

On November 26, 1994, Rick Barnes recorded his Mom, Patty Smith Barnes talk about the Baroni family of Italy. Her memory is impeccable, although I did discover a few discrepancies. I was able to share 90% of my findings with her before her death. I thought you all might be interested... so here are my non fact-checked notes of her oral history video. I'll see if I can get the full video posted at some point. Any of this sound familiar?

Anthony or Antonio was really Angelo Antonio Baroni

Jean was actually Giale Bottoli

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About Anthony and Jean...

Jean and Antonio were committed to marriage at age 11 by the two families.

The marriage took place in the late teens or early 20's.

Anthony Baroni was a Captain in the Italian Navy.

Became a wine merchant between America and Italy.

Anthony traveled all over the US selling wines.

Met Mr. Welch of the Welch Grape Juice business.

Mr. Welsh wanted Anthony to invest in the non-alcoholic grape juice business.

Anthony dies at age 39.

The family did not officially immigrate until after Anthony's death.

Jean decided that because their fatherless children were so Americanized, that they would do better by settling in the US.

Also, WWI played a role in staying in the US.

About Anthony Baron...

Lucy Baroni was married to a cruel man named Baroni

They had two sons

She was beaten by her husband

She left and became a housekeeper for an Italian Duke. She was still married.

His name was Belesario, from Sicily.

She claims that the Duke raped her. She became pregnant with Antonio Angelo Baroni.

She went back to her husband with the three boys and said she would live with him, but the illegitimate Anthony would be raised as a Baroni.

After Anthony's death in 1913...

After his father died, Buck went to the great lakes to seek a job on the steamers of the Great Lakes.

Marie was modeling and working in a dress store in New York.

Jean was finishing school and then worked in Library and department store.

Stephanie was working at a department store.

Waddy was still young and in school.

Later, Jean Baron (wife of Anthony)...

She did her best to keep the family together, but Bucks's death was the beginning of the family not seeing each other so often.

Died at the age of 83.

Later, Michael Baron..

Uncle Buck came back from the Great Lakes and married Vera.

Wonderful man. Fond memories of him.

He had two boys, Gene and Harvey Baron

Doesn't know how he got the name "Buck".

Was a newspaper photographer.

In 1936, got a medal for the best picture. Morro Castle fire.

Got cancer. Died early.

His funeral was at Ignatius Loyola in NYC. It was filled with dignitaries.

Later, Jean Baron (daughter of Jean and Anthony)....

Met and married Frank Smith, a Chief Petty Officer in the Navy, just after WWI

Aunt Steve met another navy man who worked himself up to the rank of Rear Admiral.

Frank and Jean had three daughters: Marie, Patricia, and Eileen. Lived in Stamford CT

All three kids went to Canada boarding school. Saint Hyacinths

Later, Marie...

Marie Baron met Jacob Schlick who she married. He always bragged that he would make something famous. (Thus the Schick Razor.)

Schick said he would always take care of Mother Baron and the family

Aunt Marie became friendly with a stockbroker of Crum and Foster Insurance Company.. the Last name Parsons.

Parson and Marie became lovers.

Then met Luis Scherer,. His family was living in Spain.

Luis Grandfather was head of the palace guard in Mexico City.

After the Mexican revolution, Luis's family went to Spain.

Marie met Luis at a basketball game. Lived nearby.

Luis always worked hard and had lots of money.

Luis had a motel and formed the 200 cottages

Was involved in the Chamber of Commerce.

Helped develop the area into a vacation destination

Luis was the first Mayor of Daytona Shores.

Cousins stayed together until Aunt Marie died.

Someone in the family influenced Marie and had her re-write her will causing a family spat.

Later, Steve....

Married Alton Sessions.

Had three children: Dorothy, Barbara. Stephen.

Rear-Admiral of a bunch of Destroyer escorts

Later Waddy..

Met Uncle Dimitri Nimidoff on a trip to Europe.

They were married in 1928/29.

They had two children: Joseph and Cynthia.

Waddy and Dimi drifted apart in 1853 but remained friendly for the children's sake.

Uncle Dimi worked for Otis elevator.

Made head man of subway project in Moscow. He and Waddy spent several years there.

Russians pressured Dimi for the plans of the Otis elevators. Did not give them up.

Bought up lots of jewels in Russia and brought them back to America.

About Jeans Siblings...

Mimi married Nels Hallstrom (Whitey).

Had two sons. Nelson and Brian.

Was very generous to the family.

Mimi died at an early age from lung cancer.

Eileen had four children.

Addendum...

Did not realize she was Italian until 11 years old.

Grandma took her Patty to Greenwich Village.

Started speaking Italian at an Italian deli/meat store, surprising her.

“We are from Northern Italy. NOT SOUTHERN ITALIAN!”