ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL GROUP

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**Volume 18, No. 5** **January, 2012**

## President's Message

Happy New Year to all! I hope 2012 brings everyone good health, happiness, and prosperity, as well as success in your family research. Those who attended our Christmas luncheon in December enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon at Filomena's Restaurant. Our magnificent meal was accompanied by accordionist, Rosalba Mallozzi, who played holiday music and Italian favorites. We thank **Mike and Barbara Florio and Dolores and Bill Gimello** for arranging this wonderful gathering. Also **MaryAnn and Anthony DiMarino** for the special favors distributed at the tables.

Thanks also go to **Carol Galgano**, who coordinated fund-raising efforts for the IGG Scholarship. Winners of the raffle were **Carl Onesti** (first prize ) of Wisconsin and **Mario Toglia** of New York, who collected his cash prize at the luncheon. **Patricia Gioeni** was the lucky winner of the 50/50. Altogether, the raffle and the 50/50 netted the scholarship fund the means to award one $1000 scholarship and an additional $500 scholarship. These, along with a $500 scholarship donated by IGG member, **John Scarinci**, in memory of his uncle, John Barone, will be awarded in June. We received some additional scholarship donations which will be acknowledged in the next newsletter. IGG thanks all who participated in the scholarship fundraiser, especially those who sent additional contributions. Applications and instructions for the 2012 IGG Scholarship are now available at our website. Please encourage all eligible high school seniors to apply.

Our local members are urged to attend our January meeting, which will feature Linda Burgess, a graphic arts specialist, *(Continued on Page 2)*

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## Computer Corner

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

Extraordinary color photos by Charles Weaver Cushman, reveal 1940's life in New York City. Go to http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2036932/New-York-City-photos-Charles-W-Cushman-reveal-1940s-life-Big-Apple.html

An Italian/American Farewell to Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, Italy's Ambassador to the United States by Anthony Tamburri of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College/CUNY http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sE412ccibb0

*(President's Message continued from Page 1)*
who will show us how our family photos can be restored or repaired.

After Linda's presentation, our panel of experts, **Don Eckerle, Phil Figario, John Martino, and Marilyn Verna,** will answer your genealogical questions. Come to the meeting prepared to have your problems addressed by seasoned researchers. Those members for whom distance precludes attendance at our meeting may send questions by e-mail to me at ALAGI10105@AOL.com. All those who send questions by e-mail will receive personal responses.

I look forward to seeing all locals at our next meeting. Remember that the library opens its doors at 9 AM. Come early to socialize over cake and coffee or to get individual help from volunteers at our Help Desk (9:30). Our Beginning Genealogy Workshop also begins at 9:30. **Angela LaGiglia**

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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

## Profiles from the Four Corners

Michael S. Genovese

*Latin was the language that preceded Italian, so in honor of our ancestral language, "Felix sit annus" or in Italian "Felice Anno Nuovo" or "Buon anno" or "Happy New Year!"*

As we start the New Year, I am making an annual appeal to members of IGG to consider sharing some aspect of your family research with our readers by submitting an article for publication. Submitting your story will encourage our members in their documentation of their own family heritage and genealogy. I have entitled this column, "From the Four Corners" because I wanted to emphasize the fact that our membership encompasses members of the far corners of the globe. The invitation is, therefore, extended to members of the "four corners." We want to hear from you. Remember each of us adds to the knowledge and experience about our Italian roots and our resources and tools to gather that information. The databases posted on our website are a testament to our members generosity of time, talent and energy.

Please submit your article in WORD document and e-mail it to me at mikegino@aol.com If you prefer to be interviewed via e-mail correspondence, contact me and I will assist you in the composition of your article.

**On the importance of newspapers and journals:** By researching articles in the New York Times of 1865, Rodolfo Ortega Columbus, residing in Quito, Ecuador found out about his great-great grandfather.

He tells us, "I have learned that my great-great grandfather was nominated Consul at Payta. Further documentation was obtained by way of the Journal of Executive proceedings of the Senate of the United States for 1864-1866. It states, 'To the Senate of the United States, Andrew Johnson, Washington D.C., 18 December, 1865,' I nominate Raphael M. Columbus of New York, to be the consul of the United States at Payta, in place of Henry S. Wetmore.' On Tuesday, July 12, 1866, the Senate reported favorably on his nomination. He served as Consul until he was recalled and replaced from Payta by President Grant on December 16, 1870."

**Don't ignore coincidences,** Sheila Perino Sapienza of East Setauket, New York reminds us."How many times have you combed through family records and found dates that strangely coincide in some way? Take, for instance, the date of my Aunt Laura's wedding. In the traditional Sicilian way, my aunt was named for a younger sister who had died as a child. When Laura's daughter gave me a copy of her mother's wedding certificate, I was surprised to see that Laura had been wed on her deceased sister's birthday. Unfortunately, my grandparents were long gone and my aunt out of contact with everyone. I had no way to determine if this wedding was planned to coincide with the birth date or just an oddity.

The second time a date coincidence occurred I noted it in my mind, but was less inclined to investigate. My parents were married April 12, 1947. I later located the marriage records for one of my Italian great grandparents, and they were married April 12, 1869. Interesting, but so what? Time passed, and then in the Sicilian church records, I found yet another set of ancestors was married on April 12th, but this time it was in 1774. The date had my attention now. The odds against mere coincidence were increasing, but what did April 12th have about it that was special?

My first thought was that it was a specific Saint's feast day in the church calendar. I checked a list on the internet for April and found that the 12th was no special saints day. I looked for secular importance for the day. No real help there either. I was still scratching my head and wondering when the solution appeared.

We had gone to visit one of my husband's cousins, and I was telling his wife about my April 12th problem. She was silent for a moment and then said, "I think it has to do with Lent and Easter!" She went on to tell me that unless you received a dispensation from the church, marriage during Lent was not allowed. Her parents had gotten such a dispensation because of WWII. Her father, a soldier, needed to marry her mother before he went overseas. The cousin's wife said, "I bet they were married either on Low Sunday (1st Sunday after Easter) or the week following. There must have been a back up of marriages because of Lent.

So back to the internet I went looking for a list of Easter Sundays in history. I found it on the website of the Astronomical Society of South Australia. A man named Ronald W. Mallen had a chart that listed the date of Easter from the 1700s to the 1900s. It was called 'Easter Dating Method'. Sure enough, the marriages were within the first two weeks or so of Easter. Mystery solved!

You might wonder why bother to do all this work. What I learned from my research was something about my ancestors and their religion that I had not known. I never realized that April 12 was near Easter only a few times a century. These people all made their wedding plans in accordance with the church calendar. Don't overlook such coincidence in your own research. The correspondence of these dates helped me to understand my ancestors' decisions. Isn't that something we all wish we could talk to them about?"

**Leave a written legacy about important ancestral happenings.** Father Robert Sirico of Kalamazoo, Michigan, reminds us of this as he so beautifully describes a trip with his mother to Massa Lubrense in search of his mother's relatives.

Father Sirico writes, "Before I could despair of having to get back into the Fiat *Cinquecento,* what seemed like the entire assembly in the barber shop walked us across the small street to an apartment building and led us up several floors to a door that bore the name "Greco." The door bell was rung and a kindly looking woman answered the door. Drying her hand she looked at us and said "Si? Posso aiutarVi?" ("Yes? May I help you?").

My mother began to ask if they had a relative by the name of Giovannina Greco. The woman replied that she had an aunt by that name who had moved to the United States. My mother asked, if she have a relative named Salvatore Greco.

"That is my father's name," the lady replied. Then she added, "Wait here," and disappeared into the apartment.

I could see my mother getting excited. I attempted to calm her, reminding her that this was a long shot. After all, I reasoned, these are all very common names and a great many families from this region of Italy had immigrated to the US a century ago. I also cautioned my mother to be careful, fearing that these people, thinking us to be rich Americans, might tell us we were related only to get money. I thought it prudent to lower our expectations.

All my prudence went flying out the window when the woman returned to door. In her hand was an old sepia-toned photograph wrapped in a dusty plastic cover. As she uncovered the tattered photo I recognized it immediately. It was a copy of a photo I had seen many times in our family album. It was a portrait taken at the wedding of one of my mother's sisters. In it were my grandparents and their 13 children with their respective spouses. My best guess is that it was 40 years old if it was a day.

I took the photo into my hands and saw my parents in their youth. I pointed to this as I showed the lady at the door and then pointed to my mother. All of us, cried together."

## Social Security Death Index Update

**RootsWeb** Social Security Death Index database is no longer available at their website. A visit to this site will direct you to the paid site Ancestry.com where the SSDI page is still available.

**Ancestry** will no longer provide the Social Security numbers for anyone who died in the previous 10 years.

**GenealogyBank** has also removed social security numbers for anyone who died in the previous 10 years from their SSDI database. The GenealogyBank continues to provide free access to SSDI, but you must register with a name and email to view the data.

The reasons for these changes began with an **October** Scripps Howard News Service report that complained about individuals using Social Security numbers of deceased individuals, found online, to commit identity theft.

In **November,** the SSA began removing names from the Death Master file where the only source of death information was a state record of death.

In **December**, a petition was filed by congressional members who support legislation introduced by Rep. Sam Johnson (R-Texas) to remove all public access to the Social Security information.

## Spotlight: Brooklyn, NY Cemeteries

Valerie Beaudrault

### The Green-Wood Cemetery

The Green-Wood Cemetery was founded in 1838 as one of the country's earliest rural cemeteries. The 478-acre cemetery with "hills, valleys, glacial ponds and paths," contains 560,000 graves. As noted on its website, an 1866 New York Times article stated, "It is the ambition of the New Yorker to live upon Fifth Avenue, to take his airings in the [Central] Park, and to sleep with his fathers in Green-Wood." Click on the Historic Green-Wood link to view a dropdown list of options from which to select. Select About/History to read details of the cemetery's history.

Many notable individuals are buried in Green-Wood Cemetery, including Leonard Bernstein, Boss Tweed, Charles Ebbets, Louis Comfort Tiffany, and Horace Greeley, as well as Civil War generals, baseball legends, politicians, artists, entertainers and inventors. On the cemetery website you will find profiles of a few of these famous 'residents.' Select on the Famous Residents link from the dropdown list to access the biographies.

Select Map from the dropdown list under the Historic Green-Wood tab to view and download a PDF version of a comprehensive map of Green-Wood Cemetery. The map also contains the names and photographs of some of the more well-known cemetery residents. Their graves are noted on the map. You will need the free Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the map.

There is a photo gallery under the Photos link. Click on the Videos link to view a number of videos of the cemetery. You will also find a list of films and television shows shot on location at Green-Wood Cemetery.

The link to the burial database search page may also be found on the dropdown list under the Historic Green-Wood tab. It should be noted that the database is not complete. Some burials may be missing from the list, particularly some of the earliest ones. (The records at the cemetery are complete.) Select the Burial Search link to open the search page. The database can be searched by first name and last name. Searches can be limited by year of burial. You should note that the date of interment listed in the database might not be the date of an individuals' first burial at Green-Wood Cemetery. If an individual was moved from one grave to another, the date of interment listed in the database will be the re-interment date. The data fields in the search returns are last name, first name, burial date, and lot and section. Individual burial transcripts and a listing of names and dates of interment of all individuals buried in a plot may be ordered from the cemetery for a fee.

### The Evergreens Cemetery

The Evergreens Cemetery was organized in 1849. It covers 225 acres and is located in Brooklyn on the Brooklyn-Queens border. More than 526,000 people are buried in Evergreens Cemetery. It is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Click on the Records tab to begin a search the interment records of The Evergreens Cemetery. Currently the records of over 300,000 of the more than 500,000 individuals buried at the Evergreens have been included in the searchable database. The list is nearly complete for the period from 1849 to 1877, and the period from 1942 to the present. The database is a work in progress with new records being added on a regular basis. You can search by first name and last name. The data fields in the search results are first name, middle name, last name, burial date, and burial number. Researchers may contact the cemetery directly for additional information.

Click on the Stories tab to find biographical information about some of the notable individuals buried in the cemetery and articles about historical events, including disasters, as they relate to the cemetery. The stories are organized under the following headers: The Revolutionary War, The Civil War, Famous Musicians, Entertainers and Artists, Quirky Characters, and Historical Disasters. On the right side of the Stories main page you will find links to the individual narratives.

*Source: The website of the American Ancestors-New England Historical Genealogy Society, Daily Genealogist*

*Posted by Jean Powers 12/12/2011 7:35AM*

# IGG Annual Christmas Luncheon

# Filomena's Restaurant—December 10, 2011

**Mario Toglia,**

**Patricia Gioeni and Mike Florio**

## Genealogy Events-Winter 2012

**Tony Lauriano** will present his *Beginning Genealogy* to *Writing the Family Story Series*, on Tuesdays, **January 10, 17, 24, 27, and 31**, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at Clarkstown School District, 62 Old Middletown Road, New City, NY 10956. Call this number to register, 845-639-5628.

Tony will also present his *Military Records Research* lecture, Saturday**, January 21**, 1:00 PM, at the New City Library, Rockland County, NY. Call 846-634-4997, Ext. 139, Sally Pelligrini to register.

Also, on Saturday, **February 11**, at 9:00 AM, Tony will present his *Difficult Cases* lecture at the Westchester County Genealogical Society, Dobbs Ferry, NY. Call the to register.

**Bill and Dolores Gimello, Barbara Florio, Tony DiBartolo and Mike Florio present the dessert**

## The Scoop: Say No To "Mob Wives"

By Stella Foster

Restaurateur Tony Durpetti, owner of Gene & Georgetti's steakhouse, recently received a call from the producers of the hit VH1 "Mob Wives" reality show asking if they could use his eatery as one of the locations to film a Chicago spin-off version of the series. According to a letter sent to owners/operators of Chicago-area Italian restaurants by Louis H. Rago, president of the Italian American Human Relations Foundation of Chicago, "Tony not only refused them, but informed them that should they come to the restaurant, he would personally escort them out."

Rago is sick of the stereotypical and negative images that are promoted through media about Italians and is asking the owners not to participate. "We need more Tony Durpettis in our community," said Rago. "We need folks who will just stand up and say 'enough.' We hope Tony has started a movement long needed in the Italian-American community."

Thus far, restaurant owners Phil Stefani, Alex Dana and Joey DiBuono are saying they will not participate in the show.

*Source: Chicago Suntimes*

## Finding the Immigrant Ship's Manifest

Anthony Lauriano

The jewel of family history documents for many of us is the actual Ship's Manifest listing our family member's arrival in America. The manifest is usually the first recorded history of our family in America.

From the US census, we can learned the year our family members first came to America. Keep in mind, however, that the 1900, 1910, and 1920 census reports might indicate different arrival years. Sometimes, our ancestors forgot the actual year.

My maternal grandfather listed the year of arrival as 1883, 1884 and 1885 on three successive census reports. A three year time frame is close enough to help to locate the Manifest.

### Chronology of NY City Immigration Ports

| | |
|---|---|
| 1624-7/31/1855 | no official US port. |
| 8/1/1855-4/18/1890 | Castle Garden immigration port, the first in the US. |
| 4/19/1890-12/31/1891 | Barge Office. While building Ellis Island |
| 1/1/1892-6/14/1897 | Ellis Island (original structure) |
| 6/15/1897-12/16/1900 | Barge Office. (fire in original structure) |
| 12/17/1900-mid 1900's | Ellis Island |

Philadelphia port indexes are available from approximately 1800 to 1906.

### Important Considerations When Reviewing Ships Manifests

The Manifest was completed at the immigrant's home port (an American form) by an Italian. The names and spelling provided by the immigrant may be different from the name and spelling that evolved over the years in America.

Be sure to read all the pages including the last pages entitled:

- ALIENS HELD FOR SPECIAL INQUIRY
- RECORD OF DETAINED ALIENS
- LIST OF ALIENS EMPLOYED AS MEMBERS OF THE CREW

A line across the name means that the immigrant left the ship before it sailed. Usually he was turned away for medical reasons after being recorded in the manifest. If he or she sailed with the ship and was sent back from America the fare was paid by the steamship line. The line, therefore, scrutinized all the passengers for illness before the ship left port.

### Meaning of the "Reasons Held" Pages at the End of the Manifest

Illness

LPC – likely public charge -- ( No means of support. )

LCD – loathsome contagious disease ( such as Traucoma of the eye )

My wife Rosalia's great grandmother was held as LPC until her husband, who was already in America, came to meet her. She was fed a meal until his arrival at Ellis Island.

### "Stowaway" versus "Jumped Ship"

Many times these expressions may be used in the same conversation, but are usually distinct situations. A "stowaway" slipped on the ship unrecorded and unpaid. If caught he was put to work by the ship's captain and would appear on the page "List of Aliens Employed as Members of the Crew "

The "jumped ship" designation usually means that the person was an employee of a foreign merchant ship docked in the US on business. While on liberty, he decided not to return to his ship and was thus in the US unrecorded. Finding sailing information on such a persons is impossible.

### Where to Obtain Ships' Manifests

On the following websites:

- Www.ancestry.com —a pay site with copies of Manifests on-line. Many libraries have this site free of charge.
- Www.castlegarden.org —name by name listing of arrivals to New York prior to the opening of Ellis Island.
- Www.ellisislandrecords.org —name by name listing of arrivals to Ellis Island depot commencing in 1892.
- Www.archives.gov/genealogy/immigration —US National Archives site. Cost to order the Manifest.

To obtain Manifests of my family, I prefer to locate the record on Ancestry.com, jotting down fiche and/or file numbers found then order the manifest on archives.gov/genealogy/immigration. The record from the US Archives is enhanced and full size.

## New IGG Members for November and December 2011

| | |
|---|---|
| Patti L. Fichtner | Manteca, CA |
| Fame P. DiLeo | Princeton, NJ |
| Rose Bonagura | Seaford, NY |
| Cathy Buscemi | West Islip, NY |
| Andrea Bucher-McAdams | New York, NY |
| William & Patricia Malchow | Wantagh, NY |
| Christopher & Laura Murano | E Meadow, NY |
| Carmela DiCosimo | Valley Stream, NY |
| Brother Anthony Cavet | West Roxbury, MA |

## Corrections

John Martino reports that, the article on the missing sections of the Brooklyn Brides database misidentified the source of the microfilmed Board of Health marriage certificates, The microfilm was supplied by Latter-Day Saints Library -not Ancestry.

## A Story about Italy's Wars

Bill Battagliese

There were many Italian war heroes, especially in the Great War ending in 1861. This year, 2011 Italy celebrates 150 years of independence. In 1814, in Vienna, there was a conference where all the sovereign participating winners, including Napoleon Bonaparte, divided the many small states in Italy. Then, at the end of the Great War, Italy was united. This was the war that created hunger and great poverty, and many died from this poverty. As a result, many of our ancestors were tempted to emigrate to a new fortune in the Americas both North and South.

Then came Italy's second Great War in 1915-18. This continued the great misery that finally ended after the 1940-44 war.

There is still a shrine, with the names of the many heroes. One of those heroes, Captain Nicola Battagliese, was born in Vallo di Lucania in 1793 and died in Russia in 1812, following the King of Naples, Joachim Murat in the war of Emperor Napoleon, against Russia's Tsar Alexander the 1st. There is even a street named Via Nicola Battagliese in Vallo.

On the 29th of November, during the retreat from Moscow, at the passage of the Berezina River (which was covered by ice flows and guarded by enemy troops), Nicola was part of the emergency special body, renamed in the field, "The Sacred Squadron," formed by the cavalry officers and survivors, organized to protect the retreat from the assault of the Russian Emperor and the remains of the "great army."

In this extreme defense, Captain Nicola Battagliese, just 19 years old, was slain, writing a page of heroism that, throughout the years, would be proudly handed down to the historical memory of Vallo's younger generations.

## Buongiorno, Cicala!

Tom Fontana

### Carbondale (PA) ancestors traced to Italian mountain village

If your name is or was something like .... Barone, Bianco, Bifano, Bruno, Cardamone, Ceraminara, Cerminaro, Cianflone, DeFazio, DeLeo, Falvo, Graziano, Giggliotti,

Gillati, Guzzi, Lapera, Mazza, Mirillo, Oliveri, Mascaro, Masco, Perri, Scalzo, Scarpino, Scavo, Misko, Ruggiero, Talerico, Tolerico, Talarico, Torchia, Zazzara, Mancuso... then the mayor of Cicala, Italy, has a message for you:

*"Please, Carbondale, we want to hear from you!"*

Cicala Mayor Giacomo Muraca requested that message be personally delivered to Carbondale by Carbondale natives Anthony Cerminaro and his son Jeff, following a trip last July to the home of their ancestors.

Tony and Jeff are the owners of Walker's Jewelers in Berwick, and were the owners of Bond Jewelers in Carbondale which was managed by Tony's brother, the late James Cerminaro, and his wife Margaret.

Tony and Jeff had been to Italy before, but this time they were on a mission: to make a connection with their ancestral roots in the town of Cicala, the hometown (as they learned) of many other immigrants to Carbondale who arrived here about 100 years ago.

"I knew my great-grandfather, Rosario Cerminara, came to Carbondale with his father in 1904," Jeff explains, "So I got the current Cicala phone book, and wrote a 1etter to 17 Cerminara families listed, asking if they knew of any of their relatives who settled in Carbondale."

One of the Cerminaras who received the letter doesn't speak English, so he contacted his niece, Marilena Mancuso, who lives in Montreal, Canada, who speaks Italian and English. She contacted Jeff.

"Marilena told me her uncle passed my letter on to a Scavo family in Cicala," Jeff says, "Marisa Scavo wrote to me, and we made the connection between our two families." It turned out that Marisa's great-grandfather was Santo Cerminara, brother of' Rosario.

In exploring his family tree, Jeff tracked down a list of passengers who sailed on the ship that deposited his great grandfather at Ellis Island in New York City, the major processing center for European immigrants during part of the late 19th and 20th centuries. While they were in NY City, whether intentionally or accidentally, the "a" at the end of Cerminalra was changed to an "o."

On that passenger manifest, Jeff saw that many families from Cicala were recorded as intending to head north to Canada to work in coal mines. Rosario and his father, followed others to another coal mining town, in Pennsylvania - a bustling metropolis called Carbondale. When the Cerminaros arrived in the Pioneer City, they were surely among the first immigrants to see the architectural gem at the center of town, the recently completed, three-story, clock-towered City Hall.

Records show that Rosario lived on Cliff St., in the area of the mine fires, and later at 6 Duffy St., worked for the D&H Railroad, and died young. His youngest son Santo, Tony's uncle, currently lives at 6 Duffy St.

Word of Marisa Scavo's contact with Jeff spread through Cicala. "The people there were ecstatic," Jeff recalls. "Marisa and her parents were especially excited to find out they had relatives in the United States."

Jeff and Tony planned their trip to Cicala to coincide with the town's annual celebration of its patron saint, - the Feast of San Giacomo, during the last week of July. While there, they stayed with the Scavo family. Also visiting at the same time were about 100 citizens from Montreal, Canada, whose ancestors were from Cicala.

"The people of Cicala welcomed us with open arms," Jeff says, "They were really excited to meet us."

Cicala is a mountain village of southern Italy in the Province of Catanzaro, Calabria region. According to Tony, the climate is "perfect." "The countryside is unbelievable," he adds. "It takes your breath away."

The town consists of stone buildings lining narrow, winding streets on a hillside. Both Tony and Jeff could not help noticing how it resembles

the winding maze of streets on Carbondale's West Side.

As they met the residents of Cicala, the Cerminaros discovered several connections with Carbondale. For instance, they heard of Cicala women who had immigrated to Carbondale and worked as seamstresses, some at the Globe Store in the Anthracite Hotel on S. Main St. in the 1950s, and later returned to their hometown.

They also met a 100 year-old Cicala resident who remembers hearing talk of people from Cicala settling in a place called Carbondale in the United States.

"The name Carbondale is part of their language in Cicala," Tony says. "When we walked down the streets in Cicala, we constantly saw people who looked like some people in Carbondale."

Another similarity Tony noticed between Cicala and Carbondale was a favorite delicacy - fried dough. Otherwise, he says "they do it right" when it comes to diet. "Cicala was a farming community," he explains, "so much of their food is organic, no chemicals or fatty foods, plus lots of fruit such as apples and oranges as part of a meal. It's common there to take a nap after a large noon dinner. And their water comes right out of mountain springs along the road, clear and fresh. If you're going somewhere, you take a jug with you so you can bring back fresh water."

During their visit, Tony and Jeff received a plaque declaring them "Honorary Citizens of Cicala" at a ceremony held by Mayor Muraca and Cicala residents.

Jeff and Tony returned home with an even stronger determination to document more, of their family history and discover other living relatives. Jeff is also on a mission to encourage present-day Carbondaleans to contact Cicala and genealogy sources to further enrich the immigrant traditions of the Pioneer City.

"Cicala immigrants in Canada are very interested in coming to Carbondale or have Carbondale people to meet with them in Montreal." Jeff says, "Some Montreal residents are descendents of Cicalese who immigrated there in the 1950s, so there is a generation there close to the ages of current Carbondaleans who may have had ancestors from Cicala."

Jeff also suggested asking relatives what they know about their heritage, and get names and birth dates, then go the website "ancestry.com" and log in that information. Writing to the town administration in Cicala is another option, considering birth records there go back to 1870, but any correspondence must be written in Italian. The address in Cicala is: Cicala Amministrazione Comunale, via Attanzio, Cicala CZ Italia 88040.

"Tracing my ancestry is one of the most rewarding things I ever did," Jeff says, "especially when you get to visit their town of origin, walk the streets they walked, see the same countryside they saw four or five generations ago."

*This article was submitted for the Newsletter by Anthony DiMarino and Louise LaGatta. We recently attempted to contact Jeff Cerminaro to update the story and, sadly, we found that he passed away this summer.*

*However, Jeff did a good job in getting his family genealogical research out. We found many Cerminaro/Cicala records on the FamilySearch website. Jeff is also listed on the Circolo Calbria website, and I am sure that any of our readers interested in Cicala genealogy will be able to make contacts online.*

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## Arlington National Cemetery Update

### Cemetery Markers May Have Errors

Thousands of grave markers at Arlington National Cemetery may need to be replaced or added to accurately account for the dead after a meticulous Army review of each of the nearly 260,000 headstones and niche covers on the grounds. In a report to Congress on Thursday…. the Army found potential discrepancies between the headstones and the cemetery's paperwork involving about 64,000 grave markers. Congress ordered the review last year after reports of misidentified and misplaced graves that led to the ouster of the cemetery's top executives. *(AP)*

*NY Times 12/23/2011*

## Future Meeting Dates for the Italian Genealogical Group

January 14, February 11, and March 10, 2012

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