

## **ANTHONY ALOYSIUS deSANTE**

Anthony Aloysius, our grandfather, was born on July 8, 1888 in Worcester, MA. His father was Peter Desanta and his mother was Rose Rubino. Peter Desanta was born in Italy in 1860 and immigrated to the US in 1880. Rose Rubino was born in Troy, NY in 1869. Our grandfather had two sisters, Theresa and Mary. Theresa was the oldest and was born in 1890 in Troy, NY. Mary was born in 1892 in Troy, NY.

Rose Rubino Desanta died on May 9, 1895 and is buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in Troy, NY. She would have been 26 when she died. After Rose died, Peter put the three children in two different Catholic orphanages. Anthony Aloysius was put in the Troy Catholic Male Orphan Asylum and his sisters were put into the St. Vincent DePaul's Orphanage in Troy.

In 1900, the children were still in the orphanages and Peter DeSanta had remarried a woman named Mary, and they lived at 268 R 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Troy. Peter was a fruit dealer. Mary was 15 years older than Peter, had been born in Italy, and had five children. It is possible Mary was a woman Peter sent for from Italy. It is also possible it was an older sister since Peter named his daughter, Mary.

In 1905 Anthony Aloysius graduated from LaSalle Military Institute. Before LaSalle, he went to Hillside School which was part of the orphanage. The orphanage was a five story building on the corner of Hanover and Bedford Streets in Troy. When William deSante and his son, Christopher deSante, visited LaSalle they were told the Asylum's (Hillside School) original building had burned down a number of years ago but parts of the original brick wall remained. They went to see the brick wall and took pictures.

In the early 1900's La Salle seems to have been located near St. Mary's Church in Troy. The two deSantes were told that the site of the school from the early 1900's is now a parking lot (they went to see it and took pictures). They have Anthony Aloysius' diploma from his 1905 graduation from La Salle and it is genuine according to the principal of La Salle (Brother Carl Malacalza). His diploma indicates his name is Anthony Aloysius deSante. La Salle is run by the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Records for all of their schools are kept at Manhattan College but when they called Manhattan College they were told that no records existed for the class of 1905. They also called Rich Eddings, the archivist at LaSalle, 518-283-2500 and he said he would get back to them with any records from the class of 1905.

It appears that after graduating from LaSalle in 1905 Anthony Aloysius moved at some point up to Saratoga Springs Ward 3 in time to be counted in the 1910 census. Here he is identified as Anthony De Santa (The deSantes assumed it is the same person and moving to Saratoga Springs would explain the delay in

marrying their grandmother). He indicates that his father was from Italy and his mother was from New York. He is identified as a room boarder with two women, Stacia Madison who is 22 and Mina Buck who is 26. He identifies himself as refrigerator bookkeeper (which would be consistent with his accounting profession later in life). He also indicates he was born in 1889 so it is possible this is not him but the fact that he is a bookkeeper and his age is so close to the earlier estimates makes we think this is he.

Family stories indicate that Helen Elena Meagher, our grandmother, saw Anthony Aloysius, our grandfather marching in his military uniform and thought he was very handsome. It seems as if they met before 1905, when he graduated, and then he left for Saratoga Springs to work. He probably returned to Troy/Watervliet some time before 1913 to marry Helena Elena Meagher, our grandmother. Although there are no records of their marriage, the Book of the Meaghers indicates it took place on November 27, 1913. It appears that from there Anthony Aloysius and Helena Elena moved to Long Branch.

Anthony Aloysius' World War I registration card, which was signed on 6/5/1917, indicates that he was born on 7/8/1888 in Worcester, MA and that he was not eligible for the draft because he needed to support a "sick wife". He signs his name Anthony A. DeSante. He indicates he is a bookkeeper with Swift & Co. in Long Branch.

In the 1920 Census he is shown as being 30 with his wife being Helen E. DeSante being 26 (which would make her born in 1893-4) and Marguerite being a little older than 1. There are no other boarders in the house so it appears that Teresa and Margaret must have moved down between 1920 and 1930. He indicates he was born about 1890. William deSante, Sr., William deSante, Jr.'s Dad is born in 1920 and Richard deSante, William deSante, Jr.'s uncle is born in 1922.

In 1920, Peter Desanta is living at 221 Fourth in Troy, NY with his daughters Theresa and Mary. It is not clear what happened to his second wife Mary. In the same building is the Rubino family with Anna Rubino, the head of the family. She is identified as being 40 years old in the 1925 New York State Census which would make her a few years older than Anthony Aloysius. It is possible she is Rose Rubino's younger sister or, perhaps, her sister-in-law since Anna Rubino is identified as being widowed. Anna had a stepson named Frank who was 31 in 1930 and a daughter-in-law named Josephine who was 24. She had a son named Michael who was 3, a stepson named Patrick who was 34, a stepson named Michael who was 13 and a stepdaughter named Margaret who was 22. Anna was born in Italy and her children were all born in New York.

In the 1920's, Peter Desanta is a fruit dealer at 502 Broadway. Theresa is a stenographer at 408 Cannon and Mary is a dressmaker at home. The family

must have moved in 1919 or 1920 because in 1919 they were living at 1216 or 1218 Fifth in Troy.

On April 25, 1921, Theresa DeSanta dies. She was 32 years old. She is buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in Troy. Peter and Mary continue to live in Troy at 221 Fourth through the 1920's. Mary continues to be a dressmaker until 1930 at which time she becomes a clerk. Peter continues to be a fruit dealer through the 1920's.

On April 13, 1934, Peter Desanta died. He is buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in Troy, NY. He was 71 years old. It is unclear what happened to his daughter Mary.

The 1930 Census shows Anthony and Helen deSante were living in Long Branch. In this census Anthony indicates that he was born about 1894, married at age 21 and is currently 36. Helen shows as being 33 and was 18 when she was married (which would make her born in 1896-7). This information would indicate they were married in 1914-5). Theresa Meagher is also part of the household and shows as being 34. The information on the ages of Helen Elena and Theresa look to be untrue. The 1900 Census shows that they would have been about ten years older.

Anthony's Social Security application shows him as being born on 7/8/1892 in Worcester, MA. He was working for Swift & Co. on 205 Morris Avenue. His parents are Peter Desante and Rose Rubino. His application was signed on November 30, 1936.

His WWII draft card shows him living at 155 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and being born July 8, 1892. It says he is 49 and born in Worcester, MA. It shows him working for Swift & Co. on Second Avenue in Asbury Park.

His obituary indicates that his birth was unknown but that he had lived in Long Branch for 50 years which would indicate he moved to Long Branch right after his wedding. He was the former chairman of the Long Branch Board of Adjustment and a member of the Long Branch Juvenile Conference. He worked for Swift and Company for 33 years which would lead me to believe he became a self-employed accountant right after WWII. He was a fourth degree knight and a past grand knight of the Knights of Columbus, Council 335. He was a member of the St. Vincent DePaul Society (800 Ocean Ave), the Holy Name Society, and the Nocturnal Adoration Society of Star of the Sea.

He died on August 19, 1963 according to the Social Security Death Index and was born on July 8, 1888.

**La Salle Institute** (LSI) is an all male private, Catholic, college preparatory school operated by the Brothers of the Christian Schools, enrolling young men in

grades six through twelve in North Greenbush, New York, USA. It is operated independent of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany. The current principal is Brother Carl Malacalza.

## **HELEN ELENA MEAGHER deSANTE**

Helen (Elena) Meagher deSante, our grandmother, was born on April 9, 1885 to Edmond Meagher and Theresa Kennedy Meagher in Watervliet, NY. She was the youngest in the family and had nine brothers and sisters listed below. Her mother died sometime between Helen Elena's birth and the 1900 Census. The family lived on Sixth Avenue in Watervliet according to the 1900 Census. Her father was a molder according to the 1880 Census. He was born in Tipperary, Ireland in 1842 to Edmond Meagher and Catherine Martley and immigrated to the US in 1852. Helen Elena's mother was born in Canada to an Irish father, Richard Kennedy, a shoemaker (William deSante, Jr. has a shoe mold that he made) and a Canadian mother (Margaret Le Blanc (White)).

It appears that Helen Elena married Anthony Aloysius deSante, in November 1913 and moved to Long Branch that year. Family stories indicate that she had seen Anthony Aloysius marching in his cadet uniform and that she thought he was very handsome. If so, she must have seen him sometime before he graduated from LaSalle in 1905. It looks as if Anthony Aloysius moved to Saratoga Springs sometime after 1905 when he graduated and 1910 when the Census was taken. In Saratoga Springs he is listed as a bookkeeper for a refrigerator company. That would be consistent with his educational background at school as well as his future work as an accountant. It is unclear when he came back to Watervliet or whether he married in Watervliet.

After or when Anthony Aloysius and Helen Elena moved to Long Branch, two of Helen Elena's sisters came to live with them. Margaret was a nurse who was six years older than her. It looks as if she worked at Monmouth Medical Center. She died in 1929 after she caught pneumonia from patients she was taking care of. The other sister who lived with them was Teresa (or Aunt Teresa) who was three years older than my Helen Elena. William deSante, Jr's mom and dad both talked extremely favorably about Aunt Teresa. William deSante, Sr. indicated that Aunt Teresa basically raised them. Aunt Teresa died in 1956.

It looks as Helen Elena misleads Census takers and the Social Security and indicated she was younger than she was. She died on July 22, 1975. William deSante, Jr. remembers her as very hard of hearing and nearly blind but very good natured and fun loving. It is unclear if she had hearing or sight problems from birth, but in Anthony Aloysius' WWI registration he indicated he could not serve because he had to take care of a sick wife.

## **Siblings**

**Catherine:** born 6/19/1865 in Montreal; died 1961 in Troy, NY.  
Second husband was Albert Crier who died 5/1/1948 in Albany.  
First husband was Timothy Cronin. Catherine and Timothy were living with the Meagher family in the 1900 census.

**Mary:** born 10/3/1866 in Troy. Died 1919 in Troy.  
Married: Edward O'hair. Edward III still lives in Troy and is in the insurance business. He is 81.  
His phone is 518-274-5869.  
Business phone: maybe 518-272-2250.

**Richard Francis:** born 6/9/1868 in Troy and died 4/3/51 in Troy.  
Unmarried.  
Known as Uncle Frank.

**Lillie:** born 3/27/1871 in Troy; died 1944 in Trenton.  
Married John Keenan who died and then married Otto Williamson who died in 1946 in Long Branch. John Keenan was son of the famous Captain Keenan after whom Keenan land in the Arctic was named.

**Anastasia:** born 10/30/1873 in Watervliet; died 1959 in Watervliet.  
Unmarried  
Aunt Anna worked in shirt and collar factories in Troy and Watervliet. Lived with Kate Crier, Frank and Edward O'Haire II.

**Thomas F.:** born 12/14/1875 in Watervliet; died 1/20/1938 in Watervliet.  
Married Albertine Terrault who died 9/10/1936 in Watervliet.  
Had one son, Thomas F. Jr., who married Katherine T. Weidman.  
Tom Jr. was great hiker. He was born in 1907. Helped break Japanese code in WWII and was stationed in the Pacific. Graduated from LaSalle Institute.  
Retired in 1969. He was the person who helped write Book of Meaghers and must have been the person William deSante, Sr., had contact with and visited.

**Dennis:** born 10/14/1877 in Watervliet and died 12/11/1960 in Schenectady.  
Married Margaret Dahlem from Ohio who died 8/8/1955 in Poughkeepsie.  
His daughter Mary married James Coughtry and had three children (James, Helen and William). James died but Helen Coughtry Slater would be 83 and may be alive in Watervliet. Her married name was Slater but she was divorced. William may be alive in Florida and would be 82.

Dennis's daughter Helen, who died in 1988, married Joseph Desler in 1932. Joseph died in 1990 in Schenectady. They had four children (Joseph John, Maryann, Rita P. and Peter.)

One grandchild of Dennis is Rita Desler Costa who is 69. She is a nurse and lives in Carnegie, PA. Her husband's name is Leonard A. Their phone is

412-276-6639. Maryanne Desler Burton is 75 and lives in Scenectady. Her phone is 518-346-4730. Peter Desler is 65 and may be in San Francisco.

**Margaret:** RN, born 10/11/1879 and died in 1929 in Long Branch.  
Lived with Helen Elena, our grandmother.  
Contracted pneumonia from her patients and died in 1929.

**Theresa:** born 8/2/1882 in Watervliet and died 12/14/1956 in Long Branch.  
Unmarried.

**Helen Elena:** born 4/9/1885 in Watervliet and died 7/22/1975 in Long Branch.

### Parents

**Theresa Kennedy:** Born in Canada. Died sometime between 1885 and 1900.

**Edmond Meagher:** Born 1842 in Tipperary, Ireland. Immigrated in 1852.

### Maternal Grandparents

**Richard Kennedy:** Shoemaker. (William deSante, Jr. has shoe mold made by him).

Born in Ireland. Immigrated to Canada.

**Margaret LeBlanc (White)-** Canadian.

### Paternal Grandparents

**Edmond Meagher**

**Catherine Martley**

*Researched by:*

*William (Biff) deSante and  
his son, Christopher deSante*