

A better life

By Christian Clarke

"Can you imagine how scary that must have been?"

These were the words my grandma said while I interviewed her on how our family came to America. My name is Christian and I had the privilege of interviewing a family member about how our family immigrated. My grandma was not the one who arrived, it was her grandma but she knew a lot because they kept records of what happened. This should be pretty accurate.

The reason they fled to America was because things were bad in Italy. "They heard about America and how good it is, and how life was good here. I think things in Italy were not, it wasn't that good. You got to work really hard, and it was a poor country." Things in Italy were really not good, they were struggling and they had heard that things in America were a lot better than where they were living. They decided to come to America.

At first my grandma's grandpa just came to see what it was like in America. Then he sent my grandma's grandma and uncle. Their names were Noni Pina and ren. As my grandma stated "My grandfather, His name was Lorenzo. Lorenzo traveled first by himself to America to see what it was like before he sent for my grandmother and my uncle, ren. My uncle was only, i think , three years old." That can tell you a little more on how it was pretty difficult traveling here.

Finally, I must conclude with a pretty wild fact about how they traveled here. I will let my grandma explain this. "My grandma, Noni Pina, she came with her little boy, Uncle Ren Renzo, by herself, traveled all the way by herself. Did not speak any English, spoke only Italian, and she was by herself with a little boy. So can you imagine how scary that must have been" This just really shows how scary it was for traveling families to get to places. They had to come through Ellis island and it took them a while to get through. One thing that is wild is that she didn't know how to speak any English. She didn't know any that really shows how hard it was for her.

I must thank my grandma for letting me interview her. It was nice being able to understand how my ancestors' history was and how much harder it was back then to move to a different country. It will forever make me so confused how families got through to America with knowing very little about this place or even nothing.