

The Spatola families of Caposele

The Spatola family has been present in Caposele since before 1700. The Catasto Onciario of 1754 records in Caposele 20 people with the surname Spatola, but eliminating those of the female gender, which as wives belong to another nucleus, remain 4 families. Among these 20 people, all those able to work (five) did the same job, i.e. they were stonemasons.

There is only one elderly person, Domenico Spatola, who declares 89 years (he was born around 1665), while all the others are 41 years or less. These 2 clues (same work, and a single progenitor), suggest that the Spatola family, dedicated to stone processing, had settled in Caposele in 1600.

The Catasto Onciario, alone, does not allow us to reconstruct the relations between the various Spatola nuclei present in the town in 1754. To try to push back the reconstruction of the Spatola family, and thanks to the help of a friend who is passionate about genealogy, John Rendfrey, notarial deeds were taken into consideration. From these it is possible to extract valuable information on family units, and try to shed light on the genealogy of our country in the 1600s. The acts are of various types: marriage contracts, wills, etc., and in them are often reported members of families, with their degree of kinship, allowing them to reconstruct the family tree. The study of this type of documents is more complex, if you are already lucky enough to find one of interest, as you do not use short and repetitive expressions, as happens in parish registers, and therefore you cannot help to reconstruct the meaning of the sentence in case the text (written by hand and sometimes ruined) is difficult to read. They are often a slice of life of the time, as in addition to an official first part in Latin, there is a second one written in Italian, more discursive and centered on aspects of life at the time. Eg a case containing clothes was left to an heir, coins were left to a person, with the commitment to have a Mass recited with a given cadence in one of the various churches present, etc.

Branch of Michele Angelo Spatola

In the notarial deeds relating to Caposele, Spatola is not found before Michele Angelo Spatola, whose birth can be hypothesized around 1650. We know of his existence from the testament of his wife, Aurelia Piro, from Quaglietta, dated 5 August 1694. The will was written by the old notary Giuseppe Fungaroli, of Caposele, and is located in the folder of the documents he drafted, kept in the State Archive of Avellino. From this and other acts, we know that Michele Angelo Spatola and Aurelia Piro had 10 children, 5 males and 5 females. One of the sons was the 80-year-old Domenico Spatola indicated in the Catasto Onciario of Caposele.

Of the 20 Spatola people surveyed in 1754 in Caposele, all are descendants of the following sons of Michele Angelo (see chart in online article):

- Domenico: the only one of the brothers still alive in that year, eighty years old and resident with his wife Giovanna Nisovoccia, plus 3 of his sons (Giustina, Lorenzo, Pasquale), and 4 grandchildren;

- Giovanni Antonio: deceased, his 7 children are indicated;

- Rogiero: deceased, his daughter Antonia is present in the list, married to Giuseppe Pallante;

- Lonardo: deceased, his two sons Giuseppe and Amato Spatola are indicated; their mother Rosa Sturchio had remarried with Giuseppe Nisivoccia, and the two stepchildren had been welcomed into the new family.

In 1754, therefore, all (*) the Spatolas present in our town are descended from that one progenitor, Michele Angelo. It is not known with certainty where he came from, but, given the greater

presence of the surname Spatola in Calabritto, with more elderly people, registered in the land register of our neighboring town, it can be assumed that he came from there. In any case, most of the Spatolas living in Caposele in the following centuries, up to the present day, date back to this family branch. The branches of Salvatore and Damiano Spatola, that of Silvio and Carmela Spatola, etc. are part of it. Over the centuries the female members of the family got married losing their surname, but numerous branches with the last names Tobia, Rosania, Cozzarella date back to this nucleus.

() Analyzing all the Spatolas lived in Caposele in the 1700s, the only person who does not seem to be headed by Michele Angelo is Catarina Spatola, born around 1708 by Donato Spatola and married to Nicola Sabatino. The fact that there are no traces of Donato Spatola in Caposele at that time, and that a Donato Spatola is indicated in other genealogical trees in Andretta in a compatible period, suggests that this branch belongs to the Spatola family from Andretta.*

Branch of Antonio Alfonso Maria Spatola

The family branch of Michele Angelo Spatola is joined, around the end of the 1800s, by a second branch originating from Antonio Alfonso Maria Spatola, born in Lioni around 1864. The Spatola branch to which the family of doctor Pietro Spatola belongs originated from this ancestor. Being a person born outside of Caposele, the chances of being able to extend the search to previous generations was low, but the availability of the online records of the civil status of Lioni, and of a very useful site on the genealogy of Calitri, allowed to go back to the ancestors, at least until 1700:

- Marino Spatola: N. ~1738 (Calabritto). He is present in the ounces land register of Calabritto of 1755. Married to Francesca Rossi

- Antonio Spatola: N. 1766 (Calitri), Ma. 05/05/1796 in Calitri with Angela Zampalione, D. 29/03/1837 (Lioni)

- Vincenzo Spatola: N. 1810 (Gessopalena, municipality in the province of Chieti, Abruzzo), Ma. With Rafaela Imbriano, D. 21/07/1880

- Antonio Alfonso Maria Spatola: 01/12/1864 (Lioni): he is the great-grandfather of the doctor Pietro Spatola

Both the most important Spatola branches of Caposele, therefore, are referable to the Calabritto strain (see graph in the online article), where the surname is still present.

For those wishing to learn more, a more detailed reconstruction of the Caposele Spatola tree can be found in the tree online at the following site: <http://ars.altervista.org/PhpGedView/index.php>.

You can contribute:

- by contacting me by email at the address pasquale_c@hotmail.com
- on Facebook group "Genealogia caposelese"
- by registering on the website containing the online browseable tree: <http://ars.altervista.org/PhpGedView/index.php>

Box on Alberico Spatola

Among the Spatola of Caposele is Alberico Salvatore Spatola, musician, conductor and tango composer. The family branch of Alberico Spatola descends from the main branch of Michele Angelo,

and more precisely from his son Giovanni Antonio. The latter had as his son Francesco, grandson Gaetano Nicola, and great-grandson Salvatore Maria. The latter's son, Giuseppe, was a music teacher, and emigrated to Uruguay. Alberico Salvador was born in Montevideo, but moved with his father to Buenos Aires. In Alberico's family there was a tradition for music: he was related both to Gerardo Grasso (the uncle of one married to the other's aunt), composer of the national anthem of Uruguay, and to Carlos Di Sarli, musician Argentine. Alberico continued the family musical tradition: he was head of the Buenos Aires police band (so he was able to help Carlos Di Sarli when the latter arrived in Buenos Aires in the early 1920s), and composed several works of tango still known today, some of which can be listened to by YouTube simply by searching for its name.

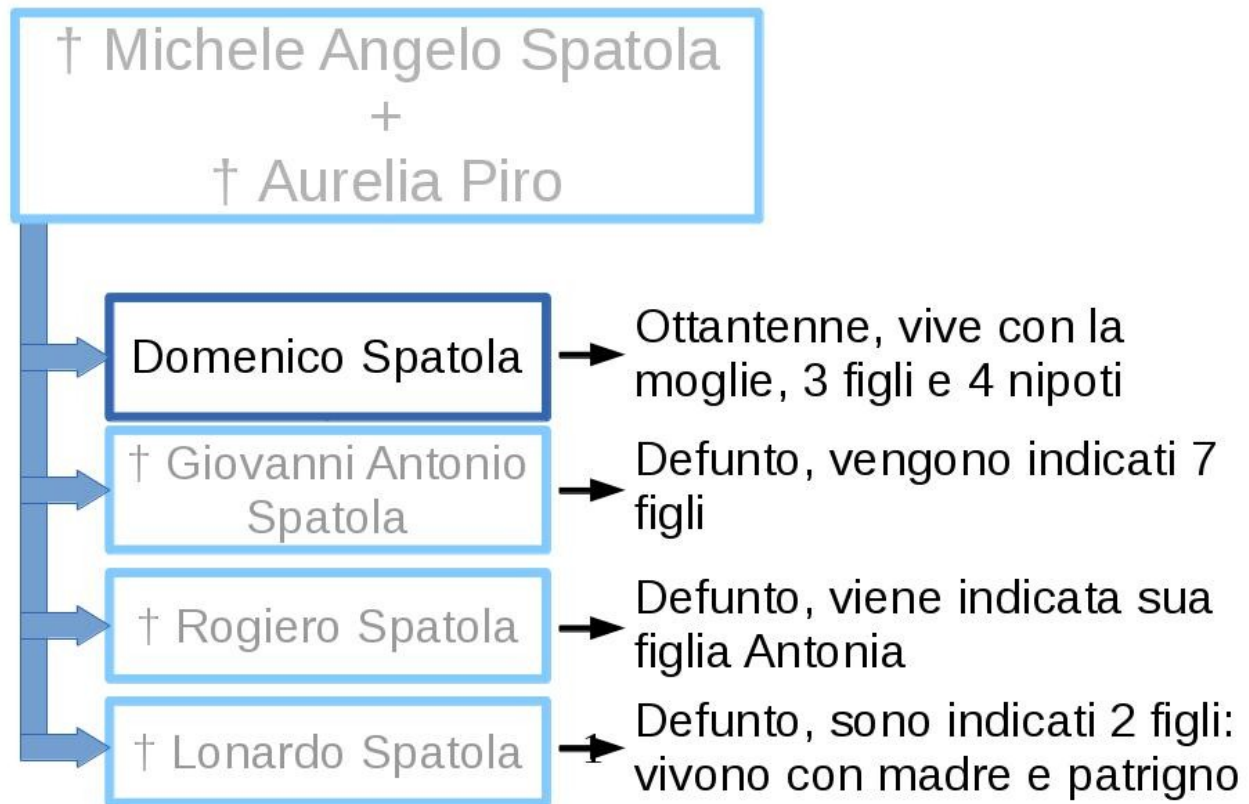
Giuseppe and Alberico Spatola's family emigrated to South America, but several cousins remained in Caposele:

- Silvio and Carmela Spatola's family;
- Russomanno family "Umberto";
- the Nicola Conforti family: the grandfather of Eng. Nicola Conforti, his namesake, had married Clelia Rosa Maria Spatola, a 1st grade cousin of Alberico;
- the Russomanno family, to which the mother of Olimpia Petrucci belongs;

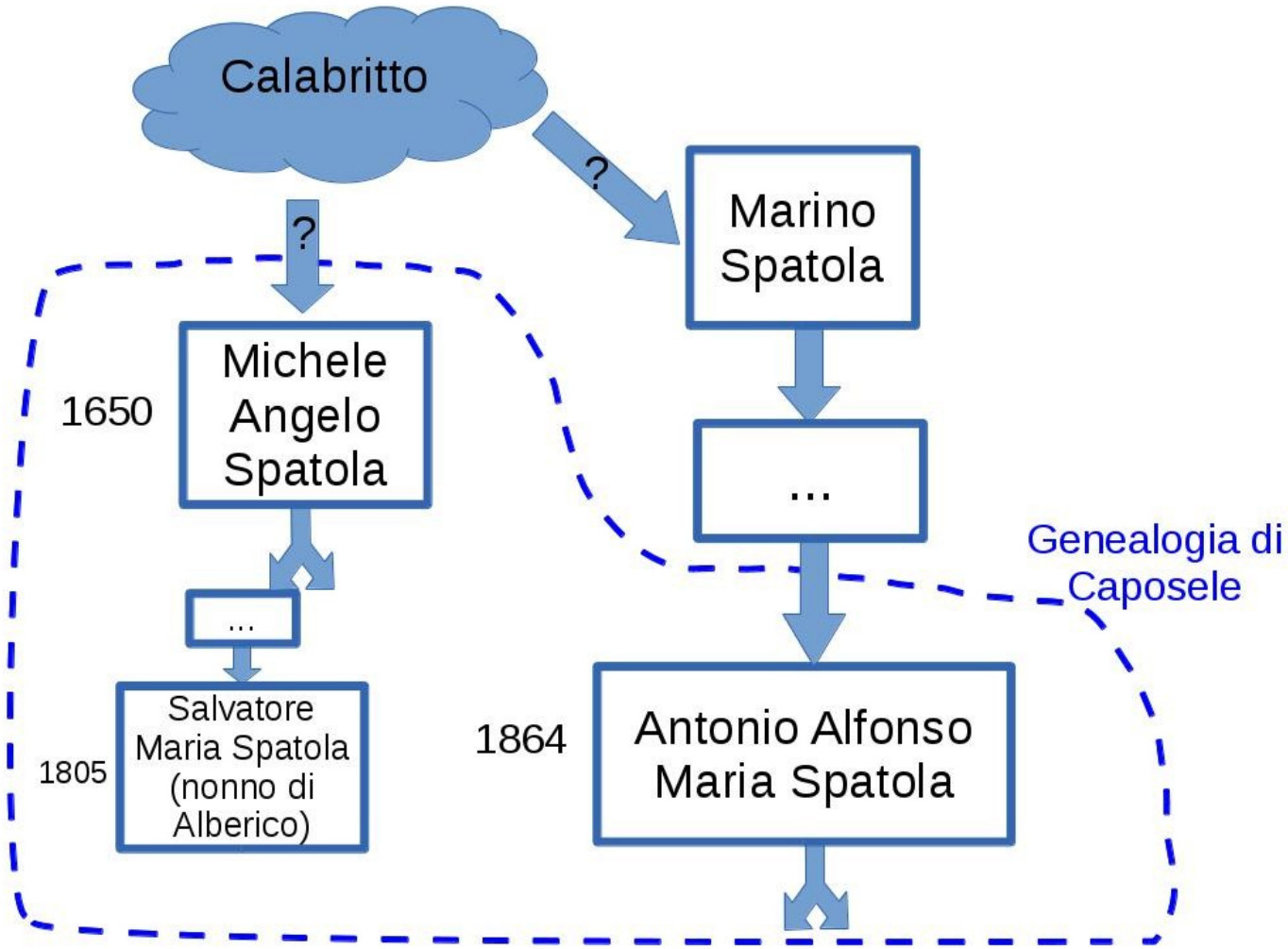
Photos

Photo's captions

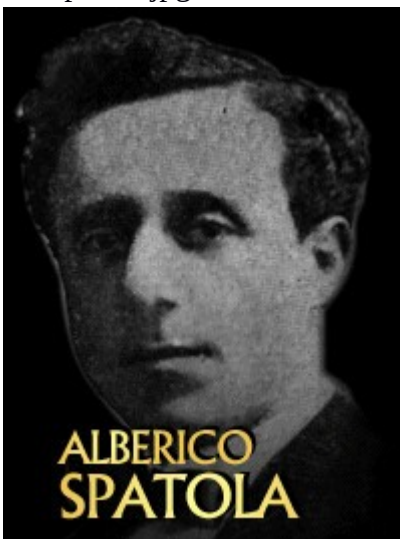
1. *catasto_1754_Spatola.jpg* : The *Catasto Onciario of Caposele in 1754* photographs the Spatola's residing in the town at the time, all descendants of Michele Angelo Spatola
2. *Spatola_lines.jpg* : The 2 main Spatola lines developed in Caposele from the 17th century onwards are probably attributable to Calabritto
3. *Alberico_Spatola.jpg* : Alberico Spatola
4. *Alberico_Spatola_cugini.jpg* : The cousins of Alberico Spatola
5. *parentela_AlbericoSpatola_GerardoGrasso.jpg* : Relationship Alberico Spatola - Gerardo Grasso: the uncle of one had married the aunt of the other
6. *parentela_AlbericoSpatola_CarlosDiSarli.jpg* : Alberico Spatola - Carlos Di Sarli relationship: in addition to being distant cousins (4th degree), the two musicians were connected by further family ties
7. *catasto_234_Domenico_Spatola.jpg* : *Catasto onciario Caposele, pag. 234: family nucleus with Domenico Spatola, the oldest Spatola present in Caposele in 1754, son of Michele Angelo Spatola*
8. *catasto_497_figli_Lonardo_Spatola.jpg* : Family nucleus of Rosa Sturchio with the children of Lonardo Spatola, her first husband: they are indicated as stepchildren



2. Spatola_lines.jpg



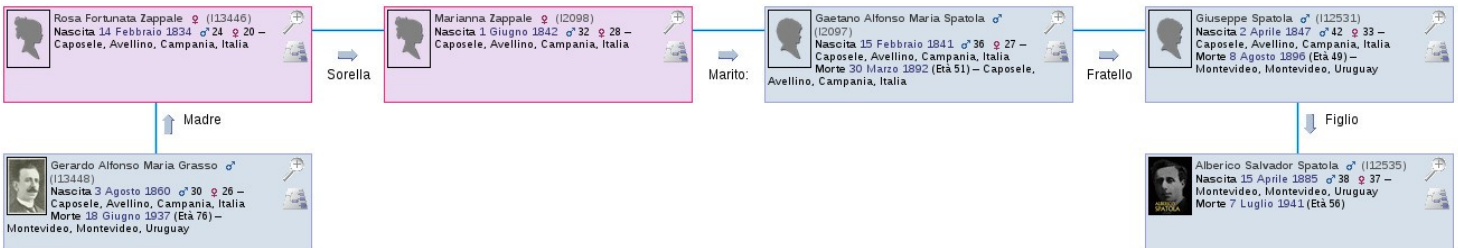
3. Alberico_Spatola.jpg



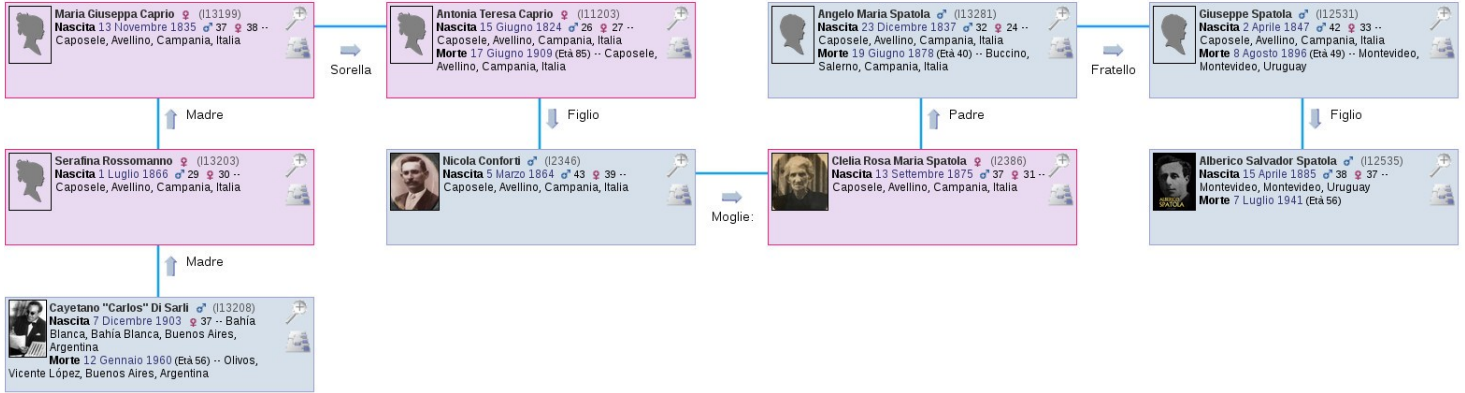
4. Alberico_Spatola_cugini.jpg



5. parentela_AlbericoSpatola_GerardoGrasso.jpg



6. parentela_AlbericoSpatola_CarlosDiSarli.jpg



7. catasto_234_Domenico_Spatola.jpg

234: Dom^o Spatola vecchio decapito d'anni 69.
 Giovanna Divorcia moglie d'anni 69.
 Lorenzo figlio scarpellino d'anni 34
 Lucrezia Mayone moglie di Lorenzo d'anni 30.
 Gio: Aro' riposa d'anni 09.
 Giovanna riposa d'anni 11.
 Aro' riposa d'anni 07.

8. catasto_497_figli_Lonardo_Spatola.jpg

Gius. Divorcia bracciale. Morto in campo della Divisione
 del 7^o reggimento
 Rosa Scarchio moglie d'anni 40.
 Filippo figlio bracciale d'anni 29.
 Lucia Donella moglie di Filippo d'anni 23.
 Gius. Spatola figliastro d'anni 16.
 Amaro figliastro d'anni 12.