

# MOROSINI'S RELATIVES LIVED A LIFE OF POVERTY

## Aged Sister-in-law of Dead New York Banker Tells of His Wooings and His Sorrows--Story of Child of Mystery--Morosini's Son Now Living at Riverdale Home of the Family

NEW YORK, Sept. 18.—While people were busy speculating yesterday where the millions of Giovanni P. Morosini, the late multi-millionaire banker, were to go, the American learned of the existence of a sister-in-law of Morosini, who only yesterday noon had to borrow 5 cents with which to purchase a loaf of bread.

This woman is Mrs. Amelia Basquin, formerly Amelia Chausse, sister of the late Mr. Morosini and a widow for 39 years. She lives in a tenement house at 110 and 112 West 125th street and 113rd avenue. Her only place of abode is in a dark hall bedroom, but, without the aid of the will of the late banker, she expressed the opinion to an American reporter that she would like to live in some place that was always kind to her, she said, referring to Mr. Morosini, and I know that I and my only living sister, Mrs. Mary Morosini, sister of the late Mr. Morosini, will receive something. Until four years ago Mr. Morosini sent me checks for each month, and sometimes it would be more. He also sent my sister money, but not so much, as she was not a widow and had no children.

Asked if she would contest the will should she be left out, the old lady quietly answered: "I would not. Neither I nor my sister would fight in court. We are too proud for that. The brother-in-law of my mother was Benjamin DeLille, and he was grand constable at court in Montreal in 1846. We come from good people, and I am proud to go to court. I have remembered us; we know he has."

**Tells of Morosini's Wooing.**

It was interesting to hear the sister-in-law of the dead banker talk of his

early days of poverty, and tell how her sister first met him. "I was married then," said Mrs. Basquin, "and I was working in the family of Mrs. Ada Middleton, in Staten Island. My sister was a handsome girl, and she used to come to call on me. Giovanni had a cottage nearby, in which he kept bachelor apartments. One day my father and sister Giulia took my father to a nearby saloon to get a drink, and there it was that Morosini first came into our lives. The three men were walking back together, and Giulia met them at the gate. My husband introduced her to Giovanni and they promptly fell in love. Giovanni was only starting in those days, but his rise was rapid after he got in with Gould.

"My mother died some 20 years ago in our home at One Hundred and Seventeenth street and Third avenue. About two years before my sister died, my mother said to me, 'Amelia, our Giulia leads a sorry life; her husband gives her everything, but he doesn't allow her to see her. She is really like a prisoner.'"

Mrs. Basquin said that she was with Mr. Morosini when her first three children were born, but that it was 20 years after her third child was born before she saw her again, and that was two years before Mrs. Morosini's death. "We were given to understand," she said, "that her husband did not want women callers, and that this meant Giulia's relatives.

"Gould and Plaks and such men were his constant visitors, but not Giulia's relatives. I never knew she was ill, or dying, until I heard she was dead; then I went to the funeral, and when I saw there young Giulia shook hands with me. She's a sweet girl. After the funeral they took me back as far as the



veranda, gave me a lot of flowers, and took me on down to the depot. This was always the way it was during Giulia's entire life with Giovanni."

**Tells of "Child of Mystery."**

Mrs. Basquin knew the history of the "child of mystery," Amelia, who, she says, was named after her. She said that Amelia was not weak minded, but that she was horribly bitten by a pet dog when the family lived at Yonkers. Amelia was then about 12 years of age. She was playing with the dog one day when it suddenly sank its teeth in her face, tearing it terribly.

"Her father feared hydrophobia," said Mrs. Basquin, "and hurried her to Paris, where she was among the first to receive the Pasteur treatment. Babies could not be restored. I never saw her plate again, and she was always heavily veiled, even in the house. Once or twice

Morosini was always good about giving her money, until four years ago, when he stopped sending her money. She ought to contribute toward her support."

Then the woman told a pathetic tale: One day, two years ago, her son went away and she has never heard from him since. She lives constantly with the hope that he will either come back to her or send word of his whereabouts. Tears trickled down her face when she thought of him, and she snatched up a faded tinseltype, which she held lovingly as she talked.

In relating her experience at the funeral of her sister, Mrs. Basquin said it was a sad funeral, sadder than most, for the deceased was a young girl, and the banished ones, and Amelia, who was never allowed in public.

Mrs. Basquin claims relationship with Cranes, the dry pie manufacturer in St. Louis. She says that Frank Ernest Cranes, son of the president of the dry pie company, was once in New York, and was here to see me this week on the way to Shreveport, La. She said she gave me a little money and told me not to worry. They said they would take the matter up with the Morosinis, and they would get some money, but she is at Riverdale now, and will remain for the funeral. No, I'm not going to attend the funeral, but I will travel, you see. I am 78 years of age."

The old woman said that the banker

had been kind to his wife's relatives in his early days, but that his wife's father, mother, and several of her brothers and sisters—there was a family of seven, and the family name was Chausse.

The American secured a letter, written by Mrs. Langlois, the sister who lives in Montreal, and was written on January 20, 1907. In it the writer complains bitterly of not having received money from the Morosinis, and she asks young Giulia to ask, "What do you think of Giulia Morosini?" The writer then writes: "I think it is a shame of her not to think of us. She will die like us."

This letter was written to people who are acquainted with both sides. The one who received it here requested that her name be not used in connection with the story. For this reason it is not published. The letter, however, was brought up with the elder Chausse, and informed an American reporter that the Morosinis had been in New York a little child he used to carry her in his arms.

Giovanni, the son who bears the father's name, has figured very little in the stories, which have been published from time to time about the family. For some years he was in New York, and was away from home, but what he did, or where he lived, it has been impossible to find out. It is, however, known that he has been living at the Riverdale home with the family.

## THE JOKER By J. A. Tiffany

AM working for St. Philip's hospital. Won't you take a chance on a nice sofa cushion, that I made myself—Mr. Vaughan?"

"With pleasure—Miss Handson."

"Miss Handson?"

"Mr. Vaughan?"

"Oh, well—you know!"

"I know—what?"

"Oh, nothing!"

"Precisely! I am glad you have gauged the extent of my knowledge so exactly."

"I did not mean that."

"No?"

"Certainly not."

"How long have we known each other?"

"I was 10 years old before I knew you, therefore, I must have known you since the day you were born. You can't be more than twenty."

"Fifty, but not more than fifty. You are only five years older than I, Cedric."

"Ah! Cedric! That's better. Why the formality of Mr. Vaughan?"

"To avoid the familiarity of Cedric, when one is begging. I don't like to presume upon old friendship for this kind of thing, you know."

"You don't know me well enough, or trust me sufficiently. That is untrue, and not very kind."

"Then—"

"Don't know. Will you take a chance, Cedric—dear boy?"

"How many are there, Ettie—dear girl?"

"One hundred—one cent to a dollar—fifty dollars, all told. Isn't that rather steep for a sofa cushion, Cedric?"

"But look at the end in view, Cedric."

"I am looking rather at the means to the end, Cedric—the money?"

"No—the instrument."

"Your humble servant?"

"Yes, but I have a pride that spurs humility. But I have always considered you too proud to ape anything."

"Think you, Cedric. Will you take a chance—please?"

"I was just thinking."

"Are you so poor or are you temporarily unemployed?"

"I am not rich, and I am very much embarrassed, at present—though not financially. I was just thinking of giving you take a long chance—at much higher stakes—were it offered me."

"On what, pray?"

"On this hospital, Cedric. I saw a sack of them for sale this morning in Jackson's window."

"As my lord wills."

"You are a practical, Cedric."

"Who could be otherwise, with such an issue at stake?"

"Yes, it is a heavy stake, I suppose—in your line. Don't you repent your rashness, Cedric?"

"One, two, three, four, five, six, seven—"

"What are you doing with that handkerchief, sir?"

"Fifteen, fifteen—merely wiping my hand, Cedric—twenty-three, twenty-four—they are somewhat moist."

"Well, put that handkerchief in your pocket. One moment—fifty-one, two, three. There! Fifty-three cards. I absolve you from all suspicion of cheating."

"How will you draw, Cedric?"

"Please deal out the cards, face downwards, until you say 'Stop.'"

"As you will! One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen—"

"Stop."

"Are you a member of the Thirteen Club, Cedric?"

"No, thank you."

"I am afraid my answers might not be ingenious or truthful."

"I don't believe you would tell a lie to save your life."

"Too proud?"

"Exactly."

"Thank you."

"So you are very much interested in it, Cedric?"

"I believe I did."

"You give time, money and even health, in this way, many people must be invited to take chances."

"Not necessarily."

"Oh, I see! You want to take all the chances yourself?"

"I certainly don't want anybody to have a chance."

"With a difference."

"Not easily perceptible."

"I speak of taking a long chance."

"I mean very reasonable. What is your idea?"

"Well, nothing very definite. I was just thinking of taking a long chance that would give you an opportunity of proving your devotion to St. Philip's and of doing something substantial in the way of charity. I should not care to take a third person into my confidence."

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