

MY IMPRESSIONS OF BERNALDA WHILE EXPLORING MY ROOTS:
FIFTH TRIP (2016)

L.F. Dell'Osso

Unlike the first two trips, where, I wrote down daily notes, on this trip (like the 2008 and 2016 trips) the following is based on Charlene's and my recollections.

Tuesday to Wednesday, August 2-3, 2016: Cleveland-Atlanta-Rome-Bari-Bernalda

After parking our car at the Cleveland airport, we flew to Atlanta, where we had our shortest (1 hour) layover before boarding the flight to Rome. We made the connection with ease but, from there things went very bad. After taxiing onto the runway, we had to return to the gate due to a generator failure. Delta assured us that a replacement plane was available and we would soon be on our way. They kept assuring us of that for the next 5.5 hours when, after boarding, we waited again while the baggage was loaded (more on that later). After finally taking off, we were assured that, since we would miss our connecting flight to Lamezzia Terme, we would be rebooked on the next available flight. Although we would miss our lunch date with Angela Dell'Osso and her family, we would still be able to pick up our rental car and drive to Bernalda in time for our dinner with Angelo Dell'Osso and family. However in Rome we were told that we would have to wait until after 9pm for a flight to Lamezzia Terme which would not get us there in time for our rental car or the 2.5 hour drive to Bernalda. We had to rebook to Bari, which is closer to Bernalda and for which there was an earlier flight; we were assured that our bags would be on the flight to Bari. In Bari, we found out that our 2 bags were not on the flight and needed to be located and flown to Bari and then delivered to our hotel in Bernalda. In Bari, the Hertz rental desk would not honor our booked rental car since it was for Lamezzia Terme. We had to rent a car at 3 times the price at another company. We did, however, manage to drive to Bernalda in time for our dinner with Angelo.

We had a great dinner with Angelo, his wife, and son at the Masseria Cardillo restaurant. Unfortunately, we did not have any clothes except for those we wore on the trip. It would be 3 days before Charlene's bag arrived but mine never did arrive; I had only my original clothing for the next nine days, despite being told repeatedly that it was being located and would be delivered soon.

Thursday - Monday, August 4-8, 2016: Bernalda

We spent the next 5 days enjoying ourselves in Bernalda and visiting Craco (the abandoned city) and Pisticci. On Thursday, we spent time with our good friend, Antonio Salfi, his wife, Lia, and my cousin, Guido, whom I first met on my 1992 trip to Bernalda). On Friday, we drove to the abandoned "ghost town" of Craco and toured the ruins; we had lunch in Pisticci. We enjoyed Bernalda on Saturday and on Sunday, after meeting with Don Mariano, we toured Via Antica (Strada Dell'Osso) where we met Cosimo D'Elia, the librarian who had helped us so many years ago. He took it upon himself to drive us around and arranged a visit into the 400-year-old, one-block-long Palazzo Dell'Osso, my first visit into my ancestral home. The families who now live in the renovated northern 1/3 of the palazzo kindly allowed us to visit and see the central portion that had not been renovated. This was the first and largest palazzo in the area and

was the first to have an underground sewage system leading down hill away from the palazzo. The Dell'Osso family built it in the early 1600's and built smaller houses along the whole street. Various members of the extended Dell'Osso family lived in and retained ownership of those homes until the 1900's, when they were sold to other families. On Monday, I placed a copy of the whole Dell'Osso family tree on Cosimo D'Elia's computer in the Commune. Later that afternoon, we were visited by Angelo Tataranno, whom we had met on earlier trips. I showed him my work on the Dell'Osso family tree. Each night we had great dinners at a different one of our four favorite Bernalda restaurants.

Tuesday, August 9, 2016: Bernalda-Lamezzia Terme

On Tuesday morning, we drove to *Lamezzia Terme* and, after checking at the airport for my missing baggage, which did not arrive as promised, found our way to the Bram Hotel, where we checked in. We had a large dinner and relaxed.

Wednesday, August 10, 2016: Lamezzia Terme

We met with Angela Dell'Osso and her father, Franco at our hotel. We exchanged gifts and I showed them my research on the San Lucido branch of the Dell'Osso family. It is uncertain which branch (Bernalda or San Lucido) they belong to. We relaxed the rest of the day and had dinner in Mary's Pub.

Thursday, August 11, 2016: Lamezzia Terme-Rome-Atlanta-Cleveland

Uneventful flights and Charlene's bag arrived with us in Cleveland late in the night. I was told my bag had been located in Rome, would be flown on Friday to JFK in New York and then to Cleveland to be delivered to me on Saturday.