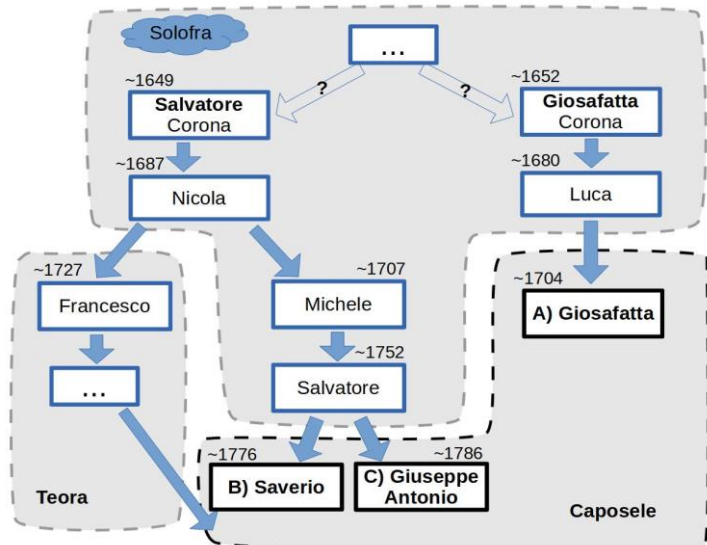


The Corona family from Caposele

The origins of Corona family

The origins of the Corona family from Caposele can be found in Solofra. In this place there are traces of the Corona family as early as the 16th century: in the most ancient documents we find a certain Nardello de Corona, in 1510; in 1555 a deed of sale concerning Giulio Corona son of Giosia, Salvatore's father.

The founders of the family settled in Caposele around the 18th century. It is handed down in the family that Caposele and the neighboring villages were chosen because of the healthy air, to escape the continuous plagues that hit periodically: being able to have plenty of water and a healthy environment was an aspect to be taken into consideration.



The origins of the Corona family from Caposele. In bold the three representatives of which the first traces are found in the documents in Caposele

Thanks to the study carried out by my friend John Rendfrey on the registers on the state of souls (Status Animorum) of the Diocesan Archives of Salerno ('600), on the notarial deeds on Caposele (late '600), and on the parish archives of Solofra ('600 -'700), it was possible to unify almost completely the different branches that established in the municipality of Caposele and Teora in the past centuries. The unification is not complete as the two distinct progenitors of this family that we managed to reach are Salvatore and Giosafatta Corona, born in Solofra a few years later, around the mid-1600s. We do not know if they were brothers or otherwise related among them: future research will have to be carried out in Solofra. All the Corona of Caposele date back to either Salvatore or Giosafatta. It was certainly a wealthy family, dedicated to commercial and financial activities, whose interests and ties ranged in the Salerno and Irpinia areas, and whose members include judges, notaries, doctors and pharmacists.

It was not Salvatore and Giosafatta Corona who moved to Caposele or to the neighboring villages: there were several other generations who lived in Solofra. The main branches that are identified (see graph) are those that originate:

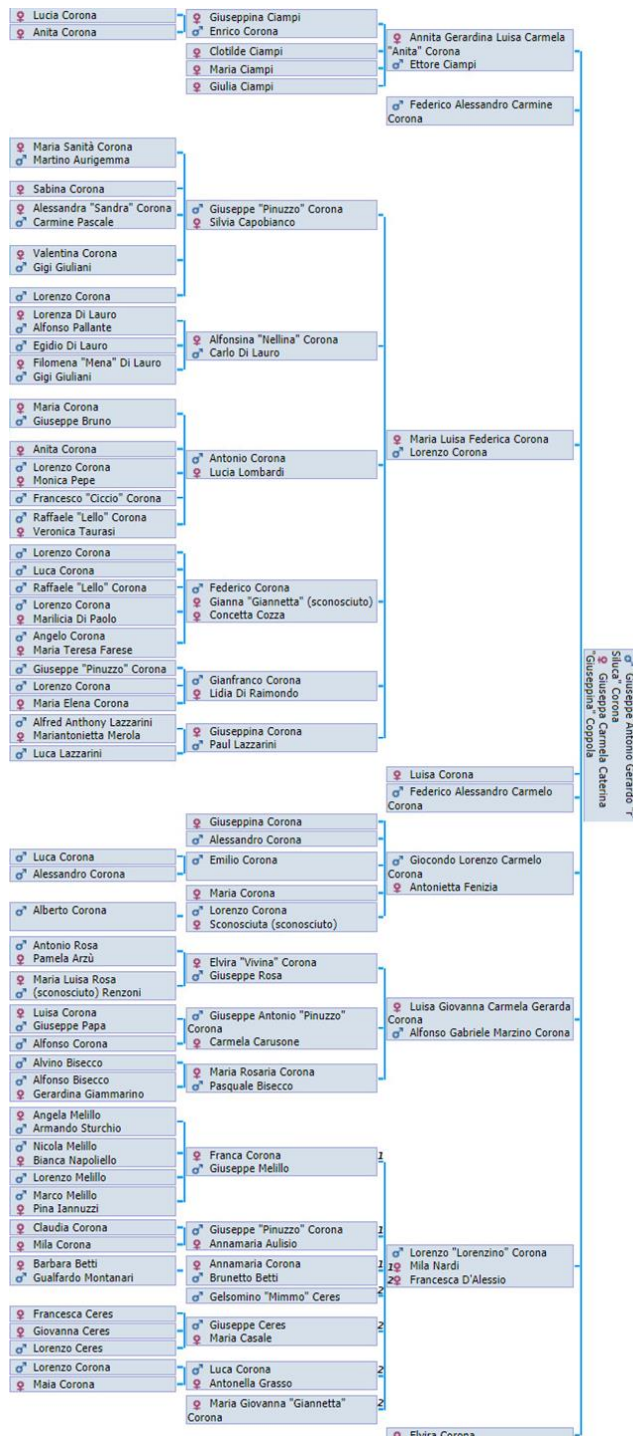
1. for the lineage of Giosafatta (born in Solofra ~ 1652): from his grandson **Giosafatta (A)** (probably born in Caposele ~1704, died in Caposele in 1769). Giosafatta had a large offspring, which will be analyzed later;
2. for the lineage of Salvatore (born in Solofra ~ 1649):
 - from his grandson Francesco (probably born in Solofra ~1727, but married to Teora and with descendants in that town), from whom the Teora branch of the Corona family originates. One of Francesco's descendants, his grandson Francesco Maria Giuseppe (Teora 1792 - Teora 1874), was judge of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies;
 - from the children of the great-grandson Salvatore (born around 1752 and lived in Solofra), who moved to our country around 1805 (from that year onwards traces appear in the parish registers in Caposele):
 1. **Saverio (B)** (b. probably in Solofra ~1776 and died in Caposele in 1819);
 2. **Giuseppe Antonio (C)** (b. probably in Solofra ~1786 and died in Caposele in 1852);

All the Corona linked to Caposele can therefore be traced back to the 3 founders highlighted above (Giosafatta (A), Saverio (B), Giuseppe Antonio (C)), for which there are the first traces written in the registers (parish or civil status) in Caposele. Paradoxically, after having given rise to the Corona families in Caposele, Teora, Valva, in Solofra the surname seems no longer to be present.

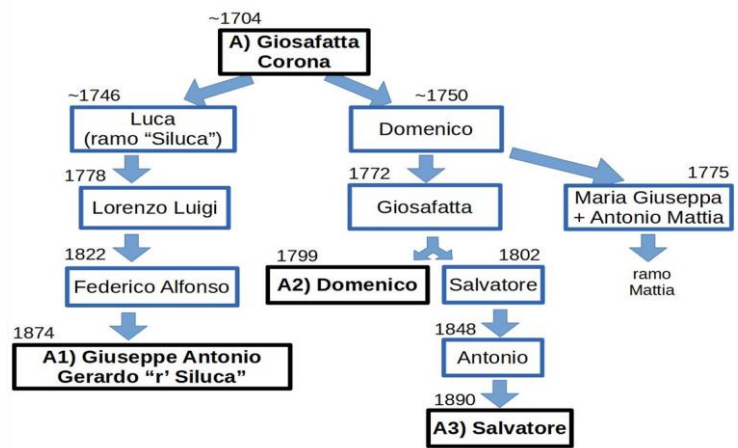
The branches in Caposele that originate from Giosafatta (A)

The family branch that originates from Giosafatta Corona (A) is the oldest in Caposele, as the settlement from Solofra took place already in the mid-18th century. Two branches can be identified starting from two of his sons: Luca (→ branch Silùca) who takes the name of his grandfather, and Domenico (→ branch r 'Giosa).

1. Luca (~1746 - 1816) - "Silùca" branch: the nickname almost certainly



A1) partial graphic of the descendants of Giuseppe Antonio Gerardo Corona "r' li Silùca" (1874-) and Giuseppina Coppola he observed a very close mourning, practically for the rest of his life. Among their descendants I mention



A) diagram of the descendants of Giosafatta Corona (~1704-1769)

derives from the name of Luca Corona, which was handed down in this branch since the ancestors of Solofra. The "Si" was an ancient "allocutive of respect", deriving from an apocope of the form 'sire' (lord), certainly used in the South before the spread of 'don', which took place after the Spanish domination.

Among Luca's numerous children, only one, Lorenzo Luigi, a doctor, got married, while the brothers and sisters, to avoid dividing the property, lived without getting married in the family palace located in the highest part of Via Pietraquarea. The same thing happened with the son of Lorenzo Luigi, Federico Alfonso: many of his brothers / sisters reached a venerable age, so much so that the saying was coined that "tre Silùca e na iumenta fann cincucient anni" (3 Silùca and a mare add up to 300 years). Federico Alfonso had a first marriage from which he had no children, and then from the second marriage with Maria Giuseppa Acciani, from Quaglietta, he had 4 children. Among them we remember their son Lorenzo "Enzo" Corona "lu mierecu r li Silùca" (the doctor of the Silùca's), a good obstetrician doctor ("sulu c'arrivanu li cani la gent si sent megliu", that is "As soon as the dogs (of the doctor, ed) arrive, people feel better") and former mayor of Caposele, and **Giuseppe Antonio Gerardo (A1) (1874-1949)**, "Don Pepp r' li Silùca", oenologist. While Dr. "Enzo" Corona had no children from his wife Giulia Caprio, his brother Giuseppe Antonio married Giuseppina Coppola (his mother was a Cozzarelli from Caposele), from San Sossio Baronia, and had a large descent. Noteworthy is the way in which Giuseppe Antonio met his wife, known by pure chance while he was going to Nusco to meet a girl to be married, as it was usual at the time. While he was preparing to leave for Nusco, a boy who accompanied him saw this girl, a relative of the Cozzarellis, who had come to Caposele to visit her relatives, and said to him: "ron Pe' (Mr. Giuseppe), what are we going to do in Nusco? Don't you see how beautiful Cozzarelli's granddaughter is?". It was love at first sight, they had several children, then she fell ill and, after her death,

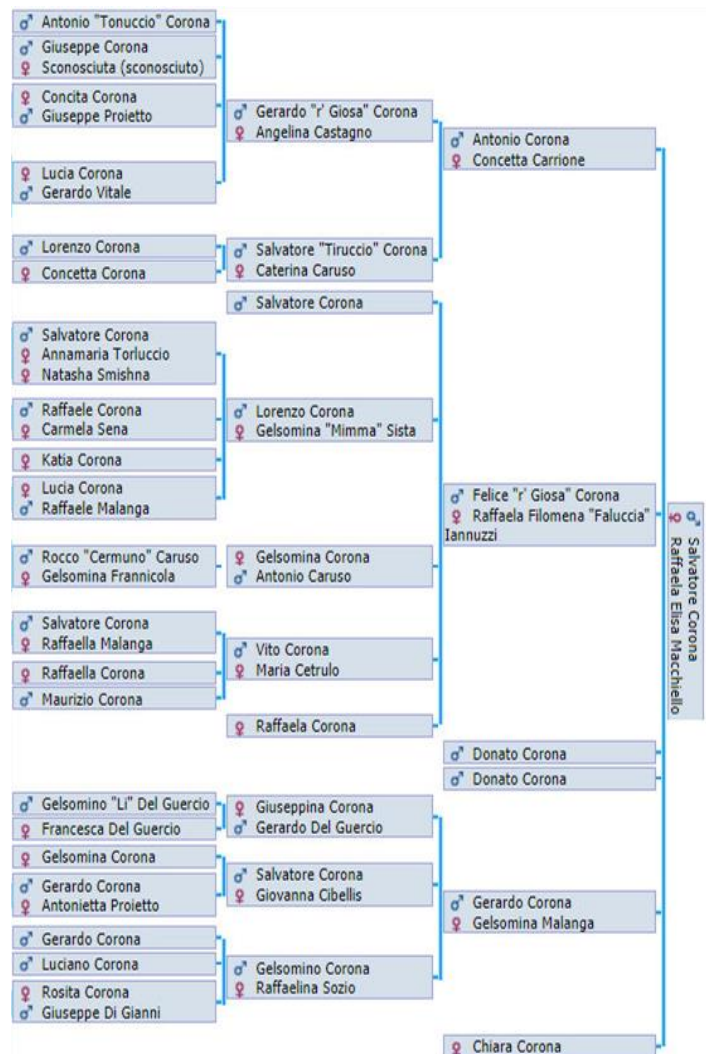
(excluding for now those also related to the "r 'li nutari" branch, discussed later):

- from his daughter Anita: the teacher Giuseppina Ciampi (married to Enrico Corona, referred to on the next page);
- from their son Lorenzo: Franca Corona (mother of the current mayor of Caposele, Lorenzo Melillo) and Giuseppe Corona, author of the essay "The rotation of Norfolk and the southern question";

2. Domenico (~1750 - 1783) - branch r 'Giosa: Domenico's eldest son, Giosafatta, had **Domenico (A2)** (1799 - ?) and Salvatore, grandfather of **Salvatore (A3)** (b.1890 - ?). A daughter of Domenico, Giosafatta's sister and aunt of Domenico (A2), Maria Giuseppa, married Antonio Mattia from Calabritto, giving rise to the large Mattia branch of Caposele.

While in the branch of **Domenico (A2)** I was unable to identify many people, except some in the USA, among the many descendants of Salvatore (A3) present in Caposele are identified:

- "Tonuccio" Corona, a singer who has enlivened numerous parties with his music both in Caposele and in the neighboring villages;
- Lorenzo Corona, father of Salvatore, Raffaele, Katia: Salvatore managed for years the "La Rosa" bar, located under the building of the municipality of Caposele, before it changed management and became the "Wake Up".



A3) partial graphic of the descendants of Salvatore Corona (1890-) and Raffaella Elisa Macchiello

The branches in Caposele that originate from Salvatore (b. ~ 1752)

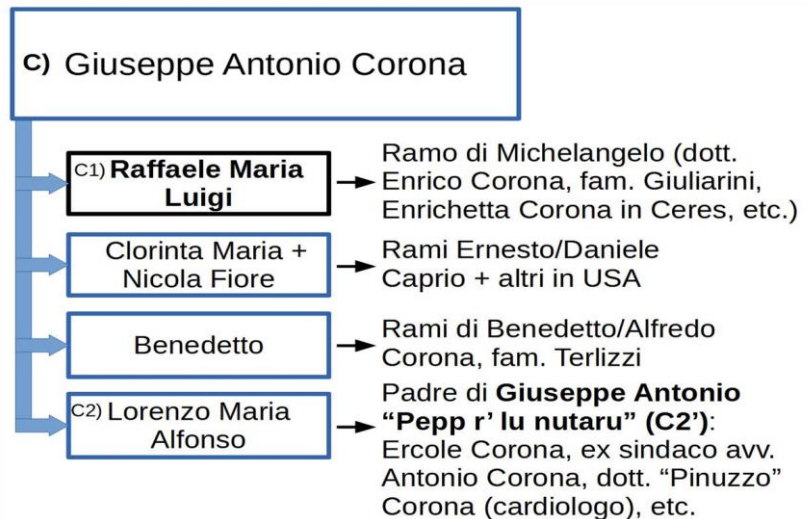
Keeping in mind the first graph, we can see how Salvatore Corona born in Solofra in the mid 1600s leads to Salvatore born in the mid 1700s. The latter had two daughters and 2 sons (or at least 4 of them have death certificates in Caposele). The sons were Saverio and Giuseppe Antonio: they were the first of this branch to settle in Caposele. Both were probably born in Solofra, but their death certificate is registered in our municipality, a sign that during their life the center of gravity had shifted to our country.

The lines that branch off from the two brothers are the following:

- 1. Saverio Corona (B):** I was unable to fully reconstruct this branch, as many descendants did not live in Caposele. Among the members that I managed to identify, I mention:
 - Achille Corona: he is the grandfather of Don Achille Pizza, unforgettome parish priest of Caposele, from whom he had inherited the name. The name Achille was preserved as one of the parish priest's nephews (son of his brother Lorenzo) also had this name. He is now ninety years old, and is known as "Achilluccio" Pizza);

- the branch established in Valva: Francesco, father of Goffredo and grandfather of Maurizio Corona (current Chief Marshal at the Municipal Police of Laviano);

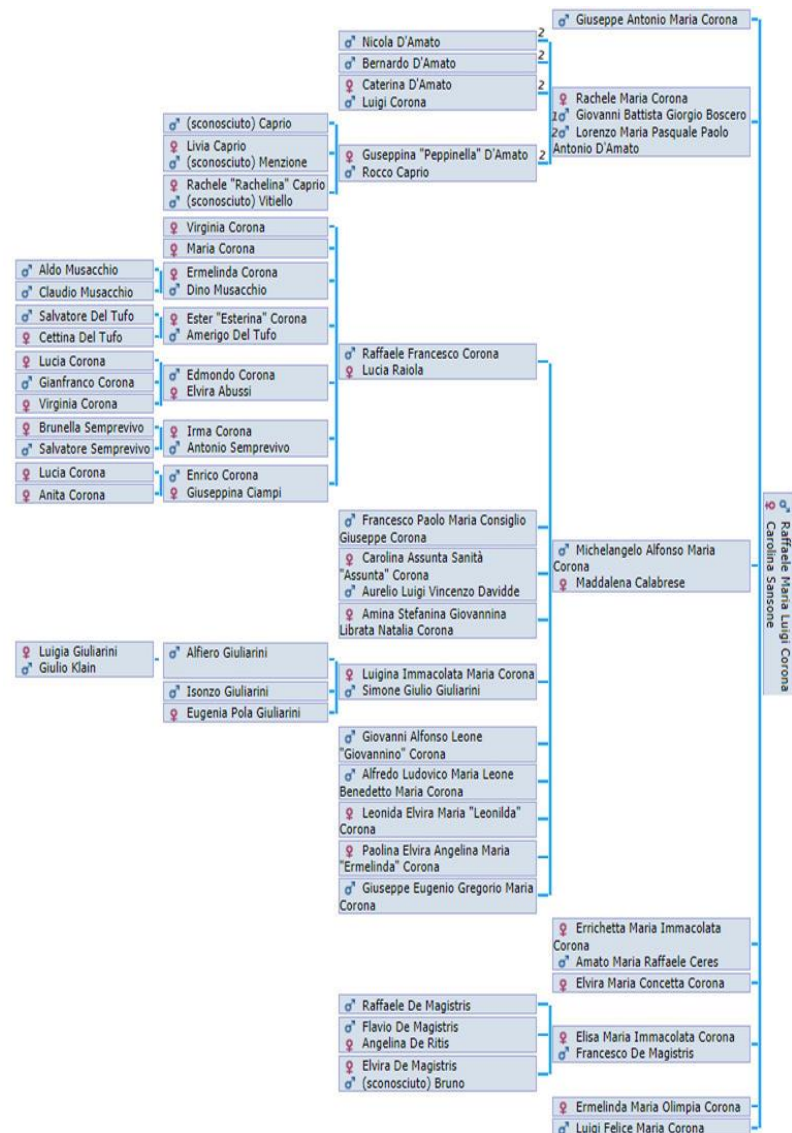
2. **Giuseppe Antonio Corona(C)**: the family palace, with time divided into various independent buildings, was in the intermediate area of via Pietraqueresima (now via Palladino). To give an idea, where was Dr. Enrico Corona. This branch is very numerous, and there are 4 main sub-branches (see graph):



C) lineage of Giuseppe Antonio Corona (~ 1786-1842), grandfather of "Pepp r' lu nutaru" (Giuseppe (son) of the notary)

○ don Michelangelo Corona, grandson of Giuseppe Antonio Corona (C): among the children he had Raffaele Corona, who lived in the USA for a certain period. Almost all of his children were born there, and he made a fortune. He was the father of Esterina Corona, the wife of Dr. Amerigo Del Tufo, and of Dr. Enrico Corona, whose love for music and technology I remember (in his studio in via Pietraqueresima I saw the first modem in action, one of those upon which the handset was placed, and which emitted incomprehensible sounds: it seemed like magic!). Another branch that originates from a daughter of Michelangelo, Luigina, is the Giuliarini one; her granddaughter Luigia, journalist and authoress who lives in Naples, inherited the name;

○ Errichetta Corona: Michelangelo's sister, she was the wife of Don Amato Ceres, whose palace was located in via Pietraqueresima, just above the studio of the Dr. Enrico Corona: you can still admire the beautiful portal in colored marble. The couple had no children, so Don Amato's Ceres branch, one of the wealthiest of the Ceres family, died out: he left a considerable sum to a religious institute, with the aim of improving the

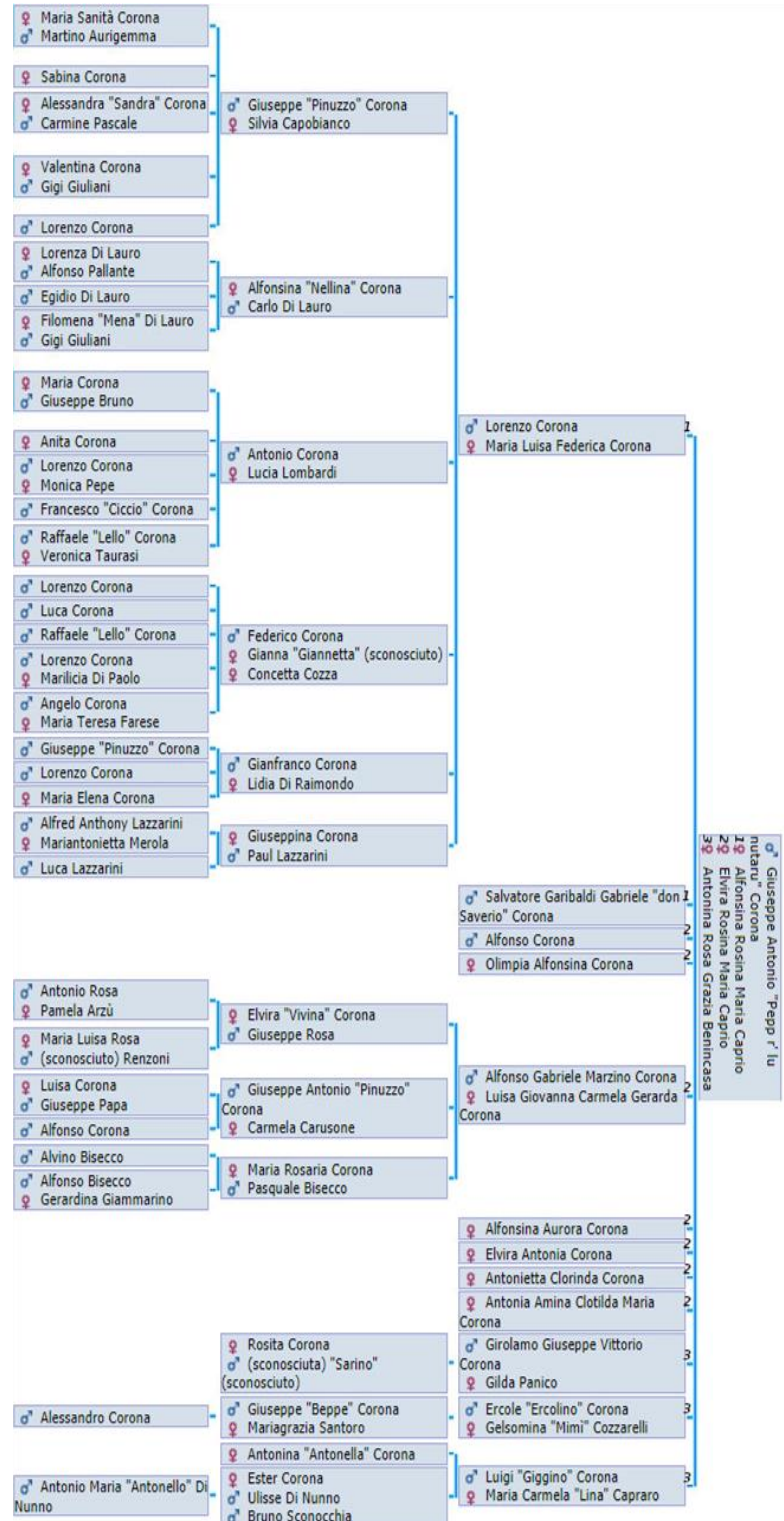


C1) partial chart of the descendants of Raffaele Maria Luigi Corona (1811-1877) and Carolina Sansone

education of the inhabitants of Caposele. In the end, the choice fell on the nuns who still live in Portella today, and who since then manage the kindergarten that I too attended many years ago. On the death of Don Amato, Errichetta lived with the nuns, at the Portella;

○ Clorinta Corona, daughter of Giuseppe Antonio Corona (C): she married the doctor Nicola Maria Fiore (from Teora, belonging to a wealthy family), and had a large descent, mainly in the USA, where her son Giovanni Vincenzo Fiore moved his residence. One of her daughters, Giuseppina, married in Caposele Francesco Caprio, known as "don Ciccio candy" because of the monocle he used to wear: among his descendants also Daniele Caprio, current president of the Pro Loco. In the USA, the memory of Giovanni Vincenzo Fiore is handed down by John Vincent Fiore, (Englishized) homonymous of his grandfather and great-great-grandfather;

○ Giuseppe Antonio "Pepp r 'lu nutaru", grandson of Giuseppe Antonio Corona (C), son of the last son Lorenzo Corona (1827-1904). The nickname was due to the fact that his father Lorenzo, like many representatives of this branch (in fact called "r 'li nutari" (of the notaries)), was a notary. His father Lorenzo, according to the strict rules of the majorascato, was destined for religious life or celibacy, and should not have married. Instead, he rebelled, and, leaving the family palace located in via Pietraqueresima at the height of Enrico Corona's medical office, but on the other side of the road, he was hosted by another family of Caposele, of the Caprio branch. Being in the family, he devoted himself to studying to become a notary and ended up marrying one of the daughters, Olimpia Caprio, over thirty years younger than him, in 1875. Despite the significant age difference, theirs was a happy marriage, and the family remembers the notary's great love for his young wife. The notary Lorenzo Corona bought the castle of Caposele around 1897 (starting from 22 December 1897 the notarial deeds are drawn up by him from that location). His family lived there for some time: he and his children lived there, and some grandchildren were born there (eg Don Saverio (b. 1902), whose real name was Salvatore). Already in 1899 a flood caused a landslide that



C2') partial graph of the descendants of Giuseppe Antonio "Pepp r 'lu nutaru" Corona (1878- ~ 1968) and sisters Alfonsina (first 2 children) and Elvira Caprio, and Antonina Benincasa (last 3 children)

ruined a wing of the castle. In fact, since February 1900 the notarial deeds are again drawn up in the office in via Pietraquaresima. The castle was not completely abandoned: one wing remained damaged, while a part remained fully usable. Unfortunately from that event began the decline of the castle, which still had the roof until the 1950s. The final ruin came with the 1980 earthquake, which almost entirely destroyed it. Their unique child, Giuseppe Antonio ("Pepp r lu nutaru", in fact) married three times (on the premature death of his first wife, Alfonsina Caprio, married his younger sister, Elvira, and finally the teacher Antonina Benincasa), and had numerous sons. At this point in the lineage, the Corona family from two different lineages joined: two sons of Don Peppe 'r lu Nutaro (Lorenzo and Alfonso) married two of the daughters of Don Peppe' r li Silùca (Maria and Luisa): among their children, Nellina (wife of the former didactic director Carlo Di Lauro) and Antonio Corona (former mayor); Pinuzzo (cardiologist), architect Maria Rosaria and Prof. Elvira, known as Vivina, who taught literary subjects in Caposele for several years. Among the other descendants, his son Ercolino Corona, father of the lawyer Beppe Corona.

The Corona family from Caposele is very large: I thank all those who helped me in this research: in addition to John Rendfrey for the precious studies on Solofra and Teora, I quote lawyer Antonio Corona, lawyer Beppe Corona, Lello Corona (son) of Antonio, Lucia Corona, Luigia Giuliarini Klain, Luisa Corona, Maria Rosaria Corona, Salvatore Corona of Lorenzo, John Vincent Fiore. Indirectly, for the work he did many years ago in reconstructing the various branches of the Corona family and fixing them on paper, Giuseppe Eugenio Gregorio Corona. He, the last son of Don Michelangelo Corona, was a Redemptorist father in Marianella, and it is said that he prepared this family tree to show that his nephew Enrico Corona and his future wife Giuseppina Ciampi belonged to two distinct branches of the Corona family (in fact, Enrico heads to the founder Salvatore, Giuseppina - Siluca branch – to Giosafatta). Certainly some people are missing from the graphs (in addition to the last generations that I had to exclude for reasons of space): I apologize in advance; I will continue to correct the tree online following reports that may come after the publication of the article.

You can contribute to the growth of Caposele's family tree:

- *by emailing me at pasquale_c@hotmail.com*
- *on Facebook group "Genealogia caposelese"*
- *by registering on the site containing the navigable tree (<http://ars.altervista.org/PhpGedView/index.php>), contributing directly to data entry*



The family of Giuseppe Antonio Corona "don Pepe r 'lu nutaru" in the Corona garden.

From the left, above, there are several children from the 2 previous wives: Lorenzo Corona (father of the former mayor Avv. Antonio Corona), Elvira, Alfonso (father of the cardiologist "Pinuzzo" Corona), Olimpia, Salvatore (known to Caposele as "Don Saverio").

In the center, seated, from the left: Olimpia Caprio, mother of Don Pepe r 'lu Nutaro, the head of the family Don Pepe, and his third wife, the teacher Antonina Benincasa. The elderly lady on the far right was the maid (I could not identify her).

Below, from the left, Antonina's three small children: Ercole (called Ercolino), Luigi (called Giggino) and Girolamo (who was a great Greek scholar and wrote many books, including one on Caposelese toponyms).

In this photo the family celebrated the victory of Don Pepe in the target shooting competition that was held at the church of San Vito on the occasion of the feast for the saint. While the women and children were dedicated to the traditional 3 laps around the rock on which the church is built, the men were dedicated to target shooting from the early hours of the morning. Don Pepe (who built the bullets himself, in his laboratory located in a wing of the castle, and was an excellent shooter) took it easy, went up to San Vito in the late morning, and often managed to hit the target that no one had yet managed to grasp. The prize was the target (in the center of the photo!), Which he brought back to the village hanging from his rifle as a trophy.



The family of Giuseppe Antonio Corona "Don Pepp r 'li Silùca", in a photo taken in Materdomini during a religious holiday.

From left, standing: Maria Corona (daughter) and 2 family friends.

Seated in the second row: Giocondo Corona (son), unidentified, Luisa Corona (daughter), Giuseppe Antonio Corona and Giulia Caprio (sister-in-law, brother's wife, doctor Enzo Corona)

Seated forward: Lorenzo Corona "r 'li nutari" (son-in-law, husband of Maria), "Lorenzino" Corona (son), the dog Argo and a woman who lived



Doctor Enrico Corona (1929-2013) as a child, in the chair. Beside his eldest brother, Edmondo, and, probably, two other sisters, perhaps Irma is the younger one.



Doctor Lorenzo "Enzo" Corona, brother of Giuseppe Antonio "r 'li Silùca": lu mierucu r' li Siluca (1869-?)



Portrait of Raffaele Corona (C1), lawyer, father of Don Michelangelo



Don Michelangelo Corona with his eldest son, Raffaele