Italian emigration to America
One of my grandfather’s brothers went to America.

This picture was sent by my ancestor. It was taken in Brooklyn.
Ellis Island
The gateway to America

The first steps on U.S. soil were taken in a place that has now become a legend: Ellis Island

Isle of Hope, Isle of Tears.
The immigrants were taken to Ellis Island for legal and medical inspection.

Failure to pass the legal and medical inspection would lead to separation from family and deportation back to Italy.
LYRICS
"The New Ground - Isle Of Hope, Isle Of Tears"

On The First Day On January,
Eighteen Ninety-Two,
They Opened Ellis Island And They Let
The People Through.
And The First To Cross The Threshold
Of That Isle Of Hope And Tears,
Was Annie Moore From Ireland
Who Was All Of Fifteen Years.

[Chorus:]
Isle Of Hope, Isle Of Tears,
Isle Of Freedom, Isle Of Fears,
But It's Not The Isle You Left Behind.
That Isle Of Hunger, Isle Of Pain,
Isle You'll Never See Again
But The Isle Of Home Is Always On Your Mind.

In A Little Bag She Carried
All Her Past And History,
And Her Dreams For The Future
In The Land Of Liberty.
And Courage Is The Passport
When Your Old World Disappears
But There's No Future In The Past
When You're Fifteen Years

[Chorus]

When They Closed Down Ellis Island
In Nineteen Fourty-Three,
Seventeen Million People
Had Come There For Sanctuary.
And In Springtime When I Came Here
And I Stepped Onto It's Piers,
I Thought Of How It Must Have Been
When You're Fifteen Years.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HPQJEqWHAM
The Italian emigrants who passed the test of Ellis Island scattered all over the New York region. The greatest concentration of all was in Manhattan.

Mulberry Street - Little Italy, Manhattan in the first years of the twentieth century and nowdays
Prejudice and discrimination followed the Italian emigration to America.

Father, yes, I am a prisoner
Fear not to relay my crime
The crime is loving the forsaken
Only silence is shame
And now I'll tell you what's against us
An art that's lived for centuries
Go through the years and you will find
What's blackened all of history
Against us is the law
With its immensity of strength and power
Against us is the law
Police know how to make a man
A guilty or an innocent
Against us is the power of police
The shameless lies that men have told
Will ever more be paid in gold
Against us is the power of the gold
Against us is racial hatred
And the simple fact that we are poor
My father dear, I am a prisoner
Don't be ashamed to tell my crime
The crime of love and brotherhood
And only silence is shame
With me I have my love, my innocence
The workers and the poor
For all of this I'm safe and strong
And hope is mine
Rebellion, revolution don't need dollars
They need this instead
Imagination, suffering, light and love
And care for every human being
You never steal, you never kill
You are a part of hope and life
The revolution goes from man to man
And heart to heart
And I sense when I look at the stars
That we are children of life, death is small

Song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMDZGQGeK6A

The ballad of Sacco and Vanzetti
Now Italians are the fifth ethnic group in terms of size, and one in ten Americans has Italian ancestry.