ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL GROUP

Visit our web page: **www.italiangen.org**

Volume 19, No. 2 **October, 2012**

President's Message

Many passers-by visited our table at Hofstra's Italian Experience to inquire about investigating their family history. Thanks go to **Bill Gimello**, who arranged the exhibit, and the many volunteers who helped Bill man the tables. Bill's assistants included **Phil Aievoli, Ann and Frank Chiappisi, Gail Cinelli, Rich Covelli, Anthony DiBartolo, Ann Holland, Art Filete, Barbara and Mike Florio, Tricia Stipo, Marilyn Verna, and MaryAnn Yenoli.**

October is very special to us, as it is both Family History Month and Italian Heritage Month. Keep your eyes peeled to your local newspapers for announcements of Italian heritage celebrations in your vicinity. Local libraries and cultural institutions will be hosting concerts, lectures, and feasts celebrating "everything Italian" throughout the month. For our October meeting, we bring back popular lecturer **Toni McKeen**, who will give us a mini intermediate genealogy course. Her lecture will address topics such as researching wills, city directories, and state censuses. Toni will also speak about developing a system to keep track of mounting information and will give us the names of websites she has found especially helpful in her own research. Those who attend will undoubtedly leave with a treasure-trove of new information.

As usual, our business meeting and lecture will begin at 10:30. The Help Desk opens at 9:30, and a Beginning Genealogy Workshop is also available at 9:30, upon request. Refreshments are served beginning 9:45. Our Hospitality Committee would appreciate help in setting up and dismantling the coffee. If you can come a bit early or stay a bit later to help, it would make everyone's job a lot easier! Thank you to those who consistently pitch in when they see the need.

Hope to see you at the October meeting.

Angela LaGiglia

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Computer Corner

More websites from **Anthony DiMarino, Marilyn Verna and Bob Johnson**.

What pleasant memories this brings back.....Wonderful memories only Italians can understand. Click the link below...Turn up the volume.....Go to full screen

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrkOwTKoaLs&feature=share

Barry's Genealogy Newsletter provides insights to help you gather, organize, and preserve information about your ancestors and share what you find with others. Just go to mygenshare.com and sign-up for Barry's Genealogy Newsletter. It's free.

Research your Italian name. Here's a good Italian surname locator. Just enter your surname then hit *Trova*. Your surname will appear on a map of the Regions of Italy, with a legend indicating population numbers. Go to http://www.gens.info/italia/it/turismo-viaggi-e-tradizioni-italia

Do you want to see a list of Garibaldi's Army Volunteers in 1860. The list is in Italian from Italian government records. Go to 0http://www.novara-software.com/storia/Giuseppe-Garibaldi.php

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ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL GROUP

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Newsletter is published 10 times a year.
Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month, Sept. to June at 10:30 AM

Verifying a Family Tale

Mario Toglia

I don't define myself a "Doubting Thomas" but I like to verify that the family stories people tell me are true, especially ones that have been handed down for generations as accurate versions when my research reveals otherwise. In the course of gathering authentic recollections, a story passed on to me was one that Rosemarie Reis had heard repeated many times in her family as a true narrative.

It seems that her father John Maffucci was working in a shoemaker's shop in Lynbrook, NY. His father, Mauro, was living in Dobbs Ferry, NY and working as a gardener at a private school in that town. His primary goal was to earn enough money to bring the rest of his family over to America from his native Calitri. Every weekend, both father and son got together. John (or Giovanni, as he was known in *famiglia*) would travel by rail from Lynbrook to Dobbs Ferry.

On one particular weekend, according to Rosemarie's story, her father came to Dobbs Ferry as was his regular routine to visit his father. As he walked up the hill from the railroad station toward his father's residence, he spotted someone who looked very familiar. He froze in his steps and stared attentively. The person he recognized was his mother. She had recently arrived with the rest of the family, but he hadn't been informed of this. One can imagine the emotions of joy and tears at this unexpected reunion.

According to Rosemarie, her grandmother had arrived with daughter Filomena and son Francesco. A reference for Francesco and Filomena Maffucci on ship records verified that they arrived together on the Prinzess Irene on September 5, 1912. There they were: mother Rosa Maria Scoca age 34 going to husband Mauro Maffucci at 93 Cedar Street in Dobbs Ferry. Accompanying her were sons Francesco (11) and Antonio (3) and daughter Filomena, age 7.

Therefore, the century-old story that John Maffucci related to his daughter is accurate. I continued the research, as I was curious to discover when Mauro and son Giovanni had arrived in New York harbor. I discovered that Mauro came in April 1909 on the Manuel Calvo, going to see Angelo DeRosa, listed as a relative. From previous research, I was aware that Angelo DeRosa, a tailor, had lived in Dobbs Ferry prior to moving to the nation's capital. As for son Giovanni, Rosemarie had mentioned to me that she always heard that her father had arrived in this country "with an uncle." As it turned out, her father, at age thirteen, arrived on the Moltke on October 3, 1911, going to his father in White Plains. Coincidentally, on board was this same Angelo DeRosa returning to America from a trip with his wife Concetta Vallario and their American-born son Vitale. Obviously the relationship between the Maffucci family and Angelo DeRosa was close enough for Giovanni to refer to this tailor as "uncle."

The next piece of this puzzle that needed to be solved is why a young Giovanni Maffucci, age fourteen in 1912, was living in Lynbrook, which is quite a distance away from his father in Dobbs Ferry. Rosemarie explained that her father was looking for work, and through word of mouth, a distant relative, Mauro Papa, hired him. Mauro Papa was a shoemaker with a shop on Atlantic Avenue in Lynbrook. Giovanni said that he slept on a cot in the back of this shoe repair shop. As it turned out, Giovanni married Angelina the shoemakers daughter, in 1924 and settled on Long Island where he worked as a shoemaker in his father-in-law's shop. Eventually, he became a barber and, in later years, opened a bar and grill. Giovanni's mother died in the early 1930s, and whenever he spoke of her to his family, he would become teary-eyed.

It comforts me to know that enough historic data is readily available through modern technology to substantiate real family stories and to make any or all doubts on their veracity fade away.

Mario Toglia *is a member of the Calitri American Cultural Group which hosts an exhibit on immigrants' lives at the Hofstra University Italian Experience Festival each September. Editor of They Came By Ship: The Stories of the Calitrani Immigrants in America, he is currently working on two new publications on immigrants from Calitri, Italy due out in 2013.*

FOOTSTEPS OVER ROADS LESS TRAVELED

The Last Refuge: Your Tired and Your Poor (Part I)

J.R. Heffernan

In my mother's home was a little collection of carefully safeguarded prayer books and missals dating back to the 1870's and 1880's that belonged to her grandmother, Mary Louise (Finegan) Taylor. Considering their age, these deftly tooled leather-bound books, with their fine gilt- edged pages, are in remarkable condition. Not only interesting from a religious perspective, they opened a door leading to a reflection of my great-grandmother's upbringing and that which was gratefully passed down through the generations to me: the preservation of the family's faith and some of its precious history.

My great-grandmother tucked one or two even-now pristine prayer cards between the pages and taped a few death notices inside the books' covers. Then, she went a step further, having written down names and dates: "Ann Finegan died Jan. 1855. Felix Finegan born Wednesday, February 12, 1871. Peter Finegan born Mon., March 27, 1882. James and Mary Taylor (herself) married Nov. 19, 1882. Mary J. Taylor born Mon., March 26, 1884 at Five o'clock in the morning baptized on Passion Sunday March 30th 1884 by rev. Father Carrell in St. Mary's Church, Erie and Second Streets, Jersey City, NJ—Martha Howe and Michil Ford—sponsors. Peter Finegan, died on Friday May 16, 1884, age 68; funeral Sun., May 18th at 1pm. Ann Ford died July 1, 1900. Henry Curtis died Feb. 22, 1915. (In another unknown handwriting), Aunt Maggie died March 30, 1920 at 5 to four in the afternoon. Later added Tuesday and buried on Holy Thursday, April 1 in Calvary Cemetery, Long Is. City. Name Margaret Finnegan (at 93 Bedford St. N.Y.C.). Sister of my grand-mother Mary (Finnegan) Taylor. (Regina (Mamay) Micca)-my mother. Unkle (sic) John Curtis died Mar. 6, 1894. 76 yrs."

These were my connecting threads from the woolen shawls and sweaters that hung from wooden pegs under the thatched roofs in the Irish townlands of Drumnahuncheon and Kilmore in County Armagh, Northern Ireland. They were of the folk who ran four farms and two rock quarries, for whom Finegan's Bridge was named and still remains, and o'er which their goods were transported.

Some would leave, never to return, in 1847 and 1849, during the initial years of An Gorta Mor, The Great Famine. They established themselves both in Jersey City, where nearby dwellers drew water from "Finegan's Pump", and in Greenwich Village where the family maintained a coal business, drove a surrey and kept horses.

Back home on the old sod in the late 1700's, the elder women had what was, in effect, a cottage industry of flax spinning and later, on this side of the pond, the younger were seamstresses. Mary Louise herself witnessed history: she saw the great Blizzard of 1888 and spoke of the two story high drifts it created; she viewed the hand and torch of the Statue of Liberty displayed for the public from 1876 to 1882 at Madison Square Park before the New Colossus was assembled; living only about a mile away, she heard the frightening Black Tom Explosion in Jersey City -- the 1916 sabotage and relatively unknown first enemy attack on American soil at the Hudson River ammunitions depot that had such percussion magnitude, it blew glass windows out in Jersey City, lower Manhattan and Ellis Island, also weakening the arm of Lady Liberty, thereafter prohibiting visitors from climbing to the torch; she watched the funeral train bearing Abe Lincoln's open casket as it passed through New York City and she, skilled with thread and needle, made the Christening outfit for Lincoln's grandchild.

Felixe, who as a child managed to drop the family bible over the ferry railing into the Hudson River thus probably causing family records to molder beneath the water -- my heart has mild arrhythmia when I think of this -- was her brother. Ann Finegan is presumed to have been one of two young siblings who didn't survive. Both, because the family was here then and she made the entry, lead to this supposition but no documentation has surfaced to identify Ann accurately.

It took deliberate study to realize the name "Peter" Finegan was used multiple times in the family: father (d.1884), brother and nephew (b.

1882) to Mary and extended back to my fourth great-grandfather. Ann Ford was my great-grandmother's cousin and a great find because in obtaining her marriage record, I learned her mother was my gg-aunt Sarah (Finegan) Murphy. As mentioned above, Margaret Finegan was her sister but the spelling of last name was noted as different Finnegan's spelled it variously. Also what emerged was the trait which my mother inherited for remembering detail. It is interesting to note three events which occurred in those early years: Mary J. Taylor was baptized on Passion (Palm) Sunday in 1884; Margaret was buried on Holy Thursday in 1920 and Mary was later married in 1907 on Easter Sunday… all days of major solemn observances in the Cathloc Church. However, today Church Canon Law does not permit funerals or marriages to take place on these days; baptisms could be performed on any day, preferably a Sunday and, if possible, on the Easter Vigil.

Henry was a cousin whose interment in Calvary Cemetery, Queens, would reveal eight unknown members of the family, many of them young children. Deciphering who Henry and his co-burials were and how they fit into the family was built upon the cemetery information which provided the time frame for obtaining vital and census records. This is how one researches…analysis, synthesis…always going sideways to go forward to go backward.

Then there was himself, "Unkle John". It fascinates me nearly 120 years later, how the pen-ciled handwriting of my great-grandmother is still crystal clear. That she misspelled the word matters not at all. Her effort is appreciated for, had she not added the relationship, it might have remained but a guess. I was armed only with the knowledge that the Curtis surname fit into my multi-national family tree as the marriage name of my maternal Irish ggg-grandparents. Because she identified him as her uncle, she solidified him as her mother's brother. I base that conclusion on her penchant for detail. Mary J. Taylor was her only child. What a gift my great-grandmother gave in writing the dates and days of birth and baptism, together with name of the parish and priest, then, thoughtfully, the time my grandmother was born. When widowed, she provided my great-grandfather, James Taylor's age in years, months and days to the undertaker. ***(To be continued next month-November)***

Family History Month-Genealogy Workshops

St. Joseph's College

Our member **Carol Proven** will once again be teaching the following classes at St. Joseph's College from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. The cost of each workshop is $20.00, or all four workshops for $60.00.

Thursday, **October 25** - How Do I Start My Genealogy Research?

Thursday, **November 1** - Researching for Genealogy Records at the National Archives

Thursday, **November 8** - Researching for Genealogy Records at the Municipal Archives

Tuesday, **November 13** – Hints for Using the Genealogy Family Tree Maker Program.

St. Joseph's College, Jo-Anne Petrone, 155 West Roe Blvd., Patchogue, NY 11772, 631 687-1244 or e-mail jpetrone@sjcny.edu

Tony Lauriano's 2012 Genealogy Lectures

On Tuesdays, **October 2, 9, 16 and 23,** at 1:00 PM, Tony will lecture on Beginning Genealogy, Intermediate Genealogy and Difficult Case Studies, at the Westchester Community College, Knollwood Center, 75 Grasslands Road, 914 - 606 - 6535

On Thursdays, **October 4, 11, 18 and 25**, at 7:00 PM his subjects will be Beginning Genealogy, Navigating Websites, Intermediate Genealogy, and Difficult Genealogy Case Studies, at the Nanuet High School, 103 Church Street, Nanuet, New York 10954

On Saturdays, **October 20, & November 3** at 10:00 AM, his lecture will be "Finding Military Records," at the Cos Cob Library, 5 Sinawoy Road, Cos Cob, CT., 06807, 203 - 622 - 6883

On Saturday, **October 27,** at 11:00 AM, his subject will be "Finding the 1940 Census," at the Tappan Library, Tappan, New York. Contact Jill Gross, 845- 359- 3877

On Tuesdays, **October 30, November 6, 13, and 20**, at 7:00 PM, Tony will lecture on Beginning Genealogy, Navigating Websites, Intermediate Genealogy, and Difficult Genealogy Case Studies, ***(Continued on Page 6)***

(Genealogy Workshops continued from Page 5) at the Clarkstown HS Community Learning, Clarkstown South High School, Rockland County, NY. Contact Marion Arbuco-845-639-5628

Call registration is required for all lectures.

On Wednesday, **October 17**, at 7:00 PM, Carol Maguire will present *Houses Can Talk*, at the Connetquot Public Library, 760 Ocean Ave., Bohemia, NY. Call Diane, 631-567-5070 for more information.

Also at our **November 10**, IGG meeting our guest speaker will be Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer. Christine will discuss Genograms, a cross between pedigree and descendant charts. Genograms can help identify family patterns, including health history, genetic diseases, and family dynamics. Learn how to create and use them.

A short talk by Mike Calamonica, a WWII POW will precede Christine's lecture.

Botticlli in USA

A collection of 44 rarely seen paintings and tapestries by Renaissance and Baroque artists, including Sandro Botticelli is currently on display in the US. It is the first time these works have left Europe according to Michener Art Museum Director/CEO Bruce Katsiff The exhibit, on loan from Florence's Uffizi Gallery, is entitled *Offering of the Angles: Treasures from the Uffizi.* The exhibit will travel to the Chazen Museum of Art in Madison, WI (Aug. 24-Nov. 25) and the Telfair Museum of Art in Savannah, GA (Dec. 7, 2012-March 31, 2013).

For details, see www.michnerartmuseum.org or call 215-340-9800.

Discovering Columbus

A Japanese artist, Tatzu Nishi has placed a living room about the statue of Christopher Columbus at Columbus Circle in New York. The exhibit will remain in place through November 18, 2012. Free tickets are available at publicart-fund.org

Italian Genealogical Group Volunteers Needed

The IGG Special Projects Group has undertaken a new online database indexing project, **transcribing of New York City Death Records** that are listed in old registers. Before there were death certificates, New York City deaths were recorded in these register books.

We have copies of the early registers and have scanned them and copied them to CDs. We have found our volunteers prefer to type from a CD since they can blow up a entry they may have difficultly viewing.

There is a lot of information on the register that we will not be typing. We only want to create an index.

Can you help us?

Contact John Martino at JohnM16881@aol.com

September Meeting-Larry Fermi

Joe Battagliese

Larry Fermi

At the September meeting our guest speaker was professional genealogist, Larry Fermi, of LeRoy Place Services. Mr. Fermi has been performing research for many years specializing in European immigration. The title of his lecture is *Passenger Lists, Manifests and Annotations*. His lecture revolves about 55 Power Point slides, including images of original passenger lists, from which he is able to extract and magnify the actual annotations.

Passenger List Basics

Larry listed the information you need to know to start your research; your ancestor's name, arrival date, approximate age on arrival and the port of arrival. It also will help if you know the port of embarkation, country, province, the name of the ship and the names of any traveling companions.

Where to Find Information

He says that you should first ask you relatives about your family history. Learn about the old stories and then you could review probate records, census records, naturalization records and passport records. For Italian immigration, the *Italians to America Indexes* by Glazer & Filby are a useful tool.

Larry provided a detailed history of how the immigration laws changed over the years. **For research before 1820** information is limited, you need to search the internet, CD's, Indexes, bibliographies and compilations in libraries. The information you find is mostly in the form of extracts. Ancestry has some images dating from early 1800 for the Port of Philadelphia. Larry showed us an 1751 transcribed list of German passengers and a cargo manifest that included passengers on the Barg Betsy, arriving in Philadelphia in 1800.

1820 to Circa 1891 Customs Passenger Lists

Larry says that you may find, starting in 1820, images, extracts and indexes for Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia and some Pacific, Gulf and Great Lakes Ports. The records could be found on Ancestry, World Vital Records, Castle Gardens, LDS etc. Larry displayed a Baltimore "City List" of passengers on the ship Johannes, which arrived May 5, 1854 from the Baltimore City Archives.

Circa 1891 to 1957 Immigrant Passenger Lists

For these more recent passenger lists, records are available from NARA Record Group 85, the Ellis Island online database, Ancestry, World Vital Records, LDS, and Find My Past, etc.

The original Ellis Island opened in 1892 and was destroyed in a fire in June 1897; some Customs Passenger Lists survived. The Barge Office opened in 1897 to December 1900 and they processed the start of the NY Immigration Passenger Lists. The rebuilt Ellis Island opened on December 17, 1900-1924. From 1924-1931 processing immigration was moved to the nation's consulates, and from 1931-1954 Ellis Island was used as a detention center.

Annotations on Passenger Lists

Larry displayed copies of actual passenger lists that he has uncovered in performing his research. He went through each Power Point slide showing the various markings on the list.

Left Margin

A line struck through the entire row, indicates that the passenger did not sail with the ship. This could also be shown as "Not Shipped," "NOB," or "Did Not Sail"

The letter X, D, or SI, relates to an immigrant's detention, also shown as the word "Held" or "BSI" Board of Special Inquiry.

Larry explained that in conjunction with these annotations a separate Record of Detained Aliens and records of Aliens Held for Special Inquiry was developed and added to the end of the Passenger List. Larry says be you should check the end of the passenger list when the annotations are found.

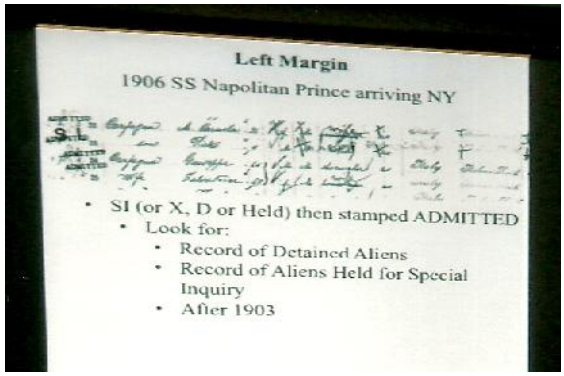
Occupation Column

Larry explained that in 1926 this column was set aside for annotations relating to the verification of immigrant arrival for naturalization purposes; original, legal immigration had to be verified.

When an immigrant filed a Declaration of Intent, the verification clerk recorded the record this

on the passenger list and provided a "Certificate of Arrival" (after June 30, 1906) or "Certificate of Landing" (pre June 30, 1906). For example, on the annotation, 2-666954 1/21/40 Form 505; the number 2 indicates the INS District in which the application was filed, the 666954 equals the Certificate of Arrival number, the date of verification and the Form 505 is the type of document issued. Remember, the application could be filed in any Court in the INS District. Check with jewishgen.org for a complete list of INS District numbers.

Larry displayed a copy of his grandfather's Treasury Department" Certificate of Landing" and a US Department of Labor "Certificate of Arrival."



Other Columns

In the Names Column, names were corrected or changed, and sometimes documents were noted that may have had to do with other government agencies like: SS=Secretary of State, DOS= Department of State, V= Possible Visa number**.**

The **Nationality and Citizenship column** indicated a US Citizen arriving; immigrants passing through the US to another country were indicated by "TRANSIT."

Can Read and Write Column, the Immigration Act of 1917 required immigrants to read and write. Some were tested, and the results are annotated.

Larry provided a *Welcome Aboard! Passenger Lists & Those Annotations* hand-out before the lecture. The hand-out contains a complete list of reference books, Videos, world wide websites and mailing list. Copies of the hand-out are available at the IGG. Also, anyone who needs help with his research can contact Larry Fermi at lfermi@verizon.net

Our Lady Victory Celebrates Church Restoration

After attending services for nearly a year in the school cafeteria while their church was undergoing a major restoration and expansion, members of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Floral Park, NY returned to their worship space Sept. 8 when Bishop William Murphy formally re-opened the building with a Mass of Dedication. The church has added new pews, flooring and lighting, while the stained-glass windows, remain from the original church, which was consecrated in 1923. The centerpiece of the refurbished church is a century-old marble altar, above with a depiction of the Last Supper sculpted into its base. The altar had been used as a side altar in Our Lady of Loreto Church in the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn before it closed in 2009.

New York NARA Closing for Move

Mark Waldron of the Genealogy Federation of Long Island reports the following:

NARA is moving from 201 Varick St to the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House at One Bowling Green in New York City in mid-October 2012.

As a result, the last business day at Varick St. will be October 4, 2012. The planned reopening at the new location is early November 2012.

For the latest information on the move go to the NARA website at www.archives.gov/northeast/nyc or call 1-866-840-1752.

Research Steps to Find the Italian Town

Tony Lauriano

Information Known:

• Family story that Antonio Amerena and his wife Battista, arrived in America on the German ship, *Werkendam* on September 18, 1891.

• Mr. Amerena was born about 1864.

• With the couple were a daughter, Catherine, age 3 and a son Pasquale.

• They emigrated from Brighton, England.

• Catherine was born in Brighton, and Pasquale was possibly born aboard the ship on the voyage.

Research Step # 1

Verify the passage date and ship to America of Antonio and Battista Amerena.

•As the date of 1891 is before the US Federal consolidation of the immigration process, about 1906-7, I knew there would be limited information on the ship's manifest.

•Found the ship's manifest for the voyage of the *Werkendam* on September 18, 1891.

The manifest listed the following information:

• Arrived at the Port of New York.

• The ports of departure for that ship on that voyage were France, Rotterdam, and the Netherlands.

The ship was built by Harland and Wolf, Ltd. in Belfast, Northern Ireland, it was in service from 1889 to 1900 as part of the Holland-America Line.

Among the passenger information was the following:

• Antonio Amerena - age 27 (born abt. 1864)
• Batiste Amerena - age 22 (born abt. 1869)
• Catherine - age 3 (born abt. 1888)
• Pasquale - age 1 (born abt. 1890)
• Their native country was Italy.
• Their destination in America was New York.
• They traveled in "mid-ship" in “space 5,"
• It appears they had 1 bag.

Port of New York in 1891

• The Port of New York from April 19,1890 to December 31, 1891 would have been the old Barge Office. Not Castle Garden and not Ellis Island.

• It was located at the southeast foot of Manhattan near the old US Customs House. Both the buildings are long gone.

• The location today is the site of the Staten Island Ferry.

• About 525,000 immigrants were processed through the Barge Office from 1890 through 1891.

Barge Office circa 1900

Research Step # 2

Looked for a record of a relative where there might be more information on the town in Italy where the family once lived.

• Found a ship's manifest for the ship, *Philadelphia* arriving at Ellis Island on October 28, 1906. The ship departed from Southampton, England.

Among the passengers were:

• Carmine Amerena - age 33 (born about 1873)
• Catarena Amerena - age 29 (born abt. 1877)
• Their children: Magdelena - age 11
Pasquale - age 6
Pepino - age 3
Violet - age 4 months

• Carmine was going “to see his brother Antonio Amerena, living at 18 North Square, Boston, Mass.”

• Carmine Amerena's birth location on the manifest was spelled Viegieno, Italy. That is usually the misspelling by non-Italians for the town of Viggiano, Italy in the Province of Potenza, in the Region of Basilicata, Italy.

• Mr. Amerena,s occupation was recorded as “musician.”

Still more records were needed to verify the assumptions.

Linking the two brothers to the Amerena family

• An Antonio Amerena is listed in the 1898 Boston City Directory living at 18 North Square, Boston, the same address as Carmine's ship's manifest. The family indicates the Amerena family settled in Boston.

• Antonio's 1897 Naturalization Index # 329-70 lists his address as 18 North Square, Boston, Mass.

• Antonio's occupation in the 1898 Boston City Directory is "musician," while Carmine's ship manifest records his occupation as "musician."

• A review of the Italy City Guide for Viggiano, Italy states: "Viggiano is well known for the construction of musical instruments and for its musicians who during the phase of mass migration during the XIX and XX centuries, became involuntary ambassadors throughout Europe and the world."

Family Group Sheet
Antonio and Battista Amerena

Name of Child	Birth Date and Place	Source of information
Brighton, England		
• Caterena	about 1897	1891 England Census
• Pasquale	March 18, 1891	Mass. Birth Ind.
Boston, Mass.		
• Luigi	Jan. 6, 1894	Mass. Birth Ind.
• Ernesto	Aug.25, 1899 (16 N. Square)	Mass. Birth Ind.
• Giuseppe	May 18, 1902	Mass. Birth Ind.

Maiden name of mother on the Register: Battista Argenzia

Death Record of
Battista Argenzia Armerena

• Date of Death - May 21, 1909
• Age - 40
• Place - Boston, Mass.
• Marital Status - Widowed
• Father - Luigi Argenzia
• Mother - Serafina Gallicchio
• Place of Burial- Malden (Holy Cross)
• Cause of Death - "Tuberculosis Pulmonalis"
• Undertaker - M. Cangiano
• Attending Physician - Rufus K. Noyes, M.D.
Source of Information - City of Boston, Mass. Death Index, Certificate # 344

Miscellaneous Information
Ernest James Armerena

• Filed his US World War I Draft Registration Card September 12, 1918.

He listed his contact source as Miss Katherine Amerena. (The filing of a draft registration was mandatory even if a person was not a citizen, but it does not necessarily mean the person was drafted.)

• The 1910 Federal Census records an Ernest Amerena, age 11, living in the home of Antonio and Katherine Amodeo. The Census states Earnest is the brother-in-law of Antonio Amodeo.

• Ernest Amerena was the witness for Antonio Amodeo on Antonio's Petition for Naturalization, dated June 17, 1923.

• There is a marriage record on the New Hampshire Marriage Index dated 23 May 1938 for an Ernest James Amerena and an Alice Geraldine Nelson. The groom's father's name is Anthony Amerena, and the groom's mother's name is listed as Marie Batisea (could be an alternate spelling of Maria Battista).

I looked in the current 2012 telephone book for the town of Viggiano, Italy. It listed a Vincenzo Amerena - Via Montecalvario 30 - 85059 Viggiano. Tele. 0975-61557

Possibly family??

Researchers in Italy

Barbara Florio

Some people have been asking me for the names of genealogy researchers in Italy. I have one for Campania and one for Lazio listed below.

Campania region: Joe deSimome
joedesimoneitaly@msn.com
Lazio region: Ann Tatangelo
italysearch@gmail.com

If you have any questions, email Barbara at BFlorio259@aol.com

Barry's GenTip # 156
Occupations

- Many genealogists will record the occupations of their ancestors more out of curiosity than as a possible source of research.
- Occupations often run in families.
- A single family can produce several generations of butchers or bakers or candlestick makers.
- Traditionally, occupations were passed on to the eldest son, although other family members would also often get involved.
- Thus, when tracing ancestors, consider taking a closer look at their occupations.
- An occupation can give valuable clues as to where they went and what they did when they arrived at their destination.
- Every village needed a blacksmith and a butcher, but certain trades such a textiles and forestry tended to congregate in certain towns and regions.
- Think about the occupation of your ancestor and what this might have meant as to where he may have travelled to find work.

Source: MyGenShare.com

Barry's tip fits perfectly with Tony Lauriano's Case Study to Find an Italian Town.

Cleaning a Grave Marker

You can make a handy item for cleaning those hard-to-access places on a grave marker. At your local crafts store, purchase a 1/4" diameter hardwood dowel (they come in 3-foot lengths). Cut a piece that you are comfortable with (about 7-10 inches long) and SLOWLY feed it into an electric pencil sharpener. Remember, if you are going after lichen or moss, use plenty of water to soften them up, and give a good rinse.

IGG 2012
Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 8, 2012
at 12:30 PM
Filomena's Italian Restaurant
1034 Hempstead Turnpike
Franklin Square, New York
516-437-4919
Menu:

Hot Antipasto
Penne Pasta

Chose One:
Chicken Francese
Chicken Parm
Eggplant Parm
Broiled Salmon
Coffee, Tea, Espresso

$35.00 Per Person
Please Pay by December 3, 2012

Parking:
Ridgewood Savings Parking Lot
North of Hempstead Turnpike
2 Blocks West of New Hyde Park Road

Checks Payable to:
Italian Genealogical Group

Mail to:
Mrs. Barbara M. Florio
259 North Beech Street
North Massapequa, New York 11758
516-557-2917

Future Meeting Dates for the Italian Genealogical Group

October 13, November 10, 2012 and January 12, 2013

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.