

Spanish Revolution

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In 1892 George Stamaty left Greece at 16 years old. He went to Spain to work in a carriage factory. He was from a Stavrosian family. George wanted to see other things in his life. He met Angelina Sengos and married in 1902. Life was simple and by all accounts they were happy. By 1930 they had a daughter named Liliana Sengos, (last names by Spanish tradition). Liliana worked in a cigar factory where she met Andrew Castro and they married in 1923. Liliana had a baby boy in 1928 and named him Tony Sengos.

Eight years later in 1936 the Spanish Revolution broke out, erupting all over Spain. They called it the Workers' Social Revolt. There was no in-between, you were left or right. This was a brutal revolt and for the next four years it was life and death for both sides.

Andrew with wife Liliana were trying to save their family from the Revolt. Their plan was to make it over the Spanish Pyrenees mountains into France. Andrew took all of them to Barcelona, where they met up with other refugees trying to escape the war. It was a very difficult journey. The older ones were slow which kept everyone on edge for fear of capture. No matter who might have caught you, it wouldn't end well for you. Out in the open they walked over the mountain in hard rain. It was so very cold. With little food they climbed on for 31 days.

The caravan of exhausted, aching and starving people arrived in France at the town of Saint Jean - Pied - de - port on February 1938. From France they made their way to Italy. Here Andrew Castro with wife Liliana Sengos Castro worked as farm labor with George Stamaty, 62 years old, still working right along with Andrew. Angelina, now 54 years old would watch Tony, 10 years old, so the family could work and earn enough money for passage to America. Life had been hard along the way. It wasn't any easier in Italy. Once they had saved the money it became another problem getting away from the Fascist regime. The negotiation to leave Italy took weeks and most of their money.

It wasn't until 1941 that the family was able to leave Italy for America. The ocean crossing was a perilous journey with rough waters and German submarines prowling the shipping lanes. Every day aboard ship was as harrowing as the day before.

They reached the New York coastline in August 1941. Once the family had been processed through on Refugee Status they entered New York, tired, hungry, yet full of wonder. George met two S.G.L. men at the incoming gate. They told him he had been expected. It's one of the Stavrosian ways of things. The family was moved to southern Ohio then into West Virginia. The family bloodline still lives in these areas. Old registrations have the blood line living in or around the areas known as, Gallia county

and Lawrence county in Ohio. Others in Mason county, Putnam County and Cable County West Virginia.

There have not been any new registered entries since 1950 making it difficult to cross match names without in-person interviews. What we know is that George Stamaty died in 1971, age 95. His wife Angelina died in 1956, age 72. Andrew died in 1979, age 78. Tony Sengos died in 2010, age 82. Tony had children (whereabouts unknown).

Although their family may not celebrate First Life, they are remembered by the known families in stories passed on.

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<http://stavrosianalienancestry.com/stavrosianarchives.html>