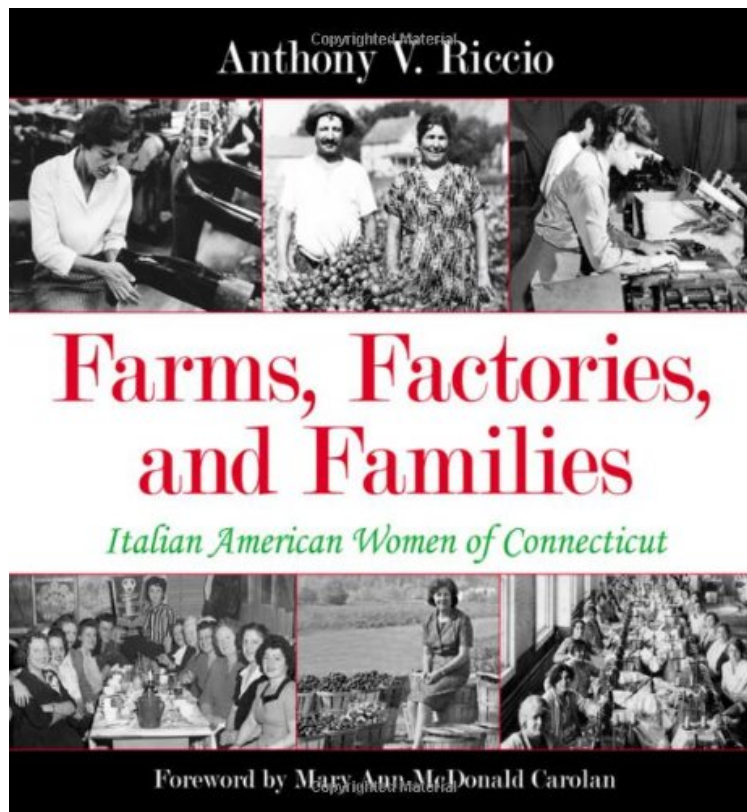


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Farms, Factories, and Families: Italian American Women of Connecticut

Anthony V. Riccio

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Anthony V. Riccio : Farms, Factories, and Families: Italian American Women of Connecticut before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Farms, Factories, and Families: Italian American Women of Connecticut:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For Mother's Day, I sent this book to my ...By Deborah RussoFor Mother's Day, I sent this book to my mom who grew up in this area and has since moved out of state. She called me to say how excited she was to read about all the names and places of her youth. It brought back many fond memories. Thanks0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love all the stories and find them very interestingBy KathrynI am enjoying this read. Love all the stories and find them very interesting. Thank you to the author Anthony Riccio for his research in accumulating all these stories. Kathryn0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Important workBy Susan DeGennaroFascinating, caring and well researched look at our Italian American women and their work in Connecticut. This is an often ignored subject and it brought back many memories of my family!

Often treated as background figures throughout their history, Italian women of the lower and working classes have always struggled and toiled alongside men, and this did not change following emigration to America. Through

numerous oral history narratives, *Farms, Factories, and Families* documents the rich history of Italian American working women in Connecticut. As farming women, they could keep up with any man. As entrepreneurs, they started successful businesses. They joined men on production lines in Connecticut's factories and sweatshops, and through the strength of the neighborhood networks they created, they played a crucial role in union organizing. Empowered as foreladies, union officials, and shop stewards, they saved money for future generations of Italian American women to attend college and achieve dreams they themselves could never realize. The book opens with the voices of elderly Italian American women, who reconstruct daily life in Italy's southern regions at the turn of the twentieth century. Raised to be caretakers and nurturers of families, these women lived by the culturally claustrophobic dictates of a patriarchal society that offered them few choices. The storytellers of *Farms, Factories, and Families* reveal the trajectories of immigrant women who arrived in Connecticut with more than dowries in their steam trunks: the ability to face adversity with quiet inner strength, the stamina to work tirelessly from dawn to dusk, the skill to manage the family economy, and adherence to moral principles rooted in the southern Italian code of behavior. Second- and third-generation Italian American women who attended college and achieved professional careers on the wings of their Italian-born mothers and grandmothers have not forgotten their legacy, and though Italian American immigrant women lived by a script they did not write, *Farms, Factories, and Families* gives them the opportunity to tell their own stories, in their own words.

Anthony Riccio's collection of women's oral histories is an extremely valuable addition to the growing literature regarding Italian American women's lives. The detail in which these women speak about their work lives as charcoal burners, clay kneaders, cheese makers, union organizers one had her ribs broken adds a much needed dimension to an understanding of Italian American women. This volume is filled with thoughtful reflections ranging from Mussolini to issues of social justice. Riccio has unleashed from these women dramatic and sometimes harrowing stories never before heard, or perhaps even imagined. Carol Bonomo Albright, Executive Editor of "Italian Americana" and coeditor of "American Woman, Italian Style: Italian-Americana's Best Writings on Women" What comes more naturally to the elderly but to reminisce? Riccio helps us eavesdrop on the first-person oral narratives of some of our earliest immigrants. We are grateful to him. Luisa Del Giudice, editor of "Oral History, Oral Culture, and Italian Americans" I have long awaited a book like this: a history of Italian American women, in which they themselves are the narrators of their own lives. We hear from women without formal education; women who were workers, migrants, and mothers; women whose stories were often not valued enough to enter into the historical record, much less the archives. This beautifully conceived history is both a testament and a tribute to all working-class and im/migrant families and communities. Jennifer Guglielmo, author of "Living the Revolution: Italian Women's Resistance and Radicalism in New York City, 1880-1945" "A fascinating study of a group of people largely ignored. "San Francisco Book " We forget sometimes how physically beautiful a large hardback book can be, yet the orally based "Farms, Factories, and Families: Italian American Women of Connecticut" reminds us that a lovely coffee table book can be richly historical as well and deeply moving at the same time. With gorgeous black-and-white photography throughout the text, this narrative is not only thoroughly researched and finely written by Anthony V. Riccio it is actually quite accessible. "Act Two Magazine" Anthony Riccio's collection of women's oral histories is an extremely valuable addition to the growing literature regarding Italian American women's lives. The detail in which these women speak about their work lives as charcoal burners, clay kneaders, cheese makers, union organizers one had her ribs broken adds a much needed dimension to an understanding of Italian American women. This volume is filled with thoughtful reflections ranging from Mussolini to issues of social justice. Riccio has unleashed from these women dramatic and sometimes harrowing stories never before heard, or perhaps even imagined. Carol Bonomo Albright, Executive Editor of "Italian Americana" and coeditor of "American Woman, Italian Style: Italian-Americana's Best Writings on Women" What comes more naturally to the elderly but to reminisce? Riccio helps us eavesdrop on the first-person oral narratives of some of our earliest immigrants. We are grateful to him. Luisa Del Giudice, editor of "Oral History, Oral Culture, and Italian Americans" I have long awaited a book like this: a history of Italian American women, in which they themselves are the narrators of their own lives. We hear from women without formal education; women who were workers, migrants, and mothers; women whose stories were often not valued enough to enter into the historical record, much less the archives. This beautifully conceived history is both a testament and a tribute to all working-class and im/migrant families and communities. Jennifer Guglielmo, author of "Living the Revolution: Italian Women's Resistance and Radicalism in New York City, 1880-1945" Riccio has made an invaluable contribution to the Italian American woman's narrative. The women he interviewed speak in their own voices, unfiltered by the bias that too commonly has marginalized women in history. It is the type of research that dismantles stereotypes and gives women a more visible place in our social order. It is a study that will serve as a resource for broader works about the role of Italian American women throughout the US. "L'Italo-Americano" Riccio's book is attractively presented, deceptively so, and could easily be mistaken for a coffee-table book. But for the historian these interviews are a valuable primary source. "H-Net's (H-SAWH)" [a] welcome contribution to Connecticut history shelves. "Midwest Book " A fascinating study of a group of people largely ignored. "San Francisco Book " We forget sometimes how physically

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