

Alfonsina Iaione

My Aunt

Za Fonsina (Aunt Alfonsina)

Za Fonsina was my dear aunt and my father's sister. She was the only relative we had in this country when we were growing up.

My Uncle Mauro arrived in this country in 1922. I can only surmise that my aunt was unable to enter the country because of the 1924 emigration restrictions. She came to America in the 1930s with her daughter. They lived in Plainfield, New Jersey.

Za Fonsina was a lovely, warm-hearted person. Holidays and summers were always a pleasure for me because my mother would send me over to her house to stay, sometimes a week at a time.



I remember most that she and "Zizi"

(Uncle Mauro) loved the outdoors and had a fabulous vegetable garden and fantastic fig trees. My aunt also made the best Easter cake. It was iced with confectioners' sugar and tiny candies. One never refused a piece.



She had one child, Angie. Another, a son, died in childbirth. Angie was beautiful. When I had my little vacations at the Ferrara house, Angie would take me to the movies, or we would visit with her friends. She was much more modern than we were at home. I remember the books, movie magazines, and records she collected. The records of the 1940s--we just loved playing them and dancing around the living room. The Andrews Sisters

singing "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree"--all those old 78 records. Where did they go?