



So here we are in Vail Colorado on 8/8/2026 with 250 people mostly from Cincinnati Ohio celebrating the wedding of Carly Stagge and Will Mercurio.

Carly's ancestry was well known to me from previous research. But I knew very little about the Mercurio family. The prayer at the reception was given by Kay and Ray Mazza, and Kay said let's prayer for the souls of the faithfully departed of the Mazza and Stagge and Mercurio and Liggett families, **as we stand on the shoulders of the ancestors.**

That prayer sparked a thought that there may some kind of connection between these two families in the ancestral records. I already knew all about the Battaglia and Demma families on Carly's side and how they came from Termini Imerese in 1890 and how they were all fruit dealers. And I remembered seeing a picture a long time ago about the Mercurio family being fruit dealers, especially in Richmond Indiana.

So, it was time to do some quick ancestry work on Will Mercurio's side. No one knew of this historical connection until the breakfast on the day after the wedding.

Kay and Ray Mazza's prayer: "Standing on the Shoulders"

In August 2026, family and friends gathered high in the Colorado mountains for the wedding of Carly Stagge and Will Mercurio. Nearly 250 people came to celebrate, many traveling from Cincinnati.

During the prayer at the reception, Kay Mazza remembered "the souls of the faithfully departed of the Mazza and Stagge and Mercurio and Liggett families," adding that ***we stand on the shoulders of the ancestors.***

None of us knew quite how literally those words applied.

Carly was descended from the Battaglia family. Knowing that Will's surname, Mercurio, sounded Sicilian, a little family-history searching began.

And there, in the census records of 1900, was an extraordinary coincidence.

The Battaglia ancestors had come from **Termini Imerese, Sicily**, around **1890** and settled in **Covington, Kentucky**. Three Battaglia brothers were living together there in 1900. Each gave his occupation simply as **fruit dealer**.

Across the Ohio River in Cincinnati lived **Mariano Mercurio and his family**. They, too, had come from **Termini Imerese** around **1890**. Mariano's occupation?

Fruit vendor.

Whether the Battaglias and Mercurios actually knew one another remains to be discovered. But they came from the same Sicilian town, crossed the Atlantic during the same great migration, settled within a few miles of one another, and made their livelihoods in the same trade.

More than a century later, their descendants met again—not beside the Mediterranean and not along the Ohio River, but high in the Rocky Mountains.

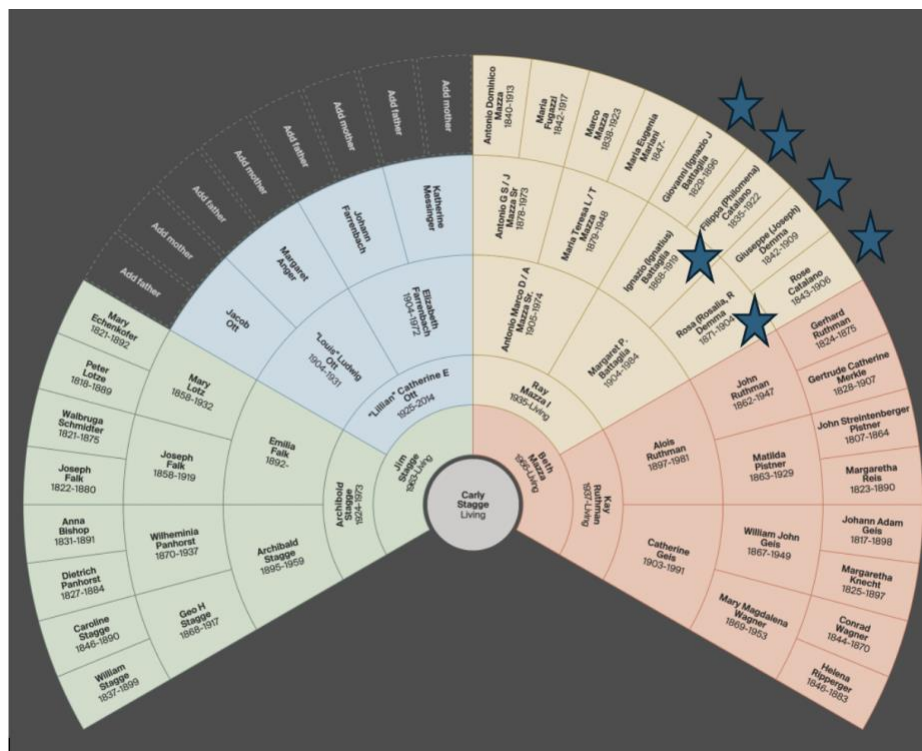
And on the night those descendants married, someone unknowingly spoke the words that connected the entire story:

We stand on the shoulders of the ancestors.

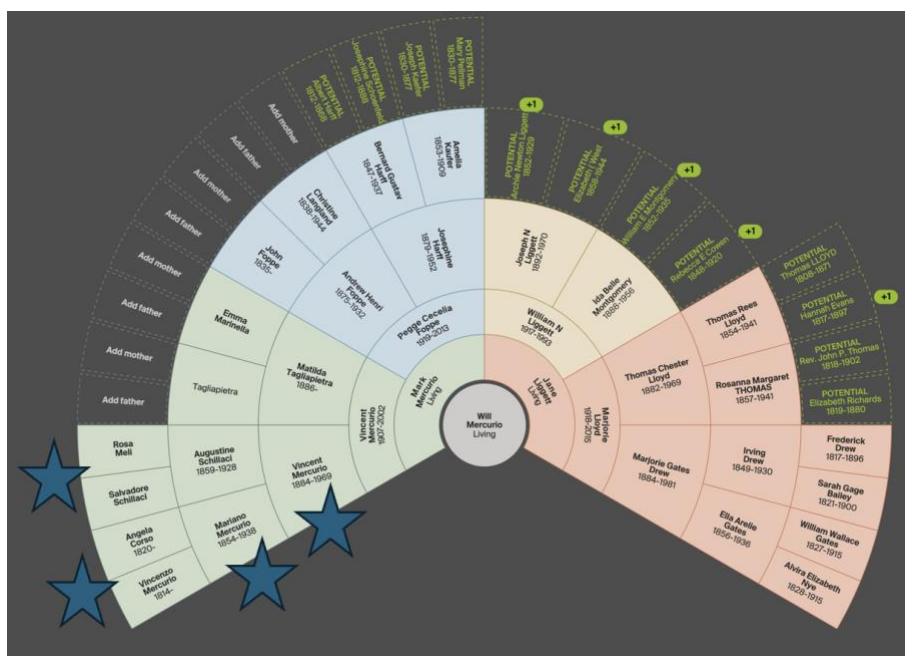
I think **that** is the story—not merely a genealogical coincidence, but one of those rare occasions when family history suddenly becomes visible in the present.

And the timing is extraordinary: **you discovered it at the wedding itself**, rather than months afterward while researching a family tree. That makes the Vail weekend part of the family history now, too.

Carly's ancestor from Termini Imerese



Will's ancestors from Termini Imerese



Both Battaglia and Mercurio families arrived in 1890 and became fruit peddlers starting with horse drawn wagons. And then in 1910-1915 timeframe, they both had fruit trucks with the family names displayed on the trucks.



delivering bananas to Richmond for the first time!
No one in Richmond had seen a banana before!



Mariano Mercurio

Requiem High Mass for Mariano Mercurio, 2350 Symmes street, will be intoned at 8 a. m. Wednesday at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Italian Church, Walnut Hills. He died Sunday night at St. Francis Hospital after an illness of two years. He was 83.

Mr. Mercurio, who had been retired since 1927, operated a fruit store at Fifth and Mill streets and later on Vine street near McMicken street. Surviving him are a daughter, Mrs. Joseph Arbino; four sons, Vincent, August, Frank and Joseph Mercurio; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The 1910 Census shows Mariano Mercurio moving to Cincinnati in 1890. Mariano was a fruit vendor and his son Vincent was a tailor.

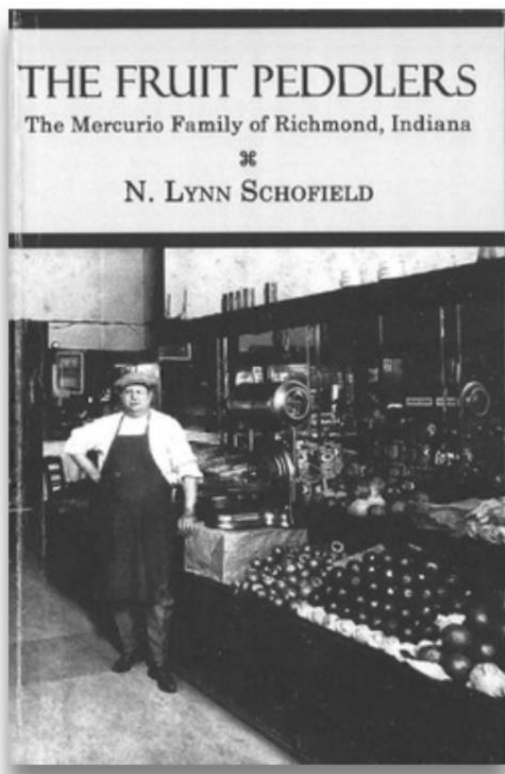
TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES. 250 A

State Ohio } SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION. { Supervisor's District No. 1 Sheet No. 9
County Hamilton } { Enumeration District No. 147 }
Township or other division of county _____ Name of Institution, _____
Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, Cincinnati City Ward of city, 18th
Enumerated by me on the 12th day of June, 1900, John M. Endress, Enumerator. 6939

LOCATION.		NAME of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Exclude every person living on June 1, 1900, other children born since June 1, 1900.	RELATION.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.				NATIVITY.			CITIZENSHIP.	OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION. of each person TEN YEARS of age and over.	EDUCATION.			OWNERSHIP OF HOME.			
IN CITY.	IN RURAL DISTRICT.			DATE OF BIRTH.	AGE.	SEX.	Color or race.	Place of birth of this Person.	Place of birth of Father of this Person.	Place of birth of Mother of this Person.			Years in United States.	Years in this State.	Years in this County.	Years in this Township.	Years in this City.	Years in this Ward.	Years in this Block.
446		Burns Spahr E. Rimmer	Wm	Oct. 1866	33	M	White	Ohio	Virginia	Pennsylvania		Machinist	0	Yes	Yes				
447		Mayer Frank E. Rimmer	Wm	June 1894	5	M	White	Ohio	Germany	Germany		Pressman	0	Yes	Yes				
448		Mercurio Mariano	Head	Wm	Sept 1824	75	M	White	Italy	Italy	Italy	1840	Fruit Vendor	0	No	No	R	H	
449		Angeline	Wife	W F	Sept 1819	80	F	White	Italy	Italy	Italy	1840		2	No	No			
450		Vincent	Son	Wm	Nov 1873	26	M	White	Italy	Italy	Italy	1890	Tailor	2	No	No			
451		August	Son	Wm	Mar 1876	24	M	White	Italy	Italy	Italy	1890	Fruit Vendor	0	No	No			
452		Frank	Son	Wm	Apr 1879	21	M	White	Italy	Italy	Italy	1890	At school	10	No	No			
453		Joseph	Son	Wm	Sept 1873	26	M	White	Ohio	Italy	Italy	1890	At school	10	No	No			
454		Angeline	Daughter	W F	Mar 1877	23	F	White	Ohio	Italy	Italy	1890		10	No	No			
455		Concetta	Daughter	W F	Mar 1900	0	F	White	Ohio	Italy	Italy	1890							

It is not proven yet that the Mercurio brothers in Richmond Indiana were directly related, but they also came from Termini in 1890 but settled in Richmond Indiana. Frank and his brothers Luigi and Calogero were all fruit dealers in Richmond. Below is a book written about these 3 brothers.

Mercaniv Frank	Head	Wm	May 1858	42	M	10	Italy	Italy	Italy	1890	10	Ma	Fruit Dealer	0
Palma	Wife	W F	July 1868	31	F	10	Italy	Italy	Italy	1890	10			
Phillip	Son	Wm	May 1872	28	M	10	Indiana	Italy	Italy				at school	
Mumie	Daughter	W F	Oct 1874	25	F	10	Indiana	Italy	Italy					
Louise	Daughter	W F	Sept 1877	22	F	10	Indiana	Italy	Italy					



1930. Matt Mercurio's Fruit Store.

1032 East Main Street - which later became the Blue Note restaurant.

G R A P E F R U I T	Bananas, 5 lbs. 25c		B A L D W I N A P P L E S	
	Florida Oranges			
	TEXAS Pink Meat Grape- fruit Large Size 2 for 25c	29c Dozen		Head Lettuce 10c Head
	Strawberries, 65c qt.			
6 F O R 25c	New Peas 20c Lb.	Winesap Apples Fine Eating or Cooking 4 lbs. 25c	Stringless BEANS 15c Lb.	6 Lbs. 25c
	MATT MERCURIO'S FRUIT STORE			
	1032 MAIN ST.			
We Deliver			Phone 5216	

A view of Termini from about 1890





CLICK ON THIS LINK BELOW TO VIEW 3 DIFFERENT VIEWS OF THE SAME STREET IN TERMINI IMERESE, AND A STORY ABOUT THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC THAT IMPACTED THIS TOWN AT ABOUT THE TIME THE BATTAGLIA AND DEMMA AND MERCURIO FAMILIES LEFT SICILY IN 1890.

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