

The Zappitelli Family  
By Granddaughter  
Margherita Facchin  
Italian Immigrants  
Vulcania  
February 1, 1958



The year was 1953 as the ship pulled away from the docks of Naples. Vincenzo Armenti was saying goodbye to his native land and leaving family, friends, possessions and the only homeland he knew of. He also left behind memories of a devastating war, unemployment and deprivation and for this reason alone he set out in hopes of finding prosperity and a chance to work and earn money so that his family would have a better lifestyle than the poverty they faced. Grandpa had little currency but his courage made up for what he didn't have. His steel determination led him to Canada where he became a refugee and then a landed immigrant giving us what we have to day. What I like to call today a golden opportunity.

12 days he took to cross rough seas to arrive on the coast of Halifax, Nova Scotia, at Pier 21. Surrounded by multitude of cultures and strange looking people speaking foreign languages and strange food they were given. All this he grinned and he did bare it; he did not see any of this as obstacles but a need for speed especially when he tasted the white bread. With this he passes on to us his strength, endurance and perseverance.

Obvious grandpa was an opportunist and in his ways he knew he was not afraid to work hard and hard he worked. His generosity exceeded to his family, friends, neighbors and the church. His inspiration made us believe that we can reach our dreams with a little faith and a lot of hope. He instilled in us a desire so strong that he made us not fear of the unknown but to go forward. We gained his courage and know there are no bound what we will do for our loved ones and perhaps our spirit for adventure.

1958 Nicola, Dora, and Margherita Zappitelli were sponsored by grandpa, my mom's parents. Mom remembers the ship, her sea sickness, and her fear of coming out alive or just the thought of not been able to find her luggage would reel her in a state of chaos. She remembers hunger and the bitter cold in a desolate land. Coming off the boat had to be filled with so many emotions. Fear, Hope, A New Beginning, Just trying to communicate to the people alone had to be an obstacle. I can see Mum worried about getting there only belongings from the cargo area and Dad begging for milk for there 11 month old daughter. Imagine the hand

gestures in trying to communicate this to this new Canadian family. With very little money in there pocket, they boarded a train to Dryden. Four days later after a bumpy, slow hard seat train ride they finally arrived to the town of Dryden. Why? Dryden, it seems Grandpa saw something in this little town.

2006 and here we are, my family may not always see hand in hands, but a close family we are. I admire my family for we are like a unit of one love. If one is down we are all there to bring them back up. We have been inspired by our fathers and mothers to take and live life to the limit. To follow your dreams if is your desire for what ever the reason may be. We thank Vincenzo Armenti, Our Grandfather the bravest man we could ever meet. Our hero. Thank you Pier 21 for saving the memories of out past and the new beginning.