ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL GROUP

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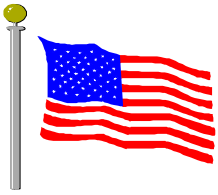
Presidents' Message



Cari Amici,

The month of November has two themes: remembrance and thanksgiving. We as Italian Americans should be thankful to our ancestors who endured the long and arduous voyage across the Atlantic Ocean to America and we thank them for all their sacrifices which had an impact on future generations. We must also remember family members and ancestors who served in the military for America as well as for Italy. Let us also remember those key figures who contributed to our country, like Columbus, Vespucci (after whom our country was named), Verrazano, Vico, Paco, and many others.

All our family trees have a heroic lineage in one way or another. It is through our diligent efforts in research that these findings will be unearthed. It is by telling our stories that we give homage and thanks to our ancestors' lives. To assist our membership with their research, we have resources available to you at the meetings, on our website and in our newsletter. Take advantage of our manned stations at the computer center, translation desk, help desk, and beginning research class, or find help on our website by exploring the various databases, or discover tips on researching your family's lineage by reading our monthly newsletter.

Remember, we are who we are because of those that came before us. Let us give thanks.

Buon Ringraziamento e Sempre Avanti,

Mike Genovese and Marilyn Verna
Co-Presidents

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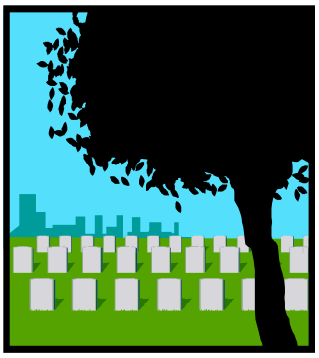
The Recordings Of A Cemetery

Thelma Greene Reagan



Today we walked where others walked
On a lonely, windswept hill;
Today we talked where others cried
For Loved Ones whose lives are stilled.
Today our hearts were touched
By graves of tiny babies;
Snatched from the arms of loving kin,
In the heartbreak of the ages.
Today we saw where the grandparents lay
In the last sleep of their time;
Lying under the trees and clouds -
Their beds kissed by the sun and wind.
Today we wondered about an unmarked spot;
Who lies beneath this hollowed ground?
Was it a babe, child, young or old?
No indication could be found.
Today we saw where Mom and Dad lay.
We had been here once before
On a day we'd all like to forget,
But will remember forever more.
Today we recorded for kith and kin
The graves of ancestors past;
To be preserved for generations hence,
A record we hope will last.
Cherish it, my friend; preserve it, my friend,
For stones sometimes crumble to dust
And generations of folks yet to come
Will be grateful for your trust.

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ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL GROUP

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Annual Membership: Individual $22 per year;
Family $27 per year; Outside U. S. Membership $27 per year

Newsletter is published 10 times a year.

Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month, Sept. to June at 10:30 AM

New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Joseph T. Gleason

At the October 14th meeting the guest speaker, was Joseph T. Gleason, Director of Educational, Archival and Administrative Services for the NYSPCC. Mr. Gleason, employing a series of overhead slides provided a comprehensive history of the Society. Mr. Gleason distributed copies of a "Request for Research of the Family Records Collection" form. Copies of the form are available.

Mr. Joseph T. Gleason

The first meeting of the NYSPCC was held on Thursday, April 29, 1875. From its first year of operation until the establishment of a state-wide central registry for reporting child maltreatment, the municipal police notified the SPCC of all cases involving children. A telegraph link was established between the NYSPCC and police headquarters.

The state attorney general and the county district attorney authorized the NYSPCC to act on their behalf in its court proceedings. In its first eight months of operation, the NYSPCC received and investigated several hundred complaints, prosecuted 68 criminal cases and rescued 72 children from abuse and neglect. So many harmful conditions existed that The Society realized new laws were needed and worked for their enactment. Almost the entire body of modern child protective legislation is rooted in laws advocated by the NYSPCC. Among the more notable of these initiatives were:

· acts requiring custodians to provide food, clothing, medical care and supervision, prohibiting child endangerment and regulating child employment (1876);

· acts prohibiting the sale of intoxicants to minors and mandating their separation from adults when arrested (1877);

· acts providing juvenile parole for those under 16, prohibiting children in saloons unless accompanied by a parent or guardian and prohibiting gun dealers from selling or giving weapons to minors (1884);

· acts prohibiting the employment of children in sweatshops and factories and limiting child employment to 60 hours a week (1886);

· acts regulating obscene material with respect to children (1887) and providing protections for messenger and telegraph boys (1888);

· acts prohibiting the sale of tobacco to minors and prohibiting them from living in drug dens and houses of prostitution (1889).

Among the challenges facing the NYSPCC was that of obtaining temporary shelter for the many lost, runaway and abandoned children and for the maltreated children who had to be removed from their homes for their own protection. When no one else assumed this burden, the NYSPCC undertook to do so. In April, 1880, The Society purchased a brownstone at 100 East 23 St. as both a headquarters and a temporary shelter, the first children's shelter in the city. In 1888, the adjoining house was added. Even this was not enough, so the NYSPCC constructed an eight storey building on the site, which it opened in April, 1893.

Although the investigation of maltreatment complaints provided an ever-increasing volume of work, it was not the only service provided. Among the many SPCC service initiatives undertaken in addition to the shelter were these:

· the enforcement of child entertainer laws and the processing of child performance applications, (1876-1978, 102 years);

· the daily transportation of sheltered

children to and from court appearances and their delivery to child-caring institutions, (70 years, 1878-1948);

· the investigation of children reported to the police as "missing persons" (70 years, 1880-1950);

· child support collection and enforcement for New York City (51 years, 1880-1931);

· the investigations of those seeking the return of their children from placement (49 years, 1887-1936);

· the investigation of petitions for voluntary child placement (23 years, 1880-1903);

· the inspection of infant boarding and foster homes (6 years, 1880-1886).

One of the more shocking abuses disclosed by the NYSPCC were those in what were called "baby farms", private nurseries and homes akin to modern unlicensed daycare facilities. Infants were found sleeping on bare floors, filthy, unattended and starving for milk and older children were warehoused in unsuitable quarters while unscrupulous operators profited from the fees and public appropriations.

Child labor was a problem addressed at the very first SPCC meeting. One notorious form of abuse was effectively terminated by the NYSPCC between 1879 and 1885, working with the U.S. Immigration Service and a foreign consulate. This was the infamous "padrone system", whereby desperate, well-intentioned families were duped into sending their children to America, to a sponsor of their own nationality who promised jobs, training and care for a time, after which the children were to be sent home. Instead, like "Oliver Twist", the children were brutalized and forced to beg, entertain or steal to support the padrone.

As the nineteenth century drew to a close, the radical concept of organized child protection had been accepted and replicated throughout the nation and the world. In New York City (Manhattan and the Bronx), the NYSPCC had investigated 130,000 complaints, aided 370,000 children, sheltered 84,000 of them at its own expense and prosecuted 50,000 cases at a conviction rate of 94%. Not only were new laws in place with a growing number of agencies to enforce them, there was also a growing recognition of society's responsibility for the protection of children.

To receive a free booklet outlining the history and accomplishments of The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children please e-mail your name and address to info@nyspcc.org . The booklet is also available as a PDF document which you may download and

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November 2006 Guest Speaker

June DeLalio

"The Road to Italian Genealogical Research" will be the topic of the November meeting. **Joanne Heffernan**, a long time IGG member, help session coordinator and contributor to the newsletter, will focus on doing your research in the records in this country for success in obtaining Italian documents. Her depth of knowledge in finding difficult information will be useful to all, beginners and pros. Somehow, no matter how long you have been researching your Italian family, there is always a resource you have either forgotten or just didn't know about that will bring you further on your research path.

Joanne, who must have started doing genealogy in her crib, says that she has been doing genealogy for almost a half century. Her background as a teacher along with the articles she has written, her lectures and her research in at least five different ethnic groups well qualifies her to answer all your questions on genealogy. That along with being the first daughter, of the first daughter of a first daughter has led to her addiction to genealogy. Come to learn and to ask questions.

Researching Italian Records For Beginners

William S. Gimello

Part II

The basic Italian records you will need to review in order to begin your genealogical research are the birth records (Atto Di Nascita), the birth/death record (Atti Di Nati Morte) which indicates a child was born and died within a few days with or without a name. The baptismal record is often listed on the birth record as Indicazione il Sacramento del Battesimo. The civil marriage record is listed as Atto Di Solenne Promessa Di Celebrare Il Matrimonio. The religious or Canonical marriage record is the Indicazione Della seguita celebrazione canonica del matrimonio. Death records are listed as Atto Di Morte, Atti Di Morte and Estratto del Atti di Morte. The titles of records listed above are from southern Italy and may vary slightly in other regions of Italy.

You could have two choices in obtaining these Italian Records. (1) You write a letter to your ancestor's town (comune) and ask for up to three records. It is customary to enclose a donation ($10-$15 per record) payable in Euro dollars through a bank draft which can be obtained from a US bank that issues foreign bank drafts. It is not unusual to wait 3 to 9 months for an answer. Sometimes you never receive an answer. Therefore, I suggest a second option if microfilms are available. (2.) Locate the nearest Family History Center in your immediate areas. These centers are usually listed in your telephone book under "libraries." Your local library or local genealogical society usually knows the nearest Family History Center. You can also call Utah 10800-453-3680 and ask for the address and phone number of the FHC closest to you. Before you drive to the FHC, I strongly suggest you call to obtain their library hours.

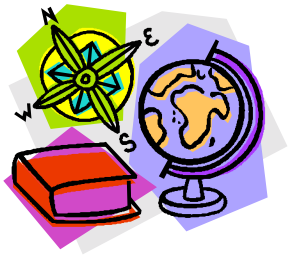
Once you arrive at the FHC you are now ready to begin your actual research of your Italian ancestors by ordering microfilm reels loaded with the names and dates of your ancestors from 1810-1895 with some records dating back to the early 1700's.

Birth Certificate of Angela Maria Ciammella 15, March, 1827.
Parents Saverio (di Pasquale) and Annantonia d'Emilio

Celebration of Marriage document of Michele Arcangelo Pasquale Ciammella and Mari Teresa Fanelli on 2 September, 1843

Profiles from the Four Corners

Michael S. Genovese



Isn't this the basic reason why most of us are interested in genealogy? We search for our roots to remember and give thanks to our ancestors. We are who we are because of those that paved the way before us. It is in this spirit of remembrance that we thank our members for sharing their stories with us and encourage others to do so.

Every once in awhile, we would like to bring to your attention the fact that our members come from "the four corners". Here is a sampling of recent members. These new members include: **Robert Priola** from Painesville, Ohio. His family surnames include Barba, Cani and Priola and his area of research focus on the commune of Castel-termini, the province of Agrigento, Sicily; **Theresa Gambone** from Morristown, PA who is researching family surnames of Bruni, Cione, DiBenedetto and Gambone from the commune of Montella, the province of Avellino, Campania; **Lynda Caira** from Floral Park, N.Y. who is researching family names of LaBruno and Terzi in the communes of Avellino and Torello dei Lombardi in the province of Avellino, Campania as well as Caira from the communes of L'Aquila in the province of the same in Abruzzo and Frosi-none in the province of the same in Lazio; **Bill Rella** from Hollywood, Florida who has family surnames of Rella and Cutrone with roots in Palo del Colle in Bari, Puglia, and family surnames of Fischetti and Sena with roots in Sant' Angelo dei Lomabardi in Avellino, Campania; **Lisa Poole** from Newark Valley, N.Y. with family surnames of Zolezzi, Rivanera, Costa with roots in Torriglia in Genova, Liguria as well as Bassi and Lovari with roots in Santo Stefano D'Aveto in the same province and region; **Ann Russo** from Hauppauge, N.Y. with family surnames of Valicenti and DeStefano with roots in the commune of Cersosimo (Potenza, Basilicata) and Avellino, Campania respectively; **Diana Incivilito** from Hemet, CA with a number of surnames that include Maltese, Mansicalco, Cusumano and DiLeo with roots in Sciacca (Agrigento, Sicily) and Fontanarosa (Russo) with roots in the commune of Militello (Catania, Sicily) and the surnames of Incivilito and Benvenuto (Bonvenuto) with roots in Francofonte/Sortino (Siracusa, Sicily); **Louise M. Fortuna** from Oxford, PA researching family surnames of Franchi, Longo, Carenti, Manfredi, Semprevivo, Talarico and Benecchi with roots in various communes ranging from Casalmaggiore (Cremona, Lombardia to Viadana (Mantova, Lombardia) to Caltanissetta , Sicily and San Marco Marchesato in Calabria; **Joan Romano** from Kew Gardens, N.Y. who is researching surnames of Brigante and DiStefano from Padula (Salerno, Campania) and last but not least, **Deborah Skoblick** from New Caney, Texas.

Tidbits: One of our members, **Carmela Iulianello** from Webster, N.Y. has passed away and her family wanted us to know that she appreci-ated her membership in IGG since 1998. Another member, **Vincent Contessa** hails from Knoxville, TN and recently renewed his membership for another two years and says, "I am glad to be part of the IGG and hope to be able to attend a future meeting. Thanks for all your efforts." **Louise Pomilla** from Pittsford, N.Y. featured in last month's profile story was very appreciative of her family's story as presented in our newsletter. She adds, "Many of my family are buried at Calvary and Cypress Hills Cemeteries. As a child I would accompany my mother to visit their graves. Now, as an elderly widow of a truly fine Italian man, I am trying to access information about their roots and find them quite elusive. Any input from the members about the surnames of Parziale, Melchione, Strumolo and Prezioso would be of interest. Peter J. Parziale, a NYC firefighter, was my soul mate and father to five children and now, 17 grandchildren. He died 25 years ago in Connecticut and facts are scarce." *(How appropri-ate is this request as we lovingly remember our deceased relatives in November as many of us commemorate All Soul's Day).*

Recently at the Festa Italiana event in NYC, members **Anthony DiBartolo, Dolores Frank** and **Anne Holland** along with their significant others joined me at our IGG booth on Friday and Saturday, October 27th and 28th. This was an event that showcased "everything Italian". We were invited to share information about our group and give workshops. We gladly accepted. **Anthony DiBartolo** gave an excellent workshop on Saturday afternoon and facilitated questions afterwards. Some celebrities who were at the event included Mary Ann Esposito, host and creator of the PBS show *Ciao Italia*, Angelo Saverino, actor, sports agent and author of *The Heart of the Order*, and Cristina Fontanelli, singer and performer of Italian music. I spent time with each, informing them about the mission of IGG and invited them to join our ranks. All were very interested in Italian genealogy. Plans were specifically made to interview Angelo Saverino as an honorary member in the near future. His conversation was filled with passion about his Italian family roots, traditions and values.

(You may send articles by mail or electronically in WORD format. Send articles by mail to Michael S. Genovese, IGG Membership Profiles, 50 Daisy Avenue, Floral Park, New York, 11001 or e-mail your story as a Word attachment to: mikegino@aol.com)

Estimating Effectively

Juliana Smith

Estimating. We do it all the time, sometimes without even realizing it. We may estimate how much money we'll need for groceries, how long it will take to reach a destination (add an hour during construction season!), or how much extra yard work we'll have to do to work off that piece of carrot cake we ate at last week's conference!

We do it with our family history too. Last week we touched briefly on using estimates in the article on targeted searches, and this week I thought it would be a good idea to take a closer look at some of the ways we can make effective use of estimates in our family history.

Estimated Dates

The first thing that comes to my mind when we mention estimates is dates. By analyzing the clues we have in various records, we can often estimate the dates of events for which we currently don't have a record. Perhaps the most common being the estimate of a date of birth, using an age found on a record created at a later date. But we can take our date estimates further, using information we have to estimate marriage, immigration, or death dates as well.

Using my infamous Kelly ancestors as an example, I have dates and places of birth from census and death records. I know Mary A. Kelly was born around 1815 in Ireland. The next sibling, Jane, was born 6 June 1819 in New York City. Using this information I can deduce that the Kellys arrived in New York sometime between 1815 and June 1819.

We may find our selves "guess-timating" that our ancestor died around the time that they disappear from city directories or census schedules, but this type of estimate should be treated with care. There are other possibilities that might explain their disappearance, such as moving out of town or moving in with children. In some cases their disappearance may coincide with a wife being listed as widowed, making the estimate a bit more certain.

Sometimes it's also possible to estimate a marriage date based on the birth of the oldest

child, but this too is an area where we need to tread carefully. There may have been previous births of children who died in infancy or very young, or the older children may have been from a previous marriage or even orphaned cousins brought into the home. If the mother passes away, the children from the first marriage would still have the same surname as any children from the latter marriage, and I have two cases in my family where the father died and the ancestor (or ancestress in one case) took on the name of the stepfather.

And of course, while we might like to think that our ancestors held to societal norms, we may find children being born out of wedlock or "prematurely."

Estimating Locations

At times, we may need to estimate where our ancestors lived or came from. We may use the backgrounds of family members, neighbors, or other associates as clues to determine our ancestors' origins. Some surnames may be associated with a particular area and it may be possible to determine origins by observing distribution patterns for the time period in which your ancestor lived there.

Keeping Track

One of the keys to using estimates effectively is keeping track. Whenever you enter an estimate, whether it is in a chronology or in your database, be sure to note it as such. Estimated dates are often labeled as "circa" or with its abbreviation, "ca." About, before, and after can also be used to qualify estimates.

In addition to noting them as estimates, it's also critical to make note of the records and information that led to the estimate. Once upon a time, I wasn't very diligent with noting sources and to this day I am still kicking myself. I can't tell you how many times I look at a date on a timeline or in some notes and wonder where the heck I came up with it! Now I make sure I make detailed notes, including all of the sources used to come up with the estimate.

Reassessing Estimates

Just as the estimate that guy gave you at the auto repair shop can be "off a bit," so can our research estimates. Sometimes when we're at one of those brick walls, it's a good idea to review any estimates we've made. How much of it is based on known information and how much is pure speculation? If you have conflicting records, which record is more reliable? Typically you would favor original records created closest to the event in question, with information provided by participants in the event.

While care needs to be taken, estimates can be extremely helpful in helping you zero in on the records you need to fill in the blanks on your family tree.

About the Author

Juliana Smith has been the editor of Ancestry.com newsletters for eight years and is author of The Ancestry Family Historian's Address Book. She has written for Ancestry Magazine and Genealogical Computing. Juliana can be reached by e-mail at: Juliana@Ancestry.com, but she regrets that her schedule does not allow her to assist with personal research.

Pisa– Duomo e Torre Pendente

Christmas Party

Don’t forget to purchase Annual Christmas Party tickets. The party, which takes the place of our regular December meeting, will again be held at Filomena’s Restaurant (Franklin Square, Long Island) on December 9. Call **Barbara Florio** (516-798-1023) to make arrangements. Come and celebrate with us!

World War II Citation Medal of Honor Sgt. John Basilone

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR to Sergeant John Basilone United States Marine Corps

Citation:

For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action against enemy Japanese forces, above and beyond the call of duty, while serving with the First Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division in the Lunga Area, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, on October 24th and 25th, 1942. While the enemy was hammering at the Marines' defensive positions, Sergeant Basilone, in charge of 2 sections of heavy machine guns, fought valiantly to check the savage and determined assault. In a fierce frontal attack with the Japanese blasting his guns with grenades and mortar fire, one of Sergeant. Basilone's sections, with its gun crews, was put out of action, leaving only 2 men able to carry on. Moving an extra gun into position, he placed it in action, then, under continual fire, repaired another and personally manned it, gallantly holding his line until replacements arrived. A little later, with ammunition critically low and the supply lines cut off, Sergeant Basilone, at great risk of his life and in the face of continued enemy attack, battled his way through hostile lines with urgently needed shells for his gunners, thereby contributing in large measure to the virtual annihilation of a Japanese regiment. His great personal valor and courageous initiative were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Sgt. Basilone was the only enlisted Marine in WWII to receive the Medal Of Honor, The Navy Cross and the Purple Heart. His story is available in both book and video format at: http://www.johnbasilone.com/SGT%20JOHN%20BASILONE%20FOUNDATION/WEBSITE/order_form.htm

Volunteer Awards Ceremony

At the October 14, general Membership meeting, **Barbara Florio** presented the winners of this years Italian Genealogical Group, Volunteer Awards.

Armand Tarantelli 2006 Volunteer of the year engraved plaques were presented to **Michael Genovese** and **Anthony DiMarino** for their volunteer service to the IGG.

Co-President Michael Genovese,
Armand Tarantelli Award Winner

Anthony DiMarino,
Armand Tarantelli Award Winner

My Top Five Organizational Problems

Juliana Szucs Smith

One of the biggest challenges faced by family historians is how to keep the growing collection of records, charts, and forms in order. I thought we'd address some of those problems in this week's newsletter. This is a topic that I feel qualified to discuss, since I have made pretty much every mistake possible in this area at one point or another.

1.) Cut Back the Forest of Family Trees

Over the years, I've used a variety of genealogical software programs. I experiment with many of them both for work purposes and for my own family history, and over the years, this has caused some problems. I would export data to program A, work a little, export it to program B, discover I didn't like program B and go back to A, etc.

Going back and forth a couple of times isn't particularly bad if you're careful. However, if you lose track, you end up with multiple databases with varying levels of information. (Been there, done that, took years to fix it.) This can also happen if you have information loaded on both your laptop and your desktop computer or perhaps a PDA.

For these reasons, I learned early on to stick to one program when it comes to entering data. Choose one computer and one program to be the main place you enter your information. If you want, you can export it to another program--perhaps one that has different charts or some other functionality that you like--but remember to be consistent in where you do all your data entry.

The same applies if you were to take your laptop or PDA with your genealogy loaded on it to a library. Use the program on that computer as a reference, but rather than entering the information directly into your database there, put it in an e-mail or save it to a file you can transfer to your "home base" computer and enter it there. It may seem simple enough to say, "Oh, I'll remember to export this file back to the home software." However, if you get sidetracked from your research for a time, it's easy to lose track and you risk losing information.

2.) Note Stages of Processing

When new information is found, there are several steps involved in processing that information. First, I do a little happy dance. Then once I've gotten that out of the way, I put the record in an archival plastic sleeve and I do a little analysis ensuring I have the correct individual or family and savor the new tidbits I've found. I ask myself, "Where can this lead me? Is there a next step?" Next steps should be noted immediately on a to-do list before they escape my brain.

Then I enter the new data and source information into my family history software (in the "home base" program of course). I also maintain timelines for each family I am researching, using a word processor. Significant information needs to be added to that as well.

Finally, I file the document in a binder for that person/family. Invariably, before I can get through those steps, life intervenes and the new find is set aside until I can get back to my research. The problem comes in when I haven't noted where I've left off and the paper morphs into a pile of records in a similar state. Now I have a tangled mess and a looming pile that appears more menacing than promising.

I've tried several elaborate coding schemes to keep track of the process--color coding with dots, initials, separate files, etc., only to find that the most successful is a simple one. I keep a pad of post-its on my desk and manila folders for each of my grandparents. Finds that don't make it through all the steps get a post-it note on the plastic sleeve telling me where I left off and stashed into the appropriate folder until I get a few minutes to file. No post-it means nothing was done with it. No more backtracking and trying to figure out where it stands. Ta-da!

3.) Saving Files and E-mails

My mother and I exchange a lot of information via e-mail. She has been researching since the early 70s and we still have many handwritten notes she has gathered over the years that we are slowly but surely transcribing into electronic formats to sort through. Trouble is, for a long time, I kept the e-mails in my e-mail program and my own transcriptions in word processing documents on my hard drive.

The e-mails ended up getting moved to archive folders where they were promptly forgotten, and when going back to assess and analyze my findings, I wasn't seeing the whole picture. Now I have my electronic files organized by surname and then given name, and the smaller files are given descriptive names (e.g., Millers in 1870 Census, NY, Kings).

E-mails are saved as text files and filed in the same manner. This ensures they won't disappear into the archives and be forgotten and as an added bonus, the e-mail header that gets saved with it gives the date of the e-mail--which brings me to my next point . . .

4.) Date Everything

We're all about dates in family history, but too often we focus on the dates in the records and not the dates that we discovered and processed the records. Why is this important? By dating the information you find and dating any added notes when you revisit the record, you create a kind of trail of breadcrumbs that will allow you to retrace your steps. Knowing what information you have and when you got it can help you greatly when a conflict necessitates a closer analysis of your research. What information was available to you when you came to a conclusion? Did you have all the facts when you first searched unsuccessfully for James Miller in the 1870 census? Did you have that address back then, or did you acquire it more recently--an address that perhaps could differentiate your James Miller from the other eight kazillion James Millers?

5) Letting It Go

As family historians, we are programmed to preserve our family history--but sometimes we can take that too far. How many photocopies do we really need of your ancestor's 1930 census record? Maybe instead of cluttering your files, you could share those extra copies with family members--perhaps a family member who might have information to share with you in exchange for your kindness? Go through and get rid of the papers you don't need. If you're not ready for this big step, at least put them in a "papers I don't need, but am not ready to dispose of just yet" file. (Yes, I have one too.)

Baby Steps

Organization is a constant process. As you grow your family tree, it changes shape and the shape of your filing system may need to be changed with it. Take small steps, and adapt to conquer the problems that arise and you'll soon find that you're more organized than you thought.

About the Author

Juliana Smith has been the editor of Ancestry.com newsletters for more than eight years and is author of The Ancestry Family Historian's Address Book. Juliana can be reached by e-mail at Juliana@Ancestry.com, but she regrets that her schedule does not allow her to assist with personal research.

Lisa M. Caputo Nowak (Captain, USN; NASA Astronaut, National Organization of Italian American Women honoree); The first Italian American Women in space with the launch of STS-121 to the International Space Station in July.

Italian Language Mass

Every Sunday at 8:30 AM there is a mass in Italian at St. Brigid's on Post Avenue in Westbury. At Advent, parishioners erect a Neapolitan style Presipio which remains displayed in the left transcept through New Years Day.

Take Old Country Road to Post Avenue north. The Church is on the right at Holy Rood Cemetery.

Future Meeting Dates for the Italian Genealogical Group

November 11, 2006 and January 13, 2007

All meetings start at 10:30 AM

No December Regular Meeting, Christmas Party December 9th.

Directions to the Bethpage Library, 50 Powell Ave, Bethpage, NY:

By Train: The Bethpage Library may be reached by taking the Long Island Railroad to the Bethpage Station. You can then walk east one block to Broadway, turn left, go (north) 3 blocks on Broadway; then (at the second traffic light) turn right on Powell Avenue; the Library is about 500 ft on your right.

By Car: Use the Southern State Parkway or the Long Island Expressway. If using the Southern State Parkway take exit 28A and go north on the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway (Route 135). If using the Long Island Expressway take Exit 44S and go south on the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway (Route 135). Exit Route 135 at the Powell Avenue Exit. Proceed in a westerly direction towards the village, about 3 blocks. There is ample parking across the street from the Library. Our meeting will be in the downstairs meeting room.