ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL GROUP

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President's Message

Dear Friends,

Many who live in eastern coastal areas are still recovering from the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Some members were merely inconvenienced by a loss of power, while others, sadly, suffered severe damage to their property and barely escaped physical harm. **Linda Carco's** condo was completely flooded and is uninhabitable. **Louise Perrotta** and her mom evacuated their home shortly before it burned to the ground. I am sure there are many other members who also incurred serious losses due to Sandy. When you contribute to charities to help victims of the storm, please remember our colleagues who have lost not only their household possessions, but also mementos of their childhood that are irreplaceable—photos, memorabilia, and family treasures. For most of us, we simply came to realize the value of a hot shower, clean laundry, and cell phone and internet service. For others, it became a time to come to get together to help neighbors in distress, to share a pot of coffee, a hot meal, or a connection to electricity via extension cords.

After the hurricane, I realized we had no system in place to cancel a meeting, if necessary. On the Thursday afternoon before our November meeting, I called the Bethpage Library and heard a recorded message that the library was closed due to the storm. In addition, we were facing a gas shortage. I made a decision to cancel the meeting (our speaker was traveling a great distance). The cancellation was posted on our website and on Channel 12 News. The library re-opened the following day, and some members showed up. I apologize for any inconvenience. In the future, if you are in doubt, please check our website and that of Channel 12 News. Those will be our official means of communication.

Angela LaGiglia

Inside this issue:

Computer Corner	**Page 2**
Veterans' Day 2012	**Page 3**
Flood & Water Damaged Photos	**Page 4**
Italian Prisoners in America	**Page 5**
Translating Italian Civil Records	**Page 6**
Pittsburgh Chapter News	**Page 7**
The Orphan Train Kids	**Page 8**
Sicilian Genealogy-Tracing Roots	**Page 10**

Computer Corner

More websites from **Anthony DiMarino, Tony Sasso and Joanne Heffernan**.

On the home page of Pointless, go to the right column then down to "What's in a Name, The meaning of names." This is helpful to genealogists. Scroll down to Directories, half way down the page, and start off with babynames.com. Although most of the site is not genealogy-related, the one just mentioned is. All the rest are of great interest. You have to navigate through it to enjoy it. You have to get around the advertising. Go to http://www.thealmightyguru.com/Pointless/Index.html

Here is another good web site. There is historic genealogy within the links. Although not exclusively Italian, there is much to be learned here. If you click on a particular country, it will give you a history of Judaism in that country, with links to other stories. There is far too much information to attempt to assimilate in one sitting. (Don't just look at the chart! Click on a country and see what is inside.) http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/jewpop.html

The archives of the Archbishop and from various old parishes in Malta have been digitized and uploaded on a website for public use. The website, archives.maltadiocese.org, was inaugurated by Archbishop Paul Cremona last month. It includes documents from 1531 to date. Registration is free but there is a charge for high resolution prints.

Research and explore your New York genealogy and family history online with databases, indexes and digitized records collections. Many of them free! http://genealogy.about.com/od/new_york/tp/ny-genealogy-online.htm

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Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month, Sept. to June at 10:30 AM

Veterans' Day 2012

Bob Johnson observed Veterans' Day at the US Submarine Veterans-Long Island Base Memorial at the Bay Shore Marina, in Bay Shore, NY. Bob's father, Lieutenant Clarence Herman Johnson, was a crew member of the submarine *USS Sealion* (SS-195), which was in dry dock at the Cavite Navy Yard on Manila Bay in the Philippine Islands on December 8, 1941. Two days later, the sub took two direct hits in a Japanese air raid which demolished the Cavite Navy Yard. Five men on the sub were killed. Critical equipment was removed and three depth charges were set off to keep *Sealion* out of enemy hands.

After the attack at Cavite, Lt. Johnson escaped capture by hiking through the mountains, evading Japanese patrols. He was smuggled out of the Philippines on a French tanker. That tanker was bombed and, fortunately, Lt. Johnson escaped with only bruises. Lt. Johnson was quickly reassigned to the USS Sailfish (SS192) and later on to the USS Sturgeon. Both are attack submarines that patrolled the Pacific waters.

At that time, his wife, Mrs. Gloria Josephine Johnson, was living in Honolulu, Hawaii, with their 3 children, Clarence Herman (3), Yvonne Geraldine (1-1/2) and Robert (5 Mos.). After the Pearl Harbor attack, it was more than a year before the family could return to United States.

During a brief visit with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Herman A. Johnson, in Minneapolis, MN, Lt. Johnson was interviewed by a newspaper. He spoke about his experiences serving on subs, attacking Japanese shipping in the Pacific. He said " ...the Japanese are tough-and they're not quitting, it will be a long war."

He then went on to New York's Little Italy to be reunited with his wife and three children, the youngest of whom (Bob) he had never seen. When Grandmother Maria Latella-DeNino learned that Lt. Johnson had been assigned to another submarine, she said, "I have a funny feeling about this. I want to break your leg so that you will not be able to serve."

In November 1943, Johnson became a crew member on the newly commissioned submarine *USS Golet* (SS-361) in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. After shakedown training in Panama and full battle practice in Hawaiian waters, the sub departed Pearl Harbor on March 18, 1944.

Lt. Johnson, Herman Johnson Sr. and Bob Johnson

Golet was assigned to patrol an area near the Japanese home islands off Honshu. The sub departed Midway Island on May 28, 1944 and failed to return. She was declared overdue and all 82 members aboard were presumed lost. A post war examination of Japanese records revealed a anti-submarine attack in *Golet's* area on June 14, 1944. These records indicated all evidence of the sinking of a submarine.

Bob Johnson has submitted a request for his father's Military Records at NARA's National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO. NARA waives any fees for next of kin of deceased service members. He will keep us posted.

Tips for Salvaging Flood & Water Damaged Photos

Kimberly Powell, About.com Guide

When disasters hit, most people don't mourn the refrigerator or the couch. Instead, the loss of precious family photographs, scrapbooks and memorabilia is what brings them to tears. While it may seem unlikely when facing piles of soggy, mud-spattered photos, papers and other valuables, saving them may be possible by following a few simple steps.

Saving Water-Damaged Photos

Most photos, negatives and color slides can be cleaned and air-dried using the following steps:

1. Carefully lift the photos from the mud and dirty water. Remove photos from water-logged albums and separate any that are stacked together, being careful not to rub or touch the wet emulsion of the photo surface.

2. Gently rinse both sides of the photo in a bucket or sink of clear, cold water. Don't rub the photos and be sure to change the water frequently.

3. If you have time and space right away, lay each wet photo face up on any clean blotting paper, such as a paper towel. Don't use newspapers or printed paper towels, as the ink may transfer to your wet photos. Change the blotting paper every hour or two until the photos dry. Try to dry the photos inside if possible, as sun and wind will cause photos to curl more quickly.

4. If you don't have time right away to dry your damaged photos, just rinse them to remove any mud and debris. Carefully stack the wet photos between sheets of wax paper and seal them in a Ziploc type plastic bag. If possible, freeze the photos to inhibit damage. This way photos can be defrosted, separated and air-dried later when you have the time to do it properly.

More Tips for Handling Water Damaged Photographs

- Try to get to flood-damaged photos within two days or they will begin to mold or stick together, making saving them much more unlikely.

- Begin with photographs for which there are no negatives, or for which the negatives are also water damaged.

- Photos in frames need to be saved when they are still soaking wet, otherwise the photo surface will stick to the glass as it dries and you will not be able to separate them without damaging the photo emulsion. To remove a wet photo from a picture frame, keep the glass and photo together. Holding both, rinse with clear flowing water, using the water stream to gently separate the photo from the glass.

It is important to note that some historical photographs are very sensitive to water damage and may not be recoverable. Older photographs should also not be frozen without first consulting a professional conservator. You may also want to send any damaged heirloom photos to a professional photo restorer after drying.

For more information about flood damaged documents valuables and historic buildings go to http://genealogy.about.com/b/2012/10/31/salvaging-flood-and-water-damaged-photos-

This photo provided by the US Army shows Spc. Brett Hyde, Tomb Sentinel, 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), keeping guard over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during Hurricane Sandy, at Arlington National Cemetery, Va.

Source: NY Daily News

Italian Prisoners in America

William S. Gimello

In 1939, when war broke out in Europe, hundreds of Italian merchant seamen were stranded in the United States. Many sabotaged their ships out of fear that their ships would be handed over to the British government. The US government took custody of these Italian seamen. An estimated 1,200 were interned as "enemy aliens" at Fort Missoula, Montana. Unable to return to Italy, where they would have most certainly have been drafted for combat, these seaman spent most of the war safe, sound and relatively happy in the United States. The fort consisted of 378 acres where all internees lived within a high fence that had 65 foot guard towers at the north and south gates.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the Italians were joined by 1,000 of the most prominent leaders of the Japanese communities on the west coast. These were men that the FBI thought might organize Japanese Americans against the United States.

The camp was nick-named by the Italians as Camp Bella Vista. It also held World's Fair workers, 23 German residents and 123 Japanese Citizens of Central and South America.

Life at Camp Bella Vista was comfortable. The Italians were expected to earn their keep by doing routine chores, including laundry and kitchen duty. They also worked as blacksmiths, carpenters and mechanics for which they were paid 80 cents a day.

By July 1943, 800 of the camp's 1,200 Italians received work parole. They worked for the Forest Service, constructing paths, bridges and tunnels, as well as seasonal workers foe the local beet industry. Others worked in Catholic hospitals, schools and orphanages across the state.

Life for the Italians at Fort Missoula, while not ideal, was without hardship. Their treatment was humane and regulated by the Geneva Convention. The best part of the day was meal time with Italian ingredients supplied by Missoula's D'Orazi Italian Grocery Store and prepared by the interned chefs from the luxury liner *Conte Biancamano*.

Following Italy's surrender in 1943, the Italians were sent back to Italy. The fort is now a museum that has a year-round exhibit on wartime internment. The museum has extensive information and photographs on its website at www.fortmissoulamuseum/.org

Edited from "Prisoners in America" by Brian D'Ambrosio, *Italian American*, Fall 2012

Genealogy Tip of the Day

Genealogy Tips by Michael John Neill
Sponsored by GenealogyBank

Read the Whole Census Page

Do your eyes only scroll to the "name you're really looking for" on a census page? Do you not really think about the names of the neighbors? It's always a good idea to read the page your relative is on and at least a few pages before and a few pages afterwards, in case there are relatives nearby.

A relative married his second wife in the early 1860s. I didn't know much about her--until I reviewed her 1910 census entry when she had moved with her second husband to another state. There, next door, were two widowed brothers with a last name that was her maiden name.

Research is in progress, but, if they are not related to her, it is a huge coincidence!

Translating Italian Civil Records

Joe Battagliese

One of our members recently asked if I could help in translating Italian documents. I directed her to this article I have written which appeared in the May 2008 Newsletter. It's still relevant.

I recently started reviewing a microfilm reel of Civil Registrations, from my father's *Comune di Alfano, Provincia Salerno*. After many years, these records were finally microfilmed in 2006 by the LDS and are now available to genealogists. The section of the reel I am reviewing contains *Atti di Nascita,* from the years 1866 to 1870. The records are all hand-written (no printed forms). Copies are hard to read, and finding the correct spelling for every word is difficult. I began by transcribing 10 records into Microsoft Excel and, with the help of **Don Eckerle**, developed an Alfano look-up, spread-sheet that was easily formatted to provide an English translation. I still had problems. There are words and phrases in the Alfano documents that did not translate.

The Jan-March issue of the *NewsMagazine* of the National Genealogical Society has an informative article entitled *Extracting Details From Italian Civil Vital Records* by **June DeLalio**. In the article, June recommends dividing the document into four basic sections. As June says, "To help demystify these civil vital records, it is useful to understand their form and content. Despite changes over the years, birth and marriage records are generally in the same format."

I took one of my Alfano documents (*see italics below*) and divided it into four sections, as June recommended. I think that it worked well and is worth sharing.

As June had determined, the **First Section** contained the document number, date of registration, name of the person recording the registration and the names of the political jurisdiction.

Numero D' Ordine ventitre

L' anno mille ottocento sessantaotto nel giorno diciassette del mese di novembre nella casa comunale alla ore sedici = Dinazi a me Nicola Siero Sindaco del comune di Alfano, Circondario di Valle della Luciana, Provinca di Principato Citeriore, Uffiziale dello Stato Civile,

In my Alfano document, the birth act is Number 23, and was registered on November 17, 1868, at 4:00 PM., at the town hall, by Nicola Siero, Mayor and Officer of Civil Records for the town of Alfano, Circondario di Vallo della Luciana, in the Province of Principato Citariore (now Province of Salerno).

The **Second Section** began with the words *e' comparso or sono comparso (for two people),* meaning the person or persons who appeared to register the event. For births, generally it's the father or midwife. For a marriage it's the bride and groom.

e' comparso Francesco D'Andrea di Pietro di anni sedici, di professione Battoliere, domiciliato in Alfano,il quale e' mi ha presentato un bambino di sesso feminile, che dichiara essergli nato nel giorno sedici del mese di novembre, anno indetto alla ore venti italiane dalla di sui moglie Filomena Battagliese di Nicola di anni ventitre, seco lui domiciliata, a nella casa di sui abitazione posta in questo comune di Alfano, strada Forge, alla quale figlia dichiarato di dare il nome di Maria Antonia.

In my Alfano document, Francesco D'Andrea, the father, presented a female, who he declared was born the day before, by his 23 year old wife, Filomena Battagliese, who resides with him in Alfano, on Forge Street. Francesco also declares that he named the child Maria Antonia.

The **Third Section** included the witnesses who appeared for this registration, generally not relatives. Marriage documents also include language about the form of the document.

La quale presentazione, e dichiarazione, vien fatta alla presenza di Nicola Guzzo fu Petronilla di

anni sessantotto di professione contadino, domicilato in Alfano, e di Giacomo Greco fu Giovanni di anni sessantasette di professione contadino, domiciliato in Alfano, e testimoni scelri dal dichiarante stesso, ai quail si

The witnesses are presented by the declarer, Francesco D'Andrea. Their names are Nicola Guzzo, 78, and Giacomo Greco, 77, and both are farmers residing in Alfano.

The **Fourth Section,** consisted of the Mayor's statement

e' data lettura del presente processo verbale, stesso contemporaneamente su i due registri originali, si e' da me atto scritto, con il dichiarante mano dul testimoni i quali non furono al grado di apporre la loro firma perche' illetterati

Francesco D'Andrea

Nicola Siero

The Mayor stated, that he had entered the act, simultaneously, in two original, birth registers, and read the document to those in attendance. The Mayor also stated that he and Francesco signed the document, and that the witnesses are illiterate.

A big help with the translations is *Italian Genealogical Records*, by Trafford R. Cole, and the website Wiktionary.org/, a free lexical database in every language. However, I am still trying to find a definition for *Battolieri*.

The entire staff of the IGG send best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year to all.

Pittsburgh Chapter News

The September and October meetings were open forums to discuss how the members are spreading the word to encourage genealogy. Jean Phillips had an article published in POINTers magazine relating the discovery of cousins in Sant'Omero. They developed a strong bond through the years, and visits here and abroad ensued. A copy was presented to each member. John Zappia published a book entitled *The Greatest Gift from Sicily—Donna Bridida*. It is a story of his grand-mother and her life in the Little Italy section of Pittsburgh from 1905-1950. It is available on Amazon. In the future he will discuss the process of self-publishing a book. Rosa Gevaudan informed the group that Bloomfield celebrates Little Italy Days in late September. Al Smith donated genealogy magazines to their local library for all to use. Michael Pelligini brought in Pennsylvania newspaper articles from January 1942 stating that all non-citizens were to submit their short wave radios, receivers, and cameras to the authorities. They collected 3 radios with receivers, 2 camera, and 2 revolvers. Marilyn Holt informed the attendees that the Pennsylvania death records are available on Ancestry. Dara Tommassi found family members through Facebook. She presented a program on what genealogy information can be found on social sites. She used the Bing translator to help with Italian communication. On Facebook there is a site called "I Grew Up In Uptown." Uptown is an area of Pittsburgh were many early Italian immigrants settled. There is a collection of photographs and memoires submitted by those who lived there. Bruna Riccobon had two articles published in the Pittsburgh UNIONE newspaper recalling her arrival in Pittsburgh in 1951 from a refugee camp in Italy. The second article was an excerpt from her book, *An Insider's Guide to Italy…Tips, Tidbits, and Tales* on travel tips and personal experiences. It is available on Amazon. A new member, Sierra Green, will conduct a workshop at the Heinz History Center on preserving historical documents and materials.

The Orphan Train Kids

Tina Sansone BellaOnline's Genealogy Editor

In the mid 1800's, there was a problem that was getting continually worse in the large cities such as New York and Chicago, among others. Many children were living on the streets, some of them just young kids with nowhere to live, sleep or eat. These kids eventually became known as Orphan Train Kids. They were not necessarily orphans; some of them had parent(s). Most of these children were from immigrants who came to American with their parents, with a dream of a better life. Life for these immigrants was very hard – a parent may have died on the trip to America, lost their life during their job, or became too sick to work. Some of these families just could not afford to feed their children and sent them off to work. Due to the high rise in alcoholism, probably because of the circumstances of a hard life, some of these kids ran away from home to escape the abuse. Some other reasons were

•Living conditions in these neighborhoods provided the perfect environment for pestilence & disease.

•Children lost one or both parents to typhoid, dysentery, and small pox.

•Dangers of work : factory & dock workers – injuries

•Frequent layoffs

•No programs like unemployment or work-men's compensation - You don't work, You don't get paid!!!

A Reverend Charles Loring Brace, an ordained clergyman, was about 26 when he noticed the children living on the streets. He felt a calling to help these desperate children and wanted to make a difference in their lives. He asked for help for those in the community that had wealth. At first, they did not want to help these kids. But, after Reverend Brace explained to them that if these kids lived here in this condition, they would probably turn to a life of crime in order to survive. This led many to change their minds and contribute to his cause.

The Children's Aid Society of New York (CAS) was started about 1853. It provided the following

•Neighborhood Lodging

•Food, Shelter & Clothes

•Bible

•Learn a skill – industrial schools

•Girls – Housekeepers/Maids

This was a good start, but there were too many kids and they all needed a home. Reverend Brace thought that these kids could be sent to help the farmers in the mid-west, and in return these families could provide a home for these homeless kids. In 1854, the first company of 46 kids was sent to Dowagiac, Michigan along with two agents.

These kids were sent to the homes using trains. Thus, they were often called the Orphan Train kids. Ads were placed to find homes for these kids in many of the United States. Some of these were babies that the Catholic Churches kept until they were about 2 years old, and families were also needed to take care or adopt these toddlers. These families were inspected and if they qualified, received children to help them either in the farm or doing the household chores. In return the kid were clothed, schooled and sent to church. A CAS inspector was to visit yearly to check on these kids. The last official train left for Sulphur Springs, Texas in 1929. An estimated 250,000 orphaned, abandoned, homeless children and poor families were placed in homes.

For the descendants of these children, finding their ancestry can be very hard. Most of the children were given different names, even different birth dates when they were sent to live with the new families. These children may not have told their wives and children about their past. There was a stigma back in those days about being orphaned and some of the kids may have hidden that fact.

To find the more information and related links on the Orphan Kids go to Tina Sansone,BellaOnline website at http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art178503.asp

More on Cleaning Tombstones

Don't make grave mistakes when cleaning tombstones

By Mark Wineka

When Brian Davis walks up to the tombstone of Thomas Barber, who died in 1886 at the age of 85, he knows the simple devices in his hands will make a difference. Barber's stone tablet features a cross near the top and is covered with dirt, lichens and mold in its spot near the treeline.

Davis sprays all sides with water, scrapes off the lichens with a broad Popsicle stick and rubs on the flat surfaces of the stone with a natural-bristle brush. "This is just water and a brush," he emphasizes, as significant dirt is removed. He employs light, circular motions, while also making sure he doesn't lean on or put undue pressure on the marker, which has been sitting in this spot for some 125 years.

Davis next sprays on a "shock treatment" of chlorine - the same mixture used to clean swimming pools or hot tubs. He follows with some more easy scrubbing with his brush, then a rinsing coat of water. He was right. It does look better. "The bio-growth is now dead," Davis reports. "It will lighten up over the next two or three days as the sun hits it."

Davis, executive director of Historic Salisbury Foundation, conducts classes on the proper cleaning techniques of cemetery markers.

He be uses the almost 200-year-old cemetery at Christ Episcopal Church cemetery on 3430 Old US 70 Highway, Cleveland, as his laboratory. The handsome church cemetery, once surrounded by a stone wall, is filled with familiar family names such as Barber, Neely, Graham, Kesler and Moore.

Davis first taught the class six years ago when he was preservation services director for the Galveston Historical Foundation in Galveston, Texas. He likes to offer the tombstone-cleaning class around Halloween, just because of the holiday's fun association with cemeteries.

His class is the kind of educational outreach he hopes Historic Salisbury Foundation can offer more of in the future.

Davis will be going over the different kinds of marker materials - marble, limestone, granite and metal - and when to proceed with cleaning, or when to stop and seek a professional's help.

Normal household cleaners should not be used as cleaning agents on the markers, for example, because of the fatty residue they leave behind, Davis says. It can stain the markers, or that residue promotes algae growth.

In addition, Davis will be discussing some of the symbolism seen on tombstones, things such as the weeping willow tree on the 1830 marker of William B. Neely.

Neely was the 6-year-old son of Allexander and Margaret Neely. The weeping willow was a traditional symbol of mourning, Davis explains, just as the lambs on many tombstones signified the loss of a child.

Cemeteries such as this one at Christ Episcopal Church are always interesting walks through history and tremendous resources for families tracing their ancestors.

Cleaning up the markers sometimes reveals important dates and names for someone filling out the branches of his or her family tree. It also may reveal natural lines in the stone where the marker might be weak.

Davis can't stress enough the need to be gentle when working around family markers.

"Make sure you're not becoming too invasive with the stone," he says. "If you see that happening, call in a professional."

Contact Mark Wineka at 704-797-4263, or mwineka@salisburypost.com.

Quote Of The Day

"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity." --- Ellen Parr

Sicily Genealogy - Tracing Your Sicilian Roots

James Iozia

The internet has made Sicily genealogy information much easier to find. There are search engines designed to assist you in your search for Sicily family history, as well as numerous websites dedicated to those that have a "Sicilian Family Tree". To be Sicilian is to be proud of the island, the identity, the culture and the history. Here are a few interesting tidbits for those of you that are interested in Sicily genealogy.

The original inhabitants were three defined groups of the "Ancient People of Italy". The Sicani were the earliest and most prominent. Cave drawings done by the Sicani date back to 8000BC. According to the Greek historian Thucydides(c 460-395BC), they emigrated from Iberia, but his basis for saying that is unknown. It is generally agreed that the Elymians were the second group of inhabitants followed by the Sicels, who came from mainland Italy around 1200BC.

It is doubtful that anyone could trace their Sicily family history back thousands of years, but it is interesting to think that your ancestors may have lived on the island when the Phoenicians arrived in the 11th century BC or when the Greeks founded Syracuse in 734 BC. Eventually, the early tribes were absorbed and everyone became Roman.

You can make use of church and town records to trace your Sicily family history. Births, marriages and deaths from the late 1800s and early 1900s are recorded in online databases for major towns and communes in mainland Italia. For Sicily genealogy, there are databases that include Palermo, Messina, Trapani, Caltanissetta, Agrigento, and other communes. In many cases, you need only type in your surname to get started.

Because of the vast array of peoples that have controlled the island over the years, the Sicilian language is a mixture of Greek, Catalan, French, Arabic, Spanish and other languages. Among the youth, it is now a secondary language, with most of the population speaking both Italian and Sicilian. Large Albanian communities are prevalent in Western Sicily. Many people have retained a dialect that is quite different from both Sicilian and Italian.

If you speak only English, you may have some difficulties tracing your Sicily family history, but because of the popularity of family trees, many sources have been translated to English. Photographs of old tombstones are posted at numerous websites. Consider joining a social group, like Face-book. You may find that some distant cousin has already done the work for you.

Most people are willing to share their knowledge of Sicily genealogy freely. After all, you're a member of the family.

James has loved Sicily for as far back as he can remember and he returns to this island paradise every chance he gets. His grandparents came to America from this beautiful land in the early 1900's, bringing with them all the tradition and passion that is Sicily. From the beautiful beaches and Roman architecture, to the heavenly food and romantic charm, he hopes you will come to love Sicily as much as he does. Stop by for a visit at http://www.beauty-and-romance-of-sicily.com

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=James_Iozia

New York's World War II Soldier Data Now Available Online

When 28,969 New York National Guard soldiers mobilized in the fall of 1940 as the United States prepared for war, clerks filled out six-by-four inch cards on each individual. Now, thanks to a team of 15 volunteers, those records — listing names, serial number, home and unit, and later annotated with hand-written notes on whether or not the soldier was killed or wounded — are available online from the New York State Military Museum. Volunteers spent a year keying the information on the cards into Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. Information available includes date, city, state and country of birth; ID number; hometown, unit; rank; enlistment and separation dates.

The data can be searched at http://dmna.ny.gov/historic.

You can read more in an article in the Saratogian at http://goo.gl/nvLjF.

Thanks to Karen Horn-Jansen for reporting about this article.

Arlington National Cemetery Update

New app brings Arlington National Cemetery closer to the public

Arlington National Cemetery has released an application that enables family members and the public to find gravesites and explore Arlington's rich history. ANC Explorer allows users to use a smart phone or common web browser to locate gravesites, events or other points of interest throughout the cemetery; generate front-and-back photos of a headstone or monument; and receive directions to these locations. This free app is now available on Arlington's website, the iTunes store, and Google Play and is loaded on new kiosks in Arlington National Cemetery's Visitors Center. "This is just the beginning. In the future, ANC Explorer will offer features such as emergency and event notifications, restroom and water fountain locations, shuttle stops, and self-guided tours," said Maj. Nicholas R. Miller, Arlington National Cemetery chief information officer. The information in the app is a compilation of Arlington's accountability effort. The effort led to the first-ever review, analysis and coordination of almost 150 years of varying records. As part of the accountability effort, the Army photographed 259,978 gravesites, niches and markers using a custom-built smart phone application and instituted a rigorous process to review each headstone photo with existing cemetery records and other historical documents. The end result was the creation of a single, verifiable and authoritative database of all those laid to rest at Arlington that is linked to the Arlington's digital mapping system. "ANC Explorer is another milestone in our transformation. There isn't a national cemetery that is as technologically advanced as Arlington – both in day-to-day operations and how it connects to its families and visitors," said Kathryn A. Condon, executive director of the Army National Military Cemeteries. For additional information and the link to the ANC Explorer app is available at www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/ancexplorer.

Battagliese-Genealogia

This photo includes, (L-R) Chris M. Bruneau, Uncle Bill Battagliese, Maureen Bruneau and the sisters Maria and Annalisa Battagliese. They all had dinner at Uncle Bill's house in the Philadelphia suburbs.

After meeting Maria and Annalisa in Italy last summer, Maureen invited them both to visit her family in the US. They took her up on her offer and their arrival in Philadelphia last month coincided with the arrival of Hurricane Sandy.

Maureen gave them a guided tour of Washington and Philadelphia in the face of the on-coming Hurricane. Maria says " I'll never forget this trip."

All are members of the Facebook group Battagliese-Genealogia. The Group encourages the tracing of Family History of the Battaglieses from the Cilento area of the Province of Salerno, in the Campania Region of Italy.

Future Meeting Dates for the Italian Genealogical Group

January 12, February 9, 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.