

The Mazzariello family of Caposele

First traces in Caposele of the surname Mazzariello

The diffusion of the surname Mazzariello is quite concentrated in Campania, mainly in the provinces of Naples and Salerno, with a limited diffusion in Lombardy, in Milan, probably due to immigration.

Currently the Mazzariello surname is present in Caposele, although it is not particularly widespread due to the fact that many branches have emigrated elsewhere. It is not known how the surname came to our town: the presence is ancient, the progenitor must have arrived well before the 18th century. In fact, in the index of the notary records of Marino Corvi (around 1630) 3 or 4 families are already identified: they must all be connected to each other going back in time, but a connection has not yet been identified.

The various branches up to the 19th century

Out of the various Mazzariello families present in Caposele at the beginning of the 1600s, only one still has descendants in Caposele: the first certain person to whom this branch can be traced back is Antonio Mazzariello (b. ~1672), father of Giuseppe and grandfather of Adone (b. ~1734). The name Adone is important for the Mazzariello family, as it is the one that occurs frequently in subsequent generations. With Adone' nephew, his namesake but born in 1814, the branch bifurcated, as two of his sons gave rise to the two main branches still present in Caposele:

- **Donato Mazzariello A** (1878-1945): his son, his namesake, Donato Mazzariello (1923-2011), belongs to this branch. He was a trade unionist, secretary of the Caposele PCI section, and vice mayor for many years. The figure of him, for decades a point of reference for the communists and in general for the agricultural world of Caposele, has been discussed in the past in other articles in this magazine. The family home was in Montemaggiore (a rural area within Caposele territory), along the uphill road that starts from Ponte Minuto. Other brothers of his emigrated to the Neapolitan area, where his descendants live.
- **Adone Mazzariello B** (1884-1964): with him the Mazzariello “r'Ardonu” (of Ardonu) branch was born. I assume the nickname comes from the name: Adone → Adonu → Ardonu. I succeeded in recovering some family memories of him. Tobacco has always been a handy pleasure for many, and Adone also loved smoking. But after the war there was poverty and money circulated less: he willingly gave away eggs for tobacco. In fact, it was a widespread custom to exchange products from the countryside in order to purchase other goods.

Among his descendants, the largest branch, which remained in Caposele, is that of his eldest son Gelsomino Vincenzo (1906-1987), known as "Vicienzu r'Ardonu". He had ten children (Rocco, Angelo, Maria, Alfonso, Raffaele, Salvatore, Gerardo, Lorenzo, Giuseppina, Valentino), many of whom were named after his more unfortunate brothers, who died at an early age. Each of them had descendants, even in Caposele. Of Gelsomino's 10 children only three remain alive: Salvatore, resident in Vasto; Lorenzo, resident in Saltrio; Giuseppina, resident in Eboli.

There is also a funny anecdote about Gelsomino Vincenzo, which gives a glimpse of how traditions and habits change over time, to make way for progress. In the 60s and 70s he still went to the countryside using the donkey as a transport tool, to help carry heavy loads (fruit, etc.). Gelsomino went to sell fruit to Andretta with the "ciucciu a capezza" (that is, the donkey carried the load, and the owner walked on foot and guided it using the reins). At that time, for a healthy person, walking long distances (from Caposele to Andretta there are about twenty km) was normal, and not an exceptional performance to be passed down to posterity complete with a post on Facebook. Once he reached the woods between Ponte Sele and Sant'Andrea, he was stopped repeatedly: to pass he had to pay a "toll", that is, leave part of the load. No longer wanting to submit to this abuse, he decided to buy a Lambretta, considering it a more suitable means of escaping from thieves. Alas, the thief's profession has also evolved, and today the motor vehicle is no longer a defense against theft.

One of Gelsomino's sons, Alfonso, a bricklayer, at the beginning of the summer of 1981 (not yet a year had passed since the 1980 earthquake) was the victim of a serious accident that shook the community, and which left him paralyzed just as his wife was pregnant with a month of the second daughter.

Another of Gelsomino's sons (the youngest), Valentino (known as "Carminucciu r'Ardonu", as his full name was Valentino Carmine), had an accident in the countryside which almost had a tragic outcome. While he was on an olive tree intent on harvesting olives and pruning it, a hunter stationed on his land assumed from the movement of the branches that there was a bird, and shot him. Fortunately, the distance was such that the shot was not lethal, so that Valentino, despite feeling the push of the pellets, enough to make him fall from the tree, was not injured. Even the fall from the tree had no consequences, so we can remember this episode with a certain lightness of spirit. The perpetrator of the crime, however, terrified of having made a tragic mistake, found nothing better than to flee, so he remained anonymous. One can imagine with what fervor, from then on (this occurred in the '83 - '84 hunting season), Valentino invited the occasional hunters who passed by and who found an excellent hunting area in his land to leave. hunting, either because of the particular shape that attracted the birds, or because there were bushes and shrubs that allowed one to lurk unseen, waiting for the unfortunate bird to pass by. Can we blame him? The tradition of considering that land off-limits to hunters has continued to this day: whenever there are activities taking place on the land, e.g. for the harvest of the olive trees, they are invited to go out.

The name Adone apparently disappears in recent generations, but in reality it has undergone a transformation, probably driven by an evolution in its pronunciation: already on the tombstone of Adone B (1884-1964) the name Oddone is erroneously reported, and his first nephew, son of Gelsomino, was called Odone Rocco.

In the previous analysis of the main branches, as always I focused only on the male lines, to follow the surname. The QR codes point to the corresponding branch in the online tree. To view them correctly you will need to register. At that point it will be possible to consult the complete graph, also containing the latest and previous generations.

I thank John Rendfrey and Ignacio La Manna for their help in reconstructing the older generations, based on the analysis of Caposele's notarial deeds. I also thank the people who provided me with information to reconstruct the most recent generations, in particular Gerardo Antonio, Giuseppina and Salvatore Mazzariello, Donato Cifrodelli, and Salvatore Conforti for the photo of Donato Mazzariello with Enrico Berlinguer. Anyone wishing to report any shortcomings or inaccuracies can contact me as indicated below:

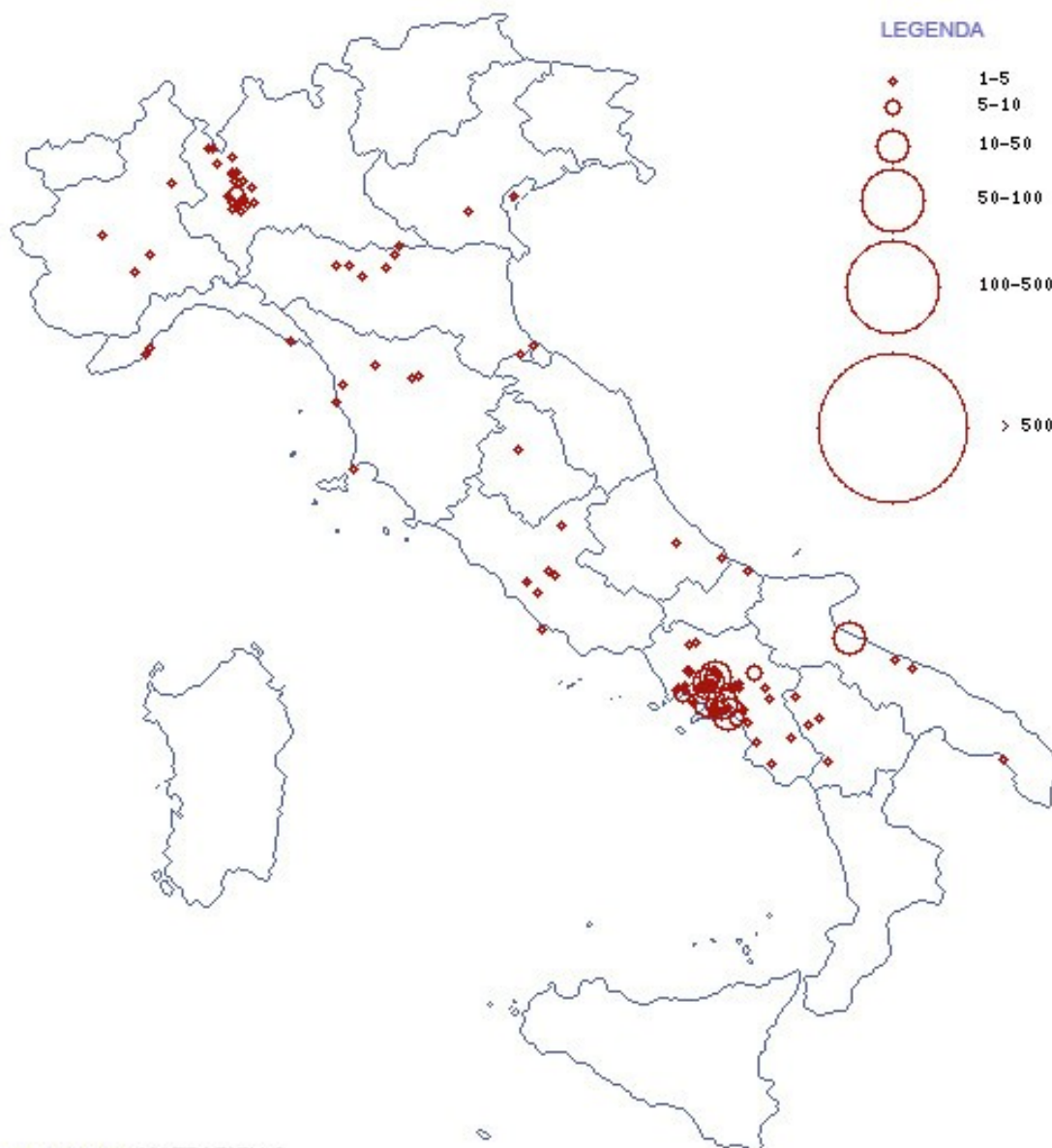
- by email at the address pasquale_c@hotmail.com
- on Facebook group "Genealogia caposelese"
- by registering on the website containing the browseable online tree (<http://ars.altervista.org/PhpGedView/index.php>),

and directly contributing to data entry. The QR codes inserted in the graphs point to the corresponding branch in the online tree. To view them correctly you will need to register.

Foto

Priorità foto e didascalie da usare

1. file: diffusione_Mazzariello_Italia.jpg



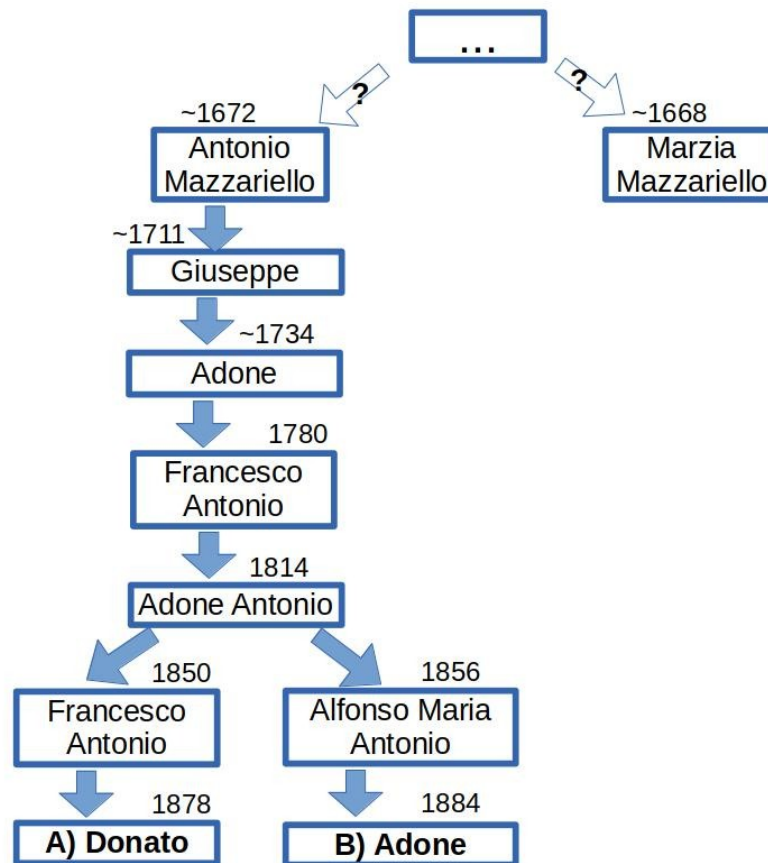
Cognome: MAZZARIELLO

Presente in 114 comuni

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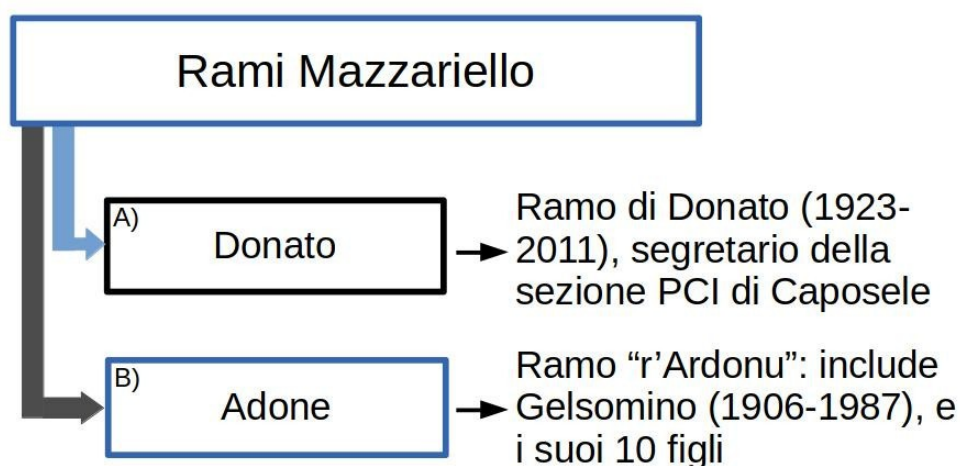
Spread of the Mazzariello surname in Italy: notable concentration in Campania (Naples, Salerno), and lesser concentration in Lombardy (Milan)

2. file: graph_articolo_1_origini.jpg



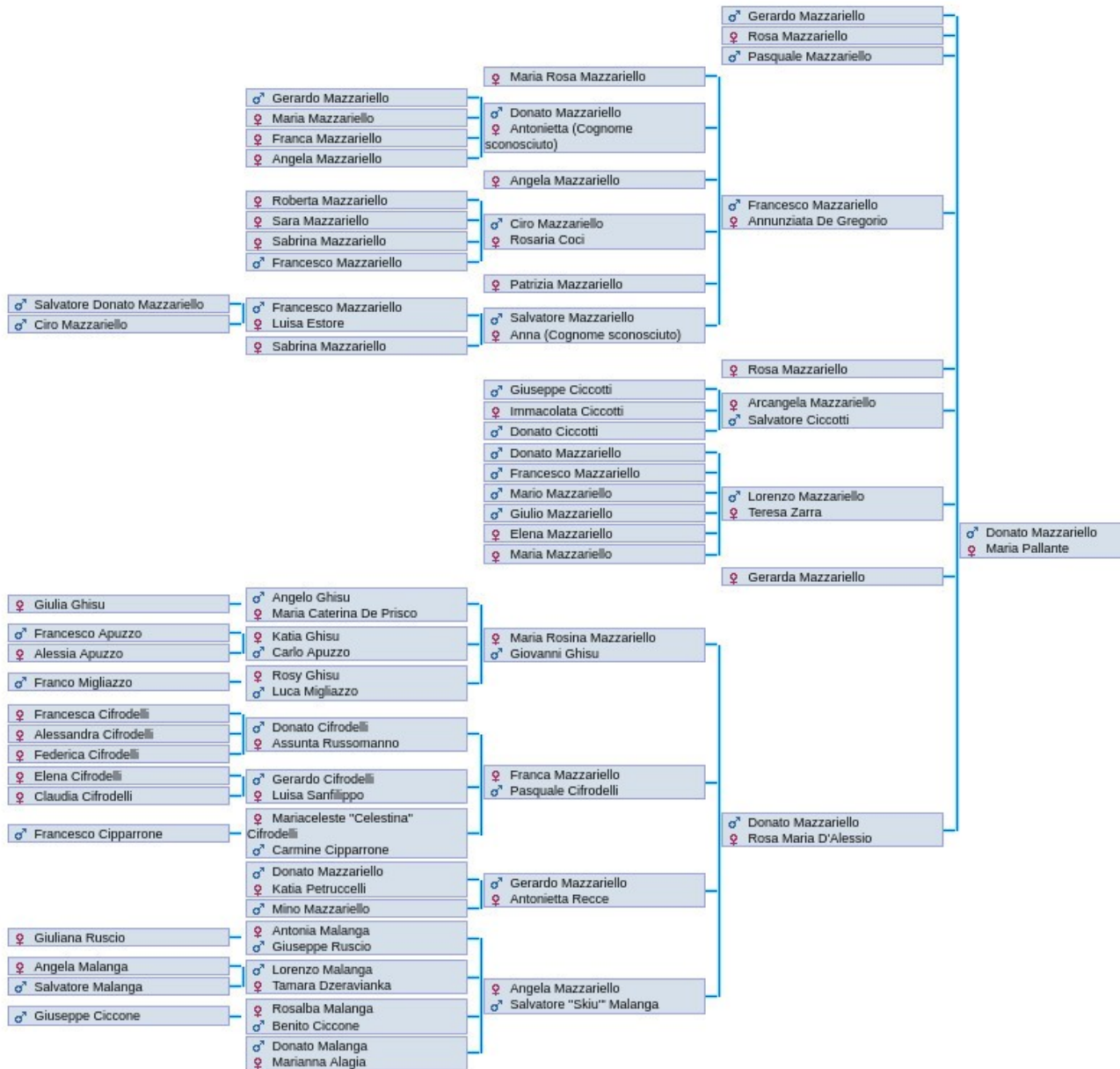
The origins of the Mazzariello family in Caposele

3. file: graph_articolo_2_rami.jpg



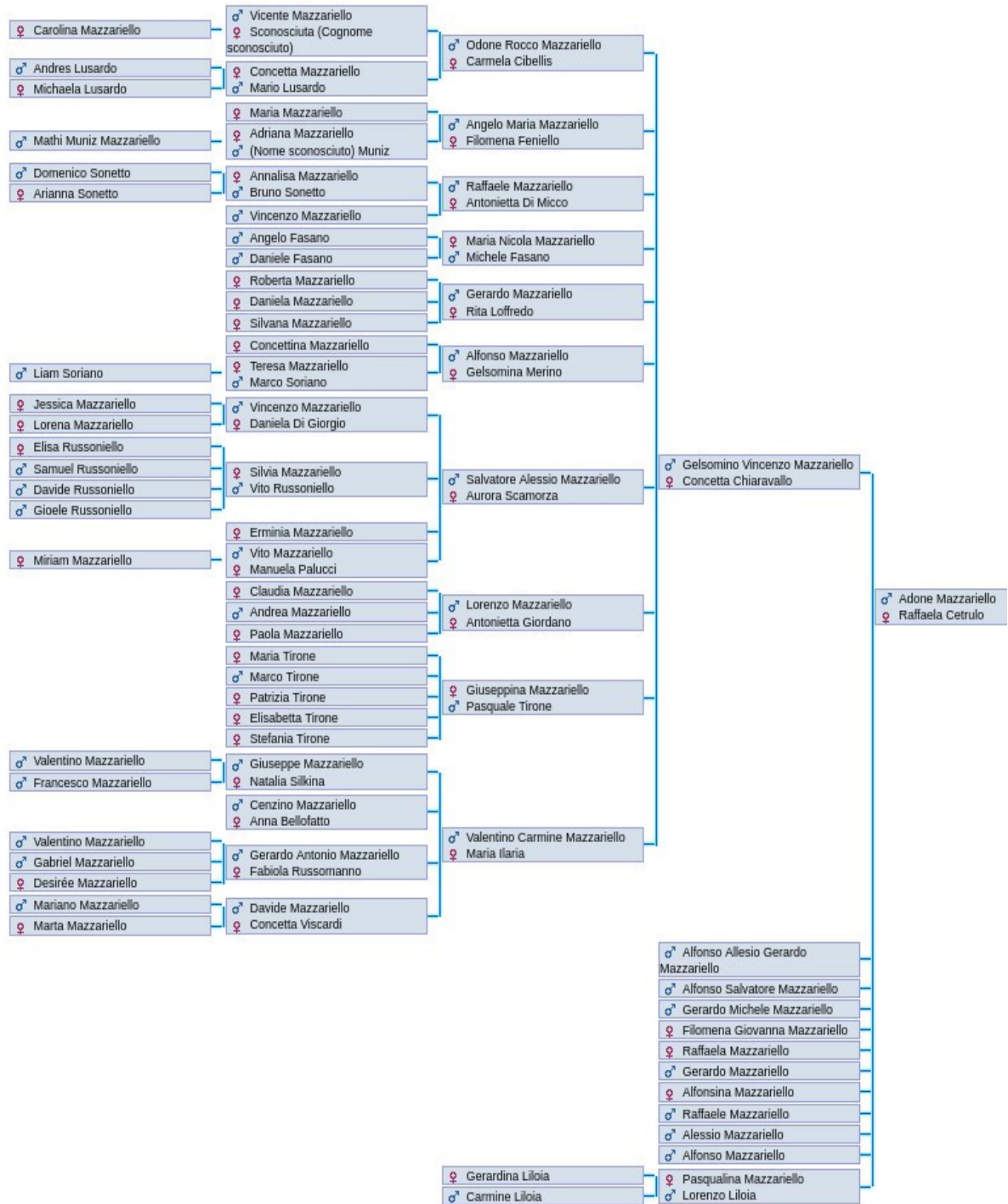
The 2 branches present in Caposele in the mid-19th century, on which all those currently present in Caposele depend

4. file: A_I19887_desc.jpg



A) Branch of Donato Mazzariello (1878-1945)

5. file: B_I19923_desc.jpg



B) Branch of Adone Mazzariello (1884-1964)

6. file:

MazzBerling.jpg



Donato Mazzariello (1923-2011), at the time secretary of the local section of the Italian Communist Party, accompanies Enrico Berlinguer through the streets of Caposele a few days after the earthquake of 23 November 1980. With him we recognize Eng. Nicola Conforti and Peppino Curcio

7. file:

DonMazzPCI.jpg



Donato Mazzariello (1923-2011) trade unionist and secretary of the PCI section of Caposele, vice mayor for several years

8. file: AdoneMazz1884.jpg



B) Adone Mazzariello (1884-1964)

9. file: GelsVincMazz.jpg



Gelsomino Vincenzo Mazzariello (1906-1987)

10.file: ChiaravConc.jpg



Concetta Chiaravallo (1913-1985), wife of Gelsomino Vincenzo

11.file: ValMazz_I13319.jpg



Valentino Mazzariello (1955-2023)

12.file: QR_tree_Donato_I19887.jpg



QR code linking to the online tree of Donato Mazzariello (1878-1945)

13.file: QR_tree_Adone_I19923.jpg



QR code linking to the online tree of Adone Mazzariello (1884-1964)