

Sarni

Le Radici e si Dirama
(Roots and Branches)

Morra De Sanctis
Italia

by

Francesca Hendrickson
2004

This book is dedicated to

My loving mother, Toni Sarni Benthall. She assures me that her mother will be waiting for her in heaven and will introduce her to all of her family. She has encouraged and supported this work, that she herself started 45 years ago. New technologies have allowed us to "fast forward" the research needed to compile this book in a much shorter time frame.

To my beautiful niece, Michele Friedman. Her work on the family tree inspired me to pursue the roots of this tree more thoroughly. She is our prime candidate to carry this work forward in to the next many decades.

And most importantly to my loving husband Gaylord Hendrickson. Little did he know what he was getting himself into when he bought me a computer.

**And a very special thanks to those that supported this project
with advice, information, time and finances:**

To a wonderful new friend and the wife of my 1st cousin once removed, Eunice Sarni. She has been my constant genealogy e-mail buddy and cheerleader and has supplied all the information for the "Gerardo Chapter" and always has encouraging and loving words. Thanks also to Tony Sarni, Jr. for scanning many beautiful documents for this book and for the original research.

My thanks to Mary Schmidt for helping to proof-read the copy and for supplying the many beautiful pictures in the "Pictures of Morra Chapter" and the "Giuseppe Chapter". The pictures of the birth place of our ancestors, Morra de Sanctis, help us to see and imagine how our ancestors lived. *To see the teal blue door on the stone house that was the birthplace our grandfathers gave me goose-bumps.*

Special thanks to Toni Benthall, Jeff Schmidt, "Joey" Schmidt Mary Schmidt and Yvonne O'Donnell for their assistance in getting this book published for all to enjoy.

Introduction

RADICI

(roots)

The roots of the Sarni Family are deeply embedded in the town of **Morra de Sanctis**, Region of St. Angelo di Lombardo, Avellino, Campania, Italy.

The Sarno/Sarni names derive from the Oscan and Samnite peoples living at the mouth of the Sarnius River in Sarno at the foot of Mt. Vesuvius. 90% are said to have survived Pompei August 24, 79 A.D. by fleeing inland to the Sarno Valley.

The individuals included in this book are the direct descendants of **Don Tommaso Sarni and Donna Vincenza Del Mastre** circa 1752.

In the early 1900's the children of **Michele Grazia Sarni and Maria Felicia Cozza** and the Second Great Grandchildren of Tommaso and Vincenza began their migration to the United States of America.

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Introduction

The following pages give information about Morra de Sanctis.

Maps.

Information about the region.

Pictures of places in the town.

Sarno/Sarni Name.

Our townsmen who died in the 1983 earthquake.

The Unification of Italy 1815-1870.

The dates are those of annexation to the Kingdom of Sardinia / Kingdom of Italy in 1861. Sites of important events (Italy) include: D. Italy, G.R.A. Grand Duchy, N. Milan, R. Reg. - Republic.

Scale 1:1,000,000



Avellino (*CAMPANIA*)

The town lies 348 m. above sea level in a wide green valley in the Irpinia uplands. An ancient Irpinian centre, it submitted to Rome in 209 AD., becoming a Roman colony and busy agricultural and trading centre. Severely damaged during the war between Goths and Byzantines, it was rebuilt by the Lombards after the fall of the Roman Empire, on its present site only a few kilometres from the original settlement, and grew in importance to become the capital of a County. Conquered by the Normans at the beginning of the 12th century, it shared the vicissitudes of the Kingdom of Naples, though the fief of various overlords; those who held it for the longest periods of time were the Dell'Aquilas (12th century), the Del Balzos (12th-14th centuries) and the Caracciolo family, whose rule lasted from 1581 to 1806. Avellino became part of Italy in 1860.

Throughout its history, the town has been plagued by terrible earthquakes, the last of which, in November 1980, caused severe damage to the town centre. As a result, there are now few ancient monuments. These are the Duomo, of Romanesque origins, with later additions, the Palazzo della Dogana, medieval, reconstructed in the Seicento, and the 17th century Palazzo Caracciolo. The nearby Montevergine Sanctuary attracts large numbers of visitors.

The economy of the town is still based on agricultural activities and livestock, for which it is a busy marketing centre. In the service sector, public administration offers considerable employment, but industry is still underdeveloped. Small factories produce foods, textiles and furniture.

Events: Concorso della Zeza (masked groups at Carnival time), Concert at the Cimarose Conservatory, in spring.

Famous People: Guido Dorso (expert on southern Italy, 1892-1947), Augusto Guerriero-Ricciardetto (journalist, 1893-1981).

Cultural Institutions: State Archives, Provincial Library, Museo Irpino (archeological and modern art sections, Museo del Risorgimento), Guido Dorso Research Centre, Cimarose Conservatory.

In the Province: Ariano Irpino (holiday resort, agricultural and industrial centre), Solofra (of environmental interest), Bagnoli Irpino (holiday resort, ski facilities at Piano Laceno), Avella (famous for its hazel nuts, Roman remains), Mercogliano (Museo del Santuario).

Morra de Sanctis

Province of Avellino, Campania - Italy

This locality was probably inhabited between the VIIIth and VIth century B.C as many ruins and ancient tombs with funeral equipment testify. In the area of Selvapiana an ancient Samnite Irpini village was discovered. The village born in the Longobard ages was owned by Gastaldo di Conza and was at first called Morra Irpino; It was fiefdom of prince Morra, who governed from the XIth century to 1806, years in which the feuds were abolished. The Morra family also built a castle, called "Palazzo del Principe" which can still be admired. In 1937 Morra Irpino became Morra de Sanctis to commemorate a famous author Francesco De Sanctis. An earthquake practically destroyed the medieval centre. Near the village there are two artificial lakes and a few streams that make the landscape and the views breathtaking.



Altitude: 863 m a.s.l
Territory: mountain
Population: ca. 1600 inhabitants
Zip code: 83040
Phone Area Code: 0827
Patron Saint: San Rocco

Frazioni & Località:
Caputi, Orcomone, Selvapiana,
Madonna di Montecastello

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HEART OF ITALY
TOURS

What to see:

- **The Medieval Castle**, built by the Morra family.
- **The church of SS. Pietro and Paolo**
- **The church of S. Rocco** of the 18th century and damaged during the earthquake of 1980;
- **The Historical centre** of medieval origins seriously damaged during the earthquake and the birth home of Francesco De Sanctis;
- **Obelisco** of 1852 dedicated to the patron S. Rocco. Both Palazzo Molinari and Palazzo Indelli can be admired.

→

Return to: Province of Avellino | Region Campania | Italia

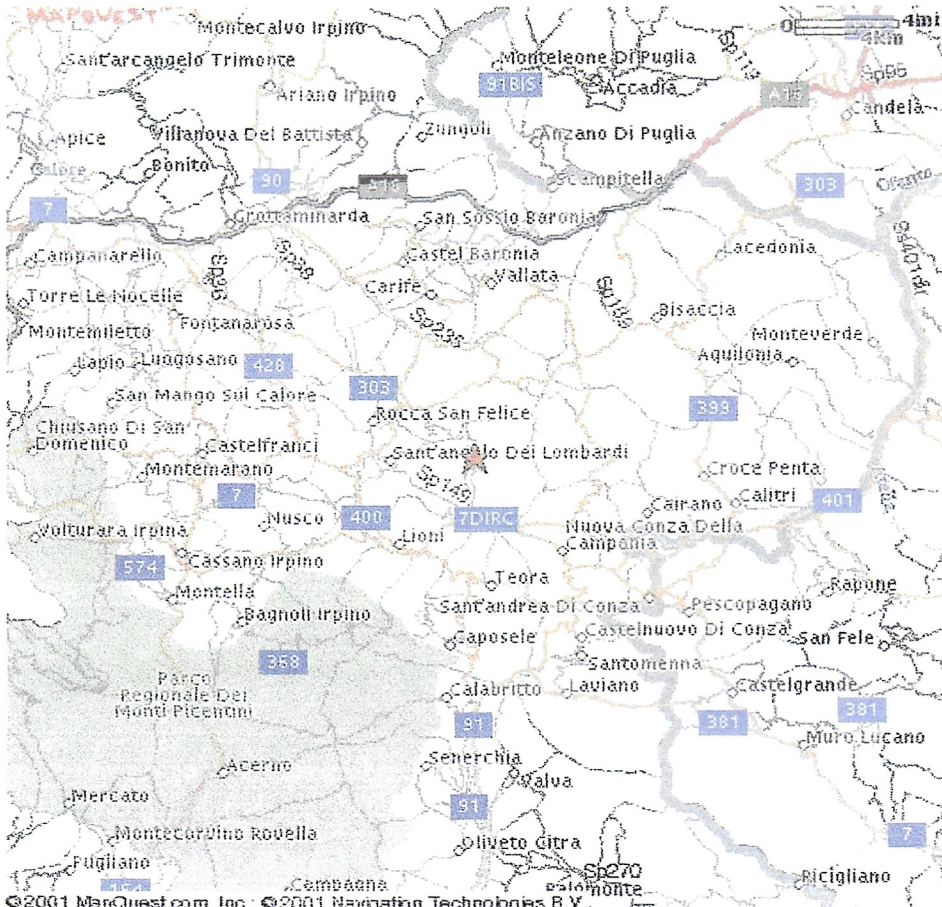
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Morra De Sanctis,
IT

SEND TO PRINTER

Back



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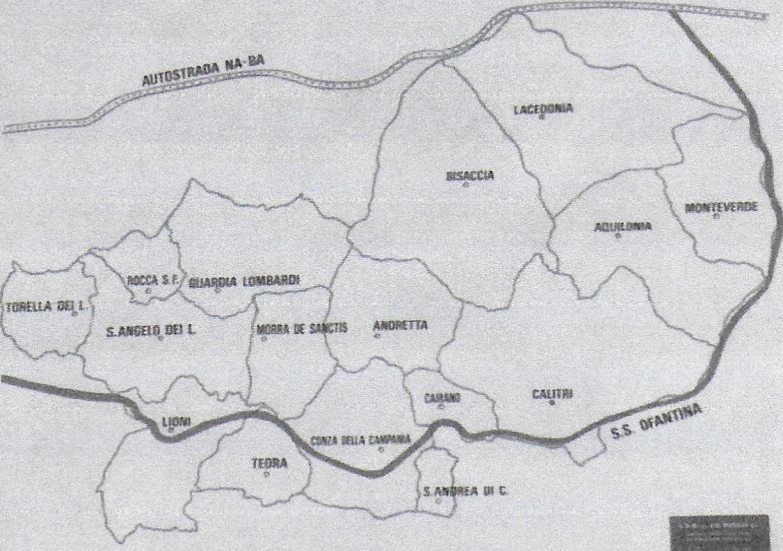


COMUNE di MORRA DE SANCTIS



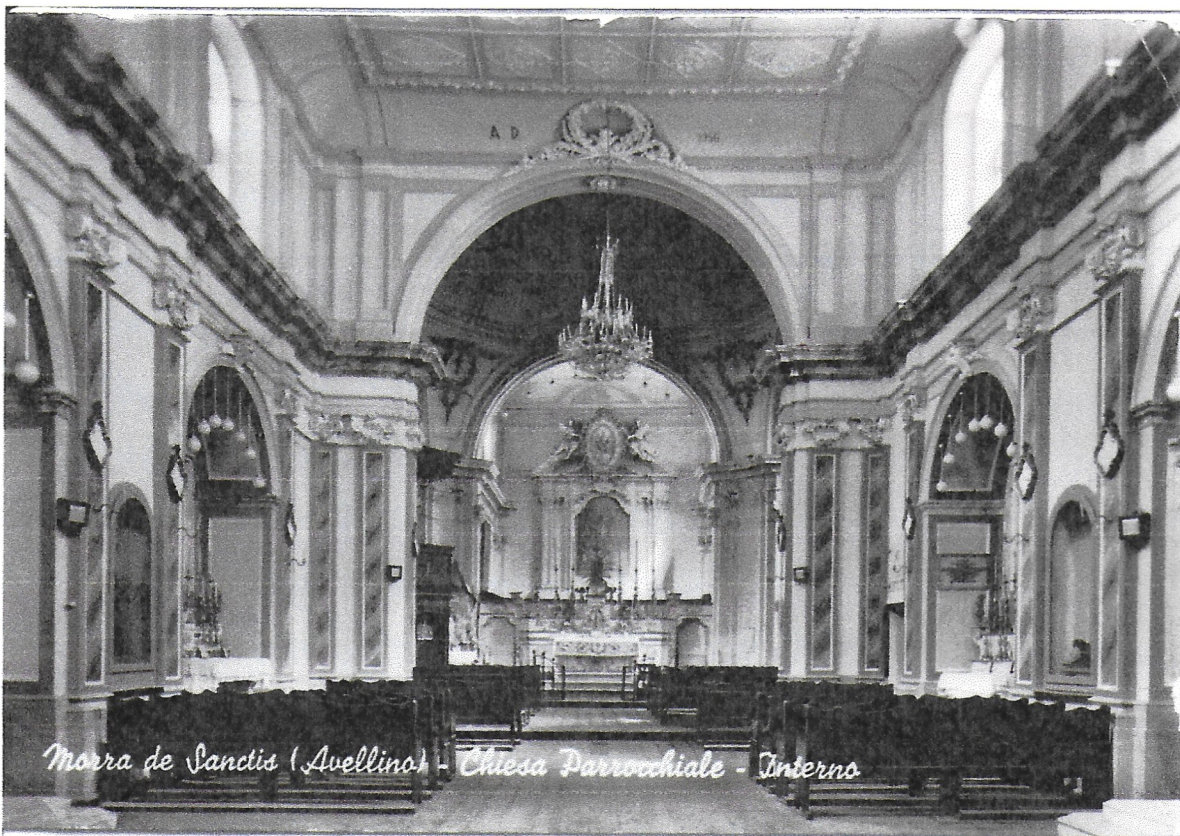
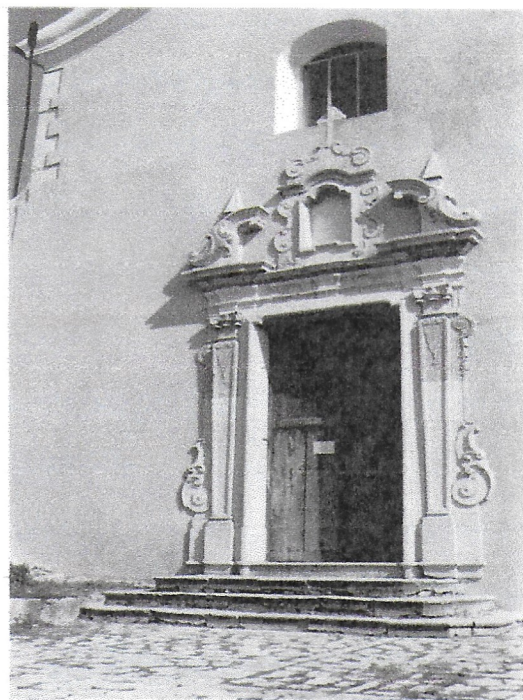
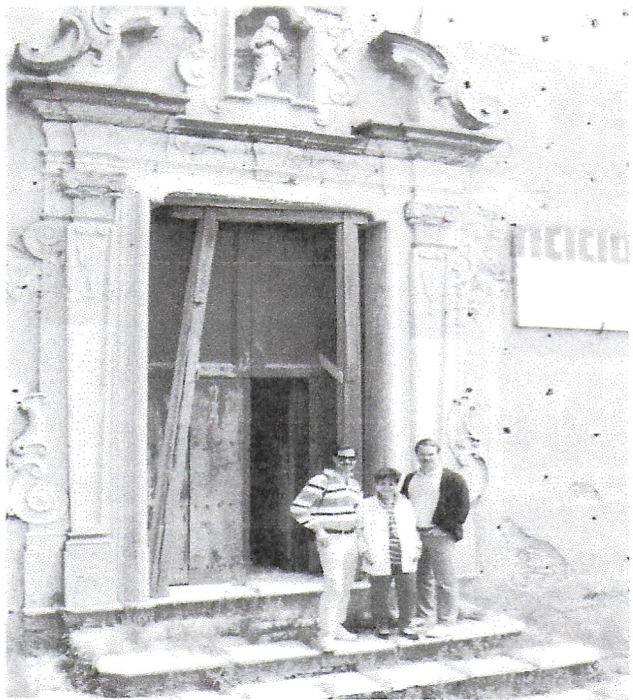
**COMUNITÀ
MONTANA
ALTA
IRPINIA**

ANDRETTA AQUILONIA
BISACCIA CAIRANO CALITRI
CONZA DELLA CAMPANIA
GUARDIA LOMBARDI
LACEDONIA
LIONI MONTEVERDE
MORRA DE SANCTIS
ROCCA S. FELICE
S. ANDREA DI CONZA
S. ANGELO DEI LOMBARDI
TEORA TORELLA DEI LOMBARDI



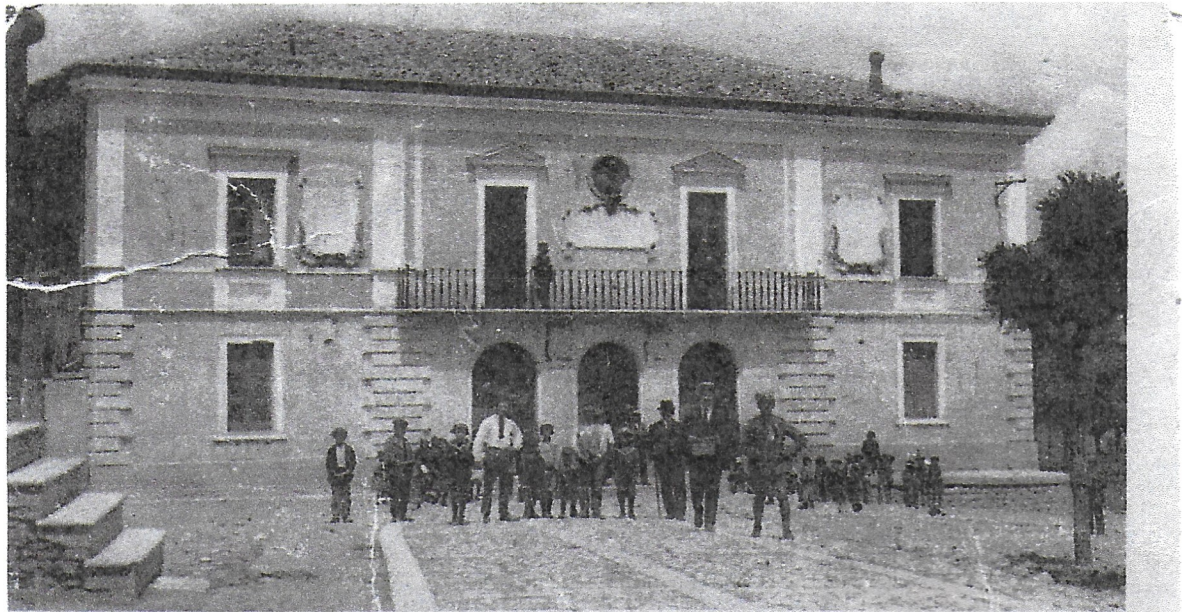
COMUNE di MORRA DE SANCTIS

Welcome to Morra de Sanctis



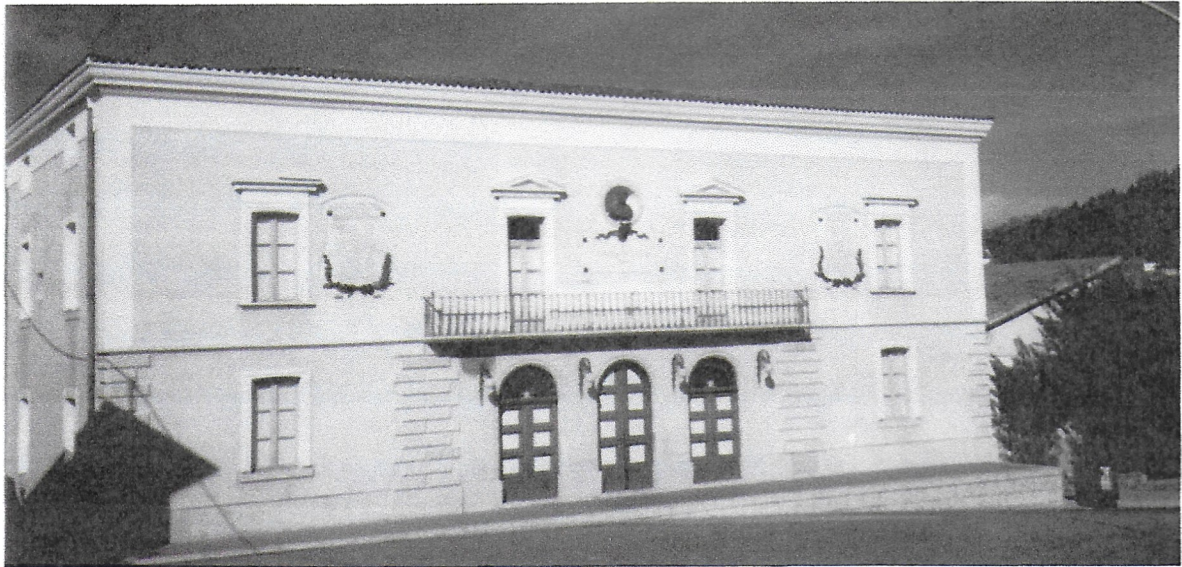
**Outside of Church under goes Re-Construction after earthquake damage
Picture Postcard of the Church Interior**





Morra Irpino (Avellino) - Municipio

Morro de Sanctis City Hall 1920



Morro de Sanctis City Hall after restoration 1985



Inscription Plaque City Hall "Those that gave their souls"

September 1919



Home of Michele Sarni & Maria Felice Cozza

Birthplace of Francesco, Rocco, Rommato, Maddalena, Giuseppe, Gerardo, Antonio & Giovanni

Circa 1862-1904



Home of Alfonso Durante & Maria Colomba Carino

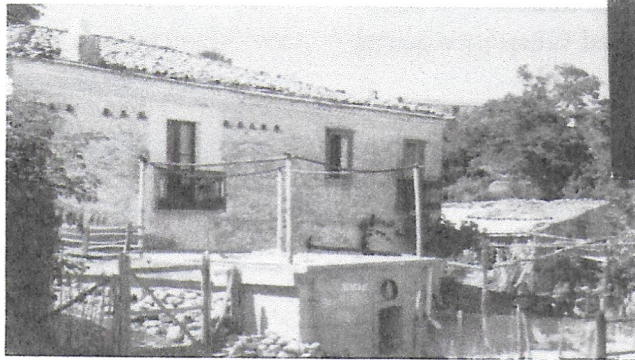
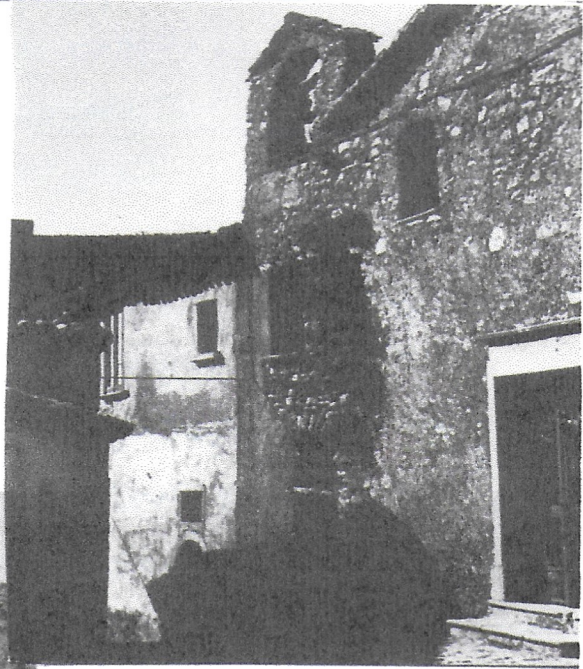
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**Birthplace of Maria Durante
Future wife of Giuseppe Sarni**



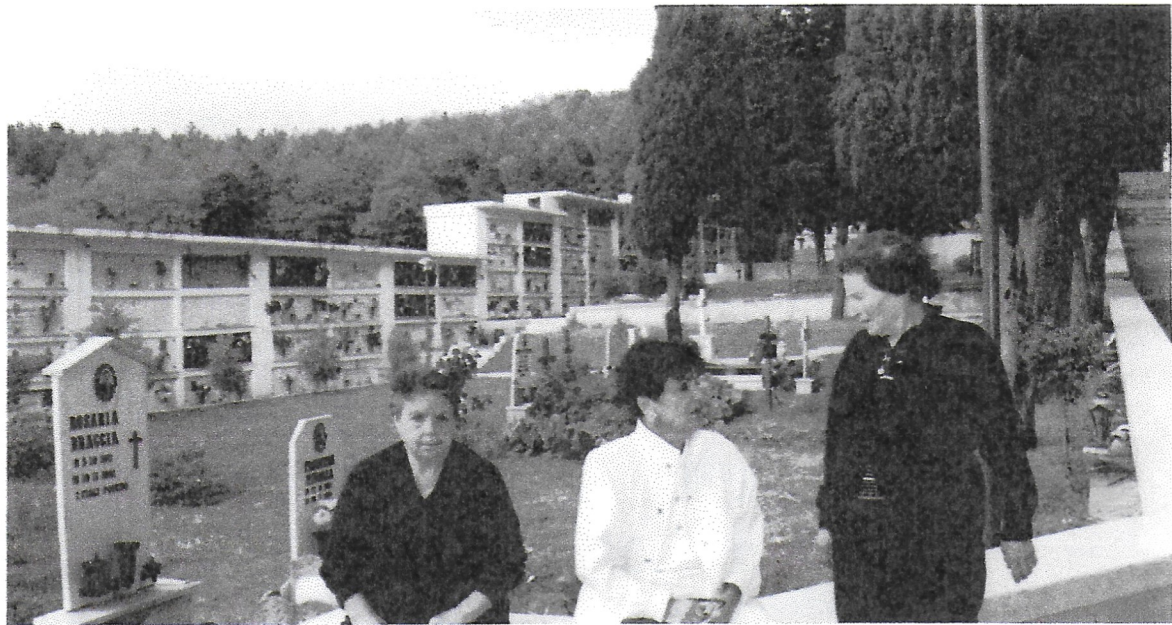
Chickens for Dinner!

Buildings in Morra





**Castle Morra
View from Morra**



The Cemetery in Morra de Sanctis was completely Re-modeled in the years after the earthquake

"during the
earthquake"

I NOSTRI MORTI

" DURANTE IL SISMA "

Ambrosecchia Francesca	n. il 20-8-1903
Ambrosecchia Vincenzo	n. il 30-7-1903
Araneo Concettina	n. il 21-11-1976
Braccia Angela Maria	n. il 10-2-1920
Braccia Angela Rosa	n. il 2-1-1921
Buscetto Maria Rosaria	n. il 2-1-1932
Caputo Maria Giuseppa	n. il 8-11-1920
Capozza Rosaria	n. il 13-12-1902
Carino Agostino	n. il 10-11-1957
Covino Maria Rosa	n. il 22-12-1907
Di Leo Maria	n. il 26-6-1930
Di Sapia Rosaria	n. il 26-3-1894
Fazza Felicita Santa	n. il 31-10-1906
Grippo Alessandra	n. il 4-5-1895
Grippo Alessandro	n. il 12-11-1904
Grippo Mario	n. il 20-12-1977
Grippo Vito	n. il 15-6-1926
Guarino Luigi Giovanni	n. il 24-6-1908
Lanzalotto Donatangelo	n. il 17-9-1974
Lanzalotto Donato Angelo	n. il 5-12-1916
Maccia Angiolina	n. il 14-12-1928
Maccia Giuseppe Antonio	n. il 4-8-1909
Mariani Angelomaria	n. il 8-6-1910
Montemarano Angelica	n. il 6-7-1901

Natale Maria	
Pagnotta Rosa	n. il 14-11-1975
Pasquale Carmela	n. il 17-11-1896
Pavese Carmine	n. il 19-4-1905
Pennella Alessandro	n. il 21-12-1975
Pennella Lucia	n. il 25-9-1926
Pennella Maria Donata	n. il 17-5-1925
Ricciardi Silvia Onorina	n. il 26-3-1907
Sarni Lucia	n. il 23-9-1907
Sarni Maria Giuseppa	n. il 5-8-1922
Strazza Incoronata	n. il 3-8-1901
Vitiello Incoronata	n. il 31-5-1932
Zuccardi Rosa	n. il 18-10-1898
Buscetto Mariarosaria	n. il 2-7-1977
Covino Calmerinda	n. il 12-1-1910
Di Pietro Alfonso	n. il 15-2-1942
Di Pietro Angelo	n. il 17-11-1974
Di Pietro Ida	n. il 18-11-1972
Lardieri Maria	n. il 20-7-1953
Mariani Bruno	n. il 23-11-1931
Perna Angela	n. il 18-7-1950
Strazza Maria	n. il 12-11-1914
Strazza Maria Antonietta	n. il 21-6-1956

" DOPO IL SISMA "

Braccia Angelo Maria	n. il 18-11-1906
Capozza Vita Maria	n. il 19-2-1921
Cicchillo Angela	n. il 22-2-1915
Consigliero Giuseppe	n. il 25-9-1925
Di Cola Mariantonia	n. il 11-8-1894
Di Paola Angiola	n. il 13-1-1896
Di Pietro Giuseppe	n. il 29-5-1901
Di Santo Rocco	n. il 11-11-1891
Gargani Alfonso	n. il 10-2-1937

Giugliano Filomena	n. il 23-10-1902
Maccia Gerardo	n. il 26-1-1901
Mariani Alfonso	n. il 14-10-1933
Pagnotta Lucia	n. il 5-3-1892
Pennella Antonio	n. il 22-9-1901
Pennella Maria Teresa	n. il 29-6-1898
Ricciardi Amedeo	n. il 13-10-1896
Sarni Carmela	n. il 1-4-1904

"after the
earthquake"

In 1980 a
devastating
earthquake hit
Marra de Sanctis

SARNO (anc. Sarnus), a town of Campania, Italy, in the province of Salerno, 15 m. N.E. from that city and 30 m. E. of Naples by the main railway. Pop. (1901) 15,130 (town), 19,192 (commune). It lies at the foot of the Apennines, 92 ft. above sea-level, near the sources of the Sarno (anc. Sarnus), a stream connected by canal with Pompeii and the sea. Sarno has the ruins of a medieval castle, which belonged to Count Francesco Coppola, who took an important part in the conspiracy of the barons against Ferdinand of Aragon in 1485. Walter of Brienne is buried in the ancient church of S. Maria della Foce rebuilt in 1701. Paper, cotton, silk, linen and hemp are manufactured. The travertine which forms round the springs of the Sarno was used even at Pompeii as building material. Before its incorporation with the domains of the crown of Naples Sarno gave its name to a countship held in succession by the Orsini, Cappola, Suttavilla and Colonna families.



ARRIVEDERCI !

St Matthew

ITIS "E. Fermi", Sarno, Italy

Teacher: Giovanni Monticolo

St Matthew is the old little village of Sarno, in the South of Italy. It dates back as far as the XIth century. There is an old legend about St Matthew: One day a Knight and a pretty girl were in love. But the girl's father did not want her to marry him. So the knight decided to live alone on the side of the hill, called Saretto. So he built a little house there.

On the top of the hill there are the ruins of the old castle of Sarno. About three hundred metres below the castle there is a narrow street that skirts a long and winding row of coloured, old houses.

This street starts from Piazza Garibaldi. Actually, the street for about one hundred metres is a staircase.

Going up the staircase on the left there is the old Aragonese tower. It is built in grey stones that carry the signs of the time. It is a cylindrical tower and on the top there are battlements. As you go up you can see a lot of houses and gardens full of tangerine trees and you can hear dogs barking behind coloured gates.

When you arrive on the top, the staircase becomes a narrow, stone street. On the right you can see the whole valley with the river Sarno and far away the volcano, Vesuvius.

On the left you can see the old doors of the houses and the wall with some sporadic vegetation.

On the short parapet that closes the street on the right, there are a lot of rosemary, mint, basil plants and you can smell all these fragrances as you walk along the street.

Going along the street you arrive in front of the old church of St Matthew, with its red walls and orange tower bell. It is a parallelepiped tower and on the four sides of it there is a clock with long, black hands. Every hour it strikes the time. The church has got large, big windows that overlook on the valley.

The street becomes a dark, moist gallery that passes under the church. In the gallery you can see some pictures and crosses. The crosses can be seen in every angle of the street. On the Holy Friday there is a suggestive procession with people wearing red caps and mantles and carrying round a cross to remember the sacrifice of Jesus.

When you pass over the gallery the street turns in a staircase again and following it you arrive in one of the old streets of Sarno with its shops, traffic and people going round.

CLASS 2 A

ITIS " E. FERMI" SARNO