ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL GROUP

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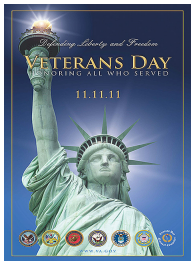
Volume 18, No. 3 **November, 2011**

President's Message



Hopefully, every Italian-American basked in the pride of his heritage during October. From the lively, fun-filled Columbus Day parades to the festive celebrations of 150 years of Italian Unification, October was a month of commemoration and flag waving. November's celebration of Thanksgiving is just as important, as we offer prayers of gratitude to our forefathers who courageously left the safety, warmth and familiarity of home to journey to America.

To appreciate the sacrifices they made, we need only to peruse the ships' manifests. We see so many who traveled alone, as young as 14, to seek jobs in America. We see poor, hope-filled families who journeyed great distances to board passenger ships that would lead them to a new, unfamiliar life. We see young couples who left Abruzzi or Basilicata, never again to be re-united with their parents or siblings. We see the birds-of-passage who traveled back and forth across the vast ocean, as work was seasonally available, leaving their wives and children alone for long periods of time. We see men, women and children who arrived at Ellis Island, having fallen ill from close confinement and squalid living conditions, detained in crowded infirmaries or denied admission to our country.

For our ancestors who endured these hardships to come to America, we give our heartfelt thanks. They are the reason for our devotion to this infectious quest we call genealogy.

Have a happy, family-filled Thanksgiving.

Angela LaGiglia

Inside this issue:

Computer Corner	**Page 2**
Guest Speaker: Toni McKeen	**Page 3**
Military Records	**Page 4**
An Italian on the GW Bridge	**Page 6**
Identical Houses in Colfax, LA	**Page 7**
NY State Vital Records	**Page 8**
Death Certificates	**Page 9**
MISSing Angels	**Page 10**

Computer Corner

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

Check out Canada Immigration Lists, ships arriving in Canada 1400-1800 on the Olive Tree Genealogy website <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/ships/tocan1400-1800.shtml>

This site has many links to various areas of interest on deaths of famous people. It begins with notable deaths in 2011 and continues with more information when you scroll down to the bottom of the page. It includes obituaries of famous people from Germany, Australia, Canada and the U S.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recent_Deaths>

If you had ancestors in San Francisco and can find their street addresses, you may even be able to find pictures of their neighborhood, and even their house. Dan Vanderkam has placed the SF Public Library's old photos on line. Go to <photoshttp://www.oldsf.org/#>

Lackawanna County, PA announced the availability of searchable on-line databases of Register of Wills and Clerk of Judicial Records documents Go to <http://www.lackawannacounty.org/>

Check out Magnet Photo Album Deterioration-Legacy Multimedia, go to <http://legacymultimedia.com/2008/04/17/magnetic-photo-album-deterioration/>

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ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL GROUP

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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 October: Toni McKeen

Joe Battagliese

Toni McKeen and John Martino at the September Meeting

For the October meeting our guest speaker was Toni McKeen, Toni is a experienced genealogy researcher, a popular genealogy teacher and lecturer. Her Beginner Genealogy lecture is entitled, *How to Grow Your Family Tree.* Toni feels that "genealogy without documentation is mythology," You must back-up all your information with the confirming documents. The paper trail shall be continuous from yourself to your ancestors. Ignore all those preconceived notions and break the false myths.

Toni began her lecture with this list of reasons to explore genealogy; it's challenging, enjoyable and rewarding; you may find new relatives; you will develop a legacy for your children and grandchildren. Do not get discouraged in your research by old fallacies, (I bought my family crest. All the old relatives are gone, family documents were destroyed or lost, or they changed my name at Ellis Island). Most of them will prove to be meaningless.

How and where to get started: RUN to the oldest family members (Toni tells of a family member who passed before she could interview her), and search for the documents that are on file. You should always start with yourself and work back. Also, work sideways (siblings and aunts and uncles) as well as up. Learn about time periods and life styles. (Toni recommends reading the classic Italian immigration stories such as, *La Storia* by Jerre Mangione and Ben Morreale, *The Journey of the Italians to America* by Vincenza Scarpaci, *Christ Stopped at Eboli* by Carlo Levi. Toni discussed the importance of primary sources (birth, marriage and death certificates,) and she says to call all your relatives and tell them what you are doing. You will be surprised at the family treasures they may have saved.

Toni recommends two basic genealogy programs to keep track of your family research: Family Tree Maker for Windows users and Reunion for Mac users. The basic genealogy websites that Toni recommends for online researching are the following: Ancestry.com, where you will find many records of all different types; and HeritageQuest, which she finds best for census research, Italiangen.org, which is the best place for NY metropolitan area vital and immigration records; Ellisisland.org, where you will find immigration passenger records from 1892-1954; and Familysearch.org, which is a LDS site, and it's best for locating records from overseas.

Toni says the best records to start your research with are US census records. She showed us a page from the 1920 population census that included her father's family. She reviewed the wealth of information it contained: street address, family members, including her great grandfather, age of family members, whether they own or rent, birth place, language, citizenship status, year of arrival, occupations, etc. She also says to look closely at other families in the neighborhood; you may find relatives since the immigrants tended to group together.

Toni also went through a list of basic supplies she uses to help store and organize the documents: a loose leaf book to hold the records, clear archival sleeves that will preserve the records, wide dividers for the archival sleeves, colored dots to "mark the spot" through the clear plastic sleeves, research folders, and separate binders to preserve original documents.

Which documents do we need to locate? All census records, vital records, Immigration passenger manifests, naturalization records, military records, obituaries, cemetery records, Social Security Death Index records, city directories, family photos, wedding invitations, funeral cards, etc., are all important.

Toni left us with a good thought "remember, genealogy is a wonderful journey of discovery… Enjoy the trip!!"

Military Records

Editor's Note: While searching the NARA website for a source for WWII military records of my Uncle, who was a US Navy veteran, I found this report on the fire at the National Personnel Records Center. At the site, I was able to download a "Request Pertaining To Military Records" NARA form (Form 180).

Overview:

On July 12, 1973, a disastrous fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) destroyed approximately 16-18 million Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF). The records affected:

Branch Personnel and Period Affected

Army Personnel discharged November 1, 1912 to January 1, 1960 Estimated Loss 80%

Air Force Personnel discharged September 25, 1947 to January 1, 1964 (with names alphabetically after Hubbard, James E.) Estimated Loss 75%

No duplicate copies of these records were ever maintained, nor were microfilm copies produced. Neither were any indexes created prior to the fire. In addition, millions of documents had been lent to the Department of Veterans Affairs before the fire occurred. Therefore, a complete listing of the records that were lost is not available. However, in the years following the fire, the NPRC collected numerous series of records (referred to as Auxiliary Records) that are used to reconstruct basic service information.

The Fire:

Shortly after midnight, on July 12, 1973, a fire was reported at the NPRC's military personnel records building at 9700 Page Boulevard in St. Louis, MO. Firefighters arrived on the scene only 4 minutes and 20 seconds after the first alarm sounded and entered the building. While they were able to reach the burning sixth floor, the heat and the smoke forced the firefighters to withdraw at 3:15am. In order to combat and contain the flames, firefighters were forced to pour great quantities of water onto the exterior of the building and inside through broken windows. The fire burned out of control for 22 hours; it took two days before firefighters were able to re-enter the building. The blaze was so intense that local Overland residents had to remain indoors, due to the heavy acrid smoke. It was not until July 16, nearly four and a half days after the first reports, that the local fire department called the fire officially out.

During the long ordeal, firefighters faced severe problems due to insufficient water pressure. Exacerbating the situation, one of the department's pumper trucks broke down after 40 hours of continuous operation. Numerous times, the fire threatened to spread down to the other floors; but firefighters were successful in halting its advance. In all, it took the participation of 42 fire districts to combat the disastrous blaze. Due to the extensive damages, investigators were never able to determine the source of the fire.

The Aftermath:

The National Archives focused its immediate attention on salvaging as much as possible and quickly resuming operations at the Page facility. Even before the final flames were out, staff at the NPRC had begun work towards these efforts. All requests and records shipments from other government agencies were temporarily halted, and certain vital records were removed from the burning building for safekeeping. These included the NPRC's operating records, a computer index for a major portion of the NPRC's holdings, and more than 100,000 reels of morning reports for the Army (1912-1959) and Air Force (1947-1959). The latter proved especially important in the days following, as NPRC's officials determined that the fire damage had been worst among the Army and Air Force records for this same time period. As such, on July 23, 1973, the Government issued a Federal Property Management Regulations Bulletin (FPMR B-39) halting Federal agencies from disposing of records that might be useful in documenting military service. Such records have proved vital in efforts to reconstruct basic service information for requestors.

On July 23, the NPRC awarded a construction contract to clear and remove the remains from the ruined sixth floor. That same day, employees, previously on administrative leave, returned to work to assist in recovery efforts and resume reference services. The removal and salvage of water and fire damaged records from the building was the most important priority, and such efforts were overseen by a specially appointed project

manager. Their work led to the recovery of approximately 6.5 million burned and water damaged records.

Following the fire, the most immediate concern in the center revolved around water. In order to combat the blaze, firefighters had been forced to pour millions of gallons of water into the building. To stop sporadic rekindling of fire, firefighters continued spraying water on the building until late July. In addition, broken water lines continued to flood the building until they could be capped. Water damage was heaviest on the 5th floor but was spread throughout the building. Standing water, combined with the high temperatures and humidity of a typical St. Louis summer, created a situation ripe for mold growth. As paper is highly susceptible to mold, officials sprayed thymol throughout the building to control any outbreak.

Controlling the spread of mold was one concern; but, so too, was the issue of how to dry the millions of water-soaked records. Initially, NPRC staffers shipped these water-damaged records in plastic milk crates to a temporary facility at the civilian records center on Winnebago, where hastily constructed drying racks had been assembled from spare shelving. When it was discovered that McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Corporation in St. Louis had vacuum-drying facilities, the NPRC diverted its water damaged records there for treatment. The vacuum-dry process took place in a chamber that had previously been utilized to simulate temperature and pressure conditions for the Mercury and Gemini space missions. The chamber was large enough to accommodate approximately 2,000 plastic milk cartons of water and fire damaged records. Once inside, McDonnell Douglas technicians lowered the air in the chamber to the freezing point and then filled the room with hot dry air, which squeezed out the water molecules. For each chamber load, they were able to extract approximately 8 pounds of water per container - the equivalent of nearly 8 total tons of water for each session. In addition to utilizing two more supplemental drying chambers at McDonnell Douglas, the NPRC also sent records to a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) facility in Ohio for drying.

Towards Reconstruction:

As part of the reconstruction effort, the NPRC established a "B" registry file (or Burned File) to index the 6.5 million recovered records. So too, the NPRC established a separate temperature controlled "B" file area to protect and safeguard the damaged records. Later, in April 1974, the NPRC established the "R" registry file (or Reconstructed File) to further assist with reconstruction efforts. Since then, staffers have placed all newly reconstructed records into the "R" registry file and stored them in an area separate from the "B," or burned, files.

In the months following the fire, the NPRC initiated several new records recovery and reconstruction efforts, including the establishment of a new branch to deal with damaged records issues. As many military personnel records had been partially or completely destroyed by the fire, the new branch's central mission was to reconstruct records for those requesting service information from the NPRC. While some staffers sought to recover such information from documents and alternate sources outside of the NPRC, others searched through the center's organizational files for records to supplement the destroyed OMPFs.

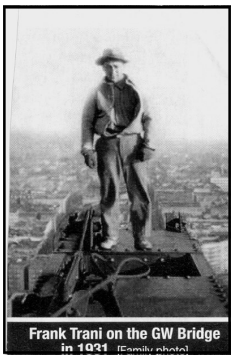
These alternate sources have played a vital role in the NPRC's efforts to reconstruct service files. Some of the more important records used by the NPRC to supplement damage files include: Veterans Administration (VA) claims files, individual state records, Multiple Name Pay Vouchers (MPV) from the Adjutant General's Office, Selective Service System (SSS) registration records, pay records from the Government Accounting Office (GAO), as well as medical records from military hospitals, entrance and separation x-rays and organizational records. Many work hours were spent making these sources usable. Efforts included: the transfer of records to the NPRC, screening projects and securing access to VA computer records.

In terms of loss to the cultural heritage of our nation, the 1973 NPRC Fire was an unparalleled disaster. In the aftermath of the blaze, recovery and reconstruction effort took place at an unprecedented level. Thanks to such recovery efforts and the use of alternate sources to reconstruct files, today's NPRC is able to continue its primary mission of serving our country's military and civil servants.

An Italian on the Washington Bridge

William S. Gimello

The George Washington Bridge connects New York City to Fort Lee, NJ. This is a story about a little known Italian-American who made a major contribution to the construction of that Bridge.



Frank Trani on the GW Bridge in 1931 [Family photo]

Frank Trani, a civil engineer, along with other Italians and other immigrants, worked on the bridge for the Port of New York Authority in 1931. Frank was born in Messina, Sicily, the son of a shoemaker. He was raised in Brooklyn and Trani attended Erasmus Hall High School, where he became interested in engineering. He attended Cornell University, working his way through college. It took him 16 semesters including four summer sessions before graduating in 1927. Later that year, he was employed to work on the George Washington Bridge, which was originally known as the Hudson River Bridge. After the bridge was opened, he worked on the construction of the Lincoln Tunnel. He later moved to the Philadelphia area, where he was involved in many construction jobs.

Here are two stories about Frank Trani's involvement with the construction of the bridge. While walking up a bridge cable, Trani was crouched over, holding tightly to the guide wire, when a workman behind shouted, "Stand up and walk like a man." Trani straightened up and walked up the cable.

The GW Bridge Today

My favorite story was a time that he forgot his lunch. His sister found it and brought his lunchbox from Brooklyn to the Manhattan side. Asking for her brother, she was told that he was working on the Jersey side. She then walked across the bridge, becoming the first woman to transverse the span.

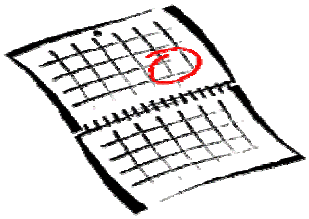
Frank Trani retired at age 75 in 1977 and continued his education at a local College. He was the oldest student in his class and was on the dean's list. He died on October 14, 1981, just 11 days short of the 50th anniversary of the bridge that he and other immigrants helped to build" October 25, 2011 marked the 80th Anniversary of the opening of the George Washington Bridge. Today it is the busiest bridge in the world.

Franks story is an example of how a little known Italian-American, who against all odds, became highly educated and successful in his trade.

Edited from The Man on the Bridge, Walter Fox, Italian American, Fall 2011. Page 11

Italian Genealogy Events-Fall 2011

On Tuesday, November 8th, 12 Noon, the National Archives at New York City's Fall 2011 Genealogy Series will present *Preserving Your Family Papers.* Learn about proper storage of family documents, photographs, home movies, digital images and other items to ensure that these treasures will survive for future generations. Please register in advance at newyork.archives@nara.gov or call 866-840-1752



Professor AJ Tamburri of Queens College announces the *7th Annual Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance, Cultural Event 2011* to be held on **November 9/10/11**. The event is sponsored by ILICA, St. John's University and the Calandra Institute. The location is NY University-St. John's University-Pier Sixty in New York. For more information, see the ILICA website.

Our **November 12th**, IGG meeting, will feature Dorothy Dougherty speaking on *Exploring the 1940 Census*. Dorothy is a Public Program Specialist at the National Archives for New York City. The 1940 census will be available in April 2012.

Identical Houses in Colfax, Louisiana

Submitted by Sarah DiNapoli

Two houses, almost identical, stand side-by-side on Colfax's Sixth Street. The left one was built for the Jim Tumminellos, the one on the right for brother Charles H., and a brother Sam occupied one across the street. The houses are unique, a kind of Victorian style modeled after Marceland Ferrier's own type of building and with his personal special hand-cut trim, with local carpenter Frank Wells lending a skilled hand. Marceland, says Mr. Charlie's son Robert, had his nature of meticulous measurement, more so than Frank. But Wells had his wit and most likely exhibited it when, while doing the frame work of Charlie's home, he answered Ferrier's, "Give me a measure" with "A hammer handle and a half." This was 1910, as they built the home shown here. The side entry porch no longer stands but a sun parlor was added with very little else in the way of change. The roof banisters matched that of Mr. Jim's

Robert tells of Mr. Charlie taking the middle initial "H" from his friend Chas. H. Teal, the one who set up the Acmeville section of Colfax.

"The record of few individuals indicates more clearly what may be accomplished through determined purpose and well defined plans, prompted by a laudable ambition, than does that of Charles H. Tumminello of Colfax", said a writer in 1937, giving Mr. Charlie's history. He tells of this respected Central Louisiana citizen being born in Cefalu, Palermo, Sicily, Italy, on February 17, 1872 of the Luigi Tumminellos, he a fishing boat captain. There was service in the Italian Navy, the a trip to New Orleans in 1897, work as a clerk in a fruit and steamboat company, traveling up the Red River on the "Bella Shanke" in search of business, and settling in Colfax because low water forced a delay, but also because he saw potential in in this rich soil locale. The history tells of Charlie's return to New Orleans, back to Colfax, temporary work at McNeely's Warehouse, then the beginning of a produce and general store business. It was a small place at first, but Mr. Charles saw potentials, kept ahead of the town progress and succeeded with "honesty, friendliness and earnest effort." Brother Sam and Jim joined, and the partnership had its beginning, in1899. A large store, diagonally across from the Court House, came, then No. 2 on "Railroad Avenue", and No. 3, next to No. 2, operated by Sam. In 1920, when Sam went to Alabama, No.3 was liquidated.

Robert was old enough to help, and Mr. Charlie and Josephine Verderame whom he had married on his trip back to Italy in 1902, were raising Robert, Louis H., Mary and John E. (the E. for Victor Emmanuel, the King of Italy). Jim ran store No. 2.

J.W. Duncan and son had Central Flour and Feed, with financial problems, so they asked Mr. C.H. to take over. This is when the Corporation was formed with stockholders among the Tumminello families and Duncan.

Out of this business came Central Wholesale Grocers Inc., which paid 10 percent dividends every year except for 1932 when even the depression allowed one of 5 percent. The sons worked as officers and Mary kept the books, as had Mr. Charlie up to now.

Before joining, John was sent to LSU. In 1946, Charles and his family opened Louisiana Wholesale Distributors in Alexandria and the family ran it until recently when it was liquidated as the C.H. Tumminello business in Alexandria in 1977.

C.H. Tumminello died on August 5, 1940. He'd been known as a successful businessman. Treasurer of his Masonic Lodge, a Noble of the Mystic Shrine in El Karubah Temple, Summinty Council No. 2 of Alexandria, Trinity Commandery, KT. He served for a while on the Town Council.

Teal Calhoun bought the house in 1950 after some family occupancy, and Raymond Jeane, present owner, purchased it in 1958. It stands in good condition as though it is proud to respect the domicile of the C.H. Tumminellos, even son Robert Charles who tells of how at 5 or 6 years, when they were walking from the home near the Court House to check on the new construction, he exclaimed as how he didn't want to go any further than Judge Richardson house; so Vincent Zito, an accommodating man and friend, took up the little boy and said "I'll carry him". And so he did, on his shoulders, down to Sixth Street.

The above Italian immigrant story by P.A. "Pap" Dean, first appeared in the Colfax, LA Chronicle, on September 8, 1983.

How to Find N Y State Vital Records

Angela LaGiglia

The collaborative efforts of the IGG, the GGG and hoards of volunteers have enabled you to easily find vital records of our ancestors who were born, married, or died in New York City. All you need to do is go to www.italiangen.org or www.theggg.org, click on the appropriate database, and *voila!* Up pops the number of the document you need. Just follow the simple written instructions to obtain your actual document. It's research made simple!

But how do you track down vital records of ancestors who inhabited regions of New York State other than the Big Apple? The key to this is the New York State Vital Records Index, which encompasses the years 1881-1961 for deaths and marriages and 1880-1936 for births. The Index can be found in ten locations:

New York State Archives-Albany, Albany County

Broome County Public Library-Binghamton, Broome County

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library-Buffalo, Erie County

Steele Memorial Public Library-Elmira, Chemung County

Crandall Public Library-Glens Falls, Warren County

National Archives-Northeast Region-New York, New York County (Manhattan)

Patchogue-Medford Public Library-Patchogue, Suffolk County

Rochester Public Library-Rochester, Monroe County

Onondaga County Public Library-Syracuse, Onondaga County

Flower Memorial Library-Watertown, Jefferson County

After you find the certificate number in the index, go to www.health.stateny.us and click on "Birth, Marriage, and Divorce Records" to obtain instructions to send for the certificates.

There are three cities whose records are not fully recorded in the New York State Vital Index. Albany, Buffalo and Yonkers maintained their own records until 1915. Records from years before 1916, therefore, must be accessed directly from these cities.

For Births and Deaths:

Albany
Local Registrar – City of Albany
City Hall – Room 254M
Albany, NY 12207

Buffalo
Local Registrar – City of Buffalo
65 Niagara Street
Room 1308
Buffalo, NY 14202

Yonkers
Local Registrar – City of Yonkers
Room 107
Yonkers, NY 10701

For Marriages:

Albany
City Clerk – City of Albany
City Hall – Room 202
Albany, NY 12207

Buffalo
City Clerk – City of Buffalo
65 Niagara Street
Room 1308
Buffalo, NY 14202

Yonkers
City Clerk – City of Yonkers
Room 107
Yonkers, NY 10701

When you are researching, remember that the records indexed begin at 1880 or 1881. Before 1880, New York State did not require that localities report vital information to the state. If you are searching for records prior to 1880, your best source might be local town halls or churches.

Editors' Note: We invite knowledgeable readers to share "How to" information relevant to finding documents in their states, cities, or regions of Italy. Please be sure your information is accurate before submitting an article. Send your article in Microsoft Word format to jbattag123@AOL.com.

ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL 2011 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10, 2011
at 12:30 PM
FILOMENA'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT
1034 HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE
FRANKLIN SQUARE, NEW YORK
516-437-4919
MENU:

HOT ANTIPASTO
PENNE PASTA

CHOOSE ONE:
CHICKEN FRANCESE
CHICKEN PARM
EGGPLANT PARM
BROILED SALMON
COFFEE, TEA, ESPRESSO

$35.00 PER PERSON
PLEASE PAY BY DECEMBR 1, 2011

PARKING:
RIDGEWOOD SAVINGS PARKING LOT
NORTH OF HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE
2 BLOCKS WEST OF NEW HYDE PARK ROAD

CHECKS ADDRESSED TO:
ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL GROUP

MAIL TO:
MRS. BARBARA M. FLORIO
259 NORTH BEECH STREET
NORTH MASSAPEQUA, NEW YORK 11758
516-557-2917

Reminder

The Bethpage Library opens its doors at 9 AM. Although our meeting does not formally begin until 10:30 AM, we invite our members to come early to socialize, to lend a helping hand, or to seek help from our experts. Help Desk and Beginning Genealogy Workshop start at 9:30.

Assessing Information on Death Certificates

Charles Carter Morgan, West Windsor, N J

Do you ever think twice about the information contained in a birth or death certificate? I didn't until I began to find discrepancies.

I knew that my grandmother passed away while napping on her couch in Wayland, Massachusetts. Her death certificate stated that she died in Newton, Massachusetts. By asking questions, I learned that her official place of death was Newton, since her death was officially determined there.

When I requested the death certificate of a distant relative, I found her date of death was listed as July 17. On a subsequent research trip to that area, I examined the original records, only to find that the real date of death was July 16. Upon my inquiry, the office issued a new death certificate with the correct July 16 date.

Another death certificate from the same jurisdiction stated that my great-grandfather's date of birth was April 27, 1838, and his date of his death was January 27, 1916. But the original record contained only the following: date of death, Jan 27, 1916, date of birth April 27th, age 78 yrs. Spaces for months and days were left blank. The person who completed the death certificate inferred the date of birth incorrectly by subtracting 78 from 1916 to arrive at the 1838 year of birth, but since my great-grandfather died in January, before his April birthday, the year of birth should have been 1837. After I inquired about it, the office issued a new certificate listing the exact information shown on the original record.

These experiences taught me to be wary of the information listed on birth and death certificates. When obtaining a certificate, I now request an exact transcription without inferences. With an exact transcription, any inferences are up to me. I check the original records whenever possible.

Tips from Weekly Genealogists

Governor Cuomo Approved MISSing Angels Bill for NY State

Since 2003, New York families who have experienced the tragedy of stillbirth have been fighting for the respect and recognition of birth. All states, including New York, require the family to pay for funeral expenses and issue a death certificate. Until now, New York did not offer the choice of a birth certificate. On June 16th, the New York State legislature overwhelmingly passed a bill to provide a certificate of stillbirth. This public health crisis devastates more than 1,700 New York families each year and more than 30,000 nationwide.

Stillbirth is defined as an unintended intrauterine death occurring post 20 weeks gestation. "I carried him for nine months," said Lori Tieger of Staten Island, Co-Founder of Daniel's STAR. "I left the hospital carrying nothing but my shoes. Although I must mother him differently, there is no difference in the love I have for him as opposed to his two sisters. He is just as deserving of a birth certificate."

On September 24, 2011, the M.I.S.S. Foundation reported that NY became the 32nd state to make MISSing Angels bill into law. For many years, families of the MISS Foundation have been participating in a grass roots movement to have Certificates of Birth Recording in Stillbirth (CDRS) made into law, state by state across the US. Dr. Joanne Cacciatore, mother of Cheyenne, was the first to coordinate Arizona families and lead them to the passing of the MISSing Angels bill in Arizona state in 2001.

Since then Dr. Cacciatore has worked with MISS families to rally in 31 other states, working together with MISS volunteers and any other families and organizations that wanted to partner with MISS for this movement. Hard battles have been fought and won in tough states like California, Pennsylvania and New York. Now 32 states offer stillbirth families a CBRS.

On September 26, Cara Matthews of Albany Watch reported on the new law that will help memorialize stillborns in NY State. Parents of stillborns are praising this legislation just signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo so that families can memorialize their lost children. Many parents currently get death certificates without their children's name on them.

Under the law, which takes effect 180 days from 9/23, parents can ask the Health Department for a certificate of stillbirth and record a name for their stillborn fetus on the form. Anyone who has had a stillbirth, regardless of the date, can obtain a certificate.

"This new law is critical to parents who suffer through the trauma of having a stillbirth," Assemblywoman Sandra Galef, D-Ossining, Westchester County. "The bill validates their loss, providing them with a formal acknowledgement of the process of gestation and labor. It will help to ease parents' pain and aid them in the healing process. I believe this legislation will give the families who experience this tragedy one small means to help assuage their grief."

Galef sponsored the bill along with Sen. William Larkin, R-New Windsor, Orange County.

For more information on certificates of stillbirth go to:

www.MISSfoundation.org
www.DanielsSTAR.org
www.angelnames.org
www.stillparentsny.webs.com

Sincere Thanks

We wish to thank all the unsung heroes who arrive at our meeting extra early to set up the facilities, prepare the refreshments, conduct the Beginning Genealogy Workshop, and staff our Help Desk and our Lending Library. **Ann and Frank Chiappisi** and **Louise Perrotta** stepped-up to cover hospitality in September and October. While **Linda Carco, Marie Pastore, Carol Galgano** and **Phil Aievoli** were at the Help Desk. Finally our IGG Library was staffed by **Phil Figario**. Without all of you, we could not conduct our meeting.

Anthony DiBartolo & Angela LaGiglia Co-Presidents

Another Case Study

Anthony Lauriano

Problem: Finding the troop movements of my father's (Fred Lauriano) outfit during World War II. In addition, I wondered if my father earned any military medals during his time in the US Army.

Information Known: A family story from my mother, Grace Cioffi Lauriano indicated that she joined my father in Texas in mid 1945, thinking he was being discharged after the surrender of Germany, but upon her arrival in Texas, Dad said he was being shipped to the Philippines in the Asian Theatre. The family always wanted to know the reason as a soldier didn't often serve in two theatres during the Second World War. Dad was in the 67th Signal Battalion – Company B.

Solution: Using the internet search engine, I inserted "67 signal battalion". I was delighted to find the outfit had a website (signal.army.mil). The site gave the chronological movements of the 67 Signal Battalion: It stated "the 67th moved from Germany to Manila in August, 1945, where it supported the 14th Corps in the Luzon area."

My father knew Morse Code, so the Army probably needed that skill.

To find if he earned any medals, I utilized the information on his discharge papers. Luckily my mother had them, as many of the National Archives records for World War II veterans were destroyed in a fire in 1973. Then I went to the National Archives website (nara.gov) and opened the menu selection for "Medal Replacements" and printed a copy of the request form.

A letter was sent back to me from the National Personal Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri indicating my father earned the following medals for his service in World War II:

Good Conduct Medal
American Campaign Medal
Asian – Pacific Campaign Medal
European–African–Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 2 bronze service stars
World War II Victory Medal
Honorable Service Lapel Button
Sharpshooter Badge with Carbine Bar

My father never talked about the war years. We had no idea he had earned these honors. My father died at 47 years of age in 1965.

Help is Here!

Remember, members needing assistance can find it at our monthly Help Session, from 9:15 to 10:30 on meeting days. Volunteers can help you to navigate through IGG databases, and the LDS website.

As per your request, we will also accept write-in questions from those who do not attend our regular meetings. The Q&A will be published in the Newsletter. Send articles or questions in Microsoft Word format to jbattag123@AOL.com.

Attention, Snowbirds!

Since the IGG Newsletter is sent by bulk mail, it will not be forwarded to you when you relocate seasonally. The post office forwards only first class mail. Instead, your newsletter is returned to us, and we incur an extra fifty-cent fee for each item returned. Our bill for these returned newsletters has escalated significantly.

We ask, therefore, that you please inform us in advance of your temporary relocation by e-mail, so that we may eliminate these unnecessary expenses. E-mail Mike Genovese(mikegino@AOL.com) with your name and the dates you will not be at your permanent residence. During these months, you will be able to access our newsletter through the MEMBERSHIP button at our website.

Future Meeting Dates for the Italian Genealogical Group

November 12, 2011 and January 14, 2012

The Library opens at 9:00 AM, the meeting starts at 10:30 AM

No regular meeting in December, IGG Christmas Luncheon

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.