

SANFELICE-SANTONASTASO

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Gabriele Sanfelice and his wife **Vittoria Santonastaso** lived in Baychester from 1917 until they died. They first lived at **2226 Baychester Avenue**, where they had four children. When New York City took the houses on a section of Baychester Avenue for the expansion of Bruckner Boulevard/New England Thruway, the house at 2226 Baychester Avenue was moved to **2211 DeReimer Avenue** in the late 1930s.

Gabriele Sanfelice was born in San Prisco, Caserta, Italy on February 13, 1888¹. His parents were Italians **Giovanni (John) Sanfelice** and **Anna Ricciardi**. He was the third of twelve children. The Sanfelice family immigrated to New York at different times. Father **Giovanni Sanfelice** immigrated first but was turned back for medical reasons. Then **Gabriele Sanfelice** immigrated alone when he was 15 years old in 1903, arriving in Boston, Massachusetts². It cost less money to take a ship to Boston than to New York. Once he was established, Gabriele's parents and siblings eventually immigrated to New York as well. By 1910 Gabriele, his parents and his siblings were living together in the Bronx at 2416 Hughes Avenue³.

Vittora Santonastaso was born in Casagiove, Caserta, Italy on June 3, 1891. Her parents were Italians **Michele Santonastaso** and **Maria Pezzella**. Vittoria was the third of five children born to Maria Pezzella, her father's second wife. The Santonastaso family immigrated to New York at different times, father Michele being the first in 1899. His wife Maria came later, as did Vittoria's siblings. Vittoria came last, immigrating in 1911, one year after her father died.

On August 4, 1912 **Gabriele Sanfelice** and **Vittoria Santonastaso** were married in the Bronx⁴. After marriage they moved to 2423 Belmont Avenue, where their first two children, Anna and John, were born⁵. Later the family moved to 2226 Baychester Avenue, where the next two children, Emma and Ralph, were born⁶. They had a total of four children. At different times,

¹ 1888 Birth Registration, San Prisco, Caserta, Campania, Italy; FHL Film #1802294, birth cert. no. 30.

² Book Indexes to Boston Passenger Lists, 1899-1940, SS Cabroman, Oct. 31, 1903.

³ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X39X-VW6> : accessed 7 June 2019), Gabriele Sanfelice in household of Giovanni Sanfelice, Bronx Assembly District 34, New York, New York, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 1586, sheet 9B, family 142, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 1002; FHL microfilm 1,375,015.

⁴ "New York, New York City Marriage Records, 1829-1940," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:2444-V3Y> : 10 February 2018), Gabriele Saufelice and Vittoria Santonastasio, 04 Aug 1912; citing Marriage, Bronx, New York, New York, United States, New York City Municipal Archives, New York; FHL microfilm 1,940,524.

⁵ New York State Census, 1915, Bronx, New York.

⁶ "United States Census, 1920," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MJPZ-R4G> : accessed 7 June 2019), Gabriela Sanfelice, Bronx Assembly District 6, Bronx, New York, United States; citing ED 358, sheet 3A, line 53, family 40, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 1139; FHL microfilm 1,821,139.

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various Sanfelice family members lived with Gabriele and Vittoria. For awhile even his best friend and co-worker **John Gallano** lived with him at 2226 Baychester Avenue. By 1925 John Gallano moved to 2305 Boller Avenue (see "Gallano-Buongiorno" biography.)

Gabriele worked as a rock driller to support his family. He and Vittoria were known for their frequent parties in their back yard, with extended families and neighbors. Gabriele grew grapes on an arbor in the back yard, from which he made red wine and grape jelly. They kept small animals, such as ducks and chickens, for eggs and, eventually, for meat. The fig tree Gabriele lovingly maintained produced abundant, delicious, juicy figs. Vittoria maintained a vegetable garden. Her home-made macaroni and tomato sauce were unbeatable.

The house was a 2-3 family house. When daughter **Anna Sanfelice** married **Louis Saggese**, they stayed in the house and raised their family (see "Saggese-Sanfelice" biography.) When son **John Sanfelice** married **Lottie Santomassimo** they moved elsewhere. When daughter **Emma Sanfelice** married **William Vernon**, she traveled with her sailor husband wherever the US Navy moved them; upon her return to the Bronx in 1951 she moved in with her two children into her parents' house. When son **Ralph Sanfelice** married **Elizabeth Polman**, they moved elsewhere.

Vittoria (Santonastaso) Sanfelice was the first to pass away, on May 24, 1953, in the Bronx. She was buried in St. Raymond's Cemetery in the Bronx, New York⁷. **Gabriele Sanfelice** joined her eleven years later on May 7, 1964⁸. He, too, died in the Bronx and was buried in St. Raymond's Cemetery⁹.

⁷ Find A Grave Memorial 50043600

⁸ "United States Social Security Death Index," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VSNH-829> : 20 May 2014), Gabriele Sanfelice, May 1964; citing U.S. Social Security Administration, Death Master File, database (Alexandria, Virginia: National Technical Information Service, ongoing).

⁹ Find A Grave Memorial# 50043612