ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL GROUP

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Volume 18, No. 9 **May, 2012**

President's Message

In May, the month we traditionally honor, our mothers, let's devote some extra time to record the memories of the mothers in our lives. Be they your own mothers, your aunts, cousins, or sisters, their thoughts and ideas are important to preserve for future generations. A Mothers' Day Interview need not focus on documentary details, but rather, remembrances.

Think of questions to ask that will reveal personality traits, interests, and details of important events in their lives. Here are some possibilities for beginners:

- When you were a child, what games did you play with your friends?
- What memories of your high school years stand out?
- How did you meet your husband?
- Where did he take you on your first date?
- Describe your wedding day.
- Tell me about your first job.
- What is your fondest memory of your mother/grandmother?
- What are some of the activities you like to pursue in your leisure time?

Answers to these questions will add a new dimension to your family history and will allow your special relative to reflect upon the moments that were special in her life. Keep in mind that history tells the story of events past, but today's stories will be the history for future generations. Share your stories and you research with your children and grandchildren, and encourage them to pick up where you leave off.

Angela LaGiglia

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Computer Corner

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

The Alexandria Library, Special Collections has developed a searchable database of Naturalization Petitions filed in the US District Court, eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria, 1909-1929. Included are soldiers from all over the US who were stationed at Camp Humphries, now Ft. Belvoir, and naturalized at that location. Prints of the microfilmed petitions are available. Just go to http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us/lhsc_genealogy_resources/citizen/citizen.html and begin by selecting from the ranges of surnames.

IGG Library: Phil Figario continues to provide updates to the list of browsable images, from Italy and New York, recently added to Family Search Historical Record Collections:

New Jersey, County Marriages, 1682-1956, added indexed records to existing collection.

New York, County Naturalization Records, 1792-1976, new browsable image collection.

Italy, Agrigento, Agrigento, Civil Registration (Tribunale), 1866-1910, new image collection.

Italy, Bologna, Bologna, Civil Registration (Tribunale), 1866-1941, added indexed records.

Italy, Catania, Diocesi di Acireale, Catholic Church Records, 1560-1941, new image collection.

Italy, Cuneo, Civil Registration (State Archive), 1795-1915, added indexed records.

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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

Reminder: The IGG Invites you to the Bethpage Public Library for our next meeting on May 12, at 10:00 AM. Stephen P. Morse will speak about the 1940 Census, *Searching Without a Name Index* using his One-Step Webpages.

April Meeting-Tom Riley

Gail Cinelli

Tom Riley

Tom Riley, President of the Rockland County Genealogical Society, lecturer and author of *The Orphan Train Riders and the Italian Immigration to America*, was our April speaker. To start, Tom gave his family background. His family was impoverished with an often absent father. He was one of 12 children who were sent to the Happy Valley School in Pomona, New York, along with his three brothers and sister. Happy Valley School had been a home for thousands of neglected children in the metropolitan New York area from 1911 to 1972.

He was asked by a childcare agency that had occupied the site where Happy Valley once stood if he would like to go through several boxes of un-catalogued records left to the Rockland County Historical Society. As he perused the records, he realized they held a treasure trove of Americana, comprising orphanage entrance entries, boxes of photographs and records of those who resided there and letters from parents asking where their children, were years later. This began the story of The Orphan Train.

Tom Riley showed a documentary film interviewing some of the former members of Happy Valley School. It showed the strong family connection these people formed in spite of coming from dysfunctional families or from no family at all.

In 1860, half of the New York City population was foreign born. Italian migrants came into New York City with their families or joined their friends already here to help ease the way into a new society, and then there were some who found no one waiting for them when they arrived. New York City was a magnet to immigrants and the poor in search of jobs and also, the City was a haven for gamblers, thieves and murderers. When adults fell victim to alcoholism, prostitution or drug addition, their children were the first to suffer, which made for an uncertain future. There was no social safety net, no welfare, no Social Security and no health benefits. Temperance organizations stepped in, establishing orphanages and homes for unwed mothers and battered women, "Homes for the Friendless." The Children's Aid Society and the New York Foundling Hospital were two main institutions responsible for the mass "emigration" of children from New York. Some of the children in the homes were orphans, but some were surrendered by parents who were unable to take care of them. Nearly 400,000 were fostered out to families across the United States via "Orphan Trains" which traveled east from Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago and other cities west accompanied by agents. The purpose was to find families that would take in children in a "free-home-placing-out" program. At stops along the way, the children on these trains were taken in by farmers, storekeepers and other Americans who wanted a child or needed extra help. The largest ethnic groups sent out on orphan trains were of English, Irish and German ancestry. They were America's first foster children, and these years became known as the Orphan Train Era. The Orphan Train Era eventually led to child welfare reforms and government assistance to keep families together

Today in several states across America, a number of Orphan Train Rider organizations have formed, providing opportunities for the riders to reunite with family and loved ones, recalling those days of their youth, and seeking sources that provide clues to their roots. They held fast to the promise of America that anyone can rise above his harsh and humble beginnings to become all he can, if he is willing to work hard enough to reach his dreams. To the present time, Tom Riley is still contacted by many people asking for his help in finding relatives that were on the orphan trains. Tom can be contacted at totrwriter@aol.com.

A database built by volunteers of The Orphan Train Heritage Society of America is found at OTHSA@msn.com.

Profiles from the Four Corners

Michael S. Genovese

This month, one of our stories comes from IGG member **Dexter Eustis**, and believe it or not he hails from Eustis, Florida.

The Ribando Family from Villafrati, in the Province of Palermo, Sicily

My brother-in-law, Frank Clark, was born in New York City to a taxi-cab driver of Maine-iac extraction and an Italian mother. As the family genealogist, I have known for some time that my sister's children and grandchildren included some who were interested in genealogy, so I finally got tired of simply "advising" and got busy …

I subscribe to Ancestry.com and so searched records that were found about Frank's Italian ancestry – quite a bit really. You can access Ancestry databases by finding them (for free) in many public libraries, including LDS (Mormon) Family History Centers (FHC's). Your closest LDS FHC can be located by going to FamilySearch.org, clicking on Library and following along to locate one nearest to you. They are often staffed by volunteers and hours are generally in flux – I advise calling ahead to verify whether they have access to ancestry.com and verify hours of operation. Localities are often in church buildings.

I found on ships' passenger lists that Frank's Italian ancestors came to New York from the Island of Sicily, Province of Palermo, villages of Villafrati and nearby Godrano. You really ought to find out what you can about your family in this country BEFORE expecting to find out about them in Italy. Of course, I don't know much Italian, but from experience helping others, I know a little Latin and a little German AND the local FHC has a nice lady who is familiar with Italian documents - so I looked on the library catalog of FamilySearch.org for availability of records for Godrano and Villafrati and put in an order for a microfilm of Civil Registration of Births from each village. There is a fee for monthly renting for each microfilm requested. Please note that once the microfilm arrive, one needs to be prepared to view them at the Center. The data via the microfilm is sometimes hard to decipher….. all kinds of ways in handwriting that is very obscure, women are known by their maiden names even after marriage … all kinds of quirky obstacles.

In my case, I decided to use another resource. I found the name of an Italian genealogist in Palermo province and paid him to find births and marriages in the Civil Registration records. He got many of these at Villafrati Town Hall and others at the Archivio di Stato of Palermo. Civil registration of births and marriages in Sicily started in 1820. I agreed to pay Giovanni Montanti, in euros by credit card – it isn't difficult to send money this way using American Express (or Visa or Mastercard). Thirty euros equaled about forty US dollars at the time. Mr. Montanti works at a travel agency and is knowledgeable about international money transactions.

We worked back one generation at a time, starting with Domenica Ribando, born in New York about 1919. Her parents were Francesco (Frank) Ribando and Maria Gebbia. Francesco was born 1890 in Villafrati. In 1909, in the Bronx, NY, he married Maria Gebbia, who was also born in 1890 in Villafrati. Both came to New York with their parents. We concentrated on birth and marriage records since they give us a lot of information, such as ages and occupations of parents of child, bride and groom.

We found in the Villafrati records that Francesco's parents were Cristoforo Ribaudo (1855-) (I keep the spelling as Ribando, not trusting the handwriting) and Carmela Pollacccia (1859-). They both died in the Bronx, New York. Maria's parents were Giuseppe F. Gebbia (1852-) and Rosalia degli Uomini (1856-). Both were born in Villafrati and died in the Bronx.

Still in Villafrati records, we find the next generation. Cristoforo Ribando's parents were Francesco Ribaudo (1816-) and Anna Maria or Anna Filippa Bonno (1823-). Their marriage record shows she is the daughter of Salvatore Bonno and Carmela Gangi LaRocca. The parents of Carmela Pollaccia are Antonio Pollaccia (1827-) and Anna Maria di Modica (1830-) who is daughter of Giusseppe di Modica and Santa LaSpisa. Parents of Giusseppe F. Gebbia are Francesco Gebbia (1816-) (son of Giovanni Gebbia and Caterina Bongiorno)

and Domenica Messina (1825-) (daughter of Felippo Messina and Vita Grazziano. Parents of Rosalia degli Uomini are Francesco degli Uomini (1814-) (son of Salvatore degli Uomini and Maria LoBue) and Maria Grazziano(1825-) (daughter of Francesco Grazziano and Maria Dina).

Further research in Civil Registration records could reveal brother, sisters, cousins etc of all these various people. Civil registration started in Sicily around 1820. Earlier records were kept by the church. So more researching could be done using Church records. The LDS microfilming program has not yet included church records for Villafrati (nor Godrano). Researching them would involve personal visits, correspondence, or an on-site genealogist. I have not contracted with the genealogist in Palermo, Giovanni Montanti, for further research. I am leaving it for younger generations. If you are interested in hiring a genealogist in Italy, Mr. Montanti can be contacted at giovannimontanti@gmail.com. He speaks and writes English very well. He lives in Palermo province and does research in the entire country of Italy. He did a great job for us.

I have entered data in my genealogy database (PAF – Personal Ancestral File) and can print out reports or copies for interested members. You may contact me at deustis@comcast.net

On behalf of the members of IGG, I would like to thank Dexter Eustis for sharing his story with us. The second story is from Salvatore Grilli II

Maria Giuseppa Grilli: from Bomba to America

Maria Giuseppa (Grilli) Vitullo was the spearhead and first of the Grilli family to immigrate to Ellis Island in 1899. The eldest daughter of Francesco Gaspare Grilli and Maria Pompeo Angela (D'Angela) Grilli of Bomba, Italy, she left her comune of Bomba to marry in America.

I would first like to give the reader a brief history of Bomba. Bomba is a comune and town in the Province of Chieti in the Abruzzo region of Italy. The first historical quote to the existence of the town is in parchment paper present in the Chieti Archbishop Administration. It dates back to 1115 and refers to taxes to be paid. In 1269 the town was donated by King Charles I of Naples to Ranulfo de Courtenay. In 1500, town inhabitants were about 600. But at the end of the 17th century they were only 300. At the beginning of the 19th century, it was home town of Bertrando and Silvio Spaventa, who were famous Italian patriots.

The story starts in Italy with a promise to marry Maria Giuseppa from a neighbor of Maria's uncle, Nicola Grilli in Bomba. His neighbor was Donato Vitullo. Donato fell in love with Maria Giuseppa, but was committed to immigrate to America so that he could earn a good living and prepare for a good life that he hoped to have as Maria Giuseppa's husband. Before he left Bomba in 1894, Donato told Maria Giuseppa that he would be back for her. It was 5 years before he was able to go back to Bomba and seek her father's permission for Maria's hand in marriage.

Maria's father was a good man and allowed his daughter to leave for America with Donato. With his blessing, his eldest daughter, Maria Guiseppa Grilli married Donato Vitullo on November 12, 1899 in Manhattan. They lived there for 3 years and then went upstate New York to where the Vitullo family originally settled in Utica, Oneida, New York.

In 1903, while still in NYC, they welcomed younger brothers Eugenio and Gaspare. In 1906 another brother Severino (Jasper) was given residence with his sister until 1910. Other brothers, Casper, Emilio and Americo followed.

I, Salvatore Grilli II, am the descendant of Severino (Jasper) Grilli. He was my grandfather, but I never met him. He died in 1934 when my father was only 9 years old. I consider this time in history essential to maintaining the link.

I look forward to IGG's expansion of the databases, hopefully to include early Utica and Herkimer records. These were strong Italian settlements. I am also interested in WWI and WWII service records for Italians who embraced and were willing to defend America. Some of my family distinguished themselves; some even paid the ultimate price for their newborn freedom.

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

Pittsburg Chapter News

The start of the year for the Chapter was a success with 26 members now in attendance. **Marilyn Holt** announced that Pennsylvania death records more than 50 years old and birth records more than 105 years old are now available at the State Archives in Harrisburg. They are also available online.

An article in the winter issue of *Point* said that Europe is using credit cards with chips rather than the magnetic strip used in the United States. This could present a problem for tourists. In that same issue **Kathy Rosella's** parents' wedding portrait and bridal party were featured on the cover.

Prisoners Among US, the film documenting the internment of Italian immigrants in the United States, was the film of the meeting. It captured the interest and amazed the audience.

The topic for the March meeting was the 1940 Census. **Marilyn Holt** explained the information on the census. It can be accessed on www.archives.gov but you must know the enumeration district. The ED can be found at www.stevemorse.org.

John Zappia also presented information on Cerda (Sicily), a village known for artichokes. **Nancy Zappia** prepared a dish of fried artichoke hearts with the group. **Rose Bagin** gave a tourists view of her town in Palermo

The April meeting will feature Campobasso and Calabria.

Searching the 1940 Census

Joe Battagliese

Here are some tips that I found helpful in locating my family in the recently released 1940 US Census:

The 1940 census records are indexed in accordance with the Enumeration District (ED), name indexes will be made available later in the year. You can search the official 1940 Census Website by "Location" (street) or "Enumeration District." In order to determine the ED, you need to know your families street address in April 1940.

The New York Public library has recently created a new 1940 Census research tool. The 1940 New York City old telephone directories are now available at the Library website. Just go to http://directme.nypl.org/ where you can search the directories for a street address.

Remember in 1940, many families were not able to afford a private telephone. I remember a call would be received at the corner grocery store in Brooklyn. Sure enough, the address of the store was listed. I am also finding my GPS Unit helpful in locating a street address.

Once I have the street address, I can go to the Stephen P. Morse One-Step Webpages (stevemorse.org/) to identify the ED. Just click on the ED number, it provides the link to the 1940 Census Website pages included in the identified ED.

Also, I find that downloaded copies of the 1940 Census forms makes transcribing the data easier. You can print out a 1940 census template from the National Archives website. Go to http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/1940.pdf

Another tip; the original 1940 census forms contain coded information for certain columns, such as Color and Race, Age at Last Birthday, Highest Grade of School Completed, Citizenship of the Foreign Born, and Class of Worker and War or Military Service. As a bonus, your downloaded census forms contain the list of all the Codes Used and the associated Code Meaning.

Palermo, the Pearl of Sicily Part 3

William S. Gimello

Panella and Facism in Sicily

One of the great finger foods of Sicily is panella, which is a fried cake made from the finely-ground flour of ceci (chickpeas), or in Spanish garbanzos. Another finger food is crocchei, which are potato croquets. Panella is the oldest, dating back to the Middle Ages. Today, panella is sold on street corners and in some restaurants. Like arancine (rice balls) they are a permanent part of Sicilian street foods. These recipes date back to as early as 270 BC. Cici or cicir artistinum originated with Neolithic man in the Middle East and Western Asia. It arrived in the central Mediterranean area during the Bronze Age and was cultivated by the Greeks and Romans. Such recipes as falafel and hummus is made from ground ceci.

Panella is made with ceci flour mixed with water to create a thick paste, with some parsley and some fennel seed, salt and pepper. The cakes are then about 3.5 inches square. They are fried in a mixture of two-thirds corn oil and one third olive oil. They should fry within a few minutes.

The Fascist Period

In 1900, most Italians, including Sicilians, tolerated the monarchies, since they didn't know any other form of government. The Sicilians despised the aristocracy and those that could migrated to the US and Latin America. As poverty increased, so did the seed of dissent. In 1922 an Italian social movement altered their form of government.

During World War I, a great many young men died fighting the Austrians and the nation accepted a Fascist government. An unbalanced conscription policy granted exemptions to those employed in the northern industries in Italy and Sicilian industries. The Fascists imposed harsh laws on criminals such as the Mafiosi and also punished journalists and other citizens who opposed the Fascist government under Mussolini. By the 1930's most citizens were worse off than prior to the rise of Fascism. Despite old-age pensions and low cost housing, the people were tortured by police officers and postal censorship existed. By 1931 forty percent of Sicilian citizens were illiterate.

The United Nations charged the Fascist government with crimes against humanity for its invasion of Ethiopia. The government disgraced the brilliant Arctic explorer Umberto Nobile, who was the second man to fly over the North Pole. Arturo Toscanini emigrated, choosing to live in the US. Fascist laws prohibited Jewish Italians from holding teaching jobs. Emilio Segre, a physicists from the University of Palermo, who discovered the first artificially produced element technetium (Tc) and later worked on the Manhattan Project, opposed Fascism.

In the early years of Fascism, land and agricultural policies favored the rights of small owners, then shifted to the large estate owners ('latifondi'), and later back to the poorer farmers.

World War II was a disaster, and the Sicilians welcomed the Allied troops in 1943. Some Fascist troops opposed General Patton and Field Marshal Montgomery, but some fled or surrendered. Sicilian deaths were in the thousands. Eventually, the Allies were welcome as a benevolent force. Political prisoners were freed from jail, and journalists were allowed freedom of expression.

Even with the formation of the Italian Republic in 1946, economic growth is sluggish at 26%.

Industries are undeveloped. Despite all the suffering of the Sicilian people, however, they are a resilient and proud people who are determined to improve their social and economic conditions. They have succeeded in overcoming numerous invaders, despots and corrupt politicians.

Source: Panella, Roberto Gangi and *Best of Sicily Magazine*, January 14, 2012

Finding Italian Records

Tony Lauriano

Objective: Find Italian records on my great – grand parents

- **Information Known:**

Family came from southern Italy.

My paternal grandmother lived in Brooklyn, NY until her death in 1966

Her first name is Julia, maiden name unknown.

Step # 1

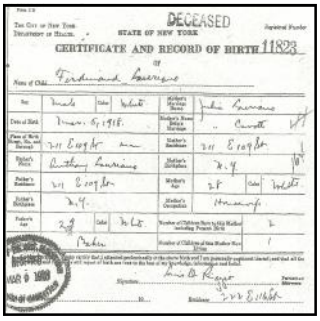
- Since I knew the year of her passing I could go to the NYC Archives to search for vital records.
- At the NYC Archives, I found her married name of Julia Lauriano on the Archives index file. It indicated she lived at 201 5th Ave, Brooklyn, NYC and died on May 3, 1966 at age 70, and gave her birth date as January 17, 1890, which would have made her 76.
- Her father's name was recorded as Cabuoti and her mother's name as Rachel Canosa. Julia lived in NYC all her life and was a widow at the time of her death.

Research Step # 2

- I then decided to look for her marriage license to verify the maiden names further. My dad was born in 1918, so I looked on the index 1918 and prior.
- It listed a marriage on 11/11/1915 of Anthony Lauriano and Julia Cavuto with a witness of Angelo "Mayo."
- It listed Anthony as a baker with his father's name as "Frank."
- I now have maiden names of Cabuoti, Cavuto.

Research Step # 3

- I next decided to search my father's military records. Some military records list the soldier's mother's maiden name.
- I went to the veteran's cemetery where dad is reposing - LI National Cemetery. They gave me his serial number.
- I requested whatever records were available from the National Archives (archives.gov).
- They sent his combat zone Life Insurance policy listing my grandmother as Cavoti.
- So now we have Cabuoti, Cavuto, Cavuoti.



Research Steps # 4 and 5

- Also at the NYC Archives I got my father's birth certificate.
- It listed Julia's maiden name as Cavotti - a 5th spelling !!!
- From the address on the Birth Certificate I called the Roman Catholic Diocese to find what parish was in the neighborhood.
- They gave me St. Ann's on 110 St. NYC
- I received the Baptismal Record and it listed my grandmother's name as Gulia Cavuoto (name # 6) and date of Baptism on April 28, 1918.

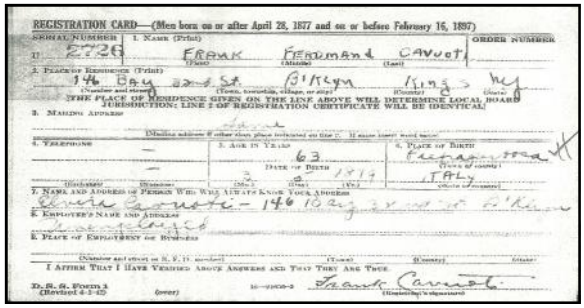
Research Step # 6

- Next I searched the US Federal Census reports on ancestry.com for the Cavuoti, etc. family. The 1880 Census listed a Rocco Cavato living on the Lower Eastside of NYC on Jersey Street.
- His wife's name is Roccalie with 4 children including Fernando Cavato and "Terressa" Cavato age 11.
- On the IGG file I searched for a marriage license, 15 to 20 years later for Terrassa.
- The index listed a Teresina Cavuoti married March, 1888 age 29.
- The marriage license received listed Terisena's father's name as Rocco Cavuoti and her mother as Rachela Canosa
- I needed one more record to draw a reasonable conclusion on the maiden names.
- The IGG files listed a Birth Certificate for a Maria Arcangela Cavuoti born July 27, 1886.

- Maria's parents were Rocco Cavuoti and Teresa Zottarelli Cavuoti.
- Was my paternal 2nd great grandmother's maiden name Jottarelli ?
- As a last step, with all the names in place I checked ancestry.com inserting all the names in the " Advanced Search" option.

The above family tree appeared, Indicating the town and region in Italy. I will now check with the Pietrapertosa, Potenza, Basilicata, Italy archives.

But first I had to find a family record indicating a Cavuoti (Cavato, etc.) family member coming from Pietrapertosa, Basilicata.


REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

SERIAL NUMBER 2729 — ORDER NUMBER

1. NAME (Print): FRANK (First) FERDINAND (Middle) CAVUOTI (Last)

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print): 146 Bay 32nd St (Number and street) Brklyn (Town, township, village, or city) Kings (County) NY (State)

THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL

3. MAILING ADDRESS: same

4. TELEPHONE: —

5. AGE IN YEARS: 63 — DATE OF BIRTH: 2 1914

6. PLACE OF BIRTH: Pietrapertosa ITALY

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS: Frank Cavuoti - 146 32 Brklyn NY

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Unemployed

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: —

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE. Frank Cavuoti (Registrant's signature)

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 6-5-42) (over) 10-5026-2

My great uncle's US Draft Registration card found on Familysearch listed Piertrapertosa, Italy as the place of birth.

THE NOMINATIONS SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2012-2013

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The term of office for a member of the board may be extended for one year at the discretion of the board, The slate will be presented at the May meeting, and voting will be at the June meeting.

Genealogy Federation Indexing Projects

Carol Proven

Have you ever wondered how all of our ancestor's precious records are made available to us? If you missed our Patchogue-Medford Library Genealogy meeting today you missed an opportunity to see what **John Martino, Don Eckerle and Bob Boeckle** do with their time. Their spare time is put into making our lives easier. Through the years, they have come across thousands of ancestral records. These records include New York City birth, death and marriage records, ships' manifests, naturalization papers and military records, some of which were located originally in books, churches, county offices and the National Archives, to say the least. Some records were originally on index cards. Many had been hand written. Some were typed in small print. Other records were found on paper that is literally falling apart from aging. These dedicated men have entered these records into databases. They do not get paid for any of this. The National Archives has provided the funds for the boxes to store these records. John, Don, and Bob do this out of the goodness of their hearts. They are driven with the desire to save these precious files and to help those of us interested in preserving the past. This is an enormous task that involves traveling to locations where the records are stored, scanning on site or transporting them back to their homes, scanning and repacking the records in archival boxes and returning them. It doesn't stop there. Now they must find volunteers to enter the information into an Excel file. After the volunteers recheck the entered material, it is then sent to the webmaster in order that it may be uploaded online for all of us to have fun with.

An enormous "Thank You" goes out to John Martino and his volunteers for all that they do and for the dedication that they have invested into our ancestors. Without their dedication some of our ancestors' names might not live on.

The Mail Order Bride and Willie and Minnie

These stories were told to me by one of my cousins who was able to visit with "the mail-order bride." She spoke to Carolina back in 1949 when she was 91 years old. She eventually lived to reach 106 ½ years old. In my genealogical research I was able to obtain the death certificates of the principals involved from the state of California, which established the primary facts. I was able to ascertain the family relationship from a professional researcher, Professor Luigi Maiocchi of Villa Guardia, Province of Como, Italy.

Rinaldo Gioacchino Arighi was born on September 4, 1855 in Luisago, Province of Como, Italy. His parents were Giacinto and Angela Ballerini. His Godparents were Luigi Arighi and Maria Ballerini (these were my grandfather's parents). He was a first cousin to my grandfather and came to this country some time after the Civil War. He worked as a carpenter in a gold mine out west. When he became interested in being married he wrote home for a bride to be sent to him. His bride, one Carolina Catania, was born on July 16, 1858, in the village of Cattinia and was said to be 15 years old when she traveled to this county. She traveled by train to somewhere on the Mississippi River (probably near St. Louis) and by wagon train from there on. She said the wagon train followed the "garbage trail" going out west. By this, she meant the wagon train followed the discarded waste of the wagons the preceded hers.

Rinaldo and Carolina married, and when the gold mine petered out, they moved elsewhere where Rinaldo found work in a silver mine. Carolina said they withstood an Indian raid that burned them out and destroyed all their belongings. They lived in a cave for a while and eventually moved to California.

Rinaldo and Carolina had a least one child (probably more but further research is needed to prove that) who was named William, "Willie" for short. He later became a pharmacist in St. Helena, California. When Carolina was pregnant with Willie, she had a girl friend named Louisa (Ghisletta) Tosetti who was as pregnant. They were close friends, and one day they mused, "Wouldn't it be nice if you had a boy and I had a girl and that they would grow up, fall in love and marry." Well, Carolina gave birth to Willie on September 25, 1893 and Louisa gave birth to a girl, Erminia (better known as Minnie) on November 27, 1893 and the two children eventually fell in love and married.

My cousin visited Willie and Minnie in 1991 when they were in their 90's She said that they were sitting on a sofa and holding hands and that Willie was 6'2" and Minnie was very short, 4' 2" and that her feet did not touch the floor. She had to use a stool. Willie and Minnie had at least one son who also was named William and who took over Willie's pharmacy after he died.

Rinaldo died in 1931, Carolina in 1964. Minnie died in 1990 and Willie in 1992. Above is a photograph of the "Mail-Order Bride," Carolina, in 1962 when she was 104 years old. Shown with her is a 102 year old boy-friend and her daughter-in-law Minnie.

Editors Note: This is an old story from one of our former members Joe Arighi. Joe has passed on, but I think he would appreciate seeing this story again. Happy Mothers Day

City Directories

The DearMyrtle Genealogy Blog reminds us of the importance of City Directories in light of the 1940 Census. City directories place ancestors in specific localities between census enumeration years. The US federal enumerations occur only every ten years but annual city directories have survived for many places on a more frequent basis.

Once you know the locality where your ancestor once lived, then all sorts of other record groups come to mind: church records of christenings, marriages, burials, coming and goings, tax records, court records - civil, criminal, probate, land records, newspapers - society pages, obits, wedding announcements, public vital records - birth, marriage, death

It is from a variety of these and other records that we're able to make kinship determinations.

With release of the 1940 US census images and the fact that the images won't initially be indexed means it is even more important that we look for the address in city directories for ancestors in the surrounding years.

For more ideas about using the street address and an enumeration district map, Myrtle suggests the following resources:

Geoff Rasmussen's Navigating the new Census Tools in Legacy Family Tree archived webinar, available indefinitely. 87 minutes.

Valerie Craft's blog post: How I'm Looking for Grandmama in the 1940 Census.

New Members-March & April 2012

Thomas Fornabaio	**Newtown, CT**
Lynne Buzzi	**Great River, NY**
Robert LaNoce	**Bethpage, NY**
MaryAnne Yenoli	**Deer Park, NY**
Antoinette Heller	**West Babylon, NY**
Diana Varriale	**Rockville Centre, NY**
Erin Kolp	**North Palm Beach, FL**
Maryellen Kirincic	**Smithtown, NY**
Michele Kassi	**Huntington, NY**
Andrea Franz	**Coram, NY**
Patricia Ammann	**Massapequa, NY**
Adrienne Auerbach	**Bernardsville, NJ**

The Italian Genealogical Group June 9, 2012 Luncheon

The Italian Genealogical Group will host its annual June Luncheon on Saturday, June 9th, at 12 Noon after the regular IGG General Meeting at the Bethpage Library.

Tickets are $10.00 per person and must be prepaid.

Deadline for Tickets is June 2nd. NO Walk-ins.

Please check your choice of hero when you submit your order.

Mozzarella, Tomatoes and Roasted Peppers,
Meatball Parmesan
Sausage and Peppers
Potatoes and Eggs
Eggplant Parmesan

Check will be accepted at the May meeting or can be mailed to Barbara

Please make checks out to IGG.

Mrs. Barbara M. Florio
259 North Beech Street
North Massapequa, N.Y. 11758
516-557-2917

Future Meeting Dates for the Italian Genealogical Group

May 12, and June 9, 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.