

# Raffaele Iaione

## My uncle

My uncle Ralph was my father's brother. He came to America when he was 17 in 1909 as documented in the Ellis Island records. The ship's manifest from my father's arrival in America in 1912 states that Raffaele Iaione lived in Scotch Plains and that his brother planned to stay with him. Sometime between 1912 and 1924 Uncle Ralph returned to Italy.

In 1924, Congress passed legislation limiting the number of Italians who could emigrate or re-enter this country. Unable to return to America, he remained in Italy, married and raised a family.

During World War II, when American soldiers entered the village of Montazzoli, they were amazed that this local villager could converse in English. He had not forgotten the language.

Thirty years later, with my father as his sponsor, Uncle Ralph came to America for the second time. I am not certain how many years he stayed in the country, but he did send for his wife and sons.

I remember him as a very quiet, polite gentleman. It had to be very difficult for him to return to this country and to see the success of many of the Italians who arrived in the early part of the century.

He worked for many years at Snuffy's Steak House. When he retired, he and his wife returned to Italy, and they lived comfortably on their social security.

Mausoleum in Montazzoli  
(Translation)

**Gelsomina DiFrancesco**  
*In the memory of prayer, hope and love.*

**Iaione Raffale**  
*Do not cry for my absence,  
I am happy with God.  
I will love you in the heavens as I loved you on  
earth.*

