

# SANTOMASSIMO-PLUSENSKY

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Updated 2019 November 10

**Joseph Rafael Santomassimo** is the patriarch of the Baychester Santomassimo family. Joseph was born in New York City on February 13, 1884, the first of five known children of Italian immigrant **Raffaele Santomassimo** and New York born Italian **Sarafino Emiro**.<sup>1</sup> His siblings are **Guglielmo (William) Santomassimo** (b. 1885), **Mary Rose Santomassimo** (1891-1957), **Fity (Fred) Santomassimo** (b. 1893), and **Raffaele (Ralph) Santomassimo** (b. 1897).

Joseph grew up in Manhattan, and continued to live in Manhattan after his marriage to **Susie Plusensky** on September 4, 1906 in Manhattan, New York City, New York. **Susie Plusensky** was born in 1887 in Austria, daughter of Hungarian parents **Simon Michael Plusensky** and **Anna Klander**.<sup>1</sup> She immigrated to New York in 1903. Susie was the first of seven children.

Joseph and Susie had four children while living in Manhattan, New York. They were **Amelia (1907-1985)**, **Lottie (1908-1995)**, **Lillian (b. 1914)**, and **Arthur (1916-1972)**.<sup>2</sup> In the early 1930s Joseph and Susie moved to Baychester, renting a house at **2230 Boller Avenue**.<sup>3</sup> Three of their four children moved with them: Amelia, Lottie and Arthur; Lottie was already married and living elsewhere.<sup>4</sup> In 1910 Joseph supported his growing family as a laborer in a paper box factory. By 1930 he was a sweeper for NY Sanitation<sup>5</sup>.

In 1940, children Lottie, Lottie's daughter, and Arthur were living with them, and Amelia and Lillian were not<sup>6</sup>. In 1942 Joseph was still working for NY Sanitation<sup>7</sup>. On October 28, 1943, wife

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<sup>1</sup> "New York Marriages, 1686-1980," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/F6Q5-VBV> : 10 February 2018), Joseph Santomassimo and Susie Plusensky, 04 Sep 1906; citing reference ; FHL microfilm 1,558,671.

<sup>2</sup> "United States Census, 1920," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/MJYK-D9H> : accessed 9 August 2018), Joseph Massimo, Manhattan Assembly District 6, New York, New York, United States; citing ED 503, sheet 16A, line 26, family 324, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 1196; FHL microfilm 1,821,196.

<sup>3</sup> "United States Census, 1940," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/KQM8-6VY> : accessed 4 July 2018), Joseph R Santomassimo, Assembly District 6, Bronx, New York City, Bronx, New York, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 3-788, sheet 2B, line 41, family 37, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, NARA digital publication T627. Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790 - 2007, RG 29. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2012, roll 2480.

<sup>4</sup> "United States Census, 1930," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/X4KR-Y38> : accessed 8 August 2018), Joseph Samtomisano, Manhattan (Districts 0001-0250), New York, New York, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 209, sheet 2B, line 56, family 54, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1555; FHL microfilm 2,341,290.

<sup>5</sup> "United States Census, 1910," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/M5MT-3HC> : accessed 8 August 2018), Joseph Santamassinea, Manhattan Ward 15, New York, New York, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 813, sheet 6B, family 120, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 1030; FHL microfilm 1,375,043.

<sup>6</sup> "United States Census, 1940," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/KQM8-6VY> : accessed 4 July 2018), Joseph R Santomassimo, Assembly District 6, Bronx, New York City, Bronx, New York, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 3-788, sheet 2B, line 41, family 37, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, NARA digital publication T627. Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790 - 2007, RG 29. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2012, roll 2480.

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Susie passed away in Copaigue, Suffolk, New York. Joseph died 13 years later in 1956; both are buried in Calvary Cemetery in Woodside, Queens, New York in a large **Santomassimo** family burial plot. (The gravestone misspelled the last name.)<sup>8</sup>

Daughter **Amelia Santomassimo** was born on June 11, 1907 in Manhattan, New York<sup>9</sup>. She first married **George Allen Hodgkinson**<sup>10</sup>, and second **Charles Fasig**. Her story is separately listed. (See Santomassimo-Hodgkinson-Fasig)

Daughter **Lottie Santomassimo** was born on August 7, 1908 in Manhattan, New York. She grew up in Manhattan. Lottie had three marriages: first to **Ernest Del Riccio**, with whom she had a daughter. Lottie married Ernest on October 7, 1928 in Manhattan, New York<sup>11</sup>. Their daughter was born in 1932 in New York City. Lottie and Ernest Del Riccio divorced. Following her divorce, Lottie and her daughter moved in with Lottie's parents in Baychester<sup>4</sup>. Lottie's second marriage was to Baychester neighbor **John Sanfelice** in 1950 in Manhattan<sup>12</sup>. That marriage also ended in divorce in 1957<sup>13</sup>. Lottie's third marriage was to **William Postens** in 1962<sup>14</sup>. That marriage also

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<sup>7</sup> "United States World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/F3J8-QZW> : 8 November 2017), Joseph Raphael Santomassimo, 1942; citing NARA microfilm publication M1936, M1937, M1939, M1951, M1962, M1964, M1986, M2090, and M2097 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

<sup>8</sup> BillionGraves.com

<sup>9</sup> "United States Social Security Death Index," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/VMK1-CJ8> : 19 May 2014), Amelia Fasig, Nov 1985; citing U.S. Social Security Administration, Death Master File, database (Alexandria, Virginia: National Technical Information Service, ongoing).

<sup>10</sup> "New York, New York City Marriage Records, 1829-1940," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/247G-M7M> : 10 February 2018), George A. Hodgkinson and Amelia H. Massimo, 05 May 1926; citing Marriage, Manhattan, New York, New York, United States, New York City Municipal Archives, New York; FHL microfilm 1,643,706.

<sup>11</sup> "New York, New York City Marriage Records, 1829-1940," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/24WR-XD2> : 10 February 2018), Ernest Del Riccio and Lottie Santomassimo, 07 Oct 1928; citing Marriage, Manhattan, New York, New York, United States, New York City Municipal Archives, New York; FHL microfilm 1,653,419.

<sup>12</sup> "New York, New York City Marriage Licenses Index, 1950-1995," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/QLSR-8951> : 19 June 2017), John Sanfelice and Lottie Santomassimo, 1950, Manhattan, New York City, New York, United States; Marriage, Manhattan, New York City, New York, United States, from Reclaim the Records, The NYC Marriage Index (<http://www.nycmarriageindex.com> : 2016); citing New York City Clerk's Office.

<sup>13</sup> "Florida Divorce Index, 1927-2001," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/VK72-4YY> : 25 December 2014), John Sanfelice and Lottie Sanfelice, Dec 1957; from "Florida Divorce Index, 1927-2001," database and images, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 2005); citing St. Johns, Florida, certificate 18611, volume 810, Florida Department of Health, Jacksonville.

<sup>14</sup> "New York, New York City Marriage Licenses Index, 1950-1995," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLST-FPV3> : 19 June 2017), William Postens and Lottie Santomassimo, 1962, Bronx, New York City, New York, United States; Marriage, Bronx, New York City, New York, United States, from Reclaim the Records, The NYC Marriage Index (<http://www.nycmarriageindex.com> : 2016); citing New York City Clerk's Office.

## SANTOMASSIMO-PLUSENSKY

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ended in divorce. Lottie died on March 1, 1995<sup>15</sup> and is buried in the family plot in Calvary Cemetery, Woodside, Queens, New York<sup>8</sup>.

Daughter **Lillian Santomassimo** was born in 1914 in Manhattan, New York. She grew up in Manhattan through 1930<sup>4</sup>. Nothing is known of her after 1930 in Manhattan. She did not move into Baychester.

Son **Arthur W. Santomassimo** was born in New York City, New York on November 2, 1916<sup>16</sup>, the last of four children. When living in Baychester, Arthur became a good friend of neighbor John Sanfelice, who became his brother-in-law when his sister Lottie married **John Sanfelice**. Arthur, in his youth, dated **Emma Sanfelice**<sup>17</sup>, the sister of **John Sanfelice**. The Sanfelice family also lived in Baychester, two blocks away. Arthur was employed as a tennis racket stringer in 1940<sup>6</sup>, and enlisted in the Army in 1942. He apparently never married. He died in March 1972<sup>16</sup> and is buried in the family plot in Calvary Cemetery, Woodside, Queens, New York<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>15</sup> "United States Social Security Death Index," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/VM23-V2H> : 20 May 2014), LOTTIE POSTENS, 01 Mar 1995; citing U.S. Social Security Administration, Death Master File, database (Alexandria, Virginia: National Technical Information Service, ongoing).

<sup>16</sup> "United States Social Security Death Index," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/JT1C-5Y4> : 20 May 2014), Arthur Santomassimo, Mar 1972; citing U.S. Social Security Administration, Death Master File, database (Alexandria, Virginia: National Technical Information Service, ongoing).

<sup>17</sup> Conversation with Emma Sanfelice