**ITALIAN GENEALOGY 101**

**By Sandra Trapp – March 26, 2019**

**RECORD KEEPING**

**1564 – Council of Trent decrees that each church will keep records of baptisms, marriages and**

**burials for their location.**

**1806 – 1815 – Napoleon divides mainland Italy into regions and provinces and requires civil registration for**

**mainland Italy.**

**1815-1866 – Civil registration ceases for many sections. Most of southern Italy from Napoli and Campania down to Calabria and Puglia and the Toscana and Abruzzo regions continues.**

**1839 - Ducato di Savoia.** **This area in Piemonte began keeping records again.**

**1809 – present – Civil registration available for mainland part of Kingdom of Two Sicilies**

**1820 - Civil registration starts in Sicily and continues to the present time.**

**1860-1870 – Modern-day Italy is unified and becomes a nation in 1870. Rome is the capital.**

**1866 to present – Civil registration either continues or starts again in most of present-day Italy.**

**1871 – Rome, Venice and surrounding communities begin civil registration again.**

**Toscana region uses 1805-1865 extracted church records to create civil records.**

**Trentino-Alto Adige/South Tyrol – priests took over the civil registration.**

**SOME BOOKS FOR ITALIAN RESEARCH**

**A Genealogist’s Guide to Discovering Your Italian Ancestors by Lynn Nelson**

**Italian Genealogical Records by Trafford R. Cole**

**Our Italian Surnames by Joseph Fucilla**

**Finding Italian Roots: The Complete Guide for Americans by John Colletta**

**Finding Your Italian Ancestors by Suzanne Russo Adams**

**Locations of Chicago Roman Catholic Churches 1850-1990 by Jack Bochar**

**SOME TERMS FOR ITALIAN RESEARCH**

**Regioni – Governmental division similar to states**

**Provincia – Governmental division similar to counties**

**Commune - Towns or cities**

**Ufficio di Stato Civile - Town record office**

**Frazioni - Hamlets or neighborhoods - Also, Quartieri – sections of usually a large city**

**Tribunale – Similar to county clerk’s office – Second copy of records sent to this office until 2000**

**Procurra della Repubblica – Similar to county clerk’s office – Holds 2nd copy of records from 2000 to present**

**Archivio di stato - State archives – Located in capital city of each province. Receives 2nd copy after 75 years.**

**Atto di Nascita - Civil birth record. Pre-reunification Atto di Nascita includes baptismal record.**

**Notificazioni or Pubblicazioni di matrimonio - Marriage banns and marriage record.**

**Atto di Solenne Promessa di Matrimonio – Pre-reunification registration of marriage prior to wedding.**

**Includes parish marriage record and list of required documents. Usually found in southern Italy.**

**Atti di matrimonio – Post unification civilian marriage record.**

**Processetti or Allegati - Required matrimonial papers, e.g., banns; birth records; death records of deceased**

**parents and/or deceased paternal grandfather; deaths records of deceased spouses; proof of no**

**opposition to marriage.**

**Atto di Morte - Death record.**

**Atti diversi or Atti Vari - Various documents**

**SOME U. S. RESOURCES TO FIND WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE**

**A = Ancestry Library Edition FS = FamilySearch.org HQ = HeritageQuest**

**Query relatives**

**Family resources**

**Census Records – A/FS/HQ**

**Death Certificates – A/FS**

**Obituaries – FS/A**

**Cemetery Records - FS**

**Social Security Index – A/FS/HQ**

**Voter’s Registration – A**

**Naturalization Apps – A/FS/HQ**

**Passenger Lists - A/FS/HQ**

**Passport Applications – A/FS**

**USCIS Genealogy Project**

**Italian Records – FS/HQ/A**

**Mailing Lists**

**Church Records-A/FS**

**Cemeteries – A/FS**

**WWI & II Draft Reg. – A/FS**

**WWII Army Enlistment-A/FS**

**Birth records of children-A/FS**

**Message Boards - A**

**Compiled Genealogies-FS/HQ**

**Family Trees- A/FS**

**City Directories - A/HQ**

**SOME INTERNET SOURCES FOR RESEARCH**

**FamilySearch Italian record collection – https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/list?cqs=italy**

**LDS Italian Birth Record Guide –** [**https://tinyurl.com/SampleBirth**](https://tinyurl.com/SampleBirth)

**FamilySearch Research Wiki –** [**https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main\_Page**](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page)

**FamilySearch On-Line Courses –** [**https://familysearch.org/**](https://familysearch.org/) **> Help > Learning Center**

**FamilySearch Catalog -** [**https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/search**](https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/search)

**Locate a LDS Family History Center –** [**https://familysearch.org/locations/centerlocator**](https://familysearch.org/locations/centerlocator)

**Casa Italia – Italian Cultural Center –** [**http://casaitaliachicago.net**](http://casaitaliachicago.net)

**Casa Italia, Roselli Library Catalog –** [**http://www.librarything.com/catalog/ItalCulturalCenter**](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/ItalCulturalCenter)

**Town/commune locator –** [**http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~itappcnc/pipcntown.htm**](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~itappcnc/pipcntown.htm)

**Links to towns in Italy –** [**http://www.comuni-italiani.it/**](http://www.comuni-italiani.it/)

**Italian Gazetteer –** [**http://www.fallingrain.com/world/IT/**](http://www.fallingrain.com/world/IT/)

**Italian Regioni Map –** [**http://www.mapsofworld.com/italy/italy-county-map.html**](http://www.mapsofworld.com/italy/italy-county-map.html)

**Maps of Italy –** [**http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/italy.html**](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/italy.html)

**Italian State Archives web sites –** [**https://www.italyheritage.com/genealogy/archives/**](https://www.italyheritage.com/genealogy/archives/)

**Tribunali locator –** [**http://www.tribunali.it/**](http://www.tribunali.it/)

**Catholic Parish locator for Italy –** [**http://www.chiesacattolica.it/**](http://www.chiesacattolica.it/)

**Antenati -** [**http://www.antenati.san.beniculturali.it/?lang=en**](http://www.antenati.san.beniculturali.it/?lang=en) **– Registry and name database**

**Nuovo dizionario dei comuni e frazioni di comune : con le circoscrizioni amministrative (New dictionary of communities and hamlets of communities with their administrative jurisdictions):**

[**https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=njp.32101063571861;view=1up;seq=7**](https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=njp.32101063571861;view=1up;seq=7)

**Catholic parish locator for Italy –** [**http://www.parrocchie.it/**](http://www.parrocchie.it/)

**Italian Letter Writing Guide –** [**https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Italy\_Letter\_Writing\_Guide**](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Italy_Letter_Writing_Guide)

**Cyndislist for Italy –** [**http://www.cyndislist.com/italy/**](http://www.cyndislist.com/italy/)

**Cohen’s Genealogy Site at RootsWeb – scroll down the page to links for FamilySearch collections and other independent sites -** [**http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~thecohens/genealogy/birthindexes-italy.html#sic**](http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~thecohens/genealogy/birthindexes-italy.html#sic)

**Information on municipalities, regions, provinces in Italy -** [**http://www.comuni-italiani.it/**](http://www.comuni-italiani.it/)

**Requesting a Social Security Application -** [**https://secure.ssa.gov/apps9/eFOIA-FEWeb/internet/main.jsp**](https://secure.ssa.gov/apps9/eFOIA-FEWeb/internet/main.jsp)

**Cook County Court Archives –** [**http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/**](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/) **Select Archives> Archives Dept.**

**US National Archives & Regional Locations –** [**http://www.archives.gov/locations/**](http://www.archives.gov/locations/)

**Steve Morse Helps -** [**https://stevemorse.org/**](https://stevemorse.org/)

**Canadian Ports –** [**http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/passenger/index-e.html**](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/passenger/index-e.html)

**Ellis Island –** [**http://www.ellisisland.org/**](http://www.ellisisland.org/)

**Castle Garden –** [**http://castlegarden.org/**](http://castlegarden.org/)

**Boston Passenger Lists 1848-1891 –** [**http://tinyurl.com/BostonPassLists**](http://tinyurl.com/BostonPassLists)

**Immigrants Ships Transcribers’ Guide –** [**http://immigrantships.net/**](http://immigrantships.net/)

**BYU Immigrant Ancestors Project –** [**http://immigrants.byu.edu**](http://immigrants.byu.edu)

**National Archives’ Immigration Databases –** [**http://aad.archives.gov/aad/**](http://aad.archives.gov/aad/)

**Italian Immigrants to United States –** [**http://www.italianimmigrants.org/**](http://www.italianimmigrants.org/)**id49.htm**

**USCIS Genealogy Program –** [**https://www.uscis.gov/genealogy**](https://www.uscis.gov/genealogy)

**NARA’s WWII Army Enlistments –** [**http://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-list.jsp?cat=WR26**](http://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-list.jsp?cat=WR26)

**Surname searches –** [**http://italia.indettaglio.it/eng/cognomi/cognomi.html**](http://italia.indettaglio.it/eng/cognomi/cognomi.html)

**Italian White Pages –** [**http://www.paginebianche.it/index\_en.html**](http://www.paginebianche.it/index_en.html)

**Italian White Pages –** [**http://www.infobel.com/it/italy/**](http://www.infobel.com/it/italy/)

**English Equivalents of Foreign Given Names –** [**http://tinyurl.com/ForeignNames**](http://tinyurl.com/ForeignNames)

**Chicagoancestors.org –** [**http://chicagoancestors.org/**](http://chicagoancestors.org/)

**Findagrave –** [**http://www.findagrave.com/**](http://www.findagrave.com/)

**Billiongraves.com –** [**http://billiongraves.com/**](http://billiongraves.com/)

**Cemetery Records –** [**http://www.interment.net/us/index.htm**](http://www.interment.net/us/index.htm)

**Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Cemeteries –** [**http://www.catholiccemeterieschicago.org/Resources/Kiosks**](http://www.catholiccemeterieschicago.org/Resources/Kiosks)

**Newberry Library Newspaper Inventory** - [**https://www.newberry.org/sites/default/files/researchguide-attachments/Newspapers.pdf**](https://www.newberry.org/sites/default/files/researchguide-attachments/Newspapers.pdf)

**Mailing Lists –** [**http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/listindexes**](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/listindexes)

**Message Boards –** [**http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com**](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com)

**Fold3.com – Available at LDS Family History Centers – Has U.S. military records and city directories**

**Free genealogical research forms –** [**http://www.familytreemagazine.com/freeforms**](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/freeforms)

**Italian to English Glossary –** [**http://www.roangelo.net/vocabula.html**](http://www.roangelo.net/vocabula.html)

**Google Translator –** [**http://translate.google.com/**](http://translate.google.com/)

**International Currency Express –** [**http://foreignmoney.com/**](http://foreignmoney.com/)

**SOME INTERNET RESOURCES FOR ITALIAN CIVIL REGISTRATION**

**Cyndislist -** [**https://www.cyndislist.com/italy/bmd/**](https://www.cyndislist.com/italy/bmd/)

**Termini Imerese Genealogy –** [**http://termini-imerese.org**](http://termini-imerese.org) **– Fee**

**Calabrian Exchange –** [**http://www.calabriaexchange.com/home.html**](http://www.calabriaexchange.com/home.html) **Records for Calabria & other locations**

**Sersale, Calabria Extractions –** [**http://sersale.org/vital.htm**](http://sersale.org/vital.htm)

**Web sites with links for multiple locations:**

[**http://www.sersale.org/comunes.htm**](http://www.sersale.org/comunes.htm)

[**https://www.surnamesinitaly.com/index.html**](https://www.surnamesinitaly.com/index.html)

[**http://www.cosenzaexchange.com/comune.html**](http://www.cosenzaexchange.com/comune.html)

**Polizzi Generosa and Isnella, Palermo Extractions –** [**http://polizzigenerosaisnellogenealogy.blogspot.com/**](http://polizzigenerosaisnellogenealogy.blogspot.com/)

**Italy Gen Web –** [**https://www.worldgenweb.net/italy/**](https://www.worldgenweb.net/italy/)

**Laurenzana, Potenza Civil Registration –** [**https://www.laurenzanesi.org**](https://www.laurenzanesi.org)

**Moliterno, Potenza Civil Registration –** [**http://www.moliternesi.org/**](http://www.moliternesi.org/)

**Archives and Registration -** [**http://www.antenati.san.beniculturali.it/?lang=en**](http://www.antenati.san.beniculturali.it/?lang=en)