

ITALIAN

GENEALOGICAL GROUP

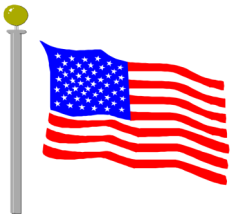


Visit our web page: www.italiangen.org

Volume 28, No. 7

March, 2022

Getting Ready for the Release of the 1950 Census



With eager anticipation, genealogists across America are looking forward to the release of the 1950 census on April 1, 2022. The census will reveal who was living and where, the composition of family groups, each person's relationship to the head of household, ages, marital status, places of birth, naturalization status and occupations. The census enumerators asked, "What was this person doing most of last week — working, keeping house, or something else?" and "If the person was working, how many hours did he or she work in the last week?" For an overview of the 1950 census, the website of the United States Census Bureau is at https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/overview/1950.html. Due to the "72-Year Rule", we have had to wait until now for the publication of this census.

To help you get ready for the release, IGG has some suggestions for how to prepare and how to find information about the data which was included in the census and how to locate records for yourself and your ancestors in this census.

First, on page 9, we are consolidating, and reprinting advice given to us last year by IGG member and professional genealogist **Kelly Barbano-Bodami**, one of our "how-to" columnists. Kelly explained that we

will not, at least at the start, be able to search the census by name. That capability will not be available for months or possibly more than a year from now, depending on the number of volunteers to index the more than 150 million people enumerated in the census and the speed at which they work. For now, to find people in the census, we will need to find their Enumeration District. Kelly explains how to do that.

Also, our Programming VP, **Pamela J. Vittorio**, has booked a leading expert on the topic for this month's IGG meeting. **Debbie Wilson Smyth** will be presenting, "Making Sense of the Census, and Previewing the 1950 Census". Be sure not to miss this timely and interesting discussion. If you haven't already done so, register by going to the Meetings & Events section of the IGG website.

Inside this issue:

Beware the Enumerator or Indexer	Page 3
February Speaker: Pamela Vittorio	Page 4
Passing Genealogy to the Young	Page 5
The Culture Column	Page 7
Wall of Remembrance	Page 8
The How-To Column	Page 9
Sicilian Carts	Page 10

Meeting News

The next meeting will take place on Saturday, March 12 at 11:00 AM (Eastern). The speaker will be **Debbie Wilson Smyth** who will be presenting, "Making Sense of the Census, and Previewing the 1950 Census". The meeting will be on Zoom only and will be open to members and non-members. To register, to the Meeting & Events section of the IGG website.

The following meeting will take place on April 9. No decision has yet been made about the format. Check the Meeting & Events section of the IGG website for more information.



Our Mission Statement

The Italian Genealogical Group (est. 1993) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to encouraging an interest in genealogy and educating our members and the general public about Italian genealogy, research, and culture. We assist in preserving, indexing and computerizing historical records, making them available to all members of the genealogical community.

1. The Editor/Publisher assume that all correspondence and articles sent to the Italian Genealogical Group Newsletter are intended for publication, unless the writer specifically says otherwise.
2. In publishing news items, articles, etc. the Editor and the Italian Genealogical Group assume no responsibility or liability for facts, recommendations, or opinions of contributors.
3. Unless indicated otherwise, by the Editor and Publisher, original articles and material may be quoted or reprinted by genealogical or Italian interest publications, providing that they acknowledge and furnish the date of the issue.
4. However, no commercial use may be made of the contents of the Italian Genealogical Newsletter, its database, or membership lists, "handouts," etc.



P. O. Box 626
Bethpage, New York 11714-0626

Elected Officers:

Co-Presidents	Michael Cassara Gail Cinelli
First Vice President	MaryAnne Yenoli
Vice President, Programming	Pamela J. Vittorio
Treasurer	John Affisco Ph.D.
Recording Secretary	Ann M. Kurz Ph.D.
Corresponding Secretary	Marilyn Verna Ed.D.

Directors:

Auditing	Angela La Giglia
Historian	Kelly Barbano-Bodami
Membership	Michael Genovese
Newsletter Editor	Richard Graziano Ed.D.
Scholarship	Louise Perrotta J.D.
Special Projects, Church Records	Mario Toglia

Committees Members:

Education	Marilyn Verna Mario Toglia
GFLI Representatives	MaryAnne Yenoli Peter De Pippo
Governance	Ann Kurz Kelly Barbano-Bodami Mario Toglia Pamela J. Vittorio
Hospitality	Gail Cinelli Gina Carpentieri
Immediate Past President	Marcelle Manteria
Information Technology Team	Peter De Pippo Vito LaBarca
Library	Louise Ryall
Meeting Reception	Trish Stipo
NGS Delegate	Michael Cassara
Newsletter Advisor	Joseph Battagliese
Newsletter Layout	MaryAnne Yenoli
Newsletter Distribution	Trish Stipo
Nominations	Angela La Giglia Louise Perrotta
Scholarship	Kelly Barbano-Bodami Marcelle Manteria
Social Media Team	Michael Cassara MaryAnne Yenoli
Special Projects, Church Records	Michael Genovese
Website	Michael Cassara MaryAnne Yenoli

Annual Membership:

Individual \$25 per year (online/website access, PDF newsletter)
\$40 per year for newsletters sent via U.S. Mail (Domestic Only)

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

Beware the Enumerator/Indexer!

Richard Graziano Ed.D.

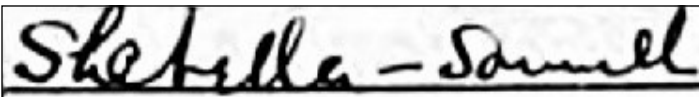
Volume 1, Issue 1 Revisited

Richard Graziano

When looking at census records, we've all found errors due to erroneous information given to the census enumerator, misinterpretation of names by the enumerator, or mistakes made by person indexing the record. This can lead to some baffling search results.

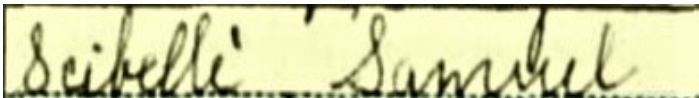
My maternal grandfather's name was Sebastiano Scibelli, but he was often called Sam. He came to this country in 1903, became a citizen in 1924 and lived in the same house in Jamaica, Queens, New York for at least forty years until he died in 1960. Presumably, he should have been relatively easy to find in the 1920, 1930 and 1940 censuses.

Not so much! When the census taker appeared at his door in 1920 and asked his name, he must have responded, "Sam Scibelli." The enumerator wrote this:



Therefore, in 1920, his surname was Shebella. I had heard him referred to as Sam during my early life, so the interpretation of Samuel as his given name wasn't all that surprising.

In 1930, his surname was correct, but he remained Samuel.



I didn't fare so well in the 1940 census. I searched under Sebastiano, Sebastian, Sam, and used wild card and other search options. Nothing. Then, when I searched for my mother's census record, I understood why. There on the record, as head of household, was her father but, his given name was not what I expected. The enumerator wrote this:



I think he wrote Sebeston. However, when it came time to index the 1940 census, the person interpreting this name decided it was Silvestor Scibelli. That certainly explains my initial lack of success in finding him in the that census. I eagerly anticipate what might be in store for me when I find his 1950 census record. Maybe the enumerator and the indexer finally got it right!

I've been the editor of this newsletter for nearly two years. I was curious about the history of the publication, especially in its early years, so I went to the Newsletter Archive in the Members-only section of the IGG website to look at the earliest editions. I thought it would be interesting to examine the very first issue, which appeared in September 1994. It was black and white, five pages in length, and was primarily informational in nature. The first page listed the details of the next meeting, a presentation by John J. Celardo, Assistant Director of the National Archives in New York, which at that time was located on Varick Street in Manhattan.

The other items in that issue were:

- A report on the previous meeting that included a discussion by Gene Capabianco about his trip to his ancestral home in Trani;
- The dates of upcoming meetings;
- An announcement of the Third Italian Festival at Hofstra University;
- A list of holdings at the New York City Municipal Archives;
- A book recommendation;
- A list of Italian occupations;
- A map of the provinces of Italy.

This first issue was a modest beginning, and there was no indication of the name of the editor or any of the contributors. Whoever they may have been, however, we owe them a debt of gratitude for starting us down this important road.

The newsletter has evolved into something longer with more in-depth stories, but that requires the participation of more than just a few writers. Each month, we ask that you contribute to the newsletter. The publication needs you. Please send in an article about your research experiences or any other topic that might be of interest to our readers.

Sad News

We just received word that longtime IGG member, Mike Florio, has passed away. Mike, and his wife Barbara, were founding members of our organization who worked tirelessly to promote research into Italian Genealogy. With the other charter members, they were responsible for starting IGG and helping it to grow and prosper. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

We are saddened by news of his passing. Our condolences go to the family.

February Speaker

Pamela J. Vittorio



Since our ancestors spent much of their time working, to have a complete picture of their lives, we must understand this aspect of their daily experience. Therefore, we were fortunate to have our speaker, Pamela Vittorio, present **“O Mio Padrone: Occupations of Italian Immigrants (1870-1920),”** which discussed the *padrone* system that facilitated the hiring of Italian immigrants.

Pamela began with a discussion of push factors that led Italian emigrants to leave their country and pull factors that encouraged them to come to the United States. Among both were the lack of work opportunities in Italy and the availability of the same in the U.S. She discussed the “birds of passage” phenomenon, in which many Italian immigrants stayed for a length of time, worked, sent money home and eventually returned home themselves. (If a researcher finds gaps in census records of family members, it is possible that they returned home for a period.) While here, immigrants mostly lived in “Italian” neighborhoods that were often further segmented by specific regions of Italy.

As a case study, Pamela used the construction of the New York Barge Canal that stretched from the eastern part of the state to its western reaches. Construction on the canal, primarily by Italian immigrants, began in 1906. Working conditions were often dangerous and unhealthy. Workers moved westward as sections of the canal (and later, the railroad) were completed. Workers were housed in makeshift shacks or bungalows grouped together in camps. They were charged for the housing at a rate of one dollar per month and paid an additional five cents for each meal. In company towns, the workers were forced to shop in the company store, which often gouged on prices. In a few cases, workers rioted to protest conditions and the general unfairness of this system.

An important source of information about these workers is the census. Using these records allows the researcher to follow the movement of workers over time. Typically those census records included long lists of workers housed in the same place, usually work camps.

Construction of the Barge Canal also provided the opportunity to discuss the *padrone* system. The *padrone* was the person employed by the bosses to hire and interact with the labor force. For that service, he received a commission from management and a cut of the laborers’ wages. In some cases, this system led to corruption and exploitation of workers. However, the *padrone* was also a necessary cog in the employment wheel. Without his presence, many of the workers might not have come to the United States at all.

The *padrone* performed other services for the workers, including legal advice, translations, help finding housing and transportation, providing familiar food, banking advice and assistance with wiring money home to families in Italy. He sometimes advocated for the laborers with management. Some *padroni*, however, were corrupting influences, also providing access to liquor and prostitutes.

The men holding *padrone* positions may be identified in the census records. By examining the occupation field on a page with many day laborers, one might find an agent or a supervisor, or, on a page with many single male workers, one might find a grocer with a wife and children. Those people were more than likely *padroni*. While most of the workers could not read or write, the *padrone* was usually literate.

Throughout her presentation, Pamela used photographs to help us visualize the conditions under which the laborers lived and worked. Some of these were quite striking since, as the saying goes, a picture is worth....! She also used maps, charts, and graphs to help illustrate her points.

Once the canal was completed in 1918, the workers moved on to other projects such as building roads and highways, railroads, dams, bridges, and buildings. At the end of her talk, Pamela also discussed those who worked in industries such as factories, foundries, mines, and others.

The presentation was followed by a lively question and answer period. One question referenced the prohibition on contract workers in immigration. Pamela explained that the *padrone* system was a way around that ban. Contractors still had access to laborers using this middleman.

The video of Pamela’s talk can be viewed on the Members Only section of the italiangen.org website.

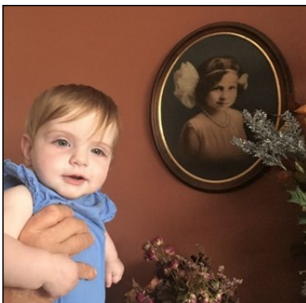
Developing an Ancestral Connection for the Youngest Family Member

Michael S. Genovese

Older members of a family want to pass on their family history to communicate to youngsters that they belong to something bigger than themselves, that is, a bigger family than those they see and know. It is never too early to start that process with them. Passing on this history to our younger family members helps develop strong family ties. Eventually, our efforts will strengthen their sense of belonging and the purpose and importance of family. Now that we have stated the **WHY**, let's delve into the **HOW** to pass on one's ancestry to younger family members.

I write this article through the eyes of an 81-year-old grandfather who wishes to pass on his family history to his 2½-year-old granddaughter, Holly Mae. I am using examples of how I plan to pass on the family legacy to her and develop ties with various ancestors, but one could apply this relationship to any family member and any ancestor.

For the past twenty years, I have been passionately researching my family tree, and I earnestly want our family to understand that they are who they are because of those family members who came before them. I have accumulated a wealth of documents and photographs, and I am eager to share my thoughts on ways to pass on the family heritage,



Holly Mae with a photo of her Great Grandmother Helena Trentalange Genovese

ancestry and traditions to one's grandchildren and great grandchildren. My challenge is to create some simple ways to start this with youngest in my family, Holly Mae. I wish to for her to develop a tie or relationship that binds her to family ancestors. Each of these examples will identify by name and photograph, an ancestor, a family heirloom

or tradition, or sometimes an Italian word or song. The object is to help my granddaughter learn about and develop a tie with that ancestor.

Let's start with Holly Mae's baptism. Our family made sure that she would be baptized dressed in a family heirloom. Her baptismal gown was designed

by a family member and contained various original parts of Holly's great-grandmothers' wedding gowns. This connection will be explained to her at a later age when she is able to understand, but for now she is shown the gown and told that it was made for her with love from her great-grandmothers.



Holly loves to look at pictures and, even at an early age, she has tons of children's books that teach her about everything you can imagine. I constantly show her pictures of her paternal great-grandmother and repeat her name, Helen, and, as she looks at the photo, I point out her resemblance to her great-grandmother in detail — her eyes and various other features. Then I tell her short stories about Helen and on various occasions show her various objects that her great-grandmother sewed or crocheted, like the stitching of a star. I always emphasize that that she and her great-grandmother are connected and that they are family.



Since she loves books, I thought why not design a personalized book featuring Holly interacting with her great-grandmother. This doesn't have to be a costly project, nor a lengthy one either. With my elementary use of Microsoft Word, I can compose simple pages with family photos that I've digitalized and put together in one-, two-, or three-page stories. Creating narratives like this gives Holly a chance to learn about any of her ancestors.

Her great-grandfather, Michael Angelo and her great-great grandfather, Salvatore, played an Italian finger game called *morra*. It's a game between two people who compete by facing each other and, before throwing out one to five fingers, they must try to anticipate the number of fingers that their opponent will throw out. As they reveal their fingers, they shout the out the number that they think the total number of fingers will be, in Italian, of course!

Again, showing Holly a photo of both her great-grandfather and her great-great grandfather and repeating their names,



Playing *morra*

I will say to her that they both played a game called “*morra*.” Then I can begin to teach her how to count to ten in Italian. Eventually, we will play the game, and she will develop another tie to both these ancestors.

There are certain Italian phrases and words that our family uses. Passing those onto Holly is another way of developing a tie to her great-great grandmother as well as other earlier family members.



For example, a dish towel was always called a *mappina*, so when I visit my granddaughter, I will give her a dish towel that has her great-grandmother name stitched on it. She already knows some Spanish words, so why not teach her a few Italian words, like *mappina*. This way

she will eventually develop a tie with another ancestor by way of an Italian word, object, picture or name. She will play with it, and when I visit her, I will ask her for the *mappina* and she will bring it to me and pronounce the name of her great-grandparent.

Food is another way of developing a tie with an ancestor. A traditional family dish made by Holly’s



Holly’s 3rd Great Grandmother, Filomena Claps Genovese

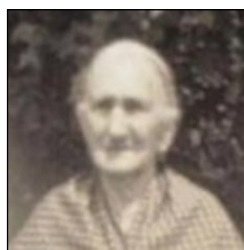
great great-grandmother was “Sunday’s meatballs.” The meatballs were hand formed balls of a mixture of ground beef, veal and pork with basil and breadcrumbs. The meatballs were first fried and then put into a large pot of tomato sauce to cook for hours. My wife and I can buy all the ingredients and, after Mass on a particular Sunday, along with Holly, we will form “Nonna’s meatballs” with the help of the *mappina*,

again giving Holly another opportunity to develop a tie with her great-great-grandmother.

In this day of I-phones and computers, we have the ability to create videos. Holly loves to explore anything digitalized. She loves to see herself on FaceTime or view slides on PowerPoint or animations via You-tube videos. Using today’s technological tools, a grandparent can easily display an array of family photos and even produce

elementary family stories as well, yet another tool to help Holly develop a tie to her ancestors.

Holly’s great-great-grandfather, Guiseppe, made a ravioli cutter in 1921, and it has that date and his name, “J. Trentalange,” carved into it. He owned a grocery store in Staten Island and used this tool. In a few short months, we plan to show her this utensil along with a photograph of her 2nd great grandfather, repeating his name and showing her how it is used when we make our homemade ravioli.



A family tradition was a tune sung by her great-great-great-great grandmother, Carmela Palange Santoro, during the Christmas holiday. For musical accompaniment, she fashioned a drum-like instrument with a large pot and stretched an animal

skin tightly over the top of the pot and tied it securely around the edges. Then she cut a hole in its center and inserted a long thin stick that she used as a rolling pin into the hole. Moving the stick up and down made a noise caused by the vibration. The instrument was called the *cupa-cupa*. She took this with her and, with her small family, walked to the homes of nearby family members while singing the Italian Christmas song “*Tu Scende dalle Stelle*” using the *cupa-cupa* to keep the beat. We plan on making our version of this instrument with Holly for Christmas 2022. This, along with the actual recording of that beautiful song and a photograph of Carmela and reciting her name as we too teach Holly to sing with us, is another way for connecting her to an ancestor.

With repeated sessions of sharing photos, names, articles made by ancestors, songs, games, traditions and stories, the youngest member of your family will develop a tie and a relationship that binds her to her ancestral family members. It is my wish that these examples may inspire you to be creative and think of ways to help the youngest in your family to develop a knowledge of and a relationship with their ancestors. Please share any additional suggestions or engaging young family members in their ancestry, by writing to the IGG newsletter at: newseletter@italiangen.org.

Culture Column

March Comes in Like a Lion and Goes Out Like a Lamb

Marilyn A. Verna Ed.D.

In a previous article (March, 2020), I spoke about the March traditions in Italian towns. Three holidays are celebrated during the month: **La Festa della Donna** on March 8, **St. Patrick's Day** on March 17, and **St. Joseph's Day** on March 19. St. Joseph's Day is extremely important as it is also Father's Day. The celebration surrounds the St. Joseph's Table and the significance of the food items.

Le parole per Marzo (the words for March). Match the translations in the second column with the words in the first column:

1. <i>San Giuseppe</i>	A. spaghetti with sardines
2. <i>la tavola</i>	B. lemons
3. <i>il falegname</i>	C. wine
4. <i>le noci</i>	D. St. Joseph
5. <i>le arance</i>	E. cream puff with ricotta filling
6. <i>il vino</i>	F. bread
7. <i>pasta con sarde</i>	G. carpenter
8. <i>zeppole</i>	H. oranges
9. <i>gli sfingi</i>	I. cream puff with custard
10. <i>fava fagioli</i>	J. table
11. <i>i limoni</i>	K. nuts
12. <i>il pane</i>	L. broad beans

Answers at the bottom of the page.

Do You Shop at Amazon?

If so, you can support the IGG by placing your order through AmazonSmile. Visit:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/11-3302825>

A portion of all order proceeds will benefit the IGG.


You shop. Amazon gives.

Rosanna M. Giammanco, Ph.D.

ATA Certified – 36 published book translations

***Italian – French – Spanish – Latin
Translation – Editing – Research Services***

P.O.B. 810422 – Boca Raton, FL 33481-0422
(718) 619-2637 – verbum1945@gmail.com

“verba volant, scripta manent”

Answers: 1. D, 2. J, 3. G, 4. K, 5. H, 6. C, 7. A 8.
9. E, 10. L, 11. B, 12. F.

Editor's Note: in the February issue, the words, *San Valentino* and *ti'amo*. were left out of the word-find puzzle. We apologize to you and Dr. Verna.

Wall of Remembrance

An Interview with my Great Grandmother

Jennifer Ferris

My great-grandmother, Carolina Caldari, came from Afragola, Italy when she was twelve years old. Carolina attended embroidery school and became a seamstress. Her father distributed grain, corn, and flour to different towns. They were middle class. Below is an interview for a school project at Floral Park School when I was in eighth grade in 1991.

JF: Why did you leave Italy?

CC: I left Italy to come to America for opportunities such as jobs and more freedom.

JF: How did you get to the U.S.?

CC: I came to the U.S. by boat.

JF: Did your whole family come together?

CC: No. My father was already here since 1914. Some sisters were already here too.

JF: Did you travel comfortably?

CC: No, it was uncomfortable. The trip took twenty days to get to the U.S. About halfway, a German submarine shot at the boat. (It was during World War I.) All the passengers had to go down to the bottom, turn off all the lights and shut the portholes.

JF: Where did you land?

CC: We landed in New York City.

JF: Did you go through Ellis Island?

CC: Yes, we did.

JF: What happened to you there?

CC: I came to Ellis Island in 1915. My father came to pick up my mom, my seven siblings and me. A man told my father that we weren't on this ship because they had spelled my last name wrong. The man asked my father to describe us. He did and the man realized there was a spelling error. We got inspected for disease and passed.

JF: Have you changed your traditions since you came to the U.S.?

CC: No. We didn't do very traditional things in Italy. We still celebrate Christmas and Easter the same with the family. We dress basically the same, "a dress is a dress" We eat the same foods — Italian, of course.

JF: Did you know anyone in the U.S.?

CC: I knew my father and sisters who were already here. I was a stranger to everyone else.

JF: Did you have a place to live right away?

CC: Yes, I had a place to live. My sister Carmela rented my parents and sisters four rooms. My mother soon realized that they had to find another place because there was not enough room. My mother had to lie about the number of kids, because nobody would accept 7 children and 2 parents. She couldn't take all the landlords complaining about the children, even though they were good, so she went to the bank and asked for a loan. She eventually got it and bought a house in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. Mostly Italians lived there, and it was very safe. The stores had lots of Italian things.

JF: What kind of job did you or your parents have?

CC: I went to work for the Army to make raincoats for the soldiers when I was 14 years old. When my sister left, I took her place. I didn't know how to operate the machines at first but eventually I learned and did everything perfect. I got paid \$8-10 per week. My father worked in the tomato canning factory. Then when I got older, I worked at the Knox Hats factory and made very expensive hats. They ranged from about \$40 – 50 for each hat. I did this before I was married. I also helped make diapers for babies and plain house dresses. Since I made so much, I was allowed to keep some, which I gave away. I showed people how to crochet and sew embroidery work. I won a contest – 1st prize – for making a doll.

JF: Did you go to school here?

CC: When I came to the U.S. I did not know how to read or write. I learned how to read, write, and speak English when I went to school for 22 months. I really didn't "complete" any level of schooling. I just learned to be literate.

JF: What new things did you learn to do?

CC: I learned how to go to work to earn money, speak, write, and read English, and live like an American.

JF: How did you learn how to speak English?

CC: I pretty much taught myself with the help of the 22 months of school.

JF: Did you become an American citizen?

CC: Yes, in 1942. My father was an American citizen, so legally, since I was only 15, I was a citizen under him. Then I turned 16, and I wasn't a citizen under him anymore. I wanted to be a citizen, so I studied for the test. I got very sick and was in the hospital the day of the test. I was allowed an extension, and I passed the test.

These days, my great-grandmother lives in Valley Stream, N.Y. She moved there to be in a quiet, safer area. She is now retired and a homemaker. Carolina is eighty-eight years old and widowed with four children. She lives with her daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter. Carolina Caldare has no plans to go back to the Old Country. She has made the United States her home now.

How to Find an Address in the 1950 Census

Kelly Barbano-Bodami

By law, census records are not made public until seventy-two years after their collection. We are, therefore, nearing the publication of the 1950 Census which will take place on April 1, 2022. Since that date is fast approaching, we should review the steps required to find the addresses and the records of your relatives. Until the census has been indexed, we won't be able to search it by name on one of the genealogical websites. It may take a year or longer for the records to be indexed, digitized, and made searchable. (Although in 2012, dedicated volunteers completed the task of indexing the 1940 census in just four months.) In the meantime, we have to do some preliminary work.

Each municipality – be it a county or city – is divided into Enumeration Districts (ED). According to the National Archives, an enumeration district is a “basic geographic area of a size that could be covered by a single census taker within one census period.” Some EDs were only several city blocks in size, while others in more rural areas consisted of entire counties. If you know your ancestor's address, you can determine the Enumeration District and manually search the pages of that district.

Here's how. First, navigate to Steve Morse's One-Stop website at <https://stevemorse.org/census/unified.html>. At the very top of the page, select the year of the census. Then, select the state, county, and city or town. You will then be prompted to enter the house number. Then select the street from a drop-down menu. Several enumeration districts will be identified for the address. To narrow the list, select the cross-streets for the address. I find the easiest way to determine the cross-streets is to use a map to locate the address. (The site includes a prompt to Google Maps.) You must, however, be mindful of street name changes so it is often worthwhile to consult with street name change directories online. The fewer cross-streets entered, the more enumeration districts will be listed.

From the results, click on the ED. That brings you to a prompt to view that Enumeration District on several different platforms – NARA, FamilySearch, or Ancestry. Once you are within the selected ED, you can carefully go page by page, looking for the

known address of your ancestor. The street name is written vertically in the second column on the left, titled “1, Street, Avenue, Road, etc.” The house number is listed in the column “2, House Number.”

Unified 1940 Census ED Finder
(Obtaining the Census Enumeration District for an 1880 to 1930 Location in One Step)
Stephen P. Morse, PhD & Joel D. Weintraub, PhD

Tutorial Quiz Universal ED Viewer ED Maps Census Codes Search by Name Frequently Asked Questions My Other Webpages

Enter as much of the 1940 location as you know

If you select your city from the list of cities displayed, you will be able to enter street-level information
If you select "other" from the city list, you will be able to type in your city or town name

State: New York County: Queens City or Town: Queens
House Number: 67-79 Street: Fleet

You can reduce the number of EDs by selecting cross streets and back streets that complete the city block [see google map](#)

Cross or back street on same city block: 68th Ave
Cross or back street on same city block: Yellowstone Blvd
Cross or back street on same city block: Groton
Cross or back street on same city block:

If you know the 1930 ED for this location, enter it here
State: New York ED:

1940 ED numbers corresponding to your location
41-1745

As an example, my grandmother Margaret Ryan, grew up in Queens, at 67-79 Fleet Street. To find her and her family in the 1940 census, I go to the Unified Enumeration District Finder linked above and enter: State: New York; County: Queens; City or Town: Queens; House Number: 67-79; Street: Fleet; Cross or Back Street: 68th Ave; Cross or Back Street: Yellowstone Blvd; Cross or Back Street: Groton (at left). Entering this information gives me the Enumeration District 41-1745. (Note that without entering the cross-streets, I get a list of seven EDs, making my hunt much more difficult.) Clicking on the ED gives me a choice of platforms, and I select one. This Enumeration District consists of forty-four pages. I click through the first pages, making note that the street name is written on the left along with the house number. I find 67-79 Fleet Street, where my grandmother, Margaret, is enumerated in the household of her father, Richard Ryan.

Remember, this won't work for the 1950 census until it is released on April 1. We can, however, start to prepare by identifying EDs and entering names, addresses and ED numbers on a spreadsheet such as Excel or in a table on Word so that we are ready to go when they fire the starter's pistol for the 1950 Census!

Editor's Note: Since so much attention is focused on the immanent release of the 1950 census (including the topic of this month's speaker), we thought it would be helpful to our readers to reprint Kelly's advice about how to access those records from the May and June 2021 issues of the newsletter.

The Sicilian Cart

One of the most recognizable symbols of Sicilian folklore, the Sicilian cart (*carretto siciliano*) is an ornate, colorful horse- or donkey-drawn cart that originated in the early 19th century in Sicily to transport goods. With the advent of motorization in the Sicilian countryside in the mid-20th century, the use of the *carretto* became obsolete; today, it is considered an art object, carefully crafted. You can still see some, mostly for the delight of tourists.

Carts were used both for work, to carry light loads, and for festive occasions, such as weddings



and parades. Horses were mostly used in the city and on flat plains, while donkeys or mules were preferred in rough terrain.

Different craftsmen are involved in the construction of a *carretto*, each with his own task. The first stage is the work of the ‘carradore,’ the person who builds the cart, carves the decorations and prepares the wheels. Then there is the blacksmith, who forges the metal parts. Finally, the painter adds color and liveliness to the cart, through intricate geometric designs and scenes depicting chivalrous, mythological, historical, or novel-esque gestures. These scenes also serve the purpose of conveying historical information to those who were illiterate. The colors of Sicily’s flag, yellow and red, feature prominently on the carts. The animals pulling the carts are often elaborately adorned as well.

This article is reprinted with permission from [Italy Magazine](#), the world’s most trusted source for everything authentically Italian. Italy Magazine’s winter 2021-22 quarterly digital magazine, [Beliissimo](#), is devoted to the island region of Sicily.

Antenati Responds

Richard Graziano

Last month, I wrote a less than flattering review of the new version of the *il Portale Antenati* website and urged readers, based on their own experiences with the site, to write a comment. Apparently, many users have voiced negative reactions. *Antenati* has acknowledged the general opinion that the new site leaves much to be desired. “*Grazie*. We thank you for the hundreds of comments you sent us which will allow us to improve the Portal’s functionality. We have taken into account all your observations and, where possible, we have already intervened to improve the use of the Portal.” They list the changes they have made. To view them, go to www.antenati.san.beniculturali.it/news.?lang=en.

However, they insist that any return to the older, more user-friendly version is not possible, “The reengineering activity was made necessary because the previous version of the Portal did not guarantee the necessary security and stability from an infrastructural point of view. So it will not be possible to restore it.” They do promise to continue “activities to improve and implement the functions of the Portal.”

We know that they are aware of the general dissatisfaction with the altered site, so I urge you to use their Contact Form to voice your opinions about the site in general and note specific issues you identify as you use the Portal. Let us hope that they continue to respond to users’ comments and that the site once again becomes the vital tool for Italian genealogical research that it once was.

Spring is Here!

After another difficult winter with frigid temperatures and a resurgence of the Covid virus, Spring 2022 arrives on March 20! We hope, as we regain the ability and desire to go outside again, that we will get to enjoy a more normal state of living. Hopefully, this will include IGG meetings in the near future that will be in person or at least in a hybrid format allowing us to once again greet our friends face-to-face. **Happy Spring!**

Applications for IGG Scholarship Open

High school seniors of Italian descent are eligible to apply for the IGG Scholarship if they conduct research into their family history, create a family tree and write an essay about their findings. Applications must be accompanied by a recommendation from an active IGG member. Several prizes are awarded with the top prize of \$2,000. For information and the application form, go to the Scholarships section of the IGG website at www.italiangen.org.

Since 1993, the IGG has awarded over **\$58,000** in scholarship money through our annual scholarship competition, open to high school seniors throughout the United States. It is our goal to encourage the future of Italian genealogy through this unique opportunity.

If you know an eligible candidate, please encourage that student to participate. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2020. Prizes will be announced at the June IGG meeting.

Thank You!

The Italian Genealogical Group wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude to the

San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

for its generous donation to support the work of the IGG and to foster greater cooperation between our groups.



Find us on 



Italo-American FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



Get your First Mortgage with Us!

with interest as low as

1.99% APR*

1.99% for year 1; 3.45% for year 2,3 & 4 (then 3 year variable)



* Based on Risk Scoring Assessment

✓ No Penalty for pre-payment

✓ Other Terms Available : 5 years Variable and 10 years Fixed (with Points)

**BUILD YOUR SAVINGS
WITH US**

0.625% per annum	Accounts \$200.00 & up
-----------------------------	---------------------------------------



ITALO-AMERICAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION – 66-52 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, N.Y. 11385
Phone 718-366-6422 – E-mail: info@italoamericanfcu.com – NMLS ID: 799568
www.italoamericanfcu.com



These advertised offers are subject to change at any time and without prior notice.



P.O. Box 626, Bethpage, New York 11714-0626

Future Meeting Dates for the Italian Genealogical Group

March 12, April 9, May 14 and June 11, 2022

For more information and to register for our Zoom meeting go to the Meetings & Events section of our website
italianguen.org/events/

Directio



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no in-person monthly meetings until further notice.

ne block
ght, turn



Bay Expressway (Route 135). Via 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.

d-Oyster

There is ample parking across the street from the Library. Meeting is in the downstairs meeting room.