ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL GROUP

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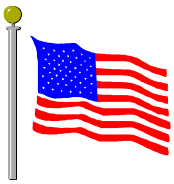
2011 IGG Scholarship Winners

Angela LaGiglia



As our research year draws to an end, so does the academic year. Thousands of potential family researchers, well-versed in computer research skills, will graduate from high school. Some of them have already taken steps to research their ancestry. This year, our Scholarship Committee reviewed forty-seven applications from high school seniors who are interested in family history. Our judges had a difficult time selecting a winner, as the applicants had worked diligently to produce well-documented four-generation family trees and had written essays that told interesting family stories.

Proceeds from our raffle, added to individual donations, funded three $500 scholarships in addition to the $1000 grand prize, and six Honorable Mention awards of $100 each. A $500 scholarship was donated by Sabina Battista Anselmo in memory of her parents, Josephine and Vito Battista, who were both educators.

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Accompanying her donation, Sabina wrote her parents' belief, "Education is the key." The truth of this statement is a testament to the personal sacrifices our ancestors made, and we continue to make, to provide our young people with the best education we can.

The IGG Scholarship Committee is proud to announce the following winners of the 2011 IGG Scholarship: Dominick Porcella, East Islip HS, $1000; Vincent DeSio, Southside HS, Alexa White, Riverhead HS and Danielle Valentino, Hicksville HS, ($500 each). Honorable Mention prizes went to Laurie Segreaves, Bethlehem HS; Jake Scavetta, Miller Place HS; Christina Barbera, Sachem North HS; Anthony DiGirolamo, Hicksville HS; Chiara Gerek, Garden City HS; Sabrina Brengel. Smithtown HS.

Computer Corner

More websites from **Anthony DiMarino, Tony Sasso Joanne Heffernan** and **Barbara Florio.**

This site could be of value for newsletter readers. It has all available digitized newspapers that you can browse through. Go to <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/beta/newspapers/>

Here's another good site. Genealogical Scams in general are listed at this site <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~molewis/scams.htm>

This site consists of a good collection of Italian American films. On the home page, click on the link Italian American Products. Go to <http://www.nsefilms.com/>

Venice is offering virtual gondola tours along the Grand Canal, under the Rialto Bridge, up to St Mark's Square and across to its famous islands. The computer generated tours are available at <veniceconnected.com>

This is a web site on Italian Wedding Traditions. Anthony borrowed this information from the German Genealogy Group. <http://www.worldweddingtraditions.com/locations/west_europe_traditions/italian_traditions.html>

Ancestry.com and the National Archives, have launched millions of newly digitized Civil War records. Included are U.S. Civil War Draft Registration Records, 1863-1865; U.S. Soldiers Compiled Service Records, 1861-1865 and other additions. To begin searching, subscribers can visit <www.ancestry.com/civilwar>.

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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

Guest Speaker for May: Toni Raptis

Joe Battagliese

Toni Raptis, spoke about the wealth of research material at the Patchogue-Medford Library. Ms Raptis is a reference librarian and genealogist who admittedly enjoys buying genealogy resources. The library has a special genealogy department with probably the largest genealogy collection on Long Island.

For her lecture, Toni used a Power Point presentation, reviewing many unique genealogy books, websites and databases from the PML Collection. Here are some of the highlights:

Getting Started with Italian Records. Toni started with the Italian Records Collection, which includes information on Italian records, Italian history and Italian geography.

Toni explained that, in order to understand Italian records, you must know the history and political structure of the region of your search. Here is a list of important books on Italian Research: *Italian Ancestors,* by Suzanne Russo Adams; *Discovering Your Italian Ancestors* by Lynn Nelson; *Guide to the Genealogical Resources of Italy*-Region of Sicily by George E Ott; *Italian Genealogical Records*, by Trafford R Cole. These books are a must read for new researchers and provide good reference data for seasoned genealogists. Toni explained that though the books are maintained at the PML they can be obtained on Long Island through inter-library loan.

Some additional Italian genealogy books from the PML collection include the following: *The Story of Italian Immigrants Passage to Liberty and the Rebirth of America*, by A Kenneth Cioncoli and Jay Parini; *Images*, a pictorial History of Italian Americans from Italy Magazine; *Three Generations of Italian American Women in Nassau County 1925-1981* by Mary Jane Capozzali; *Italian Immigrants in the Archdiocese of New York 1880-1945* by Mary Elizabeth Brown; *Our Italian Surnames* by Joseph Guerin Fuailla. These books are available either for loan or reference.

Electronic Databases at the Patchogue-Medford Library. Next Toni reviewed the PML database subscriptions, which include the following**:** America's Obituaries and Death Notices; Ancestry Plus-Library Edition; Footnote.com. Toni has developed a catalogue of the entire PML genealogy collection, which is available from her in-person at the library. You can also browse through the list at he PML website.

Census Records. Next Toni took us through census records, starting with three important books: *Your Guide to the Federal Census* by Kathleen W. Hinkley; *Finding Answers in US Census Records* by Loretto Dennis Szucs and Matthew Wright; *Aid to Finding Addresses in the 1890 NYC Police Census*. Toni explained about the loss of the 1890 US Census and how the 1890 NY Police Census became such an important collection. The PML genealogy collection includes the complete 1890 Police Census.

Cemeteries and Death Records. PML has several books on cemeteries, which range from *NY State Cemeteries Name/Location Inventory 1995-1997*; *Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots Vol. 1-4,* by Patricia Law Hatcher to *At Rest in Unidilla*, a small town in upstate NY.

Immigration. The library has an extensive collection of microfilm reels and books on immigration. Three important books explaining Italian immigration are these: *Ships of Our Ancestors* by Michael J. Anuta; *They Came in Ships* by John Philip Colletta; and *American Passenger Arrival Records.* The PML has a complete collection of *Italians to America*, by Ira Glazer. Toni also took us through the NARA Access to Archival Databases (AAD) to find the Cuomo family records.

Vital Records Collection. This collection includes databases, online indexes and book indexes. The PML has acquired a copy of the New York State Vital Records Index on microfiche. These records are from NY State, outside of NY City. They include: Births 1881-1936; Marriages 1881-1961; and Deaths 1880-1961. This collection is available for viewing at the library. For more information, contact Toni.

Military Records. PML resources include a collection of Service Records, Bounty-Land

Records, Pension Records. One of the books Toni recommends reading is *US Military Records, A Guide to Federal and State Sources.* Some other important books Toni recommends are *Finding Your Fathers War* by Jonathan Gawnzm; *and World War II Military Records* by Debra Johnson Knox. Toni also reviewed some of the NARA (AAD) Military Records on-line sites.

Church Records. Books from the collection include**:** *US Catholic Sources* by Virginia Hunling; and *The Official Catholic Directory Anno Domini 2009* by P. J. Kenedy and Sons. Toni also reviewed a book called *Follow the Paper Trail, A Multilingual Translation Guide,* which she found helpful in translating Italian/Latin records.

New York Genealogy Resources. PML has many old New York Court Records: *New York City Court Records 1801-1884*; *Petitions for Name Changes in New York City 1848-1899*, *Historic Houses and Institutions of Genealogical and Family History of New York*; *Marriage and Deaths New York Herald*; *Genealogical Data From the New York Post-Boy 1743-1773.* Toni told the story of the Petition of Charles Caroll. Charles' grandfather in Italy offered $1000 if Charles would change his name back to Carolleresi.

Genetics and DNA. The PML has kept up with the latest technology. Its collection includes several books on DNA and genetics.

Photographs. The PML has several good books on preserving old family photographs**:** *Capturing Memories, Your Family Story in Photographs* and *Preserving Your Family Photographs* by Maureen Alice Taylor**;** *Digitizing Your Family History: Easy Methods for Preserving Your Documents and Photos* by Rhonda McClure**;** *Organizing Your Family History Search* by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack.

When you think that you have reached a "brick wall," see Toni at the Patchogue-Medford Library. She will try to help you. Schedule a visit to discuss and analyze your roadblocks. Call Toni Raptis, 654-4700, ext. 231. All of Toni's services are free, courtesy of the library.

Visiting Image of Our Lady of Pompeii

The Rev. Matthew R. Mauriello, Pastor of St. Roch Church, Greenwich, CT, has arranged to bring the image of Our Lady of Pompeii to the east coast of the US, in June 2011.

The Blessed Bartolo Longo built the Marian Shrine known as Our Lady of the Rosary in Pompeii, Italy in 1873, following his conversion.

The Italian Tribune writes, "The Icon has a special importance for the United States, a land of immigrants. Those who had traveled to begin a new life in America brought with them their love and devotion to her. In 1892, even during the lifetime of Blessed Bartolo Longo, the first of many churches in the greater New York area, dedicated to Our Lady of Pompeii, was established……."

Cecile San Agustin of Paterson, NJ says, "This 'star of the sea' guided and guarded so many Italian immigrants to the shores of America."

Masses and missions in the greater New York area, as well as Philadelphia, Connecticut and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. have been scheduled as follows:

June 1, St. Roch, Greenwich, CT; **June 2-4,** Sacred Heart Church, Stamford, CT; **June 5,** Our Lady of Pompeii Church, Paterson, NJ; **June 6 & 7,** Our Lady of Pompeii, East Haven, CT; **June 7,** Gala Banquet: Maestro's Restaurant, Bronx, NY; **June 8 & 9,** St. Patrick's Cathedral, NYC; **June 12,** National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC; **June 13,** Our Saviour Church, Norristown, PA; **June 16-18,** Saint Lucy Church, Newark, NJ; **June 19,** Church of Saint Rocco, Glen Cove, NY; **June 20,** St. Luke Church, Whitestone, NY; **June 21-23,** Regina Pacis Church, Brooklyn, NY; **June 24-26,** Mount Carmel Church, Bronx, NY;

Please call the individual churches for more information, including the Mass schedules.

The Myth of Ellis Island Name Changes

Richard W. Eastman

I was involved with a series of e-mail exchanges recently with a reader of this newsletter. He claimed that his ancestor had her name changed at Ellis Island. I pointed out that such a change was unlikely, despite all the claims we hear of such name changes. The ensuing e-mail exchange got me thinking that perhaps others have the same misconceptions that "the family name was changed at Ellis Island." I decided to amplify a bit on the subject in this newsletter.

Immigrants' surnames were changed thousands of times, but professional researchers have found that name changes were rare at Ellis Island (or at Castle Island, which was the New York port of entry prior to Ellis Island's opening). The myth of name changes usually revolves around the concept that the immigrant was unable to communicate properly with the English-speaking officials at Ellis Island. However, this ignores the fact that Ellis Island employed hundreds of translators who could speak, read, and write the immigrants' native tongues. It also ignores all the documentation that an immigrant needed to have in order to be admitted into the U.S.

In order to be admitted into the United States as an immigrant in the late nineteenth century or later, one had to have paperwork. Each immigrant had to have proof of identity. This would be a piece of paperwork filled out in "the old country" by a clerk who knew the language, and the paperwork would be filled out in the local language, not in English (unless the "old country" was an English-speaking country). The spelling of names on these documents generally conformed to local spellings within the immigrant's place of origin. Even if the person traveling was illiterate and did not know how to spell his or her own name, the clerks filling out the paperwork knew the spelling of that name in the local language or could sound it out properly according to the conventions of the language used. Also, in many countries one had to obtain an exit visa in order to leave. Again, exit visas had to be filled out by local clerks who knew the language, and exit visas were written in the local language.

A ship's passenger list had to be prepared by the captain of the ship or his representatives before the ship left the old country. This list was created from the travelers' documents. These documents were created when the immigrant purchased his or her ticket. It is unlikely that anyone at the local steamship office was unable to communicate with this man. Even when the clerk selling the ticket did not speak the language of the would-be emigrant, someone had to be called in to interpret. Also, required exit visas and other paperwork had to be examined by ticket agents before a ticket would be sold. The name was most likely recorded with a high degree of accuracy at that time.

Next, the ship's captain or designated representative would examine each passenger's paperwork. The ship's officials might not know the immigrant's language, but they had to inspect the exit visa and the proof of identity. They knew that immigrants would not be accepted into Ellis Island without proper documentation and, if the paperwork wasn't there, the passengers would be sent back home at the shipping company's expense! You can believe that the ship's owners went to great lengths to insure the accuracy of the paperwork, including names, places of birth and travel plans. It is believed that many more people were turned away at the point of embarkation than were ever turned away at Ellis Island. In other words, most of those without proper documentation never got on board the ship.

When the ship arrived at Ellis Island, the captain or his representative would disembark first with the passenger list. The Ellis Island officials would then bring in interpreters to handle the interrogations. These interpreters were usually earlier immigrants themselves or the children of immigrants, and they all knew how to speak, read and write the language of the immigrants.

The usual immigrant processing time was one to three days. During this time, each immigrant was questioned about his/her identity, and all the required documentation was examined in detail. Keep in mind that this was not a quick two or three-minute conversation such as we have today at international airports. In the days of steamships, the Ellis Island officials had the luxury of time. They could make leisurely examinations.

The questioning at Ellis Island would be done in the immigrant's native tongue. While the immigrant often was illiterate, the interpreter doing the questioning always could read and write the language involved. Ellis Island employed interpreters for Yiddish, Russian, Lithuanian and all of the European languages. The immigration center in San Francisco did the same for all the Chinese dialects as well as Japanese, Korean, and many more Oriental languages. Other immigration centers in Boston, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Galveston and elsewhere followed similar procedures.

Anyone who did not have proper paperwork (in the native language) showing the correct name and place of birth was sent back. Many thousands were sent back for identification reasons or for medical reasons or because they did not have sponsors in the U.S. Most of the people who came through Ellis Island did so with correct paperwork showing the correct or at least plausible spellings of their real names in their original language.

There were a very few exceptions, however. Occasionally war refugees were admitted without much documentation. This was especially true in 1945 and 1946. A few others succeeded in falsifying documents in order to gain admittance when they could not be admitted under their true identities. Occasionally a child was admitted under the surname of a stepfather when the name of the natural father would have been more appropriate. Nobody can document the number of exceptions, but most professional researchers believe that the number of exceptions was very small.

Once settled into their new homes, however, anything could happen. Millions of immigrants had their names changed voluntarily or by clerks or by schoolteachers who couldn't pronounce or spell children's names. Some immigrants changed their names in order to obtain employment. Many immigrants found it easier to assimilate into American culture if they had American-sounding names, so they gladly went along with whatever their neighbors or schoolteachers called them. However, the records at Ellis Island remained in the original language.

Reprinted from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, copyright 2001, by Richard W. Eastman. It's old but I think it's worth repeating.

Sciortino-Porcella Family History

Dominick Porcella

Editor's Note: Dominick Porcella, a senior at East Islip (NY) H.S., is the winner of our $1000 Scholarship. In addition to this well-researched, well-written story of his family's history, Dominick submitted a family tree of his mother's and father's Italian ancestors.

A few years back I had done some extensive family research, especially on the Italian side of my family. I collected information online from *Ancestry.com*, gathered documents, pictures, and listened to firsthand accounts from family members, allowing me to create a family tree and know the story of my ancestors.

My paternal grandfather's family was from Barletta in the province of Apulia in southeastern Italy. The first known ancestor who bears my family name is my 2nd great-grandfather, Antonio Porcelli, born in 1860. Little is known about his early life in Italy. In 1882, he married Rosa Stellatelli, who was born in 1862. Together they had four sons, including my great grandfather Saverio.

In 1902, Antonio immigrated to the United States through Ellis Island and stayed with his brother-in-law, Gamaso Stellatelli, who was already living in New York at the time. A year later, probably when Antonio got some sort of financial footing and enough money was raised for the voyage, his wife Rosa and their sons were able to immigrate to the United States as well. It was at this point where my surname changed to Porcella. The family eventually settled at 65 James Street, New York City. Antonio worked as a fruit peddler, and his sons worked as well.

After the outbreak of World War I, my great grandfather Saverio returned to Italy in 1915. He served in the Regia Marina, or the Royal Italian Navy during this time. After the war was over, he returned to his hometown of Barletta. There he met Carmela Campana, who was born in 1896. She was one of five children and was the daughter of Francesco Campana, born in 1866, and Rosa Spina, born in 1879. Saverio married Carmela in 1918 and had their first son Antonio a year later. In that same year, Saverio traveled back to the US with his new family, including his in-laws. After settling down

again in New York City, Saverio had nine more children, including my great-grandfather, George Porcella in 1932.

From what my grandfather has told me, his father worked a couple of different jobs, but was eventually able to establish his own business. Saverio had an Italian ice stand on the boardwalk in Far Rockaway, where he and his sons would work during the summer. My grandmother, who sometimes came by, said you could really taste the flavor and it would quench your thirst on a hot summer day. My grandfather said that they sometimes made up to $1000 dollars in a week from selling 5-cent ices. He still knows the chocolate recipe to this day. I always admired this story because I believe my great-grandfather Saverio truly lived the American dream.

On my maternal side, I have a great-grandfather whose family came from Sicily. The first known ancestor with the same surname is my 4th great grandfather, Salvatore Sciortino. He was born in the town of Monreale, just south of Palermo. He married a woman named Sarah and had six children, including my 3rd great grandfather Giuseppe Sciortino in 1859. Giuseppe married Anna LoGacono in Monreale and had at least three children, including my 2nd great grandfather Salvatore Sciortino.

Salvatore married Pietra Canepa, a girl from Palermo. She was the daughter of Francesco Canepa and Rosa Dimisa. They immigrated together through Ellis Island in 1910. Their passports still remain intact to this day. They had six children, including my great grandfather Joseph Sciortino.

At some point they returned to Sicily. Salvatore, a carpenter, was looking for work. He heard there was work in Tunis, North Africa, where the family moved to and lived for a period of time. My great-grand-aunt Rosie remembers living there and recalls how she, Joseph, and their other siblings used to play pranks on the locals. After a while, they began to miss home, and the family returned to the US.

I enjoyed conducting this research because it gave me a greater appreciation for my family and my roots. I was excited to apply to this scholarship because it let me share my research with people who are also interested in genealogy. Since I am a lover of history, I appreciated the idea that my research allowed me to connect to the past on a personal level. I hope that one day I will be able to visit Italy and the places my family once lived.

Genealogy Lectures

Tony Lauriano-Lecturer

Researching Family History for Future Generations

Beginning Genealogy to *Writing the Family Story*, on Thursdays, June 9, 16, 23, 30, 2011, from 10:00 AM to noon, at Chilton Memorial Hospital, Pompton Plains, NJ. Call 973-831-9860.

Overcoming Brick Walls, Saturday, August 6, 2011, at POINTERS Italian-American Club, Elmwood Park Municipal Building, 182 Market Street, Elmwood Park, NJ. Call 201-803-9117.

Beginning Genealogy to *Writing the Family Story*, on Thursdays, September 8, 15, 22, 29, 2011, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at US Columbarium Genealogy Seminar Series, 61-40 MT. Olivet Crescent, Middle Village, NY 11379. Call 718-821-9700.

Beginning Genealogy to *Writing the Family Story*, on Thursdays, October 6, 13, 20, 27, and November 3, 2011, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at Tappan Zee High School, 15 Dutch Hill Road, Orangeburg, NY 10962. Call 845-494-4290.

Writing the Family Story, Saturday, October 8, 2011, 10:00 AM, at the Passaic County Genealogy Society Lambert Castle, 3 Valley Road, Paterson, NJ 07503. Call 973-291-6748.

Registration required at each location. Call the listed phone number to register.

Reminder!
Next Meeting: June 11th
Elections
Scholarship Awards
Speaker
Light Lunch and Dessert

My Heritage genealogyblog

Disasters: Are you ready?

While the world today knows all about the tragic aftermath of the earthquake in Japan, there were a few days when we were in the dark - literally.

We attended a conference in Colorado last week. After a five-hour drive through magnificent scenic vistas ranging from desert to snow-capped peaks, we had only a few hours to prepare and get to the venue.

The conference was busy, our colleagues focused on presentations, and we had not obtained Internet connection codes due to the heavy schedule. There wasn't time to read a newspaper or turn on the television - we were in a cocoon where the outside world didn't exist.

Finally, after two days, we managed to get online to check email, and we saw the terrible news about Japan's earthquake and the immense suffering of the people.

As a former Californian who has been through a few earthquakes, but nothing as bad as what the people of Japan experienced, all those thoughts came rushing back. The shaking, rocking and rolling is hard to describe to those who have not experienced such tremors. I can't imagine what it feels like to go through an earthquake of that magnitude, and our hearts, thoughts and sympathies go out to all those impacted.

No matter where you live, at some point you may be impacted by a natural disaster, be it a hurricane, earthquake, tsunami, blizzard, flood, rain storm, tornado (or cyclone) or fire.

How do you prepare for such an event which can forever change the lives of inhabitants in a certain place?

To prepare for such disasters, contact local emergency organizations for lists of what families should keep on hand - just in case - as protection of life is always the most important element.

In addition to protection of life, we also might think about protecting our precious family possessions, such as photographs and research.

How can you protect those items against loss?

There are various methods. Scan photos and documents to CDs and send copies to relatives who live in other areas. Photograph family objects and distribute those copies. Prepare copies of family history and supporting documents and send them to relatives in other areas. No matter what happens where, copies of your research will be available.

While we all need to be prepared to protect our lives in the face of a possible disaster, take some time now to protect your research.

Here are two questions for readers:

?Has the earthquake in Japan changed the way in which you will personally plan for a possible disaster?

?What have you done to protect your research?

I look forward to reading your comments.

Posted by Schelly Talalay Dardashti on March 15th, 2011 - 14:56

Help is Here!

Members needing assistance can find it at our monthly Help Session, held in the room opposite our reception table from 9:15 to 10:30 on meeting days. Volunteers can help you to navigate through IGG databases, and the LDS website.

Volunteers assist members and guests at the new IGG Help Session.

Italian Immigration

More Italians have migrated to the United States than any other Europeans. Poverty, overpopulation, and natural disaster all spurred Italian emigration. Beginning in the 1870s, Italian birthrates rose and death rates fell. Population pressure became severe, especially in Il Mezzogiorno, the southern and poorest provinces of Italy. As late as 1900, the illiteracy rate in southern Italy was 70 percent, ten times the rate in England, France, or Germany. The Italian government was dominated by northerners, and southerners were hurt by high taxes and high protective tariffs on northern industrial goods. Southerners also suffered from a scarcity of cultivatable land, soil erosion and deforestation, and a lack of coal and iron ore needed by industry.

Italian Market, Mulberry Street, New York Between 1900 and 1910

Unlike the Irish Catholics, southern Italians suffered from exploitation by people of the same nationality and religion. Rather than leading to group solidarity, this situation led to a reliance on family, kin, and village ties. Life in the South revolved around la famiglia (the family) and l'ordine della famiglia (the rules of family behavior and responsibility).

Natural disasters rocked southern Italy during the early 20th century. Mount Vesuvius erupted and buried a town near Naples. Then Mount Etna erupted. Then in 1908 an earthquake and tidal wave swept through the Strait of Messina between Sicily and the Italian mainland, killing more than 100,000 people in the city of Messina alone.

Italians had a long history of migrating to foreign countries as a way of coping with poverty and dislocation. During the 19th century, more Italians migrated to South American than to North America.

The earliest Italian immigrants to the United States were northern Italians, who became prominent as fruit merchants in New York and wine growers in California. Later, more and more migrants came from the south and the communities and institutions they formed reflected the region's fragmentation. Italian immigrants established hundreds of mutual aid societies, based on kinship and place of birth.

Many Italian immigrants never planned to stay in the United States permanently. The proportion returning to Italy varied between 11 percent and 73 percent. Unlike most earlier immigrants to America, they did not want to farm, which implied a permanence that did not figure in their plans. Instead, they headed for cities, where labor was needed and wages were relatively high. Expecting their stay in America to be brief, Italian immigrants lived as inexpensively as possible under conditions that native-born families considered intolerable.

Italian immigrants were particularly likely to take heavy construction jobs. About half of all late 19th century Italian immigrants were manual laborers, compared to a third of their Irish and a seventh of their German counterparts. Contracted out by a professional labor broker known as a padrone, Italians dug tunnels, laid railroad tracks, constructed bridges and roads, and erected the first skyscrapers. As early as 1890, 90 percent of New York City's public works employees and 99 percent of Chicago's street workers were Italian. Many Italian immigrant women worked, but almost never as domestic servants. Many took piece work into their homes as a way of reconciling the conflicting needs to earn money and maintain a strong family life.

For Italians, like other immigrant groups, politics, entertainment, sports, crime, and especially small business served as ladders for upward mobility. Italian American politicians, however, were hindered by a lack of ethnic cohesiveness. Italian Americans achieved notable success in both classical and popular music. Italian Americans were particularly successful in areas that did not require extensive formal education such as sales and small business ownership. They tended to be under-represented in professional occupations requiring extensive education.

For many Italian immigrants, migration to the

United States could not be interpreted as a rejection of Italy. In reality, it was a defense of the Italian way of life, for the money sent home helped to preserve the traditional order. Rather than seeking permanent homes, they desired an opportunity to work for a living, hoping to save enough money to return to a better life in the country of their birth.

Historians use the phrase "birds of passage" to

Italian Bread Peddlers, Mulberry Street, New York Circa 1900

describe immigrants who never intended to make the United States their permanent home. Unable to earn a livelihood in their home countries, they were migratory laborers. Most were young men in their teens and twenties, who planned to work, save money, and return home. They left behind their parents, young wives, and children, indications that their absence would not be long. Before 1900 an estimated 78 percent of Italian immigrants were men.

Many of them traveled to America in the early spring, worked until late fall, and then returned to the warmer climates of their southern European homes winter. Overall, 20 to 30 percent of Italian immigrants returned to Italy permanently.

The same forces of population pressure, unemployment, and the breakdown of agrarian societies sent Chinese, French Canadians, Greeks, Japanese, Mexicans, and Slavs to the United States. Yet while these migrants tended to view themselves as "sojourners," as temporary migrants, most would stay in the United States permanently.

This article was reprinted from the website Digital History <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/> a site dedicated to using technologies to enhance teaching and research. The article was submitted by Anthony DiMarino.

Where Have my Digital Files Gone?

I've never been very good at taking care of paper. My filing cabinets get reorganized and filing folders renamed, every couple of years. Much of my paperwork is in piles or tubs on my desk or the floor. I've started getting a handle on that mess but my digital filing sucks.

I can never decide where to put digital items (photos, emails, documents etc). I also tend to forget where I put stuff the last time, so I end up with duplicate folders. Perhaps I'll call one PEER and toss all my digital copies on the PEER family in it. That's on C-Drive. Then one day I forget I have that on C-Drive and I create another folder (also called PEER) inside my Documents folder!

Often I create folders that are on the same topic but I give them different names. For example, I have a folder called LOST FACES where I was putting all the scans from my Lost Faces photo albums. Inside Lost Faces, directory were subdirectories neatly and consistently labeled Album 01, Album 02 and so on. Then for some now unknown reason I created a folder called PHOTO ALBUMS and inside that I created subdirectories called 01 (surname), 02 (surname) Sheesh! Now I have some scans in one set of folders and some scans in another.

Inside my MY PICTURES subdirectory, I have folders called "FARM," "FUN ON THE FARM" and "HOUSE," all of which contain various pictures taken at our home over the past 15 years. Sigh. Do you see how hard it is for me to make an organized plan and stick to it??

I like Jill's simple approach. Most of her folders appear to be on the top level which I find appealing. I think half the reason I forget what my system is, is that I have sub-folders inside sub-folders! Right now I'm kind of excited and thinking that I should come up with a plan on paper. I'm leaning towards Jill's method of an overall topic name followed by a sub-name, as the main folders.

So I could have FARM-Machinery and FARM-Animals and FARM-grandkids or whatever sub designation I need to be organized. Using this method would mean all my FARM documents and photos would be much more easily found and new material filed.

From the May 23,Olive Tree Genealogy Blog.

Celebrate Italian Feasts this Summer

William S. Gimello

Buffalo, NY, Sorrento Cheese Italian Heritage Festival, July. Call Robert O'Brian at 716-823-0158.

Canandaigua, NY, The Downtown Canandaigua Italian Festival, July. Call Janet L. Bardeen at 585-394-7110 or e-mail janet@bardeenenterprises.com

Oyster Bay, NY, St. Rocco Festival, July. Call Marie Knight at 516-922- 4186.

Hammonton, NJ, Feast of Mount Carmel, July. Call St. Joseph's Parish at 609-561-3012 or e-mail information@MtCarmelFeast.com

Glen Cove, NY, Feast of St. Rocco, July to August. Call James Suozzi at 516-671-1796.

Hempstead, Hofstra University, NY, Italian Festival, September. Call Mary Beth Jacovides at 516-463-6582 or e-mail Mary.B.Jacovides@Hofstra.edu

Manhattan, NY, San Gennaro Festival, September. Call Mort Berkowitz/Figli di San Gennaro, Inc., at 212-768-9320 or 212-941-5244.

Manhattan, NY, Giglio di Sant' Antonio Feast, August. Call Bob Maida at 914-787-0692, or e-mail bob631@aol.com

Mechanicville, NY, Feast of the Assumption, August. Call Cathy Lanci at 518-584-2935 or e-mail nurselanci@hotmail.com

Hoboken, NJ, St Ann's Festival, July, on the streets around St. Ann Church; call 201-659-1114

Chicago IL, (north side), The Annual Feast of St. Rocco Di Potenza, August; contact S. Aloisio at stroccochicago@gmail.com

Boston, MA, St. Anthony's Feast/Feast of St. Lucy, August; call Jason A. Aluia at 617-723-8699

Cambridge, MA, Feast of Saints Cosmas and Damian, September; call Sal DiDomenico, Sr. at 617-661-1164 or 1-888-725-9090

Bronx, NY, Ferragosto Arthur Avenue, Little Italy in the Bronx, September; contact Gionanni Cerini at info@ArthurAvenueBr;nx.com

New Orleans, LA, Maria Santissima Della Favara Feast, September; contact Gasper J. Schiro at 504-327-9396 or e-mail italianfolk@lycos.com

Election of Officers

Nominated Officers for 2011-2012

Co-Presidents:	Anthony DiBartolo & Angela LaGiglia
VP Programs	Barbara Florio
VP Public Relations	Anthony DiBartolo
VP Publicity	Ann Holland
VP Special Projects	John Martino
Recording Secretary	Joseph Battagliese
Corresponding Sec.	Marilyn Verna
Treasurer	Art Filete

Voting will be taken at the June 11th meeting. Open nominations from the floor will be entertained.

Nominating Committee
Barbara Florio and William Gimello

Our Next Meeting

On June 11th, we are privileged to have Robert T. Spiotto, whose performance will be about Giuseppe Garibaldi. Bob will have handouts about the 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy.

Bob Spiotto is the Artistic Director, Performing/Community Arts Programs, Hofstra Cultural Center and Executive Producer at Hofstra's International Festivals

Future Meeting Dates for the Italian Genealogical Group

June 11, September 10, and October 8, 2011

All meetings start at 10:30 AM

Directions to the Bethpage Library, 47 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.