ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL GROUP

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Volume 18, No. 4 **December, 2011**

President's Message

Ciao Tutti!!!

I recently received a forward from a friend that reminds us what it means to be Italian, including the smell of gravy on the stove and everyone gathered around Grandma's table for Sunday dinner. Thanksgiving and Christmas give us a chance to relive those bygone days. Recently, I taught my granddaughters how to make meatballs. As I was leaving, my son-in-law said, "Thank you, Dad, for giving us an old fashioned Sunday dinner.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we would like to extend a thank you to all those who donate their time and energies to make IGG an outstanding organization - to the hospitality committee, to the Board of Directors, to John Martino and his crew of Special Project volunteers, to Bill and Armand for setting up for the meeting, to Linda, Marie, Carol, and Phil A. for the Help Desk, to Carol and the members of the Scholarship Committee, to Art for representing us at the Federation, to Bill for keeping us in the public eye, to Phil F. for manning our library, to Tony and Joe for their work on the newsletter, and to Bud and Ann for assuming the responsibilities of the treasury.

In October, I celebrated Italian Heritage Month by giving a number of well-attended presentations at Dongan Hills Public Library and Wagner College on Staten Island. I also hosted an information desk at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center on SI. I finished Italian Heritage month at the Mineola Public Library and came from the venue with two applications for membership. One of the many props that I brought with me was a portable banner that was the inspiration of John Martino. The IGG banner made my presentations even more professional. Thanks John!!! *(Continued on Page 2)*

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(President's Message continued from Page 1) It has been my dream to bring IGG to Staten Island since my first presentation three years ago. I have been motivated by the intense interest that the Italian community on SI has for its cultural heritage and ancestry. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the inaugural meeting of the Staten Island chapter of IGG will take place on February 4, 2012 at the Richmond Road branch of the New York Public Library. It is my hope that this meeting will evolve into a viable chapter of IGG.

The Scholarship Committee has been working on updating its application for our annual 2012 awards to be given in June. This year's application will include an ancestry chart which must be completed by the applicant as evidence of his or her genealogy research.

If I had been asked ten years ago what I knew about my family tree and my Italian origins, the best I could say about myself was that my ancestors came from Benevento-Potenza and maybe Palermo. The Babe of Bethlehem (Joshua Ben Joseph) can trace his lineage back over 77 generations. Some of his distinguished ancestors included Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Kings David and Solomon, Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat, Joshua who brought down the walls of Jericho, Levi and his father, and Joseph the Carpenter of the House of David. Hope all of you have a wonderful holiday surrounded by the love of family and friends.

Merry Christmas,
Tony Di Bartolo

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ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL GROUP

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Annual Membership: Individual $22 per year;
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Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month, Sept. to June at 10:30 AM

Guest Speaker for November: Dorothy Dougherty

Joe Battagliese

Dorothy Dougherty, is a Public Program Specialist, at the NY City National Archives and Records Administration. The title of her presentation was *Exploring the 1940 Census.* Dorothy provided an informative Power Point presentation, which included the role of National Archives as record keeper and its mission to provide access to the US Population Census from 1790-1940. Here are some of her key points that will help you with your research when the 1940 Census hits the streets.

Dorothy Dougherty

The 1940 Population Census

Dorothy reports that the census will be released on April 2, 2012 beginning at 9:00 AM (EST), and it will be available electronically. There will be no name index available at that date. You will be able to browse by locating the Enumeration District. The digital images will be accessible free of charge via the internet, at NARA facilities nationwide as well as public libraries and on personal computers at home. Users will be able to download the results of their searches. You can already visit the NARA Census Countdown website at http:/www.archives.gov/genealogy/ census/1940/ index.html.

The Sixteenth Census of the US

Dorothy says that the 1940 Census includes the continental United States, Alaska, American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, the Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the military and consular services abroad, and naval services abroad or in American waters, but not at a fixed station.

Persons in the military were enumerated as residents of those states, counties, etc where their duty was located. Merchant marine crews were enumerated as a part of the population of the port from which the vessel operated.

Dorothy says that the 1904 Census is called the first modern census because of the sampling procedure employed (Supplementary Questions). A major innovation was the use of statistical sampling for 5% of the population at no additional cost. All people were asked 34 questions. Only 2 people per sheet (5% of the population) were asked an extra 16 questions making up the supplementary questions.

The 1940 Census reveals the effects of life during the 1930's including the Great Depression and economic downturn, Presidents Herbert Hoover and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Frances Perkins first female cabinet member, establishment of Social Security and the start of WWII.

The usual questions

-Address
- Number in household
- Own or rent
- Value of home
-Residence on a farm
-Age -marital status
-School attendance
-Citizenship

New Questions

-Where did you live April 1, 1935?
-Are you foreign born?
-Youth employment
-Non emergency work
-Emergency Public Work
-Highest level of education attained
-Does the person have a federal social security number?
-Were deductions made for Old Age Insurance or Railroad Retirement in 1939?
-If so, were they ½ or more or less than ½ of their wages?
-What is this person's usual occupation?
-What is this person's usual industry?

-What class of worker is this person?

-Was this person AT WORK for pay or profit in private or non emergency govt. work during the week of March 24-30?

-If not, was he at work or assigned to, public EMERGENCY WORK (WPA/NYA/CCC, etc.) during the same week?

-Was the person SEEKING WORK?

-If not.., did he HAVE A JOB, business, etc.?

Occupational codes were developed to provide employment information. Dorothy says, there are 451 occupation codes that were used to identify the type of work performed. The codes are arranged in 11 major groups, and you can review all of the occupation codes on the NARA website.

Sampling in the Census

These questions were asked of only 5% of the population, for efficiency.

Column 14: Highest grade of school completed

Column 29: Industry occupied in

Columns 35-50: Supplementary Questions

-Usual occupation and usual industry

-Class of Worker

Asked of women who have been married

-Has this person been married more than once?

-Age at first marriage

-Number of children ever born

Person giving the information in Column 7, NAME, a new addition, was included in order to correct an undercount of black men eligible for draft. The enumerator had to indicate if a person was absent from the home "Ab". For children under I year of age, the enumerator had to write "infant," and the enumerator had to enter an "X" in a circle after the name of the person providing the census information.

Indexing

1940 Census Research is indexed by NARA by state, county, township, city, or minor civil division, enumeration district. Dorothy says that you can locate people by identifying the enumeration district in which they lived in 1940 and then browsing the census population schedules for that enumeration district. The National Archives has placed copies of the enumeration district maps and descriptions in its Archival Research Catalog. ED maps for the 1940 are also on microfilm publication A3378, and graphic descriptions are on NARA microfilm publication T1224

Preparing for Release of the 1940 Census

Dorothy says to start early to make a list of all the people you want to look for in the 1940 Census. Collect addresses for these people from city directories and identify the Enumeration district (ED) in which each address is located

Be prepared to search by name (Dorothy expects that name indexes will be compiled after the release of the census) or enumeration district. Dorothy also says that it's helpful to know that the 1940 Enumeration Districts are similar to the 1930 Enumeration Districts.

Dorothy also showed us blank 1940 Population Schedules that are available at the NARA website now.

Dorothy recommends these two Finding Aids:

1. http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/census/links and

2. Stephen Morse One Step 1930/1940 ED Converter, go to http://stevemorse.org/census/index.html

Dorothy answered many questions after the lecture

Patricia Gioeni is the 50/50 Winner at the November 12th Meeting

Italian Genealogical Group Record Databases

Below is an updated list of the IGG website databases. This summer, **John Martino** and his Special Projects volunteers completed and posted the revised Brooklyn Brides index and the expanded NYC Death index. This was a huge accomplishment. The missing sections of the Brooklyn Brides records were reconstructed from scratch using Ancestry's microfilmed Brooklyn Board of Health marriage certificates.

Naturalizations:

Eastern District	1865-1957
Southern District	1824-1959
Nassau Supreme Court	1899-1989
Suffolk Supreme Court	1865-1981
Bronx Supreme Court	1914-1952
Queens Supreme Court	1906-1957
Clinton County	1865-1906
Essex County	1836-1906
Northern County Courts	1821-1855
Richmond Naturalizations	1898-1903
	1907-1959
Camden NJ Naturalizations	1932-1981
Trenton NJ Naturalizations	1838-1967
US Circuit Court for the Southern District of NY	1846-1876
1906-1911	
Alien Statements	WWII
Western District Court	1903-1966

Military Naturalizations:

Military Naturalizations	WWI, WWII, Korea

Vital Records Indexes:

New York City Death
Consisting of:

Brooklyn	1862 to 1897
Manhattan	1868 to 1894
New York City All Boroughs	1898 to 1948

New York City Grooms:

Kings County	1864 - 1907
Manhattan	1866 - 1907
Richmond	1898 - 1907
Bronx	1898 - 1907
Queens	1905 - 1907
New York City All Boroughs	1908 - 1937
Suffolk County Marriages	1908-1935
Nassau County Marriages	1908-1935

New York City Births 1880-1909

New York City Brides:

Brooklyn	1871-1918,
	1928-1937
Bronx	1899-1937
Queens	1904-1937
Manhattan	1866-1937
Staten Island	1898-1937

Early NYC Town Database

Births - Brooklyn & Queens	1847-1897
Marriages – Brooklyn	1880-1895
Deaths - Brooklyn & Queens	1847-1897

Veteran Discharges:

Suffolk County	1890-2001

2011 Vatican Christmas Stamp

The image selected by the Vatican Post to celebrate Christmas this year is taken from a painting in the Pinacoteca of the Vatican Museums. The tempera and oil painting on wood is a triptych, a work of Cretan art from the 15th century.

Troops Photograph Every Arlington Grave

ARLINGTON — This summer, troops from the Army's historic Old Guard have gone into Arlington National Cemetery to photograph every grave with an iPhone. The task, which involved more than 200,000 grave markers and more than 40,000 sets of cremated remains, is part of the Army's effort to update and fully digitize the cemetery's maps. The Old Guard performed its work at night to escape the summer heat and to avoid interrupting funerals.

Last year a scandal over mismanagement revealed unmarked and mismarked graves. Congress then mandated that the cemetery account for the graves of the people interred in the cemetery. The photos are matched with other records to find the discrepancies that need to be fixed. Military officials hope to create an online database for the public.

The Old Guard troops typically escort remains and salutes at military funerals. When taking photos, they have run-ins with rabbits, foxes and deer in the cemetery. The mission is called Task Force Christman, in honor of Pvt. William Henry Christman, an Easton, Pa., native and Civil War soldier who was the first soldier buried at Arlington.

Sometimes, the men worked in silence as one soldier shown a light on a grave while another squatted to photograph it. Other times, they chatted about football or debated the best flavor of Gatorade.

In June 2010, the Army's inspector general released a scathing report on mismanagement at the cemetery, which prompted the Army to immediately bring in new managers and instigate efforts to rectify the problems.

The troops say they take seriously their role in restoring order to the cemetery. They reported to cemetery managers any problems, such as a few graves with duplicative headstones, so the issues could be resolved.

Source: Condensed from an Associated Press article that appeared in the August 26, 2011 issue of the Richmond Times-Dispatch

What Will You Do With Your Genealogy Research?

Randy Seaver wrote an interesting blog post about his hopes and his plans for his genealogy research after his demise. For an avid genealogist of a certain age, this is a question of huge importance.

I am a firm believer that no one, no matter how interested, will want my 6 filing cabinet drawers of loose papers. No one will want dozens of family surname binders.

This extends to all of us. Who would want drawers and drawers of loose papers, no matter how well organized? Who has the time to read it all or the space required to store it?

Digital copies on DVDs? Maybe.. but will they survive technological changes? Will they be readable 50 years from now?

It is unlikely that any museum or library will want your work in loose form.

For me, the solution has always been clear in my mind. The only way I can come close to guaranteeing that my years of hard work will not be lost is to write and publish family books. I can self-publish using any number of websites such as Lulu.com, Shutterfly.com, Blurb.com and soon.

I can print books myself, create laminated covers and bind them using coils. I could print copies of all documents, run off a family pedigree chart and place everything about a specific person or surname in a binder.

That doesn't work well for me as I would end up with 50 or more binders. I don't think anyone would want to give them house room! But it is an option.

That takes care

Source: Olive Tree Genealogy Blog, November 18, 2011

Pittsburgh Chapter News

October Meeting-The Chapter has increased its membership with 3 new members: Elizabeth Cheeks, searching the Caserta area; Lucille Abellonie, looking at Piedmonte; and Michael Pelligrini, researching in Calabria.

Many of the members visited Italy this past summer. Kathy Rosella and her father returned to his hometown of Belmonte and Amentea, for the first time in 50 years. He was able to locate cousins using photos as a aide. Rose Bagin attended a festa in the Naples region. She also obtained family records from the Municipio and photos at the local cemetery. Members attended the "Little Italy Days" festa and the Columbus Day Parade both held in Bloomfield. The Pittsburgh Public Market held programs on cooking tomatoes, garlic, and figs.

The Pittsburgh Library is now an affiliate library for the Family History Library in Salt Lake. Films can be ordered and viewed in this library. A special viewer and a printer are being order for member use. The Pittsburgh Chapter and the Western PA Genealogy Society are providing the monetary assistance for this project.

November Meeting-The first speaker was Cindy Ultrich, a senior librarian, who illustrated the many updated features of www.familysearch.org and www.ancestry.com. She discussed the Historic Pittsburgh site and the ability to use the Sanborn Maps from their home computers.

Rita Licnerski gave a Power Point presentation on her mother's home town in the Campania region. Members then shared many stories of family Christmas customs and recipes.

The next meeting of the Pittsburgh Chapter is in February 2012, at the Carnegie Library.

FamilySearch Update

Phil Figario says Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter reports that FamilySearch has placed Civil Registrations of the Tribunale di Lagonegro, Potenza, online. These records cover the period of 1866-1910 and they include over 154,000 records. You can browse, through the images of the yearly registers on your computer at home. You can enlarge, save and print-out documents, and, best of all, it's free. The Comuni and frazione included in the Tribunale records are as follows:

- •Calvera
- •Carbone
- •Cersosimo
- •Chiaromonte
- •Episcopia
- •Fardella
- •Gallicchio
- •Lagonrgro
- •Latronico
- •Lauria
- •Maratea
- •Missanello
- •Moliterno
- •Nemoli
- •Noepoli
- •Rivello
- •Roccanova
- •Rotonda
- •Sarconi
- •Senise
- •Spinoso
- •Teana
- •Trecchina
- •Viggianello
- •Castelluccio Inferiore
- •Castelluccio Superiore
- •Castelsaraceno
- •Castronuovo Di Sant'Andrea
- •Francavilla In Sinni
- •San Chirico Raparo
- •San Costantino Albanese
- •San Martino D'Agri
- •San Paolo Albanese
- •San Severino Lucano
- •Sant'Arcangelo
- •Terranova Di Pollino

Just go to the FamilySearch website https://familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://hr-search-api:8080/searchapi/search/collection/1947686

Also, get access to billions of other records. FamilySearch's Microfilm Ordering service is your gateway to a vast collection of genealogical and historical records. The service allows you to reserve and loan films to family history centers and affiliate libraries. The loan is free, but there is a small shipping and handling charge for each film. Go to https://www.familysearch.org/films/

Social Security Death Index

Editor's Note: In order to comply with privacy laws of certain States, the Social Security Administration is making changes to the way it compiles the Public Death Master File. The SSA can no longer disclose protected State records. This will change the amount of records compiled in the SSDI.

June DeLalio, who has been reviewing these changes says, "Anyone doing research in a state that protects all its vital records better rush to see what is still there before it disappears." For you information, printed below is a copy of the SSA fact sheet on the changes. When we learn more about the states involved we will keep you informed.

Q: What is the Public Death Master File (DMF)?

A: The Public DMF is a file of all deaths reported to SSA from sources other than States, beginning around 1936. It is not a complete file of all deaths and we cannot guarantee the accuracy of the DMF. The absence of a particular person on this file is not proof that the individual is alive. Further, in rare instances it is possible for the record of a person who is not deceased to be included erroneously in the DMF.

Q: When and why did we create the Public DMF?

A: We created the Public DMF in 1980 as a result of a 1978 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit filed in the Federal District Court by Ronald Perholtz. We make the Public DMF available through an agreement with the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), which is a part of the Department of Commerce.

Q: Where does SSA get its death records?

A: We receive death reports from family members, funeral homes, hospitals, States, Federal agencies, postal authorities and financial institutions.

Q: What change is SSA making to the Public DMF?

A: We began disclosing certain state records on the Public DMF in 2002. After review of the Public DMF, we have determined that we can no longer disclose protected State records. Section 205 (r) of the Social Security Act prohibits SSA from disclosing State death records we receive through our contracts with the States, except in limited circumstances. Therefore, we cannot legally share those State records on the Public DMF. (Section 205r link - http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title02/0205.htm)

Q: When will this change be effective?

A: November 1, 2011.

Q: How will this change affect the size of the Public DMF?

A: In 2010, we shared approximately 2.8 million death records, including updates or changes, on the Public DMF. We expect that yearly number to decrease by approximately 1 million. In addition, our historical Public DMF contains 89 million records. We expect that number to decrease by approximately 4.2 million records.

Q: How will customers of the Public DMF be notified of the change?

A: NTIS will send a letter to their customers notifying them in advance of the change.

Q: How will the change affect Federal agencies?

A: The law allows SSA to share all death records, including State records, with agencies that pay federally funded benefits. This change will not affect the Internal Revenue Service, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and some other Federal agencies. NTIS will notify the 18 Federal agencies that currently purchase the Public DMF about the change. Those agencies, and others, may contact us to determine whether they may qualify under the law to get all SSA's death records.

Q: Are there other ways for the public to get death data?

A: Yes, State vital statistics offices are the first point of collection for death data.

Christmas in Rome

Ellis Island Museum Unveils New Galleries

First Phase of The Peopling of America® Center Explores Pre-Ellis Era

New York, NY (October 28, 2011) - Today, The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation and the National Park Service opened the first phase of the Peopling of America® Center, a major expansion of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, which will explore arrivals before the Ellis Island Era. This 10,000 square foot experience focuses on the history of immigration from the Colonial Era to the opening of Ellis Island in 1892. Interpretative graphics and poignant audio stories tell first-hand accounts of the immigrant's journey - from making the trip and arriving in the United States to their struggle and survival after they arrived and efforts to build communities and ultimately a nation.

"Until now, our exhibits have centered on the years when Ellis Island was open," said Stephen A. Briganti, the Foundation's President and CEO. "Of course the history of migration to America goes back to our nation's beginnings right up to today, so there were many people whose stories weren't told. The Peopling of America® Center will fill an enormous gap in America's understanding of its past, present, and future."

Also unveiled today was the American Flag of Faces™, a large interactive video installation filled with a montage of images submitted by individuals of their families, their ancestors, or even themselves which illustrates the ever-changing American mosaic. A living exhibit, Flag of Faces accepts photo submissions and can also be viewed at www.FlagofFaces.org.

The Center's second phase, which will open in Spring 2013, will present a series of interactive multi-media exhibits that focus on the immigration experience from the closing of Ellis Island in 1954 to the present day, including a dynamic radiant globe that illustrates migration patterns throughout human history. The Peopling of America® Center was designed by ESI Design and fabricated by Hadley Exhibits, Inc. For more information, visit www.flagoffaces.org.

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization founded in 1982 to raise funds for and oversee the historic restorations of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, working in partnership with the National Park Service/U.S. Department of the Interior. In addition to restoring the monuments, the Foundation created a museum in the Statue's base and the world-class Ellis Island Immigration Museum, The American Immigrant Wall of Honor® and the American Family Immigration History Center®. Its endowment has funded over 200 projects at the islands.

For more information contact:
Peg Zitko (212) 561-4517
pzitko@ellisisland.org

January 14th Meeting

Our January meeting will feature Linda Burgess from *Twenty-ink*, who will show us how old photos can be restored professionally. After Linda's talk, our panel of genealogy experts will answer your "how to" questions about researching. Please come to this meeting prepared with problems you are encountering. Hopefully, our experts will help you scale your brick walls. Members who are unable to attend the January meeting may submit questions by e-mail or snail mail to Angela LaGiglia, (Alagi10105@AOL.com or 11 Quincy Place, West Islip, NY 11795). Allow time for your questions to arrive by January 10th. All questions received by snail- or e-mail will be answered either through the newsletter or by e-mail or snail mail.

Christmas in New York 2011

How to Get Records from Social Security for Genealogical Research

I am doing genealogical research. How can I request records from the Social Security Administration?

You may make your request online for some information from our records. *(See the story on protected records on Page 8)* Otherwise, the SSA needs certain identifying information to search its records.

Records are filed by Social Security numbers rather than by names. If you can provide the person's Social Security number, the SSA will search their records for information they might have. Without a Social Security number, the SSA will need the person's full name, date and place of birth, and parents' full names to locate the record. If you can provide the necessary identifying information, they will search for the number.

You may send your request to:

Social Security Administration
OEO FOIA Workgroup
300 N. Green Street
P.O. Box 33022
Baltimore, Maryland 21290-3022

You will be charged the cost of searching SSA records even if the SSA is unable to locate any information on the person you are asking about. The fee for searching our records is $27 when the Social Security number is known and $29 when the number is unknown or is incorrect. The check or money order should be made payable to the Social Security Administration.

A deceased person does not have any privacy rights. Therefore, if he or she applied for a Social Security number, we can generally provide a copy of the Application for a Social Security Card (Form SS-5). This document contains the person's name, date and place of birth, and parents' names that were given when he or she applied for the number. Social Security did not begin keeping records until 1936; therefore, there are no records about people who died before then. They cannot search for records of people born before 1865 unless you provide the Social Security number.

There is a form available to request copies of Application for a Social Security Number (Form SS-5) for people who are deceased. Form SSA-711 for this purpose; however, you do not need to use the form. Address your request to:

Social Security Administration
OEO FOIA Workgroup
300 N. Green Street
P.O. Box 33022
Baltimore, Maryland 21290-3022

Bill and Patty Malchow, first time visitors, at the November 12th IGG meeting

Condolences

We recently learned that, **Barbara A. Schultz** of Albertson, NY a longtime active members passed away in July of this year. Barbara was a fixture at our Italian Genealogical Group meetings and one of John Martino's ever present Special Projects volunteers.

Our condolences go to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and her sister Alice Borra, also an IGG member.

Another Case Study

Anthony Lauriano

Problem: Find the cemetery where my great – uncle Antonio Cioffi is buried when the birth and death dates are unknown.

Information Known: The parents are Giro and Luisa Villano Cioffi, two immigrants to America, who were married in the early 1890's in New York City. The parents were buried at St. Raymond's Cemetery, Bronx, NYC, but the child is not.

Common Ground Marker
Calvary Cemetery

Solution: A review of the names on two websites listing the burial places of certain persons, mentioned no Antonio Cioffi (findagrave.com) and (interment.net).

The 1910 US Federal Census revealed that by April 24, 1910, the date of the census, Luisa Cioffi had 10 children of which only 5 were living. Antonio Cioffi was not listed, his death probably occurred between 1890 and April 24, 1910. As the family was Italian–American and assumed to be of the Roman Catholic faith, I used the internet search engine to find the telephone number of the Roman Catholic Diocese of New York. The Diocese representative told me that the parish for the address on the 1910 Census was Our Lady of Mount Carmel on 116 Street, Manhattan, NYC and gave me the telephone number. The secretary at the parish had a baptismal record for an Antonio Cioffi within the timeframe I was searching.

Now I had a birth date for Antonio, September 26, 1895.

The website for the Italian Genealogical Group a genealogy group which lists the vital records for all nationalities in New York City, showed an Antonio Cioffi on the index. After receiving a copy of the death certificate from the NYC Archives, it indicated that Antonio Cioffi died on May 21, 1896 and was buried at Calvary Cemetery, Queens, New York

The sexton at the cemetery said the child was in an unmarked grave paid for by the church. This was, sadly, the fate of many of the poor immigrants, when so many died of infectious diseases in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Computer Corner

Anthony DiMarino writes, this is a slide show with a short explanation about places in Italy that not many people know of. To the right of the web page is a link, "A Gothic Tour of Italy," with in-depth details of places in Italy. Also, there is the Travel Guide to Italy. From the Travel Guide, move the mouse to the left of the page under ITALY, to Overview, then to a detailed map of Italy. From Frommer's on the left of the page, you can click on one of the links that explains Regions in Brief, which is full of information. Included are many more links to arouse your interest. The Travel Guide also has a area near the top under Plan Your Trip with a pull down menu of many areas of the world you may desire to explore. http://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2011/10/30/travel/20111030-gothic-italy.html

The Paolo Cresci Foundation of Lucca has sponsored an online library of letters and files documenting the history of Italian migration. Cresci collected information about Italian emigration in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Go to http://www.fondazionepaolocresci.it/main.asp

Future Meeting Dates for the Italian Genealogical Group

January 14, and February 11, 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.