

The Voyage of the Vescio Family

In the spring of 1910, Pasquale Vescio stood on the deck of a large ship, the salt air of the Atlantic Ocean filling his lungs. Beside him stood his wife, Angelina, holding the hands of their three children: Pete, who was 12, Pauline, 9, and little Anna, who they affectionately called Tanny, at 7. Their journey had begun in the sun-drenched hills of Calabria, where Pasquale, a skilled shoe cobbler, had worked tirelessly to provide for his family. Angelina, with her Roman grace, had managed their home with a loving hand, dreaming of a better life for their children.

The ship was crowded with families like theirs, all seeking the promise of America. The voyage was long and arduous, but hope kept their spirits high. They often huddled together, Pasquale telling stories of the new land they were heading to, a place where hard work and determination could build a future. Angelina would sing softly in Italian, her voice a soothing balm against the uncertainty that lay ahead.

As the ship finally approached New York Harbor, the Vescio family joined the throngs on deck, craning their necks to catch a glimpse of the Statue of Liberty, a beacon of hope and freedom. Their hearts swelled with emotion at the sight, knowing they were about to embark on a new chapter in their lives.

Once they disembarked, they found themselves amid the bustling crowds of Ellis Island. The immigration process was overwhelming, with officials barking orders in English, a language that was foreign to them. In the confusion, little Anna was separated from the family. Panic set in as they searched desperately for her, their voices drowned out by the cacophony of the immigration hall.

Three days passed in a blur of anxiety and fear. Pasquale and Angelina scoured every corner of Ellis Island, asking anyone who would listen if they had seen their daughter. Finally, a kind-hearted official found Anna, frightened but unharmed, and reunited her with her family. The relief they felt was indescribable, and they clung to each other, vowing never to be separated again.

With their family intact, they made their way to Stamford, Connecticut, settling on Cove Road by Long Island Sound. The area reminded them a bit of their homeland, with its proximity to the water. Pasquale set up a small cobbler shop, his skilled hands repairing and crafting shoes for the local community. Angelina continued to care for their growing family, her days filled with the laughter and challenges of raising children in a new country.

In 1915, they welcomed a new addition, Yolanda, who brought joy and energy into their home. As the years passed, their family grew with the births of Gloria in 1922 and Paul David Vescio Sr. in 1925, born in the family home on Cove Road. The children thrived in their new environment, supported by the strong foundation of love and hard work laid by Pasquale and Angelina.

The Vescio family's journey from Italy to America was not without its trials, but it was also marked by resilience, love, and the unwavering belief in a better future. Pasquale's cobbler shop became a staple in the community, and their home on Cove Road echoed with the sounds of laughter, music, and the shared stories of their heritage. Their legacy was one of courage and determination, a testament to the enduring spirit of those who seek a new life in a new land.

