

December 2005

I am very grateful to Ruby for allowing me to translate this wonderful collection of letters.

Through this letters I met the most courageous group of compatriots: The Tams.

Their strength, their courage, their stamina and determination are a great example for everyone that will read these letters.

America was not made in easy steps: it is the result of sacrifices, resolutions and dreams of many people, from all the parts of the world, it is the result of hopes, wishes, goals, dreams.

In loving America we honor and remember their memory.

Thank you.

Franca

No. 1

The Letters

08 May 1880

Tam Giovanni to Tam Giovanni and Fornaro Orsola  
From Glasgow (GB) to Villa di Chiavenna

A State of England, Glasgow

Dear Parents:

We are very late in our trip because, from the 22 of April when we left, it is already fourteen days that we are here waiting. The 27 of April we left Basilea and we reached Anders in Belgium the 29 of April. The first of May we boarded for Glasgow. Three days of sea and now it is already six days that we are here waiting our turn to leave on an English vessel. We are now sure that we shall leave the 11 of this month, Tuesday.

We like to let you know that all four of us are in good health and the same we hope all of you. And you, dear Father, do me a favor or let everybody know in my house and in the house of my three friends about our late start. So let everybody read my letter.

I am saluting everybody in the house and my friends do the same to their family.

Ciao.

I am your affectionate son, Tam Giovanni

Slifer Tomaso, Gini Antonio, Folladori Pietro.

No. 2

20 June 1880

Tam Giovanni to Tam Giovanni and Fornari Orsola  
From Portneuf Station Oneida (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents

I am sure that you were waiting a long time for a letter of mine from Montana considering the time that I left. But on the contrary everything is different. I wrote a letter before I got on board, written the 8 of May. I wrote again when we reached New York. The letter was written the 25 of May addressed to the wife of Gini Antonio. I believe that you received both of them.

Our trip has been long but happy. If you received our second letter, you know it was written the day we left Glendale. So in New York we bought the ticket for Oden (Ogden?) and when we reached Oden to buy the ticket for Montana, we didn't have the money. Not even half, none of us, so we did not know what to do. Then my three friends decided to leave for Eureka, but I could not agree with them, so all by myself I decided to visit my cousin, Marco. And I did it and I'm happy. I met him at Bingham Canyon and we did not know each other. I stay in Bingham 3 days and I was very happy of the reception. I left Bingham the 8 of June with a man from Provo (Provo ?) and we reached this location and we found work on the railroad.

I let you know that I am in good health and I hope it is the same for you. I would like to know where my brother works and if you sold the goats, well or so so. I would like to know also how generous Cominotti was with the deal and how many cents meant for every day. So I'm for a rapid answer. Let me know how everything is in the town. In the Fall I hope to be able to help you. Here, I'm very comfortable for the food because the expenses of the food are included in the pay. I'm very anxious to leave this place and go to Montana.

Informs about everything, Tom Tomaso and try to get the address of his son, Batista from Montana.

Ciao.

Your affectionate son, Giovanni Tam.

No. 3

22 Aug 1880

Tam Giovanni to Tam Giovanni and Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale (Montana) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents:

I'm glad to let you know I'm in good health and I hope is the same for you. Dear Father, dear Mother, Brother, Sister and all our relatives. Two moths ago I wrote a letter, on the 20 of June and I have no received yet an answer. But I hope everyday I will receive your letter.

Already a month that I am here in Glendale. My trip was exactly three months, but I worked one month on the railroad. I started working the 18 on June and on the 19 of July, left for Glendale. I was able to earn enough to make the move, the Bingham Canyon where my cousin was. I then left the 9 of June. I traveled for 9 days and then I stopped for a month, then 12 more days on the go to reach the blessed Glendale. I became more tired during this trip that when we came from Mallogio, 21 days on the road on foot to go from one town to another, only to earn a piece of bread. Think about, parents, but I do not regret to have come to this country. Only I realize that I should have been here a few years before, like I had planned, but you listen to other opinions and you did not listen to me. I thought that in this country everything was fine but instead it is very different. There are too many workers. Even my two friends, Slifer and Gini, who went to Eureka, arrived here before me, they found great abundance. They think that it is something of the past, in this country, to be able to make lots of money in a short time. But even they know they never thought this situation to be so miserable. Then I am here working with Tam B and

Delbondio G and Martinoia A, Slifer Gini, Tognana Tomaso of Luigi in Sant. Croce. Gino Antonio told me that Foladori Pietro left Eureka to go to California. Now I end my writing with many greetings.

Tam Batista wants to let his parents know he writes in the Fall and also send greetings to my brother, Guglielmo.

Please answer to my letter and answer to all the questions that I ask you in my older letter. I would like to know if my friend Donati Giovanni gave you some money and how much and if he pay everything. Let me know some news from the town and the prices of the food.

Greetings to my uncle Giuseppi and my aunt Paolina. I will write to you again in this Year, 1880, and will help you as much as I can. So please, do not neglect my questions.

I wish you good luck, good health and hope that everything will be alright.

Ciao to everybody, your son, Giovanni Tam.

Address in North America, Glendale, Montana Territory.

No. 4

10 Oct 1880

Tam Giovanni to Tam Giovanni and Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale (Montana Territory) to Villa di Chiavenna

North America, Glendale, Montana Territory

10 October 1880

Dear Parents:

I received your dear letter today, day 10, the date of September 19<sup>th</sup> and also all the other products of the land. I am so happy to hear you are all in good health, just like me and hope also for the future.

I let you know that the 19 of September I separated from my friends and now work for myself with Antonio Giacomini, son of the deceased Giorgio and Gini Antonio.

So I hear correctly from your letter that uncle Antonio in Chiavenna wants to sell to his brothers, all his property and our share will be 75 marengi. So, dear Father, do not neglect this chance, because for paying, I will take care of if God gives me health. For Christmas I will send this amount or at the latest, I will send this amount around the middle of January, 1881. About this payment, I hope that uncle Antonio, if he wants to wait for my money, he could charge me a fee for the amount that he has to wait for. But if he wants a ready payment, please borrow from somebody. About the grapes, I hope that you will do better than last year and also all the other products of the land.

I am wishing you good health, luck, happiness and peace. I leave you in my dearest greeting and please remind me to the uncles, aunts, and everybody in our home, mostly uncle Antonio In Chiavenna with all his family.

Ciao, dear parents.

Your son, Giovanni Tam

I gave everything that you sent me and I informed about what you told me. I want you to know that I never received the letter you sent me July 18.

No. 5

27 Dec. 1880

Tam Giovanni to Tam Giovanni and Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale (Montana) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents

With this few lines I plan to inform you of my very good health and the same of all of you.

The 21 of December I received the letter of Antonio Giacomini with a small note for me. So I understand that uncle Antonio do not want to wait for my answer, but I believe that you find the money from somebody else and I would like to be sure of this because the need of our home and I did everything possible for helping you. I send you 400 lira dinardo in gold through the Bank Cantonale, so you will be able to receive my money. I deposited my check in the Bank Cantonale de Maorzio so you are going to have more satisfaction and will receive the pure gold (coins). In this year I will not be able to send you more, but next year, if God will give me health, I will be able to help you more to satisfy your business.

I need a clear answer to this, my question:

1. How much property I received from my uncle Antonio and where are they? It is a vineyard, a forest, or a mountain?
2. If the hog that we received as a payment from uncle Antonio give you a good amount of money or a loss.
3. Did you sell the goats?
4. I would like to know how much work you put into maintaining the vineyard, the Cominatti Valatti. Did he pay you more than the contract?
5. I would like to know who is now the Forest Ranger in Bondo, because I know that the other one drown himself.
6. Let me know this year, 1880, there is being work in Brigalia.

7. I would like you to say hello to my two Godparents, Gheggi and Orlandini. Let Stasia Giacomini know that his father will write to him, but he will send the letter with the mail of Castasegna. He left here. He went to Silver Star City, Montana and I send to him his letter that was sent from his son.

Let me know immediately that you receive my money and write to me a little more often, that I have already sent you four letters, but I haven't received not even one since I am in America. If you need to write to me, my address is still the same, Glendale, Montana Territory, United States, North America. I greet \*everybody.

G. Tam

\*This was actually written, the word "gloves"...

No. 6

2 Jan 1881

Tam Giovanni to Tam Guglielmo  
From Glendale (Montana) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Brother Guglielmo:

I am back writing this letter to let you know that I send my letter the 28 of December of last year, with the check with the amount of Franchi 516 in gold and I hope that you received it at the Bank Cantonal Curia that I sent in a stamped letter with 60 Franchi to give to the wife of Stifer Tomasso and 50 Franchi to the wife of Antonio Martinoia, because they gave me the money. So in the hands of our Father there are Franchi 416 that I sent to repay the debt for buying the property of uncle Antonio and I'm sure that you realized this purchase. It is 100 Franchi over the amount of said debt. This to satisfy other business for this year. I will not be able to send more, but at the end of this year, 1881, there will be some.

In the meanwhile, dear brother, I beg you to do all of this for our parents, Father and Mother. In the meanwhile, I have nothing to say about this country because I do not know very much, but if something new happens, I will let you know and I will send the money also for the trip if our parents will be convinced. Answer this letter of mine and let me know some news from our town.

Let me know also the day in which our Father has received my money.

I read in an Italian newspaper that the class of second category of 1859 had to report to the military District the 1 of October, 1880. Let me know if is really true and please do not inform anyone about me, only our parents. Nothing else I need to tell you but to obey our parents and protect our dear sister, Catarina.

I greet you affectionately, you, the parents and sister. Greetings also from your friend, Tom Batista.

The letter that you send me, mail them from Post Office of Castasegna. A hand shake for you.

Giovanni Tam

Keep quiet about my suggestions. Someday we shall be together.

No. 7

13 Mar1881

Tam Giovanni to Tam Giovanni and Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale (Montana Territory) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

I answer to your dear and long due letter which I received the 15 of this month. Your letter has given me a great consolation to know that you are in good health and everybody else in the family.

But I need more details:

1. I want to know if you had to pay something for cashing my check.
2. If the 1.60 was a tip or payment for labor.
3. I would like to know how many steps is the vineyard (?) and if the woods is all our or only the half of it.

Now I realize that the smallest part of the property was given to us.

About the son of Marie Gini, widow of Foladori, I do not have any news from the time we separated at Oden until this Spring, but I heard from others for news arrived from Eureka, that she was at Oden City, Utah until the month of November.

Now I want to tell you something; in the future do not put notes for me in the letters addressed to other people, I am still in the same place, write to me directly, when you receive a letter of mine answer in no longer than 8 days and even earlier even if I do not ask for a reply. I am far from the town and I feel bad when I come to the Post Office and there is nothing for me.

Now I want to tell you the local news; presently things are not going well and I do not know if this summer will be possible to find a job but, in case I have to leave, I will let you know.

Dear parents, be sure to take care of your nutrition and drink, even if you do not have enough (?) money. In the Fall, if God gives me health, I will help you.

I have nothing else to tell you. I will leave you now sending you good wishes for your health.  
Ciao. I am you son Giovanni Tam.

Dear Brother,

I want to inform you that I received your letter del 15 March with great pleasure to know about your good news.

Be sure that to know that for this year you need to work in the best way possible because presently I do not have a cent in my pockets; in town things do not go well, during the winter I was not able to earn not even a cent on the account of the cold and the great quantity of the snow, but I will let you know something next Fall.

You told me that during next Spring many friends would like to come to America. So, when you write to me let me know who are these people and where they want to go but do not say anything to anyone.

Keep me informed about the news in our town and when these countrymen will like to come to America. Ciao dear brother.

I am your affectionate brother

Giovanni Tam.

No. 8

13 Mar 1881

Tam Giovanni to Tam Guglielmo  
From Glendale (Montana) to Villa de Chiavenna

Dear Brother,

I want to ask you if your last letter to me if the envelope of the letter that you sent to me the 8 of February was written by you. It does not seem like your handwriting and you asked somebody else to address the letter and if you know this person personally or if the letter was readdressed.

I had sent the envelope for you to use it in the future and I do not want you to give information about me to anyone.

And all the letters you sent me, if it is convenient with you, mail them from the Postal Office at Castasegne. Inform about this our parents also.

Please, say hello to my friends Giovanni Maraffio and Giorgette Sebastiani, daughter of Battisto and tell Giorgette that she has not answered to my letter. I send you my affectionate greetings and I will be waiting for a fast answer. Ciao.

Your brother

Giovanni Tam

7 August 1881

Tam Giovanni to Tam Giovanni and Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale (Montana) to Villa de Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

It is a little late but I am now answering your letter that, I happily, the 3 of April.

Your letter has given me great consolation about your health and all the new happenings. When you write again give me precise information rent and expenses for food all during the year.

Now I want you to know with whom I work and what kind of work I do.

I was hired monthly by Americans for a night job to make charcoal and so be able to earn enough to eat.

I am working with other Italian workers: Giovanni Tantini, And.\* Tam, Steve Sciucchetti, Antonio Gini, Guiseppe Gini (called Pino) and Giacomini Father and son who arrived here recently and began to work for themselves but there was understanding among them so they separated and now each work for himself, and Sebastiano Giorgette, my friend, is now working in Glendale for a German brewery. I met G. Orlandini only trice since he arrived here, I heard that is son Giovanni hurt himself. Please, let me know about his injuries.

I also heard that Italy, our country is preparing to fight against France, let me know if this is true. About my business I do not want to talk about except for my good health.

Inform uncle Guiseppe that I have news from some compatriots from Villa that Marco, his son is not well but maybe it all false because Mr. Delbondio, they say, has never seen or talked with him. I was for two weeks with Mr. Delbondio and I can say he is a gentleman he respect everyone and he is respected by everybody.

Mr. Delbondio is now home but if he was here we could say something to him. I know that he goes around saying that made a great fortune in America: yes but only 3500 lira -----the trips and then he was a charcoal maker just as everybody else.

Greetings to our Uncle and to everyone in the house.

Greetings also to my Godfather G. Orlandini and I salute everyone with all my heart: father, mother and brothers and good health.

Let me know where my brother worked during the summer and some news from the town. I want you to know that I enjoy good health, perfect health and I hope the same for all of you.

I am your son,

Giovanni Tam.

No. 10

3 Oct 1881

Tam Giovanni to Tam Giovanni and Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale (Montana) to Vila di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

Today I went to town to receive my wage and I decided to send you a small amount of money: 58 Sterling equal to 1509 Franchi sent by the Bank of London, addressed to the owner Gaetti at the Postal Office of Chiavenna and if it is possible, in gold. But from this amount you have to give 15 marenghi in gold, to the wife of T. Slifer and the rest it is not to repay my debt but to pay your old debts the ones you made to raise all of us.

I would like to know if you had to pay a percentage for the operation and how much you really received and who gave you the money. I will not send any more money with the Bank of London. Be sure to pay Antonio Tam, G. Delbondio and Tam Orsino for how much you will be able to do.

And then let me know who did you paid and who still has to be paid.

Please let me know as soon as you receive the money, do not neglect to do it. Ciao.

G. Tam

I would like for you to celebrate a Mass for me at the Oratorio of Chiavenna according to my intension - do it.

No. 11

09 Oct 1881

Tam Giovanni to Tam Giovanni and Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale (Montana) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

I follow with this second letter to let you know that I mailed a letter at the 3 of October with a check for the amount of 58 Sterling to be cashed in gold and I hope you have already received but remember that you have to give 15 marenghi in gold to the wife of Tomaso Slifer because he gave those to me.

And the next in 1150 franks, they are not to pay my debts, but to pay all the other debts, as much as you can and give the precedence to the oldest obligations.

As soon as you receive my letter, let me know, then let me know how much they gave you. Write again and let me know about some news in town. Let me know if the letter that I address to Villa arrive open.

I confirm that I received your letter of the 25 of September. And I am glad that you are enjoying good health just like me.

I very sorry to know that all the beans dried out and you were not able to even eat any; here I eat beans every day.

In this country, after September 20 we are in the snow and very rigid temperature.

Say Hi to Antonio Tam and G Delbondio and Tam Guglielmo and his wife and his father, Tamori and Merco. Ciao. I have nothing else to say but to wish you good health and peace.

Your son,

Giovanni Tam.

No. 12

19 Dec 1881

Tam Giovanni to Tam Giovanni and Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale (Montana) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

I received your most desired letter the day of the Blessed Mother from Giavera. Very happy to hear that you are all in good health just like me.

I am very happy that you received my money from the Bank of Vicosoprano, better than in Chiavenna. I would like to know if you received 20/100 for each lira or Franchi. At the same time I am informed that my brother will be coming in the Spring. But I do not have all the money for his trip, I have only half of what is necessary; I wish I had all of them but I can not sacrifice all I have because one never know about jobs or health Then find the money in time and I beg you do not let the public know that he is directed in this direction because, now things are pretty good, but it is a very small place and too many foreigners take advantage of this like last year when all at once 13 Italians arrived.

He is going to have some company for his trip because Guido Giovanni of Bernardo who has her a brother who works with me.

He will need to bring some equipment. To begin with he will bring only one hat and a set of clothes, only one corset, three shirts colored, a pair of grey trousers, a good sweater, a lot of stockings, some also for me because I had to borrow some from Andrea Tam, only one pair of shoes and two pairs of shorts, one woolen trousers and a small shovel. About the directions I will let you know about in another letter and about what to do and what to say; bring me a pocket book and a diary.

Ciao. I sent two newspaper let me know if you received them.

I will be waited for your answer.

I wish you good health and Happy New Year.

I am your son

Giovanni Tam

In my letters, on the address, please write first the first name then the last name. Glendale  
Montana T. North America

No. 13

13 Feb 1882

Tam Giovanni to Tam Giovanni and Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale (Montana Territory) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

The 12 of the current month, I received your letter dated 20 January which has given me great reassurance about your health and myself I am very healthy.

And also I realize that in the Spring my brother Guglielmo will be here. I know you will be sorry for him to leave, but be patient we will help you always not in this moment but when ever we will be able to do so for your most hard tasks, hire men and women day by day.

For about the ----- one will be enough and for the money I try very hard to send you as much as I can, for the rest try to provide according to the necessities.

So, I am sending you this small amount of money in American paper via New York per in the future, it is the amount of 80 dollars equivalent to 1,400 Italian lire to purchase the ticket for New York and the new adventure.

This is the itinerary: be very attentive.

According to the date of his departure he has to go to Basilae and make a contract for his ticket from Basilae to New York and when you will be in Basilae try to meet somebody who speak Italian. This person will take you to his house and will ask where you plan to go; so be very careful about this contract. You want a French ship with wine and good food and all the goods that one needs during a ocean crossing be careful they will ask 180 – 1900 for the transit from Basilar to New York but offer 160 Franks and if it is possible do not pay more that 170 if it is a French ship instead, if it is a English ship offer less.

From Spluge to Curie 7.80 Franks. From Curie to Basilae 10.80 Franks. This was the charge two years ago, now, I do not know.

You have to take care of the food from Ville a Basilae, from there all the way to New York they will take care of it. Then from New York al the way to your destination you have to take care of the food by yourself. The money that is still in your pocket when you reach New York change it in American money and the amount that you need from New York to Glendale will be no less of 35 marenghi.

Ciao, I will give your more information in another letter.

G. Tam

No. 14

4 May 1882

Tam Guglielmo to Tam Giovanni and Fornari Orsola  
Glendale, Montana to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

I want to let you know that I had a good trip and I am glad I came with Giovanni Foladori. We arrived in Glendale the 30 of April and we were on the ocean eleven days.

Now I am working with my brother and I very happy with him.

My cousin, Tam Pietro, will be here at Glendale around May 5 and if he want to work with us, we will accept him very gladly.

So in the Fall we hope to be able to send you some money like you asked us.

Also I am your son,

Guglielmo

No. 15

21 Aug 1882

Tam Giovanni and Guglielmo to Tam Giovanni and Fornari Orsola  
Glendale (Montana) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents;

You are neglecting to send your letters. My brother send you a letter on May 4 but, to this date we have not received any news and we do not know why, all our compatriots have received letters from their parents and relatives and us nothing yet. Why? You did not receive our letter? Or you did and did not answer? Maybe for spite we did something wrong? Please answer and let us know the reason.

Again I send this unhappy letter to let you know about our good health and we hope that is the same with all of you and even better.

We know the need of our family and we hope to be able to help you with a modest amount of money, a check for the sum of 12 sterling lira that is equal to 300 Franchi and I repeat, 300 Franchi and 4 sterling lira you will give to Uncle Guisepe because this is what his son Pietro is sending. And the money is sent by the Bank of London to be given in gold.

Ciao, we are waiting for a prompt answer. We are both brothers

Tam Giovanni and Tam Guglielmo

No. 16

20 Oct 1882

Tam Giovanni to Tam Giovanni and Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale (Montana) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

With this I am answering to your expected letter that I received the 12 of the current month with the date of the 24 of September. This letter gave me a great deal of reassurance knowing that you are in good and perfect health and I am also healthy and so is my brother.

Now I will let you know about my good fortune since I am living in this American land. About my first year and best year I will not tell you everything because in this piece of paper there is not enough space and I want to let you know about my good fortune. Then when I will be back in my country and together with you, I will tell you all.

Now let us talk about this horse and another subject very sad for us.

About the horse, it is true that was purchased by me and took from my pocket 110 dollars- only the horse without the furnishings and what else was necessary, so, in total I paid 135 dollari and then the time that wasted trying to find him and more money and yet I have no news of him and I do not have any hope.

He disappeared the last days of June, mine and the one of Tam And.(Andrea). But his was no entirely his. Tam has bought it with three friends and I was the only one to loose the money, the animal and the expenses of the long summer, all together almost 3000 dollars and last year I lost 200 more dollars and so, courage!

But yesterday morning, 19 early, about 6 o'clock when cousin Pietro arose from his straw bed where everyone rest during the night, in the cabin, Pietro, as the cook lit the fire to prepare the breakfast and all of a sudden the fire explode inside the cabin. The wind was very strong so you can imagine, the damage will be around 50 dollars and we are lucky because nobody was hurt. The new socks are all in ashes: two pairs of them. So, dear parents, now you know I my business is going. I am very far from my country otherwise I will rush back.

The letters that you are sending are all right but, before anything else, write Giovanni Tam.

I do not have anything else to say to wish you good health and peace. Please salute my two Godfathers, Orlandini and Ghiggi and all the relatives.

I am your son

Giovanni Tam.

No. 17

8 December 1882

Tam Giovanni and Guglielmo to Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale (Montana) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Mother,

I received your most desired letter 4 of the current month. Letter that make me cry in knowing of the death of our dear father who for a long time was not well and for the same sickness I understand that during the night of the 30 of October, he abandoned all of us. Poor Father, and to think that I hoped so much to see him again! But death do not fail and it is equal for everyone. In this world it is the only just thing. In the meanwhile be patient that we shall be patient also. Hope is always good but justice for us is still very far.

I am sure that there will be expenses to pay but will shall try everything possible to send you as much as we can to satisfy these expenses of Church mortuary services and then, in the Spring, we shall send our trip.

Ciao and be brave be careful for your health and I add wishes for a happy new year and greetings to all uncles and aunts.

I am your son Giovanni Tam.

On the 8 of December I will send you 1250 in gold via the Bank of London and with these money you will pay as much as you can and the debts of Guglielmo Tam of Batista and the one of Paolo Tantini and the one of Giovanni Giacomini in the Spring, before time elapses.

I would like to know how was the grape harvest and the one of the chestnuts.

I will have a note for the individual to whom you owe money and you will give the note to him.

Ciao. I am your son Guglielmo Tam.

For our business get in contact with Guiseppe Compagnini because we wrote a letter to him and he will be able to help you.

February 26, 1883

Tam Giovanni and Guglielmo to Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale (Montana) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Mother,

The 20 of February we received your letter. Very glad to know that you are in good health and so are we.

About that business at Catastino let the Mayor Sarafino Maraffio do all that is necessary and for the expenses pay as much as you can and if you cannot pay do write and we shall send it to you. And then we shall salute for you all the friends and please, salute for us the uncles, the aunts, and my godfather Guisepe and all the people who ask about us.

Please make for me three pairs of woolen socks and ask the son of Giacomo Maraffio of Giovanni to bring them to me.

News from this country is only that is very cold and there are not other news.

We shall be waiting for your answer.

Ciao, we are your sons

Guglielmo Tam and Giovanni.

Dearest Mother

In your future letter let me know the amount of all debts because we hope, if everything goes well here, to be able to pay all.

Do not get too tired in working, do hire someone by the day; please do not let go the care of the property and if you hire help engage the men of the Sucetti Giuseppe's house.

20 March 1883

Tam Giovanni and Guglielmo to Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale (Montana) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Mother,

With this brief note we want you to know that we are in good health and we hope it is the same for you and our sister.

We sent a letter to Guiseppe Sucetti with a check for 52 sterling. I say fifty-two gold sterling sent via the Bank of London to pay our debts for our trip.

1. Tam Guglielmo for the amount in gold Franks	800
2. Giovanni Giacomini for “ “ “ “	200
3. Paulo Tantini for “ “ “ “	100
Total “ “ “ “	1100

Including the rent

Where ever you make a payment be sure to get a receipt with the date of the day, the month, and the year with the amount received and the signature of the person who receive the money and keep that document.

From your letter I understand that the quality of the wine is not good and the wine cannot be used. So if you cannot find someone that would be able to use it, just rip the containers and throw it in the lake. I think that our Father's death caused this wine to go bad.

Let me know if the container that holds 7 brenti has still the flavor of mold and if this is the situation ask G. Sucetti to make another container built with natural chestnut wood We shall pay the expense. We want a vessel made and ready for the next harvest and you will fill it with wine with grapes that you will buy if our vineyard will not produce enough.

And the vessel that contains 5 brente will allow you to fill many dughe to be deposited in the attic of the little house.

And for the wine, do buy as much as you need and for paying if you do not have now do try to find some in the fall. To do these payments it is better you go to G. Sucetti and try to do the best possible according to the amount that you have to avoid complaints.

Let me know the total amount of the debt with Aunt Margherita in Chiavenna and also the total of the debt with Pietro Pedrini.

I have nothing else to say except to greet Uncle Guiseppe and Aunt Paola with all the family and also greet Uncle Giovanni Aunt Caterina at Saint Sebastiano and also Uncle Battista of Pontegia and my two Godfathers Orlandini and Ghiggi.

Ciao and take care of your health.

Tam Giovanni and Tam Guglielmo

No. 20

11 May 1883

Tam Battista (Cugino) to Tam Guglielmo  
From Sameden (Canton Grigioni, Svizzera) to Glendale (Montana)

My Dear Cousin Guglielmo,

In reply to your letter received with great comfort in knowing that you are in good health and also your brother Giovanni. And it is also the same for me and my family.

I am sorry to hear that life for you is poor because I was planning to come with my son Guiseppe in the Fall, but realizing that you plan to come here to visit me, I lost my courage. Please let me know accurately the conditions in your place because to abandon our country to come to America or if its better to stay where I am. You know well these situations and the ones where you are. Let me know how you go – day by day – and the work that you have. And if you decide to come back home if you come at Samaden to visit me, until I am here, then will work for you and your brother always.

About the news from here there is only that we had a lot of snow and not too cold. And in the mountains of Albula there is still the same company from Bornio and the company Calgari the people from Loretto, were of Chiavenna, but only during the summer.

And about news from our town I have none because this year I have not been there, but I heard that during the winter or at Carnevale the son of Domenico Martinoli married the daughter of Battista Giorgetta and the son of Battista Giorgetta has married the daughter of Domenico Martinoli. They celebrated together with a great feast and then I heard that a large number of men left for America but I am not be able to give you their names.

And if you ask me if your Mother has rented the land of Canpi in Saotta just like your father rented them from me before his death. He paid for everything and I do not have to receive anything. Now I gave the land to Pietro Antonio Orlandini.

I have nothing else to say except to salute you with all my heart also for my daughters, my wife in brief, from all the family. Please salute all the other compatriots and I am waiting anxiously your letter to let me know that I come where you are. I would like to come because here day or night there is nothing in the pocket.

So dear cousin write to me, Ciao, I declare myself your cousin

Tam Battista

No. 21

29 July 1883

Tam Giovanni and Guglielmo to Fornari Orsola  
Glendale (Montana) to Ville di Chiavenna

Glendale, Montana T

Dearest Mother,

It is already a while since I received news from you. We decided to write a short note to see if you have some news from our home. We always think about your heavy labor and all by yourselves how can you do it? How can you take care of the work in the fields? We decided in the fall you want to hire a woman to collect the hay, she should be able to work well and hard but

Mother the decision is yours. If you need money do write and we shall send you as much as we can.

In the past we wrote to you to order a vessel for the wine. Let us know if you did it also let me know if you have found the document of my discharge from the Army.

Then let me know if in the spring you were able to use the hay from the mountains.

I am closing this letter telling you that we are in great health and so we hope about you.

Ciao, we declare your devoted sons

Giovanni Tam and Guglielmo Tam

If some letters you can not read well, let Guiseppe Compagnoni read them for you.

I am expecting a rapid answer. Do not neglect me. Today I received a letter from G. Sucetti and salute him for me.

No. 22

December 18 1883

Folladori Giovanni (amico) to Tam Giovanni  
From Villa di Chiavenna to Glendale (Montana)

Dearest Friend

Some days have gone by during which I could have written to you but being that during the first days there are many things to take care of and then more than anything else the lack of ambition has kept me from writing.

Now I tell you that yesterday the 17 I went to the post office to deliver the book that you asked for but I do not know yet the postal charge because only women were present in that office. The price of the book you will find it on the first page it is about It. L 2 and the reminder one day or another day will be given to your mother.

My trip was really successful and fast and if had to stop in New York for 4 days I would have been at home in 18 days. News at home are few. I found my brother in law Andrea seriously ill and also Stiffer Tomasso's wife and the wife of Gini Pietro but your family and my family are all in very good health.

I want you to know that it is not true what it was said about the daughter of Giovanola she is not pregnant but sadly she is involved with strange relationship with all different people. Such is the public opinion.

I have nothing else to add. I salute you dearly with your brother and I am your dear friend

Folladori Giovanni

No. 23

1 Mar 1884

Tam Giovanni and Guglielmo to Fornari Orsola  
Glendale (Montana) to Villa de Chiavenna

My Dear Mother and Sister,

We received your letter dated 18 November 1883, which you informed us that you received 200 Sterling Lera from Sucetti Guiseppe which we had sent to him. Did you pay all the rest?

Please let me know if the new barrel turned out well and if you fill it with wine and how much wine have you made? Give me an answer to these four questions and write to me when Guiseppe Compagnoni, to whom we sent Stirling Lira 2000. If you don't understand well my letter, let Guiseppe Compagnoni read it and he will explain to you the content.

Greetings to Uncle Guiseppe and Aunt Paolina and their son, Guiseppe.

We are both in good health and the same we hope about you.

Ciao. Be healthy that soon we shall come to visit.

We are your dear sons,

Giovanni Tam and Guglielmo Tam.

Let me know if you finish the work at the vineyards and who came to help you.

No. 24

14 April 1884

Tam Giovanni to Fornari Orsola  
Glendale (Montana) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Mother,

Yesterday I received your letter dated the 24 of March. I'm very glad to hear of your good health and it is the same about me, presently.

I am sorry to hear that you need help and I'm more sorry because I'm unable to help you because here, business is no good. But what I can suggest you, in the meanwhile, to try and find what you need in money. Someone will trust you until June. Then we shall do the possible and we shall send you something. Now we don't have a penny. Our boss went bankrupt, and regarding the debt to Tognascioli and all our creditors, if they ask you, give them our name. I hope they will be so good to wait until the fall, because if the business is going well, we shall pay the rent and the debt. Most important, please, do not sell the wine. The beans and the potatoes you can sell. When you find the money, do write. Let me know from whom you got it and how much.

My dear Sister, I am very happy about your letters but I let you know that at the end of your letters I never find your signature. So in the future, remember to put your name at the end of the letter. I want to send you a gift if you do so.

Ciao. I am your brother Giovanni Tam

Ciao. Be well, I am your son

Giovanni Tam.

No. 25

15 August 1884

Tam Giovanni and Guglielmo to Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale, Montana Territory to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Mother and Sister,

Being that sometime from my last letter I decided to answer your letter.

I understand from your letter that you expect us to be home in the fall. But I think that for this year we shall still be here in this ugly country. We did intend of earning more money because when shall be home right on the next day, we need to go with the basket to the Valley of Bregaglia. So, dear Mother and Sister, for this year be patient, but I hope that the next year one will come to visit, or maybe two.

I beg you, if you are unable to work on the mountains, to rent the place or to hire a woman because we shall send you the money to pay for all your needs, and if you really need, let me know because as much as we can, we shall help you and then in the Fall I will send you enough to pay debt so that nobody will dare to sneer at you.

Let me know how is the harvest of the grapes and the hay and also if you were able to use all the hay from the mountains and how much the flour for the polenta is by weight. Then you salute my two godparents, uncle and aunt, all the people in the home and the one in Santa Bastiano and then Guiseppe Orlandini also.

Nothing else I have to say but to wish you good health just like we are and all our friends. A good handshake from both of us. Ciao.

We are your sons

Guglielmo Tam and Giovanni Tam

Heard from letter addressed to our friends of Glendale that they received from home that our Mr Prevosto Trusoni will end up in jail to spread news against somebody else. This will not be very good. Please let me know if it is true or no and please let me know the news of our town because you never let me know anything.

25 September 1884

Tam Giovanni and Guglielmo to Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale (Montana) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Mother and Sister,

We received your letter on the 14 of September and we are very sorry to hear that Mother was sick. This worry us very much.

We have sent a check for 36 Sterling Lira and this money was sent to Sucetti Guiseppe to pay the rent and debts and as soon as you will get this amount let me know.

About the photos you would like to have, presently we are very busy but next winter we shall send some.

As I said in my last letter if you will not be able to work, hire people for the day and you need money we shall send it to you, and then next year one of us will come home, in the Fall try to plant more grapes.

Let me know about the news of our town.

I have nothing else to say but to take care of your health like we do. Greetings to all our Uncles in town and the ones in S. Sebastiano.

Ciao. We are your brothers

Giovanni Tam and Guglielmo Tam.

25 February 1885

Tam Giovanni to Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale (Montana) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Mother,

I thank you deeply for all the good news, for the payment of those few Lira which we send you. Next time we shall send you good wishes but nothing else.

I understand that now you do not need anything so I am glad because we will not need to answer to you.

You are neglecting us and it is not that you do not know where we are but if you do not feel that you are respected and esteemed you do not feel that it is not necessary to send us a brief note.

From now on we shall do the same so we shall be even.

I am your son

Giovanni Tam

No. 28

26 April 1885

Tam Giovanni and Guglielmo to Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale, Montana Territory to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Mother and Sister,

In answer to your letter we are happy to hear you are in good health and so the same for us.

You are asking me if you should hire a man, if it is necessary it is alright and will be paid at the end of the job.

If you need something, write to us back soon otherwise at the end of August we shall write to let you know how things go and you will let us know how is the harvest and how much flour and rice cost.

Please say hi to Giacomo Tona and his wife and aunt Anna too and all the relative in S. Sebastiano. Let me know also why some of the relatives are not in speaking terms with you. If this is true do not worry, they have enough to eat and so you do.

Dear Mother and Sister, you write in your letters that your son Guglielmo never writes. Do not worry that he is sick, during 3 years that I am here I never had a stomach ache or other inconveniences.

Let me know about the news of the town, I wish you good health and prosperity and one hand shaking.

We are your sons

Tam Guglielmo and Tam Giovanni.

If you like to write we still are at the same address. Yesterday 9 compatriots arrived here and I think they all be able to find work.

Let me know how things are. Say Hi to Guiseppe Compagnoni.

May 1885

Tam Giovanni to Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale (Montana) to Villa di Chiavenna

Loved Mother,

Yesterday I received your letter of the 12 of April. I read it with pleasure knowing that you both are in good health and it is the same with us.

About money I think that you should try to be paid for the rentals of the fields that had maybe been deposited at the Postal Office of Ville, if they do not pay, try to find it from someone.

It is not profitable to send you money from the local bank.

Maybe we'll be back home soon at the beginning of September.

Do write even if we do not write.

Be well. I am your son

Tam Giovanni

31 August 1885

Fornari Orsola to Tam Giovanni and Guglielmo  
From Villa di Chiavenna to Glendale (Montana),

Dear Sons and Brothers,

I like to inform you about my good health and the same I hope for you both. I sent you a letter about the middle of June, I hope you received it, I was always thinking about you both. In your precedent letter you mentioned that you planned to come for the harvest if you have not answered yet, please do so, during the summer it was very hot and the grapes and the vegetables have suffered and now the rain has started.

I also want you to know that Guiseppe Orlandini on 22 the August was in the square at the caffee with other man he then went to rest in his own bed and about 11 o clock he was already in the other world dead. It was left on the earth for three days he became all black like the bottom of a pan and became real big so much that they had to make a new and larger box and, in the house, they were very scared.

Sucetti Agostino send you greetings. He tell me that you were supposed to write during the winter, he has nothing nice to write and nobody understand his handwriting.

About the harvest it has been better than last years but the vineyard in Bragalone is not producing.

Beside wish you good health I have nothing else to say. Ciao.

I am your mother Fornari Orsola  
and your sister Tam Catarina

No. 31

October 4, 1885

Tam Giovanni and Guglielmo to Fornari Orsola  
From Glendale (Montana) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Mother,

On the 20 of September we received yours of the 31 of August. We are happy to know that you are in good health and so us.

We did not answer promptly to your letter because we are not going to be able to come for the grape's harvest.

We wrote to Sucetti Guiseppe about what you have to do. We shall not be able until we finish our job, but then, one of us will come.

Maybe you need money but momentarily do what you can. Did you inherited some from our good aunt Caroline, maybe few hundreds Lira and now you will not lack for a few hundreds Lira.

In your last two letter you gave us bad news about the Orlandini brothers.

Here the wheat is magnificent, the sky always blue and warm during the day and the night.

Then we are thinking of you and we hope you have a good harvest of wine and probably, this year, we shall drink some bottles together in the company of our parent.

Greetings to all our relatives, hoping to see you soon. Ciao we are your two son

Giovanni and Guglielmo Tam.

Sucetti Guiseppe should have told you to buy two brente of wine and drink it because here we have only boiled water - Tea and coffee.

Do write soon. Ciao

December 20, 1885

Tam Giovanni to Tam Guglielmo  
 From Ville di Chiavenna to Glendale (Montana)

Villa de Chiavenna Dec. 20 1885

My dear brother,

After 23 days of nice traveling I arrived home 17 of this month at midnight and at 1 o'clock I was already with mother. They tell me that they put in the barrels 8 brente of wine and also had purchased a barrel of the capacity of 30 brente.

The expenses for my trip amount to dollars 103.44 and exactly:

From Glendale via Milros	d	1.
Milros Chicago	"	51.50
Chicago – New York	"	14.00
New York – Milano	"	<u>35.50</u>
		102.00

Milano – Como	Lire	2.50
Como – Colico	"	1.70
Colico – Chiavenna	"	<u>3.00</u>
	L	7.20
	D	1.44

in		
Dollari	102 00	+
	<u>1.44</u>	
	103.44	

I am reporting dollars 103.44 as expenses for the trip only without the food because for this I am not yet able to make a report.

In Milano I changed 1000 dollars and they gave me L 3.50 for each bill of 20.00 dollars and more precise: 200 dollari in equal Marenghi less 25 cents for each bill of 20.00 dollars.

I came from America to Italy without snow but very cold. Here, also, there is no snow. Last month the wife of the Mayor Maraffio died. No other news, we are all in good health.

Our cousin Giovanni did not get married. With this letter I will not tell you anything else; in a month and maybe before I will tell you all about our business. Let me know with whom are working and everything that is new over there.

My best wishes, keep healthy

Your brother  
 Tam Giovanni

15 February 1886

Tam Guglielmo to Tam Giovanni  
From Glendale (Montana) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Brother,

With great pleasure I received your letter dated on the 15.

About our business that you explained to me I am very glad and I was able to understand all.

Let me know at what distance we need to be from the Woodshop and if we can make the windows. If you can find this information it would be good for everyone and I do not think they will charge an exorbitant price. So let me know about these prices and all the rules.

Now I let you know about all the things you asked for.

Tam Paola has formed a company with Longhini Guiseppe and the Martinoli brothers.

Here I inform you about the charcoal. All together is of 6342 containers; the expenses of storing it are of dollars 31.66.

I am not able to explain everything because when I received your letter I was in town and I do not remember every details but for everything I made 260 Scudi is our share.

The charcoal 11 cents the bushel and the supervisor is still the same black man.

Both Maraffio brothers send you their greetings but Giacomo has changed some of his ideas and every day is a good day. I want to tell you that they pay the meat 7 cents for every pound.

I wish you good health just like I enjoy. Ciao. I am your brother

Tam Guglielmo

Let me know if Folladori Giovanni paid his debt and what he said about all the letters he wrote you.

04 Dec 1886

Tam Guglielmo to Tam Giovanni  
Glendale (Montana) to Villa di Chiavenna

04 Dec1886

Dearest Brother;

I have received your letter dated 1 of December. I am very pleased about the purchase that you made and for the price; you did very well! Because it was very necessary for the house and for other needs.

About those Sterling Lira 2800, I believe you made a document for the payment because until the Spring I will not be able to send any money and as soon that I can deliver the charcoal I will send as much as I can so you can expand on the mountains.

A great amount of money I will not be able to send because even here the economy is low and the reason is that the Supervisor do not let us work during the winter.

From your letter I understand that during the winter you plan to marry. I wish you a good marriage and long happiness but take care also of our Mother and our Sister.

And now I am waiting for a report about your wedding. I wish you good Holydays and a Happy New Year. I am your brother

Tam Guglielmo

Both brothers Maraffio send greetings.

No. 35

05 Dec1886

Tam Giovanni to Tam Guglielmo  
From Villa di Chiavenna to Glendale (Montana)

Dear Brother,

In answer of your letter received the 10 of last month and dated October 17 I am very glad to know about your good health, I am healthy also.

I understand that now, at Glendale, everything is at a standing still and that you have all your merchandise up for sale.

Well just because things will not move we shall stop eating.; we shall manage a way or another. Only that about those L 1500 that were in my pocket last year, I am almost shy but I paid all the expenses of rental and food.

Our house now has two floors up to the attic. As I wrote to you I made a contract to build the walls and the roof at L 0.66 for each square with all the materials necessary and the labor. I contracted the mortar with Gindi Andrea from Prata at 4.30 for 200 lbs. and so far I have used 4200 lbs.

I hope to get the lumber from the woods of the Bisce.

Let me know if you want me to finish the house or if you want me to stop as soon as the roof is on.

So you know about the purchase of the mountain on the lake. I sent you a letter on the 7 of the other month just to let you know.

I am waiting to hear your opinion.

Arrived from America Ghiggi Stefano it appears that he has still great and grand ideas and he is in love with Delaide.

The Revered Mr. Donati Andrein if he can, he want to get together with Maraffi.

The last of the month we had snow and now it is very windy

The ones who arrived from Glendale are complaining about lack of funds, bad cases but they try to keep everything secret.

I wish you a good Christmas and a Happy New Year with the Maraffi.

I am your brother Tam Giovanni.

The partner of our Uncle Guiseppe Del Re Lorenzo a.k.a. Peder lost his wife last summer and on the 21 of November he married Ghigi Marie of Giacomo a.k.a. Pocci, the wife of Pietro Folladori.

No. 36

29 January 1888

Tam Giovanni to Tam Guglielmo  
From Villa di Chiavenna to Glendale (Montana)

My Dear Brother,

In answer of your letter that arrived on the 27 of December that gave me reassurance for the arrival of my letter to you and also about your good health.

Now I will put you up to date about our business and our house and about all the expenses for both business and house.

Money paid for building the house

For the walls	L	999.83
Cement and Tile	L	268.30
All carpenter work	L	242.75
All black smith work	L	314.50
For cleaning the place		

Transport of rocks, sand And lumber	L	1016.28
Total of expenses	L	2841.66
For the years 1886 – 87		
Family expenses	L	1083.75
Paid to Uncle	L	207.00
Expenses for my wedding	L	295.00
Until now the expenses are	L	4426.71
Now I am declaring the money Spent for the land of the alpe(?)		
L5800 and as down payment	L	3000.00
Bought 2 cows	L	400.00
Expenses of last Summer	L	122.00
Expenses for a Woman to harvest the hay in the mountain	L	32.20
See how money I spent? Total	L	8120.90

The income from the mountain, during last year for the butter sold, ½ a cow and a young cow for L 155 and I hope that I will make 200 Franchi from the harvest of the hay.

For the deposits at the bank I am not able to give an exact amount because I mailed the 2 bank books to the Main Direction but I think that we have around L 1000 and also I have L130 in my pocket plus L 150 from the poor \_\_\_\_\_.

With all of this I want to ask your opinion: It is probable that the congregation of Charity, in the Spring, will auction some of their property and let me know if I should take advantage of the auction if could be that woods next to our vineyard close to Bregalone if the price do not go to the sky.

Come Spring I would like to buy another cow, if this is possible, but we shall see.

Let me know your opinion so I can make a good decision.

Now I will give you some news from our town.

The E. Peruna, has died and his brother Giov. Pietro is sick. Donati Guiseppe is also sick and so is Giacomini Giovanni; Giorgetta Andrea with the same sickness and I checking. They are all in bad conditions. Our Aunt Paolina is still sick with the same sickness and when she began to feel better Uncle Guiseppe came down with the same thing.

About the rest they are all well.

And here are the weddings for this year

Georgetta Francesco and Giorgetta Cecilia  
Maraffio Giovanni and Sciuchetti Santa  
Ghiggi Stefano and Maria Snider di Pietro  
Gherbi di Delebio and Fornari Angelina  
Sciuchette Stefano and Tam Maria orphan of Tomaso

All of them married the 24 of this month, with the company of Donati Andrea, Martinoli Antonio, Tam Andrea friend from America.

Sciuchetti Guiseppe married Martinoli Angelica, Donati Andrea is still searching.  
And the band keep up on meeting and is getting real big.

For 8 or 10 days, at the end of December it was very cold but in January good weather and warm;  
from the vineyards we shall make wood in the Spring.

I have nothing else to say; I wish you good health and good fortune. All of us, from our house  
send our greetings. See you soon.

I will be waiting for a speedy answer.

I am your brother Tam Giovanni

It is true that you are exchanging letters.

Somebody told me that you are writing to F----- in P-----. Tell me the truth if it is alright with  
you.

No. 37

Clayton 4 March 1889

Pedrini Pietro to Tam Guglielmo  
From Clayton Foster (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Revered Friend,

I moved and I want to let you know the news of Clayton and also the news of Glendale.

I am fine and I hope the same for you.

I want to tell you that 3 days after I wrote to you I left Glendale while I had to. I would have  
remained in Glendale until the Fall but that same day I received a letter from Salvatore and my  
brother in which they told me to leave soon so I left on the 1 of February.

About the work that we have together, the charcoal and fixing the road, I left the task to sell the  
charcoal to Gini Cesare and Giorgetta Guiseppe and if you want to write to them do so.

Truth -- -----that I made in Glendale, I left everything. About work in this new place there is enough. I work with my brother, Salvatore and Gini Giovanni. I let you know that 15 days ago Mr. Franceso Del Grasso hurt himself and he died the day after. I want to tell you that I went to BayHorse and I met Stasio who works in the same mine where the poor Francesco died.

I do not have anything else to say, please take good care of Fidela, marry soon and do not be silly. Give me some news about the girls and the carnival.

All my friends send greetings.

I finish, wishing you a good carnival and good lent. Be patient for my bad writing and mistakes. I bid you goodby. I am your friend

Pietro Pedrini.

No. 38

November 9, 1896

Fornari Giorgio to Tam Guglielmo  
From Glendale (Montana) to Salt Lake City (Utah)

My Dear Cousin Guglielmo,

With this letter of my I want to explain better about what you are asking me.

So, about the work it is this way:

Every year and for two years we had for sale 75000 or 100000 bushels of charcoal and also this year we put up for sale everything except the last production of charcoal but all this merchandise keep us tied to this place and we have to contract with strangers, so last year we reduced the price to 10 cents a bushel. We cannot complain but the woods are very scarce and come the fall we do not know if we can send away it. He said that the contract is for 1250000 bushels we are now 12 men, the contractor often goes to Butte to search for more workers but he never find anyone because the wage that he offers is too low.

I do not know what to say to you. I work with two other men and if you consider to come you can join us and I have the chance to talk to the contractor will inform him of your arrival.

I am in good health and I hope of you dear cousin and with my parents, your in law, and say hi to everyone in the family.

I am your dear cousin

Fornari Giorgio

Excuse my bad writing because the cold of my hand make my pen tremble and my paper too. We have a lot of snow and it is snowing presently.

If you plan to come and if you like my company you can come with me. I am working with a brother of Rosone from Savogno, but you have to come immediately.

No. 39

Pedrini Pietro to Tam Guglielmo  
From Clayton Custa (Idaho) to Salt Lake City (Utah)

21 November 1896

Dear Friend,

I come to tell you with this letter of mine that I am enjoying good health and I hope the same about you and your brothers in law.

So, dear Guglielmo, I want you to know that I got tired soon to be in the old country because I had to be like a mule with a load on my back and life was pretty bad.

So I left the 25 of August and arrived here on September 10 and on the 14 I went to work for Pack then until a few days ago when the Pack there stopped. I started to work in the Red Bird mine and I hope to work all during the winter until the Pack then will start again. About other jobs not a great probability and to make charcoal would be taking a chance.

News I do not have. Tam Batista arrived with his wife Pichel, the weather is bad; cold and snow. I finish with my greetings for you, your brothers in law. Tell Andrea Mrs Laura send her greetings.

Let me know some news about the old country. I bid you goodby one handshake, your friend

Peter Pedrini.

No. 40

Fornari Giorgio (cousin) to Tam Guglielmo  
From Glendale (Montana) to Salt Lake City (Utah)

Glendale May 17 1897

My dear cousin Guglielmo,

With these few lines I want to tell you that I received your letter of the 9 of May and I very sorry to hear about your long sickness, I hope that you recovered well.

I want to let you know how things are here about making charcoal there is opportunity but the price is very low; provisions are getting more expensive; on the mill they have installed something that cut the wood but I do not know if they will keep doing it or how much they charge, and if things are now changing, when I finish to burn the wood that I have, I will search for something different.

If you can find work in Idaho, take it but if cannot find work anyplace then come and I will introduce you around.

I salute you dearly try to keep healthy because it is the most important thing. And anyway it goes, keep me informed; please salute my parents actually your brothers in law.

I am your cousin

Fornari Giorgio

No. 41

Gini Giovanni to Tam Guglielmo  
From Gold Stone (Idaho) to Salt Lake City (Utah)

May 18 1897

Dear Cousin,

Today I answer to your letter that I received on the 17 of this month and I am very relieved to know that you recovered from your sickness.

About work here, for cutting lumber, I do not think that there is no chance before the month of July when they will start operating the mill and so it is my impression that the mine will give enough to pay the expenses.

So I don't think that you should come here for the time being because once here you have to work two months without pay because when they start the mill and they find out there is no profit they will stop everything because they have not yet paid for the mine and this should be done before August first and if they start the mill and there is not enough profit the prospector has to pay dollari 50000.

So if you can go someplace else and I will suggest Glendale because there you are known and you have credit and if you can work for a month salary it would be better for this summer because if you want to work with an associate the expenses would be great and the risk will be all yours.

But if I was in your position now I would go to work in the mine to cut the wood or try to have a contract to make the charcoal for the mine because then the money would be coming. But do what you want best.

Tell Cesare that I received his letter dated 7 of May. I do not have anything else to say but we are in good health and so I hope of you.

Ciao, I am your dear brother in law

Giovani Gini

No. 42

Tam Guglielmo to Gini Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

07 June 1897

Dearest Wife,

The 5 of June arrived here my friend Ottavio and he gave me good news about you and our children and also of my Guglielmina who, he told me, looks like a little old woman and every time he met her she was asking about his mother and she always answered very politely where you were and with this I very happy to know about your situation. And also he told me that you received that little amount of money that I mailed you the 1 of April.

So Ottavio told me that you had written a prior letter but I did not receive it and I was worried that something had happened and I was ready to send another letter but I know from Cesare that Ottavio was on his way I decided to wait for him and in fact he have a letter for me and I am fully satisfied about our business.

I do not have anything else to say but to tell you that I am in good health as I hope of you, my in laws and I am your loving

Guglielmo Tam.

No. 43

July 3, 1897

Gini Cesare, Ottavio, Rocco to Tam Guglielmo  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Clayton Custer (Idaho)

Dear Brother in law,

I am very happy to know from your expected letter that you arrived in Clayton and are working with Massimo Pedrini and associates.

If it possible I would like to know where Giacomini is, because, here, there is a letter for me and if you now where he is, let me know.

More news I do not have; here has rained for two days and now the hay is all wet. I have nothing else to say that we are all in good health and I hope the same for you and your friends.

We also send you greetings, salute the brothers Pedrini and friends also from the Bertagnoli family. We are your brothers in law

Cesare, Ottavio and Rocco Gini

Here, included, you will find another of your letters

No. 44

Gini Andrea to Tam Guglielmo  
From Gold Stone Mine (Idaho) to Clayton Custar (Idaho)

Gold Stone Mine 11 July 1897

Dear Brother in Law

The first of this month we received your letter that with the news of your good health, you tell us that you are working with Massimo Petrini. At the beginning of the month arrived here our cousin Guiseppe Giacomini and has started working the 5 of the month.

About what you write to me that you would like to come here to work I suggest that you keep your job because here we do not very much about possibility; yesterday the 10 they opened the mill and in fifteen days will shall know if they will keep it going or if they will close.

If the mineral pays enough they will go on and then we can have contract for the wood and this will happens we shall let you know. But good hopes are scarce.

I have nothing else to say but to salute you, all three of us and please, salute to Pedrini Brothers an Gini Gaspare.

I am your brother in law

Andrea Gini

No. 45

17 August 1897

Giorgetta Frank to Tam Guglielmo  
From Custer (Idaho) to Clayton Custer (Idaho)

Custer (Idaho) 17 August 1897

Dear Friend Guglielmo Tam,

I am answering to your dear letter.

I happy about your health. I am healthy also.

I do not have any job but I am going to find lumber to cut in good quantity.

So if you do not have a job you can come, see if you like it and it is not too far from you.

My best greetings, your dear friend

Frank Giorgetta

No. 46

19 Aug 1897

Gini Cesare to Tam Guglielmo  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Clayton Custer (Idaho)

Salt Lake August 19, 1897

Dear Brother in Law,

After a long period of silence between us I want to send you this letter to let you know that I am enjoying good health and I hope the same for you and your friends.

I can say now that I am here all by myself and that my brothers are all to the Gold Stone Mine but I think that about this you are already informed, in this envelope you will find also a letter that arrived from your wife and I would have sent it before but I was still waiting for your answer.

Now I am here to cut the second crop of hay and when I will have a little more time I will send you a photo of my house which I had done recently.

I do not have anything else to say but to send you my greetings also for the Bertagnoli Family, the Pedrini Brothers and friends.

Ciao, I am your loving brother in law

Cesare Gini

I am waiting for your answer.

No. 47

Gini Giovanni to Tam Guglielmo

From Gold Stone Mine to Clayton (Idaho)  
Gold Stone August 20 1897

Dear Brother in Law:

I am sending this letter of mine to let you know about our good health as I hope the same for you and the Pedrini Brothers.

I am able to tell you that my brothers Ottavio, Rocco and Andrea cut wood and I am still working in the mine for \$1.15 and they are never satisfied.

So if you are working where you are I would not suggest to you to come because here the contract for the wood has to be made in October and after my brothers also will leave and at the same time I will leave the mine and we shall go to find, in some other location, work to last all the winter. It is possible that I will visit Banick Montana, because I heard that they have woods to cut and if I can obtain a contract, I will let you know. I am sorry to leave the mine but the area where I work is very dangerous that every day I feel that is the last day that I want to spend in it.

I have nothing else to say; I salute you with my heart with my brothers.

I am your brother in law

Gini Giovanni

Say hi to the Pedrinis.

No. 48

Tam Guglielmo to Gini Fidela  
From Clayton Custer (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Clayton Custer Co. Idaho August 24 1897

Dearest wife Fidela,

A month has gone by from the time I was supposed to receive a letter from you when my companion Ottavio arrived.

So I decided to write to let you know about my good health and I hope the same for you and our children and everybody else in the house.

Dear Fidela please write the address as clearly as you can so that I can receive your letter. I cannot explain why I do not receive your letters; try to mail them in Castasegne and I am sure I would receive them from there, or you can try Piuro.

I want to let you know that I find myself here in the country to make charcoal with some old friends and if everything will go well I will ask Ottavio and Rocco to come but not before August. I hope, in November, to be able to send you something. I do not have anything more to say. Greetings to my in laws and to everybody else in the house if they ask you for news.

I salute you with all my heart I am your loving husband

Guglielmo Tam

No. 49

Tam Guglielmo to Gini Fidela  
From Sugar (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Sugar Utah December 15 1897

Dearest Wife,

I answer to your letter that arrived the 13 of December. I was very surprised to know about your long sickness and it could have happened that you were dead and I did not know anything about. I beg you my dear Fidela to take good care of yourself and our children.

Please, thank warmly, all the people that did good things for you and I will never forget their goodness.

Even before you will receive this letter you must have received from your relative L22, what still had in my pocket after the trip and I decided that instead to keep it in my pocket to give it to De Petrini Tranquillo and he will give it to you.

My dear Wife, if I can pay my debts and have some and save some for the trip to come back home I would be glad to eat potatoes with salt. I do not like to receive this type of news and among other things, I am not very lucky with my work. So you will greet everybody in the house and Faustino, my brother in law, and Maria and my Brother with his family and tell them that I am thankful for the way they helped you. I wish you good health.

Happy New Years, Your brother Cesare send his greetings.

I am your loving husband

Guglielmo Tam

No. 50

Tam Guglielmo to Gini Fidela  
From Sugar (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

January 19 1898

My Dearest Wife,

The 17 of January I received your very anticipated letter. I am reassured about your health and I very happy in my heart and also I rejoice in knowing that our children remember their father and want to put the little hands in the letter you are writing me.

When you will answer this letter, let me know if our son Antonio Cesare starts to walk or if he still helping himself from chair to chair and if Fortunato is well or not.

Now I will tell you what is happening with my legs. From when I left the house it seems like a punishment from God because of for the change or climate or the change of food my legs are hurting more and more and in November I had to stay home doing nothing because the pain was very bad. Your brothers suggested that I go to see a doctor and he told me that is a sickness of the skin and gave me a salve to apply where the pains are and plus a great quantity of pills. So I kept doing for all for three months but it was like the first day. I changed medicine and after drinking 2 liters of the new medicine I felt better and so I kept taking it until June and then I felt much better, my appetite improved but actually the appetite was always pretty good.

Now I go back, when it was almost the middle of June I said to Cesare that I would like to go to Idaho if I can find work to earn some dollar and so I did. I found work immediately and I worked for three months and then I had to stop because my legs were still hurting and I decided to go back to your brother's house.

Now I am better of when Pedrini was visiting and If I do not improve I will order some Pagliano from New York that I think is the best medicine to purge my blood.

About my debts to your brothers I was not yet able to give them anything not even for the rent because I spent too much money on medicines and your brother Cesare told me that he is not worried about the money that the important thing is, for me, to get my health back.

He told me that when I will back on my feet then in no time at all I will be able to repay my obligations.

And about sister, I learn from your letter that you paid L15 for tasks around the house when you were sick; now what has been paid is been paid, but in the future if she expect to be paid, tell her that she owes me and she must not think that because I am in America I rake money that, even here, I have to work day and night. I have nothing else to say, salute for me my friend Guiseppe and my Father and Mother in laws and the sisters in law. Ciao I shake your hand, your loving husband

Guglielmo Tam.

This time your address was clear and I think that was my friend Guisepppe that wrote it.

No. 51

Gini Fidela to Tam Guglielmo  
From Villa di Chiavenna to Sugar (Utah)

18 February 1898

Dearest Husband,

I received your letter the 6 of February and I am worried about your health and the things do not come one at a time. About the children I cannot say that they are in good health just now, but they all had the flue and me too, so for about two weeks we did not how to make it.

Our son Cesare was alright but now his legs do not keep him up. He cannot walk and he is always in my arms or sitting in his bassinet. Our son Natale still need to be fed spoon by spoon if I want him to be nurished and I often do not know what to give him because his taste is very difficult. And the other two they drive me crazy because they are like dog and cat always fighting.

And now even my father is sick quite seriously. He has a tumor in the stomach, the doctor said that it is already the size of an egg; he does not eat and for the last 13 or 14 days a little bit of milk or broth and two egg yolks a day with milk, but he does not know that he has this tumor and he says that it is weekness; one of his legs is swollen. The 15 of this month it will be one month that he is in bed and always more sick; I am afraid that he will not get well but until one breaths there is always hope. Tell my brother how bad our father is.

Since the 15 of August one or the other there was always someone sick. Andrea Giorgetta died in Chete Villa on the 7 of February. Guiseppe Rosina married Rosina Caterina and the 12 of the month Gini Francesco will marry Picole Rose.

Now, the ones that have been in America, if they do not have documents from America, the Priest do not want to merry them; the Priest is worst that Trussoni.

I finish now with these bad news; please inform my brothers about the condition of our father; my mother asked me to let everybody know.

I want you to know that Godmother Domenica Tam has been sick but now she is better and also Domenica Orlandini she is better now. It seems that in our community we have a lot of sick people and many died.

I have nothing else to say but to wish you good health, better that in the past, I lost almost all my hair I look like a boy.

I salute you with all my heart, salute also my brother Cesare and the other four brothers.

I am your wife

Fidela Gini

No. 52

Tam Guglielmo to Gini Fidela  
From Sugar (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

11 May 1898

Dearest Wife,

Here I am answering of your letter of the 30 of March and received on the 13 of April.

With great pleasure I read your letter with the news of your perfect health and of our children and I can reassure you that my legs are improving and now my pains are only in my feet, and I am sure, when I will write you my next letter, I will be free of pains completely.

About the distribution of the property (her father's property), tell them that you are willing to let your mother enjoy it until her death, but if someone has really decided to distribute the property then you give your share to your brothers and according to what Cesare said, they will be very glad.

About my brother you tell me that he is the one that saved your life and the life of everybody in the house, he had told me with a letter that I did not like very much; but if he comes in the Fall, I will give him few hundred lire.

My dear Fidela I am sure that you need money, but right now I am not able to send you any; if you need some try to find some on my name; maybe in the future I will try to send some.

I am asking you to take care of yourself and the children. I salute you with all my heart your loving

Guglielmo Tam.

Your brother Cesare send his loving salutes and he would like to know if your mother received a letter around the 17 – 20 of March that was mailed 2 day after mine but he never got an answer.

Greetings for my mother in law, the sisters and brothers in law and the Godfather Guisepe and Godmother Domenica; what happened to her wedding; it went up in smoke?

No. 53

Tam Guglielmo to Gini Fidela  
From Sugar(Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Sugar (Utah) 22 August 1898

Dearest Wife

Today, the 22 of August, I decided to write this brief note to let you know that I am a little bit better from last time that I wrote you. But if in the Fall I will not be better than now it is possible that I will come home.

My Dearest wife, I will have to do a sturn face to arrive to my family without a penny. It is a great pain but yet I need to have a patience but at the same time if I will be lucky enough to arrive home, my wife and my children will hug me anyway and will accept me with love with my poor mother in law who lost our dear grandfather. In all this I cannot even believe it but then one at a time we shall all die.

About the money for the trip, just like you said to me, your brother will give it to me as soon as I decide to leave. And about friends to come together, do not be afraid that good friends, here, we found always and then it is not that I will need help during the trip. The thing that displeases me most, just like I said before, it is to come back without money and in debt up to my eye. In your answer, let me know if my brother is better. If you know something about his condition and the name of those mineral baths, where in Italy are and what he says about the working conditions.

Please salute your sisters and brother in law and everybody in the house.

Ciao, my dear wife. I am always your loving husband

Guglielmo Tam

No. 54

29 January 1899

Gini Cesare to Tam Guglielmo  
From Salt Lake City to Villa di Chiavenna

Few days went by since I received your last letter and I'm happy to read of the great condition of your health and everybody else. I am glad your legs are improving and I'm sure that you are happy to have gone back home because you will have a better occasion to take care of your sickness.

I wanted, all the time, to answer your first letter but I delayed to write you because I believed that the brothers would have come at least for the Christmas holiday. And so I could have something different to answer your letter and the one of your wife and my sister. I received a letter from my brothers and they are all in good health and it is the same with me. About the work, until now, things have gone rather bad. They haven't yet received their money but they told me they hope to receive the money in 2 or 3 weeks. Maybe they will do what they have done always in the past. If they can be free maybe they will come here. At least Giovanni. Then we shall write again.

About the document, we shall send it in a short time. I hope that when you receive this letter of mine, you will have already talked with Antonio Delgrasso of Santa Croce.

News from here are few. Celeste Martinoli and Vitali Pedrini from Canete were here to visit and during the winter I was here all by myself like a hermit but I want to hope that next winter I will have the company of someone.

I hope that this letter will find you in good health and also your family.

My Mother, my Sister, with all my heart I salute you together.

Ciao, I am your brother in law

Cesare Gini Goodby.

February 02, 1900

Gini Giovanni to Tam Guglielmo and Gini Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Brother in law and Sister,

I am answering yours of the 14 December. I take notice of the health of your family and I very sorry that you are not yet free of your sickness. I want to let you know that this past winter I was not well either; I was sick for seven weeks and six of those weeks I had to be in bed. Now I feel very much better and all the poisons of the minerals that I had in my blood went away so this sickness has been a good thing instead of a bad thing. About the money if you have not yet deposited it in my account I do not press you to do so. You can keep them and pay the current interest.

I want to tell you that now I am all alone in the farm and my brothers are all together working in a mine at American Fork about 60 miles away from here and we have the concession for two years and half years and the mine seems a good deal presently.

I do not have other news, here the weather is magnificent almost like Summer.

Your brother in law

Giovanni

My Dearest Sister,

After many years of silence from our part this small note to explain better about the matter of which you wrote to Cesare that you would assume the task to find two women to send here, and precisely, the two daughters of Giorgette Andrea son of Sebastiano.

So, two sisters would be better for us because we know they would get along. But if you see that you cannot convince these two to come, let me know immediately so we can adjust to that. And also ask your husband to help because he has been here and will be able to describe the place where we are and what type of places are.

And, in case these two sisters will decline, you can try some place else, and we shall compensate you. Please be sure that these women know how to be nice with people and I am sure I do not need to tell you this.

I finish this letter saluting you with all my heart including all the family.

Ciao, I am your brother

Giovanni.

10 December 1900

Gini Rocco to Gini Fidela and Tam Guglielmo  
From Sunshine (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Sister and Brother in Law,

When I sent some money to my Mother, with my brothers, I decided to give you a little gift for Christmas; it is \$5.00; go to my Mother's house and she will give it to you.

So, after almost three years of America I never took the time to let you know how I live in this country; I can say that I never regretted to be here and better off it would have been better if I had come two years before.

I am eager to know all about your family and I hope that your husband is better with his sickness.

I have nothing else to say. I am well and so all the brothers and I hope the same for you.

I leave you now with my best wishes for you, your husband Guglielmo, and everybody who asks for me.

Ciao, I am your always sincere brother and brother in law

Rocco Gini

Good bye my dear brother.

December 14 1901

Gini Innocentina and Celesta nee Lucchinetti to  
Tam Guglielmo and Fidela

From Salt Lake City to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Sister and Brother in law.

I am answering your dear letter received on the 26 of August.. We are glad to know that you are in good health.

Already, in the past few days, I was feeling the duty to write you, but my laziness to wait was stronger than my will not because I am sick, that thank to the good lord we are here myself and my husband, my sister and brother in law all in very good health and so we hope the same for all of you over there.

I believe that you received already the newspaper even if we were late in sending them to you. Much time has gone by since we wrote our Mother at San Bernaba (section of Villa) since Andrea arrived over there she never wrote and we cannot explain this.

Our husbands now are working close to home in a stone quarry and they come home every night.

We received news from our cousin Theodora and she says that she is well and so her husband and their son. Some days ago our brother in law Rocco came for a visit and now he is at Justin in Idaho where he owns a store and Ottavio also is there where he owns a saloon. Vitale and his wife are now in Eureka and Silvestra is well and happy.

The widow of Antonio Maraffio married again a man from Roma that they call Romagnolo. Now I can tell you a few things about these places; a few days ago, at Telluride Colorado a fire exploded in the town and the fume and the gas entered the mine just when the miners had just got in, and 25 of them lost their life including some Italians. Another more scary disaster has been on the 24 of November at Seneca near Detroit, Michigan. Two train, loaded with passenger running at full speed, collided together and two wagons of immigrants and five more wagons were destroyed and everything caught on fire with a tremendous loss of lives. There were 125 persons and of these 25 were safe 90 burned and 10 found dead and it seem they were all from North Italy; they were going to Montana and Colorado. To think about it I feel chill, poor people!

You are asking me, dear godmother, if it is better to be married or to be a servant and I will tell you, if God give us the grace to be compatible, it is better to be married.

My dear godchild, Severina, is she walking now? It would be nice to see her. You will give her many kisses for me. And my Guglielmina, is she good? And the other four how are they?

Being that we are getting close to Christmas and New Year we wish you our best and a good end and good beginning of the year with salute prosperity and happiness. And I here end my letter with our sincere greetings a kiss from our heart for your children; we are your brothers and sisters in law

Innocentina Gini and Celesta Gini

No. 58

25 November 1903

Gini Innocentina nee Lucchinetti to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela

Salt Lake November 25, 1903

Dearest Godfather and godmother and all the family;

Being that we are getting closer to the celebration of Christmas we must send you our most affectionate best wishes also for a Happy New Year with all the things you wish for and a lot of good health because this is the best thing that one can have.

Here we, presently, are enjoying good health and we hope, with all our hearts that this letter reach you and find you in very good health.

During the summer, however, we were all very sick. As I am sure, you already know this past July my sister was very sick, we had to take her to the hospital, the Holy Cross Hospital, where they has to perform surgery; the professor told us that if she not have the surgery in two days she would have been dead, but now, thank to God, she is fine. As soon as these crises passed a lightening struck our house and almost had three victims myself my dear baby and my sister but we can thank God that we passed the crises with a big scare. Also, the family of Bertagnoli Martino was tried by misfortune; during March, after a few days of sickness, the poor Martino died leaving the desperate wife of seven children of which, the last one, was born fifteen days after the death of his father.

During the Spring, arrived, from the old County my brother with his friend and were here. Now they work not too far from here in a cement quarry. Our husbands also work in a cement quarry.

Here, this year we had a decent harvest of hay and fruit and now it start to be a little cold.

Dear godmother I very curious to know the reason of your long silence because we already have sent you two letters and a bunch of newspaper and you have not written anything and I think that maybe I have offended you some way or if you are mad at us this is why I decided to write this letter and if I do not receive a quick answer I will not write anymore. Your last one was received Feb 1902.

I have nothing else to say except to send you our best salutes for all the family and you will give a kiss to each of your children and two kisses for my godchild and tell her that they are from her godmother.

I am forever your sister in law and godmother.

Innocentina Gini

No. 59

November 20 1904

Gini Innocentina nee Lucchinetti to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Sister in law, brother in law and family,

With this letter I want to inform you of our good health that it is enjoyed by everybody in the family but however I have to inform you that during the month of October my sister needed more surgery almost the same as the one she had last year; she had to be in the hospital for 3 weeks; she is still a little bit weak but she is improving every day.

During the month of May and I think you know already about this, our family has grown; it is a boy his name is Edoardo Felice; so far he is growing well and he is good. Also the other one is fine and every day becomes more challenging.

During the summer we had in our company the cousin Guiseppe Giacomini and also the cousin Sarafino Gini and the brother in law Rosina and this one told us that in his family they are all well.

Our brother Tranquillo since the month of June, works in a mine at Fish Spring.

Here, this year, we had a good harvest and now the weather is so good that it feel like summer.

Since we arrived here, in the neighborhood a colony of Lombard and Tinoleri we are already nine families, Lombardi are Vitale Pedrini, Humberto Pedrini and Dionigi Pasini of Prata and I do not know if you know him, Tiralosi: two families Bertagnoli, the brother of Modesta, Borzaga and Gabardi.

Being that we are at the end of the year we like to send you our best wishes of happiness and satisfaction for the New Year and best wishes for Christmas.

We wish for you a lot of good health that this is the best treasure that one can have.

Please, accept also the best wishes of the Bertagnoli's Family and all our countrymen.

I hope that this letter will find all of you in good health my godchild must be bigger and good now, it is so?

I end this mine sending greetings to all of you in the house and please give a kiss to each of your children in my name.

I am for ever your sister in law and godmother.

Innocentina Gini

No. 60

December 05 1905

Gini Innocentina nee Lucchinetti to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela

From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Godmother and sister in law and family.

With this letter of mine I want to let you know about our great health that, thanks to God, we all in the family are enjoying and we hope that you, also, are in good health, and this we want with all our heart.

We are close to the holidays we are sending you our best wishes and a happy New Year with plenty of health, happiness and everything you want. Now I will write about what is new here.

My Michelino grows every day, Edoardo is very nice and good. My husband came home in August because, and maybe you know this already, he had a contract with the brothers Pasini from Prosto; Frank Pasini at the end of August he married the oldest daughter of Luigi Borzaga; and I think you know them also the widow Bertagnoni was married during last Spring; he is a nice looking young man and a good one too. He is Toscano now they are very happy. Edvige Depedrini is still in Nevada during the summer her family grew in fact a boy was born.

Now we have here as our guest our cousin Assunta with her husband and a daughter. Our cousin had to have some surgery and also her daughter, she is deaf, now they are both well. Our brother in law Rocco is now in Tonapah, Nevada and we have not received news from him in quite a while. But we had news from our cousin Rosina; he said that their health is good and will change town. They will go to Ely, Nevada. Our cousin Guiseppe Giacomini works in park City and Salvatore is at Pocatello, Idaho. This last year we had a good harvest for everything and especially the cherries.

The weather is good, Mrs. Bianca came for a visit. I am very anxious to receive your news to know how your dear children are and my goddaughter; I would like to see her. Guglielmini is still attending school? And our cousin Serafino does he have yet a little blond friend?

For now I do not have anything else to write about so I send this letter of mine sending you our best greetings to all in the family. Please kiss all your dear children.

I am your sister in law and god mother

Innocentina Gini

Please accept also greetings from the families Bertagnoli and Pedrini. Her you will find a little souvenir for my godchild Ciao

No. 61

02 of August 1906

Gini Celesta nee Luccinetti to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Brother and sister in law and Family.

Here I am ready to send you a letter of mine, because I know you desire one.

With great pleasure we have received your news and we are very glad to know that you are in good health, and the same we can say about all of us also with the company of our sister and sister in law Dora and all her family. In fact is since the month of June that they are here with us, they are really well, they have two strong young boys, it is a pleasure to look at them. It seem that for now they do not want anymore children but they are doing well and have every think they want.

Here to Salt Lake came with Dora also our unlucky friend Depedrini Edvige with her two children, they were here for some weeks and they went back to their place Pioche, Nevada. As soon as she was back a terrible accident took place. On the morning of the 3 of July her husband as soon as he entered the mine a plank of wood on which he was walking gave way and he fell in a well 300 feet deep. He was dead immediately. On the 4 of July he was honored with a great funeral. Poor widow, you can imagine in what type of pain she is, she had not yet recovered from what happened two years ago and this is even worst. It is like her destiny. It could have been a less tragic type of death. The first one, two years ago, was her little girl about 2 years old who was victim of a fire while she was at the hospital. She never had a little bit of luck since she came to this country. She can place herself in the rank of the miserables. And now it seem that she want to go back home, maybe in the fall.

Here is very hot, our brother and our cousin Jos. Giacomini work in Alta and so the Pedrinis.

Now I will pose you a few question: How many children do you have I think you have also what should be my share of children. I am sure that you know already that we do not have a family. We had already had bad luck and this is the cause of not having a family. Some have too many, some have none. How is your sister Caterina? A few days ago we had letters from home, from San Barnabba and we are very happy that they are all well.

I have no more news to give you, so we salute you and your family and please, accept also greetings of your sister in law Dora and friends and acquaintances from our neighborhood.

Ciao, hoping to see you in the future.

Your sister in law

Celesta Gini

No. 62

Gini Innocentina nee Lucchinetta to Tam Giovanni and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

March 25 1907

Dear Sister in law and family,

After my long silence you will receive a sign of life from me.

Do not believe that we forgot about you because we think and talk about you quite often but it was for pure negligence that I did not write. I hope you will pardon me. From your letter, received a few days ago, we are glad to know that you are all enjoying good health and the same I can tell you about each one in our family, let us pray the good Lord to maintain our health also in the future.

From your letter I learn, that Guglielmina goes to Soglio as a domestic and that is a place where she has to work very hard and who are her bosses?

My sister received your letter and I am sorry to learn that the little dress is too small for my god daughter, but I am sure somebody else will be able to wear it. In February we received from brother in law Rocco he is well and is in Tonapha, Nevada. Sister in law Teodora and family are all well also.

Here Spring is real early and we are afraid for a sudden freeze and we would loose our fruit, but we hope for the best. Here it is about 2 weeks that we have a very strong wind. In California and in Nevada there are very strong storms, rain and snow with great damage to the field and railroad: for two days are trains were still, the ones that come from Salt Lake City.

I want to tell you that it is said that Salt Lake City in three years, will be not only the most beautiful city in America but of all the world, it will have 200,000 residents.

They are building a beautiful Boulevard all around the city with public parks. There is a very rich man who is building 12 structures of eleven levels and for two of them they are already putting down the basement and they have more than 350 men work on the project. And by July they are going to finish the great Cathedral of Santa Maria, this one it will be a beautiful church and it will cost \$300,000 and it is completely built with granite.

During the winter there was for sale right close to the state prison for \$1000 an acre it is all divided in lots and they will build houses.

This time I have nothing else to say, I wish you good health to everyone. I am your sister in law and Godmother

In. Gini

No. 63

Gini Andrea to Tam Andrea  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

February 11 1907

Dear Godchild Andrea,

A little while ago I received your letter and I know what you wanted.

So in this letter of mine you will find a check payable at the Bank of London for \$120 or Frank 600 for your trip.

If this amount it is not enough ask my brother Ottavio if he can loan you the remainder that as soon as you are here I will return his money.

As I said to your father, presently I do not have money with me and so I had to borrow it and I pay the five percent a year. The trip and the rent you will pay when you can.

As soon as you receive this letter answer immediately if you come and 10 days before your departure write again the date of your departure and the name of the liner. So I will be able to contact Giovanna Pichel to come and receive you at the last station.

Be sure that I would like for you to be here on the first of April. About your salary I already wrote to your Father and if you work good I will give you more.

Gini Andrea

No. 64

April 25 1907

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmina  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Sister

With great pleasure I received your letter and that everybody is in good health and so am I and all the Uncles and cousins.

With your letter you ask me about my trip and my staying here.

Yes, I want to tell you all. I made a good trip, the ocean was always nice and even after it was good. But of all the friends that were on the ship, once we reached New York I did not see anybody, not even Giovanni Orlandini, but until the very end of the trip I had the company of Italians and the short time that I was by myself I could cope.

I went to Machai, Mich, to visit the family Tam and I spent a day in their company and then I arrived here Tuesday the 31 of March.

You are telling me that maybe next summer you will go home. If you do not like your lady boss go home and help your Mother. I think this would be better. Now we are here, and we are very busy; we do everything with the horses, we take care of the cows but always with the horses.

They have more than 150 cows and about 20 young cows. The weather is good and the fields are getting green. They also have 6 pigs, 12 horses and 2 dogs. The weather here is good; how is it over there? I hope you have good weather.

You also want to know how much they pay me the first three months \$10 and the other 9 months \$20 equal to Franks 1.50.

About the money for the trip they were enough. I had a rest of \$20 in my pocket.

Now, even there, they will have to work very hard. Here, we have a lot to do but it is better because we do not have to carry anything on our shoulders. During the winter Giorgetta Anna married Branca Malachia a valtellinese from Campo and they are doing real well, I went to see them and they are as happy as bees and they also come to visit us on horse back; she just cooks he had a restaurant but now he just transport water and lumber.

Now here are some more that would like to marry and I believe that this coming fall Snider Carolina and Pedroni Marie of the teacher Pedroni will come here but do not say this to anyone.

I have nothing else to tell you except salute you with all my heart and accept a handshake from your brother

Andrea Tam.

Address Mr. Andrea Tam, Clayton Custer care of Ginis Ranch U.S. of America, Idaho. Ciao.

No. 65

Dec 08 1907

Gini Innocentina nee Lucchinetti to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Sister in law and Family,

Being we are getting close to the Christmas Festivities I do not want to pass them without sending you this letter of mine and wish you Merry Christmas and sincere good wishes and congratulations for the end of the year and the beginning of the new year that will bring you salute and a lot of money and all the things that you desire. I hope that this letter of mine will find all of you in great health, as here, in our family we are all real well.

Maybe you know already that during the month of August our family as grown, this time is a girl, her name is Rena Elsa and she is growing well. The two boys are full of pep and are fine. Our sister in law Teodora is here with us with all her family and they are sending their greetings. And here with us we have our two brothers and so we form a large family, we are twelve at the table and always need a great polenta.

Work in the mine and other type of work are not too good at the moment for lack of money because quite few banks went bankrupt and so many Italian and people from other nation, are going back home for fear of a depression. We hope that with the New Year things will change. Some days ago in a mine, in West Virginia, in some mine of coal 300 men lost their life; think about how many widows and children will be affected by this tragedy.

Here, we have finished all our tasks in the fields and now we rest a little. This year we had a good harvest of fruit and we were able to sell it at a good price. The first hay was scarce because there were worms that was eating it by the time it was growing.

You will excuse me for my long silence in the future I hope to be more diligent. I am sending this letter with my best and sincere salute for everyone in the family; please give many kisses to your dear children for me. I am forever your Godmother and sister in law

Innocentina Gini.

Now that you also go to school Severina, I would like to receive two lines written by you. Do you like to go school? Guglielmina is home? I am including in this letter \$1 bill for my godchild.

No. 66

April 01 1908

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Dayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

Now that I have arrived at destination I want to tell you all about my trip. I am fine and so uncles and cousins the trip went really well, the sea also was very calm and nice except for the first Sunday but not too bad. I would have written even before a long letter but I sent only a card because I did not have too much time. But I want you to know how much I spent for the trip so here it is: from Lugano to Blackfoot I gave \$8.90 and from Blackfoot to here \$11 so I still have 20 dollari.

Here now the weather is not that good but the uncle who has already taking care of the animals up in the pasture, but a good part of the animals is still here and I think he will keep them here. If you have the chance to see uncle Ottavio tell him that this uncle told me the very soon he will write to him and thank him for the favor that he did for us and I believe I will be able to repay him soon.

Now uncle has here two men, one from Santa Croce and asked me to salute her cousin Domenica and his uncles, one is from Prata. Now I am here amid so many animals and I feel that I am still in the Alps and it is not strange and I do not feel lost. We have a lot of work ahead of us and, in time, we shall do everything. We are all around here that, this year, that jobs are scarce every where and for a person who come to find fortune it is the wrong time. I also went to Meohin to meet Giovanna Pichel they are in good health and have two strong boys.

Not let us change subject. Please ask Orlandini Andrea for the address of his brother because, listen, in New York everybody was telling me that maybe they would not let me out of the gate because we were traveling 3 class and also because I was too young but we put in the contract 17 years of age and so I told them that he would come to pick me up because he, as an American citizen would do that. But I passed anyway in the evening.

The morning after, look here, look there, I did not see him and also I searches in the gate and I never spotted him. Now I want to write him but I do not know his address. I have nothing else to say. I salute you with all my heart our relatives also I am your son

A. Tam

April 26 1908

Gini Giovanni and Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela,  
From Sugar House (Salt Lake City Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Brother in law and Sister in law,

Some day ago P. Tantini an P. Pedrini arrived here and gave me a bottle of Grappa sent by you and we want to thank you very much.

I am glad to hear that now your sickness has improved and here, we are all well as the Bertagnoli, Pedrini and Berzaga families.

We have great hopes for our fruit trees they are all in blum and if the freeze do not touch them we are sure of a good harvest. For public works or mine works it is a general depression.

With all our hearts with Rosina's family that are here with us we salute you with the hope to find you in good health, including your family and my sister and I know that your son Andrea is now with my brother in Idaho.

Believing me forever your brothers in law

Giovanni and Cesare Gini.

Ciao and take care of you.

February 04 1909

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela,

Dearest Father, Mother and Brothers,

With great pleasure, today I received your letter and I am glad to know that you all are in good health and the same I can say of us except that aunt has been sick all month of January she had great pains in her stomach but now she is alright.

In your letter you ask me three things:

If I know how many days I worked for Ghiggi Stefani four years ago. To tell you the truth I cannot say exactly but if I remember: I went to Bondo to work for him on the 24 or 25 of June and I worked July, August, September and a little bit of October up to the 20. Twice took Friday night off and one, on the holidays of August and once when my brother Ottavio was home for 3 or 4 days when the hay had to be cut. The rest I always worked so they would be 105 days and see that he pay the right wage because he made me work like a negro.

2 About at Tom Paolo I do not recall exactly but I think it was 7 ½ days.

3 You are asking if, comes March, I can send you something and I hope to be able to send you at least 200 Franks, at that time I will not be able to send you more.

I would like to know how much earns my brother Natale at Soglio and how long he will be there and my sister if she will be there all Winter and how much she earns each month.

Is mother still going to Bregaglia? And my brother Cesare where does he go to school? And Modesto and Severina were they promoted?

Here now is warm and beautiful but it has been very cold up to 15 degrees below zero.

I have nothing else to tell you because news of this area are very few; it is like living in a desert, there are more elks than people and the other day I went hunting and I got my elk.

I have nothing else to say I salute you with all my heart I am your son

Andrea Tam.

I am waiting for your news and let me know what goes on.

No. 69

February 23 1909

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

I would like to know what you think about me now, that in a few days you receive two letters from me but do not think that there is something wrong, I am in good health. In the letter that you wrote me, among other things, you ask me if soon will be able to send something to you. Here it is. At this point I could not have sent you anything, but uncle said that as long as he was going in town I could send you something. So, inside this letter you will find a check payable at the Bank of London of \$42: 40 are for you and 2 dollars were given to me from uncle to be given to grandmother. As soon as you receive this let me know so I will be reassured.

Also let me know some news from my country because I really like to know all the news.

Here the weather is good and there? How is it? I hope it is good weather. I have nothing else to tell you. I salute you and all my friends. I am your son

Andrea.

I had written this letter the 9 of February but I could not mail it because the postal office was closed.

Ciao. Let me know if Natale, my brother and my sister are still at Soglio. I am your son

Andrea Tam.

Good by.

No. 70

October 21 1909

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

Still waiting from your answer I decided to give you news about me. I want to inform you of my very good health and I hope the same for all of you and the relatives. Now it starts to be cold and the year is almost at the end and I want to help you a little so, in this letter you will find a check payable at the Bank of London for \$100 and I am sure, you will be quite happy and if I can, in the Spring I will send again some money and I am sure, you will be able to satisfy some debt.

During the Summer I had urgent tasks but now, those jobs, are all done; we still have a lot to do but not as busy as we were during the Summer. But, if we really want to work there is not a minute of peace in this country one cannot enjoy not even a Sunday or a fiesta and if you do so I get in trouble; but one got used to it and we do not pay attention; a thing that gives me joy is that sometime I can ride the horse to take care of the cows and this kind of job please me a lot.

In the Fall, uncle sold 25 head of cows and now, I think, he still has 130 head of cows and 19 horses but this year the hay was scarce and I think that during the winter a part of the animals will have to provide by themselves up in the pasture; it is good that the snow is light and they will not perish for starvation.

In the last letter that I wrote to you, I was telling you that Filippo Maraffio was going to marry a woman from Prata but now I think that everything went up in smoke and I think that Filippo will never marry. I am writing now for your news and I believe you will not wait too long; give me news of over there if people dies if people are born and if somebody think to sail toward this country. Please let me know if Guglielmo Orlandini has children and if Domenica Ogher got married to Orlandini Andrea and if Inocente Tam is better and tell him to answer my letter that I wrote him and salute him for me. Let me know also if you have many goats and sheeps. Here the sheeps we find them lost in the pastures.

Now let us change subject, it is late and I feel sleepy. I have nothing else to say but to wish you a good end of the year and a good beginning. With this hope accept my best wishes. I am forever your son

Andrea Tam.

Let me know if Guglielmina, my sister, is still with uncle Faustino and let me know if my brothers are getting big almost as you, Father .

Good by. Ciao.

No. 71

November 21 1909

Tam Andrea to Tam Giovanni  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Uncle, Aunt, and cousins,

Two years have gone by since I left for this country and I never wrote to you, but now that I have a little more time, I decided to send you some news. First, I want to assure you about my very good health and so I hope the same for all of you in the house and for my family.

I want to tell you how is my life here: and as bad as it is is twice better that in the old country at least I do not have to carry on my shoulder loads of things, but in different type of work you need to work very intently if you want to earn something but what I really like is that sometime I can ride the horses to check on the animals and I enjoy myself even if I am all alone because young men of my age, Italians, are not here but there are many Italians old people. The weather right now, is not too nice and even last spring the weather was so-so. But during the summer it was splendid but it would be necessary that the season would be still good so that uncle could leave the animals on the pasture all the way to next month and there, how is the weather.

I heard that this year you had a good harvest of everything and I wish this for you always.

Here, around, not that good. Presently I have nothing else to tell you but to wish you a thousand years of life and happiness. Wishing you a good end of the years and a good beginning of the next. I am forever your nephew and godchild

Andrea Tam

Say hello to my family and all your daughters.

No. 72

October 04 1910

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Ville di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and brothers,

In an answer to your letter dated September 27 I send you my sincere wishes of health and prosperity. In the letter that I wrote you last Spring I had told you that I wanted to send you something and now, because I can, I want to send you some.

You will find, in this letter a check payable to the Bank of London for the amount of \$75.

About the weather, this year, we do not have too much to complain about, but the frost caused a lot of damage. News from this country I do not have;. I want to reassure you about the great condition of our health and I hope is the same for all of you.

Answer promptly and give me some news of the town. I do not have anything else to say, I salute you with all my heart. I am your son and brother

Andrea.

Let me know if cousin Maraffio Cesare left to come to this country.

No. 73

November 17 1910

Gini Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Brother in law and Sister,

For a long time I wanted to write to you and never I got busy doing it. So, today, being that I am recovering, decided to let you know how things are doing here.

Time past, I got your paper from Andrea and I was very sorry to know of the death of my dear mother and to know about her long and painful sickness.

I wrote to Ottavio to see that he buys a memorial .....? for my father and my mother and we from America, will pay for it and Fidela, you should not feel bad for the past that you cannot provide for this memorial if you feel that you can contribute some you can do what we are doing here. You have a large family and your income does not allow to do more.

About us we are pretty good and your son, Andrea, who now is bigger than you, Guglielmo, he is fine and weight about 150 pounds and until he stay with me he will be considered as a son

But if sometime he listen to offers from other people and goes, then I can say anything. I know that since the first year that he was here, there were people that were encouraging to leave here because I was not paying him enough. Now I give him \$300 every year and precisely \$25 each month and I cannot pay more because I do not have convenience to keep a man. I am satisfied for the way he works and I believe he has no reason to complain about me. He does all his tasks

really well and I am sure you do not pretend that he sends everything to you because he has the right to save something for himself.

Presently we are planting in the fields, but, pretty soon we shall have frost and we need to stop. My crops, this year were 140 tons of wheat and a part of which matured but a part did not-potatoes; I never had such a scarce crop! 4 tons and exactly 2 thirds less of previous years and their prices has doubled. About the animals I sold 28 heads and I made \$850, calf I had a poor result. I had 30 and I should have had 50 at least. Some I have in the ranch and they get altogether. I should have 144 heads between young and adult and 21 horses and 116 chickens a dog and two cats. This is all the animals of my property.

There is also a great invasion of mice and where in the past year there was 1 this year there is 10 and they ruin everything and now, that we are close to the winter, they find refuge in the buildings. They say that they want to start the railroad but so far no railroad.

I have nothing else to say. We are all in good health and I hope the same for you. Ciao. Salute for everybody from your son, also I am your brother in law and brother

Andrea Gini

No. 74

February 5, 1911

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and Brothers,

Being that the weather let me have a little rest I decided to send you some news. I am in very good health and I hope the same for all of you .in the house. Uncle told me that in the letter that you wrote him, you tell me that brother Natale would like to come to this country, tell him not to be too enthusiastic because around here jobs are very scarce and I think is the same in other places.

Now here the weather is pretty good but we had snow quite a few times but now is all melting away.

Now here we are building a house and I think this month we shall finish all the walls - in wood; we do everything by ourselves and it will take quite a while before is finished.

About the animals, presently they are all right. We have about 150 heads of cows, 100 chicken, twenty horses (we had twenty one but during the Fall, somebody stole one). It was the best mare she was worth 200 dollari and was only seven or eight years old and there is no trace of the robber, maybe, in time, may come back because she has a sign very visible and known to many people.

Filippo Maraffio is now alone; during the year separated himself from his associates because everybody was tired to be with him because he is a dandy standing on his feet.

I have nothing else to say, news from this country are very few. I am waiting for your news and news of our town. I shake your hands, your son

Andrea Tam.

If my sister, Guglielmina asks about me tell her that I received her letters but until she does not pay attention to the instructions that I give her for my address I will not answer to her. Let me know if Uncle Faustino got married.

No. 75

May 21, 1911

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and brothers,

After a very long silence I want to send you some news of mine. I am in perfect health conditions and also the Uncles and the cousins and I hope the same for all of you.

In the letter that you had sent to Uncle he told me that the brother Natale would like to come soon to this country but I think, at the moment it is a little too soon but if he really has the idea to come I will give him my place and I want to try to go around and change to learn better the language because being always among Italians we learn very little of English and if we do learn it when we are young when we are old there is not sense to try to learn it.

About the weather now it starts to be beautiful; it is a late spring.

Now we have almost finish the work for the pasture and tasks are plentiful all the way to the end of summer. News from these towns are very few but I want to tell you that a daughter of Fontana from Santa Croce, arrived from Italy and will marry Jacomella (called Marchet) also from Santa Croce.

The wife of the Pedrini who was in Italy a year ago had a boy and also Pedrini's sister has a boy.

M. Branca's wife has a girl and she is the third one that she had here in America.

I have nothing else to tell you. Please salute Innocente Tam and tell him that I received his letter and I will write to him soon. I salute you, I shake your hands I am your son and brother

Andrea.

I am waiting for a quick answer, tell me all the news of the town and let me know who will come to marry Filippo Maraffio.

No. 76

October 10 1911

From Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and Brothers,

Now that I have the chance I want to send you my news – I then let you know about my good health, conditions of the Uncles and cousins and, as always, I hope all of you.

A few days ago Uncle sold some of the cows and that way I received my pay, so I am sending you a check for \$65 payable at the Parr's Bank Limited of London England that you will cash at a bank in Chiavenna.

Here, I read in the papers about the serious floods all over the Old Country and I heard also about a slide from Mount Ravisc and this put in great danger all the area of our town and more of everything else our house. Here about the weather we cannot complain and even the animals have a good price. Caterina Tam is still with her Brother Giovanni but I think that quite soon she will go someplace else.

I also have heard of the war that started in Africa and if I was still there I, very soon, would have to travel among the soldiers who easily will be recruited; let me know if some have already gone from Villa to Africa.

I have nothing else to say send my greetings, and handshake. I am your son and brother

Andrea Tam.

No. 77

May 25 1912

Tam Andrea to Tam Giovanni  
From Clayton Idaho to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Uncle and Cousins,

After a long silence I want, now, to give you my news. I am enjoying very good health and I hope the same for you and my parents.

You already know that on the 7 of last April your brother in law Stasio Giacomini, died. He left almost 4,000 dollari of property and gave this, as in the will given to Filippo Maraffio to be sent

everything to his lawyer but they cannot do anything for 10 months because the law do not allow to touch the property of a dead person before a period of 10 months has passed.

Here also died Antonio Tam called Bortol on March 27. Last winter I also was sick but I recovered quite fast. The weather in this country was very uncertain, even now it is very cold and the fields are very slow. More news I do not have because I am in a place that is like a desert but pretty soon there is going to be a lot to do.

I send you my best greeting. I am your nephew

Andrea Tam.

No. 78

08 Jan 1913

Gini Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton Idaho to Villa de Chiavenna

Dear Sister and Brother in law,

About 2 years ago I received your letter in which you let me know that in two years you would have another son come to this country. If you are still of the same idea and he has the intention to come he can come with the same condition I offer to Andrea and he can work for me. And exactly \$20.00 a month for the first year and I will raise his pay according to his ability. In Clayton there is the foundry and the crops can be sold at a good price. So if he wants to come, I keep them both because I want to buy another ranch in East Fork to keep the animals there and here in the plain I can sell the hay.

About Andrea, I am satisfied with him and I am sure that the other son is also obedient and eager to please. To Andrea, next year I will give him \$35.00 a month if everything is alright and this would be better for him than to work in the mines. In a few days I will send you his picture.

I want to tell you also that the animals in these last three years have a double price and this is very important for me. Last fall we sold our calves, two years old, for \$50.00 each and where six years ago we sold them at \$22.00 each.

The first of December I sent to brother Ottavio L 5.00 to give to you, and I am sure by now you have it. So, if you want to let Natalie come, let me know immediately so Andrea will send him the money for the trip. If he comes, I would like to have him here by the first of April and if he doesn't come, let me know anyway so I will be able to make arrangements.

About our health, we are all well and the same I hope about you. I salute you with all my heart, also from my family say hi to Tam Lazero. Ciao.

I am your dearest Brother and Brother in law

Andrea Gini

10 Jan 1913

Tam Andrea to Tam Giovanni  
From Clayton, Idaho to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Brother,

In answer to your letter, received 2 weeks ago, I am writing now because I have the time. In your letter you ask me what I know about the property of your brother in law Stasio in the hands of Filippo Maraffio, who was nominated by him as his executor. In about the amount of his inheritance, I cannot give you information but from what I heard more than once, I think must be between \$3500 to \$4000 dollars, but I don't know where they are and I don't know of what percentage invested. I know that 10 months must go by his death before the law of this country will allow somebody to touch the money because now everything is in the hands of the Justice.

About Phillippo Maraffio and what he will do, I don't know anything but I believe that when the law will allow him to touch the money he will do what your brother in law before he die told him and he will send everything to his old executor. About this, I have nothing else to tell you, not even if I go to investigate, as you ask me to do. What he wants to do, he has to do it and between Philipppo, his wife, and myself, there is nothing else to say.

I am in good health as I hope is the same for you. Meanwhile, receive many greetings, from your nephew

Andrea Tam

09 Mar 1913

Tam Andrea to Tam Modesto  
From Clayton Idaho to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Brother Modesto,

Now that I have occasion, I thought to write this few notes.

I am in excellent health condition and I hope the same for you.

Here, the weather is pretty good but it is still winter, and there, how is the weather? Are you going to school? And the other brothers and sisters, what are they doing? Let me know some news. Let me know if Father's legs are now healed.

If you are still going to school learn so when you will be old enough to travel in the world, if you have knowledge it will be to your advantage.

I have nothing else to say but to wish you a Happy Easter.

My best wishes, your brother

Andrea Tam.

Write to me soon and give me some news.

No. 81

23 March 1913

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

Two months went by already since I sent you my pictures and I did not hear anything from you. And now I decided to write this letter asking you what have done with them and if you really received it. Here I am in good health and so I hope it is the same for you. I believe that also brother Natale received my letter with the money for the trip and maybe, by now, he is on his way to America.

News here are very few. It is still quite cold and seems like it will not change soon; but maybe after the holidays the weather will be better.

Last week Cesare Maraffio came for a visit; he works in a mine not too far from here and he appears quite happy.

Filippo Maraffio has now received the money of Stasio Giacomini to be sent to Italy. I would like to know how much money he sent because I suspect that he wants to loose some of that money in his shirt sleeves.

Jobs here around are plentiful however this company is not too reliable. Please let me know if you received my photos all 8 of them and if you have distributed them as I told you.

I am waiting for your news and, please, let me know what is going on in town.

I would like also, before Natale start his trip, that you would take some photos of yourselves. Please let me know if Innocente is now well or if he is just like before.

I have nothing else to say; hoping to see you again soon, I salute you, I shake your hand, your son

Andrea Tam

May 18 1913

From Gini Giovanni, Cesare, Innocentina to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Sugar House Station to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Brother in law and Sister,

Some days ago we received the portrait of your family and it appears very nice. We also received a letter from your sons in Idaho and they are all in good health. Here the fields are in bad shape, the frost has destroyed all the fruits and the hay is sick; so for this year we must be happy with very little.

We are all in good health and so I hope all of you, please salute my sister and the neighbors, we all send you our salutes with all our heart also for the Bertagnoli's family. Ciao, we are your brothers in law and brothers.

John and Cesare Gini

Dear Sister in law, Godmother and all the family,

With great pleasure we received G. Tam Family and we can tell you that are all confident and the children look very prosperous. From your letter, Godmother, we understand that your back is still painful and we are sorry for this but we want to hope that by now you will be well again.

We are very sorry about what happened to the poor Carmelina; poor dear! she must have suffered very much, to leave her 3 young children; but what can we do. It is necessary to take things just as they come.

News from here, weather good and bad, we have been expecting some rain for a long while and the grains cannot sprout.

Not having anything else to say I close this letter and I send our best wishes for all the family. I am forever your sister in law and godmother

Innocentina Gini.

Dear Severina It was so nice to see that you remember your godmother when you wrote a note for me. Write to me again.

I.G.

I gave one of your photo to Rosina's Family and they will write to you directly

.

May 19 1913

From Gini Teodora Rosini to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Sugar House Station (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Sister and Brother in law,

After a long silence, today I take the pen in my hand to let you know about our health; my self and the children, thank God, we all have good health, but my husband, it is now a year, is not well and I must tell you that in a way or in another way everyone has to have tribulations; no body can be really happy in this world

And you, how are you doing over there? I hope that my letter will find all of you in good health.

I want you to know that our brothers, a few days ago, gave us your photo and I received it with great pleasure; you must be very happy that you have a family strong, all looking well

You were thinking that crisis were falling only here but I think that you also had your share. It seems that we are all alike.

News: I can tell you that we are in spring and almost every day is cold and windy like in winter. All the plants were loaded with flowers but the persistent cold has burned the flowers and we shall have a very poor crop.

I end this letter sending you my best greetings and I am your loving sister

Teodora Rosini .

September 4 1913

Tam Andrea to Tam Gini Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Ville di Chiavenna

Dear Mother,

Yesterday I received your letter and I am very glad to know that everybody is in good health and the same is here. In your letter you ask me if we had received your letter, I think I received them all – Natale, my brother, received two of them plus the registered letter sent to me.

In your letter you mention of a registered letter addressed to me but I cannot understand if it is the answer to my registered letter or if you had sent one of them, because then we did not receive this last one.

Please next time be more precise.

About what you wrote of the uncle for the house' business it seems that now he want to pretend and I would like to know what you have decided about this and if do not understand the explanation I will write him my opinion. I am sorry that your cousins are sick but I hope that they will recover soon.

I wanted for Natale to write also, but he never wants to start.

News from here, we finish to harvest the hay with good results.

I am sure that you already know that last June our paesano Guiseppe Pedrini of Pietro was found dead in his bed and he was already dead by 2 or 3 days.

I have nothing else to say please write again soon. Hoping that this letter will find all in good health I am your son

Andrea

No. 85

October 25 1913

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

I received your letter some days ago and I am very happy to know that everybody is in good health and the same I can say about all of us. In your letter I also found a note from brother Modesto in which he tells me that you want to buy a calf and if we can send the money. So we decided to send it immediately and you will find, in this letter, a check for \$000000000100 dollars payable at the Bank Commerciale of Roma so I think you will be able to buy the calf.

Here, animals increase their price every year and this is very good for the people who have enough animal to sell. Last week we wanted to buy a ranch together with the Maraffio but the price of the ranch is a little too expensive. This year here we had a good crop of hay and also of potatoes. Horses cost a little less. To our uncle, this summer, somebody killed a horse who was worth \$150. The weather here is pretty good but a little cold. I think that brother Natale, during the winter, will go to work for Cominotti Antonio but it is not yet sure. I am waiting for your news and let me know of it is going on.

I have nothing else to say, my best salutes and a handshake from your son

Andrea Tam

October 26 1913

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents and all of you

Here, after a long silence I am taking the pen in my hands to let you know some of the local news.

Being that we are already in the Fall, uncle was able to sell cows at a good price and we decide to send home some money; it is not much for this time but more I could not send because I need to repay half of the expenses of the trip because uncle had given me the money considering that brother had finished all he had.

Presently he told me that I can repay him later so I am sending you \$40 right now and, in the future, I hope to be able to send more.

This year, here, uncle has had a very good crop of everything and even the cows he was able to sell them at a good price and, in fact, he sold 31 of them.

I do not know yet if during the winter I will stay here because Cominotti asked uncle what intention he had to do for the winter but I do not know yet and if I go, when Spring comes I may stay with him.

News in these towns are very few; it starts to be cold but I heard that 3 houses were built but we do not know where houses are. I am waiting to hear news about your health, I greet you and I am your son and brother

Natale Tam

December 21 1913

Gini Innocentina nee Lucchinetti to Tam Gini Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Sister in law, godmother and Family,

Finally, after my long silence I come, with this letter, to give you our news. About our health, thanks to God, we are all fine and the same I hope for all of you in the family. My children now go to school and are doing pretty well.

This year, with the crops did not go too well; the cherry were damaged by the frost; peaches, plums and apricots were quite abundant, the wheat a third less than the previous year, hay very little and we need to buy it to feed the animals. Cesare, during the summer, worked with the horses in the Parley Canyon, where they are now building a beautiful state road that is going to be

used for the transit of horses and cars, my husband and Andrew were selling our fruits. The Bertagnoli's Family send their salutes, Modesta and her sons have a beautiful group of sheep and Emma, for the last two or three years is a teacher and so they are in good shape. Luisa also is fine now her daughters and son are working in town and they are earning good wages.

Here, all around us, are building many lovely little houses and also in town they build a lot; one university and many large schools and many apartments; the town is growing rapidly and even the country roads are all paved. Even here, at Sugar House, is like a city; there is a bank, 5 grocery stores, a dress shop, furniture, shoes, a lumber yard, 3 places where they sell charcoal, 2 pharmacies, a store for ..... in total there is everything for every needs.

Being that we are getting close very fast to the end of the year we all wish you a happy new year that will bring you health and prosperity and everything that your heart desires. Rowena and family are all well. Please accept, all of you in the family our loving salutes. I am forever your sister in law and godmother

Innocentina Gini.

Your news are for us always very dear.

No. 88

March 4 1914

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and Brothers,

Today I received your letter and I am glad that you are all well and the same I can say about myself and brother Natale; now he is here with us.

I am sorry to hear that you have not yet received my package that I sent, registered mail, since January 14 and a few days later I also sent a letter.

If, when you receive this letter, you have not yet received the package and the letter, let me know so I can make inquiry.

I understand that even brother Cesare wants to cross the ocean to reach this country. I would like to know if he has intention to come here so I can let him have my place because I made the decision, around the first of April to start to go a little around. I told this to uncle; he is not too convinced that I leave but he does not need to worry. I am not sure yet if I will apply to the mines for a job or with some Americans at their farms.

If I can in a few days I will write to Cesare to see what he will tell me. If he want to come and soon, let me know so I can send him the money for the trip.

We received the candies of sister Guglielmina and her letters. If I was there I could have drunk a lot of wine but we are too far away.

I see that you would like to see me soon. The desire to come is very strong but who knows when that could happen but if everything goes well maybe it will be soon.

I have nothing else to say because in this place news are few, the weather is good, please accept my salutation and a hand shake from your loving son

Andrea

No. 89

March 5 1914

Tam Andrea to Tam Cesare  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavennna

Dear Brother,

I received a few days ago a letter from Father in which he was saying you are all in good health and that you have decided to cross the ocean and to come to this country.

Listen, dear brother to what I am going to tell you about this. If you are really convinced to come to this country it is better to come when one is still young because then it is easier to learn the language and to learn about the mores of this new place.

But if you want to change idea and stay for few more years maybe it would be better, but if you want to leave next Spring do write me immediately so I can send you the money for the trip.

About a job I will give you my job or, in any way, I will arrange and find a job for you. Let me know if you come and who are going to be the people traveling with you.

If you come I will like for you to buy two pipe to smoke and exactly two large pipes called german pipes with a deer and an eagle on the body and two or three mouth pieces for that type of pipe, and as soon as you arrive I will pay for the purchase of this material.

News are not plentiful, the weather is pretty good, tasks we do not have plenty at the moment, we hope in spring we are going to have a lot to do.

If you have the chance to see sister Guglielmina tell her that I received her candies and tell me where they live now.

I have nothing else to say hoping to see again soon I shake your hand, your loving brother

Andrea.

Good bye and I wish to see you soon

April 18 1914

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

Before I change place I want to let you know my news. Here we are all in good health and the same I hope for all of you.

Brother Cesare arrived in the first days of April and he is in the same place where I am.

At this moment I do not know yet where I will go but I think that in a few days I will leave but if you write to me address still here in Clayton.

If work here around will start soon I will stay in Clayton to work in the mine.

In this letter you will find a check for \$170 payable at the Bank Commercial of Genoa, some to pay Cesare's trip and part for you.

News around here are very few, the weather is good but still cold. Here uncle has already sent the cows to pasture but they did not go too far.

A few days ago I mailed a package with two sweaters and one pair of gloves for mother and a handkerchief and tie that you will give to sister.

I have nothing else to say, receive my loving salutes from your loving son

Andrea.

June 14 1914

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and brothers,

A few days ago I received your dear and long expected letter; I am glad you are all in good health and I can tell you the same for all of us, here.

You tell me that you would enjoy my letters; I wrote to you three months ago but I fear that the letter went lost so I going to tell you the content of that letter.

With the package we sent mother we included also a neckerchief for sister and a tie for her husband and this two gifts were not too nice. We had ordered a better quality of gifts but we had to accept what they sent us and I hope, sometime, in the future, to be able to send better quality items.

We know, from New York, that the package is held there because we had not declared the content but I am sure that when you receive this letter of mine you already will be in possess of the package.

News from this country are very few. Catarina Tam, last month had a baby boy. A few days ago was very cold and we had the first frost that has destroyed almost everything, but maybe we shall be able to save some now is so hot that seem like we are in August. We heard Francesco Giorgette will come back to this area with all his family.

Are the brothers away tending sheep? Is Tam Romeo well or is still sick? With the hope to receive news from you very soon we salute you, all of us, I am your son and brother

Natale Tam

Goodbye

No. 92

July 07 1914

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and Brothers,

We received your letter and after three months that I arrived in this country I want to tell you about my trip. We were for 8 days on the ocean but we did not suffer any sickness but a man right on the last days died and left a widow with five children.

At New York we had to go to the gated area but they did not ask anything; during the train trip, two young men were robbed of their money. They quickly found out that was a guard on the train; one of the man was able to speak the language so he said he would call the police, so the money came back but not all. I have still a rest of the trips money and precisely (Pounds)110.

Receive a lot of kisses from your son

Cesare

July 8, 1914

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest All,

Today I received your dear and long expected letter and you tell me that you are all in good health and the same is for all of us here.

You are telling me that you haven't yet received mine. I, after two or three days after receiving your letter, I wrote and I am sure when you will get this letter you would be in possess of the other one already. You are asking me if we have received the pipes. We are very satisfied with them and it already 7 months that we are using them.

News in this country are really few; it is already 2 or 3 months that they say work will start but there is nothing yet.

You are asking me where Cesare works and Andrea. Cesare works here with me and Andrea for a month he was in town and sometime at Cominot where I worked during the winter and now he is here, close by, working in a ranch.

I have something new; at the beginning of the month a ranch was up for sale it close to the river and closer that the one that uncle owns. We went to this sale and we were able to get the ranch; I am together with Andrea cousin Andrea and Cesare Marrafio. It is hard to find the money but we have one month of time. I always feel that working for other people the result is this: the owners earn \$100 and the workers get \$1 and we have to do the most heavy work. So I feel that it was a good chance because if you go around to find jobs one is always spending money. I hope that you will not be upset by this decision and we shall think of you always. But do not say anything to anyone because it could not go well. Today or tomorrow we shall start to cut the hay.

I have nothing else to say but to send you my salutes with all my heart. I am forever your son and brother

Natale Tam. Good bye.

Greetings for the uncles.

July 10 1914

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

Two months have gone by since I received your letter and I have not yet answered to you. This time it was not the lack of time but rather my laziness. I had intention to write immediately as soon as I received yours but I did not yet if I could find work here in Clayton so day after day two months went by doing nothing in the town without thinking that you were waiting for news of us.

On the first of May I left my place at Cesare and I went around and around, I believe that it is better to have a job that is secure and I am confident that I will find one soon and for long time.

Here, we are all in good health and the same we hope for all of you. I believe that in a short while I will be able to give you some good news but, at this time, I am not able to say anything. Our cousins Maraffio are here and keep me company and we get along fine. The weather here is pretty good and we started to cut the hay. Jobs around here are very few but I think that in a few days jobs will be plentiful.

The pipes that you gave to Gini Luigi are now in my possession since a month ago. I love them but you did not need to worry about them, now we are always with the pipe in our mouths. I saw the letter that you sent to brother Natale and I see that uncle is still worried about the new room but currently we had not made any decision. Let me know whenever you decide so I will be able to give him my opinion.

I have nothing else to say but accept an hand shake from your loving son

Andrea

I, with our cousins and brothers we bought a ranch and a nice one.

No. 95

August 16 1914

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

I read the letter you wrote a few days ago to brother Natale and I hear that you have not yet received the package that I sent about 4 months ago. Yesterday I went to the Post Office to inquire and I found the package right there.

The reason why was never mailed was that when the package arrived in New York they were not able to find the description of the content and for this reason the package was sent back immediately but they did not notify me about. Now I left the package at the Post Office and they will mail it again soon and I will let you know when. From your letter I hear that Romeo died and I very sorry and Innocente, how is he?

And the war in Europe how is it? And what people think of it? Do you think that it is better now to be in America rather than Europe? Is Italy going to participate in the war? If I was there by

now they will let me know something. And at Villa have they drafted in the army a lot of men? Is our sister's husband already in the army?

Now I want to tell you some news about this country. Now instead of roaming around doing nothing I decided to provide for me a steady job and a house of my property, so between brother Natale and cousins Maraffio we bought a ranch here close to the one that our uncle owns, it is a good location with a lot of land. We have 80 or 90 cows 5 or 6 horses plus 800 particle of land all to cultivate but we have to make a canal for the water and this will cost us some money. We had to go in debt in order to buy it but if we are all health and agreeable in few years we shall be able to be comfortable all of us. At this moment, here in the ranch are myself and cousin Andrea, brother Natale will be working for uncle and cousin Cesare will find something else to do. Animals here have a good price and if things remain the same we shall be able to make some money. If I have to stay here in the ranch I would like for you to find me a young woman to send me because to be always alone without anybody to fix dinner it is not very pleasant.

The fact that now we are in debt will not affect our desire to send you help, like we did so far. We are all in good health and we hope the same for you. Uncle helped us to find the funds to buy the ranch. We paid \$7000.

In the hope to receive soon your news I am sending greetings and an handshake your loving son

Andrea

No. 96

September 3 1914

Tam Andrea to Tam Gini Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Mother,

It is already more than a month since I received your letter and I have not taken time to give you an answer.

Here, we are all in good health and we hope the same for all of you. In your letter you tell me that you had to pay L 12.38 for a tax for me and brother Natale, and I think it is better to pay this tax than being there at this moment and our expenses we are glad to pay ourselves.

From what I see in the newspaper it seems that, at the moments, the war is gong well for the Allied and let us hope that this war will end pretty soon. I am sorry for the death of our cousin Tam Luigi; he was still very young. Here there is nothing new. Work is as a standstill everywhere. The weather is good but being Spring sometime it is bad. We had a good first crop of hay and we hope to make a good one for the second crop. The fruit, however, during spring, froze and we had a damage of at least \$200. The animals have still a good price. In the fall we plan to sell 20 – 25. A month ago, in Salt Lake City Malachi Branca died. He was the husband of Madonin and had 6 or 7 children.

I am waiting for news from you and I also would like to know what is going on in our town. Two years ago you told me that the sister of Aunt was going to get married; I would like to know if she really got married. I have nothing else to say except my greetings and an handshake I am your son

Andrea

No. 97

September 13 1914

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents and Brothers,

On September 10 1914 I received your letter; we are all in good health and, as always, we hope of all of you. We would be glad to know if your crop of hay was good if the goats have given a good result and the cows also and if the calf had, like her mother, a good \_\_\_\_\_ if the sheep have come down from the pastures in the Alps, and last summer, where Brother Modesto and Brother Ottavio went? Some time ago I wrote to sister Guglielmina and she never answer to me. What are they doing those two?

Until now, here, the weather has been beautiful but now it starts to be cold. This year uncle with his garden crop did not do very well, he had a good crop of hay and potatoes. They say that cows have a good price and uncle can sell 60 or 70 and also brothers and cousins are willing to sell about 20 because there is not enough hay and theys cows eat a lot of it.

We heard that the uncles from Salt Lake would like to sell and leave on account of the taxes and uncle Andrea says maybe they want to go to Montana. This year uncle Andrea and his family will go to visit in Salt Lake.

I have nothing else to say. I kiss you I am your son

Cesare

No. 98

November 05 1914

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Ville di Chiavenna

Dear Parents and Brothers,

I received your letter a few days ago and I am glad that you are all in good health and it is the same for all of us. Now I do not have to go around in work for somebody else but we do according to our decide and knowledge.

It is true that we had to go in debts but we are all healthy and shall pay all. We have enough land and good land and fruits like apple, pear, plum, cherries and strawberry and this year we had a good crop. The hay was scarce but the potatoes were many and beautiful. When we purchased this land we had 4 horses and 4 cows but now we have 100 cows and 7 horses but 3 of these horses we bought.

I am sure you hope we can send you some money but as now we are not able to send you this money because, on account of the war, this month the price of the animals has gone down and we have some to sell but we do not want to do so on account of the poor prices. But we hope that soon they will go back to a good price and then when we sell, we will be able to send you some money.

Even uncle has not sold his animals he has more than 50 to sell but if the local market do not offer better prices he will take the animals to a great market in Omaha.

The weather here is still good but during October it was pretty bad. We have our cows already to the pastures and they are there since a month ago. Uncle has his still in the fields and he plans to leave them there for another month. This because where we send ours on the fields are very high but next year we will bring ours where uncle has his and so we can save the lower loans for the winter.

About what I wrote you in my last letter I just wrote that for fun and to make my letter a little longer, but I have no idea to do so. But I still want to ask something and please answer mw about it. In your letter you tell me that the girl that I wanted was C. Snider and you heard .that I wrote her. All of this is new to me especially that I written to her. It is not true. I would like to know where you heard that and who said that.

The only thing that I did it was that I sent my photos and I told her to give one to her parents and this because aunt here, told me to do so.

It seems that the girls from Villa do not know yet who are the prospects but I hope this time she will be glad of her choice. I beg you to maintain silence about all of this because I do not want to hear any more gossips.

We will talk about this subject when I will make more decisions.

Now I stop with all these silly stories because I very sleepy.

News I cannot say because they are none. For the summer we had planned to stay here only the two of us but actually we are 3 because here around there are no jobs. Brother Natale works for uncle and we 3 work here but sometimes we exchange.

For the meanwhile accept my loving salute in the hope you will return the information that I asked for, please accept an hand shake and a hug from your loving son

Andrea

December 20 1914

Tam Natalie to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

Here I am, after a long silence, to give you my news. Here we are all well and so I hope about all of you there. It is already quite a while that I was thinking of send you something but because uncle had not yet sold his cows I never was able to send you some. You will find in this letter \$65 and I am sure, the brothers will send you some money also.

News from this country I do not have news only that here is very cold, 20 or 30 degree below zero.

During November uncles and some of their children traveled to Salt Lake City to visit all the friends.

As you know already we bought the ranch and now we must work very hard; when we shall be ready, we can keep 250 or 300 cows and numerous horses; we need to make a long canal toward the river. It will take 2 or 3 years to obtain the water that we need.

The ranch cost us \$7000 but we have already more than 85 cows of which we sold some and 4 or 5 horses. We bought 2 or 3 of them but they are not enough.

I hope you will have wonderful holidays and happy new year.

I am your son

Natale

Mar 29 1915

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents and all,

I received some time ago your letter and I am glad to know that you are in good health except father, who has short breath more and more; we shall try to help you as much as possible. In this country there are (scioperi?) and disoccupation and then the war in Europe.

Here we are starting to work in the fields, the cows we gave them all in the care of God hoping to find them again in the fall.

Is Marcello in the Army or he is still at home? I wrote 2 or 3 times to him since I am here but he never sent me an answer and I do not know if he is mad or if he never received my mail or if he does not to spend 25 for the stamp and I think must be lack of money because we are writing many letters to a lot of people and we do not receive anything.

Newspaper are reporting that Italy is ready to enter in the war any day but yet has not entered and my opinion is that she should stay out of it.

According to the newspaper the price of the animals should go down and I do not believe this because every other item is getting more expensive.

In the hope to receive your news very soon I salute you with an handshake. Your son and brother

Nalale Tam

No. 101

April 25 1915

Tam Andrea to Tam Severina  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Sister,

I received your card a long time ago and almost failed to answer you.

I want you to know that here, we are all in good health and the same, I hope, for all of you.

It is a long time since I received news from home and I do not know why. I think that the people in Villa have forgotten about us in this far away place of America. Both brothers are working for uncle and myself and the cousins Maraffio are in our ranch and we have a lot to do but now we are used to it and we go along; we are in good spirit and good feeling and time moves very fast. Presently I am happier here that I would be in Italy because of this war but maybe, sometime, we will be back to visit Italy. Here the weather is good, it is hot, the snow has gone away in the mountains and if during the summer does not rain, we shall not have enough hay. Around us there are many people from Villa.

I hope to receive news from you real soon; let me know of the news from the town. Let me know if you are at home or where you are and where the other brothers are and other sister and sister Guglielmina, what is she doing? Does she like to be at Canete? I have nothing else to say. Shake your hand, your loving brother

Andrea.

I hope you have a good time and a loving boy at your side. Good bye.

August 1 1915

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

I received your card and I am glad that you are all in good health, and the same I am able about of all of us. I am very glad that sister had a baby girl. I wish for her a dozens. And where is her husband? I think that all the towns must be deserted by now because of this terrible war and many young men will lose their life over the battlefield.

Let us hope that everything will go well especially for our friends of Villa because many will be drafted; I would like to know how many from Villa are now in the Army and where is my brother in law?

Here now we are busy cutting the hay that is plentiful and beautiful better than last year. When we finish with it we will be back to work in the canal. You cannot imagine the type of work we have to do here. We never take an hour of rest. We need to work continuously until we can stay on our feet then we have to go and cook and take care of the house and this is the part that I do not like.

Think that for this year this is the way it will go but in the future we have to change. Works around here is not available. Brother Natale is still working for uncle and I think that very soon he will be working here with us because he says that he is tired to work for somebody else and we need to finish the work for the canal before Spring.

Let me know the news of the town. I have nothing else to say. Greetings from your son

Andrea.

September 23 1915

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

It is a long time since I received your letter so I decided to give you our news. Here, we are all in good health and I hope the same for all of you.

I saw the letter that you sent to brother Natale containing the draft letter. And, to me, they did not send anything?

These are sad time for those countries that are involved and even if you are alone roaming around the world I think this is better. If the fate wants us to be deserters it means that when we want to see you we can meet in Switzerland. If things were favorable I have had the idea to come and see you. Now I am an American citizen and I can still come to see you.

Now we are all here, the four of us, and we are working for our canal and it will take a little more time to finish. Here, in this letter, you will find a check for \$20 payable at the Bank of Genoa. At the present time we cannot send more because we have not yet been able to sell the cows. When we sell them we shall send more. Let me know some news about the war. I have nothing else to tell you. Everybody send their greetings.

I am your loving son

Andrea

No. 104

November 12, 1915

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and brothers,

A few days ago we mailed you a letter with a \$20 check and I hope you received it. We thought that before we could be able send a little more it would take time. Instead we have been able to do some business and we decided, all of together, to send you \$170 and considering the exchange they will give you L 1060. I believe that when you will receive this letter we shall have your reply to our other one.

I think that in the letter you received from brother he told you that he had received your two letters in one of which was my declaration of desertion and I think that is better this way that being there under the fire of the war.

News in this country are very poor; lack of jobs and (penuvia?) just like in the old country. I have nothing else to say except that when you receive this letter, please give \$1 to sister. I salute you in the hope to receive soon your news. We are your sons

Natale and Andrea

December 18 1915

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and Brothers,

I received your letter almost a month ago and I did not take the time to send you my answer.

Here we are all in very good health and the same I hope for all of you. I understand that the news from home are not very good on account of the war, let us hope that everything will end well. Regarding the letter written by Severina I have it but I have not yet answered to her. I received a letter from the brother in law and I answered to him.

Now we are all four in our ranch we have a lot to do so we shall be ready for spring time. It has started to be cold and we also had some snow but we had a nice fall. Now we have to use our hay to feed the cows because the pasture is all covered with snow.

Now we have 110 cows between big and small and we really have good luck with them, but with the horses we are not that lucky. We have lost three of them right after their birth. The hay crop was better of the one of the previous year. We had more that one third more potatoes and apple so-so. The animals either cows or horses, have now a good price but with horses we have only seven and they for our own use. Jobs here around do not exist.

If you can sent me some news and especially about the war. I do not have anything else to say but to wish you good holidays and buon anno. All my greetings and an hand shake from your loving son

Andrea

25 Jan 1916

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents and brothers,

With great joy I saw brother Natale getting one of your letter where you say that you received the little money we sent and I hope that you are all in good health just like we are. I am sorry to hear that you have not received letters from me but I wrote you for New Year and may be that now you have received that letter.

With great pleasure I got the letter of brother Modesto right the day before my birthday and I thank him a lot. Today, here, we had the funeral of a English man who lived here close to us. Please inform Francesco Giorgetta about this, tell him that old Gren who had a married nephew and his wife here.

No news from this country, a few days ago we had a severe cold 42 degrees below zero with a lot of snow in the mountains.

I wrote also to sister Guglielmina and I have sent 2 cards in the letter with the photo of uncle's ranch because one of them was for you.

In one of your letter send me the address of our brother in law that I never receive news from him.

Hoping to receive soon news from you I salute you with all my heart. Your loving son and brother

Cesare

No. 107

April 2 1916

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and brothers,

A little while ago I received your letter where you tell me that that you are all in good health and I can tell you that is the same for all of us. Last winter was very cold. I lost a calf, frozen for the great cold it was all the way down to 40 degree below zero and also a great amount of snow but now it is better; now we have so many things to do. Tomorrow we are going to let the cows up the mountains so during the spring we shall be a little more free.

Here, now, we have 112 cows between big and small and by the end of the year we shall have 30 new calves 45 chickens and we shall have hundreds of baby chicks. We have 6 horses one just died frozen but we still have \$1800 of debts and we need to be very aware if we want to repay them.

News in this country are very few and we do not know a lot. In the hope to receive soon your letters I greet you.

I am your son and brother

Natale Tam.

May 27 1916

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Ville di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

I received your letter long time ago and only now I sending you my reply. A little for being lazy and a little for being very busy one neglects the duty, please excuse me for this I hope you do. In your letter you were asking about Cesare and what he does. He is still working for uncle. I asked him why he never write to you and he said that he write regularly but he does not know where is letter get lost. I hope that, by now, you have received some of his letters. I know for sure that he wrote you two weeks ago. He is very tranquil and does not have worries. I have, a few days ago, received a letter from Severina and also one of her photo with sister Anna.

I find in them a great change in this last 8 years. I think that you do not let them work very hard because they both are quite fat. Tell them that I will write them soon as soon as I have some time.

And brother Modesto what does he do? Tell him to write to me sometime.

And how is everything in the old country during this time? News in these towns are very few and it is very cold in this season. Tasks are plentiful this year. We have a contract to make 30 meters of galleries in a mine. We make part of it the rest will be done in the fall and if it goes this way it will go well.

During the summer only two of us will stay here and the other two will go to different area. Now we have finished the channel that we started two years ago. Works, here, there is enough for everybody. If everything goes well, in a few years will be in Italy on a vacation.

Let me know something about the war. Here we are all well and the same we hope about you.

I have nothing else to say but to send you all my best, an hand shake from your loving son

Andrea

Good by and I wish to see you.

Nov 18 1916

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and Brothers,

With great pleasure I received your letter and I am glad that you are in good health and the same I can say for all of us here. I received your letter 15 days ago and I did not answer immediately because I was waiting for uncle to sell the cows so I would be able to send you some money. From my share I send seventy dollars for you and five dollars for sister Guglielmina.

I am so glad I left the old country when I did because now I would be in the Army with the neck pack on my shoulders just as so many are doing.

News from this country I do not have the only thing is that it is beginning to be cold and that the wife of Antonio Cominotti, a few days ago, gave birth to a boy but he died, but she has already 4 children that are helping them to get over the sadness. I have nothing else to say.

I want you to know that we, altogether, are sending you \$165 and I am very happy to let you know that our share was \$1075. I want you to know that last August the husband of Madonin died; we think that he had T.B. and now she is all alone with 5 or 6 children in Salt Lake and 2 or 3 of her children go to school and they seem comfortable but it is not to be very easy for her.

Uncle also has 3 children who go to school and the third one is the girl and she has a good head, better than the boys and I think that she is also the best looking of all the children. In one of your letter let me know where cousin Lidio is and all the news of the town. I have nothing else to say but to wish you happy holidays, good end of the old year and good start of the new one from all of us.

Your loving son

Cesare

Greetings to everyone who asks about us.

No. 110

Jan 18 1917

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents, Brothers and Sisters,

I received your letter long time ago and I never took the time to answer. I wanted to write you on the occasion of the holidays but I let the laziness take the best of me and I let go until now.

Here, all are in good health and I hope the same for all of you.

Now we are all here in the house we finished the contract that we had and we did pretty good. Also for the animals we did fine; we have few calves but we did not loose one. And the price, last fall, was pretty good. Now we have between big and small 130 and if we have a little luck next year we plan to have more that 160. The hay crop was better that the one we had last year. Fruit was not good our crop was ruined by the weather. Now here is very cold and the trees are

still dormant. And about the war? And brother Modesto? Where is he? If the war last a little longer he will be able to be drafted.

I am sure you received the letter with the money. News from this country we do not have, sometime ago we received a letter from Uncle Rocco from Guatemala and he says that is doing all right he also says that he got married with a woman from Central America.

In your letter you gave me news about the sister of Aunt and you tell me that everyone think she will be my wife and this is not true and I am sure that will never happen. But I would like to have news about her. I have nothing else to say. I send my loving greetings and a handshake. Your loving son

Andrea

I am waiting for your news very soon.

No. 111

April 22 1917

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents and Brothers,

A few days ago the brother received news from there and you say that it has been a long time since you received news from me and myself, here, always waiting to receive from you but no luck! I sent a letter and a card and I was always waiting for your news and I was thinking the letters must have gone lost or maybe there is another reason for your silence.

We here are all in good health as I hope is for all of you. Here this year I thing Spring forgot to come. All prices are getting higher for clothes and for food and I do not know what will happen with too many problems all around. Evidently now the United States are engaged in the war in Europe and it could be that from one Country or another I will have to wear the military uniform but let us hope not. Jobs around are still the way they were. For a while it seems that new opportunities will develop but nothing yet.

We received news from the uncle from Salt Lake and they say they are well but aunt Dora was sick for a while in bed but now she is better.

My godfather Orlandini is now in the military so they had to sell the cows; I wrote him long time ago but I never received an answer. I am sure that years like these one have never existed.

And sister with her children and husband how are they? In the hope to receive your news I greet you. I am forever your son and brother

Natale Tam.

August 26 1917

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

A few days ago I received your letter with the news of your great health and the same I can tell you about us.

The news from this country are still the same; some jobs are available but it is not like in other areas; the hay crop for us was less than last year and we need more land to enlarge the crop but no luck; we have more fruits but now since Springtime we have not had any rain and everything is dried out.

In these states they started to draft men and 9,000,000 have registered for the service and they started already to recruit some and for this time we did not volunteered. Brother Modesto, where is he? I would like to have his news and his address. In this letter you will find a bill for \$1. Change it and give it to brother Modesto. For everything else nothing is left but to salute you. A kiss, I am your son and brother

Tam Natale

November 9 1917

From Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents

It is a long time since we received news from you. Here we are all right and the same we hope of all of you. In this letter you will find a check for \$170 payable at the Bank Commercial Italian of Genoa that all of us send to you.

From these you will give \$5 to sister Guglielmina and \$5 you will send to brother Modesto.

We are a little late in sending you this money but we had to wait to sell cows before we could send it to you. Here, the animals have a very good price and everyone is selling in great quantity. We sold 40 of them. Brother Cesare is not working anymore for uncle he must be tired and wanted to change occupation. Now he works for one from Colico.

This year here there are many jobs with good wage. We are now in socially with another man, we have a contract a mine and if the mineral has a good price I think we shall have good days. And for the land things are going well. We made many potatoes, fruits but not too much hay.

And with the war? How is it now? For what we read in the papers not so good for the Italians but lets hope that the good fortune be on their side.

Let us know all the news. We here for the moment are still free but maybe soon we both shall be drafted. We shall let you know about it. Do not worry about, maybe something will happens for the good.

And brother Modesto, what he does? Where is he now? And the brother in law where is he? Some time ago I received a letter from sister Guglielmina and I also received the photos of her little girls. They look well enough. Tell her that I will write to her soon.

I have nothing else to say. I send you my salutes and a handshake. Your loving son

Andrea

Tell brother Modesto to write us sometime. I would like to write him but he said he would change locality so we do not know where to address. Ciao. Of the \$170, 65 are from Cesare, the rest from us

No. 114

January 17, 1918

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and Brothers,

With great joy the 13 of this month, I received your letter and I am very happy to know that you are in good health and about sister Guglielmina from whom I wait news from day to day and about our little nieces that will grow big and beautiful.

Now since last month I am here in the farm of the brothers. We are only the 3 of us and with the cousins Maraffio we are working a mine and we have a contract for it.

Since I am here with the brothers I have seen uncle Andrea and he upset me because he does not want to talk to me, he was very upset because I left him and I think I have the right to go where I want and I think that in a year I can make progress here more than if I was still with him. I think that actually I think that he was one of the best boss for a just wage but if you work for Americani you always get at least \$2 a day and that for us is better because you learn the language and with him you can learn only the language of the Villa and I know that just as he does.

Now with uncle works Samuel Del Bondio and I think he will stay with uncle until uncle plan to sell.

From day to day the brothers are waiting to be called for the medical visit and being that they are healthy and strong they have no hope to be rejected. And myself being that I just celebrated my 21 birthday I will go to apply for my citizenship and I think shortly I will be called; being that the

brothers being unable to write and wait for your answer, I want to try to ask you to ask and then make a declaration from the secretary and signed by the mayor with the seal of the Town that you, being handicapped and over 60 and having children very young to support maybe they will not draft me or the government of the Italy Unity will give you some help when they draft me. And here as testimony of the situation have uncle, cousins, Maraffio, Catarina Tam and maybe others. From when I have been here we never had a winter so good and there, how is the weather? I hope the same.

With the hope you can make and have the documents please send them to me as soon as possible.

I kiss you with all my heart. I am your loving son and brother

Cesare Tam.

Greetings for everyone that ask about us and the uncles and relatives

No. 115

January 19, 1918

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents and Brothers,

A few days ago I received your dear letter in which you told me about your good health and I can assure you that it is the same for all of us.

News in this country are still the same only that it is very hot and we are still in the winter time.

I can tell you that a few days ago a calf died on me. It stopped to nurse himself from the cow for a kind of sickness that is called Black Plague and here in the vicinity many animals have died and who knows how many more before the end of Winter. But now we have vaccinated them all and maybe the sickness will end.

About our crops: the hay very much less than last year, a little bit of fruits was lost but we had a lot of potatoes and we have here 6 or 7 tons and we cannot find the way to sell them. If we were in the old country, I am sure we do not have problems to sell them.

The animals price was a little bit higher than last year. We got \$63 or \$65 each and we had some animals fixed, one at two years old and some cows between 2 and 8 years old and we sold 45 of them; of calves we had just 3 or 4 more than last year.

Some days ago we received news from the uncles of Salt Lake City and they say that they are all well; a few days before we received a letter from aunt and she says that her husband is still sick.

If you have occasion to write to brother tell him that I received his letter and he says that he would like to write to me more often. I have not received anything more. Maybe is unable to write because I understand to retreat from their lines on the front of the war.

With the hope that this letter of mine will find you all in good health and with the hope to receive your news I am your son and brother

Natale Tam

Good bye.

No. 116

March 20, 1918

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

I am answering to your last letter that I received about two months ago. I am very glad that you are in very good health and the same I can say about all of us.

I wanted to write for some time but I was waiting to have some precise news about the military service. For the moment we are still free but we cannot know when they will call us. Brother Natale is in the category 2 and maybe a year can still go by before he can be called because here in the United States there is a great number of men in the Category 1.

Myself am in Category 1 and I went for the military visit two months ago. Now the only thing I can do is to wait to be called but because I have a very high number maybe a few months will go by before they call me. Let us hope that this war finishes soon so I will not be disturbed. Soon we shall know more and then I will write to you. And brother Modesto what does he do? I would like for him to write to me some time because since he has been in the Army he has never written. And brother in law? Where is he? I would like to have his address. Here the weather is good; I had never seen a better winter since I have been here.

Now I want to tell you about our news. Myself and brother Natale sold our share of the land to cousins Maraffio and so now we are free if we need to go in the Army. We are sorry to leave this place, especially now that we had experience but the place was too small for four people and we knew we had to leave some time.

We could have bought two share but if he has to go to the Army would be a problem. We always were all in agreement for everything but now the cousins want to separate us maybe because they did not believe this was the most favorable time but they do not need to worry about the military service.

But after we bought the land we made a good life. Tasks and debts are now their worry. Now I am here doing nothing but if I want, jobs are the abundance but we want to rest for a while.

About what you told me about Uncle Faustino I can tell you that they never received anything from him. I can not understand if at the Postal Office at Villa there is a dishonest person who

opens the letters and then burns them or say both parties write in their letters informations that do not pass the census.

Brother Cesare works close by. I am sending you a photo and we are sorry we can not send one bigger but there are not other photographers near by. Brother Natale would like to know if you received his letter. I am waiting for your answer. I shake your hands.

Your loving son

Andrea

Goodby

No. 117

June 30, 1918

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Camp Lewis Washington to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents, Brothers and Sisters,

With this letter I want you to know that it is 3 days that I am in the Army.

The military life so far is pretty good and since we can stay here, we are well, the life is different that when one is a free citizen, but here in the camp, we are not bad, the climate is good, a nice place, good food and in great abundance three times a day.

In this last three days they vaccinated all of us twice. We passed all the medical visit, now I am a soldier and I cannot think about freedom until the war is over. Let us hope that it finishes soon.

I am glad to read in the paper that the Italians lately, have made progress. I would like for them to send back the Austrian all the way to Vienna in 10 days. I took an insurance on my life for \$10,000. If by chance, I should die it will be sent to you, I do not know if all at a time, but from what I understood they would pay you something every month.

I believe that brother Cesare also has written to you about his decision to go as a volunteer. It is sure that pretty soon he would be drafted but wait for the right time to go. Some organizer put that idea in his head and he is gone and because he is a volunteer he can chose the corp that he likes best. He enrolled in the artillery and I think that now he is in California. We went to Salt Lake to visit the uncles last week and they are all well. They have a nice place and they are all fat. Brother Natale is still free but pretty soon he may be called. Do not worry now that we are soldiers that for the time being we are still here and it is necessary that they train us and we need to be courageous and to take things just like they come.

If we need to cross the Ocean and come to Europe they will give us a leave to come and see you. If the war ends before I am sent to Europe then as soon as I am free again I will come to see you. Here every day 2 or 3 trains of drafted young men arrive. The camp is like a town and can accommodate more than 60,000 men and now is almost filled.

There are many Italians and many different nationality. Now we are in quarantine and after 3 more weeks we shall be assigned to our regiment. I do not know yet to which corp I will be assigned.

Here you will find my address. Write to me soon and even if I change place I am sure they will send my mail. And brother Modesto? Where is he? And the brother in law? I hope they are well and the same I hope about you and the same I can say about us.

Write soon and send me news about the town. Here with me I have an old friend Italiano from Colico but who knows if they will let us be together.

I have nothing else to say. My dearest greetings and handshake. Your loving son

Andrea

No. 118

July 7, 1918

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Camp Donhitam (Oklahoma) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

After I wrote to you that I was going to school I did not receive any more news from you but I believe that you have written and the letters arrived at Clayton but I could not be there to get your letter because I went in the Army. Do not worry because I am sure that I can send you \$15 each month but I must make the check in name of the mother because this is what they want here.

Here we are all well as I hope all of you and sister Guglielmina. How she manages with her 2 little girls?

I want you to know that the first 3 weeks of military service I was in Salt Lake and I visited the uncles and the cousins and Aunt Teodora and family and Bartagnoli and everybody were happy to see the son of Guglielmina who was with them 21 years ago.

When I arrived at Aunt Teodora I met cousin Dosolima and I fell in love and she fell in love and when I am back from the Army I will marry her.

Last winter I had written to sister Severina to talk to some of the local girls but after I heard what her mother said when she had asked for girls for the uncles they decided to tell Severina not to tell around, and I think you will be happy for this.

Here in this town where I am now it is so hot that we are always like in a bath of perspiration and I do not think that here there is enough rain.

I did not buy this writing paper here the use to write only on one side. (It is paper from the Instruction Field "Knights of Columbus War Activities").

I have nothing else to say this time. I send my kisses I am your loving son

Cesare

No. 119

August 4, 1918

Gini Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Mother in law, Sister and Family,

I think you know that your three boys are in the Army. Natale left the 4 of this month and left me \$54 to sent to you and I added \$2 and altogether was L 148. So L 16 are from me and I want you to send them to Modesto that I understand has been wounded.

When Natale left I went also to present the paper that you had sent to Cesare and the County Board made some paper that assure you of receiving \$10 each month but they were not sure about. But Natale has the paper now and he will present them to his commanding officers. Both Andrea and Natale left with me all their business and I will take care of everything as it was my own business.

About Cesare, I think he is still very light and if he is fortunate enough to come back from the war I think he will learn more about living because now he is only a young boy.

Here, I just finished with the hay and I had a good crop. I was sorry to see Natale go away but not as much as Andrea. Andrea was a member of the family he came here very young he was always with us or nearby.

Let hope in good fortune the allied are ready for a victory and let us hope that they will do the same until the end of the war.

I have nothing else to say. We are all well and so we hope about you. I salute you with my heart with all my family. Salute brother and sister and nephews. I am your brother in law

Andrea Gini

August 5, 1918

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Camp Mills New York to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

It will be a surprise to write you almost every 15 days from a different Camp. But now it is how it goes.

Since a month and a half ago I am in the Army and already I have changed 3 camps, and very soon we shall change again, and this time, dear parents, I am getting closer to you. I believe that pretty soon we shall be sent to Europe and maybe, who knows, at the moment we cannot say anything, but we could be sent to Italy. Do not write at the moment do wait until I write again to you. As soon I am in Europe I will write to you my new address.

It seem that they prefer to instruct us on location so we shall be used to the ---- and the demands of the war. Where I am now it is a beautiful place; it is on the coast and only one hour of train from New York. Very beautiful place to take long walks.

The military life, as it is now, it is not bad; we know that it is better to be free but until we are, we are being treated like gentlemen.

We are very well treated. We get a dollar a day as a pay. I got insurance on my life for \$10,000 and this cost me \$6.90 a month so I have a rest of \$23.10 each month. It is enough for personal expenses and there is enough for rest. In case I was wounded and unable to work I would get \$50 a month until there is money in the insurance contract. This is more that we could receive if we were in Italy; we know the Italian Government does the best he can but it is not rich as the one of the United States to do the same.

Let hope that this war finishes soon then I will be free and my first step will be toward you if I cannot see you before.

From what we know now it seems that who serves in the allies army will not be retained and after all, I am an American Citizen and can come to see anyway.

Do not worry just because we are in the Army so far we are still very far away from the war lines and they still have to teach us and it will be a few months before they send us in line and if things go as now in France, Germany will be defeated and peace will be back.

But we do not know what will happens it is necessary to be courageous and get ready for all sort of things. If, by chance, I should die I left all my papers to uncle and from him you can get all the papers which are mine but let hope the fortune is on my side then after the end of the war we shall be all reunited again.

And brother Cesare has he written to you? Myself, because I always in different places I am not able to receive news from anyone. I haven't received anything from Natale and I do not know if he is still free or in the army

Before I left we made a photo all together and I do not know if you have received it. Did he send them to you? Maybe before I leave from here I may get your news. And in Italy how it goes? Where is Modesto? And brother in law? Do write, as soon I will write to you from the new place and be courageous that soon we will be together. I have nothing else to say. With the hope to find all of you in good health just like I am I send my greetings an handshake from your loving son

Andrea

No. 121

August 15, 1918

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Camp Lewis Washington to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

As we have a little time I wanted to write to you and give you my news. Here I am fine and I hope the same for all of you there. Here I find myself in the Army, I was called the 4 of the month and the 7 I arrived here in this camp where Andrea, also, was here before. I believe that by now, you must have received another letter from me where I was saying that if I had to leave I would have sent you a check and -----that here the mail is never too safe. I left the money to uncle and he will send it to you. I left with him \$54 and he will send it to you.

As I told you in my letter that I appealed to the Consul with the document that you had sent to me but the Consul could not do anything and he told me to go to the local Board because I have the responsibility to support you, they told me that this is impossible but that you can have some help from the United States and I think that you can have \$15 to \$20 each month and it is better than nothing and the lawyer of the County gave me some papers for this and when everything was finished I asked how much I had to pay but he knew that brother Modesto was wounded he told me that instead to pay him to send the \$5 to my wounded brother and I think is better for him to have some money for himself. I really would like to hear from him, if he is seriously wounded and where he is.

Brother Cesare I believe is still in the same place and Andrea, the last time he wrote me, had left the train but he did not know for where. I hope you will receive this letter in good health. I salute you with love. I am your son

Natale

My address is here but I think it is better you address as before at least until I give you more information. Until I am here I will not know to which Comp I will be assigned and every day is good to be transferred.

Natale Tam  
4A Comp 16 Co 166  
Depot Brigade Camp Lewis Wash.

According to the papers it sound like a good initiative but we are still in time to have more news.  
Goodby.

No. 122

September 21, 1918

Tam Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From France to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

It is almost two weeks since I wrote you and sent you my address. I, for the moment, I am well enough but I was changed to a new regiment just a few days ago.

Do not worry if this letter of mine will give you the information that now I very close to the front lines.

The cannon rumbles very close but so far I am safe because I am in the retrorlines. If I can I will write you often, if I can, but you know that we cannot write when we want to do it and do not worry if sometime you will be without news for a while. I hope to be able to come to visit you sometime after doing my period of service on the lines. I would be glad if you can let me know where Brothers Cesare and Natale are and Modesto how is he? Has he recovered from his wounds? I hope and I wish so for him. Some time ago I wrote to uncle Andrea asking him to send you some money that I had over there. I do not know the right amount but accept it, at the moment I can not make use of it. It is the profit of a little gold from the mine where I worked last winter.

From this money please give \$2 each to brothers and sisters the rest use it and later on I will send you more. And the brother in law, how is he? Do write soon that I am anxious to have news from you.

I hope to find you all well just like I am and in the hope that fate will protect me to be able to see you again I send to everyone my dearest salutes, many kisses and handshakes from your loving son

Andrea.

No. 123

July 00, 1918

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Ft. Sill Oklahoma to Vila di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

With great joy I received your dear letter where you tell me that you are all in good health and I can say the same about me. You tell me that you were sorry when brother Andrea wrote to you that I volunteer and you would like to know why and I will tell you.

I heard that the ones that were waiting to be called will have to work harder and that they have to stay in the Army for 7 years even if the war finish sooner. This is the reason that I volunteer. I am better off of when I work for uncle and don't think bad things about me. We shall see each other again.

Dear Mother, you tell me to be sure that cousin Dosolina do not take advantage of me because her father is rich. Of this I am not afraid because her mother always says that she would be healthier if she had married a poor young man able to work. So she is not happy to have married a man with money. He is always sick and she also is never in good health.

When I was in Salt Lake I spent 3 wonderful weeks almost nothing to do. Every night I walk for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour from my camp to go to see them. And they were very happy and the uncles were very glad to see all the nephews that they have here in America. Aunt Celeste tells me always in every letter when I come back from the Army to go to visit them that I will be always welcome.

You should see all the cousins. How big they are for their age. Cousin Andrea that is only 16 or 17 is as tall as myself and bigger and is a great worker.

Here in this letter you will find a check of \$15 and go to the Postal Office in Chiavenna and I do not know what is the current percentage. Here we are very warm during the summer but now the cold starts to come.

I have nothing else to say. Please do not worry about me. I am fine and I am still your son and a handshake for everyone.

It has been a few days since I received your letter and I answer immediately but I did not mail my letter because I was hoping to send you a check because I heard that sending the real money you will receive more so I was thinking to send money in a registered letter and any bank will change the money, so I think it is better with a check.

Lots of greetings from your loving son

Cesare

No. 124

October 5, 1918

Gini Teodora in Rosina to Tam Gini Fidela  
From Sugar House Station, (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Sister,

After a very long silence today I thought to write a letter to you, our news, I can tell that health wise, myself and the children are pretty good but my husband in the last 5 years did not have good health and now he is so short of breath that as soon as he does something he gets worse. And you, with this letter of mine, hope to find all in good health, especially your husband.

I want you to know that during the month of June, your 3 boys were here visiting and now they are all 3 in the Army. I am sorry about this, but what can we do? Be courageous.

Yesterday I received a letter and one photo from Natale and at the same time I received a letter from Cesare and both are in good health, and for the moment, they are still here in America. Andrea is in France and I'm sure you know this already. I'll tell you, the world is upside down. Even here, in the United States, they call soldiers between 45 and 18 years old and if the war will go on, next year on the 20 of June, our son will be 18 years old and if he is in good shape, they will get him from me.

To tell you the truth, this war is heartache for everybody. You will not believe what I am telling you. It is impossible to hire a man for a day because the major part of the population is in the Army. You will not believe it, but there are families who have in the Army up to 6 sons. What do they do in the houses, they put a piece of paper on a window and for every son that leaves, they put a blue star on the paper. Now we hope, if God will help us, that this war will end soon.

Now at the same time we are sending 4 photos that a few days ago Cesare sent us and he told me to send them to his father and now we are mailed them just as he asked.

About news, I can tell you that we had good crops of hay and a large quantity of fruit and we can thank God for all the goods that we received.

The summer was very hot but now, for the last 2 weeks the weather has been bad.

Now, with this letter of mine, please ask sister Caterina if she ever received those 2 letters that I wrote 2 years ago with \$5 for my godchild Silvia. I think I never did anything wrong, but not to acknowledge 2 letters worries me. Maybe you know the reason, but if it was not for us, maybe they would not even have a house to live in because the house where they live now is ours and it is really true. More good that one does and more every comes back. Here, I talked with your Natale about this and he tells me that he never knew that his share of the house was ours. About this, don't say anything because the rent sooner or later are paid. And please, let me know something.

Give our greetings to all in the family and you will salute my brother with his family and sister Anna and all the remaining relatives if you have the occasion to see them.

Now I finish this letter of mine, sending you our best greetings and I sign forever, your sister

Dora Rosina.

I believe you will answer to this letter of mine and all the news that happens in the town because we never receive letters. Ciao.

October 18, 1918

Gini Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Brother in law, Sister and Family,

In this letter you will find a check for \$440. Your son Andrea wrote to me to send this money to you. I also sent with a registered letter \$52; \$50 from Natale and \$2 from me to be given to Modesto and so far I do not know if you have received the registered letter or no. You know that your boys are in the Army and they will write to you directly and also you will receive \$20 each month from the Government of the United States.

Here, we are all in good health and I hope the same for all of you. Our crop was good. I will have 250 tons of hay and 20 tons of potatoes. For these there is no demand so I will have to feed them to the pigs. With the animals it did not go too well. I lost 2 horse working mare, the best that I had. She was 1700 lbs. For the cows there is now the black plague and a great quantity of calves are dieing. Some have died because the grass was bad. It takes patience.

I salute you with all my heart. You will salute also all the brothers and sisters. I am your brother in law

Andrea Gini

December 8, 1918

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Ploermel (France?) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Father,

I went to the Post Office and I sent a telegram \$70. I hope you will receive them today. We just received the order that tomorrow we shall leave for the United States. I am sending you my best salute because we do not know if we will be released immediately. As soon as we are back and there we cannot buy anything to drink. I wish I had more time before leaving. With the hope to see each other again soon and wishing you happy holidays and buon anno, I am your unforgettable son

Cesare.

Many kisses.

January 19, 1919

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

For a long time I wanted to write you but the laziness has always got the best of me but now I am taking the pen in my hand and I am ready to give you my news. I am pretty well and so I hope of you all over there.

Since the 9 of December I received the military license then I stopped 9 or 10 day in San Francisco to visit the town and then I took the train for Salt Lake City and I spent the holidays with uncle and aunt. I can tell you that here the influenza is still strong but for myself I can say that I never had any symptoms. I have been very lucky even for other problems. I think that it is more than a year that I have had news from you and I think that last letter you received from me must have been a year ago with an answer about the money that I sent to you.

From Cousins Maraffio I know that you wrote a letter in September and they sent it to us to Camp Lewis in Washington but at that time I was on the railroad on my way to California and there I never received it. So I do not know if you received all my letters.

While in the Service I sent 2 letters, in one I had sent 2 photos one of me alone, the other one was of me, my poor unfortunate brother and one of Colico. During the time I was in the Army I wrote more that once a month and once I sent a photo of part of my brigade and once with the Panorama of the Camp and of the nearby town. Then a little bit later I sent my photo in uniform and I know via someone that there you received.

I, while was in the Army, did my best to help you so as it was established you should have received \$25 each month so answer me promptly because if you have not received this amount regularly I have only 6 months of time to complain to the government once they released me of the service.

From Cesare, since left, I have not received anything and from Andrea after he arrived there I received only a letter, poor guy he was always from here to there and it seem that something should happen.

I, right after arrived in Salt Lake City went to the Red Cross Americana to see if they had some information and I had to write to know some and after 20 days I had a letter in which they said that so far there were no information and on the same day that I received this letter, I was working for Umberto Pedrini and his wife received a letter from Idaho, from her Sister, in which she was announcing his death and that felt to me like should not have happened; we were always so agreeable but we must be courageous and we cannot do anything else.

I want to leave this subject because it yet does not feel real and I would like to know if with this announcement you received something else because almost all the soldiers from this country are insured and before we left both of us decided to take this insurance so if something bad would happen you would receive some help.

Here they tell me that they will keep me informed as you already know aunt Dora's son was sick with the flue, then recovered quite well, but a few days later he got a cold and the flue came back and just a few days before I was in bed with him and last Tuesday we buried him. I do not have anything else to say in the hope that you receive this letter of my all in good health. I salute you and shake your hand.

Natale Tam

I am anxious to receive your news, address still to Idaho but to be more sure insure the letter. I think that in a while I will be there. Good by.

No. 128

January 20, 1919

Gini Celeste nee Lucchinetti to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear people all over there,

The news about our dear nephew Andrea gave us a great of sorrow; yes, it seem that this nice person would never come back! We do not know why because he was with us only for a few days but in these brief days he was able to win our friendship and we never shall forget him because he had a great personality, he look well and we are all crying for his sad fate.

Let us pray God so he will give courage and strength to heal the pain for our dear ones lost so tragically. Please, have courage that you are not the only one who are crying their dear ones.

You see not only the war has taken so many people but the flue is even more cruel. May God protect all of you from this sickness that has invaded all the world leaving the heart of some many more people in stady (steady?) sorrow. It seem really that the world has been changed in a river of tears. Yes, over there you are all crying but believe me, here, in America we cry for our dead and we are sad for everyone. Dear all of you, maybe you know already about what happened the 11 of last month, our dear Nephew Riccardo Rosine died with terrible pains, he was only 17 years old. You can imagine the sorrow of his entire family and all of us are crying bitterly and it does not even seem a reality.

Ah! Poor young man! Where has he gone so young! But we need to accept the will of God. He came down with the flue for the third time and this time he developed pneumonia. He fell sick on New Year day and from there he suffered very bad pains he was crying and screaming for the great pains he was saying that it was like a blade in his back and in his heart. Ah! Poor young boy. You have to realize that he had suffered for almost a year before. He was a young man smart and intelligent. Now I will tell you what he had in his back.

About a year ago he was working for a neighbor in a ----?. One day with another young man they were riding an horse but all of a sudden the ---? got untied and fell on his side so the two young men fell to the ground; poor Rick, as they called him, was the first to fall and the other one fell on him right over his back with his knees and he felt the consequences right from there instead to get

better. It was getting worse, was in pains but did not say too much to his parents so they would not worry.

Since then he was always under doctors. They did everything possible but the last doctor said that his spine was injured and could not heal and would get always worse.

Believe me, his death made a tremendous difference for us even our children feel his absence they loved him they were always together and he was here with us so often that people believed he also was one of our children. It is necessary to accept the will of God and take everything with patience.

We are happy that the terrible war is over and the flue also is the consequence of the war for all the poisons spread all over so that the air is bad. We hope that the good Lord will free us very soon from the terrible plague that has attacked the entire world. The poor Rick used to say: it seems that the one that gets the flue for the third time it will be very dangerous so he used to go up to the mountains.

He was right and is now in paradise where God gives a good place to everyone that suffers in this world. Let us pray that God gives a good place to all our dead in the Kingdom of heaven.

We are very sorry of what happened to our dear sister in law Marie and child, and with so many children, the pain must be tremendous for poor Ottavio. It was nice that Nina went to help them for him she is the best woman that can take care of his children and I think that it will be good for her too because what would be doing all by herself? So it is better this way for her and for him. We also regret what happened to our Ana Marie. Poor dear it must be very sad to know that her husband died for lack of food. Sad, sad destiny. God will show to that bad crowd who put desperations and pains in this world.

Here, we are still in good health at the least for the present time; thank the good Lord, but two weeks ago two of us had the flue luckily was a mild attack and now we are up again.

Since December Natale is here he came back happy and contented for having done his duty and came back with honor. He is fine a nice looking young man and now it is a month that is trying to work for I. Pedrini. They have a lot of cows and they do not feel they can do all the work by themselves because they had serious cases of flue and do not yet have strength to work, so he will be there until the Pedrini will be able to do by themselves. So, in the mean while maybe even Cesare will be back from the war. From newspaper we know that part of his company arrived in New York so we hope that he is among the lucky ones and that soon he will be back in good health and happy.

We hope in God for the future that He protect everyone from tragedies.

Up with the spirit, good people, be courageous.

It is not our business but because we are family, I want to ask you if you received the money from the American government that is given to the family of the soldiers. If you have not received anything do write immediately here so that Natale can go and gather information and about the insurance of poor Andrea we need to find out about it also Cesare had given us the task if something should happen, we have the papers for the insurance so we can find out for you. Did you receive the paper of poor Andrea? Let Natale know soon so we can go out and find the

situation. If you write here for Natale use our address. We look very diligently the lists that were published but we never find the name of poor Andrea.

But his very long silence worried us a lot, because he used to write frequently, we sent him 4 letters via New York. He wrote to us in September and then no more. You wrote to Dora and to know that you also did not have his news we felt that he was gone or something real bad had occurred. Ah! Poor soldiers! How many had to pay with their life to bring liberty to the world.

Enjoy our greetings and our wishes for a better future of everyone; hoping that this letter will find all in good health, So long, Be courageous. Yours in Salt Lake City

it is Celeste who writes.

No. 129

January 20, 1919

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Camp Mills New York to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

After almost a month that I wrote that I was ready to leave and go back to America the 4 February finally we left. After 14 days on the sea I arrived in New York safe and sound; now I am in the camp where we stay for two days before we left for France but the camp does not seem like the one of the past. Then it was all filled with tents, now it is all houses two stories high with spring bead of every soldier. I hope to receive my release as soon that the business of the war will be all solved.

This year I celebrated my birthday the 17 of January on the last day we were on the ship. I was in good health as I hope my letter will find all of you.

When I was in France I received a letter from brother Andrea and he was telling me that he was in Aire. I wrote to him immediately and then I wrote again. I never received anything from him. I hope you received some letters, and it is the same from brother Natale. I received a letter from him 3 months before I left Fort Sill, Oklahoma and then nothing again and I do not know if they did not receive my letters or if I was not receiving their letters. The weather here is pretty hot to compare it to the past years when I was in Idaho.

With the hope to find you all in good health I send you an handshake and my loving salutes, your son

Cesare A. Tam

February 3, 1919

Gini Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Brother in law, Sister and Family,

Great sorrow I felt when I read in your letter the fate of poor Andrea. He is your son and I understand your pain but believe me that I am suffering as much as you do and regret his death as he was a member of my own family.

When he came with me he was a young boy he lived with me for 8 years and always close by; a very nice young man, always obedient just as I would have been his father. During the 2 ½ months that was away from here he wrote me 6 times. The last one on the 12 of September, he was fine and promised to write often but that letter was the last one, and I started to worry but I was thinking that sometime letters go lost but unfortunately was his hand that was lost. We need to accept now he is a martyr for the cause of freedom; God bless him.

When I received your letter I kind of hoped that it was a mistake. I sent a telegram to the department of war in Washington and yesterday a letter arrived telling me exactly what you tell me in your letter.

Yesterday a man from Colico came here to visit. His name is Ettore Piva that had left here with Andrea and now has been released from the Army and he told me that Andrea had taken a life insurance for \$10,000 and I am sure he had informed you of this and if you haven't yet received the paper for the insurance and you are not able to receive it, let me know; send me the matricola number and everything that Andrea had told you about it. I already talk with the secretary of the contry and I had sent \$42 to Andrea on the 6 of October and they did not come back to me maybe they send it to you and, please, let me know if you received so I can place a claim.

When Andrea left he gave to me a check for \$3358 of the brothers and Andrew Maraffio with an interest of 5/100 a year. The 28 of November 1918 they told me that they wanted to pay the rent of 8 months exactly \$112 and \$400 toward the capital and so each Fall pay interest and capital if there was enough money. This paper has the date of March 28. I told them yes. So I took \$112 for the rent and 400 for the capital and I deposited everything to the bank for a year total \$512 at 4/100. Now when they auction the ranch between them, 4 associates decided the whoever was buying the ranch did not have to pay anything until December 1918.

If in December the sellers wanted to buy a ranch then they would pay the entire amount but if they did not buy a ranch then they would not to be payed before December 1919.

This conditions were made among ourselves before selling and it was to the advantage of both parts and the interest would be still 5/100 but whoever was buying could pay whenever they wanted so read accurately and I believe you will understand what I said and then you can write to Natale because he knows everything and also knows about the money that he had.

Natale was released from the service since the 8 of December. He is now in Salt Lake and works for my brother in law P. Umberto and in a while he will come back here.

Cesare also in a few days will be released from the service. I believe that now he is in Salt Lake. Brothers Maraffio told me that if you need soon \$200 they can pay that much now and the rest in the fall. Everyone will try to pay you but if you do not need them let us know. We shall send as much as we can and for the rest will shall pay you the interest.

About the \$512 that I put in the bank I am sure I can withdraw them and send them to you if you need it but you will lose the interest. I need to tell them 3 months before that I want to withdraw that amount, then they will give me the capital and the interest and this will be for the 28 of November. About the \$10,000 of the insurance they will be paid so much every year, they will not give you all at once.

In a few days I will go to Challis to inquire about this and then I will tell you more accurately. A few days ago I received a letter from sister Teodora where she tells me that she lost a son Ricardo to the flue epidemic; you can imagine what a pain for her also specially having an only son. What can we do? It is necessary to have patience and also she is not well at all with her kidneys and her husband always needed medicines.

We, thank to God, are all healthy and the same I hope for you. I am sure you have understood everything and you will let me know what you want to do and if Natale comes back here and you prefer that he takes charge of your business let me know that I will place everything in his hands.

Many salutes from all of us. Ciao your brother in law and brother

Andrea Gini.

The insurance comes from the government and is sure only it will go by some time before you get the money. Other soldiers, from here, have died and their parents have yet to get something.

Good by

No. 131

February 8, 1919

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents and everybody else,

A little while ago I wrote a letter and from day to day I am waiting for an answer, but I cannot wait any longer to write you about all the business.

When I arrived here, uncle told me that he had written to you on the same subject that I want to tell you. It would be for the property of the poor brother.

He told me to have written to you if you want to delegate him to do the necessary for you, but this way we shall always be depending on him if we stay here because if we think about the opposite we will be still depending on him and this I do not like. I like not to depend from somebody else

and he would like to keep me here and I feel that I have been here long enough and I want to be free to go where I want and I am sure you understand what I feel.

I had in my mind that this Fall he would have given us \$1000 and with part of this I would have gone to Salt Lake City to ranch with the uncles and I sure they would be glad if I did.

And it would be easier because from there to send the money to you would be better.

So I have decided to go. I need to know how much was the rent so I will do everything that is necessary. But if you want this to be different it will be all right with me. As I wrote in the other letter I had asked if you had some other documents on account of this insurance. Maybe this document you need to send it here but I am not sure.

The other day I went to the office to place a complaint and maybe in a short while we shall know for sure. The rest of \$1000 I can send.

Somebody told me that brother Modesto is now at home, so how is he? What happened to him? I would like to have news about him. From him I received only a letter and this one was written as soon as he went in the service and then he had promised his photo all dressed in uniform and he was asking for a photo of mine in case I was drafted; so I sent mine.

I have nothing else to tell right now. I hope you will receive this letter. I hope you are all in good health just like I am. I salute you. I am your loving son and brother

Natale Tam.

No. 132

February 23, 1919

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

It has more than a week since I received your letter where you tell me that all of you are in good health just as I assure you about myself. And I hope the same for brother Natale who 9 days ago left Salt Lake City and went to Idaho. I was released from the army the 18 of February and now I find myself with my adored Dosolina and she is the only one that is in good health. I am sure you know that in January her brother Ricardo came down with the flue and then pneumonia and in 10 days he did the same end of our dearest brother Andrea.

Aunt Teodora told me that she received your letter and she waited a few days and then her son fell sick and she did not have a minute of relief and after he died she got sick also. She was very nervous and she made terrible noises; they could not keep her in the house, she wanted this and that and she was not too clear in her mind so they put her in the hospital and because she could not speak she eats only what they give her. I went to see her two days ago and she told me she had a feeling of being out of her mind; if she touched her hair she had terrible pains. The uncle is half and half and cannot work. The other uncles are all in good health except uncle Cesare who

for the last month has been always sick, now he begins to get up but he is very skinny. Aunt Teodora asked me to write a letter in answer to yours, Mother. Next time, she said, she will not pass such a long time.

I have nothing else to say but to send you my best greetings. I am your loving son

Cesare.

When you will write send the letters to Idaho.

Good by

No. 133

March 5, 1919

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and brother,

While today I was in the uncles house and seeing the mailman on the way to their house I told to Eugenia Elsie that the mail was here so she run to the street and got your welcome letter. The mailman ask her if this letter was for me, she told him yes, so he left it with her, so I know now you are in good health as I reassure you about us and the uncles, aunts, and cousins except for aunt Teodora who is still in the hospital but it seems that she is getting better. Uncle Cesare is not yet well but he is better day by day. The widows Bertagnoli are all well and they have some very good looking daughters. Yesterday, for the first time, I went to visit Luisa, she was with a daughter of 21 years of age and a little girl of 3 or 4 years, I was there all day and almost always with this girl and I have a feeling that she is a good person and she was cleaning the house and washing clothes, she had a sister that will be married in the fall and I had seen her during the summer before I left. She asked me to wait until she had finished her tasks and then we would go to see her sister together, and so I did. After dinner we went she was speaking mostly English really well but this should not scare us.

All the uncles, aunts and cousins are sending their greetings. I wish you to be happy and I am sending my best wishes, a kiss for everyone, I am your loving son

Cesare

When you write to me use always this address because they will forward all my mail to me.

Good by

March 12, 1919

Tam Natale to Tam Ottavio  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Brother,

A few days ago I received your dear and loving expected card, I am glad about your good health as I can say the same about me.

You are the luckiest among us brothers. You are young and did not have to eat bread for 7 years.

I hear that you are going to school and I will be glad to know if you are one of the best student, at this time you are not aware, but when you will be as old as I am you will realize that if you have learned some it will all to your advantage.

And how things are going around town, who is your teacher? If just for a chance the teacher is Giacomini give her my best.

I have nothing else to say this time. I salute you with all my heart. I shake your hand. I am your loving brother

Natale Tam.

Good by

I would like to ask you many things about the war. How is everybody in town? Behave with the girls if you have one.

March 17, 1919

Brothers Maraffio to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Uncles,

We should have written before to let you know how things go in this country; now we can reassure you for our good health and we hope the same for you and all your family. Here we go on very simply always with the hope of good fortune. I am sure you always knew about the past when during these last five years, with your children, we bought this place with the idea to work for ourselves and try to make good, and in so doing things went quite well for a time, but then fate had other surprises for us.

As you know, when the draft started we had to divide our business but with the intent not to damage the divided owners.

What happened then was not even in our mind. We never had anticipated the death of Andrea. We had spent four years, here, always in agreement; he left hoping to come back here where he was loved and esteemed and honored not only by the Italians but by everyone that met him. What can we do? Fate wishes this way and the only thing we can do is to be brave and to think that many other young men have had the same fate and maybe even worst. Then about the business in which we were associates I am sure you know already from Natale and uncle Andrea. We, brothers Maraffio, owed Andrea \$3358 dollars from March 25, 1918 with the understanding to pay and interest of 5/100.

Last year we paid the interest on that amount for 8 months for \$111.92 and more we gave \$400 dollars. This amount we gave to uncle Andrea because he is his executor. So now we are still debtors for \$2958. As I am saying to you we had planned everything like cousins and friends and he could not expect full payment until the year 1918 and he promised to give me a request before 6 months before I had to pay.

Now it is in your hands to leave everything as it is or if you want something different let us know something about it.

Here with the land it goes pretty well, but we are short with the help; last summer we had a good crop of hay and during the winter the weather was good and now it is time to work and it is already stormy.

Natale and Cesare have been lucky. Cesare is still in Salt Lake with the uncles and Natale is here and they are in good health as uncle Andrea and family.

This time I have nothing else to say. I wish you good health and good luck. Greetings to all your Family to you from brothers Maraffio

No. 136

March 26, 1919

Tam Natalie to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

A few days ago I received your dear and expected letters the first one registered and the second with the registered letter of which you mention before. I am glad to know that you are healthy and I can say the same about me and brother Cesare he is still at Salt Lake City.

In your letter I see you tell me that I am attached to Clayton but this is not true. I would have liked to pay you a visit but how it is possible right now? But if things go my way I am hopeful to be able to hug you again. And I believe if right now all of you were here with us you would be happier.

In there, there is a thing in the old country that make people old it is the cold. But over there, there is a thing that we do not have here and it is the wine. It seems that here in the United States there is a propaganda to abolish the use of wine and liquors but who knows?

I am pretty sure that by the time you receive this letter you will already have received the pension and this has not happened then I will find out.

I am here waiting for a job and if I do not have to find a job then I will pack my blanket and go some place else.

I hope that when you receive this letter you will be all in good health just like me. I salute you dearly. I am your son and brother

Natale Tam. Goodby

No. 137

May 25, 1919

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

A few days ago I received your dear and expected letter and I am happy to know that you are all in good health just as I can say about me right now. During the Spring, the brothers Maraffio asked me if I knew something about the money and I told them maybe they should pay \$1000 according to my calculations to finish to pay the debt.

Some days later I saw, there at the uncles, the letter that you had written to him and you are asking the Maraffio if they can send you \$200 now and \$200 in the Fall and you would have been satisfied and I know that after a while the Maraffio had sent \$200. If in the Fall I will have \$200 then I will pay them and I think they should be enough and then if we have more and you do not need it the brother still owes \$150 and a little at a time I would have given his part and before I left I gave him \$30 but I did not check this accurately and I do not like to make inquiries. In those days I was expecting some money from him and he told me to pay his debt to me and then send you the rest. But the money arrived after I left and I think you received this money it was sent by uncle.

We had not made clear the time of the reimbursement the only stipulation was that we should ask for the money 6 months before so they could take the necessary steps. Here, now, I work to make a canal and we have the contract between myself and two brothers Piva of Colico and he is the one that appears in the photo.

Dear mother, you ask me if I received those letters. I can tell you that I received all of them and I have answered to one and to the other one, because I had just written to you, I waited to have more news.

Here, I will have a job until the end of the year and then something else will come my way. A few days ago I received a letter from cousin Elsie and she tells me that brother Cesare works with uncle Attilio. News, here about, are still the same and a company that was not open for quite a few years will open again. During Spring Scuchetti Tranquillo called Pelino married an American woman. Here now is very hot and I am always thirsty but to drink there is only a river and this is very polluted. I have nothing else to say but to salute you with all my heart, a kiss. I am your son and brother

Natale Tam.

About the money that you will receive from the government of the united States if you have not received yet, you will. I heard that the person that manages that office was not good and they had so many complaint and finally they changed him and soon you will get your money. Good by

No. 138

June 8, 1919

Gini Teodora in Rosina to Tam Gini Fidela  
From Sugar House Station (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Sister,

Today I am coming to answer your dear letter and I heard with joy about your good health. We, on the contrary, it is not that we are confined to a bed, and you know already about the sad story about our poor son; and we had only him so you can judge the pain of our hearts. I have been seriously sick for 4 months, now I feel a little bit better but I could and should better than that.

I want to tell you about the death of our poor son. Last year in the evening, he was taking care of the cows of our neighbor and he was sitting on a horse, the seat got loose and the poor son fell and felt a great pain on his side and on the spine. As soon as he came home he told about it. He went to the doctor for quite a while without improvement. So he changed doctor and for 8 week he went regularly but no improvement. At the same time the flue exploded in form epidemic and after the flue he got better and again he changed doctor and again got the flue and pneumonia and he died in my arms; it is true, it is better than he died in my arms that in the war but you cannot imagine the sad death; he was shouting, crying in the last moments of his life. And the pains were caused by the fall from the horse. With tears in my eyes I am writing this letter the sad fate that fell on us because he was a son of talent, educated, appreciated by his teachers; he had gone to school for 10 years; he was very careful with his money and everybody liked him. The principal of the school came to the funeral and spoke about him. He was very handsome he was as tall as I am. I will never forget him until I am in this world, poor son of mine.

You are right when you say that we shall not see our sons again. Your poor Andrea was also a good young man and everybody like him. He was respected, talented; if they had been too lazy then maybe they will be still alive, but what can we do? Last night your son Cesare let me see the letter that his father wrote to him and about what he write about the daughter. I tell you that she is still too young to marry, she is still going to school so it is better that you tell him that for now she does not want to get married. She does not take advantage of him. He comes always here,

she talks and likes him but as a cousin not with the intention to marry him. She talks just to pass some time.

Be healthy. I am your sister

Dora Rosina

No. 139

July 14, 1919

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest parents and brothers,

It was long time ago that I received your letter and I did not answer right away because I was waiting for a photo of Modesto who had told me that he had made the photo when he was home on leave, so I was still waiting for that letter but having received two days ago a photo of brother Natale. He told me that he has there the photo of Modesto and that it is too large to mail it and he will keep it and I will see it when I will go to visit him. But being that cards were sent also to uncle I saw them and I think he looks great and he looks like a man strong and robust.

I had not received anything from sister Guglielmina for almost 7 or 8 months and two days ago, when I received a letter from brother Natale he included a letter that he had received from her written on the 19 of February just the day in which I was released from the army. And since then I was always here, in Salt Lake, with the uncles and cousins.

For a month and an half I didn't do any thing and I was still thinking to be back to Idaho but then a job opened up in the uncles farm. I started to work and I find myself still here; I work as a share cropper with the brothers of the aunts.

One or twice a week I go to visit aunt Dora and she has nothing else to say but talk about her poor Riccardo and she come out with some words that do not make very much sense because she always thinks and suffers.

Brother Modesto wrote to me and sent me his address but now I misplaced his letter and I do not know where to write but at home so then you can send it to him. Let me know, in one of your letters, if you have received something on the account of our poor Andrea or if you have never received anything.

Here, in this country is very hot and everything is dry and burnt. After the first crop of hay there was not water to irrigate so the second crop has to grow in the dry.

Since I came here with the uncles they treat me well it is not like when I was in Idaho where the aunt never washed not even an handkerchief instead, here, they ask me to change every week. I have nothing else to say. I am sending you my best greetings for everyone in the house and to everyone that ask about me. With the hope to find in good health I am your son and brother

Cesare A.

September 3, 1919

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielma and Fidela  
Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

I wrote you some time ago and I was waiting for your answer. Being that tomorrow I will be leaving for Idaho I decided to write and you will receive a money order of \$20. I think about L 105 and another package containing 4 of my photos of which one is for you, one to brother Modesto one for our cousin Guiseppe Maraffio and one to sister Guglielmina.

Today here is overcast and there are rumbles and lightening one after the other. It is almost the first times that it rains since April and everything is burned. Any kind of crop has been scarce and prices high. Now the weather starts to be cold.

Being that the mail man is here and waiting for me to finish this letter I will stop with the hope to find all of you in good health just like me, the uncles, aunts and cousins.

I think that you already know that cousin Desolina had surgery for appendicitis and now she is here at the table and says that she is fine.

I have nothing else to say but to wish you good health and I am your son

Cesare Tam

From now on address to Clayton Idaho

September 28, 1919

Tam Natalie to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Challis Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenne

Dear Parents,

Two or three days ago I received your dear and expected letter and I am happy to know that you are in good health just as I am. Some days ago I had written another letter and you will find it with this and at the same time I received a note from the postal office in which they were notifying me that they had, there, a registered mail for me.

Our poor brother when he left here he was wearing a gold watch that he paid between \$10 to \$15 with a very fine chain but I do not think he had any more value on himself.

In your letter you ask me if poor Andrea had extra money deposited someplace else but I know only of the one already mentioned of \$80 that we received from the mine that we had together and this money, according to uncle, he sended to you or maybe I understood the wrong way.

About the debts of the uncles be sure that when I go there I will do everything necessary and I will keep you informed of all.

In my last letter to you I told you that while in California I had met many countrymen.

About what I said in my last letter do what you want but what is the minimum rent in this country I think that now Andrea is the only person in charge on the rent and one day he came to ask me if I can let you use the money and I told him yes but that wanted mortgage of the ranch that would give me more security for the money because before, myself and uncles were associates; between my share and the one poor Andrea our money amount to \$6000 and the share of uncle is not even half. And I told him that the ranch is more mine that his but we have not yet made the document.

I have nothing else to say but salute you. I am your loving son and brother

Natale Tam

I received a letter from sister Guglielmina last Spring and I do not remember if answer to her or not. Please give her my best salutes to her entire family.

Good By

I heard the daughter of Del Re of Santa Croce is coming to marry Antonio Jacomela the nephew of Ogar Francesco and I think that now he cousin Andrea Maraffio wants to have a woman.

No. 142

December 25, 1919

Gini Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Brother in law, sister and family,

With my letter I want to give our news, health wise we are all well and I hope the same for all of you. I was supposed to have written before but we were thinking to spend the winter with you but I had to renounce to this project because they did not want to give me a passport because the nations have not yet come to agreements; so they do not give passports to American citizens except in cases of great necessity.

Some days ago your sons Cesare and Natale and Maraffio Cesare left for Salt Lake City to celebrate there the holidays. Natale told me that you gave the talk to him to pay what you owe to my brothers and so I did so. Cesare told me that he has a note for \$115 but he does not need this money and he told me to give it to Natale and the rest they will send to you. So I give them this:

Interest from brothers Maraffio	\$143.63
Capital	158.00
Note from the Bank	531.00
And interest on the note	20.44
Total	831.07

Now there is a note from Fratelli Maraffio for \$2600, as you certainly know Cesare Maraffio sold his ranch to his brother Andrea, so now has been assumed by Andrea. About the poor Andrea and his watch, here from Clayton three soldiers died and no one of them has received back things that they were wearing and I think you have to forget about having the watch back. A month ago I went to Mackey to see a man who was in his same company and he told me that he was separated from Andrea a week before he died but, later, one of the same company said that he was killed accidentally when they were doing inspections to their firearms when a sergeant, thinking that his weapon was without bullets let a shot out that hit our poor Andrea in the head and he died immediately. It is really a fate and we need to have patience. The only comfort is that, at least, he did not suffered as many wounded like so many soldiers that were two or three days suffering in the fields.

Here we have the winter a month before the past years; it is a month now that have to feed the animals and in the past they were able to graze in the fields. A week ago was very cold. We had 30 degrees below zero, now it is a little better.

Our best wishes for the holidays for all the relatives and friends and all of you. I finish now. I am your brother in law and brother

Andrea Gini

No. 143

December 29, 1919

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

A few days ago I received your dear and expected letter; I am glad to know that you are all in good health and I can say the same about me. A few days ago I came here to Salt Lake to visit the uncles and to spend the holidays with them.

The other day I did some figuring, I do not know if this will be all because here they have a document from you in 1896 for L 400 and they do not know if they are included in what to say or not. They, here, when they received your letter, wrote to the executor in Italy, Rosine, and when he will send him an answer if this L 400 are not included in the paper, I will take care of it.

Here, we are in possession of the amount you said and in this letter you will find the figuring done year after year for the months of rent and the capital etc, etc., but if you find mistakes in the figuring or if had all started on a previous date, let me know that I will arrange everything.

Here I received \$831.99 between the money that was in the bank and the rents for this year. Then I received \$158 for the capital. Still I have \$2,600 of the capital but it is still in their hands. Now I will tell you how much I paid between rents and capital \$603.35.

They told me that maybe you think that it is too much but the aggio is now higher and they say that with the current aggio they would lose part of the capital and then in the meantime they had to borrow money from other people with the 8/100 of interest so not to upset us, and I think not to press the issue and to wait. What do you think?

Of the money I have now \$228.65, from this I take out \$20 that brother due to me, money that I gave him before he left. Then he had a debt with brother Cesare for \$115 for the payment of some rent and the paper was written for 5/100 interest so there is 5.75 for interest for a year and this money he had taken it in the fall to send to you \$50 for the first year and \$65 for the next year.

I had already written to you on the subject of this money and I think that that letter went lost because you never mentioned about.

So of the money I am left with \$200 and I will make a check that I will send with this letter and if it is time true that the \$400 were never paid I will send my money and then in the fall to pay the rent it will be the same also for brother Cesare.

Let me know if you do not understand what I just writing to you.

Now I will change subject because to talk always about debts is very malinconie.

I understand from you that you are ready to make a purchase. I am going to give you my opinion. I think before you decide to buy that property I would take it for a year for rent so you will be able to judge the quality of the soil because at the very beginning one is ignorant about many details.

And before you buy it do not show too much interest because sometime showing a great interest increases the price and if you rent it for a year you will be able to judge if you can work it or not.

What do you think of my idea?

I have nothing else to say but to salute you with all my heart, an handshake. I am your son and brother

Natale Tam.

Goodbye. I am waiting for your news every day and if you write address my letter here at the uncles until I tell you otherwise.

March 8, 1920

Gini Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna  
(This letter was typed and written on personal paper)

The Lion Creek Stock Ranch  
Andrew Gini, Proprietor

Clayton, Idaho

Dear brother in law, sister and family,

I am happy to hear about your good health and I can assure you about all of us, here.

I am surprise to hear about the money and the rents to Andrea Maraffio.

The way you write abut it seems that I was the one who lowered the rents. But it was you and nobody else. I followed your order and you do not have the right to believe that I am dishonest.

I called Andrea Maraffio and I show him your letter and he was no less surprised than myself.

Last year and in his letter and in my letter you offered that it is not necessary to be sharks, but the way you place the business right now you are the shark.

Why did no leave the interest as it was at that time that was already at 5/100? And not to say anythink at that time? If you had stated that way I would not have lowered the interest. So I followed your orders and I made the documents for the 4/100.

Now, here, he says if you leave the money for 3 years and he will try to pay the capital in part or all, in the mean time he will pay 5/100 for this year. But if in the fall you want to be paid then the interest will be only 4/100. So in your next letter let me know the pact that you choose. About Natale, who goes around that there was no favoritism, it would be better if he looks in the past. I did for him and for the other three partners of the ranch more that many parents would do for their children. In fact I find for them the money to buy the ranch I signed the note with my own hand and this is not all! I had to mortgage my ranch to add some more money and all of this without charging one cent. They were paying me the interest just like I was paying the others.

What do you call this indulgence or jelosy?

He, to compensate me, last year when he was in Clayton doing nothing and waiting for a job, I was here by myself, I needed a man to work and I was paying \$2 and bed and board and I told him if he wanted to come for 2 or 3 weeks or more if he wanted and as soon as he would find a job he could go, he told me: I will see, I will see and then he came reluctantly and I had to take from school, before the vacation, my son Andrea.

When he left for Salt Lake, I told him that for the fall I was planning a trip to the Old County and he was around and wished to come with my older son to take care of the animals because he is expert he immediately told me no that he does not want to work in place that do not offers the

food with the pay. Now I leave to you the decision, who is ungrateful? He or me? And to have the courage to write around that nobody offer nothing to him? In other aspects I cannot say anything bad.

I hope you are not going to be offended from what I am writing. You should never brag when doing something good and I would not have said anything if I had gone real mad in reading your letter.

With my greetings I close now. We are all healthy and the same I hope for all of you. Ciao. I am your brother in law and brother

Andrea Gini

No. 145

May 17, 1920

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

Some time ago I received the letter written by sister Severina and I am glad to hear about your good health and I can say the same about us.

From this letter I hear that you are not very happy about what the uncles, in Salt Lake, have done and I, seeing this, they asked me when I received your letter and I told them that we were not satisfied for the rate of interest and then they calculated how much the interest was at that time and they decided \$8 or \$7 for the money already repayed and \$1 for the \$80 for a total of L 400.00.

There, about which I had asked your opinion when I had sent the remainder of the money that I had in my hand and about which you did not ask anything. I did not pay it first because you did not ask and then because before I left I did not have enough money. So before I left they show me the account and I calculated that myself and the amount was \$196.70 and I told them that I would have payed in the fall and then they gave me the document that they have made by you in December 1896 (if I do not mistake) and as soon as I get it I will send it to you. I believe that Rosina gave you the paper that were there they told me that they will write them.

Now I want to tell you something else; before I left for the army I had left to uncle Andrea \$40.00 to be sent to poor brother and uncle had to address it to two different places and then the money came back and with the rate of exchange at the time he got back only \$31 and he tell me that he had to go to Challis two or three times and he had sent a telegram when he realized that Andrea was not answering anymore and he told me that the telegram cost him \$5 or \$6 and so those \$31, this fall when we made all the accounts that he would have kept the \$31, for the time that he lost back and forth so I did not say anything even if it is double the expenses that he had for taking care of this money. But I did not expect this type of reasoning and I think that the ones in Salt Lake City at least they had paid out that money and I do not know what to say or what to think.

When I arrived at Salt Lake, one day, he called me at his house to show me a letter written by you and he complained a lot telling me that you had written that you would have left the money at 4/100 and now because what I wrote to you, you want more and I told him that you had not well interpreted what I had written too you.

During the winter, during the time I was in Salt Lake they reissued the mortgage and they placed it at 4/100 and then when he received your letter he said that if you leave the money to them for 2 or 3 years then will pay 5/100. I had told uncle when he gave me back my own paper to give me also your paper but I do not know if understood so he gave me only mine and I did not ask anything more but in the fall we shall talk about business again. To Maraffio I will say, in the fall, or he leave everything as it was or he give back all the money because place to deposit the money with a good interest rate are everywhere.

Some days ago I sent you some photo one give to sister and for the small one do what you want. I am sure that you will reconnaise me and one is cousin Cesare and the other one is cousin Michele sons of uncle Andrea the second one and the two others are the cousins of Salt Lake. With those photo you will find the one of poor Andrea that we took at Park City before I left and I had sent a copy to him and he never received it and after two or three months that I have been back from the military service they came back to me.

From other people I heard that you want to make a memorial so I decided to send these photos so you can use one to put on the marble.

A few month ago I received for the Red Cross the picture of his tumb with a cross, his name the company and they ask me if I want to be transported to this country. I will write to them that if they had brought his body back as soon as he died yes, but being that so much time has gone by it is better to leave him where he fell. I will ask for the name of the place because maybe some time we can go and see his tumb.

Last year I wrote two letter to brother Modesto, one was registered, but I never received an answer.

I have nothing else to say. I am waiting for your news with a lot of happy news. I am still your son and brother

Natale Tam

No. 146

July 4, 1920

Gini Cesare and Giovanni to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Brother in law and sister,

I hope you will excuse me for being late with my answer, the reason was we have been a little bit sick and a little bit lazy; this is the point at which we are.

So about our health we are all well and the same is for your two boys Natale and Cesare because just two days ago we received a letter from Cesare and says that they are in good health and that they are working together.

We are very sorry for the sad fate of your son Andrea a man very intelligent, liked by everyone that knew him, so it is necessary to be patient. During the Christmas Holidays your son Natale paid me rent and capital of that mortgage that you made before you came to America and now there is still that debt of \$80 that you made here in America dated 10 December 1896 and for this one your son Natale told me that he will pay for it the coming fall.

During these years of the war the ones that had the good luck to be healthy, willing to work and save made some money in great quantity,

Here now we are busy with the cherries that have a good price. We had a good crop of hay but the peaches did not fare too well.

We wrote also to Rosina so he will give you the document of that loan for the amount of L 1204.

So I end this letter sending you our best greetings and I hope to find all of you in good health and we are forever your brother in law and brothers

Cesare and Giovanni Gini

No. 147

August 16 1920

Tam Cesare to Tam Severa  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

A few days ago I received your dear letter and I am very happy to know that you are all in good health and the same I can reassure you about us.

When I wrote to you last time I was in a mine with brother and cousin Maraffio. One day my boss told me to do a certain job almost like the one that clean restrooms but that rotten flesh was even more redolent. I was there for half a day and then I told him that I was not able to work amid that terrible stench he told me that such a job would not make me sick so I told him that he should do it by himself and I left and I show him that his job was not the only one that I could find and in fact after two days I found a job where the air and the food are much better.

I had a letter from brother and he tells me that every thing is fine with him.

A few days ago I received a letter from the house neighbor Vito and he is telling me that he is planning to come in this country, do you know anything about?

Dear sister you are asking me if I plan to come there for a visit and then take you with me in this country me you do not think about what the people would say, maybe that I am crazy because is just a few months that I came here from that country, but if we have a little luck, with brother, we

shall buy a farm and I will be very glad to have you with us and then we would not care about what people gossip about and I am sure that one of us will take a trip to the old country.

Is brother Modesto still in the Army or is he now at home with you?

I have nothing else to say but to send you my best greetings and an handshake to everyone at home. I am forever your loving brother

Cesare A. Tam

No. 148

September 10 1920

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Bay Horse (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents and all,

A little time ago I received your dear and expected letter and I am glad to hear about your good health just as we are.

I see in your letter about the uncles in Salt Lake that the total is L 1200. Now I will tell you what the uncles told me last winter before I paid. They told me that they do not know of those L 400 were with the others and they asked me if I new anything about. I did know anything and said to them that I would write to you and we shall see what you say about it.

I received your first letter as an answer to my own in Salt Lake 10 days before I left here and in your letter you had not indicated anything new so I said that also you did not know anything about it. So then it was necessary to pay this obligation made by you because there is not trace of any other money.

Now as you say in your letter there is no reason to pay but then if the uncle in Salt Lake wish to be very mean we need to pay and get back this document.

I will write to the uncles and if you also write to them maybe they will remember and we can settle it.

About uncle Andrea I am sure that little by little he will hear from me all the details if we have the chance to have a long talk. About working for me I will not work for long time and I will have to pay me for the time I worked for him for nothing. I have quite a few thing to say. A year ago I write to brother Modesto and I had sent him a few dollars and I would have sent him more if I had a letter from him and I do not know if my letters went lost or what ever. If he had told me that he planned to write me once in a while but it has been the contrary.

Cesare told me that sister Anna was sent to work as a domestic in Switzerland, why do not keep her home to help you so you can take easy that I believe you worked very hard all your life.

Cesare Maraffio told me that aunt Innocentina had surgery but she is already out of the hospital. It is quite a while since I had a letter from cousin Elsia but I have not answered yet. I am still late with my answer but it is better late than never. What do you think?

I have nothing else to say this time. I salute you with all my heart I am your loving son and brother

Natale Tam

No. 149

September 27 1920

Gini Andrea to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Brother in law and familie

I answered your letter a long time ago about the money held by Andrea Maraffio and I have never received an answer and I know that you got my letter. I would like to know why you are not answering to let me know what you want me to do.

As soon as you receive my letter send me an answer so I will know what to do with that money because I want to do according to your wish, no more no less. If you prefer that I give everything in the hands of your son Natale write and I will do it immediately. Because I do not like after I do what you suggest to say that I am soliciting. For example I wrote you that there was money loaned to brother Maraffio for 5/100 and at the bank for 4/100 and no more or no less. In your letter you told me that if the Maraffio need this money to let them have it at 4/100 because you do not want to act as a shark and I did it.

In your last letter you wrote me that when I wrote about the 4/100 you believed that it was the current interest rate, but if you have all my letters go again over them, read them again and you will find out that I did not write that and for you to pretend that I wrote that is offensive to me and make me wish that I had never offered to take care of this matter.

But I do not carry any resentment it is enough for me that you reconnaise your mistake real clearly so I can show Natale. I have shown Natale all the letters and he answered to me saying that I should know what I wrote because I suggested to loan the money for 4/100 and it seems that you think the same. So I am waiting for a quick answer and by the time the contract comes to an end I will renew it for 5/100 and if he as enough money to pay I will take it and I will send you the rent and how much he will give me and if he has not capital I will send you only the rents.

I believe I come for a visit in the fall, but I feel it is not yet the proper time with so many problems around the world I believe it is better to stay were we are in peace.

Our crop of hay and wheat was good but potatoes very few a frost on the 18 of August froze the best part. Natale works at Bay Horse and Cesare about 15 miles above Clayton in the mine.

Health wise we are all well and I hope the same for all of you. Ciao. Your sincere brother in law and brother

Andrea Gini

No. 150

November 8 1920

Gini Cesare and Giovanni to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Brother in law, sister and family,

Some days ago we received your dear letter and we are happy to hear that you are all in good health and the same I can say about all of us.

About the crop I can tell you that we made a lot of hay the wheat was pretty good fruit a little scarce. The summer was quite dry fall was rainy even now it is raining and snowing a little bit it feels like we are very close to winter.

Work is plentiful but food and clothing are very expensive there are rumors of uprising because prices instead of coming down are going up every day. Now about our business as you had written last fall that Natale would come to pay. Before his arrival we had written to Rosina to have an idea about the situation of the contracts, the papers, etc. and Rosina answered that he found the document for L 1204 dated 16 May 1896 and another document we had here with us for L 400 dated December 10 1896. So when your son Natale arrived here we told him that we had written to Giuseppe Rosina our notary public to see how things were and he read the letter that was answering our letter in which letter he was saying that the contract mentioned the amount as above and we told our son that we did not know that the amount was for L 1204 was inclusive of the L 400 for which we have the paper here because more than 23 years had gone by without ever doing again the paper and nothing decided about the interest, and we never made any research because we knew that we did not have authority to take action we let things go ahead this way. How do you want that we know that the two loans were put together when you went back home from America? But we saw two different dates one given in Italy when you left for the United States and a date of when you were here. So you cannot believe that we had intention to make you pay twice L 400. It is your fault, you make some confusion but now everything is corrected and everything will be paid.

Now about what you are saying that if you had let the money be sent there to Rosina you would have gained L 3000. We are very sorry for this because in the mean while we took some money and we pay an interest of the 8/100 and we never asked if you could have managed to give us that money because we knew that you needed that money, and then some more. When we loaned you the money was the aggio the same as it is today? The way you say we would have lost all the interest and part of the capital, think about, would you have liked something like that? I include in this letter the document for the L 400 loan and I believe that Giuseppe Rosina must have given you the document of the loan that was with him.

I end this letter wishing you health and fortune to all. Accept our best greetings we are forever your sincere brothers in law

Giovanni and Cesare Gini

I hope that you will let me know what do you think about this situation.

No. 151

December 2 1920

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents

I have been writing to sister Severina and every day I am waiting for an answer from her but being that the Christmas Holidays are approaching I think it is better that I write to tell you that I am in very good health and Natale is the same and I hope the same for all of you at home.

Here now we are both out of jobs, the mines where we were working are now closed and we do not yet know what we are going to do this winter.

It is about five months since I saw brother Natale but we are not too far, I have not had occasion to talk with him, maybe some day I will go to the town where he lives and I believe we can send you a few dollars. I am not sure that you will receive it for Christmas but I do not think it will make a difference.

Dear Parents, brother Natale wrote to me that you purchased some hills but it is my idea that it is no good that you buy those small fields because now you are too old and working so hard it is not good for you. I think that instead to buy those little fields you should keep your money to use it to hire somebody to work the land that you have and also to use it for different needs that you have in the house and also buying new land you need to thing about your sons and daughters are getting to be adults very soon and you do not know how long they plan to stay with you and if they go you have to hire different people to work the land. This is my idea but.....

Now here, the cold season is very close we do not see much sunshine.

Sometime ago I wrote to sister Guglielmina but it seems that she has not time to write.

What do you think of those photos that we make last Spring when we were in Salt Lake City with our cousins?

I have nothing else to say so I send this letter wishing you happy holidays, and handshake a kiss for everyone, I am your son

Cesare A.

January 25 1921

Tam Cesare to Tam Severina  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Ville di Chiavenna

Dearest Sister

Today I received your dear letter and with great joy I hear that you are all in good health and I can say the same about the two of us.

A week ago cousin Andrea Maraffio was horse riding and the horse fell and some way the poor fellow broke a rib and brother Natale had to go to the farm to take care of the animals. Being that here and where he is there is the telephone I called him today and he told me that now he is well but do not say anything to his family he will do that personally.

Today I also received a letter from our cousin Dorsolina Rosina and she had to give me a sad news in fact her father died she said that one of his vein broke and in five minues he was dead.

You are asking me if we are working I tell you no and it is not possible to have any job until Spring.

Some days ago I received a letter from sister Guglielmina and she said that they were all in good health and they have a new boy and they were very happy. You tell me that there will be quite a few weddings during the winter and when yours will be? I am sure you are going to surprise us!

Tell me how much you liked those photos that brother Natale sent last Spring. Tell me if they are good enough to show them to some looking girls and you will let me know the names of these girls.

For this time I think this is enough. I am sending my best greeting. I am your loving brother

Cesare A.

Many kisses to all, write soon your news are always enjoyed.

January 29 1921

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents

Some time ago I received your dear and expected letter and I am happy to hear that you are all in good health and it is the same for us.

I was very glad to see the photo of the memorial that you had made for our dear deceased (brother Andrea). It is very beautiful it could not have been better and did a very good deed to plan for this memorial.

This years I borrowed \$115 to pay brother Cesare and you will find the paper that he did when he borrowed the money. It is here in this letter and after you read it you can burn it.

Here also you will find the bill for the money that I borrowed to pay the note of the brother.

During the fall I changed that paper and now it is in my hands and so from now on it is not to be our business anymore. Better this way.

I received a letter from the uncles in Salt Lake and they say they received a letter from Rosina where he says that the paper has a date previous that you received the money the first time and that they sent you the paper that was in his possession.

I have nothing else to say. I salute you with all my heart. I am your son and brother

Natale Tam

I forgot to tell you that the other day I received a letter from cousin Dosolina Rosina and she tells me that on the 14 of this month her father died.

Good by.

No. 154

April 24 1921

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents and Brothers

A week ago I received your expected letter and I am glad to hear about your good health and it is the same for us. Here appears that Spring is on her way but the weather is still a little stormy and the snow is not too far away.

News here around are still the same only that for working people there is a great loss on wages and exactly \$1.25 daily pay and maybe another loss in the future but let us hope no.

Jobs are plentyfull but there are always more the one hundred applicants but in the valleys there is enough jobs if the pay was still as it was before but it is pretty good even if it stay as it is now.

Tell Severina that I received her letter and in a few days I will write to her.

Cousin Andrea is still waiting and do not know anything for shure. I cannot believe that it takes more than a year.

I have nothing else to say at the present time with the hope to receive more news from you I salute you dearly and I am our son and brother

Natale Tam

No. 155

October 18 1921

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents

Finally I get the time to answer your letter that I received almost two months ago but I am sure that you understand that a man that has no home and many time lacks things that would be necessary that is in the mountains and do not have the facility to mail.

I am happy to hear in your letter that you are in good health and it is the same for me.

News in this country are very few. We can say that the ranchers this year had a great crop of hay but the cows price was very low and for many people the season will be quite poor, it could be worse but I hope not but we have to take the way it comes.

And there how did you do with your crops. I heard that you bought a vineyard at Piuro.

Please tell sister Guglielmina that by chance I found a letter written to brother and she writes that she sent me two letters and that I never answered to her but I never received letters from her rather I added a note to a letter that brother was sending her and I had nothing back and was up to me I would never write to her because I believed she has some resentment toward me and I could manage without news from her.

I have nothing else to say I salute you I am your son and brother

Natale Tam

No. 156

November 22 1921

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Bay Horse (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents Brothers and Sister

The Christmas Holidays are getting closer in a hurry so I decided to send my good wishes in the hope to find all in good health and the same is for us in the far away America.

Two days ago uncle Andrea with his wife and cousin Maraffio left for Italy and they hope to be there for the holidays. I gave to cousin Cesare \$20 to give you and I am sure that if everything goes well as soon as he will arrive there he will visit you and maybe he will be there before this letter. I believe that now the brother of aunt Lucchinetti has been there to visit you please give him my best greetings. What are my brothers doing? I am sure that Anna is now up the mountains with the cows.

How is the weather in those towns? Here we had a great fall until last week when started to snow. Any day now I think the mill will stop working and then I will be without work for a while. A few days ago I heard that brother Natale is working in the mine and maybe when they will fire me I will go there where he works.

If you see your neighbor Tam Vito ask him if he has received my letters in one of them there was a card with my photo and the same with Gini Giovanni of Giacomo of the valley.

I have nothing else to say. Please accept my best greeting. I am your son

Cesare

No. 157

December 13 1921

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents and brothers

For a while I wanted to write you but I was still waiting for your news but being that we are close to the holidays I want to let you know about our good health and I hope the same for all of you over there.

I think that cousin Cesare and Andrea and wife are now there and I wish for them a good carnivale. Not having had time to order away or better for laziness I bought here in a small shop 6 small neckerchiefs, 4 or 5 ties, I do not remember exactly, 2 pairs of gloves (locals) and a shirt.

I let Mother to give one neckerchief (I believe it is the name) for each of the sisters and the one that looks best it is for you Mother. I am sorry I could not find anything in wool for you Mother, I will do better next time. One of the neckerchief is for the niece, the ties please give one each to the brothers, papa and brother in law. The gloves are for whom need them most, the shirt is for papa. If I had gone to the city maybe I could have chosen better but in the little towns in the mountains sometime we do not get what we would like to buy.

News around here are very few. I can say that during the week that cousin left I was in town, I got up from my bed, I opened my door in there was two feet of snow. The previous night after a

day walking more than 20 kilometer to reach the town to say good by to the cousins I could not see him. I was only able to talk to him on the telephone. It takes patience.

I have nothing else to say this time but wish you Happy holidays a good beginning. I am your son and brother

Natale Tam

I am always waiting for your news  
Goodby everyone Ciao to all

No. 158

March 17 1922

Gini Cesare and Giovanni to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Sister, Brother in law and Family

Yesterday we received your letter with the sad news of the death of sister Anna. What can we do? It is a debt that every one of us has to pay.

Brother Andrea arrived here on the 20 of February and they had a good trip. In 14 days they made the trip from Villa to Salt Lake. About what you are asking me if he has told me something about you. He said he had not visited our house because he has had some problems about business deals in one exchange of letters. This is all he said. But he said that you are comfortable and the same your sons had written to us that they had not visited you.

Here, in our house he stopped only for a few hours because he was a guest of the Pedrini where they stopped for 2 days because were in a hurry to see their family. About your son Natale a week ago we received a letter from him and both of them were in good health and they were planning to go to Bay Horse and for you to address their letters over there.

News from here are not too good. On the 6 of January our daughter Elsie was in bed with pneumonia and pleurisy and was sick for about 2 months. Now in the last two weeks she started back in school and she is quite well and this is her second year at the Technical School. Our older son has chosen the career of engineer and it is 18 months that he works in the same office of the R.R. with a salary of L 120 per month and my second son is in the 3 year of high school he has another year before he finishes and will follow in the same career of his brother. Both Bertagnoli family send their greetings as the Pedrini.

Our health is good and I know it is the same for all of you. We wish you good luck, we are sending our best greetings. We are forever your brother in law

John and Cesare Gini

June 9 1922

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Bay Horse (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

For a long time I was planning to write you but I was waiting for one of your letters and being that I have not received anything I will write you.

Presently we are all well here and I hope the same for all of you over there. I saw uncle the second day that I was here but a few days later something happened to me. I was going around searching for a job and to avoid to have to walk I went to the cousin to see if I could borrow a horse.

It was Sunday and the day after, coming back with the horse I go by the ranch while he and his wife were ready to give the hay to the cows and when he saw me approaching he stopped, maybe he was waiting for me to salute him and I believed he wanted to tell me something and I told myself if he has something to tell me he will start speaking so I went ahead and I did not say anything and he did the same. You told me that he wrote you and mentioned something about this but you do not explain anything to me and I would like to know about it because of the occasion will arrive I certainly have the right answer for them.

Here Spring is not too nice, but the work that we have could not be better.

I have nothing else to say this time, I am waiting for your letter, your son and brother

Natale Tam

What cousin Cesare Maraffio is doing?

November 30 1922

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents, Brother and sister,

Being that the Christmas Holidays are rapidly getting closer even if I am still waiting for a letter from you I decided to write to tell you of my good health and I hope the same for all of you there.

I received a letter from brother Natale some weeks ago and he was saying that he was without work from more than a month just like me and being that I liked to be a barber I went to the college where for some time we work every day. I do not know how long I will be there maybe

two months and if the brother has the same work that we had last year then I will be there and work with him.

Talking about news, these are very few. Maybe you already know that the great uncle in Idaho has purchased another farm and now instead of going around telling about how many thousand dollars he had in the bank now all that money is gone and they had to go in debt. Crops, here, have been fair the price of the animals has gone up about 10 – 12 dollars a head and who ever had a good number of cows for sale made quite well.

I am sure you know already that cousin Maraffio's wife had a son and we hear that they are very happy. I am sure that they are all in good health.

Cousins Gini are going to school, cousin Rosina works in town and aunt Dora suffers with a leg since a week ago and has to stay home following doctor's orders because if she moves too much she will need surgery.

In the hope that this letter will find you in good health I am sending you my sincere greetings wishing you happy holidays and good new year.

Please give my greetings to all in the hope to receive soon your news. I salute you. I am your son and brother

Cesare A. Tam

No. 161

November 30 1922

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

I received your letter a while ago and I am happy to know that you are well and I can say the same about me at the present time.

News here around are still the same the only thing that I can say to you that Andrea Gini bought what we can say the largest ranch for \$24000 and every body here around it talking about this purchase.

I started to work in March and I can say that I worked continuously until the middle of September now it is quite a time that I work here and there but I believe that after the first of the year I will be able to have the same job that I had last spring and if this happens I will work steady for 3 months.

Brother, and I believe he wrote you, left here in September and went to Salt Lake City.

Maybe you will already know that cousin Maraffio's wife had a boy during the month of October and they are all well.

Here it seems that they want to open another mine and appears that there are more and then many occasions for jobs will open.

During the summer the weather was great and I can say the same for the fall but now it starts to be cool. It was already ten days that I was going in the woods to collect wood and sell it and by chance last night I asked a man here that keep tract of many things that I was ready to ask for a permit, but he told me that in those woods one can cut wood only for his own use, not to sell so when he told me that I was quite surprised.

In this letter I include a check for \$130 that I am sure the bank will honor but maybe this will cause problem because I think it should be sent first to the bank in New York and this is because the aggio change every day and the bank is too far from here to know when it is more convenient to cash the check. At the bank they told me that it does not make any difference.

These \$130 is the rent from Andrea Maraffio.

Just because we are close to the Holidays I wish you happy holidays and happy new year.

Waiting for a quick answer from you I send my warmest greetings and I am your loving son

Natale Tam

Good bye

No. 162

January 18 1923

Gini Cesare and Giovanni to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear brother in law and sister,

A few days ago we received your letter and we are glad to know about your good health and I can tell you the same about all of us in the family and also of your son Cesare who is here and also of sister Teodora and her daughter and her husband because you already know that Dosolina is married and everybody is in good health.

This past year we had a fairly good crop of hay and fruit but the fruit was at a low price and the hay was between 12 – 14 dollari for each ton.

We had a good winter so far it almost feel like spring. Jobs presently are scarce but there is hope come spring according to the news from the newspapers. It seems that here on the south of Utah they want to build a great foundry for iron, it will cost many million dollars and would employ a great number of workers.

All our children go to school the older one left his job to go to the University of Utah and he will be there for 4 years. The second one will finish Technical school in the spring where he was for 4 years and the daughter is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the technical school and all three are quite good students.

Ten days ago we wrote to our business man Guiseppe Rosina to auction all our property that we have in Villa di Chiavenna but we have not decided about the furniture so if you want to get something go to Guiseppe Rosina and try to see what you can do because we do not know what came to us after the division of the property and I do not know about what was mine and if you can agree among yourselves we shall be satisfied.

In your letter you do not mention to have received our letters about the death of sister Anna and we answered immediately. But brother Ottavio wrote two letters but we have not yet answered to him but quite soon we shall write to him also to let us know how he decided her belongings and I understand that you are not happy about this separation of property.

Brother Andrea seem that want to sell his property also and the house that we own together. It is better to sell so somebody may enjoy it.

Some day ago I wrote also to sister Caterina but I did not know that she was sick and we hope that she will be well soon.

In this letter you will find a note of your son Cesare and also a paper to show to Guiseppe Rosina about the furniture so give to him.

I finish this letter sending you our best greetings. We are forever brothers and brothers in law

G. and C. Gini

Our sister in law Severina is happy about her position and says that she feels like to be in Bondo.

No. 163

January 20 1923

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents, brothers and sister,

I received your news some time ago but being that I had written already before I waited before answering. Now that uncle Giovanni had to write he told me that I could add a note and so I take the occasion to tell you about my good health and I hope the same for all of you.

On the 21 of this month I will leave for Idaho where I will have a job with brother in a mine and if the occasion comes to be a barber I will be glad to do it because I do not want to abandon to be a barber even if I will be working in the mine.

Everybody is sad because I am leaving for Idaho and especially the cousins and cousin Elsie more than everybody else.

Severina is very happy to be in America.

I have nothing else to say and I am closing sending you my sincere greetings and handshake from your son and brother

Cesare A. Tam

No. 164

January 29, 1923

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents, brothers and sister,

A few days ago when I came back from Salt Lake I found your letter and I am very happy that you are all in good health and I can reassure you the same about me and brother Natale and all the relatives in Salt Lake.

You are asking me how much Severina likes America. She likes it enough and the day I left she had tears in her eyes and so aunt Innocentina and cousin Elsie and I had the feeling that they were all very sorry to see me going.

Shortly I believe we shall have work at the mine and this job will last until spring and after there will be many other jobs and maybe I can have a job in a mine where there are many men and so there will be the occasion to work as a barber. This it would be exactly what I want.

In your letter that you wrote in answer to the one that I wrote and contained photos and you said that you were not too sure that it was me. It was me and in the present letter you will find another one that was made while I was cutting the hair of uncle Cesare the day before I left.

The cousin Andrea seating close to us after he had his hair cut dressed like a soldier and another photo of me also dressed like a soldier after I had been released with the helmet.

In a few days I plan to visit cousin Maraffio with his wife and young son.

I have nothing else to say I sending an handshake and a kiss for everyone. I am your loving son and brother

Cesare A. T.

March 12 1923

Jacomella Severina (Friend) to Tam Gini Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Friend,

After a very long silence I am taking my pen in my hand to let you know that we are all well presently. For sure, I should have written before, but you will understand after such long voyage it seem like I was not even able to take the pen in my hand.

So I am asking forgiveness for my long silence and to compensate for my long delay I am sending two photos, please give one of them to my godchild Marie Bellagio with my greetings for her and her family.

How are all of you there? I want to hope well. I like quite well this country and the nostalgia comes and goes.

During the winter we had your son Cesare with us he is very happy and where he is there is no space for sadness.

Spring is almost at our front door and my life is just beginning and I am happy. What do you think of my choice? With the 1 of March I will relinquish my family name to take the one of my husband Thomas Jacomella. The voice was running around for a time while we did not know each other. In three day we made the promise and got married. Now the voices that were going around have won.

I think it was written in our fate. In a few days we shall go to Park City where my husband has his job. It seem that there, there is still a lot of snow.

In the hope to receive soon a dear answer from you I end the present letter sending our greetings to everyone. Greetings from your children and family. Address my letter here at my sisters house. Again, greetings from

Severina Jacomella

June 5 1923

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Bay Horse (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents, brothers and sister,

Some time ago we received your dear and expected letter and we are happy to hear that you are all in good health and the same I can reassure you about us.

On the 14 of last month we finished the work at the mine and on the same day, in the evening, I met the boss of the mill where I worked last year and immediately he told me that if I want the same job that I had he would give it to me. But I felt that I would not like anymore to work in that mill so I told him no, then he offered me a job in the cabin of the electrical energy where there is nothing to do but to seat and see that everything is functioning and some time I have the occasion to work as a barber at the same time that I work for the company.

Brother left here a few days ago and in a few days he hope to work in another mine not too far from here.

Two days ago I heard that the oldest daughter of that great uncle was seriously sick and maybe she could not make it then I did not hear anything else. I am very sorry for her because I always went along with the children but I never exchange a word with uncle and his wife and I have been much happier since I had nothing to do anymore and many friends that he believed were his friends, later told me about many gossips that he had spread about me. His holder son injured himself the past winter, he was out with two horses, they runned away with the cart and he fell underneath and broke some ribs. But now he is fine.

For over two weeks here the weather is raining every day and it is cold and nothing is growing.

I have nothing else to say, accept my best greetings and an handshake. I am your son and brother

C. A. Tam

No. 167

October 29 1923

Gini Cesare and Giovanni to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Sister, brother in law and all family,

About a month ago we received a letter from you and are happy to know that you are all well and the same is for all of us.

About the business of which you are writing of brother Ottavio on account of the sickness of sister Anna we shall give you the opportunity to do so like we were there personally and do as you think is the right way to do. Do not listen to gossips, we know him and about what sister Teodora wrote do not pay attention because she does not know anything about business.

We wrote to you a month ago about sister Teodora who was at the mental hospital after September 21. We went to see her last Sunday she speak with more sense but she is very quiet.

The reason for her mental state is the change of life and could be a few months before she gets better. The expense for the hospital is \$50 a month.

Here we collected all the crops and it has been pretty good for the hay and the fruit.

A few days ago we received a letter from your sons they are in good health and they both work.

About my children the older one frequent the University the second one finished high school and is working as a surveyor with engineers on the rail roads and his pay is of \$120 a month. He comes home on Saturday and leaves every Monday morning and my daughter is in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of high school and will graduate in the spring.

So I send this letter sending you our best greetings and believe me forever brothers and brothers in law.

Giovanni and Cesare Gini

No. 168

November 24 1923

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Bay Horse (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents, brothers and sister,

It is sometime since I received your letter and a little bit for lack of time and a little bit for laziness to take a pen in my hand, I waited until now to answer.

I am happy to know that you are in good health and the same it is for us and all the compatriots of this place. In your last letter you were asking for our opinion about a purchase that you want to make of land around Piuro, we here do not have idea where this land is located and we let you make the decision but for my part, I think you have already enough to take care of and I do not think very convenient to buy land that will require to hire workers to take care of it, but do what you think is best.

Some time ago cousin Bellagio arrived and he gave us your greetings. Evidently he likes America. I saw him a few days ago and he was quite worried because he had not yet received news from his wife after he wrote her of his arrival in this country. Now he is building an small house in the big farm that he purchased last year and he think he will finish the little house very soon.

I am sure you know already that they had to place aunt Dora in a mental hospital. For some time they felt that there was nothing to do, but a few days ago I met the oldest daughter of the great uncle and she told me that someone in Salt Lake had written that she had recovered and would be back home very soon and as soon as I receive direct news from Salt Lake I will be able to tell you the truth.

The crops in these towns have been so-so, the weather so far has been fair but from now on will be cold and snow. I heard that the price of the cows has been very low comparing with the past years and now the great uncle that was not able to get what he wanted works day and night because he still has to pay the loan on the farm.

When we meet it seems like he want to say something but I do not want to give the occasion because if he loose his patient I have to answer to him with my hands to be even with what he told me when I left his farm many years ago.

About Maraffio's money he said that he hope to send some now. He should come here very soon to visit us and then we shall talk about.

I have nothing else to say. I wish you happy holidays and a better new year for everyone.

Please tell the sisters that are married that I will write only when I receive from them and not before. My greetings and an handshake from your sons.

Cesare A. Tam

When you write put the name Cesare instead of Antonio because the last letter you wrote they did not know where to send it. Finally they send it to Giovanni Tam who lives in the farm of Filippo Maraffio with his sister Caterina and they opened it and it was the letter in which you mentioned the purchase of the land. I hope it was a mistake.

Hoping to receive a letter from you I am your son

C. A. Tam

Good bye

No. 169

April 7 1924

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents,

I received your letter a few days ago and I never took the time to answer not because I had not the time in fact is more than 50 days that I am without a job no for pure laziness.

I am glad to hear that you approve for what I did.

I, here am well and so I hope for all of you there.

Here it starts to be a little warmer it seems that spring is arriving, it is about time.

In a while I hope to find a job and if this do not happens I will go in different places.

I heard that you bought another vineyard in Piuro, this will be to build a cellar?

I hope that in a year time we shall be able to see each other for a while.

I send my greetings to everyone and I am your son

Natale Tam

No. 170

June 11 1924

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Challis (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents, brothers and sister,

A few days ago I received your letter and I am happy to hear that you are in good health and I can reassure you about me and all our friends here around.

In your letter you tell me that you haven't received letters from me for a long time and in fact that you are right because the last time that I wrote it was Easter so I do not know if this letter went lost.

About what sister Anna is asking me if I am mad, she write in a way like I am upset with her and all of you but this is impossible because I have not reason to be upset and by chance I was upset I would tell you, so do not worry. Sister is asking me if I am working. Well, in general all jobs were slow and so I went to work some days in the farms for one or another and after everyone has finished with their work I went to the great farm where cousin Lidio works and there were only the cousins and being that they were late with their chores, they asked me if I wanted to work for them for a little time. Then also cousin Lidio asked me to stay so we will have occasion to talk and talk and not having anything else to do I stayed and I am still here. I took a walk where a road is being built toward a mine in Makay and maybe one of this day I will take my blanket and go there. The great uncle now appears very friendly and he would like for me to stay all summer. He is very worried at the moment, because the grass is all dead and the crop of hay will be very scarce. The other day he came here and said that next year he does not plan to work this fields and then he said that if he is not able to find a man with his family he will give these fields to me to work and I answered that I could not take care by myself of such a large farm and then he said "get married" and I told him it takes two to make it.

He told me to send for to Italy where there are (a lot) of young women that are waiting.

Lidio has told me that he has always left the key of the Piuro's care under a rock and if his wife do not come next fall maybe we will come together, he is sure to find the key and then we can marry.

I have nothing else to say. I sending my best greetings with cousin Lidio and an handshake from your loving son and brother

C. A. Tam

February 10 1925

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

I am waiting for your news for a long time myself and brother.

Since twelve days ago I am in Salt Lake with the uncles and cousins. They are all well and so am I.

In the fall I wrote that comes February I was planning to be with you but now, I think this will be impossible because it is necessary to make a lot of documents and this requires a lot of time and then I do not have all that I hoped for. So I am going to you just like uncle did a few years ago. I need to inform myself better.

So I decided to write you this letter to tell you that instead to be there at the end of February it will be the 5 or 10 of March. I will let you know about the right date because I do not know yet the name of the ship.

On the 26 of January I sent the money of the rent with \$5.75 more and then I sent \$20 from me and I do not know if was all in one check or two.

So as I said before, I do not know yet the precise day and if I cannot obtain all the documents I will have to stay at the confine, if I had known this before I think I would have waited one more year but being that have started all the practices I will do as I can.

I have nothing else to say. I am sending my loving greetings for everyone also from uncles and cousins.

Your loving son

Natale F. Tam

November 30 1925

Tam Natale to Tam Modesto  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear brother,

As my duty I should have written to you before but to write from here to there time flies away and so I am close to the holidays and I still have to write. I am fine here and I hope the same for everyone there.

I arrived in the United States on the 27 of September and at Salt Lake City on 3 of October if I am not mistaken. I was there for 15 days with the uncles and cousins then again on the train to reach my old place where on the 23 of the current month, after almost a year of rest I had to start work again otherwise the winter will be difficult.

Here where I am, there is already two inches of snow and it appears that more snow will fall. But, after all is the right time of the year.

And there, what are you doing that is fun? And the grapes? Did they ripened at Villa? And how much wine did you make? I would be so glad if I could have a barrel for myself but there is no use to think about things that I cannot have.

Has Ottavio written? What does he says of those places? I have nothing else to say but to wish happy holidays.

Happy New Year from your brother

Natale F. Tam

I would enjoy any news from there.

Greetings to everyone who asks about me.

No. 173

December 6 1925

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Union Pacific System  
Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad Co (Official paper)

Dearest Parents, brothers and Siister

I wrote you some time ago and I was waiting for your answer but realizing that it does not come I decided to write again because the holidays are approaching fast but when I received a telephone call this morning, that told me of the death of aunt Dora, for two or three weeks she was suffering from diarrhea and she could not feed herself enough. What she ate went through her system and so there was no way to nourish her. There was not hope the only thing that now she was doing in this world was suffering then the only thing we could wish for her was to die, and now she is better off.

Uncles called Andrea from Idaho to let him know. Maybe he would like to be here for the funeral but he said he will not be able to come because for the last two weeks he could not eat solid food, only milk, he has something in his stomach he may need some surgery because he has been sick for quite a while.

I am still seeing a doctor but I think it is better. The doctor told me that it takes about four months and maybe less to be completely healed but do not worry about me.

Sometime ago I received a letter from brother Natale. He was telling me that he was in good health and that he was working in the same place where together we worked a few years ago.

I have nothing else to say but to wish you happy holidays and a best new years also from the uncles, cousins and everyone in Salt Lake. Greetings also from Modesta that woman from Tirolo who always asks about you.

Greetings and a kiss from your son and brother

Cesare A.

No. 174

December 29 1925

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Bay Horse (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest All,

Yesterday I received your dear letter that I was waiting for, but maybe it had already arrived a few days ago because my letters go in Clayton, to Andrea Maraffio and I was already at my job a little far, so I had it sent to me yesterday and so, going back to my job, after spending the holidays in town I had the great surprise to have twelve letters that are very dear to me and especially those of my dear ones who are always in my mind. To tell the truth I did not even know where to start and I quickly started to read them and I had enough for two hours. And now, a little every day I have to do my duty if I want to receive more letters.

Here I am very well and I hope the same for everyone over there. I pretty sure that by now you received from the Fugazzi Bank the check sent by me and my letter with the notification of the check.

Here has started to be cold, not too much snow and for this there is still plenty of time.

I am sure you already know about the death of aunt Dora, I knew it only 2 or 3 days ago. When I arrived in town I heard also that Andrea Gini had to go to the hospital for surgery and it does not look very good.

Gratefully I would like to have some quantity of wine, but what can we do, I got used to water and with water I will celebrate the new year year.

The gift mentioned is already and consists of two pillowcases for the bed.

About compensating me do not worry because I think that you went back and forth for me and I will appreciate if you give to Angela the letter inclose with this so you will again wear out a pair of shoes on my account.

I received a letter from Angela it was the first one that had under my eyes and I was very happy after reading what she wrote.

I have nothing else to say that to send my greetings, a kiss for everyone I am your loving son and brother

Natale F. Tam

I received a letter from Ottavio and he tells me that is working as a sutor (?).

No. 175

March 17 1926

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and brother,

I am a little bit late answering your letters and so instead of answering to one of yours I am answering to two.

Here I am fine and I hope the same also for all of you. Here this winter has been beautiful and even now could not be any better.

I finished my job a month ago and since then I did not do anything but rest and enjoy myself, and I would enjoy more if I could be with you. But what can we do if our fate is to be far away, we need to hope for the best.

During the winter I wrote to the secretary but so far, I have had not the honor the receive an answer. I would like to know how much it was for what he did for me and you have paid him as we agree before I left. I received a letter from sister Anna and she tells me that you received the photo that we made of our land and how much did you pay? And what was the net after the expenses?

I am sure that by now you know of the misfortune occurred to three of our piasano, in a month three of them died and about aunt Dora who died a little before. But what can we do? When the fate is like that we have to take it the way it comes and when it comes.

I wrote also to cousin Guiseppe during the winter but I do not know if he received my letter or if is upset about what I wrote him.

For now I have nothing else to say but to send my greetings with all my heart I am your unforgettable son and brother

Natale F. Tam

I am always your letters that are very dear to me. Good bye

June 24 1926

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and brother

I received your dear letter a little time ago and until now, I never took the time to answer to you not because I have no time but mostly because I do not have a steady place to stay.

I am fine and I hope the same of you there. Here, after the 12 of April I have changed job four time but now I hope that for two or three months to keep this job. This job is in the mine, the mine is small we are only five men working in it and it is not dangerous. I want to tell you one thing about this, do not think that I want to sacrifice myself in the mines and not even in dangerous places and if things go my way I will not stay in the mines very long.

Some time before I wanted to ask you about the cow that you took to the veterinary but I always left the words in my pen and would like to know if she is still like before.

Here the weather is good but for the season that we are in it is cold. For the ranchers, the first crop this year is going to be scarce and maybe even the second one and not because there is lack of water.

I have nothing else to say this time. I wish you good health and a thousand wishes from your loving son and brother.

Natale F. Tam

September 29 1926

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Clayton (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

I little while ago I received your dear letter and I happy to hear that you are all in good health and so I am presently always with the hope for the future.

During this month I rested a lot and do not know how long it will be before I get a new job. Now I am here with cousin Andrea Maraffio to help him in the work of the land and the time goes faster working a little bit instead to stay in town. They are all well. And a few days ago received news from Cesare and he is well also.

I have also received a letter from Ottavio and I answered to him and he tells me in his letter that If I do not like that he writes to me to let him know and so I say to do the way he wants. I wished him good luck and I never heard from him again.

I understand what you did regarding Ogar Francesco and I am happy of the outcome, sooner or later even the smartest one end up in a cage. It is not the truth?

I received a letter from my girlfriend and she tells me that she is very glad when she can talk with you and I would like to be there to participate in these talks. But we need patience.

Nothing else remains to be said but to wish you good health and a kiss from your son

Natale F. Tam

Greetings from cousin Maraffio and his wife.

No. 178

October 4 1926

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From (?) (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and brother,

I received your dear letter a while ago and I do not remember to have answered so I decided to write to let you know that I am very well and I hope the same for all of you.

Last week I went to Salt Lake to visit the uncles, cousins and family. I am now working for the railroad and every two weeks I can have a free pass. I am at 85 miles from Salt Lake and it takes three hours from here.

The last time that I was in Salt Lake I heard from somebody that cousin Lidio's wife try for a separation. I would like to know if all of this is true or just people's gossips.

Here, works are at a stand still because who does not wish to work in the mines where the pay is almost nothing, they look for work for the winter time and being that you do not want for me to work in the mine I decided to find this kind of job. They do not pay very much but I do not think that it will last very long so I will have to look for other jobs.

In the hope to receive soon one of your letters I greet you with all my heart an handshake and a kiss for everyone from your loving son and brother

Cesare A. Tam

My address is still with the uncles in Salt Lake because here we always change place.

November 15 1926

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

I believe you received my last letter, and then I did not think that Andrea Maraffio would give me the interest and part of the capital so soon and I decided that as long as the aggio was still a little high to send you part of this.

Andrea Maraffio gave me the interest for \$119.25 and \$385.00 for the capital if I am not making mistake the total was \$504.25 but of these I kept for myself for a time \$54.25 and so I sent via Banca Popolare Fugazi of San Francisco \$450.00 they sent me a receipt for L10260.00.

Here for a while, I have had some back problem and while in Idaho I could not find the way to get better so I decided to come to Salt Lake and here I am getting better and I am sure that in a few days I can go back to Idaho and do the same job and also to prepare the papers to have my little bride and have a house and there is nothing better than to have a house and some company.

Here, uncle Giovanni for some days is suffering for reumatism but today he is better and all the other are well.

In the hope that this letter will find all in good health, Cesare works on the railroad he is a little far from Salt Lake and being that every two weeks he has a free pass so he comes here and yesterday he was here and last night he took the last train to go back.

I have nothing else to say you but to wish happy holidays even if it is a little early greetings and kisses from your son

Natale F. Tam

Greetings from the uncles and family.

I was forgetting something and it is that Andrea Maraffio owes still \$2000.00.

January 16 1927

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Black Rock (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and brother,

Last Sunday, the 9 of the current month, I went to visit the uncles in Salt Lake and they are all well.

When I was there I found your letter where there was written about sister Anna. I was very worried to know that father was sick but I hope that this letter of mine will find all of you in great health like I can reassure you about all of us.

A few days ago I received a letter from cousin Lidio he is now in San Francisco California. When he wrote he was still without a job but he was waiting for one. I hope that, by now, he is working because a person in his condition needs to work 365 days a year and then some more and for what I can assume, the desire of working is very little.

But now I really want that nobody outside of your family be informed of what I just mentioned about him.

Some days ago I received a letter from cousin Andrea Maraffio and he was saying that he was alright but that the weather was very cold.

I am still working for the railroad it seems like I will be here all winter so in the spring I am almost sure they will cut the men and I am the last one to be hired so if they make another cut I will be the first to go.

I believe that in the letter that I wrote you for the holidays I was telling you that brother Natale was in Salt Lake and he was not feeling too well but now I believe he is better because he went back to Idaho because he had a job in a tunnel but he said he would not do too much for the time being.

It is quite a while that I have not written to sister Guglielmina and Severina so that now I really ashamed of myself and with this letter of mine I am sending greetings for both of them and their families and one of these days I will take the time and I will write directly to them.

I have nothing else to say but to send my greetings with all my heart and a kiss from your son and brother

Cesare A. Tam

No. 181

March 4 1927

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Delta Salt Lake (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and brother,

A week ago I was in Salt Lake to visit the relatives and there I find your expected and welcome letter that has reassured me about the improvement in father. I hope that this letter of mine will find all of you in good health as I can reassure you with all my heart about me.

When I arrived at the house of the uncles there was uncle Cesare in bed. I asked what was the matter and they told me that three weeks ago he had surgery behind a shoulder where for a long

time he had a growth and had decided to get rid of it and also a vein on his leg. It seems like everything was going ahead fine but this morning when the mail man came there was a telegram for me that said that he had died yesterday at 3:45 in the afternoon and that happened to him in a week of time.

Now I am waiting until 4:08 to catch the train as I am 134 miles from Salt Lake and if the train is on time I plan to be there tonight at 8:30 and if you have not heard yet anything about this, please, inform all the relatives about it.

About what I had said to greet on my name the relatives Oghar if they are of the quality that you say I am glad that you did not greet them on my name. I am sure that brother Natale will come from Idaho for the funeral and maybe that will persue his regimen because I know that he is not completely well yet.

Be courageous and accept a kiss and an handshake from your son and brother

Cesare A Tam

No. 182

April 1 1927

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Stockton (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and brother,

At the beginning of last month I wrote you and by now I believe you received that letter of mine that told you about the death of uncle Cesare who in three or four days went to bed and died from pleuresi, in that letter I was telling you that I had decided to go to Salt Lake and there I found a letter from you and I am so glad to hear about father's improved health conditions and with all my heart, I want to hope that this letter of mine will find all of you in good health as I am presently.

Last Sunday, on the 27 of last month, I went to visit the relatives in Salt Lake and they are all well except aunt Celesta because she is quite lost and every time she goes out doors to do something, she look for poor uncle and she feel like she has something to tell him.

For the funeral came brother Natale and cousin Andrea Maraffio, the wife of uncle Andrea with her older son, Andrea. And we, six cousins carried the poor deceased then we went in town and we took a photo altogether just to remember the day that our poor uncle was carried to the cemetery for his eternal rest. One of these photos you will find in this letter, it is not too big but it will be the memory of a sad day.

I am still working for the railroad and now it is over two months that I am not doing any hard work, because the wife of my boss asked me to help her in the kitchen and so I have nothing else to do but work in the kitchen.

I have nothing else to say so I am ending this letter sending a kiss for everyone with a strong handshake. I am your son and brother

C. A. Tam

No. 183

April 27 1927

Tam Natale to Tam Cesare  
From New Dayton (Alberta, Canada) to Salt Lake City (Utah)

Dear Brother,

After a month that I am in Canada only today I give you my news. Here the wind is going about 40 mile an hour an it seem to be pretty steady today I started work here in a farm were the smallest time is six hours. Of course I do not really know how long it will be maybe a month or more. But I know I will not be here much more than that.

Here I am all right and I hope the same of you.

Your brother N.

Address Natale tam  
New Dayton Post Office  
Alberta Canada

No. 184

May 3 1927

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Morris (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and brother,

Since the death of poor uncle Cesare of which I wrote I believed that this letter of mine would be the first one to bring the sad news in town, after the internment I wrote again and also I send you a photo of six of us who were the pallbearers, and yet I have not received letters from you, and even aunt Celesta told me yesterday that she had written a letter to mother to have a mass celebrated and yet she has not received a letter from you.

This morning, by chance, I was in Salt Lake and as soon as I left the uncle's house to go to town they had a call from the telephone that told them that there was a telegram. Then, being that I was already on my way to town, they called an Italian family and asked them to tell me to go to the telegraph office to see what it was about. As soon as I got the telegram I went back to their house to show them what it was so they did not have more problems so they told me that it was a

letter from brother Natale written on the 11 of April in which he was saying that he was all right and he was eating and drinking and sleeping peacefully. So uncle Giovanni that since I had to go back to town to go back to my job he decided to send back the telegram and this is the reason you found my name on it.

Quickly I went back to town to send back the telegram and I had not even left the house that the mailman who was bringing a letter from brother Natale for me then they called the telegraph office and they told them that there was this letter and as soon as I sent the telegram I went back to the farm to see what he was writing about and this was written in English you will find it in this letter of mine. And I am sure that Cesare Maraffio or Francesco Giorgetta will be able to explain to you what he writes.

From someone I heard the reason why brother Natale was not well last fall they say that he has the sickness of the mines but there is not even the beginning of this sickness. I saw him when he came for the funeral of the uncle and I heard that after he left here in December he had gained two pounds and believe me, who ever has the sickness of the mine do not gain weight rather they loose and quickly so in that picture that I sent you, you will be able to see that he has not lost weight.

I am doing real well and with all my heart I want to hope the same for you with the hope that you do not worry about the health of brother. I am sending a kiss and a strong handshake from your son and brother

Cesare A. Tam

No. 185

September 3 1927

Tam Natale and Sciuchetti Angela to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Cherbourg (France) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

I received the telegram after 3 days that was on the sea and so I arrived to the port two hours after Angela and after a two hours I surprised her and so if everything goes according to plans tonight we leave again for Canada.

Here we are pretty well and also during the trip we were all right and so we hope also for the future.

A little later we shall write again. I have nothing else to say but send you a kiss. Your son

Natale F. Tam

With great pleasure I can tell you that Natale is in great health and that we shall be able to the ocean crossing together. I had a good trip and good company.

Best greetings from Angela

September 11 1927

Tam Natale and Sciuchetti Angela to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Quebec (Canada) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

Before boarding the ship I wrote a letter and I believe that the letter by now should be with you but in case has not arrived yet I want to tell you that we surprised each other, she did not think that I was there and I believed that the telegram that I received in navigation had been sent by strange people but instead it was the truth.

After 8 days of sea we reached land, the sea has been very beautiful and we were in perfect form a being together we never even considered what we could have done if we were not together.

We shall stay in Montreal a few days even after we are married and the exact day we cannot tell you but it will be in two or three days and we would be very happy to have our loved ones with us to spend together a day of happiness. But we know that this is impossible.

For this time I have nothing else to say always thinking about you we are sending our best wishes, greetings and kisses. Yours loving

Natale F. Tam and Sciuchetti Angela

September 29 1927

Tam Natale and Sciuchetti Angela to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Montreal (Canada) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

It was a few days that I wanted to write to you but between a thing and another we waited until now but please do not think that being that now we are married our mind is always full of you.

We disembarked the 11 of the current month and I am sure you already have the letter that we wrote as soon as we landed and as I was saying in that letter that in two days we hoped to be married and in fact this took place on the 12. We would have been very happy if we could have with us all our dear ones to spend a happy day together but this was impossible and it would have been our duty to send at least the confetti but in these places there are no confetti to mail, it is not that there are not confetti. We can find many and they are good but they are made with a very soft paste and to mail them at such a great distance they would arrive stuck together and certainly it would not look good.

We both are very happy about this union and now the first thing to do is to find a house and if everything goes according to our wishes we shall take another trip across the ocean to visit all our dear ones.

Now, here, we are waiting for the document to reenter the United States and I hope to have them in a few days and then we shall leave, we shall stop in Montana to see if we can do something there and then we shall go to Salt Lake for a few days to visit the relatives.

As soon that I organize myself I will adjust my debts and I want to thank you for all the favors.

We have nothing else to say this time we are sending our greetings

Yours loving

N. Tam

A. Tam

No. 188

December 3 1927

Tam Natale and Sciuchette Angela to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

Some time ago we received your dear letter and we are very happy to know that you are fine and for now we can say the same for us and the uncles and cousins

From Canada we went to Montana and we stay almost a month with Merlo Gentile and at the same time we were looking for some land, we are not sure yet but it is likely that we shall build our house right here. We are going to need some money and if you want instead to leave the money with the Maraffio you could loan it to us for the same interest. This location is almost 9 miles from Great Falls, Montana and the land is good for grains and also for cows, it seems that here this activities give good results. Here around there are quite a few people from Villa but not too close.

As I had told you that as soon that I was back in the States I would have sent back the money that you loaned me, but this was impossible because I need to go to Idaho. We are planning to go there next week for a visit and then I will be able to send the money.

A few days ago we sent you four photos, one is for you and one each for the sisters, the first time that they will pay you a visit. These photos are really not that good but it is better than nothing. We would be so happy to be with you at least for some time. I see what the mayor is saying about our wedding, but here as in Canada they have only one ceremony and it is legal for both of us. And then another thing about this subject I do not see the need, when one is declared AWOL. The fascist government is changing the laws and apparently many have already being changed. I

think that sending my name to City Hall just to refresh their memory but if there is no need I will not send it.

Here in Salt Lake the weather is good for the season but in the mountains there is already quite a bit of snow. When we were in Montana it was very cold and there was a lot of snow.

For this time I do not have anything else to say but to wish you Happy holidays, good end and good beginning of the new year in the hope that this letter will find all well.

We are sending our loving greetings, wishes. We are always thinking about you, your loving

Angela and Natale Tam

No. 189

December 11 1927

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake Point (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and brother,

I wrote you a while ago and I never received any answer from you, so I decided to write again because we are getting closer to the Holidays and to the New Year. First thing that I want to know is the health of Father because for a long time I have not heard about this.

On the 19 of last month I was in Salt Lake with uncle Giovanni and brother Natale with his wife arrived there also they looked very well, then I saw them again on the 4 of the current month they were still there and they were talking about leaving either the six or seventh to go to Idaho to pay a visit to cousin Maraffio and stay there for a few days and then I think they are planning to go to Montana where they would like to buy a farm if everything goes well and if everything is favorable. I think in the spring I will leave this job and I will join them but not until he writes to me about, but I am uncertain about leaving the job with the railroad because according to what I know during the fall I knew that they appreciated not only by the member of the crew but also by the personnel that work in the offices and I have the opportunity to have a more important job and I can say that being the only member who is alien in this group when there is to do some tasks of responsibility, the boss calls me and send me all by myself or if I need some help I can ask for any of the men. The rest of this men are a little jelous toward me now only because I am the only foreigner but the greatest part of these men once called to do and manage an assignment the job would not result right and not done according to the specification of the boss it would be done halfway or left undone it is for this reason that the boss send me. I heard via an old carpenter that the boss, more than once with the other man that the boss to obtain what he wants to send Tam.

The relative in Salt Lake are all fine and I am sure I will spend the Christmas and New Year with them being that I am only 20 miles away from Salt Lake. In the hope to receive soon your news I am closing this letter wishing you good holidays happy end and beginning of the New Year, a kiss from your son and brother

Cesare A. Tam

February 12 1928

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Blackfoot (Idaho) to Ville di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

Some days ago we received your dear and expected letter. We are happy to know that you feel fine and the same we can say about us.

After going around visiting different localities, finally we purchased a small farm here, 6 miles away from Blackfoot, this land measures about 40 acres, house with three rooms, stall for 8 or 10 animals, two cellars and one of these is very big, grain silo and chicken coop (?); no animals or equipment on location or furniture for the house, so little by little we need a lot of things but we shall provide a little over everything in time and if everything goes well I am sure we can make it. It will be a little hard for the first day to learn to cultivate this tipe of land with new machinery but will shall do what everybody else is doing.

We like the place a lot, we paid \$4700 and so having to pay for everything else I am sure I could use the dollars of Maraffio and I am sure that before the end of the year to be able to pay the rent and the loan that I have over there. We are going to pay the interest just like Andrea did.

For this time I have nothing else to add so I send our greeting and a kiss, your loving son

Natale F. Tam

0February 13, 1928

Tam Angela nee Sciuchetti to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela,  
From Black Foot (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

(Date from the postal seal)

Dearest in law,

I do not know what you are going to say about us. We had written to you that we were planning to go to Montana, and instead we did all different because we did not agree with the owner of the land and then those are very cold places and we like here best. Now I feel like a lady for being in our house and I need to start to prepare little dresses that, in truth I find a strange think.

With this letter we are sending some photos that we took when we were in Salt Lake with the uncles. I do not know if you know everybody but they are all our cousins. The welcome of the uncles and the cousins was pretty good but the one of the ..... he did not even got up because he was expecting some criticism. The uncles told me that what he wrote about tuberculosis he is sorry and for a little while when were married he was sick just thinking of what he had written.

For this time I have nothing else to say do not work too hard and try to take easy as most you can.

We are always waiting for your letter and the longer they are the best they will be.

I am sending my greetings and kisses. Your loving daughter in law

Angela

No. 192

June 15, 1928

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Black Foot (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

It is a long time since we received a letter from you. We are very happy to hear that you are well and we can say the same at this time with the hope the same for the future.

Our idea was to write only when we could tell you with certainty about the fruit of our love and being that the time as arrived, now we write.

We were expecting for the 15 or 20 of this month, but I am sure that God wants to demonstrate that I am still good for something so the first of this month early in the morning he was born, they are both fine and my wife left the bed four days ago.

This spring, generally, the weather has been windy and cold, now before the end of the month, we shall start to cut the hay. I do not think that this year the crop of hay is going to be very big, but let us hope for the potatoes of which we planted 45 sacks and so we hope to make some money with the potatoes.

I am very sorry to hear about what happened to sister Guglielmina but what can we do we need to take it the way that it comes. And about sorella Anna is she better with her legs I hope.

Some days ago I received a letter from brother he was fine just as all our relatives in the neighborhood. I have nothing else to say we are sending our greetings and a kiss from your son.

Natale F. Tam

No. 192

June 15, 1928

Tam Natale to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Black Foot (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents,

It is a long time since we received a letter from you. We are very happy to hear that you are well and we can say the same at this time with the hope the same for the future.

Our idea was to write only when we could tell you with certainty about the fruit of our love and being that the time as arrived, now we write.

We were expecting for the 15 or 20 of this month, but I am sure that God wants to demonstrate that I am still good for something so the first of this month early in the morning he was born, they are both fine and my wife left the bed four days ago.

This spring, generally, the weather has been windy and cold, now before the end of the month, we shall start to cut the hay. I do not think that this year the crop of hay is going to be very big, but let us hope for the potatoes of which we planted 45 sacks and so we hope to make some money with the potatoes.

I am very sorry to hear about what happened to sister Guglielmina but what can we do we need to take it the way that it comes. And about sorella Anna is she better with her legs I hope.

Some days ago I received a letter from brother he was fine just as all our relatives in the neighborhood. I have nothing else to say we are sending our greetings and a kiss from your son.

Natale F. Tam

No. 193

September 22, 1928

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Lake Point (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and brother,

I received your letter some time ago and I neglected to write back until now.

I believe that are already two weeks since Andrea Del Bondio has arrived from the old country with his family. They arrived in Salt Lake on the 4 of September and they left on the morning of the 9 and being that they arrived at the uncle's house around 10 o'clock, uncle had already left for California three hour before so I lost the occasion to be able to see them and I am very sorry for this because I was very eager to have news from the old country, but they were already gone.

Last month with uncle Giovanni, aunt Innocentina and cousin Edoardo we went for a short visit to brother Natale, his wife and baby; they are all healthy happy and satisfied in their farm, they had a good crop of hay, grain, beans, but for the potatoes they were not so sure yet. It seems that the potatoes now cultivates that everybody so the price is low and it is not convenient to put down the seed.

Cousin Elsie, this spring, is teaching in Salt Lake City. Cousin Andrea who as a job as a surveyor for the State of Utah will get married on the 9 of October with a girl born in America from Irlandesi parents and cousin Edoardo work as a surveyor for the same company of the railroad where I work.

Here in Salt Lake we are all in good health and, with all my heart, I hope the same for all of you.

With the hope to receive your letter very soon I end this letter of mine with a kiss and a handshake. I am your loving son and Brother

Cesare A. Tam

No. 194\*

Dec 1 1928

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo  
From Poead (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and brother

Some days ago I mailed the photos and I hope you will receive them in good conditions.

I sent five where only myself and my dear wife appear and three with our best man. Now, I hope, that when you will receive them, will be so kind to give one to each of the sisters, one for brother Modesto, and one just for you parents and these are the five with just the two of us and then the ones of with the group, one is for yourself, one for aunt Caterina and the other one for uncle Ottavio.

Being that I wrote you quite recently, I do not have anything else to say that my dear wife, when I had written before, had said that when you write again I would like to add a few words, but being that I had to leave the house to go a little far away in search of work, she cannot at this time write in this letter, next time she will. Now I want to wish you happy end of the year and a better beginning of the new year. My best regards from the two of us I am your son and brother.

Cesare A Tam

150 West So. Temple  
Salt Lake City Utah

\*This letter is not included in original book. It was brought to the U.S. in 1985

December 15, 1928

Gini Celesta nee Lucchinetti to Tam Gini Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Sister in law and Family,

After a very long silence the relatives from Salt Lake are coming fast with their news.

Presently we are all in good health and we hope the same for all of you.

We had the flue, all of us, some more, some less, but we all had it, at a point it seems that they wanted to close the schools but now that the largest part of the people had the flue already all the children are back in school.

Elsie, this year, teaches in one of the large school in the city she loves her job. Edward, my second, work as an engineer at the foundry in Garfield all during the winter.

Andrew, my older, works at Price Utah in a coal field he is also an engineer and works with his colleagues in the city. He has established is residence over there after he married.

It seems that this year the fever of marriage hit the members of the Ginis, in a very short time we had three weddings among the members of the Gini family.

First was our Andrea then Cesare and now Andrea Gini of Clayton, Idaho; just some days ago he surprised us with a visit with his bride to visit all the relatives of Salt Lake to spend their first day of honeymoon in Salt Lake. This one married the daughter of a man working on his ranch at Challis; she appears as a very nice girl, very thin, with red hair, an American, but of German descent. He is a big young man simpatico. We wish a lot of beautiful and good things for all our new marry relatives. We wish them all their hearts desire. Certainly you must have been surprised by the wedding of your Cesare.

To tell you the truth this wedding arrived so fast that it felt like a dream to all of us.

But as soon as we heard about it, we told him, if is intention was serious, to do it soon because we liked the girl immediately. We think that she really is the girl that is right for Cesare.

Cesare it is not bad he has a very good heart and it is sincere, is fault is to be too good too generous he always think about the others first and we were worried because he did not realize this. We are all happy of his choice she is beautiful, good, and even the people here around believe that Cesare made a good choice in marrying Sara she speaks with feeling and she is a dependable girl. She celebrated her 25 birthday a few days ago very right for his age also. Everybody likes her. She is beautiful and strong and everybody in her family are nice looking and healthy of good blood. The wedding was celebrated on November 11 in Pocatello, we were all invited, so I went with two nephews and novella Severina, we spent a beautiful celebration a real big wedding all with happy and friendly people.

Her father, brothers and brothers in law work all for the shop of the railroad at Pocatello Idaho and they are trying to transfer Cesare with his job where all his brothers in law are working because there they are home every night and here he is away for two weeks without the

possibility to be home. He has the free pass every two weeks. So even for her, time would be too long. Often she come to visit us. She sleep here for a night and then she goes home.

More we know her and more we like her.

Present at the wedding was a family from Bergano and this woman said: who has the honor to marry this woman can declare himself lucky they are all very industrious people they are able to do everything and they are all nice people.

She is the last one in the family she is the youngest now they are all married.

Now that they met Natale they get together for parties they go hunting all together.

We went to see them when we went for the wedding. Natale said that he had never dreamed to have so many visitor during this year. They also have a nice farm, a nice place and we hope that, in time, they will do good now, without knowing the possibility of the land and with the need to buy equipment it is a little hard, but in time they will do well.

They are very happy about their place, they have a beautiful boy fat and strong he has already great strength in his arms just like his father. Natale looks well a little skinny but in the farm a man alone has more work to do. But they are happy and satisfied the baby keeps his mother very busy; it is the first one the other ones that will come will be less demanding.

During the wedding we met our relatives from Clayton Idaho: Mike, Americo, and Dora Gini and with them there was also Maria Maraffio with her young boy Luigi a nice looking boy very intelligent he already speaks like a little man.

So there was also Enrico Folladori a very nice looking young man he is always with uncle Andréa. To tell the truth it was a great reunion of relatives.

The relatives from Clayton, this year, did very well with their animals they made a great amount of money. The nephews Gini made \$12500, the Maraffio almost \$10000 and according to the papers, next year, the price for the animals is going to be even higher. In fact, the meat is expensive it is not like some time ago now everything is more expensive.

Here we go on at a slower pace we do not do anything anymore, the city is growing, they take away the water that we need we can say that we are dry. What gives us hope that pretty soon we can sell everything; what are we doing all by ourselves here? We pay high taxes so that between the living expenses and the taxes we do not save anything. Anyway it will be until God let us do it.

We are heading toward to orient everything as his ending, there is not too much to enjoy in the world, there are more disappointments that pleasures. So we go on until it last and some day we shall be together with all our dear ones.

I do not feel that this is the world that I was used to, I do not know! It will be according to the will of god we have to resign ourselves to our fate.

The paper is almost finished, I am ending this letter of mine sending you our best greetings and good wishes for Christmas (maybe it is a little too late for this) and Happy New Year for everyone all the things that your hearts desire.

Your relatives from Salt Lake

Celesta Gina

We are anxious to receive your news with your opinion about your new daughter. In the photos the all look very nice, don't you think so?

No. 196

September 2, 1929

Tam Cesare to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest parents and Brother,

A few days ago we received your dear letter and we are very happy to know that you are all in good health and we want to hope that this letter of mine will find still all well as I can reassure you about me and my wife. About the conditions in which she is presently once in a while she faints, we do not know the reason of all of this maybe she is a little weak.

As soon as I received your letter I went to see the aunts and I asked them if they had received news from you and aunt Celeste said yes she had received a letter and she had already answered so all of this is explained and finished.

We are very happy to know that sister Severina has another little girl and they are all well.

I have nothing else to say; I am sending you our sincere greetings for all the relatives and have a kiss with all our heart from your son with his wife. We are always your loving son and daughter in law

Cesare and Sara Tam

Goodbye

No. 197

March 7, 1930

Gini Celeste nee Lucchinetti to Tam Gini Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Ville di Chiavenna

Dear sister in law Fidela and Family,

With this letter of ours I want to send you our news. Presently we are all in good health; our sick ones are improving little by little my sister in law here, is not yet able to do anything because of the conditions of her heart. If she is not better by the time that Spring is here she will not be able to work. Her heart does not allow for her to work hard. But we always hope for her to get better but really we need to take things just as they come. Also Innocenta, with her feet they are more or less still the same some days she walk well and some day she cannot move it seems that she has rheumatism and her hands are always swollen.

And it is the real truth that when one gets old all the afflictions come very fast. What can we do? Everyone has his part the only thing we can do is to suffer with resignation.

We are very sorry for the death of poor nephew Cesare Maraffio! He had bad luck all during his life. What a pain! Now his poor children, still unaware of the fate of their parents because they are still so young. Nobody can alter his fate. Well, let us hope that God gives them health and they will grow no matter what. I wrote to Anastasia about our business that we had placed in the hands of poor Cesare, but being that things went this way, now we have to put our business in somebody else hands, so I wrote to Anastasia to give everything to your hands if you are happy to accept this, we know, it is always a burden, but we need to give the problem to somebody and if you cannot do it, then maybe Anastasia could do it. If was not for the problem of the border we could have put everything in the hands of our brother Otilio or Ermina, our sister.

Well, if you are willing to take everything in your hands there are our Bank Books, Certificates for the Littori and Treasury Bonds. We were waiting for a letter from poor Cesare about everything because every year he sent us a complete report.

Last Sunday we had here, for a visit, Cesare and Sara with the little Violetta really a beautiful baby white and red, chunky that it is a pleasure to look at her, big and strong with two big blue eyes, cheeks full and red like a beautiful apple.

Your Natale is a while since we received news but we hope that they are all in good health. People, here, are very upset about the death of a young woman found dead on a lonely road, the assassins not satisfied to have killed her they run her car on her body repeatedly so that all her bones were broken so much that was very hard to identify her. Now they are looking for the assassins, there are reports about it every day and the population is very upset and want the truth about this case. To follow the story is like a real book. She was the wife of a very rich doctor she was always loaded with diamonds and jewelry so they do not know if she was killed for robbery or for different reasons. It seems that she was getting ready to divorce the doctor to leave and marry a prince from Persia that she had met and fall in love a year ago when they were in Paris. So all of this is a great source of gossip and a mystery for everyone.

On the 15 of last February was married a Challis Idaho, the niece Americo Gini with Daniele Bruneel from Belgium, it seems that they are all happy; he is a nice young man, they have a farm close to Boise Idaho. The nephew Andrea Gini of Clayton has a very strong baby girl born the 18 of last January her name is Naomi Anna.

Our married ones are all right and are still free. Here, this year, the winter was very mild, until Christmas we did not see the snow but then we had quite a few snow storms and now it snows every day but it is not too cold.

I have nothing else to say so I end sending you our best greetings and good wishes to all of you.

Your relatives in Salt Lake  
Cel. In. Gini

With the good hope that this letter will find all of you in good health

No. 198

March 24 1930

Tam Cesare and Sara to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Salt Lake City (Utah) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Parents and brother,

Some time ago we received your welcomed letter and we are very happy to know that you are all in good health and so is the same for all of us in Salt Lake and also for Natale and family that 15 days ago come from Blackfoot to Pocatello Idaho and we spent a short visit with my wife's parents.

Our baby girl, in three months, doubled her weight she has a round face like a ball and her cheeks are white and red like a rose, two weeks ago she had a little cold, she lost a little bit of color, but now she has recovered. I think she looks a little like Natale's son with that big face and blue eyes.

Sunday, the 16 of the current month we baptizes her and cousin Edoardo and cousin Elsie were the god parents and we celebrated with a dinner, Aunt Innocentina was here but Aunt Celeste was waiting for someone so she stay home and we send her a good plate of food. I think that you already know that in February cousin Americhina got married in Idaho with a guy from Belgium. Who has seen him says that he is nice person and she says that she is very happy and she is loved by everyone.

We are very sorry about the news of poor cousin Cesare Maraffio, we really cannot say when and how events take place. Who is called has to go. I have nothing else to say so I end this letter wishing you happy Easter. I am sending kisses and hugs from your loving son, daughter in law and baby girl.

Cesare, Sara, and Viola Tam

Dearest Father and Mother in law,

For a long time I have not sent you a few lines and this time I decided to send you a few lines to let you know that I had not forgotten about you. With all my heart I hope that this letter will find you all in great health.

I believe that for Easter we are going to go to Pocatello to spend the holiday with my parents and I believe that Natale also will be there, so we shall be together for a few days and will spend a nice feast together because it is more than a year that we have not seen each other.

Our little girl for sure looks like Cesare she is fat, blue eyes and looks like her hair is going to be curly just like his when he was a young boy. I am so happy she is darling and keeps me company.

I have nothing else to say, I wish you good holiday for Easter, give from us lots of greetings to all the sisters in law and many loving kisses for all the children. I am sending you a strong hug and a kiss I am your loving daughter in law

Sara Tam

No. 199

June 3, 1930

Tam Ottavio to Tam Modesto  
From Lavalle (Argentina) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Brother,

I come to you with these few lines to let you know my news: I am fine and the same I believe about you and the parents. I was always waiting for your letters but I think you have little time and a little of that affliction that is called laziness. Just the way that, sometimes, happens to me. I would like very much to receive a letter from you with a lot of news of what goes on in town. And you, what are you doing that is nice? Do you have a girlfriend? You should marry soon it is for real? And there is someone for me? If it is possible let me know if the daughter of Gioachino of Santa Croce get married and where she lives I still have old business to clear with her, please send me also the address of Orsino and a lot of news, please.

I am sure you will want to write me soon and this is my address:

Ottavio Tam  
Carretera km 20 Lavalle F.C.C.C.  
Prov. Catamarca  
R. Argentina

Wishing you the best I salute you, your brother  
Octavio Tam

No. 200

July 18, 1930

Tam Ottavio to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
Da Lavalle (Argentina) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents and Brother,

With great pleasure I received your dear and expected letter and I hear with pleasure about your great health as I can say about me presently. If I am on time. I would like to ask you a favor if this letter arrives on time before the arrival of Guiseppe Ghiggi give him those photos and if you can two pairs of woolen socks because here is very cold and I cannot find that type of socks here. A few days ago I wrote to brother Natale and soon I will write also to brother Cesare.

Here, I am fine, I still work in the same store and I type on the machine very well and I keep track of the administration. I wrote also the brothers in law but so far I have not received any answers and I hope that soon I will. Here is very cold and in the mornings, sometime, it is very hard to walk.

I am always waiting for your letter let me know how things are going in the fields and how many cows you now have. I wrote to brother Modesto and I hope he will write to me very soon. I have nothing else to say but to wish you good health. I beg you to write soon because your letters are always very dear to me and let me know the news of the town, they are never enough for me. Now, accept my warm greetings and good wishes from your son

Octavio Tam

No. 201

July 30, 1930

Tam Ottavio to Tam Modesto Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Lavalle (Argentina) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Brother and Parents,

I am sure you will say that I am a little anxious but what do you want? I am very interested in what I told you in my last letter and so far I have not received your answer,

I am sure you are very busy now, but half an hour, on a Sunday you will be able to find. Here I am fine and I hope the same for you and the parents and everybody else, there.

Please let me know if Cesira of the ..... has some one that is courting her or about Angela del Moret or of any good looking girl that I would like to write so I could if I can find someone because I want to get married and I do not find one from our town I have one here that is beautiful, nice and in good position and I am ready to ask her.

I want to tell you a thing but do not say anything to anyone: I wrote to Maria of Zepin Mesnee and she told me no because she has already a lover, do you know who is he? Let me know if possible but, please, do not let anyone know. And about that girl in Santa Croce, do you know anything?

I am waiting for your letter with answers for all the thing I asked for.

In the hope to find you all well and wishing you the best for everything you dream accept my warm greetings and loving salutes your brother

Ottavio Tam

I am sending a small photo to see if you can recognize me.

Ciao

The little money that I am enclosing in this letter is for you to drink a beer to my health. So long.

No. 202

November 16, 1930

Tam Ottavio to Tam Guglielmo and Fidela  
From Lavallo (Argentina) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Parents and Brother,

It is a while since I received your letters and I do not know why. Here, I am in very good health as I hope also for all of you over there.

I want to tell you that maybe I need to change work very soon because it seems that the bosses find themselves in a bad situation but, for now, I do not know for sure and even where I would be going because all over the Republic, for the change in government, there is a kind of revolution, there is a general failure and all jobs are at a standstill. But I still hope for the best because the way it is cannot last.

I am sure that when you receive this letter you will have collected all the crops and I hope that the result will be very good.

For the moment I have nothing else to say but to wish you good health and send you and sisters and brothers in law, a big hug I am your son

Octavio Tam

No. 203

February 17, 1946

Young Angela nee Sciuchchetti ved. Tam to Tam Gini Fidela  
From Blackfoot (Idaho) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dear Brother in law and everybody,

Quite a few years went by in complete silence without being able to have news about our dear ones far away. Now, I think, you can have our news, just as I received some letters from over there. I hope with all my heart that the present letter will find all of you in good health and I can imagine, with this terrible war how could you be. Here, during these years, we enjoyed good health except some colds but very mild.

The children are still going to school. Andrea is a strapping young man and he will be 18 in June, he is in the last day of high school and to be precise, 12 years of school. He would like to go to college but it is very expensive and we shall see what we can do. Vittorio is the 8<sup>th</sup> grade he is my helper he is very interested in the house and the farm. He is 15 years old Reno, he should be in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade but he is too full of pep and likes to have good times so he had to repeat the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and is 11 years old. Frida also has grown well she is very slender, loves her school and will be 9 years old in just a few days. For everything else my news are still sad.

I will tell you what happened to me in less than a year. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of April of last year I got married again after more than eight years that the poor Natale had died. We knew this man for a time a person loved and esteemed by everyone a poor farmer just like us. He was the choice of my children. He had three boys all married one 22 one 21 and the youngest one 20 years old. All three good kids, two served in the Army during the last years one came back home a few days ago and one a month ago. For me it was a new life all over again he was good with everyone; my children loved him very much but God did not allowed our happiness to last very long. It was 9 months and 9 days since our wedding and God took away my new husband. We intombed him the day that was the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of poor Natale exactly one the 17 of January he died on the 14 of January of double pneumonia in the hospital.

And again I was left in the same condition so if all goes well in a month the fruit of our love will be born. It is very strange, the will of God. To tell the truth if it was not for the love of my children who still need my help I would like to be gone.

He was born in the United States, he was 48 years old God did not want us to be happy for too long. This life is very hard for me.

We were living in my house and his young son was living in his house. Last year we worked together the two farms so this year will shall try to do the best by ourselves. Here we had a pretty good winter, we had a few days of severe cold but not too much snow.

From the last news that we received from Cesare's family they were all well. Maybe you know that they sold their farm in Salt Lake where they were for a year and a half and that they went to California.

For this time I will end with the good hope to be able to receive your news. I am very anxious to know how all of you are doing. It does not matter the name on my address I always receive everything. My name now is Young

Exactly Mrs Angela Young  
R #2 Blackfoot Idaho  
U.S. of America

Greetings and kisses for everyone always your daughter in law Angela and Family

No. 204

March 5, 1946

Tam Cesare to Tam Gini Fidela  
From Santa Rosa (California) to Villa di Chiavenna

Dearest Mother and Brother,

Myself and my family are all in good health and with all our heart we want to hope the same for all of you.

It has been almost two years this coming August that I came here, from Salt Lake City after having worked in a welder shop for over fifteen years. I considered that it would be better to change because my lungs were filled with fumes and being that I still had a note from Lidio I decided to go and see if he would acts as a honest person and pays his debt. And, in fact, this is what happened. He was really great because she took care of in his house where we stayed for two weeks; we were fourteen in the house and in that time I was trying to find a house for our family and it is nice that finally after almost twenty years he did the right thing.

I am sure by now you know what happened to aunt Angela that was married for almost a year. I had met her husband and before he married her he had helped a lot, he loved her children and when he asked them to do something they were happy to do anything that he was asking them to do and this was the reason why Angela decided to marry him.

After nine years since the death of brother Natale he died right on the 17 of January. We had the funeral and now she is expecting a child and I heard that aunt Celeste will be there to help her.

In the hope that this letter of mine will find all in good health, I am sending hugs and kisses also in name of my family. I am still your loving son and brother

Cesare

No. 205

November 19, 1981

Young Angela nee Sculichetti ved. Tam to Via Paolo  
From Blackfoot (Idaho) to Chiavenna

This is an autobiography sent of a research made at the beginning of the year 1980

Dear Sir,

First of everything you have to excuse my bad writing, my hand is shaking and my memory is not that strong.

I am Angela Sciuchetti born at Villa in the fraction of Chete the youngest one of 15 children born on the 7 of November 1905.

When my father died I was only 9 months old, I grew up alone with my mother and brothers and sisters; some were away working in different places, some were in the military service, some of the sisters were married so that in the family we were few. I was the one that took care of the animals and worked in the fields.

In 1925 Natale Tam came from America for a visit to his parents and family. We met and he asked me to marry him but being that I was under age we were not able to marry yet. He went back to America and in 1927 went to Canada because he had heard that it was easier for the immigrants to enter the country. He went to an Italian farmer and worked some time for him so he was able to call for me because that man was a Canadian citizen. Then Natale went to Montreal to prepare all the documents for the passport. They told him that it would take some time and he paid for my passage.

A few days later he went back to check if they had sent away the papers and he was told that the immigration was temporarily closed and gave back to him the money that he had paid for the passage.

So he went to New York to an Italian Family and wrote to Montreal to the post office that I mail for him was arriving at the local post office just to mail it to New York in care of this Italian family.

On the contrary all the papers that they had made for me arrived in a month time.

In his last letter that he wrote hoping as we had decided all along that I would have received the papers he told me to send him a telegram the day that I would be leaving with the name of port of departure, the name of the ship and the name of the port of arrival that was Cerbury France. The telegram that I sent to him on the morning that I left Villa went to Montreal from them they addressed it to that Italian family and they sent it, via the Marconi Telephone, to Natale that was in the middle of the ocean on his ship. I was thinking that someone was playing a joke on him.

In reality on the same morning that I and other immigrants arrived in Cerbury he disembarked from his ship and went to see at the emigration if there was a girl by my name and so we met for good luck.

From then, with other emigrants we left for Canada. The day after we married then we had to prepare more papers so my husband was an American citizen could take me to the United States. We had to wait for three weeks, when we had the papers we were admitted. First we stopped in the state of Montana to visit some countrymen that are presently deceased; then we went to see uncles and cousins in Salt Lake City Utah and more relatives in Idaho.

When we were in Black Foot we searched for a little farm. We found one quickly, it was January and really cold. We were glad to have a place of our own; we found people very kind and friendly and even without knowing the English language they made it possible to understand me. My husband was able to speak English pretty good. In the Spring we purchased two cows for

milk and chickens and we started to cultivate the land with horses and machinery then after a year or so we bought a second hand car so we could go around in more comfortable way.

I can say that Italian family in the neighborhood were very few but in Pocatello at 25 miles from us many Italian family were located there mostly for the south of Italy so we did not pay each other many visits.

I can say that the first few years were years of crises especially between 1928 and 1932 when the prices for the farms products were very low and we had to do our best. In June 1928 our first son was born, he was my company then in 1930 we had another child, this time a little girl and then in 1935 another boy. On the 17 of January 1937 I had the misfortune to loose my husband for an infection to his kidney and a month later a little girl was born. You can imagine from then on how difficult was my life. Then I could speech enough English to be understood. So I went on milking the cows as I was used to do and taking care of the children. I rented the land and had small crops so we could go on.

After eight years I married an American man that we knew for a long time and we were happy but it did not last more than 9 months because he too died of pneumonia and two months later a new baby girl arrived.

Once again I had to gather all my courage and go on so some of my children had grown enough to help with the work of the farm. Now they are all married, I am alone but healthy and if I need them they are always ready to help me.

During the year 1960 I went to Villa to visit brothers and sisters and nephews and nieces and many friends and I found many changes. Last year also I went back with my daughter and a son and his wife. This time I found only 2 sisters and a brother and we were lucky to see him before he died.

I speak more the dialect of Villa than the proper Italian so you have to excuse me for my errors and the bad handwriting maybe you can explain better in the book because the way I told you my story is too long but even if my life as not been very sweet I am very glad that I came to America. Greetings and good wishes for a Happy Christmas.

Angela Sciuchetti Young

## THE HISTORY OF THE TAMS

The reconstruction is based mostly on the letters and has been integrated with information by Mrs. Anna Tam, daughter of Tam Guglielmo and his daughter Ida Gini and from Mrs. Severina Gini, daughter of Gini Ottavio, from Mr. Ezio Tonola, son of Tam Guglielmina and nephew of Anna, from Mr. Romano Tognascioli, nephew of Sculichetti Angela.

### TAM FAMILY: FIRST GENERATION

1. Tam Giovanni of Giovan Marco  
Head of the Family Died October 30, 1882
2. Fornari Orsola  
Wife
3. Tam Giovanni  
Son, born at Villa March 5 1856. In 1880 he is in Glendale, in Montana, dies May 8 1935 at Villa
4. Tam Guglielmo  
Son, born June 1 1858 On 1882 he is at Glendale, Montana with his brother Giovanne, comes back to Villa at the end of 1890 and marries Gini Fidela in 1890. Went back to America in 1896 sponsored by the brothers in law in Clayton and Salt Lake City. Goes back permanently to Villa in 1898 poor and desperate just as he had left. Dies on March 6 1931  
  
Tam Caterina  
Daughter. Her name appears sometime in the letters

### TAM FAMILY: SECOND GENERATION

- 4, Tam Guglielmo  
Head of the Family
- 5 Gini Fidela  
Wife born January 8 1865 Dies April 28 1946
6. Tam Andrea  
Son, born November 16 1892 Leave for America in 1907 Staying in the beginning with Uncle Andrea. Dies in France on October 22 1918 serving in the American army during the First World War
- 7 Tam Natale

Son, born December 3 1894 Joins brother Andrea in America in 1913 He is drafted in the American Army during the First World War. In 1927 he marries Sciuchetti Angela whom he goes to join in France. He dies on January 17 1937

8. Tam Cesare Antonio  
Son, born January 17 1897 Joins brothers Andrea and Natale in America in 1914. He, also, serves in France during the First World War. In 1928 marries Jordan (Giordano) Sara. He dies on August 27 1983
9. Tam Ottavio  
Son, born September 4 1904 Leave for Argentina in 1925 He dies on April 30 1941
10. Tam Severa  
Daughter Born October 22 1900 She is mentioned a few times in the letters. She dies on July 23 1977
11. Tam Guglielmina Daughter born September 2 1891 She is mentioned many times in the letters. She works as a domestic with the Giacometti family (artists) in Borgonova in Val Bregaglia before she marries Tonola Beniamino. She died on April 7 1974
12. Tam Anna  
Daughter Born December 12 1902 She is the owner of the letters . Still alive in Villa in 1994
13. Tam Modesto  
Son. Born July 2 1899 He is the only brothers Tam never been in America. He is a soldier in the Italian Army in the First World War and during his service is wounded. Dies on January 31, 1958

#### BROTHERS OF GINI FIDELA: FIRST GENERATION

14. Gini Andrea  
The big uncle from whom the brothers Tam initially found support when they came to America.  
He lives at Clayton, Idaho  
As the other he is in America since he end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century
15. Gini Cesare  
Lives at Salt Lake City, Utah
16. Gini, Giovanni  
Lives at Salt Lake City, Utah
17. Gini Celesta nee Luchinetti

Wife of Gini, Cesare

18. Gini, Innocintina nee Luchinetti  
Sister of Celesta and wife of Gini Giovanni
  
19. Gini Teodora  
The aunt Dora, wife of Rosina Giovanni. Lives at Sugar House Station,  
Salt Lake City, Utah
  
20. Gini Rocco  
First he goes to Salt Lake City, then to Sunshine (Still in Utah). At last he transfers to  
Guatamala
  
21. Gini Ottavio  
He is in America in 1897 with his brothers
  
22. Scuichetti Angela  
In 1927 she marries Tam Natale who goes to France to meet her. She was a widow in 1937  
and marries again to Young
  
23. Sara Giordano  
From a Sicilian Family. Marries Tam Cesare in 1928

#### THE FIRST GENERATION

Tam Giovanni

Tam Guglielmo    Father of Tam of the second generation

Gini Andrea    Brother of Gini Fidela    Brother in law of Tam Guglielmo

Gini Cesare

Gini Giovanni

Gini Teodora

Gini Rocco

Gini Ottavio

Villa di Chiavenna, a small town of the Valchavenna in the county of Sondrio on the border of Switzerland. It is the 22 of April 1880. From Giavera, one of the neighborhood in which the town is divided the adventure of Giovanni Tam starts: going to America.

Some countrymen live with him, more are waiting for them in Montana, aim of the long trip. Most likely they are the emigrants who send news to the town of origin and suggested the idea that it will be good to try.

Villa di Chiavenna, Basilea, Anversa, Glasgow. From here they board the ships for the ocean crossing. On the 25 of May they arrive to New York. Giovanni separates himself from his friends. The money saved for the crossing are already gone and there is still so much territory to go before reaching Montana. Giovanni stops for a month in Idaho where he works for the railroad just to work long enough to earn some money and then proceed toward Glendale. He arrives there on the 22 of July, three months after leaving Italy.

In Glendale there are compatriots who greet him and with whom he works, a very hard work in an coal mine. He earns his first money and he is able to send something home to his parents using the services of the Banca Cantonale di Coira in Switzerland. All together the amount sent are not frequent, not relevant.

Work is very scarce and the conditions of their lives are quite poor, cold and poverty. But it is always better than living at Villa, and it is a way of thinking that encourage him to write to brother Guglielmo asking him to come to the United States. He will send him the money for the trip and, best of all, he will suggest precise information on the way to come and to the things that he will needs to bring on the clothes indispensable for an emigrant: hat, suit, shirts, sweater, many sox, two pairs of underwear, a pair of woolen pants, a pair grey and a .....

Guglielmo joins him at Glendale in April 1882. He works in a mine with him and together they are able to save something to send home. The living and working conditions are still very poor for both of them. Giovanni, if he could, would like to go back home. In this very sad situation he received the news of the death of his father in October 1882.

The arrival of countrymen from and to Villa di Chiavenna allows a certain continuity between the colony of the emigrants and their town of origin; news are exchanged, goods are obtained. The dream of America as a promised land is in a way hurt. There is a feeling of doubt about the idea of emigrate to this new country.

In 1885 Giovanni goes back home and marries. In the United States there is a great poverty and many emigrants go back home. Guglielmo also goes back but we do not know exactly when. It is sure that he was at Villa di Chiavenna in March of 1889. He is engaged to Fidela Gini whom he marries in 1890.

About Guglielmo, we do not know very much. He is in America in 1896 for a second and unfortunate try. A friend from Villa, Pietro Pedrini shares with him the fate of a immigrant not very lucky with lots of misfortune and great nostalgia. He gets sick, is not able to find a job in Salt Lake City where the brothers of his wife, Fidela are living. He transfers to Clayton (Idaho) and works in a mine with some countrymen, the Pedrini Brothers.

It is a series of tribulations, finding a job and aggravated by a fragile health. Since he came back to the United States he suffers from some problems on his legs and, many times, he has to stop working. It is a sickness that at the end of 1898 compels him to go back home forever without a penny and has to borrow the money for his trip back from his brothers in law.

Different is the situation of the brothers in law, brothers of Fidela Gini, in America at the same time as Guglielmo: Cesare, Giovanni, Teodora, Ottavio in Salt Lake City, Utah and Andrea in Clayton, Idaho.

Rocco Gini, after being with his brothers for a while in Salt Lake City, he goes to Guatemala and we do not know anything about his adventure.

About Cesare and Giovanni, we know that they will marry two sisters from the same town in Italy, Celesta and Innocentina Lucchinetti. It is a colony, this one, of the Gini's well situated at the center of a multitude of countrymen of Lombardi and Tirolesi. People that are working very hard in diverse occupation: in mines and farms. The women, also, do not keep their hands on their laps and dedicate themselves to agriculture activity in the vicinity of their homes.

For all the Gini, anyway, the beginning of this century is a period of hard work, especially as wood cutters by contract, in the mines especially one with a very auspicious name, the Gold Stone Mine. It is a work that they survive and allow them to have some savings (enough to loan to Guglielmo the money to go back home) and to put away some capital that will permit them to buy and cultivate a farm.

This is a case of successful emigration so much that the Ginis are indicated as a good story not only for the unlucky Guglielmo but also for his children who will count on their help and guidance when they will reach America at the very beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Most of all, Andrea, the grande uncle or big uncle will be an important spring in their American adventure. His situation that can be defined as comfortable especially of the beginning of 1900 is evident also from the printed business papers that he uses sometime when he writes to sister in law Fidela: The Lion Creek Stock Ranch, Andrew Gini Proprietor.

The adventure of Guglielmo and Giovanni Tam finishes in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (Guglielmo goes back forever to Villa di Chiavenna in 1898); the adventure of the Gini's, Fidela, brothers in law of Guglielmo goes all the way to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and is tied with the one of the nephews of Fidela.

## THE SECOND GENERATION FROM 1907

Tam Andrea  
Tam Natale  
Tam Cesare  
Tam Ottavio

Of the children of Guglielmo Tam and Gini Fidela: Andrea, Natale, Cesare and Ottavio will choose to emigrate as their father, the first three in the U.S., the fourth one in Argentina. The rest, Guglielmina, Severa, Anna and Modesto will stay in their town as Villa di Chiavenna emigrants, in a way, in the close by Val Bregaglia: Anna at Sonnio and Guglielmina as domestic of the Giachetti's family (the famous artists) at Borgonova.

The story, told in the letters, is the story of the American children that retraced the voyage of their father, twenty years later, searching for the same fortune.

It is February 1907. Uncle Andrea has made a little fortune in the previous years, so much that he was able to become the owner of a farm in Clayton, Idaho: The Gini Ranch. The Godchild and nephew, Andrea has expressed his desire to leave for the United States searching for good luck. The uncle send him \$120.00 as a loan for the trip and secure for him a job in his farm. It is a ranch that fascinated the eyes of this very young man who left at Villa a very poor world of shepherds and farmers.

The animals, here in America, are taken care, riding a horse not walking back and forth in the mountains and above all are very many: 150 cows, 20 calves, 6 pigs, 12 horses, and 2 dogs. His pay as a shepherd is of \$10.00 a month. It is a trip full of adventure for young Andrea, not only for the hardship of the ocean crossing (but the sea was beautiful) as much as for his identity problems. He is only 15 years old, too young to enter the United States, so the information for his labor contract are altered so his age result as 17. Andrea earn something enough to be able to send some money (200 francs) once and 42 dollars a second time and 100 a third time to his family where everybody is busy trying to put together a little money to go on. Mother Fidela works in Val Bregaglia, and Cesare, Severa and Modesto go to school. The pay, for Andrea, in 1910 is of 300 dollars a year. The uncle is very happy about his work and would like for him no to consider different occupation.

In the meanwhile, in 1911, Natale also express the intention to leave for America. Andrea would leave his job with the uncle to give to him and Andrea would go someplace else to be able to learn the English language.

So at the beginning of the year 1913, he send the money to pay for the trip of Natale who leaves for Idaho. In October from his uncle ranch he is able to send to his parents 40 dollars. Andrea more and more intends to leave his uncle's ranch to find work someplace else. The news that Cesare, also, wants to join them confirms his idea to move on.

Cesare will work with Natale and he will be able to test different areas.

At the beginning of April 1914 Cesare is in Clayton with both brothers at uncle Andrea. Andrea leaves his uncle and find work at another ranch.

The most important news of the year is that Natale and Andrea with their two cousins, Andrea and Cesare Maraffio decided to buy together a ranch of their own near the one of the uncle, still in Clayton, Idaho.

To work for somebody else is always working and missing, Natale says, and it is better to work for one self, money to pay, will find in one way or another.

It is a ranch with 90 cows, 6 horses, 800 particle (acres ?) of land that requires some work for irrigation canals: They need 7000 dollars to buy it and uncle Andrea help them to find a loan.

Cesare is still working with uncle Andrea and also Natale works for him and they leave the running of the bought ranch to Andrea and the cousins Maraffio.

Andrea is satisfied with the obtained financial independence. The ranch is profitable, the crops of the fruit trees is good, the animals are multiplying even if in November 1914 the price of the animals is so low that it is not convenient to sell it.

In the meanwhile the First World War has started and for the emigrants the problem of desertion become serious.

Natale receives a draft notice at Villa. Andrea is an American citizen but not Natale and the idea to be not able to go back to Italy whenever he wants troubles him very much. But the two brothers work together in the ranch and at the construction of the irrigation canal. Natale is still working for his uncle while brother Andrea address all his energy to his ranch with the cousins Maraffio

It is November 1915 and it is better to be declared AWOLS than to be in Italy under enemy fire. The animals are now 110, the price is higher, the hay is plentiful and no complaints about potatoes and apples.

It is a very cold winter 1915-1916 40 degrees below zero but for the Tams, in Idaho, things are going pretty good and beside the loan that they have to repay they are able to send some money to the parents.

During the months that they are free from taking care of the ranch they take some contracts for the mines so they can increase their income.

So Andrea is working in the ranch bought with Natale, Natale works also for the uncle where Cesare is a steady worker.

It is clear that the care of their ranch does not require all of their energies; they engage in outside jobs especially for the mines. In 1917 Cesare leaves uncle Andrea and changes job and joins a partner from Colico.

It is the year that the United States enters the war. In 1918 Cesare joins the brothers in the ranch and uncle Andrea is not very happy about it. The brothers are worried about the draft and they consider themselves Americans. Cesare declares to be the sole supplier of financial help for his family and asks his parents to furnish him with a certificate from the

authority, in Villa, so that the American government will exonerate him from the military service or will give a monthly monetary aid to his parents if he will be drafted.

There is the possibility that the parents can receive 10 or 20 dollars a month.

Andrea, in January 1918 is called for the medical visit by the Army and Natale is waiting for the same.

So the two brothers decided to sell their shares of the ranch to the cousins Maraffio to avoid financial problems and because even if the ranch is doing well it is too small to be run and owned by four partners.

In June 1918 Andrea is in the Army in a military camp in Washington. He is not worried but wants to insure himself, in fact he buys an insurance of 10,000 dollars that would be paid to his parents if he is killed or will provide himself with a small pension of 50 dollars a month in the case he is wounded and not able to make a living.

It is an insurance costing 6.90 dollars a month that he can pay with the 30 dollars a month that he receives as a soldier from the government.

“In case I die I left my papers to uncle and from him you will be able to have them but let us hope that fortune will be good for me and then, as soon as the war ends, we shall be together again”. Letter No. 120

If Andrea is provident, Cesare is more superficial and decided to enroll as a volunteer without the approval of his brother or his uncle, they believed that he should have waited to be called. His military camp is close to Salt Lake City where the uncles are residing and Cesare visits them frequently. During one of these visits he meets cousin Dosolina and he falls in love so much that he plans to marry her as soon as he will be free from his military duty.

Natale also is drafted in August 1918. He found himself in the same military camp where Andrea had been and tries to have more information about the financial help that he had asked for his parents.

In September 1918 Andrea is in France with the American troops. He is close to the front, in Aire, but not on the front line. Cesare also is in France and is ready to come back to the United States in December of the same year. In Italy, brother Modesto is in the Army and has been wounded.

Then, the tragedy. We can feel it in the letter that Natale writes to his parents in January 1919. Andrea was killed in France, a pure accident, a shot from a pistol during a weapons inspection.

The same type of grief falls on the family of Aunt Teodora: the death of her young son Riccardo, of pneumonia, in January 1919.

The news of this tragedy reaches the relatives in Villa di Chiavenna at the same time as the news about Andrea.

The feelings among the relatives become more close and all the tams and all the Ginis surround the relatives with great affection.

The war has ended, the pain has lessened, now there are two financial problems to settle. Andrea, before he left, in the hands of uncle Andrea, a check for 3358.00 dollars from the cousins Maraffio and then there is the insurance for 10000 dollars bought by Andrea when he was called in the Army. Uncle Andrea and Natale are taking care of this. It is an amount that will be paid in annual rates, not all at once. The amount that cousins Maraffio had to give to Andrea for the purchase of his share of the ranch rends every year a certain amount of interest and this amount is sent to parents in Italy.

Because of this business dealing, there is now misunderstanding between uncle Andrea and Natale who, after the war went back to work for him. Cesare is with the uncles in Salt Lake City, Cesare, Giovanni and Teodora.

This is a matter that occupies a lot of letters. There is also another reason that has to be cleared, and this is a debt made by Guglielmo before he left for America with the brothers in law of Salt Lake City, Gini Cesare and Giovanni. It is 1204 lira in May 1896 before he left for America plus 400 Lira in December of the same year as soon as he was in America. It is about loans connected with the unfortunate trip of Guglielmo in 1896. The center of the contention is if the 400 liras were included in the 1204 lira or not.

From 1919 Cesare and Natale change often jobs; sometimes with the uncles in Salt Lake City (with the uncle Andrea of Clayton, relations are not that good) at the mines, at the construction of the canal, not working barber, wood cutters, inspector for a company of electrical energy and again in the farms.

In March 1925 Natale is in Europe but is unable to enter Italy; he had been declared as a deserter at the beginning of the war and he neglected to obtain from the American government the documents that would have explained his case. So he has to stop in Bregaglia, on the border, where he meets Angela Sciuchetti, his fiancé, and he had just come to see her. In November he is again at Salt Lake cit and then at Clayton.

In 1925 Cesare has a job with the railroad company, Union Pacific System, 85 miles from Salt Lake City. It is a job that he still going well in 1928. He owns a free pass, so every two weeks, he can go to the city to visit the uncles. Natale jumps from one job to another, especially in the mines and he would like very much to be able to stay in one place because he is anxious to ask Angela to join him.

Aunt Dora dies in 1925 and Uncle Cesare in 1927.

In September 1927 Natale surprises his fiancé, Angela. He has asked her to come to the United States but instead, to wait for her in Canada where they had agreed to meet because the papers to enter in the United States are not yet ready. He joins her in France at Cherbourg. They cross the Atlantic together, they marry and stop for a few days at Montreal, ready to leave as soon as the permit arrives, toward Montana or toward Utah.

They buy a small farm in Blackfoot, Idaho, for 4700 dollars, using the money that the Maraffio still owes to him. It is a farm of 40 acres, a three room house, a shelter for 10 animals, a cellars, a chicken house and a silo. It is not a good deal. It is the last section and the fields do not receive enough water: this is the reason why it was for sale.

In 1928 Andrea Guglielmo, their son, is born. He is the first American grandchild of the Tams, is named after the grandfather in Italy and the uncle who had died in the war.

On the 11 of November 1928 Cesare, with the approval of all of the relatives, marries a compatriot: Sara, a Sicilian woman who is loved by everyone in Salt Lake City. It was a surprise and everyone is happy that Cesare is going to have a family.

The wedding celebration at Pocatello (Idaho) is a memorable occasion. Uncles, cousins, relatives, and friends get together to celebrate the couple and to remember times gone by. In 1929, Violetta, the first daughter is born.

Cesare leaves the Railroad Company and finds work in a shop, as a welder, close to his house and close to Sara's family house. In 1944 he moves with his family to Santa Rosa, California where he works as a carpenter until 1962 when he retires. And here, in November 1978, he celebrates with great festivities, his 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, surrounded by their children, Violetta, Ruby, Clara, Eugene and Jean and 18 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Natale and Angela are still in the farm at Blackfoot (Idaho) with their children Andrea, Vittorio and Rino. The serenity of the family is broken by the death of Natale on the 17 of January, 1937. Angela is left alone with the children and Frida, the daughter born after the death of her father. In April 1945 Angela marries an American, Young, who dies a year later in 1946 leaving her again alone and with a new baby, Roxy.

Different, from the adventures of the three brothers, Tam is the adventure of the 4<sup>th</sup> brother emigrant, Ottavio. In 1925 he goes to Argentina. We do not know very much about him only that he works in a shop at Lavallo, as a clerk and accountant.