

Chapter 4. 1908: Going to America

Summary

John Ullian came to the U. S. in 1908 to join his brother Antonio in the coal mines of Centerville, Iowa. His brother Romano had come to the U.S. in 1906 to join their brother Antonio in Kensington, Illinois, then moved to Centerville. Romano's wife Teresa and young son Anthony joined him in 1908.

John Ullian arrived at age 18 in the Port of New York on 8 Dec 1908.

Listed as Gio. Batta [*Giovanni Battista – named after John the Baptist*] Ulian in the ship manifest, he was a steerage passenger on the *S. S. Chicago*, an oceanliner of the French Line (Compagnie Générale Transatlantique) that departed Havre, France, on 28 Nov 1908. The ship manifest shows him as a 5'3" single Northern Italian male in good health with auburn hair/eyes, a laborer who was born in Salero [*Salcedo*] Italy, and who last resided in Vicenza [*Vicenza*], Italy. [*Vicenza may refer to either the city of Vicenza or the province of Vicenza, the latter of which includes the town of Salcedo.*] He listed his mother Maria Mascarello as his nearest relative remaining in Italy. He had \$25 with him and a ticket to his ultimate destination – Centerville [*Centerville*], Iowa, where he would join his brother Antonio (address: P. O. Box 5). He had never been in the U. S. previously. [*The Ellis Island Records site shows his surname as Uhan, an error in transcription from the manifest.*]

The decades around the turn of the century were those of the Industrial Revolution, accompanied by a great immigration into the United States of America.

The area of southern Iowa around Centerville, the county seat of Appanoose County, had a great need for laborers to work in the coal mines that were expanding to fill industry's increased need for coal. The jobs available in that area attracted many immigrants from Europe, including Italy, especially around the 1890s. It was common at the time for potential European immigrants to be recruited by agents working for employers to fill their labor needs. We have no information on whether John was so recruited, or simply decided to join his brother Antonio (who himself may or may not have been recruited).

Many Italians departed from the Italian ports of Genova [*Genoa*] and Napoli [*Naples*], but many of the northern Italians departed from Havre [*Le Havre*], France. This seaport is about 800 miles from where John was born. His travel to Havre would probably have been by train. The *S. S. Chicago*, of the French Line (Compagnie Generale Transatlantique) had made its maiden voyage to New York on 30 May 1908, just 6 months before John sailed on it.

One story John's son John A. had heard about John's immigration was that his father liked to gamble, and that in France prior to departure he successfully gambled (probably dice) his passage funds to be able to move up from steerage to second class. Nonetheless, he is listed on the ship manifest as traveling in steerage. Luck was evidently not with him.

SALOON, CABIN, AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY MANIFESTED.

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, to be delivered to the United States Immigration Service.

S. S. CHICAGO sailing from Havre (France) November 28th, 1908

No. as List.	NAME IN FULL.		Age.	Sex.	Calling or Occupation.	Able to—	Nationality.	Race or People.	Last Permanent Residence.		Final Destination.	
	Family Name.	Given Name.	Yrs. Mos.	Male or Female.		Read. Write.	(Country of which citizen or subject.)		Country.	City or Town.	The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came.	
1	Ulian	Gio. Batta	18	M	lab	Yes	Italy	Italian	Vicenza	Italy	Mother: Margherita Ulian - San Antonio, Pa.	
2	Accetto	Giovanni	22	M	Minor				alano	Italy	father: Giovanni - San Antonio, Pa.	
3	Sanvito	Giacino	44	M					Cesio	Italy	Mother: Sanvito Maria - San Antonio, Pa.	
4	Taggio	Giovanni	18	M	lab				Moena	Italy	Wife: Minglia Teresa - San Antonio, Pa.	
5	Paquinucci	Dante	43	M	lab	DISCHARGED			Livorno	Italy	Wife: Colaba - San Antonio, Pa.	
6	Gallanani	Lungi	21	M	S				Modena	Italy	Mother: Rosa - San Antonio, Pa.	
7	Janarzi	Adelle	24	F					NUN IMMIGRANT ALIEN	San Antonio	father: Giuseppe - New York	
8	Cartori	Antonio	10	M	S				NUN IMMIGRANT ALIEN	San Antonio	father: Giuseppe - New York	
9	Cesali	Brigida	38	F						Italy	Mother: Santolaura - San Antonio, Pa.	
10	Lucci	Giulia	16	F	S				Bettola	Italy	Mother: Ondani - San Antonio, Pa.	
11	Molinari	Domenica	10	F	S					Italy	Wife: Caterina Molinari - San Antonio, Pa.	

THIS SHEET IS FOR STEERAGE PASSENGERS.

List **9**

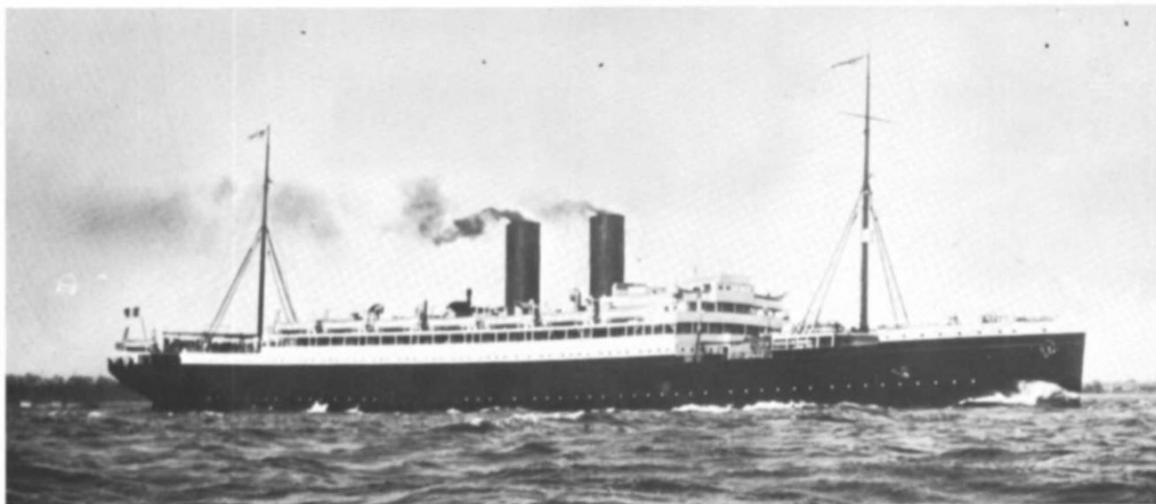
STATES IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.

to the United States Immigration Officer by the Commanding Officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States.

Arriving at Port of New York 190

No. as List.	By whom was passage paid?	Whether ever before in the United States and if so, when and where?	Whether going to join a relative or friend and if so, what relative or friend, and his name and complete address.	Condition of Health, Mental and Physical.	Deformed or Crippled, Nature, length of time, and cause.	Height.	Color of—	Complexion.	Color of Hair.	Color of Eyes.	Mark of Identification.	Place of Birth.
		If Yes—				Feet. Inches.	Nose.					Country. City or Town.
1	he	20	Brother, Antonio Bettola	Good	No	5 3	Dark				None	Italy, Salerno
2	he	20	Brother, Giuseppe Meniconi	Good	No	5 7						Italy, Salerno
3	he	20	father, Bettola	Good	No	5 1	Black					Italy, Cesio
4	he	20	Brother, Giuseppe	Good	No	5 7	aub.					Italy, S. Pietro
5	he	40	Son, Giovanni	Good	No	5 4						Italy, Livorno
6	he	20	Cousin, Silvio Nizzi	Good	No	5 3						Italy, San Antonio
7	he	20	Wife, Libeccio Gio	Good	No	5 4						Italy, Bettola
8	he	20	Wife, Caterina	Good	No	4 10						Italy, Bettola
9	he	20	Wife, Caterina	Good	No	5 3						Italy, Bettola
10	he	20	Brother, Lucia Pietro	Good	No	5 1					Scar-faced	Italy, Bettola
11	he	20	Wife, Molinari	Good	No	5 4						Italy, San Antonio

John Ullian (Gio. Batta Ulian) Listed on the First Line of the Ship Manifest.
 He arrived from Havre (France) on 28 Nov 1908 Onboard the S. S. Chicago
 [From Ancestry.com]



S. S. Chicago [From Ancestry.com]

Earlier, in 1906, John's brother Romano had also listed their brother Antonio as the person he was joining when he came to the U. S., but Romano had indicated that Antonio was in Kensington IL. Kensington was an industrial magnet for Italian immigrants. It was south of Chicago in Cook County, Illinois. Romano's wife and young son Antonio joined Romano in Centerville in 1908, as did John a few months later.