

Joseph and Frances Golla
Joseph Golla married Frances Gience about 1878 or 1879

My name is August. I am the youngest of the family of eight children, four boys and four girls. I will try and relate what my parents told me, where they were born and experiences they had after arriving in America.

My parents were born in Europe, place called Essens, which is now a part of Germany. Father was born Dec. 25, 1858, died July , 1934. Mother was born April 18, 1852, died Nov. 27, 1927.

As I remember being told that Mother's Mother died when she was quite young, sometime later Grandfather remarried. Mother and father were married in 1878 or 1879.

Along in 1880, Father heard what a good place America was, so what possessions they had, Father sold, took half and left the other half for Mother. With what money Father had, it was only enough for his passage to America. He landed in Baltimore and near Baltimore he found work on a truck farm.

After Father left for America, Mother went to live with her Father and Step-mother. In the meantime Rose was born in 1880, Father had been gone for nearly a year and Mother did not hear from Father. (I might mention here that neither Mother or Father had schooling. Where they were born, only the rich or well to do received any education.) Mother said her Step Mother did not make things very pleasant, saying that her husband was in America having a good time and that she would not see him again. Mothers love and faith for Father was never diminished however and finally she went to talk with the parish priest asking for advice. She told him she had just enough money for her passage to America, and she knew from what port Father sailed from and where he would have landed.

She started with Rose who was just a few months old and landed in Baltimore with no money or place to go, or where Father was. She was sitting in the terminal there, hungry, with no food for herself or for Rose when a very kind lady saw her plight and came to her. It so happened this lady could speak German and this lady told Mother to stay put and she would go and get some milk for Rose and food for Mother. This lady operated a truck farm not too far from Baltimore and told Mother she could come with her, earn her keep and be paid a little. Just how long Mother stayed there I do not remember being told. There were several truck farms in that vicinity and it so happened that Father was working on a farm not too far from where Mother was, neither knowing how close they were for some time. One day Father had his foreman write a letter to Mother. They both went to the Post Office to mail the letter to Mother in Europe, and the Postman said it was funny that a truck farmer not too far distant said a lady by that name was working there. Father said it was not possible to be his wife as she was still in Europe. The postman had a different idea and contacted the truck farmer where Mother was working and sure enough this is how they got back together in America.

Next, where were they to go. Both truck farmers know they had dependable workers and in the end it was decided that the wife should go with her husband. Mother and Father stayed and worked on the farm for several years but Father did not want to continue being a farm hand.

Father learned that men were being hired in Oil City, Pa. to work on the railroad. To Oil City Mother and Father went. I do not remember how long they stayed, but from Oil City they were sent to Dents Run, Pa. to work on the Allegheny Valley RR which was later to be known as the Low Grade Branch of the Penn RR.

Mother and Father moved to Dents Run, Pa. late in 1885. They lived there until early 1890. Next they moved to Penfield, Pa. where they bought a home. Father continued to work on the railroad. He won the admiration of the Supervisor and was made Section foreman and sent to Caledonia, Pa. in 1900.

Below I am listing members of the Golla family, when they were born, where and when they die

Rose	born	1880 in Essen, Germany	died	1940
Frank	born	1882 in Baltimore, Md.	died May 1	1914
Joseph	born Jan 13	1886 in Dents Run, Pa	died Aug 26,	1975
Helen	born Dec. 25	1888 in Dents Run, Pa.	died may 6,	1968
Veronica	born May 20	1891 in Penfield, Pa.	died Jan 9,	1973
Katie	born May 20	1891 in Penfield, Pa.	died	1935
John	born Mar 17	1893 in Penfield, Pa.	died Oct 28	1950
August	born Feb 9	1895 in Penfield, Pa.	died April	1986

After we moved from Penfield to Caledonia Frank enlisted in the army and was stationed in New York City for three years.

This will be mostly from my observation since we moved from Penfield to Caledonia. We lived just across the track from the station, there was a lady station agent, as I remember her name was Miss Young. I must have spent much of my time at the station, I thought she was very nice person. After a few years she got married and Joseph got the job as agent until the station closed.

Not much excitement the next few years. Along about 1906 or 1907 uncle John that's father's brother from Alpena, Mich came for a visit, that was the first time they saw each other since leaving Europe, they had quite a reunion. It was then that we learned of uncle Jacob who lived in Omaha, Neb. and Aunt she lived in Detroit, Mich. Shortly after that father went to Detroit to visit Aunt. Along about 1918 or 1919 father, Joe and I went to Omaha, Neb to visit uncle Jacob this was a real reunion after about 40 years. As near as I know father had only the two brothers and one sister.

Mother had a half sister Pauline, she lived in Tyler, Pa we visited there quite often, another sister lived in St. Louis, Mo. I visited her along about 1914, we corresponded with each other for a while, as I was away from home working I kind of slipped writing. Along during the latter part of 1915 I was working in Franklin, Pa. Martin Mamel (he was aunt's husband) came to Penfield saying that aunt died, he stayed only a few days so I did not see him.

During the time we lived in Caledonia one year father was awarded first prize for having the best kept track, Joseph also was awarded the prize for two different years, I think the prize was \$50.00 each year. Father understood track work very much, under his guidance Frank, Joseph and John were made section foremen as well as other labors were made foremen.

Mother and Father were very much devoted to each other, Father was very stern, when we were told to do something we did it without being told the second time. Mother was very kind and understanding. No doubt you will think that I being the baby in the family I received more favors, I admit I did some, but as I remember we were all treated equal. Since growing up I feel that my sisters and brothers kind of held me up as something special.

As far back as I can remember every evening before bed time, Father got his prayer book, we all knelt around the kitchen table and recited the Litany of the Saints, then Mother led us saying the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be to --, Mother always added the following: "Oh Lord protect us from war, Fire and water", this was repeated three times. I might add here, Saturday was a day the house had to be cleaned up, clothes and shoes cleaned for church Sunday, no unnecessary work to be done Sunday. Since there was no church in Caledonia we went by train to Force, after church services Veronica, Katie, John and I walked back home which was about three miles. Mother and Father came back on the afternoon train.

Rose married Joseph Shivia April 26, 1896.

Children Mary born Feb. 10, 1897, Frances born Feb. 10, 1900

Mary married Percy Dixon Mar. 13, 1917, children Helen born Dec. 16, 1917, Max born July 29, 1919, Robert born Jan. 17, 1921.

Frances born Feb. 10, 1900, married Donald Dixon Jun 23, 1921, children Bernadine born Oct. 31, 1923, Jack born Mar. 16, 1926.

Katherine born Mar. 16, 1910

Josephine born Aug. 13, 1912, married Roy Danner Aug. 4, 1934, Children James born Nov. 29, 1942.

Maxine born Aug. 5, 1912, married Puschar, children Mickey. "Separated" Maxine married Lowell Laeson, children Jeffrey born Aug. 13, 1958, Beth Apr. 1, 1960.

Frank married Emma Weidenboerner Feb. 12, 1908, one son Francis died age 9.

Joseph married Elizabeth Regulski Oct. 29, 1908, children Leona born Aug. 3, 1909 married Harold Schelinberger, children Donald, Karen & Mark.

Mary born Jun. 29, 1912, married Joseph Morasco, children, John, Thomas, & Patricia.

Helen born May 2, 1915, married John Cuba, children William, Barbra & Brynda.

Thresa born June 4, 1917, died June 9, 1932.

Joseph born Oct. 16, 1919 married Patricia Horner, children Catherine & Coleen.

Anna Margaret born Jul. 29, 1925, married Marino Meme, children Karen & Susan.

Paul born Apr. 11, 1930, married Jennie Laboo, children Sandra Ann.

Helen married Joseph Orsi May 4, 1904. Mr. Orsi died Aug. 9, 1913.

Children Joanna born Feb. 5, 1905, married Simon Gurneau Nov. 17, 1941. One daughter Jeanne.

Frances born Dec. 7, 1906, married John Batts Nov. 14, 1927, Son Richard born Sept. 3, 1928.

Richard Batts married Rita Gorton Mar. 19, 1967, they adopted a girl Mary born Feb. 11, 1967 and a boy born Aug. 2, 1965, Mr. Batts died.--

Frances Orsi Batts married Conrad Mass Aug. 17, 1935. Mr. Mass died ____?

Mary Magdaline born May 5, 1908, married Claude Healy Jan. 28, 1925, children Roy Fredrick born Nov. 2, 1925, Elizabeth Louise born Nov. 18, 1927, Roy married Rita Frank Jun. 14, 1952.

Roy and Rita adopted a boy Michael David born Oct. 30, 1962, and Roy and Rita adopted a boy Daniel Joseph born Mar. 24, 1965.

Elizabeth Louise, married Charles Mitche Ja. 25, 1947, children David born Jul. 16, 1948,

Paula Mae born Aug. 2, 1951, Loretta Ann born Aug. 10, 1954.

Veronica Orsi born Mar. 20, 1912, married Alfred Mitcheltree Aug. 6, 1930, children Patricia born Apr. 28, 1932, Paul born Jul. 7, 1936, Theodore Nov. 22, 1938, William born Feb. 8, 1943, John born Aug. 11, 1946, Dennis born Aug. 14, 1947, Alan born Mar. 18, 1949.

Helen Golla Orsi married John R. Hawk Feb. 16, 1919. (Mr. Hawk died 8/28/57). Children Paul born July 24, 1920, married Helen Glossner, children Thomas born Sept 30, 1942, John born Aug 26, 1946, Ann Louise born Apr. 23, 1952, Robert born Apr 6, 1954, Richard born June 24, 1955, Kenneth born Spet 9, 1960.

Helen Amanda Hawk born April 9, 1922, married Albert (Bert) Metz 12/24/41, children Carol Jeanne born May 14, 1943, Nancy Lee born Nov. 17, 1944, Diane Claire born April 7, 1948, Steven Boyd born Aug. 21, 1951, died May 13, 1967, Linda Kathleen born July 11, 1952, Pamela Joy born June 1, 1955.

Grace Elizabeth Hawk born Oct. 7, 1925, married Chester Bullera Jan. 26, 1945, children Cheryl Ann born April 4, 1946, James Ross born Sept 25, 1947, Theodore Paul born Aug. 31, 1952, Gerald Duane born Aug. 30, 1953, Danna Leslie born Aug. 5, 1955, Cheryl married James Rettger May 1, 1965, their children Leah Lynn born Feb 3, 1966, Kathy Marie born Jan. 9, 1967, Christene Louise born Mar. 12, 1969.

-Katie Golla married Martin Lesneski, children Martin, Dorothy, Anne, John, Frank, David, and Joseph.

-Veronica Golla married George Stojek May 7, 1919, children Joseph born Nov. 27, 1922, married Regina Madison May 5, 1952, children Perry born Jul. 26, 1953, Terry born Sep. 16, 1955 Susan born Jan. 6, 1956. Albert born Apr. 22, 1925, married Frances Pape, children Ronald born May 5, 1950, Thomas born Jan. 24, 1954, Cindy born July 9, 1957, Timothy born Jan. 20, 1958.

Edward born May 19, 1925, married Rose Cekovsky, children Gerry born Feb 27, 1957, Debby born June 25, 1954

Frances born Mar. 22, 1920, married William Kovach Jul. 18, 1948, children Vallery born Oct. 12, 1947, Michael born Jul. 13, 1948, William born Oct. __, 1948, Dennis born Feb. 28, 1953.

- John Golla married Victoria Majchrzak May 15, 1916, children Edward born May 16, 1917, Lillian born Oct. 30, 1920, Leo born Sept. 25, 1923, Gerald born Apr. 13, 1926, Lois born Mar 21, 1931, Donna born Jun. 24, 1935.

- August Golla married Anne Kilzen June 23, 1920, children Ralph born Jun. 18, 1921, Ralph married Kay Burton Feb 3, 1950, children Susan born Dec. 5, 1950, Marsha born Apr 2, 1952, August born Jun. 5, 1956. Louise born Apr. 3, 1926 married Eugene Hickey Aug 6, 1949, children Patty born Mar. 15, 1955, Colleen born Mar. 18, 1956, Anne born Feb. 28, 1959, Eugene Jr. Born June 28, 1961.

Father, Frank, Joseph and John worked on the maintenance Department and were Section Foremen with a combined total of 155 years of service. August, that's me, I worked in the station Department for a little over 48 years, this making a total of 203 years on the Pennsylvania Railroad.