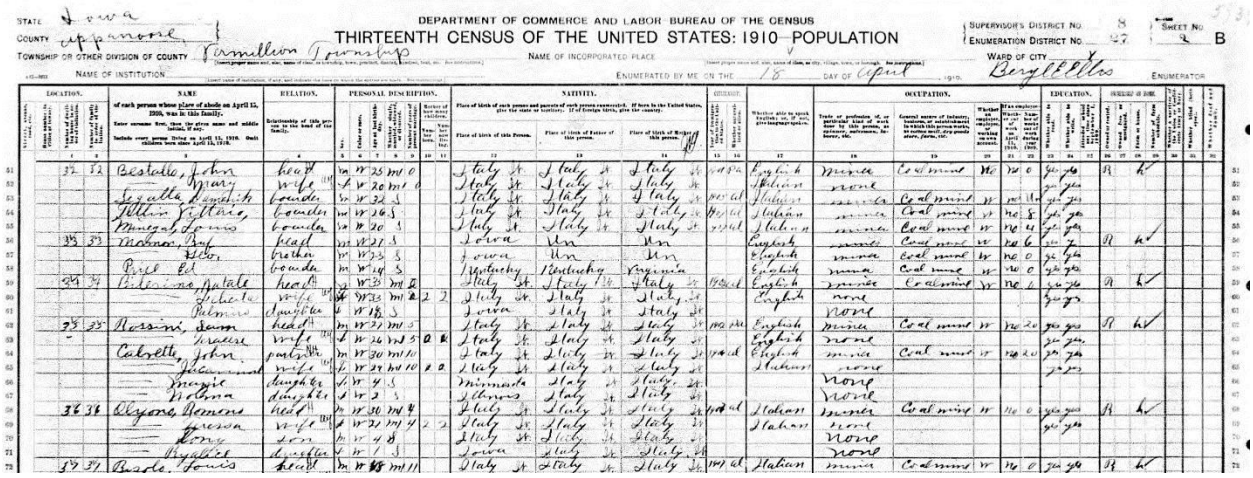
Romano and Teresa had four children:

Anthony Stuart – born 6 Jun 1906 in Lusiana, died 9 May 2003 in Grants Pass, Josephine, Oregon;

Pauline – born about 1909 in Iowa;

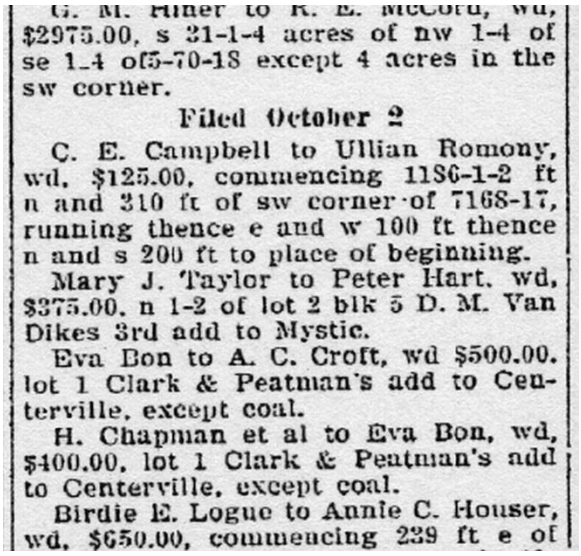
Romano Jr. *[always called Romey]* – born 18 Jan 1911 in Centerville, died 24 Nov 1998 in Palmdale, Los Angeles, California; and
John Robert – born 18 Jun 1920 in Illinois, died 6 Apr 1999 in Anniston, Calhoun, Alabama.

The 1910 Federal Census lists the surname of the family as "Olyons" or "Olyono." At their enumeration on 18 Apr 1910 Romano was a 30-year-old coal miner, and his wife Teresa was 21 years old. They had been married for 4 years, and they and their parents were both born in Italy. Teresa could read and write. They had two children: 4-year-old son Tony, born in Italy, and 1-year-old daughter Ryalice *[Pauline]*, born in Iowa. They lived in Vermillion Township, which surrounds Centerville, Appanoose, Iowa. John was not, to our knowledge, enumerated in that census – we have come to believe that he had a knack for eluding census-takers!


DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910—POPULATION

Romano Ullian and Family in the 1910 Federal Census, Lines 69 through 71
[From Ancestry.com]

The 7 Oct 1910 issue of the *Semi Weekly Iowegian* newspaper in Centerville indicated that C. E. Campbell had transferred a real estate parcel to "Romony" Ullian for $125.00, filed October 2.



G. M. Miner to R. E. McCord, wd, $2975.00, s 31-1-4 acres of nw 1-4 of se 1-4 of 5-70-18 except 4 acres in the sw corner.

Filed October 2

C. E. Campbell to Ullian Romony, wd, $125.00, commencing 1186-1-2 ft n and 310 ft of sw corner of 7168-17, running thence e and w 100 ft thence n and s 200 ft to place of beginning.

Mary J. Taylor to Peter Hart, wd, $375.00, n 1-2 of lot 2 blk 5 D. M. Van Dikes 3rd add to Mystic.

Eva Bon to A. C. Croft, wd $500.00, lot 1 Clark & Peatman's add to Centerville, except coal.

H. Chapman et al to Eva Bon, wd, $400.00, lot 1 Clark & Peatman's add to Centerville, except coal.

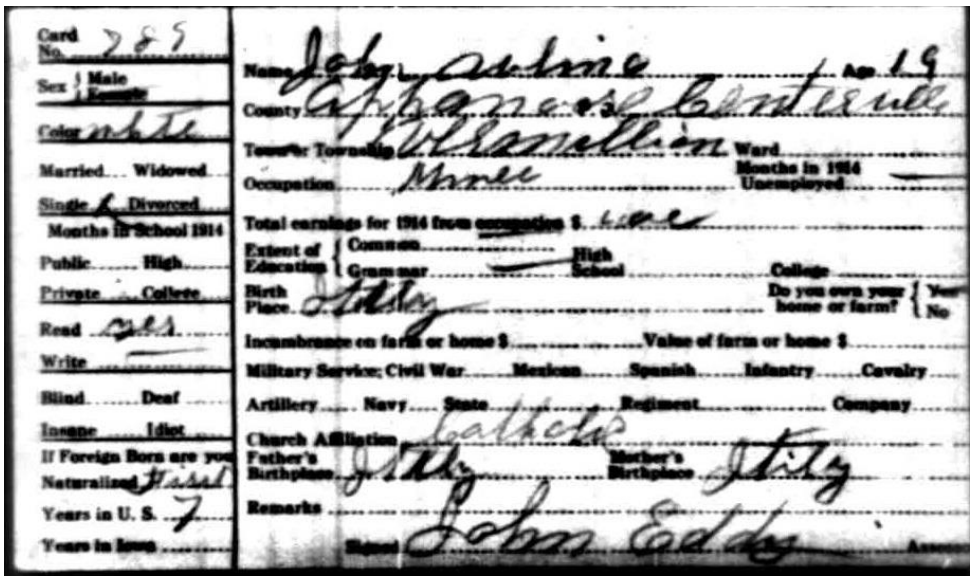
Birdie E. Logue to Annie C. Houser, wd, $650.00, commencing 239 ft e of

Semi Weekly Iowegian [Centerville IA] 7 Oct 1910

Romano was included in lists of individuals who had unclaimed letters at the Centerville Post Office in the 19 Apr 1909 *Centerville Daily Citizen*, the 20 Apr 1909 *Semi Weekly Iowegian*, and the 17 Feb 1911 *Semi Weekly Iowegian*.

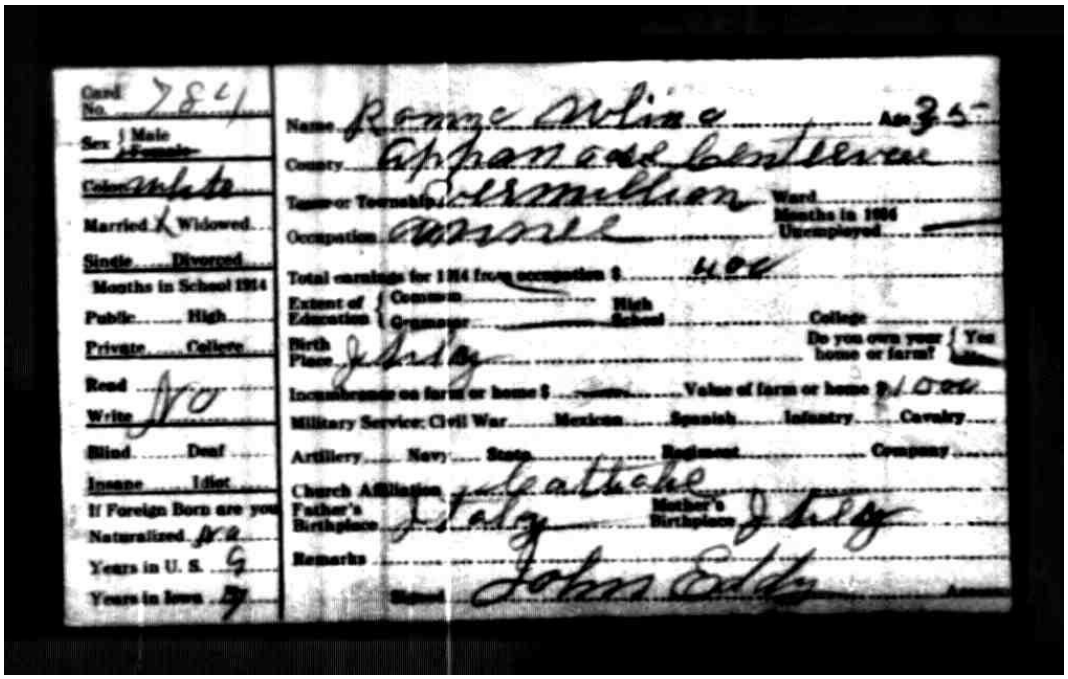
John Ullian and Romano's Family

The 1915 Iowa State Census showed that John and his brother Romano (and Romano's family) were living in Vermillion Township, Centerville Post Office, Appanoose County. Their surname was written as "Ulina" or "Ulino." This state census indicated that John was 19 years old [he was actually about 25], a Catholic, single, a miner who could read/write, was born in Italy (as were his parents), was unemployed with no earnings in 1914, had been in the U.S. for 7 years, and had submitted his first papers for naturalization. We have no idea why John had no earnings in 1914.

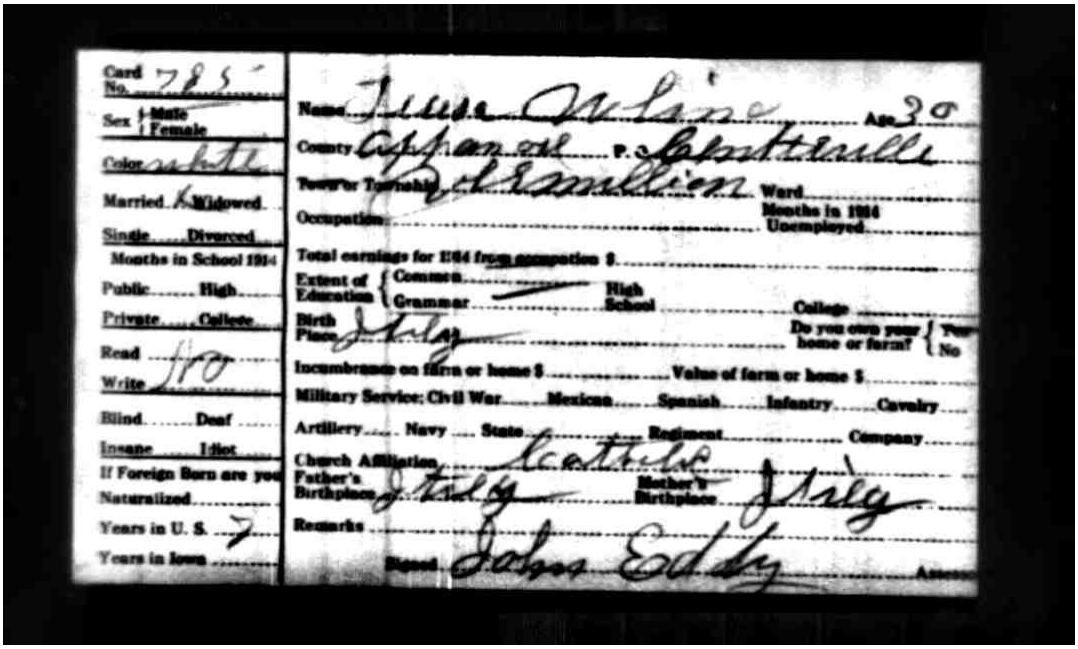


John Ullian in the 1915 Iowa State Census *[From Ancestry.com]*

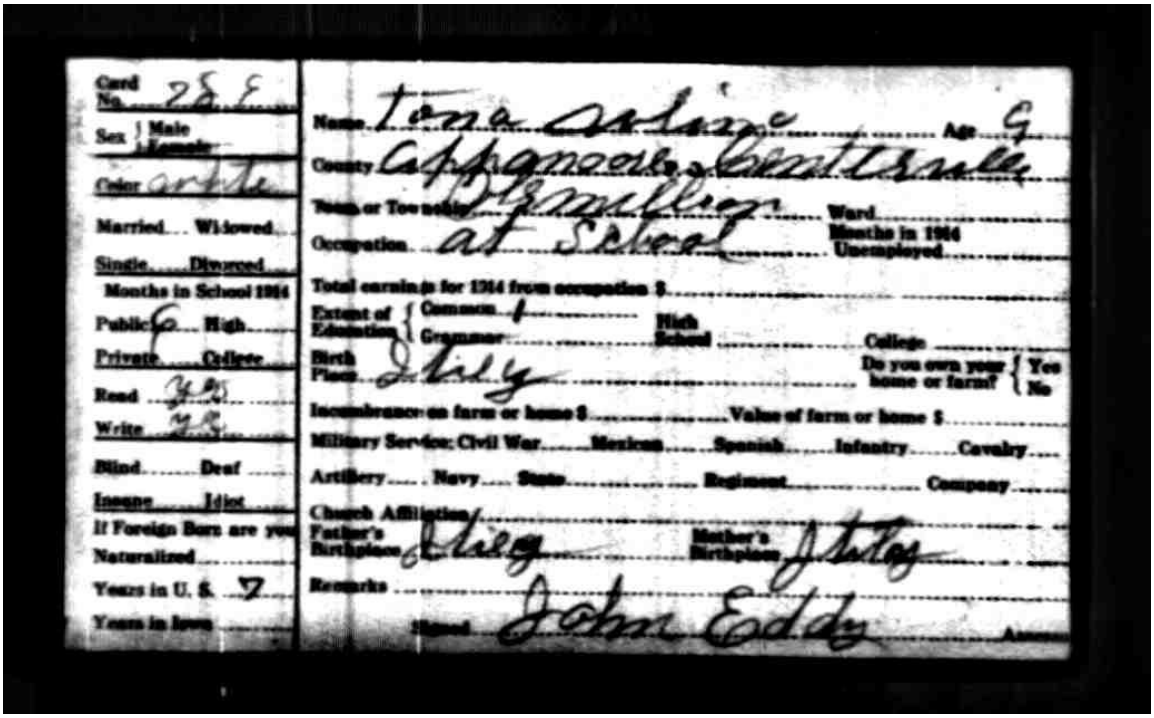
Romme *[Romano]* was a 35-year-old who earned $400 in 1914 as a coal miner, a Catholic who was born (as were his parents) in Italy, who could not read or write, and who had been in the U.S. 9 years and in Iowa 7 years. *[If accurate, we assume that he may have been with his brother Antonio in Kensington IL for the 2 years he was in the U.S. but not in Iowa.]* Romano owned his own house, valued at $1,000. Teresa was a 30-year-old Catholic who could not read or write, was born (as were her parents) in Italy, and had been in the U.S. for 7 years. Their son Tona *[Anthony S.]* was 9 years old, born in Italy, spent 6 months at public school in 1914, could read and write, and had been in the U.S. for 7 years. Their son Romme *[Romey]* was a 4-year-old born in Iowa. Their daughter Arpalice *[Pauline]* was 5 years old, born in Iowa, spent 8 months at public school in 1914, and had lived 4 years in Iowa. *[Since she was born in Iowa and there was no evidence of the family moving out of state, we believe that the time in Iowa and age should have been similar.]*


Card No. 784
Sex { Male / Female
Color white
Married X Widowed
Single Divorced
Months in School 1914
Public High
Private College
Read
Write
Blind Deaf
Insane Idiot
If Foreign Born are you Naturalized
Years in U. S.
Years in Iowa
Name Romano Ullian Age 35
County Appanoose
Town or Township Centerville
Ward
Occupation Miner
Months in 1914 Unemployed
Total earnings for 1914 from occupation $ 400
Extent of Education { Common / Grammar / High School / College
Birth Place Italy
Do you own your home or farm? { Yes / No
Incumbrance on farm or home $ Value of farm or home $
Military Service: Civil War Mexican Spanish Infantry Cavalry
Artillery Navy State Regiment Company
Church Affiliation Catholic
Father's Birthplace Italy Mother's Birthplace Italy
Remarks
Signed John Eddy

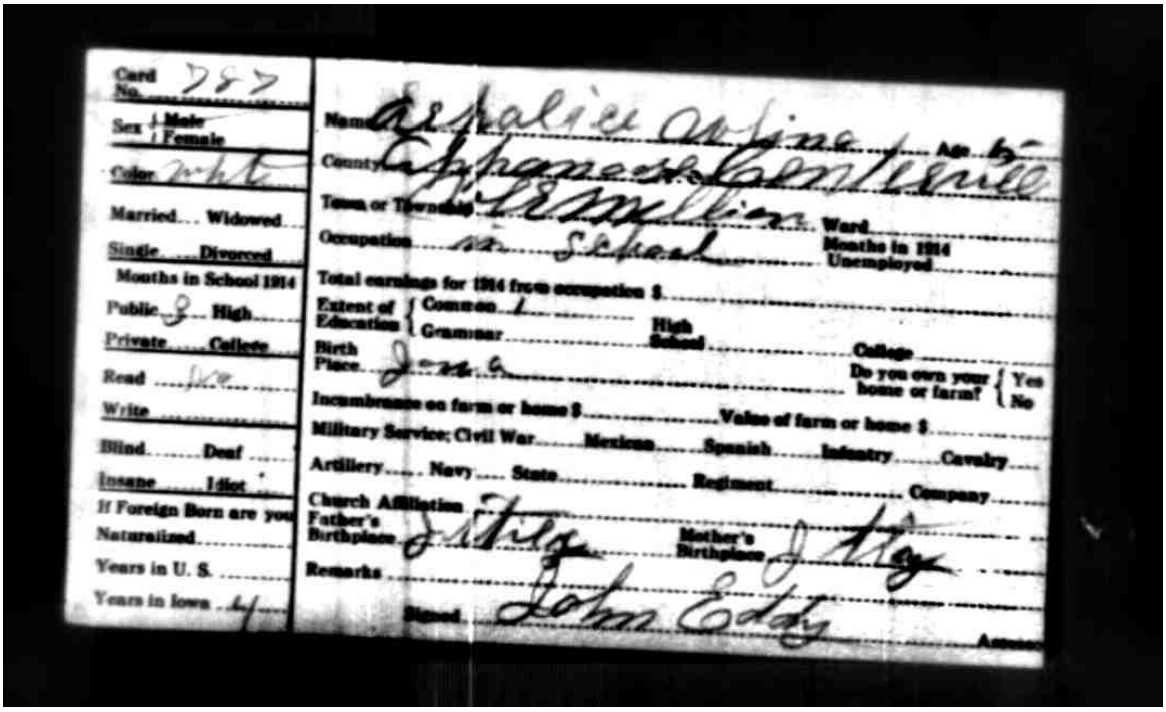
Romano Ullian in the 1915 Iowa State Census *[From Ancestry.com]*


Card No. 785
Sex { Male / Female
Color white
Married X Widowed
Single Divorced
Months in School 1914
Public High
Private College
Read
Write
Blind Deaf
Insane Idiot
If Foreign Born are you Naturalized
Years in U. S.
Years in Iowa
Name Teresa Ullian Age 30
County Appanoose P. Centerville
Town or Township Centerville Ward
Occupation
Months in 1914 Unemployed
Total earnings for 1914 from occupation $
Extent of Education { Common / Grammar / High School / College
Birth Place Italy
Do you own your home or farm? { Yes / No
Incumbrance on farm or home $ Value of farm or home $
Military Service: Civil War Mexican Spanish Infantry Cavalry
Artillery Navy State Regiment Company
Church Affiliation Catholic
Father's Birthplace Italy Mother's Birthplace Italy
Remarks
Signed John Eddy

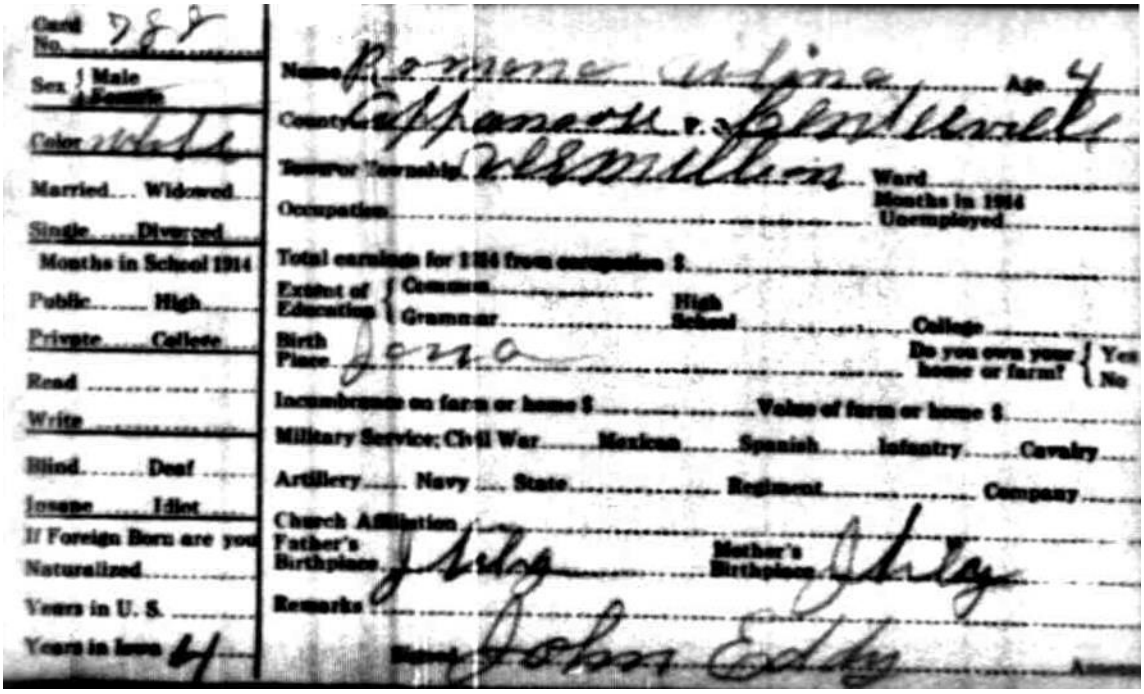
Teresa Ullian in the 1915 Iowa State Census *[From Ancestry.com]*


Card No. 285
Sex | Male | Female
Color white
Married... Widowed...
Single... Divorced...
Months in School 1914
Public 6 High...
Private... College...
Read Yes
Write Yes
Blind... Deaf...
Insane... Idiot...
If Foreign Born are you Naturalized...
Years in U. S. 7
Years in Iowa...
Name Iona Ullian Age 6
County Appanoose Centerville
Town or Township Bellair Ward...
Occupation at School Months in 1914 Unemployed...
Total earnings for 1914 from occupation $...
Extent of Education { Common 1 Grammar... High School... College...
Birth Place Illinois Do you own your home or farm? { Yes No
Incumbrance on farm or home $... Value of farm or home $...
Military Service: Civil War... Mexican... Spanish... Infantry... Cavalry...
Artillery... Navy... State... Regiment... Company...
Church Affiliation...
Father's Birthplace Illinois Mother's Birthplace Illinois
Remarks...
Signed John Eddy

Anthony Stuart Ullian in the 1915 Iowa State Census *[From Ancestry.com]*


Card No. 287
Sex | Male | Female
Color white
Married... Widowed...
Single... Divorced...
Months in School 1914
Public 3 High...
Private... College...
Read Yes
Write...
Blind... Deaf...
Insane... Idiot...
If Foreign Born are you Naturalized...
Years in U. S. ...
Years in Iowa 4
Name Pauline Ullian Age 5
County Appanoose Centerville
Town or Township Bellair Ward...
Occupation at School Months in 1914 Unemployed...
Total earnings for 1914 from occupation $...
Extent of Education { Common 1 Grammar... High School... College...
Birth Place Iowa Do you own your home or farm? { Yes No
Incumbrance on farm or home $... Value of farm or home $...
Military Service: Civil War... Mexican... Spanish... Infantry... Cavalry...
Artillery... Navy... State... Regiment... Company...
Church Affiliation...
Father's Birthplace Illinois Mother's Birthplace Illinois
Remarks...
Signed John Eddy

Pauline Ullian in the 1915 Iowa State Census *[From Ancestry.com]*

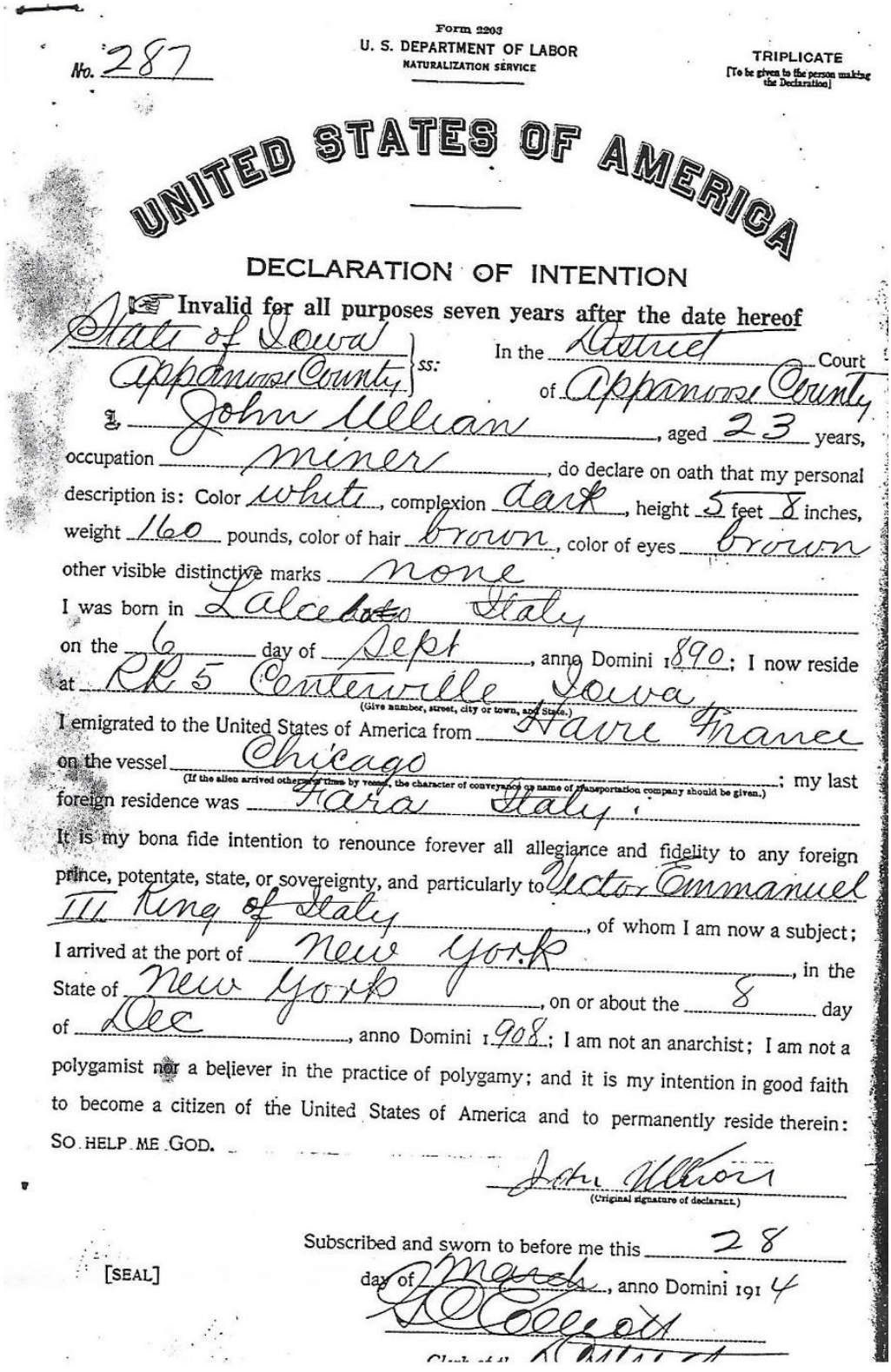


Romey Ullian in the 1915 Iowa State Census *[From Ancestry.com]*

A quote from a letter sent by Romano's son Anthony S. in about 1999 to John's son Gino showed John's connection with Romano's family in their earliest years in the U.S.: "I can remember way back to Iowa days when I first became conscious of the world around me. Your father was a member of our family for many years, moving with us wherever we moved to." *[See the letter in Appendix D.]*

John Ullian's Intention to Become a U.S. Citizen

On 28 Mar 1914 John signed and submitted his Declaration of Intention to become a U.S. citizen at the District Court of Appanoose County, Iowa. He was a 23-year-old miner, 5'8" *[he had evidently grown 5" since he was listed as 5'3" on the ship manifest in 1908!]*, 160 pounds; white, of dark complexion; brown hair/eyes; no distinctive marks. He was born in Salcedo, Italy, on 6 Sept 1890. Address at the time was RR5, Centerville, Iowa. Emigrated from Havre, France, on the vessel *S.S. Chicago*, arriving 8 Dec 1908 in New York.



Form 2203
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
NATURALIZATION SERVICE

No. 287

TRIPLICATE
[To be given to the person making the Declaration]

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

☞ Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof

State of Iowa, Appanoose County } ss:

In the District Court of Appanoose County

I, John Ullian, aged 23 years, occupation miner, do declare on oath that my personal description is: Color white, complexion dark, height 5 feet 8 inches, weight 160 pounds, color of hair brown, color of eyes brown, other visible distinctive marks none

I was born in Lalcedato Italy on the 6 day of Sept, anno Domini 1890; I now reside at RR 5 Centerville Iowa (Give number, street, city or town, and State.)

I emigrated to the United States of America from Havre France on the vessel Chicago (If the alien arrived otherwise than by vessel, the character of conveyance or name of transportation company should be given.); my last foreign residence was Faria Italy

It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to Victor Emmanuel III King of Italy, of whom I am now a subject;

I arrived at the port of New York, in the State of New York, on or about the 8 day of Dec, anno Domini 1908; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein: SO HELP ME GOD.

John Ullian
(Original signature of declarant.)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28 day of March, anno Domini 1914

[SEAL]

Clerk of Said Court

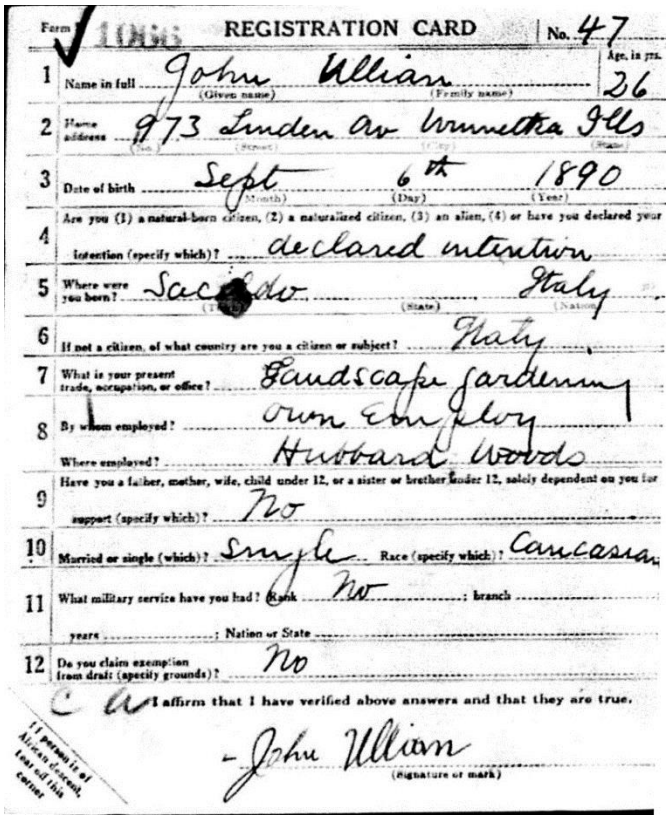
John Ullian's Declaration of Intention for Naturalization *[From Ancestry.com]*

The Move to the Chicago Area

From Iowa, Romano moved his family to Highland Park, Lake, Illinois. On his Petition for Naturalization Romano indicated that he had lived continuously in Illinois since 28 Jul 1917 – so that was evidently the date he and his family moved to Highland Park. Romano's obituary indicates that at his death in 1939 he had lived 23 years in Highland Park. Teresa's *[who entered the U.S. in April 1908.]* obituary in 1929 said she had lived in Iowa 8 years before coming to Highland Park. These obituaries conflict slightly with Romano's Petition statement, since the obituaries would indicate that they came to Highland Park in 1916.

We are assuming that John came with them to Highland Park at that time, given what Romano's son Anthony wrote to John's son Gino (above) about John's moving with them whenever they moved. John's Petition for Naturalization, however, stated that he had lived continuously in Illinois since 5 Jun 1910. This was obviously incorrect. He had signed his Declaration of Intention (for naturalization) on 28 Mar 1914 in Iowa, and was listed in the 1915 Iowa Census.

By 5 Jun 1917, however, John was definitely in the Chicago area. His draft registration card signed on that day showed him living at 973 Linden Ave., Winnetka, Illinois. It stated that he was born 6 Sep 1890 in Salcedo, Italy. His occupation was landscape gardening, in his own employ, in Hubbard Woods *[a neighborhood in Winnetka]*.



Form 1(Rev.) REGISTRATION CARD No. 47

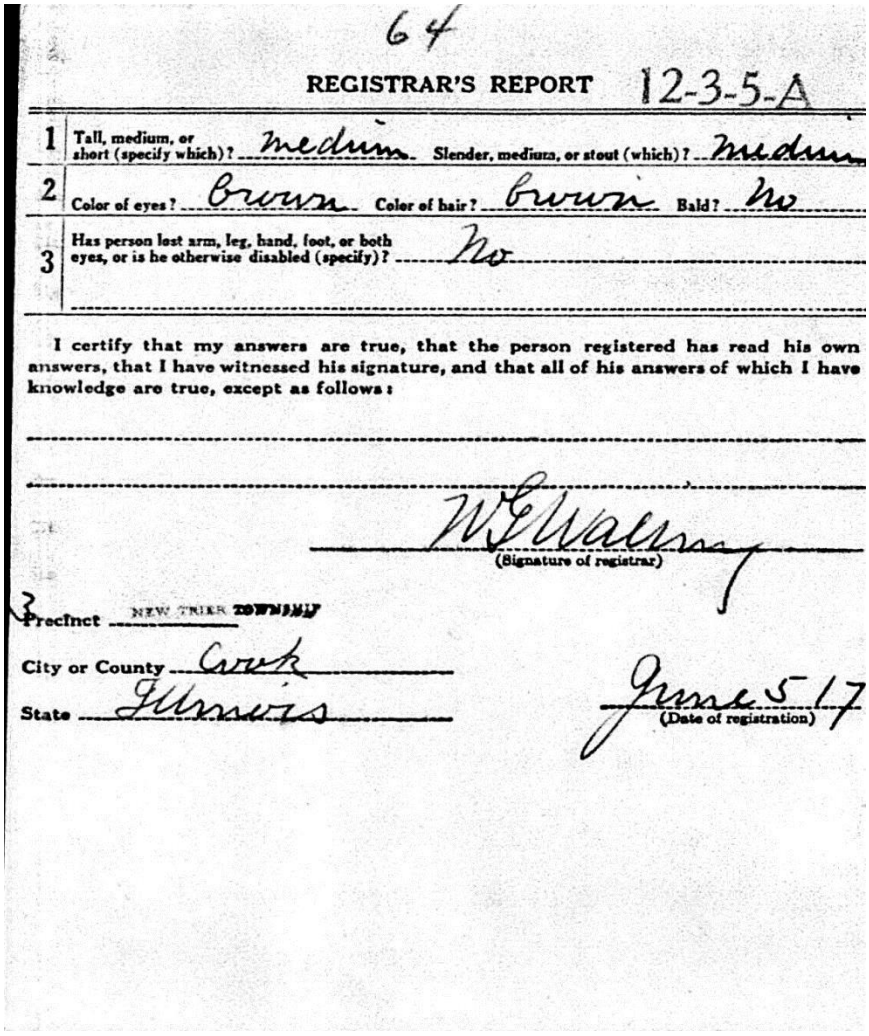
1 Name in full: John Ullian (Given name) (Family name) — Age, in yrs.: 26
2 Home address: 973 Linden av Winnetka Ills (No.) (Street) (City) (State)
3 Date of birth: Sept (Month) 6th (Day) 1890 (Year)
4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? declared intention
5 Where were you born? Salcedo (Town) (State) Italy (Nation)
6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? Italy
7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Landscape gardening
8 By whom employed? own employ
Where employed? Hubbard Woods
9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? No
10 Married or single (which)? Single Race (specify which)? Caucasian
11 What military service have you had? Rank No; branch
years; Nation or State
12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? No

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

John Ullian (signature or mark)

If person is of African descent, tear off this corner

John Ullian's Draft Registration - front *[From Ancestry.com]*



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REGISTRAR'S REPORT 12-3-5-A

1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? medium. Slender, medium, or stout (which)? medium

2 Color of eyes? brown Color of hair? brown Bald? No

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? No

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

W E Walsh
(Signature of registrar)

Precinct NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP

City or County Cook

State Illinois

June 5 17
(Date of registration)

John Ullian's Draft Registration - back *[From Ancestry.com]*

Antonio Ullian

The ship manifests for both John's and Romano's voyages to the U.S. indicate that they were going to be with their brother Antonio. Romano was going to join him in Kensington IL in 1906, John was going to join him in Centerville IA in 1908. What else do we know about this Antonio?

We know that John and Romano both came to Centerville and worked as miners there. Excluding John's indicating that he intended to joining Antonio in Centerville, we have only one piece of evidence that Antonio may have been in Centerville: the *Semi Weekly Iowegian* newspaper of 20 Mar 1908 includes Antonio Ulian in their list of individuals having unclaimed letters at the Centerville Post Office. *[We are assuming that this Antonio is John and Romano's brother, not Romano and Therese Soardi's 2-year-old son who wouldn't arrive in Centerville for another month.]*

We are also uncertain which brother they were referring to as Antonio. It is probably Antonio Angelo Ullian, born 16 Oct 1875. But their brother Angelo Antonio Ullian, born 12 Apr 1877, should not be ruled out. A passenger manifest for the *S.S. La Touraine* that left Havre 30 Jun 1906 and arrived in New York 7 Jul 1906 lists as a steerage passenger Angelo Antonio Ulian, a 22-year-old married male destined for Kenington *[Kensington]* Illinois to join his cousin Giuseppi Misaglia. We cannot decipher from the manifest the name of the last place in Italy he had lived prior to the trip. At 22 years of age in 1906, this Angelo Antonio would have been born in 1884 (assuming the age given on the manifest is accurate), not the 1877 of John's brother of the same name or the 1875 of his brother Antonio Angelo.

The connection as cousins between Angelo Anthony Ullian and Giuseppi Misaglia, the existence of Misaglia/Missaglia families in the small towns where John and his ancestors had lived, and the destinations of Centerville and Kensington all keep us interested in Angelo Antonio as possibly the brother John and Romano were joining – or perhaps the fourth Ullian relative to come to the U.S. The Misaglia/Missaglia surname comes up later, on the manifest of the *S.S. Chicago* on which John sailed in 1908. There were at least two others on that voyage who were, like John, from the province of Vicenza with a destination of "Centreville." Giovanni Baggio, a 28-year-old male laborer born in San Pietro *[about 35 miles from Salcedo]*, whose relative in Italy was Terresa Misaglio, was joining his brother Giuseppi Baggio. Antonia Rossi, a 20-year-old female laborer from Vicensa *[Vicenza]*, born in Crosova, whose relative in Italy was her father Antonio, was joining Giuseppi Biaggio *[Baggio?]*, of PO Box 5 in Centerville. Any relationship between a Ullian and a Misaglia/Missaglia or a Baggio in Italy bears further research to help us better understand John and Romano's brother Antonio.

Church records indicate that Angelo Antonio Ullian died in Italy on 10 Mar 1951. We have no information on Antonio Angelo's death.