

Bruno Luigi Spedalieri

*SPEDALIERI – GALVAGNO
DOMINEDÒ – SCHILIRÒ
FAMILIES*



SPEDALIERI



GALVAGNO



DOMINEDÒ



SCHILIRÒ

Sydney 2023

*To my Children, Grandchildren
Uncles, Aunties and Cousins*

*With the information contained in this book
I intend to provide my children, grandchildren and cousins
the documents that will help them to understand
the connections of our large parenthood
on my father side and my mother side.*

Spedalieri

- Originally from Spain, first passed to Piemonte in the 16th century. It was endowed the County of Cessole.*
- *Later this family moved to Sicily taking residence in the province of Catania and precisely in the municipality of Bronte.*
 - *In 1540 the Nobleman Nicola Spedalieri of Bronte stipulated with the sculptor Antonino Gagini a contract to purchase the statue of the Annunciate who would become the Blessed Patroness of the town. - In 1740 Nicola Illuminato Giacomo Spedalieri was born in Bronte, he was abbot, philosopher of law and famous publicist; he died in Rome in 1795. - In 1779, still in Bronte, Arcangelo Spedalieri was born, he was renowned physiologist and anatomist; he died in Alcamo in 1823. - The family, which took active part in the events for the liberation of Sicily from foreigners, today is flourishing scattered in the province of Catania and in other regions of Italy, in the United States of America and in Canada, in Argentina, in Switzerland, in South Africa, in Australia and in Oceania.*
 - *In 1971 the children of Giacchino Francesco Spedalieri and Iolanda Venera Dominedò of Bronte emigrated to New Caledonia and Australia giving rise to Oceania and Australia lineages. The name has different spellings: Spedalieri, Spedalieri, Spidalieri and Spitalieri. It should not be confused however with the Spitaleri family of Adrano.*
 - *The name Spedalieri originated from the Order of the Knights Hospitallers of Saint John of Jerusalem, founded in Palestine in the XI century, with which was associated the forerunner of the family. - In the constellation of Orion, a star bears today the name of this family.*
- Coat of arms: In a blue shield a silver pelican in the field left, with three golden six rays' stars in fascia. Crest: golden county crown adorned in the centre with a golden seven rays' star.*
- *Motto: Amor et Caritas.*



Original Spedalieri Emblem – Florence Heraldry



Spedalieri Oceania Emblem - Spes1988

SPEDALIERI FAMILY

THE FAMILY ORIGIN

The Family was born in Palestine in the 11th century. The Spedalieri Lineage started within the Order of the Knight Hospitallers of Saint John of Jerusalem founded by the Amalfitan Abbot Gerard Sasso. We find the first mention of the name in Sicily in 1245: Niccolò di Spitalerio as one of the signatories of the Privilegio di Semantili. Subsequently the name was recorded as Spitalieri of which we find a branch at Cessole in Piedmont; but more often the name in Bronte was written in the Sicilian version of Spitaleri.

In 1465 we find in Palermo Antonio Spedalieri and in 1485 we find Vincio Spedalieri in Calabria. Obviously, the family had adopted the Italian language version for its surname. Antonio of Palermo opened the Sicilian Lineage and Vincio created the Guardavalle Lineage of Calabria, which ended in 2002 with the death of Vincenzo Spedalieri of Guardavalle.

In 1540 we find in Bronte Nicola Spitaleri, (the name had reverted to the Sicilian idiom), who bought the statues of the Annunciation from the sculptor Antonino Gagini in Palermo. Nicola encouraged and presided the revitalizing of Bronte's population. The next name that has come to be widely known is that of Nicola Illuminato Giacomo (Spitaleri) Spedalieri, born in Bronte in 1740. Nicola is the one who in 1774 has Italianised the name for all his family and descendants.

The Genealogy we follow is that provided by Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri (1903-1982). But we can add more information enabling us to extend the genealogy up to Nicola Spitaleri mentioned in 1540. We give to this Nicola the indicator (S1). There is an Antonio Spitaleri (S2) that was born in 1537 and we may guess that he was the son of Nicola. This Antonio appears on the first marriage registered at the Mother Church of Bronte in 1589. Antonio (S2) in 1559 married Antonina and they had the son Stefano Spitaleri (S3). In 1582 Stefano married Antonina and he died on 11/2/1613. They had the son Antonio (S4) born 19/10/1585, he married Agata. They had the son Antonino Spitaleri (S5) born 28/10/1610. Antonino Spitaleri (S5) married Angela and they had two children: Maria Spitaleri born 11/3/1634 and Antonino Spitaleri (A1) born in Bronte on 23 February 1636. This Antonino (A1) is the first Spedalieri member appearing in my father's genealogy, see following pages.

NOTE. The letters in brackets are reference indicators. Starting with Antonino (A1), the descendent will be indicated with a crescent number (A2, A3...). The brothers of the same generation will be indicated by the addition of an alphabetical letter (A8a. A8b...).



Nicola Spitaleri of Bronte
(1540)

Very little we know about Nicola Spitaleri (S1) that in 1540 went to Palermo to order from the Sculptor Antonino Gagini the marble group of the Annunciation. The statues arrived in Bronte in 1543. The people of the surrounding hamlets went then to take residence in the village of Bronte that at the time counted only 250 people.

We don't know from where Nicola came, but there is a coincidence with the passage of the Emperor Charles V in Bronte in 1535, this makes us to believe that Nicola went to Bronte with the Emperor and from the Emperor he has received the task to regroup the population of the little town.



Vincenzo Spedalieri
of Guardavalle (2000)

START OF THE GENEALOGY ANTONINO SPITALERI (1636) (A1)

The first researcher of our Family Genealogy was Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri (1903-1982), and we follow now his studies.

ANTONINO SPITALERI (A1), was born in Bronte 24/2/1636 and was baptized by Fr Luigi Caruso. He was a lawyer and married Caterina Spitaleri. They had two children: ARCANGELO SPITALERI (A2), born in Bronte 14/12/1660 and ERASMO SPITALERI (E2) born also in Bronte in 1664.

We consider Antonino Spitaleri (A1) as being the *Forefather* of the extended Spedalieri Family of Sicily, North Italy, Argentina, Canada, United States of America and Switzerland. We have also reasons to believe that even the Spedalieri of the Neapolitan region and the Spidalieri of South Africa are connected with this family and the Philosopher Nicola Illuminato Giacomo Spedalieri (E4a). On the account of my 40 years of researches and study I can assert that today there is only the line connected to the Philosopher that bears the name of Spedalieri.



*The Madonna Annunziata of Bronte
Marble sculpture made by Antonino Gagini*

ERASMO SPITALERI (1664) (E2) LINEAGE

ERASMO SPITALERI (E2), was born in 1664 to Antonino Spitaleri (A1), born in 1636, and Caterina Spitaleri. In 1699 Erasmo married Agata Spitaleri. They had between others the sons Vincenzo Spitaleri (E3) in 1701; and Filippo (E3b) who became a priest in the Order of St Basil and died in 1771; his portrait is painted in the Collegio Capizzi mural and indicated as Abate Filippo Spedalieri although at his death the family name wasn't officially changed from Spitaleri.

VINCENZO SPITALERI (E3) born in Bronte in 1701, was medical doctor and married twice. The first wife Nunzia De Luca died young and Vincenzo on 25 October 1739 remarried taking for spouse Antonina Dinaro daughter of Giuseppe Dinaro and Grazia. Vincenzo and Antonina had 5 children: Nicola Illuminato Giacomo Spitaleri (E4a) born in 1740; Erasmo Spitaleri (E4b) born in 1742, he became a priest; Giuseppe Spitaleri (E4c) born in 1745; Grazia Spitaleri (E4d) and Agata Spitaleri (E4e).

NICOLA ILLUMINATO GIACOMO SPITALERI (E4a)

Nicola Illuminato Giacomo Spitaleri (E4a) was born in Bronte on 6/12/1740. He was ordained a Priest in Monreale in 1764 and became a famous philosopher and apologist. In 1773, Nicola went to Rome. In the Eternal City Nicola adopted soon the Italianised surname of Spedalieri and from 1774 he started signing himself as Nicola Spedalieri.

GIUSEPPE SPITALERI (E4c)

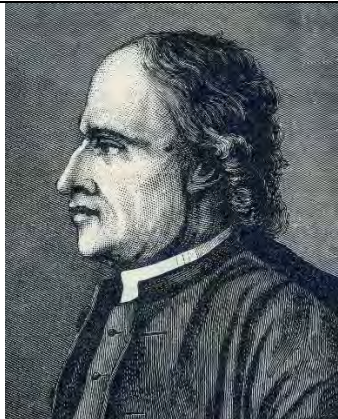
The other brother of the philosopher was born in Bronte in 1745. In 1772 he married Melchiorra Lo Giudice and with other children they had Arcangelo Spedalieri (E5c1), born 17/4/1779, and Giuseppe Spedalieri (E5c2).

Arcangelo Spedalieri (E5c1), born 17/4/1779 was a famous physician. In 1820 he married Giuseppina Le Speron and had one only child: Giuseppe Spedalieri (E6c1) born on 1821. Arcangelo died at Alcamo in Sicily on 6/5/1823.

Giuseppe Spedalieri (E6c1), born in Pavia in 1821 became also a doctor and married Vittoria Zolezzi. They had one only child: Alberto Stefano Spedalieri (E7c1) who was born in Rapallo on 2/3/1855. On 15/8/1880, in the Dome of Milan, Alberto married Virginia Clementina Lovatti. In 1885 the couple migrated to Argentina where the family Spedalieri is thriving to these days. Alberto (E7c1) died in Buenos Aires on 6/11/1941.

Alberto and Virginia had 7 children: Victor (E8c1a) (the only one born in Italy), Angel Nestor (E8c1b), Luis (E8c1c), Carlos (E8c1d), Josefa (E8c1e), Ana (E8c1f) and Paulino (E8c1g).

Giuseppe Spedalieri (E5c2). We know that this Giuseppe followed his brother Arcangelo in Pavia and studied medicine. But we have lost his traces. We guess that he could not stay in Lombardy when the region was taken over by the Austrian. Did he go back to Naples where he studied medicine? Is he the ancestor of the Spedalieri? Or did the Spedalieri sprout out of Nicola Giuseppe Spedalieri (1812-1887) son of Gioacchino (A6c)?



Abbot Nicola Illuminato Giacomo Spedalieri (1740-1795) (E4a)



Doctor Arcangelo Spedalieri (1779-1823) (E5c1)



Alberto Stefano Spedalieri (1855-1941) (E7c1)



Alberto Stefano Spedalieri (E7c1) with wife Virginia Clementina Lovatti and their 7 children: From left: Luis, Carlos, Josefa, Victor, Angel, Ana and Paulino with the father, in Buenos Aires Argentina in 1900.



Abate Filippo Spedalieri (A3b) (1699-1771)



Fra Tommaso Spitaleri OFM Cap (A5b) (†1817)



Don Giuseppe Spedalieri SJ (Ref A5e) (1791-1872)

ARCANGELO SPITALERI (1660) (A2) LINEAGE

ARCANGELO SPITALERI (A2), was born in Bronte on 14 December 1660 to Antonino Spitaleri (A1) and Caterina Spitaleri. On 17 August 1683 Arcangelo married Filippa Spitaleri. To the first child they gave the father's name: Arcangelo (A3) born in 1685. We don't know of other children.

(It is to be noted though that my father, in his researches through the Baptism Registry of the Mother Church of Bronte did focus particularly on the lineage conducting to our own family, giving little attention to the siblings. It is to be noted also that the Priest Registrar, when recording the baptism of a child didn't always specify the maiden's name of the mother and called father and mother together with the father surname. Frequently also the dates are written in a way that could lead to confusion. The year is written only at the beginning of January, not on every page. The Serial Numbers in some cases end at the end of the year and sometimes are continued into the following year. The day sometimes are written in roman characters and sometimes in Arabic way and the month are shorten or written using numbers and letters, as 9ber, which can be read as September or November. Not to mention the surname of the baptized, which, most of the time was recorded as it was pronounced orally and not in the correct written orthography.)

ARCANGELO SPITALERI (A3), was born in Bronte in 1685. He married in 1708. And had the son Mario (A4) born in 1710.

MARIO SPITALERI (A4), was born in Bronte in 1710. In 1739 he married Rosa De Luca and they had the son Nicola Antonino Spitaleri (A5) born in Bronte on 7 September 1741. Mario had certainly other children, we may mention: The Capucin Friar Tommaso Spitaleri (A5b) who died in 1817; Gaetano (A5c); Giuseppe (A5d) who was the father of two priests: Fr Giuseppe Spedalieri Jesuit (1791-1872) and Fr Arcangelo Spedalieri.



Nicola Antonino Spedalieri (A5)
1741-1831



The tomb of Nicola Antonino Spedalieri (A5)
In the Mother Church of Bronte

NICOLA ANTONINO SPEDALIERI (1741-1831) (A5)

THE FAMILY LINEAGE FOREFATHER

NICOLA ANTONINO SPEDALIERI (1741-1831) (A5)

Nicola Antonino is the **Forefather** of all the Spedalieri that are today in the world except for the Argentinian branch. Nicola Antonino was born in Bronte on 7 September 1741 with the Surname SPITALERI. Following the lead of his cousin the Philosopher Nicola Illuminato Giacomo (E4a), he adopted the surname SPEDALIERI as all his cousins had done. From an inscription graved on the wooden door of the Chiesa Matrice of Bronte we know that in 1779 Nicola Antonino has already adopted the surname Spedalieri, It appears obvious that he had changed the surname with the birth of his first child Luigi in 1775.

We have already mentioned that the branch Spedalieri in Calabria, descendent from Vincio Spedalieri (1485) ceased to exist in 2002. We know that in 1465 there was in Sicily a Royal Officer called Antonio Spedalieri. But in Sicily the name was soon pronounced in the Sicilian dialect, Spitaleri. And Spitaleri surname remained uncontested until 1774, when the Philosopher corrected its family name according to the national Italian language.

Nicola Antonino Spedalieri (A5) was a lawyer and a benefactor of the Mather Church of Bronte. On July 7, 1771 Nicola Antonino married Francesca Stancanelli of Gioacchino Stancanelli and Anna. When Francesca died, Nicola Antonino married Felicia Rosalia Radice daughter of Gaetano Radice and Domenica Leanza. We don't have the dates of the marriages, but from the dates of birth of the 6 children, we guess that 3 were children of the first wife and 3 were children of the second wife. The children born to Francesca Stancanelli were: *Luigi* (A6b) born in 1775; *Gioacchino* (A6c) born in 1778, father of Giuseppe Nicola; and *Giuseppe* (A6d) born in 1780, who gave way to the lineage of Linguaglossa now extinct as his last descendants, Giuseppe died in 1972 unmarried, and Francesco died in 1976 a priest. The children of Felicia Radice were: *Carmelo* (A6e), born 1797, called "Maggiore", *Gaetano* (A6) born in 1799, and *Maria* (A6f) (1803).

Nicola Antonino Spedalieri (A5) died in Bronte on 11/12/1831 and is buried in the Mother Church of Bronte next to the sacristy door. On his tomb is sculpted the Emblem of the Lion which is proper to the Spitaleri Family. The confusion was still evident. The emblem of the Spedalieri is the Pelican and 3 Stars. His name though is correctly graved: Nicola Spedalieri.

Nicola must have had few brothers. We know that, after 1774, so after the family had adopted the surname Spedalieri, some members have taken residence in Palermo. We find there a Nicolò Spedalieri who was Archpriest of Partanna (Trapani) in 1810. In 1870 was born in Palermo Antonio Spedalieri (USA1). Antonio (USA1) at the age of 12 migrated to Mexico where in 1900 he married Rosalia Muñoz Barbieri with whom he had 6 children, one is Antonio (USA2). In 1914 this family migrated to USA extending Spedalieri Branches to New Mexico, to California, Colorado, New York and Canada.

Another member from Palermo, Carmine (SA1), moved to Campobasso in Molise. His son Roberto (SA2), after World War II, migrated to South Africa giving birth to the branch Spidalieri in that country. One of Roberto's children, Michele Spidalieri, born in 1960 (SA3), subsequently migrated to Australia.

IN ITALY



Gaetano Spedalieri (A6)
(1799-†)

Giuseppe Nicola Spedalieri
(1812-1887) (See A6c)

Giuseppe Spedalieri
son of Carmelo (see A6d)

Maria Spedalieri (1882-1990)
(Zia Maricchia) (A8c)

SPEDALIERI (USA)



Antonio Spedalieri (USA2)

Rebecca Vigil wife of Antonio (USA2)

Able son of Antonio & Rebecca

SPEDALIERI (Argentina)

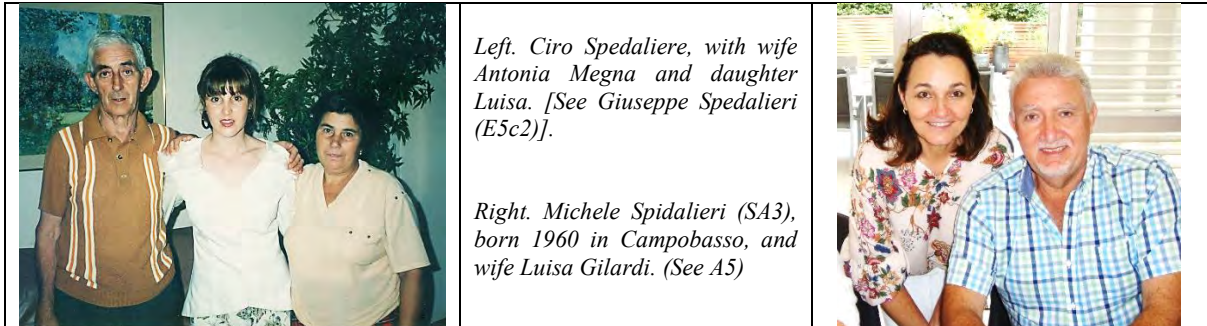


*Left. Buenos Aires.
Angel Nestor Spedalieri, grandson of
Angel (E7c1) and family.
Angel Nestor Spedalieri with wife
Graciela Torales and children:
Alejandro, Maximiliano & Cecilia*

*Right.
Angel Nestor Spedalieri*

SPEDALIERE (Napoli & Australia)

(South Africa & Australia) SPIDALIERI



*Left. Ciro Spedalieri, with wife
Antonia Megna and daughter
Luisa. [See Giuseppe Spedalieri
(E5c2)].*

*Right. Michele Spidalieri (SA3),
born 1960 in Campobasso, and
wife Luisa Gilardi. (See A5)*

GIOACCHINO SPEDALIERI (A6c) born in 1778, became the first mayor of the city of Bronte in 1820 and had to face a revolutionary uprising against the Bourbon King. He moved to Naples and married Carolina Graefer, daughter of the botanist of the royal palace of Caserta, and they had the following Children: *Ignazio Spedalieri*; *Pietro Spedalieri* whose son Giovanni was assassinated during the uprising of 1860 in the city of Bronte; *Nicola Giuseppe Spedalieri* (1812-1887), who in 1843 migrated to France and became involved with the Martinist Movement. He married twice to Marie E.C. Viau first and to Antonina. He died in Marseilles on 6 December 1898; *Francesco* born 22 December 1827; *Luigi* born 5 January 1833. The dates of birth of the children make us to believe that Gioacchino married twice.

GAETANO SPEDALIERI (A6) was born on 27 January 1799. Gaetano was medical doctor.

In 1823 he married the Baroness Cecilia Salvo daughter of Baron Antonino Salvo and Baroness Agata Scipione of Castoreale (province of Messina). Gaetano and Cecilia had 9 children: *Gioacchino (A7)*; *Francesco*; *Giovanni Paolo*; *Nunziata*; *Luigi*; *Giuseppina*; *Angelina*, who married Nicola Grisley; *Giuseppe*, who left for America and vanished; and *Nicola*, who is mentioned as being in charge of Public Security during the tragic events of 1860 in Bronte where his grand-nephew Giovanni was assassinated, Nicola married Maria Leanza and in 1844 they had one only daughter Cecilia who got married to Guglielmo Grisley (grandfather of Angelina Grisley 2nd wife of Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri (A9).)

GIOACCHINO SPEDALIERI (A7) was born in Bronte on 16 March 1837 to Gaetano

Spedalieri and Cecilia Salvo. Gioacchino married Grazia Zito from Cesarò and they had 5 children: *Nicola (A8)* (1872-1931); *Gaetano (A8b)* (1880-1916); *Maria (zia Maricchia) (A8c)* born 23/1/1882, died 21/12/1970; *Giuseppe (A8d)* born in 1886, died 7/6/1946, he married Marietta Nicotra (Zia Marietta) who died 20/5/1970, they had no children.; *Antonino Francesco (A8e)* who died 21/8/1955 leaving no children.

Gioacchino died in Bronte on 14/11/1922

GAETANO SPEDALIERI (A8b) born 1/1/1880, married Anna Immormino and died

29/7/1916 leaving 4 children: *Giuseppe (A8b1)* who married Maria Barbara and had one only child, Gaetano; *Gioacchino (A8b2)* born in 1904, married Maria Grazia Schilirò and died 10/3/1964 leaving no children; *Grazia (A8b3)* (1909-1937); and *Antonino (A8b4)* who married Illuminata Meli and had 12 children: Giuseppe, Gaetano, Giovanni, Gioacchino, Elvira, Anna, Rosetta, Nerina, Elio, Nunzio, Antonio and Vincenzo, all of them in 1958 migrated to North Italy except Giuseppe who had died before 1958 and Vincenzo who remained in Bronte. Vincenzo married Maria Grazia Proietto and has two children: Antonio, Professor and married to Rosanna Piazza; and Salvo.



Marietta Nicotra Spedalieri wife of Giuseppe (1886-1946). Refer. Gioacchino (A7)



Gioacchino Spedalieri (1904-1964) & wife Maria Grazia Schilirò Refer. Gaetano (A8b)



Tonino Spedalieri son of Gaetano and grandson of Antonino (A8b4)

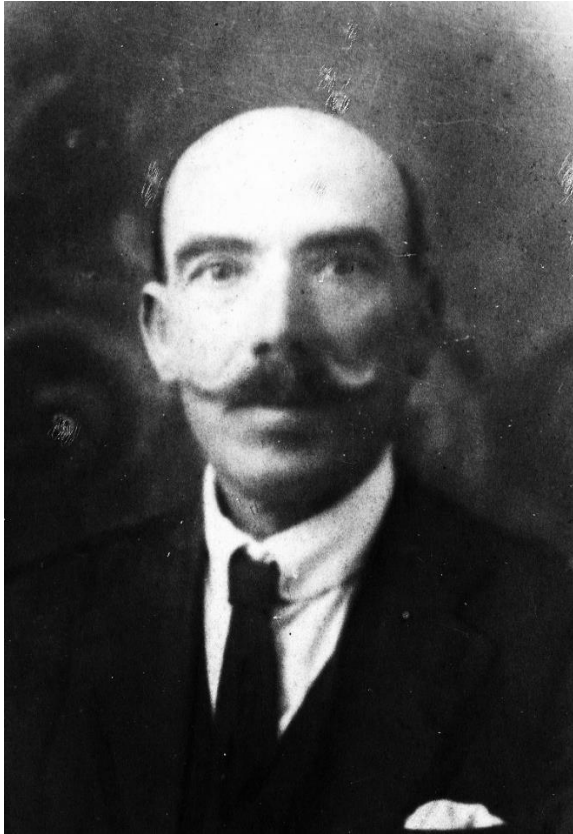


2nd right is Antonio Spedalieri son of Vincenzo and grandson of Antonino (A8b4)



The City of Bronte in Sicily

NICOLA SPEDALIERI (1872-1931) (A8) HEAD OF CONTEMPORARY FAMILY



Nicola Spedalieri (13/1/1872-26/8/1931) (A8)



Maria Teresa Galvagno (2/8/1874-2/7/1906)

Our family comes out of Arcangelo Spitaleri's Lineage (A2) (1660), Arcangelo was the son of Antonino Spitaleri (A1) (1636). From Antonino (A1) to Nicola (A8) we cover 8 generations of our family genealogy to which we add the previous 5 generations (S1-S5) and the following 4 generations (A9-A12). We have a list of 17 generations extended over 5 centuries.

Nicola Spedalieri (1872-1931) (A8)

Nicola Spedalieri (A8) was born in Bronte on 13 January 1872 to Gioacchino Spedalieri (A7) and *Grazia Zito* from Cesarò. Nicola died in Biancavilla on 26 August 1931. Nicola was licensed Agrarian and worked at the Duchy Nelson in Maniace (Bronte). In 1894 he married Maria Teresa Galvagno and from her he had 5 children: *Agata*, who born in 1895 died the same year; *Agatina* (A9b) born in 1897; *Giuseppa* born and died in 1900; *Antonino* (A9c) born in 1901; and *Gioacchino Francesco* (A9) born 4/6/1903.

Maria Teresa Galvagno was the only daughter of Giuseppe Galvagno (1841-1900), and Illuminata Battaglia daughter of Nunzio Battaglia and Teresa Zappia. Maria Teresa born in Bronte on 2/8/1874, died of cancer of the womb on 2/7/1906 at the age of 31 years and 11 months. At the death of the mother the children were taken care by the grandmother Illuminata Battaglia that the children called "Mammitta".

During the long sickness of the wife, Nicola Spedalieri had to leave his job at the Duchy Nelson to take care of the wife. After her death he was employed at the customs office in Bronte where he worked until 1919. Having then decided to remarry he moved to the city of Biancavilla with the second wife Nunzia Vitanza.

By Nunzia Vitanza, Nicola Spedalieri had 4 children: *Nunziatina* (A9d), *Anna* (A9e), *Giovanni* (A9f), and *Giuseppina* (A9g).

Nicola Spedalieri (A8) died in Biancavilla on 26 August 1931 at the age of 59 years 7 months and 13 days. Nunzia Vitanza died in Biancavilla in December 1968 at the age of 76.

AGATINA SPEDALIERI (A9b) (1897-1984).

Agata, called Agatina, was born on 14 March 1897. At the Registry Office her surname was wrongly registered as Spitaleri. In 1921 she married the Marshal of Finances Illuminato De Luca, surnamed, Giarrizzi. Illuminato was born in Centuripe (Province of Enna) on March 22, 1890, to Antonio De Luca and Vincenza Mauro. Illuminato died in Paternò on 18 July 1968 and Agatina died in Paternò on January 4, 1984.

Agata and Illuminato had 10 children:

- *Vincenzina De Luca*, born in Bronte on 16/2/1922. On 8/5/1941 married Nunzio Marcantonio Caltabiano (1917-1992) and they moved to Switzerland. They have 5 children surnamed Caltabiano: Paolo (1942), Rosalia (1947), Franco (1950), Agata (1953), and Gaspare (1954).

- *Teresina De Luca*, born on 16/3/1923, married Carmelo Spampinato and have one only child, Domenico (Mimmo) born in 1960. They migrated to Genova.

- *Antonino De Luca* (1924-1925). - *Olga Antonia De Luca*, born in 1926, died 6 months later.

- *Antonino De Luca*, born 21/8/1927 became Marshal of the Carabinieri. In 1958 he married Nunziatina Crimi (1934) and they have two children: Illuminato (1959), married in Agrigento, with 3 children; and Agata (1961) married to Salvatore Grasso in Pisa has 2 children.

Antonino De Luca died in Agrigento on 7/1/2019.

- *Rocco De Luca*, born in Stilo (Calabria) on 16/8/1929, died 1/9/2008. Rocco married Barbara Spampinato and they have 3 children: Agata (1957) married with two children, Mariella (1959) married in Rizzotto has two children, and Illuminato.

- *Adelaide De Luca*, born in Stilo on 24/7/1931 lives in Piano D'Arce. She has 5 children from Antonio Capizzi (1929-2003). They are: Elio (1955), married with one child; Tina (Agatina)

(1956), married to Michele Avella has 2 children, Alessandra and Antonio; Rodolfo (1958); Roberta 1964, married to Gaetano De Felice has the children: Francesca and Adele; Massimo (1970) married to Giovanna Amianto has 3 children: Adelaide, Concetta and Debora.

- *Tecla De Luca*, born in Stilo 16/9/1933 married in Di Mauro lives with her children in Catania.

- *Romualdo De Luca*, born in St Giorgio Morgeto (Calabria) 8/4/1936, having taken residence in Misterbianco he married Santina Galata and they have 4 children: Agata De Luca (1957), Illuminato de Luca (1958), Antonio De Luca (1962) and Silvana De Luca (1966). They are all married with children.

- *Marietta De Luca*, born in St Giorgio Morgeto on 18/2/1938, died the following day.



Above left. Wedding of Teresa De Luca with Carmelo Spampinato in 1959. In the group are from Left front: Tecla with her son, Illuminato, Teresina and Carmelo, Little Agata daughter of Rocco, Agatina, Nunziatina Crimi wife of Antonino, Santina Galata wife of Romualdo. Back row from right: Antonino De Luca, Rocco De Luca, Romualdo De Luca and Di Mauro the husband of Tecla. Top right Adelaide and Nino Capizzi, bottom Rocco De luca and Barbara Spampinato. Below left: Adelaide De Luca Capizzi, second left with 3 of her children: form roght: Elio, Roberta and Tina.



Above. Vincenzina de Luca with the husband Nunzio Marcantonio Caltabiano

ANTONINO SPEDALIERI (A9c) (1901-1969).

Antonino Spedalieri was born in Bronte on 29 September 1901. He worked in Biancavilla's council police force for 40 years, then he worked in the Bank of Paternò. He married in Paternò the sister of his brother in law, Angela De Luca, daughter of Antonio and Vincenza Mauro. Angela was born in Bronte 9 May 1887 and was 14 years older than her husband. Antonino (A9b) died in Paternò on 22 March 1969, and his wife Angelina died also in Paternò on 13 June 1975. Antonino (A9b) and Angela had two children: Nicolò (Nicolino) Spedalieri (A10c1) and Antonino (Nini) Spedalieri (A10c2), both born in Biancavilla.

- *Nicolò Spedalieri (A10c1)* was born in Biancavilla on 16 August 1923. On 8 January 1941 he married Consolata Grillo born in Paternò on 18 July 1922. After the marriage and the birth of 3 daughters the family moved to Foggia (Puglia) where Nicolò worked as an Officer of the Public Security. Nicolò died in Foggia on 25 October 1980 and Consolata died also in Foggia on 9 August 2007. The 3 daughters are:

* Angelina (Lina) Spedalieri born in Paternò 4/11/1942, on 2/1/1964 married Tommaso Nuzzo and have 3 daughters: Giuseppina Nuzzo (1964) married in Marseglia with 2 children; Antonella Nuzzo (1966) married but soon remained widow with one daughter; and Monica Nuzzo (1974) married Nardella has one boy.

* Barbara Spedalieri born in Paternò 2/2/1945. She married Vittorio Maffucci on 8 January 1970. Vittorio was born in Foggia on 17/6/1938. They had 3 daughters: Iliaria Maffucci (1971) married in 2002; Raffaella Maffucci (1973) also married; and Alessandra Maffucci born in 1977 she died in 1979.

* Maria Adele Spedalieri born in Paternò 28/3/1947. Married Vincenzo D'Orazio in 1972 and they have 2 children: Daniela D'Orazio (1973) and Michele D'orazio (1981). Vincenzo died in 2010.

- *Antonino Spedalieri (A10c2)* was born in Biancavilla on 19 December 1928 and was soon called "Nini". He worked as Health Officer for Paternò Council. On 14 November 1947 he married Ida Guarnaccia. They had one only child: Sergio. Nini died on 27/1/2017, Ida died on 11/3/2023.

* Sergio Spedalieri (A11c2) was born 13/3/1960. He is employed in the Postal Administration of Rome as is his wife Roberta Febbraio born 1/4/1965. They married on 13/10/1990 and have 3 children: Veronica (1996), Giuliana (2000) and Nicolò born 18/7/2002.



Left. Marriage of Barbara with Vittorio Maffucci; the Parents Nicolò Spedalieri (A10c1) and Consolata are at their side. On the back from left: Tommaso Nuzzo and Lina, Bruno Spedalieri, Maria and Vincenzo d'Orazio. In front are Antonella on the left and Giusi Nuzzo on the right.

Central photo Antonino Spedalieri (A9c) and wife Angelina de Luca. Above from left: Sergio Spedalieri (A11c2) his father Antonino (Nini) (A10c2), Ida Guarnaccia with the little Alessandra Maffucci, Zina Liuzzo Spedalieri and Bruno Spedalieri with Flavio in 1977.

GIOACCHINO FRANCESCO SPEDALIERI (1903-1982) (A9)

Gioacchino Francesco, more often called Francesco, was born in Bronte on 4 June 1903 to Nicola Spedalieri and Maria Teresa Galvagno. At 19 years of age he enrolled in the Carabinieri Force. On 14 May 1936 he married Iolanda Dominedò and they had 3 children:

- *Roberto Nicola Spedalieri* (A10) born in 1937;
- *Bruno Luigi Spedalieri* (A10b) born in 1938; and
- *Guglielmo Rodolfo Spedalieri* born in 1944, who lived one day only.

(For more information about this family see next chapter.)

NUNZIATINA SPEDALIERI (A9d) (PORTALE)

Nunziatina born in Bronte on 29 August 1921 was the first child that Nicola Spedalieri (A8) had with Nunzia Vitanza. Nunzia was previously married with a Mr Portale. The husband went to USA giving no more news of himself. He had died but the official information reached the family at a later date. Consequently Nunziatina at birth got the surname of Portale instead of Spedalieri. At the death of the father Nicola, Nunziatina was adopted by Graziella Squadrito. Nunziatina married Salvatore Travagliante but they had no children.

ANNA SPEDALIERI (A9e) (SPITALERI)

Anna was born in Biancavilla on 5 December 1925. At the Registration Office her surname was wrongly registered as Spitaleri. Due to the early death of the father and the financial difficulty of the mother, Anna was adopted by Angelo Pappalardo and his wife Anna Castro; and the adopted Anna took care of them during their old days. On April 15, 1944 Anna married Achille Ragni born in Pavia on 24 February 1919. Achille was employed with the State Railways and settled in Catania. Achille died on 22/10/1995 and Anna on 5/2/2014.

Zia Anna left a mark in the heart of Roberto and Bruno Spedalieri, as she was the only relative together with Zia Giuseppina Nicosia Viola to visit their mother Iolanda when she was in Hospital in June and July 1953.

Anna and Achille had 2 girls:

- *Anna Maria Ragni* born in Bronte on 7/8/1945. On 7/12/1963 married in Bronte Salvatore Battaglia born in Catania on 9/10/1945. They have 4 children: Giuseppe Battaglia (7/7/1964); Sandra Battaglia (26/8/1968); Achile Battaglia (22/3/1971); Franco Battaglia (14/4/1979) is the Godson of Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri (A9).
- *Giuseppina Ragni* born in Bronte on 8/11/1949. In 1973 she married Mario Tosto and they have 2 children: Sebastiano (Nuccio) Tosto (7/8/1973); Emanuela Tosto (22/4/1977).

GIOVANNI SPEDALIERI (A9f)

Giovanni, called Giovannino, was born in Biancavilla on 24 June 1928. He was employed at Circumetnea Railway. He married Francesca Giangreco born in Misterbianco on 25/5/1925. Giovannino died on 8 September 1992. Giovannino and his wife had 6 children:

- *Nicola Spedalieri* born 6/2/1953, he died at 18 in 1971.
- *Nunziatina Spedalieri* born 6/12/1954.
- *Rosa Spedalieri* born 6/12/1956
- *Maria Spedalieri* born 29/1/1960
- *Francesca Spedalieri* born 4/11/1961 and
- *Antonio Spedalieri* born 20/8/1966. He has children, one of them called Gianni.

GIUSEPPINA SPEDALIERI (A9g)

Giuseppina was born in Biancavilla on 22 July 1931 one month before her father died. Her surname was registered correctly: Spedalieri. Giuseppina and Giovanni remained with the mother after the father had died. And Giuseppina was the one who took care of the mother until Nunzia Vitanza died in Biancavilla in December 1968 at the age of 76. Giuseppina married Benedetto Viro and they had 7 children:

- *Rosario Viro* (22/10/1952).
- *Nicola Viro* (20/6/1956).
- *Antonino Viro* (13/6/1960).
- *Giuseppe Viro* (9/2/1964).
- *Salvatore Viro* (16/4/1965).
- *Alfredo Viro* (15/8/1966).
- *Innocenzia Viro* (22/11/1967).



Form left: Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri with sister Anna Spedalieri, Zina Spedalieri Bruno's wife, Achille Ragni Anna's husband and Flavio Spedalieri of Bruno and Zina. Catania 1977



Giuseppina Spedalieri (A9g)

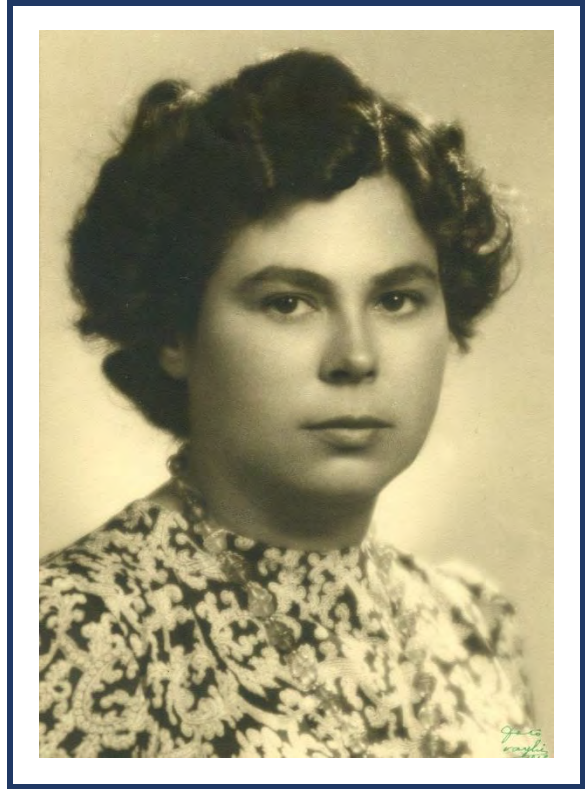


From left: Nunziatina Spedalieri (A9b), with brother Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri and sister Anna Spedalieri



Benedetto Viro Giuseppina's husband

**GIOACCHINO FRANCESCO SPEDALIERI (A9)
HEAD OF THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE LINEAGE**



Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri, his wife Iolanda Dominedó and the children Roberto, Bruno and Guglielmo Spedalieri. Foto 1944



GIOACCHINO FRANCESCO SPEDALIERI (1903-1982) (A9)

Gioacchino Francesco (A9) was born in Bronte on 4 June 1903 to Nicola Spedalieri and Maria Teresa Galvagno. He was just 3 years and 1 month old when he lost his mother to cancer. From that time the grandmother Illuminata Battaglia Galvagno took care of the 3 children: Agatina 11 years and 7 months old, Antonino 5 years and 10 months old and Gioacchino Francesco.

At the age of 19 Gioacchino Francesco did enrol in the Carabinieri Force climbing the steps up to the grade of Marshal. On 21 August 1931 he was stationed in Ostiglia and on 27 August he got the news that his father was gravely sick. His father in fact had died on 26 August 1931 before the son could get to Biancavilla.

In 1932 at San Benedetto Po, Gioacchino Francesco was promoted Brigadier. On 14 May 1936 In Bronte he married Iolanda Venera Maria Nunziata Dominedò daughter of Luigi Dominedò and Teresa Schilirò and born in Bronte on 17 January 1917. They moved then to the Carabinieri Station of Badia Calavena in Verona's Province. In the little Northern Italy city, on 30 March 1937 was born their first child Roberto Nicola Spedalieri (A10). The second name was given in memory of the father's father. The following year the Brigadier Spedalieri was stationed in Mantova where was born Bruno Luigi Spedalieri (A10b). Giving him as second name the mather's father's name. Short time later the family moved to Casalmaggiore an industrial city on the northern bank of the River Po.

The first May 1942 the Brigadier Spedalieri was sent to the Russian front in Eastern Ukraine with the 8th Army. His service at front lasted 12 months. In May 1943 he could join again his family for a short 10 days period before being sent to Grazzanise (South of Italy) to join the Pasubio Division. On 13 August 1943 Gioacchino failed to be killed when the train he was travelling on it was bombarded.

During this time the wife Iolanda and the two children remained in Casalmaggiore. On 6 May 1944 in Casalmaggiore was born the third child of the couple: Guglielmo Rodolfo Spedalieri, he died though the following day, 7th May 1944. He is buried in the children section, Tomb 110 of Casalmaggiore Cemetery. One month later, for safety reason, the family moved to the rural town of Valle di Casalbello; the brigadier though continued to serve the Carabinieri Station of Casalmaggiore. At 2am in the morning of 5 August 1944 the Brigadier Spedalieri was arrested by a peloton of Germans and taken to Dusseldorf in Germany first and then interned in the prisoners' camp of Wels in Austria. He was kept there until the end of the war. It was only on 16 May 1945 that Gioacchino Francesco could see again his family in Casalmaggiore. Following his promotion to Marshal Gioacchino demanded to be sent to serve in Sicily. His demand was granted and in August 1945 the family moved to Sicily.

In Sicily Marshal Spedalieri was in command of the Carabinieri Post of Oliveri (Messina's Province); he served there until retirement from the Army on 30 October 1948. On 19 May 1949, Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri was called to work in the Bronte Local Tribunal as judiciary archivist. From October 8, 1960 Gioacchino worked at Biancavilla Tribunal until retirement on July 1, 1968. Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri has served the country for 46 years of which 4 were spent at war. He was awarded 6 deserved medals, 2 War Crosses and 2 decorations for the Russian Campaign.

Sadly the years that followed his retirement were hard and painful for the former combatant. Just 5 years into retirement; on 17 July 1953, he has lost his dear wife Iolanda at the age of 36. He was left with two teenage boys and a sick mother-in-law. He contemplated a second marriage and on 26 October 1955 he married Angelina Grisley born in Bronte on 13 December 1913 to Samuele Grisley and Nunzia Isola. From the second wife though Gioacchino Francesco didn't have any children. Angelina died in Bronte on 4 May 1983.

Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri died at the Castiglione Prestianni Hospital of Bronte on 28 March 1982 at the age 78 years, 9 months and 24 days. He is buried in the Family Tomb at the Cemetery of Bronte, Zone 5, Row 3, No. 18.

During his life Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri could not have imagined that he would become a key figure in the genealogy of the Family. Both his children did migrate to the Southern hemisphere and he, Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri has become the Head of the Spedalieri of the Southern Hemisphere Lineage, Oceania and Australia Branches.



Difesa 1981. Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri with his grandson Flavio Rodolfo Spedalieri son of Bruno and Zina Spedalieri.



*Bronte Cemetery, Tomb Z.5, R.3, N.18, there are buried:
Luigi Dominedò (1877-1920)
Teresa Schilirò (1883-1965)
Iolanda Dominedò (1917-1953)
Gioacchino Spedalieri (1903-1982)*



Angelina Grisley Spedalieri (1913-1983)

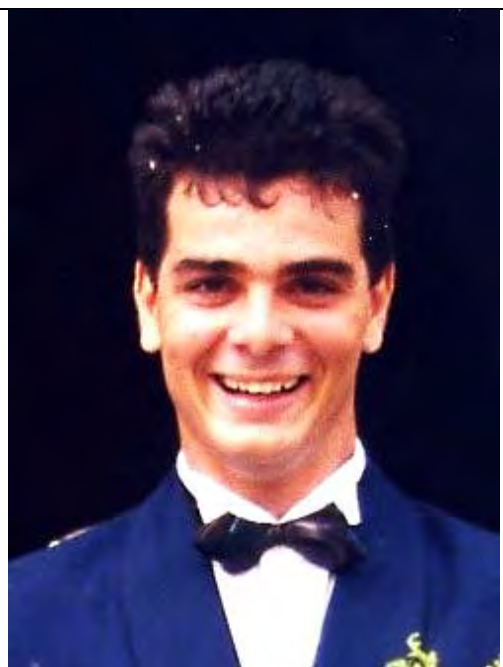
ROBERTO NICOLA SPEDALIERI (1937-2015) (A10)
HEAD OF THE OCEANIA BRANCH



Roberto Nicola Spedalieri (A10) (1937-2015)



*Danielle Desirée Yolande Laurent Spedalieri
(1953)*



Federico Maria Alessandro Spedalieri (A11) (1973)



Daniele Gianfranco Spedalieri (A11b) (1975)

ROBERTO NICOLA SPEDALIERI (1937-2015) (A10)

Roberto Spedalieri was born in Badia Calavena (Verona Province) on 30 March 1937 (XV). He was the first child of Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri and Iolanda Dominedò. In September 1937 the family moved to Mantova where on 1 February 1938 Bruno was born. In 1940 the family moved to Casalmaggiore where they were joined by Grandmother Teresa Schilirò. On 6 May 1944 the third child, Guglielmo, was born and died.

In Casalmaggiore Roberto started the primary school and Bruno went to kindergarten, before moving to the rural town Valle di Casalbellotto. After the war, in August 1945, the family moved to Bronte (in Catania Province) in Sicily and Roberto went to do his third primary year of school with the teacher Giovanni Radice. The following year the family moved to Oliveri (Messina's Province) and Roberto did the 4th and 5th Primary years with the teacher Carmelo Carcione. When the father ended his military career, in October 1948 the family moved back to Bronte. There Roberto started his secondary school at the Collegio Capizzi.

The 1953 was a tragic year for the family. The mother Iolanda, following a long and painful disease, died at the age of 36. In 1954 Bruno left the family to follow his vocation, in 1955 the father remarried and moved to another home and Roberto remained alone with the sick grandmother Teresa. Roberto was disoriented and didn't finished high school, he went instead to do professional courses. But the diplomas didn't give him chance to find a steady employment in Bronte, where jobs were allocated to family members and to recommended individuals. Roberto was an artistic person, and had a jovial character. He gave himself to social activities, he created his own music band to animate the local celebrations. He became popular and because of his great resemblance with the singer he was called in Bronte "Peppino di Capri". But these activities, often requested without payment, didn't give Roberto any security for the future. His chances were hampered also due to problems with his vision. Roberto started thinking to move overseas. The first attempt was to migrate to the Netherlands, but he wasn't accepted because of his short sighting. He thought then to follow his brother Bruno to the Pacific Islands. He left Bronte certain to return within two years.

On Christmas day 1971, by plane, Roberto reached the city of Port Vila the capital of the New Hebrides archipelago. He could speak French and found immediately a job in a supermarket first and at the Banque de l'Indochine subsequently. He found also the love of his life in the young French citizen and teacher Danielle Desirée Yolande Laurent, born on 23 November 1953. Danielle was 15 years younger than Roberto, but the third name of the girl and the year of her birth sounded to the young man a positive sign. They fell in love at the first sight and on September 21, 1972 they got married by Roberto's brother Bruno. In New Hebrides the couple had two children: Federico Maria Alessandro Spedalieri, born in Port Vila on 25 March 1973 and Daniele Gianfranco Spedalieri born in Port Vila on 19 December 1975.

Misfortune though seemed to persecute Roberto. In 1980 New Hebrides, which where colonized by British and French and administered in Condominium, got the independence and took the name of Vanuatu. Although Danielle was born in Port Vila, and so the children, they were considered foreigners by the new administration and provided with a yearly visa. In 1983 they have been told that their visa would not be renewed. They had to leave the country. This happened the year after Roberto and Bruno's father had died. Roberto and his brother went to Italy to try to sell some properties and bring some badly needed money to Vanuatu and plan

the move to the neighbouring French archipelago of New Caledonia. In fact Danielle and the children had to leave Vanuatu before Roberto's return; they found generous people in Bruno's friends: Georges and Marie Paule Pouillet in the capital Noumea.

In Caledonia Danielle could find a job in the education department and Roberto at his return from Italy could find a job as a photographer. Soon they could rent an apartment and few years later they could buy their home in the Normandy region of the capital Noumea.

On 27 August 2004, Roberto suffered a stroke as a consequence of an accident that had happened in 1972. He was sent to Sydney for rehabilitation. Less than 3 weeks later he returned to Noumea on his feet. But within few years he was affected by Alzheimer, a disease that took him to the tomb on 12 July 2015 in Nouville Hospital. Danielle had her own Calvarium. In 2012, the year Roberto was diagnosed with Alzheimer she had to go to Sydney to be cured for cancer in the womb that had affected the bladder. Following the operation, while convalescent in hospital, she suffered a staphylococci infection that extended her stay in hospital for two more months. She was in Sydney the day Cooper Bruno Armstrong, the son of Yolanda and Lachlan, was born. Still today Danielle, in Noumea, carries with faith and patience her cross.

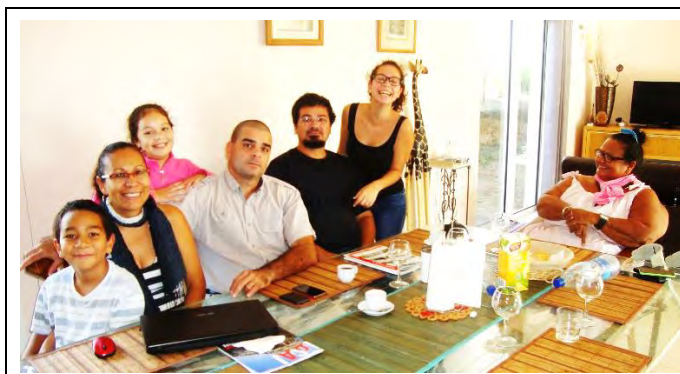
The father of Danielle was Emile Jean Laurent born at Ouegoa, north of New Caledonia, on 8/3/1912 to Laurent Jean and Louise Armand. The correct surname of the family was JEAN, but at the registry office, second name and surname were inverted and LAURENT is the surname that this family is carrying today. Subsequently Emile moved to New Hebrides. On November 16, 1940 Emile married Françoise Elise Renée Lecomte. They had 11 children.

Danielle's mother Françoise Lecomte was born in Noumea, New Caledonia, on 24 November 1922 to Thérèse Victoria Lecomte and an indian father.

The children of Roberto and Danielle are well settled in the City of Noumea.

- **FEDERICO MARIA ALESSANDRO (A11)**, born on 25/3/1973 is enrolled in the Gendarmes Force. On February 3, 1995 he married Irene Scardoni born on November 3, 1971 to the Italian Livio Scardoni and the Japanese Gisèle Nakamura. Irene has 2 sisters and 5 brothers. Federico and Irene have 3 children: *Carla Spedalieri* born in Noumea on 7/7/1998; *Lisa Spedalieri* born in Noumea on 10/12/2003; and *Lenzo Spedalieri (A12)* born in Noumea on 2/9/2005.

- **DANIELE GIANFRANCO SPEDALIERI (A11b)**, born 19 December 1975 is Master Cook at the Marist Brothers College in Noumea. Daniele is not married.



July 2015, from right: Danielle Laurent Spedalieri, Carla, Daniele, Federico, Lisa, Irene and Lenzo.



June 2011, Roberto Spedalieri with his grandchildren: Lisa, Lenzo and Carla.

BRUNO LUIGI SPEDALIERI (1938) (A10b)
HEAD OF THE AUSTRALIAN BRANCH



November 4, 2014 at the Government House of Sydney, the day Bruno Luigi Spedalieri was awarded the Medal of the Order Of Australia. Here with wife Zina Liuzzo Spedalieri and children: Flavia Rodolfo Spedalieri and Yolanda Francesca Maria Spedalieri Armstrong.

BRUNO LUIGI SPEDALIERI (1938) (A10b)

Bruno Luigi Spedalieri was born in Mantova on 1st February 1938. With the family he suffered the stresses and the restrictions imposed by the war and especially the separation from the father, but the mother and grandmother Teresa did all they could to make life bearable for the children. After the war the family moved to Sicily. Since his infant years Bruno dreamed to become a missionary, and he did his secondary courses in a seminary.

In 1953 the untimely death of the mother left Roberto and Bruno then 16 and 15 years old, traumatized and confused. Bruno decided to leave the family to follow his dream. On 23 September 1954 he went to the Marist College at Santa Fede near Turin to complete the secondary school and get into theological studies. He was ordained on 7 April 1962 and in November 1962 he took the ship for the Pacific Ocean. In the Pacific Islands of New Caledonia and New Hebrides Bruno spent 7 years on missionary ministry, alternate with 3 years in Italy at Pratola Peligna in the Abruzzi region. On 21 September 1972, in Port Vila, New Hebrides, Bruno celebrated the marriage of his brother Roberto with Danielle Laurent and on 28 November, decided to leave the missionary service, he left the archipelago for a short stay in New Caledonia with his friend Fr Antonino Imbiscuso. On 15 January 1973 he took the flight to Australia from where he applied to the Holy See for dispensation from the ministry. On March 1, 1974, the Holy Father Pope Paul VI, by letter (Pro. N. 2253/73) of the Holy Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, accorded the dispensation to the applicant. In Australia Bruno got treasurable support from many people. He could not forget Giuseppe and Maria Greco who gave him hospitality at his arrival, Giuseppe Falvo who provided him with precious information of people able to help him, with map, addresses and way to contact them; Madame Edith de Hoè who paid for him 3 months of medical insurance; and Father Antonino Imbiscuso who provided him with the money for a deposit toward the acquisition of a unit. It was with the help of these people that Bruno in 3 weeks in Australia could find a job, assure his permanency visa, and buy a flat in the suburb of Leichardt.

On 27 July 1974 Bruno married Zina Liuzzo born in Bronte on 14 December 1950 to Francesco Liuzzo and Maria Imbrosciano, they were friends he had known in his country town. The marriage was celebrated by Fr Eugene Hogan in the Marist Parish Holy Name of Mary in Hunters Hill,

On 7 June 1975 their first child *Flavio Rodolfo Spedalieri (A11b1)* was born. The name Rodolfo was given in memory of the father's brother Guglielmo Rodolfo. On 21 July 1976, Bruno obtained the Australian Citizenship. In May 1977 with their first child Bruno and Zina went to Bronte. Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri could see again his son and his family, and Zina could see again her grandparents Imbrosciano, Uncles, Aunties and Cousins Liuzzo and Imbrosciano. With all of them Flavio celebrated his second birthday. On its way back to Australia the family stopped at Cleveland in USA where Zina could embrace her aunty Illuminata Liuzzo and cousins. They stopped in Los Angeles where Bruno could see again his dear aunty Giuseppina Viola. Back in Sydney Bruno and Zina bought a house in Frenchs Forest. In 1979 the trio Spedalieri went to New Hebrides to visit Roberto and his family, enriched then with two children; Federico Maria Alessandro (6 years old) and Daniele Gianfranco (3 and a half years old). In 1981 Bruno, Zina and Flavio went back to Italy, then they found Nonnino Gioacchino Francesco sick and tired. They left him at the end of September

1981. Nonnino will die 6 months later on 28 March 1982.

On May 21, 1985, 10 years after Flavio's birth came to the world his sister *Yolanda Francesca Maria Spedalieri (A11b2)*. Her names recall all 4 grandparents' names.

On 24 June 1990, Bruno went back to Bronte to settle his father's affairs. The events of life had matured enough to understand that there was no way for Bruno or Roberto to return and take residence back in Bronte. It was time for Bruno to make the final decision, as painful and drastic as it was. In September 1992 Bruno returned to Bronte and in two months he sold all properties (On 23/9/1992, the house of Bronte for a total of 258 million lira and on 15/10/1992 the Difesa property for 105 million lira), and he was able to transfer immediately all money to Australia.

Unwillingly Bruno had become the turning point of the Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri genealogy. He did close definitely an era in the Family history to open a new one. He left the country with a broken heart, he could not stop watching, from the plane's window his dear Sicily fading away.

When Bruno returned to Sydney, he found his mother-in-law unwell. She had breast cancer and on 23/11/1992 she had to have a mastectomy. She recovered and life continued as God planned. The children had grown. Flavio has found a secure job of his liking and on 9 November 2002 married Angela Di Marco. A marriage though that wasn't certainly the ideal. On 23/7/2008 Luciano was born and on 11/1/2010 Isabella was born. When Isabella was just 8 months old the mother broke the marriage, took the two children and went back to her parents leaving the father to fight unsuccessfully expensive court cases to be able to see the children. She would ignore all court orders unpunished.

On 16 April 2011 Yolanda married Lachlan Armstrong. They had three children: Cooper Bruno, born 21 November 2012; Fletcher Warwick, born 22 August 2016; and Bronte Alexandra, born 19 February 2019. The family established their residence in Windella, Hunter Valley. The name Bronte recalls Yolanda's mother town of birth.

Bruno retired from work in 2010 at the age of 72. He had worked for 36 years with the Postal Administration of Sydney. During his life in Australia he has been a prolific writer and painter. With his wife they have made 26 trips overseas. He also dedicated himself to the assistance of the poor and needy. His multiple activities must have been noticed because in September 2014 Bruno was awarded the Order of Australia Medal by the Governor General. Zina said to her mother on that occasion: "Bruno has given me the honour to walk on the red carpet at the Government house." In 2018 though sickness took hold of Zina. Blood problems, breast cancer, and medications that have been badly managed by various doctors led her on a long and painful way to the tomb on 2 June 2022.



FLAVIO RODOLFO SPEDALIERI (1975) (A11b1)

Flavio was born at the maternity King George V, in Camperdown, Sydney on Saturday 7 June 1975. At the age of 2 he travelled with the parents to Italy and USA and at the age of 4 he travelled to New Hebrides and New Caledonia. He started school at Frenchs Forest Primary where he experienced discrimination and bullying. He went then to the Marist Brothers school in Mosman first and then to North Sydney where he completed High School on 11 December 1992, He was awarded then the First Price in General Sciences. Flavio has great interest in electronics; in May 1993 he wrote an article on Lasers that was published on the magazine "Silicon Chip". In January 1994 Flavio enrolled at the University of Technology, faculty of electronics and computer technics. On 16 March 2002 at the Youth Festival which took place at Frenchs Forest High School with the participation of over 1500 people, Flavio had hundreds of people watching, open mouth, at the first Laser Show done in the Forest. Flavio had built his own laser projector and he had designed the computer program for the show.

On 9 November 2002 Flavio married Angela Di Marco. They had two children:

- *Luciano Giuseppe Spedalieri* (A11b1a) born in Sydney on 23 July 2008 and
- *Isabella Rose Spedalieri* (A11b1b) born in Sydney 11 January 1910.

On 23 August 2010, unexpectedly but in a calculated way, Angela who had been for 8 years Flavio's wife, left the house with the children and went back to her parents decided to alienate the children from the father. Her open actions against the natural rights of the children, 4 years of court and many breach of court orders remained unpunished. Still today it is through the internet that Flavio can follow the whereabouts of his abducted children.

Today Flavio is working with the international company Heidelberg as an appreciated electronic engineer looking after the proper functioning of the lasers machinery used in hospital and private clinics for eye surgery all over Australia and New Zealand. He also keeps writing articles for scientific magazines and taking panoramic photographs. In this last field he has earned few awards including a Silver Photography Award.



*A significant date.
Father and children meet
again for few hours, after 4
years of separation on 13
August 2017 for Luciano
Spedalieri First Communion.*

YOLANDA FRANCESCA MARIA SPEDALIERI (1985) (A11b2)

Yolanda Francesca Maria Spedalieri was born on Tuesday 21 May 1985 at the Royal North Shore Hospital of Sydney. The birth of Yolanda, as it was done for Flavio, was registered at the Italian Consulate and transmitted to Pratola Peligna, last residence of the father in Italy.

On 4 January 1988 Yolanda started attending the Pine Street Kindergarten in Manly, where the mother was working. On January 1, 1991 the girl started primary school at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Forestville. Her teachers were subsequently Monica Dean, Heather Cooper and Mr McGuire. Principals of the school were Mrs Gwen Flynn and Mrs Helen Chambers. In 1993 Yolanda went to a drama school under the direction of Mrs Jan McGurk, who was also the director, the script writer and an actress. Yolanda got mentions for a few of her school projects: in 1995, for "Means of Communication" and "Uluru"; in 1996 for "The Egyptians", "Gold" and "Electricity".

In 1998 Yolanda started High School at Mercy College in Chatswood. She finished her courses in glory on 13 October 2003 with a great feast that started at the Spedalieri home in Frenchs Forest. In January 2004 Yolanda was accepted at the University and decided to enrol in the faculty of dramatic Art at Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. With pride on 18 April 2007 the parents saw their daughter dressed in cap and gown receiving the diploma. She continued though another year at university to get the qualification to teaching.

On St Valentine's Day 2010 Yolanda announced her engagement to Lachlan John Armstrong. They married on 16 April 2011, at St Patrick Church in Nulkaba, Hunter Valley. *Lachlan Armstrong*, was born in Newcastle on 22 July 1983 to Warwick Armstrong, born in Newcastle on 27 November 1947 (to Keith Armstrong e Ruby Lee), and Alexandra (Sandra) Dickson, born in Scotland on 14 December 1954 (to John (Jack) Dickson and Elizabeth (Betty) Dickson-Muir). Lachlan has one only brother: Ewan Armstrong born 15 September 1981 and married to Elaine Joo.

Lachlan Armstrong and Yolanda Spedalieri have 3 children:

- *Cooper Bruno Armstrong* born in Sydney on Wednesday 21 November 2012.
- *Fletcher Warwick Armstrong* born in Newcastle on Monday 22 August 2016.
- *Bronte Alexandra Armstrong* born in Newcastle on Tuesday 19 February 2019.



Lachlan Armstrong & Yolanda Spedalieri family - 19/2/2022



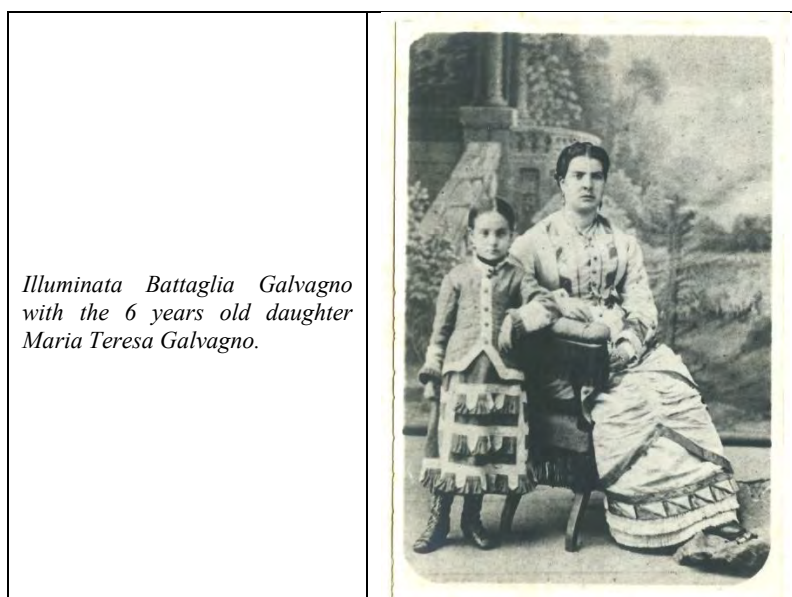
19/2/2022, The 4 generations. From right: Zina & Bruno Spedalieri, Yolanda with Bronte, Cooper, Lachlan & Maria Imbrosciano Liuzzo, Alexandra Armstrong, Warwick, Fletcher & Betty Dickson-Muir

GALVAGNO FAMILY



The Galvagno Family is originating from Bubbio in Asti Province of Piedmont in the 16th century. On 6 August 1543 Oddone Galvagno was invested with the domain of Bubbio. Giovanni was head of the house in 1613 and Antonio was a Counsellor in Bubbio in 1652. Giovanni had the son Carlo. Carlo's son Giuseppe Galvagno was made Earl of Cassinasco on 26 January 1767.

The surname Galvagno originated in Piedmont (North Italy) from the word Galvano, which probably derived from the French Gauvin which was connected to the Knights of the Round Table.



MARIA TERESA GALVAGNO

MARIA TERESA GALVAGNO IN SPEDALIERI (G3)

The only picture we have of Maria Teresa Galvagno is the one portraying her as a 6 years old child with her mother Illuminata Battaglia. Maria Teresa didn't have any brothers or sisters.

Maria Teresa Galvagno G3, daughter of *Giuseppe Galvagno G2* (son of Francesco (G1)) and *Illuminata Battaglia* (daughter of Nunzio) was born in Bronte on 2 August 1874. In 1896 she married Nicola Spedalieri, and they had 5 children of which only 3 survived (see under the title Spedalieri). Affected by cancer to the womb Maria Teresa died on 2 July 1906 at the age of 31 years and 11 months. She left 3 children of young age: Agatina 9 years old, Antonino 5 years old and Gioacchino Francesco 3 years old. It was Maria Teresa's mother, Illuminata Battaglia, that took care of the children, and the children called her: "Mammitta".

From the will of Giuseppe Galvagno G2) son of Francesco (G1) we know that Giuseppe had 4 brothers and 3 sisters: Francesco (G2b), Gaetano (G2c) father of Antonio (G3c) father of Nunziatina Galvagno wife of Gaetano Galvagno (Pistoru) (G3b), Angela-Maria, Nunzia, Antonina, Gioacchino and Carmelo. Giuseppe Galvagno died in Bronte on 24 April 1900.

Illuminata Battaglia, was daughter of Nunzio Battaglia and Teresa Zappia. She was born in Bronte on 28 August 1851. She died in Bronte on 16 January 1936 assisted by the niece Giuseppina Nicosia married Carmelo Viola. Illuminata Battaglia is buried in Bronte Cemetery, Zone 4, Row 7, Nr 18.

Francesco Galvagno (G2b), one of Giuseppe's brothers was the father of Gaetano Galvagno (G3b) who has a property at the Difesa bordering the property of Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri. Gaetano Galvagno nicknamed "Pistoru", married his cousin Nunziatina Galvagno (G4c) daughter of Antonio (G3c), and they had 3 children: Francesco Galvagno (Ciccino) (G4b1), born 18/6/1944. He is an engineer. Antonino Galvagno (G4b2), born 7/3/1946 married with Ninetta Pappalardo, has 2 children: Valeria and Gaetano. The third child of Gaetano and Nunziatina Galvagno is Angelina (G4b3) born 22/1/1949.



Difesa 1949.

Gaetano Galvagno (Pistoru) (G3b) (back row 2nd left) is between his brothers in law. In the centre is Niciolino Barresi (Godson of Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri).

Sitting from left, are Nunziatina Galvagno Galvagno (G4c) with daughter Angelina, Margherita Barresi wife of Nicolino and Iolanda Dominedò Spedalieri nursing Nicolino and Margherita Barresi's child.

Children in front from right: Antonino (nino) and Francesco (Ciccino) Galvagno sons of Gaetano (G3b) and Nunziatina (G4c), Bruno and Roberto Spedalieri sons of Iolanda and Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri.

DOMINEDÒ FAMILY



GAETANO DOMINEDÒ (D1) born in 1770, married Nicolina Vaccaro and they had the sons Giuseppe born in 1801 and Pietro born in 1806. Gaetano died in 1849.

Giuseppe Dominedò of Gaetano and Nicolina was born in 1801, he married Litteria Parisi and died at the age of 45 on January 24, 1846 in Randazzo, Catania, Italy.

Pietro Dominedò (D2), another son of Gaetano and Nicolina, was born in 1806. In 1831 he married Giovanna Giuseppa Maria Luca from Bronte, Catania, Italy. They had 5 children: Marianna Dominedò (1832), Gaetano Dominedò (1833), Teresa Dominedò married to Antonio Cimbali, Antonio Dominedò (1840), and Lorenzo Dominedò (D3) (1841).

Lorenzo Dominedò (D3) of Pietro, was born in 1841 in Randazzo, he married Venera Schilirò and they had 7 children: Giovanna 1870, Pietro 1872, Antonino 1874, Luigi Dominedò (D4) (1877), Francesca 1979, Teresa 1983 and Ignazio Dominedó born in 1888.

Luigi Dominedò (D4) (1877) of Lorenzo Dominedò and Venera Schilirò, married his cousin Teresa Schiliró and had the daughters Iolanda Venera Maria Nunziata Dominedò (D5) (1917) married in 1936 to Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri; and Maria Dominedò who born in 1918, died in 1920.

Francesco Maria Dominedò was born on 25 July 1903. He was a Senator of the Republic and actively worked for the Charter of the "Rights of the Child" promulgated by the United Nations General Assembly. The senator died in Rome on October 26, 1960. We haven't able to determine the connection of the Senator with our family.

We couldn't find any document referring to the origin of Dominedò family, not even an emblem. We have the name Adeodato, the son of St Augustin, which means "Given by God", Dominedò translates in "I give to God". The above emblem suits well the name and we propose it as the emblem for the family. This family was not present in Bronte in 1595, it appears that it has moved to Bronte from Randazzo at the beginning of 1800.

IOLANDA DOMINEDÒ (1917-1953) (D5)

IOLANDA DOMINEDÒ (1917-1953) (D5)

Iolanda Venera Maria Nunziata Dominedò, called by the aunties and uncles Venerina from the name of the Grandmother and Godmother Venera Schilirò, and also Luigina in reference to the father Luigi Dominedò. Iolanda was born in Bronte on 17 January 1917 to Luigi Dominedò and Teresa Schilirò (Leo) in the house number 3 of Vico De Amicis. In 1920 the family moved in the Schilirò home at number 7 Piazza Giosuè Calaciura. It is a palace built by Father Giosuè Calaciura in 1835 and bought by Giuseppe Schilirò in 1890.

Iolanda was the first of 2 daughters, her sister Maria, was born in 1918 and died in March 1920 at the age of 2 and 2 months before her father died.

On 14 May 1936, at the age of 19 Iolanda got married to the Brigadier of the Carabinieri Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri. The 16 of May Iolanda left the mother to follow her husband to North Italy. They stopped in Rome where they saw the Dominedò relatives and received the blessing of Pope Pius XI. They settled in Badia Calavena (Province of Verona) and there was born their first child Roberto Nicola in 1937. Then they moved to Mantova where Bruno was born in 1938. In 1940 the Brigadier was appointed to command the Carabinieri Station at Casalmaggiore and in that city in 1944 was born and died the third child Guglielmo Rodolfo. Grandmother Teresa from Sicily had joined the daughter for the event which was joyful and sad at the same time. That same year the family moved to the safer town of Valle di Casalbello.

From 1940 Italy was at war and the Brigadier was sent first to the Russian Front and then to the southern front and on the 8 august 1944 he was arrested by the Nazis and deported to Germany. It was the time for Iolanda to show her strong and heroic character. With the assistance of the mother, she took the decisions imposed by the circumstances to ensure the wellbeing and the safety of her children. And she was firm in defending her husband when, at his return from Germany he was arrested by the partisans. He was liberated and was promoted Marshal.

In August 1945 the family moved to Sicily. In 1948 the husband retired from the military service and went to work as an archivist at Bronte Tribunal of Justice. But in 1951 Iolanda's health started deteriorating. An undetected sub renal cyst took her to the tomb on 17 July 1953 at the age of 36 years and 6 months. Iolanda is buried together with her parents in the cemetery of Bronte, Zone 5, Row N. 3, Tomb N. 18.

The number 17 marked Iolanda's life. She was born on day 17 January of 1917, she was married 17 years, her hospital bed was N. 17 and she died on the 17 of July. She was born in the year of the apparition of the Virgin Mary at Fatima, and she died in the year of the Virgin Mary crying in Siracusa.



Luigi Dominedò (D4)



Iolanda Dominedò Spedalieri



Teresa Schilirò Dominedò

LUIGI DOMINEDÒ (1877-1920) (D4)

Iolanda's father was Luigi Dominedò. He was born in Bronte on 28 June 1877 to Lorenzo Dominedò and Venera Schilirò, On 25 November 1916 Luigi Dominedò married his first cousin Teresa Schilirò daughter of Giuseppe Schilirò (brother of Venera) and Marianna Biuso and went to live at N. 3 Vico De Amicis. They had two daughters: Iolanda Venera Maria Nunziata in 1917 and Maria in 1918, who died in 1920.

Luigi Dominedò was a tax collector for the council and was well respected by all for his fairness. Luigi Dominedò died from pneumonia on 15 May 1920 in Bronte, two months after the death of his daughter Maria. He is buried in the cemetery of Bronte, Zone 5, Row 3 Tomb N° 18.

Luigi had 3 brothers and 3 sisters, all migrated to Rome. They are:

GIOVANNINA DOMINEDÒ - Born in 1870, she married in Bronte. Soon she remained widow without children and lived with her sisters. After the war in 1946 she went with her sisters to Rome. Where she died in her nineties.

PIETRO DOMINEDÒ - Born in 1872 died on 4 May 1941. He married Maria and had one only daughter: *Fedora Dominedò*.

ANTONINO DOMINEDÒ - Born in Bronte in 1874, he went to Rome before the war started. He married Maria, but they had no children. Antonino died on 12 November 1966 and Maria died 6 months later.

FRANCESCA DOMINEDÒ - Was born on 12 August 1879. Francesca was the third wife of *Alfonso Napoli*, but she had no children. When the husband died she went to live with her sisters and with them, after the war, she migrated to Rome where she died on 12 December 1965.

TERESA DOMINEDÒ - She was born in Bronte in 1883. She never married and died in Rome on 25 April 1973.

IGNAZIO DOMINEDÒ – The last of Lorenzo Dominedò e Venera Schilirò children, was born in 1888. He went to Rome before the war started and was employed with the State Railway. In 1926 he married Maria, and they had two daughters:

- *Fedora Dominedò* - (Rina) born in 1927. She was employed with the Bank of Italy. She married the second cousin Alfonso Paparo of Biagio Paparo and Francesca Bonaccorsi of Bronte. Alfonso and Rina had the daughter: *Gabriella Paparo*, born in 1960.

- *Marcella Dominedò* – born in 1928. She was a primary school teacher. On 24 April 1954 she married Dr. Luigi Baghini of Cura di Vetralla. Marcella and Luigi had two children: *Ester Baghini*, (Titti) born in Rome on 2 March 1955, she died of cancer on the day of her 14th birthday, 2 March 1969. And Siro Baghini born in 1957.

Relatives

Lorenzo Dominedò of Pietro, was born in 1841 in Randazzo, and married Venera Schilirò sister of Giuseppe Schilirò. Lorenzo had the following siblings: Marianna Dominedò (1832), Gaetano Dominedò (1833), Teresa Dominedò married to Antonio Cimbali, and Antonino (1840).
- *Teresa Dominedò* (-) married Antonio Cimbali. They inherited from the Canon Motta the Ginestrola Property with the obligation to pay a rent to the other descendent of Lorenzo. This rent in the end was inherited by Roberto & Bruno Spedalieri.

- *Antonino Dominedò* (1840) married Caterina Natali and had the daughter Enrichetta Dominedò in 1864. Enrichetta married Dr. Pietro Zappia and had the daughter Concettina Zappia who married the Cav. Giovanni Girbino, Chancellor at the Tribunal of Bronte.



Ignazio Dominedò (1888) with daughter Fedora (Rina) (1927)



Wedding of Marcella Dominedò with Dr Luigi Baghini



Maria Dominedò, wife of Ignazio and mother of Rina and Marcella



Marcella Dominedò Baghini (left) and Rina Dominedò Paparo (right)



Siro & Ester Baghini children of Marcella Dominedò & Luigi Baghini



Hon. Francesco Maria Dominedò (1903-1960)

SCHILIRÒ FAMILY



Schilirò

The word Schilirò appears to originate from the Greek word Σκληρός (read Schlerós) which means "strong, hard, severe". It may reflect the demeanour of family members. It is important though to specify that in Bronte the families are called by nicknames, and that the nicknames are often attributed to a specific branch of the family, not to all people bearing the same surname. This is the case of Schilirò. There are various Schilirò in Bronte but only the branch we are talking about is nicknamed "LEO" (Lion). Physically the members of this family have an imposing body structure.

From where the family has originated? It is not credible that she is coming from Greece, certainly not in the last few centuries. Our relative Concettina Schilirò married to Vittorio Leanza, reports that the family is descending from a noble family of Brescia (in Lombardy region, North Italy). They migrated to Sicily in recent decades. No Schilirò is mentioned in the list of the families recorded In Bronte in 1595 and not even in the lists of College Capizzi benefactors of 1778. It seems obvious that the Schilirò were not in Bronte before 1800.

PIETRO SCHILIRÒ (LEO) (S1)

According to the information provided by Concettina Schilirò of Bronte, by Francesco and Tino Viola from California USA and by Gaetana Schilirò married Gaetani of Sydney Australia, I have been able to put together the following genealogical tree.

The family has moved from Brescia to Sicily in the first decades of 1800. In Sicily we find the brothers Pietro Schilirò and Marianna Schilirò.

PIETRO SCHILIRÒ (S1) had 6 children: 5 boys and one girl. 4 of the boys became priests and the girl became nun. The other boy is Ignazio Schilirò (S2) (see below).

MARIANNA SCHILIRÒ Pietro's sister married Giuseppe Viola son of Carmelo Viola. Giuseppe and Marianna had the son Francesco Viola born in 1818. Francesco married Teresa Zappia and they had 8 children; one of these children is Carmelo Viola born in Bronte 1/1/1879. In 1913 Carmelo married Giuseppina Nicosia, they had 6 children. All the family migrated to the USA in 1954.

IGNAZIO SCHILIRÒ (S2)

One of Pietro's children, Ignazio Schilirò married Francesca Leanza from the city of Maletto. Francesca was the daughter of Dr Leanza and the Countess Rosina Costa from Genova (North Italy). Ignazio Schilirò and Francesca Leanza had 9 children. They are the following:

* *FRANCESCO SCHILIRÒ*. He married Angelina and had 2 children, but he soon died leaving a 19 old widow with 2 children: Concettina Schilirò who died at the age of 20, and Pietro Schilirò who died at the age of 23. Angelina then married her brother in law: Luigi.

* *ROSINA SCHILIRÒ*. She died at 89 years of age without children.

* *ANTONIO SCHILIRÒ*. He was a lawyer and a poet, He died prematurely unmarried.

* *VINCENZA SCHILIRÒ*. She married Gaetano Paparo, but had no children, they were godparents at the baptism of their niece Francesca Schilirò, daughter of Giuseppe and Marianna Biuso.

* *TERESA SCHILIRÒ*. She married twice. From the first husband, *Antonio Patti* she had Virginia Patti who became the first wife of Alfonso Napoli. The third wife of Alfonso Napoli was Francesca Dominedò daughter of Lorenzo Dominedò. From the second husband, *Alfonso Paparo* Teresa had the son Biagio Paparo who married Francesca Bonaccorsi and they had 4 children: Alfonsino Paparo, who married in Rome the cousin Fedora (Rina) Dominedò; Antonio Paparo, employed at the Tribunal of Bronte; Nino Paparo; and Ugo Paparo.

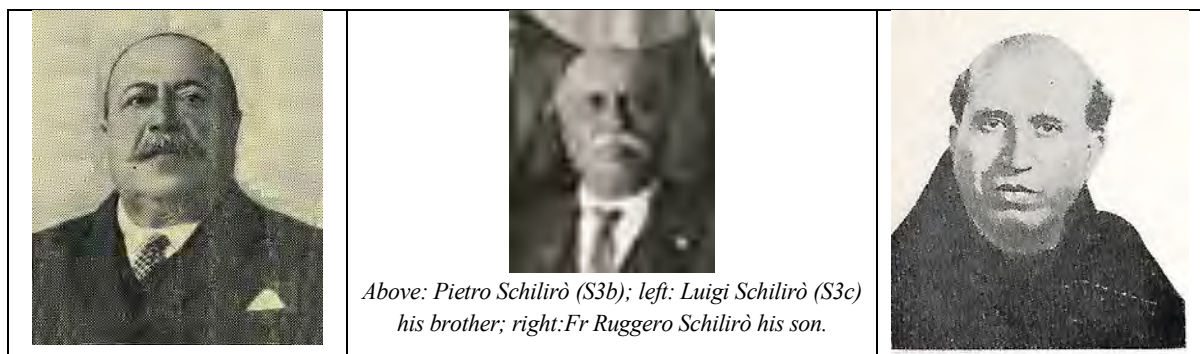
* *PIETRO SCHILIRÒ (S3b)*. This other son of Ignazio Schilirò and Francesca Leanza, married Venera Biuso. Pietro e Venera had 5 children: *Leone Schilirò*, born 14 July 1886 was a Franciscan Father and took the name of Fr Ruggero. During World War I he was sent to the front as an Army Chaplain. He was awarded the Bronze Medal for military bravery. He died in Bronte on 27 November 1964 at the age of 96. *Carolina Schilirò*, died unmarried in 1964. *Luigi Schilirò*, died unmarried. *Francesca Schilirò* also died unmarried. *Ignazio Schilirò*, married with Angelina Gullotta had 3 children: *Pietro Schilirò*. (Petrino) who was director of the Mutual Bank of Bronte, married with children; *Giuseppina Schilirò*, chemist and married with children; *Gino Schilirò*, quoted in paediatrics is married with children, lives in Catania.

* **GIUSEPPE SCHILIRÒ (S3)**. Born in Bronte in 1848, married Marianna Biuso , Sister of Venera the wife of Pietro Schilirò (S3b) and they had 3 children: **Ignazio Schilirò** born in 1878; **Francesca Schilirò** born in 1881; and **Teresa Schilirò (S4)** born in 1883. (For all these see next heading).

* **VENERA SCHILIRÒ**. Probable year of her birth is 1850, as she was already mother when her last brother Luigi was born. In 1869 she married **Lorenzo Dominedò** from Randazzo. They had 7 children: Giovanna (1870), Pietro (+ 1941), Antonino (+ 1966), Luigi (1877-1920), Francesca (1879), Teresa (1883), Ignazio (1890). (For all these see chapter “Dominedò Family”).

* **LUIGI SCHILIRÒ (S3c)**, the last of Ignazio Schilirò and Francesca Leanza’s children was born in Bronte on 21 February 1870. At 17 he married the 19 years old Angelina the widow of his brother Francesco and adopted the two orphans Concettina and Pietro Schilirò. The wife Angelina though died young for cancer to the womb and little time later the two orphans died. Luigi was shocked and didn’t want to marry again. He had though a daughter from Nunzia Meli that he called Concettina Schilirò in memory of the dead niece and stepdaughter. Luigi Schilirò died in Bronte on 28/1/1954 and Nunzia Meli died 26/5/1967 aged 77.

Concettina Schilirò (S4c) was born in Bronte on 17 December 1918 e she was very friend with her cousin Iolanda Dominedò. On 27 April 1940 she married the teacher **Vittorio Leanza** born in Cesarò on 10 agosto 1916. Vittorio died 1/7/1991, and Concettina died 25/6/2007. Their children are: **Luigina Leanza (Gina)**, born on 7/4/1941 died of heart attack on 31/8/1957. **Antonino Guglielmo Leanza**, (Nino) born 4/7/1944, married Maria Berlich and have the child Daniele Leanza, born 19/7/1973. Antonino died in Bronte 6/2/2013. **Laura Leanza**, born 16/1/1958. She received the First Communion by Fr Bruno Spedalieri on 10/8/1969, on 12 December 1981 she married Dr. Virgilio Zozo and they have 3 children: Aurelio Zozo born 27/9/1982, Vittorio Zozo born 19/11/1984, and Alberto Zozo born 11/2/1992.



GIUSEPPE SCHILIRÒ (LEO) (1848-1931) (S3)

GIUSEPPE SCHILIRÒ LEO (S3) (1848-1931)

Born in Bronte in 1848, he married Marianna Biuso. Marianna Biuso was born in Bronte on 17/12/1848 to Francesco Vincenzo Biuso and Signorina Agati. Marianna had 11 brothers and sisters as her father married twice. One of her brothers, Giuseppe Biuso was a priest. Her sister Vincenza Biuso married Dr Lo Vecchio and they had the children: Giacomo Lo Vecchio, solicitor, and Vincenzino lo Vecchio, jeweller. Another sister, Signorina Biuso, married in Ciraldo and was the mother of Fr Ciraldo known as “Padre Tisu”, and her sister Venera married the brother-in-law Pietro Schilirò (S3b).

In 1890 Giuseppe Schilirò bought from Fr Giosuè Calaciura the Palace situated in today's Piazza Giovanna D'Arco Nr. 12. In that palace Marianna died on 17 December 1917 and Giuseppe died on 26 February 1931. Giuseppe and Marianna had 5 children: Ignazio (S4b), Francesca (S4c), Teresa (S4), Venera born in 1885 died infant, and Antonino born in 1887 also died infant.

Ignazio Schilirò (Leo) (S4b) was born in Bronte on 12 June 1878. On the same day he was baptized by his uncle Fr Giuseppe Biuso. During his life Ignazio took care of the large possessions the family had in Maniace. Ignazio never married, he died of pneumonia on 13 January 1934 at the age of 55 and 6 months.

Francesca Schilirò (Leo) (S4c) was born 31/1/1881. She married Antonino Domenico Russo and they had 2 children: *Francesca Russo* (Ciccina) born in 1914. She married Giuseppe Lo Giudice and they have 2 children: Gabriella Lo Giudice (1947), married to Mariano Genovese they have 2 children: Antonio (1980) and Giuseppe (1982); Vittorio Lo Giudice is a lawyer, in 1996 married Tina De Francesco and they have the daughter Federica. *Giuseppe Russo* (Peppino), the other son of Francesca and Antonino was born in 1916. Married to Maria Interlisano they have 2 children. Francesca Schilirò Russo died in 1975.

Teresa Schilirò (Leo) (S4) was born 10 April 1883 to Giuseppe Schilirò and Marianna Biuso. And she died in Belpasso on 6 January 1965. For more information see next heading.



*Above left, Marianna Biuso Schilirò.
Above centre, Ignazio Schilirò her son.
Above right, Francesca Schilirò Russo
daughter of Giuseppe Schilirò and
Marianna Biuso..*



*Photo on the left: Gabriella Lo Giudice
Genovese, granddaughter of Francesca
Schilirò, with her husband Mariano
Genovese and children Antonio and
Giuseppe Genovese.*

TERESA SCHILIRÒ (LEO) (1883-1965) (S4)

TERESA SCHILIRÒ (LEO) (1883-1965) (S4)

Was born 10 April 1883 to Giuseppe Schilirò and Marianna Biuso. And she died in Belpasso on 6 January 1965. She was baptized the day after she was born by the Archpriest of Bronte, Fr Giuseppe Ardizzone, the Godfather was her uncle Luigi (S3c). At the age of 31, on 25 November 1916 Teresa Schilirò married her 1st cousin Luigi Dominedò son of Lorenzo Dominedò and Venera Schilirò, sister of Teresa's father Giuseppe. Because of the close relation the marriage needed the approval of the Archbishop of Catania that is the reason of the delayed registration. From the marriage two girls were born: Iolanda Venera Maria Nunziata on 17 January 1917 and Maria who born in 1918, died in 1920, 2 months before her father died on 15 May 1920.

Teresa's life was marked with grief. She saw dying one after the other all the people she cherished. In the year her first daughter Iolanda was born, in 1917, she has lost the mother, in 1920 she has lost her second daughter and the husband. In 1931 she has lost her father. In 1934 she has lost her brother and in 1953 she has lost the only daughter she had left. With the time her memory fade away and on 28 August 1962 the old and afflicted mother was put under the care of the brave nuns of Cardinal Dusmet nursing home in Belpasso city where she died in the evening of the 6th January 1965. Teresa Schilirò Dominedò is buried in the family tomb in the cemetery of Bronte together with her husband, her daughter Iolanda and her son in law Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri.



*Teresa Schilirò Dominedò (S4) (1883-1965)
Wife of Luigi Dominedò*



*Iolanda Dominedò (left) daughter of
Teresa Schilirò & Luigi Dominedò
with her cousin Concettina Schilirò (S4c)*



*Luigi Dominedò (D4) (1877-1920)
Husband of teresa Schilirò*

IOLANDA DOMINEDÒ SPEDALIERI (1917-1953) (D5)

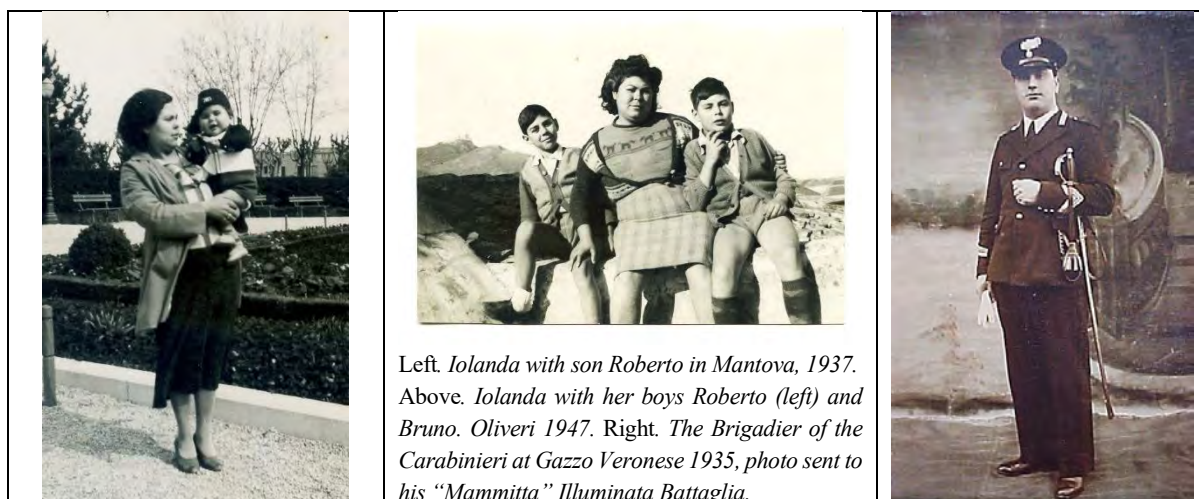
IOLANDA DOMINEDÒ SPEDALIERI (1917-1953) (D5)

We have already written at lent about Iolanda in the Chapter Dominedò. She was born on 17/1/1917 and died on 17/7/1953. She was the daughter of Luigi Dominedò (D4) and Teresa Schilirò (S4). Iolanda was the only living child of the family and had grown a strong friendship with her cousin Concettina Schilirò. Concettina was the daughter of Luigi Schilirò who was the brother of Giuseppe Schilirò, the father of her mother Teresa.

Iolanda's father was also cousin with her mother Teresa. In fact Teresa's father Giuseppe, was the brother of Luigi Dominedò's mother who was Venera Schilirò. Venera Schilirò was also Iolanda's Baptism Godmother. This was the reason that Iolanda had as second name Venera, called more often Venerina by the relatives. When Luigi Dominedò died Iolanda was only 3 and a half years old, and the father's relatives started calling her Luigina in reference of the dead father. When Iolanda was in her 18 the grandmother Marianna Biuso fell sick, uncles and aunties thought better to have Iolanda married and at 19 years of age on 14 May 1936 Iolanda got married to the Carabinieri Brigadier Gioacchino Francesco Spedalieri.

The young officer Spedalieri was known by the Dominedò family because the Dominedò and the Spedalieri lived in the same street. When Gioacchino was 16 years of age, he saw Don Luigi Dominedò carrying the 3 years daughter Iolanda near St Giovanni Church and jokingly said to him: "Don Luigi, would you give me your daughter for wife?" Don Luigi answered him: "Cì (short for Francesco) you don't know what may happen in life."

As Mrs Spedalieri, Iolanda followed faithfully her husband and faced with strength and courage the hard years of war. In 1952 she fell sick but the doctors were confused and unable to manage a disease that grow incurable with the time. On 17 July 1953 morning, at Vittorio Emmanuele Hospital of Catania, Iolanda knew that her last day had come. She requested to be given the last Sacraments and wanted to be transported home in Bronte. In the evening before dying she took her wedding ring and gave it back to her husband. She died at 11 pm that same day 17 July 1953, in the 17th year of marriage.



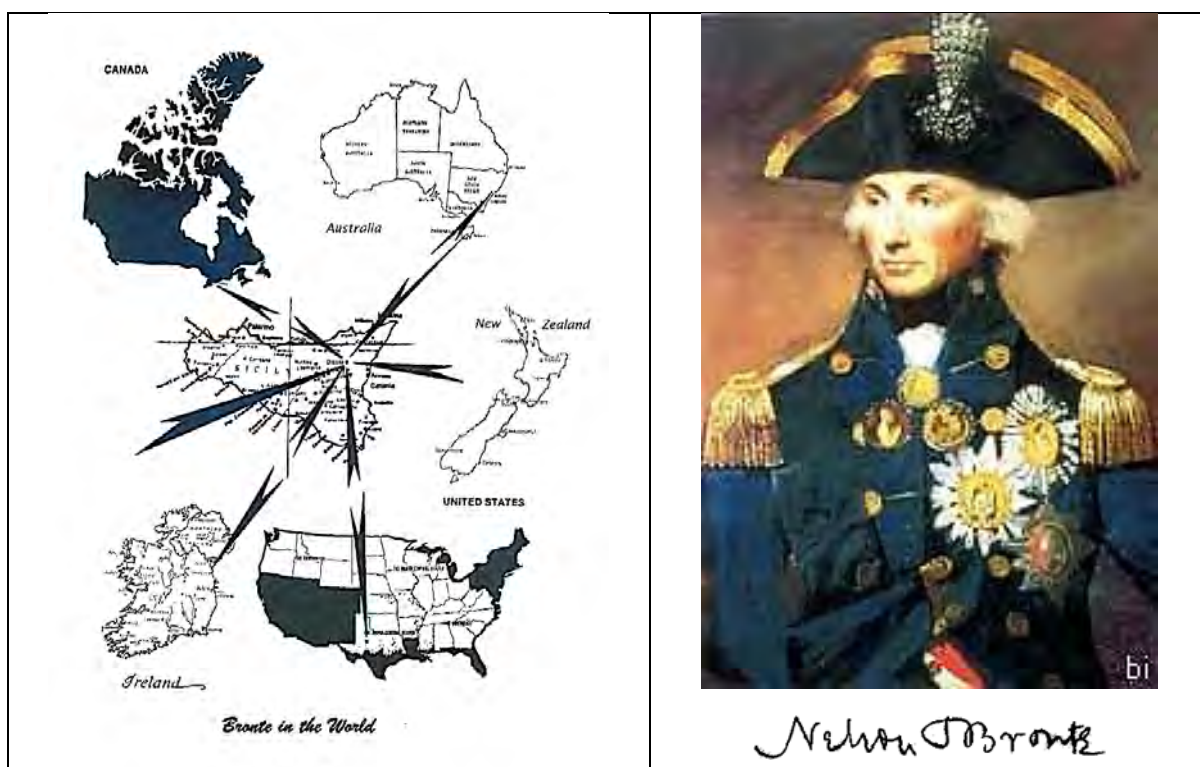
Left. Iolanda with son Roberto in Mantova, 1937.
Above. Iolanda with her boys Roberto (left) and Bruno. Oliveri 1947. Right. The Brigadier of the Carabinieri at Gazzo Veronese 1935, photo sent to his "Mammitta" Illuminata Battaglia.

THE CITY OF BRONTE



Bronte is an agricultural city in Sicily and the producer of the tastiest pistachio nuts in the world. It is situated at 770 meters of altitude on the western slopes of the Volcano Etna. It is one of the 57 communes of Catania Province which extends its territory on the eastern part of Sicily. Bronte counts today just over 20,000 inhabitants. There is nothing exceptional in Bronte but an historical event helped to project its name all around the world. In 1799, the Bourbon King of Naples and Sicily Ferdinand I, was helped by the British Admiral Horatio Nelson to crush a revolt in Naples instigated by Napoleon. To compensate the Admiral for his great help, the King bestowed on him the title of Duke and donated him the whole territory of Bronte. Bronte's people didn't take at heart the royal decision but couldn't prevent it and for 18 decades they had to tolerate the foreign occupation of their land. In 1980 the 7th descendent of Horatio Nelson, the Duke Alexander Nelson Hood, sold the property to the local peasants and left the country.

Admiral Horatio Nelson has never set foot in Bronte, he died at Trafalgar in 1805, but he took pleasure in signing his documents with the words "Nelson Bronte". The Duke title of Nelson propelled the name of Bronte around the world. In Australia we have the suburb Bronte in NSW, and Bronte Park in Tasmania. In New Zealand not far from the City of Nelson there is the town of Bronte, In Ontario Canada, near Toronto there is Bronte City and Bronte River, and in Texas, not far from San Angelo, there is the City of Bronte. All these locations got the name out of the Duke title of Horatio Nelson, consequently their name derived from the city of Bronte in Sicily. Even the famous British writers Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë derive their surname from Bronte in Sicily, and many individuals around the world are called by first name or by surname, "Bronte", ignoring though from where that word is coming from. Horatio Nelson's body rests in St Paul Cathedral of London, but his title associated with the name of the City of Bronte in Sicily keeps running around the world.



We have evidence that the city of Bronte was founded by the Greeks. It is believable that the founders were some Athenian Soldiers who, in 416 before the Christian Era, were able to escape from the bloody war that had erupted on the eastern coast of Sicily between Spartans and Athenians to defend the interests of their Sicilian colonies Selinunte and Segesta. The name of Bronte is a Greek one and means *Thunder*. It is the name that the Greek Poet Homer gave to one of the Cyclopes believed to live inside the Volcano Etna. The first church of Bronte was recorded as being called Santa Maria di Minerva. Minerva is the name the Romans gave to the Greek Goddess Athena. In May 1927 in the territory of Bronte, were discovered some Greek coins of the 3rd century BC with the head of the Goddess Athena. (Ref. Memorie storiche di Bronte, page 321). The town of Maletto neighbouring the City of Bronte, derives its name from the city of Mileto in Greece, a city whose soldiers helped the Athenians in the war against the Spartans.

At the start of the second millennium Bronte counted 1000 citizens, but diseases, natural disasters and volcanic eruptions made the population to disperse in surrounding territories. In 1530 the population of Bronte was reduced to 250 and the miserable state of the town attracted the attention of the Emperor Charles V. In 1535 the Emperor, in his way to Tunis, stopped in Bronte. From there he sent a heartfelt message to the Governor of Randazzo under which jurisdiction was the town of Bronte: "*Commendo tibi tuguria Brontis*" (*I recommend to you the huts of Bronte*). To help solving the situation, the Emperor left in the city his counsellor Nicola Spedalieri with the task of reunifying the population of the surrounding hamlets into the centre of Bronte. Nicola used the religious sensitivity of the poor people for his scope. He went to Palermo to commission at his own expenses, from the best sculptor of the region, the marble group of the Annunciation. The statues arrived in Bronte in 1543 and by the 1550 the population of Bronte had grown to 2815 souls.

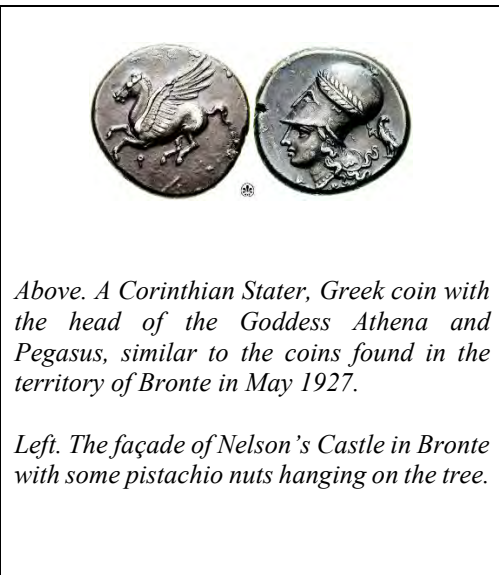
Bronte has given to the world some famous people as the Venerable Ignazio Capizzi, the Cardinal Antonino De Luca, the Physiologist Arcangelo Spedalieri and the internationally renowned Abbot, Philosopher and Apologist Nicola Spedalieri (1740-1795). Abbot Nicola wrote books to disprove the theories of the French historian Nicolas Fréret and those of the British historian Edward Gibbon. During the French Revolution, in 1790 by instigation of Pope Pius VI, Nicola Spedalieri wrote the book “*De’ Diritti dell’Uomo*” (On the Rights of Man) where he proves that the mirror image of the Human Rights are the Human Duties and that the Catholic Religion is the best defender of Human Rights.



Left. The typical procession of Madonna Annunziata in Bronte with the Flight of the Angel in Piazza Badia.



Right. Monument to the Abbot and Philosopher Nicola Spedalieri (1740-1795), in Piazza Sforza Cesarini of Rome.



Above. A Corinthian Stater, Greek coin with the head of the Goddess Athena and Pegasus, similar to the coins found in the territory of Bronte in May 1927.

Left. The façade of Nelson's Castle in Bronte with some pistachio nuts hanging on the tree.

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