

# ITALIAN

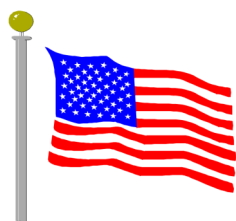
GENEALOGICAL GROUP



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## Book Review: *The Office of Strategic Services and Italian Americans: The Untold History*

Submitted by *Anthony DiMarino*

*Salvatore J. LaGumina, Ph. D., Director, Center for Italian American Studies, Nassau Community College has recently sent this press release announcing the publication of his new book.*

I wish to inform you about my the twenty-first publication that I have either edited or authored — the newly published book titled *The Office of Strategic Services and Italian Americans: The untold History*. published by Palgrave/Macmillan, October 2016. I consider this one of the most important works that I have ever done because it examines the heretofore unknown role that Italian Americans played in the OSS, the World War II spy agency

(predecessor to the CIA). They parachuted into frozen mountains tops to link up with Italian guerilla units in northern Italy or hovered in small patrol torpedo boats and row boats across the Mediterranean Sea in pitch black darkness to destroy railroad junctions. I enclose some early reviews for your interest.

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### Early reviews:

“Salvatore LaGumina’s accessible study gives a cogent account of the up-to-now overlooked Italian Americans’ contribution to the behind-the-lines operations of the U.S. intelligence in Italy during World War II. This book not only offers further evidence of Italian Americans’ loyalty to the United States at wartime. It also casts new light on the military campaign in Italy, stressing the importance of the U.S.-assisted partisan warfare in engaging the German troops, and points to the successful efforts of the OSS to save the country’s art treasures and to spread American





## November Meeting-Elena Florenzano

Joe Battagliese

Our guest speaker was **Elena Florenzano** from Thinking Italian, School of Italian Language and Culture. Her topic was *Translating Old Italian*



Angela LaGiglia and Elena

*Documents*. Elena provided some fresh information on Italian genealogical documents.

Elena said that between 1876 and 1930, five million Italians immigrated to America. They came from all regions of Italy, but mainly from southern Italy. She

said Long Island is home to 700,000 Italian-Americans

### The Italian State

According to Elena, it is important to know how Italy is organized in-order to better understand the documents. Italy is now composed of 20 regions. The regions are the first level of organization, each with a governor. Each region is divided into *Provincia*, *Comuni* (could include *Frazioni*), similar to American counties, towns and villages. The *Provincia* is an administrative division between the *Comune* and the region. The *Comune* provides many of the basic functions, registering births, deaths, marriages, deeds and contracting for public works.

### Where to Find Italian documents

Elena says there are three main public sources of family information:

**Comuni** Italian civil registration began officially after Unification in 1860, (some areas did not start until 1866 or 1873). By law, the original record was kept by the *comune*, and a copy was sent to the *archivi di stato*.

**Archivio di Stato**, (State Archives) has maintained *Napoleonic* records, mostly available in the South, beginning in 1804 (1820 in Sicily.) By 1806, Napoleon had annexed large parts of Italy. These records do not exist in areas where the Emperor did not rule. He was the first to divide Italy into regions, provinces and townships, and to begin civil record keeping. After his defeat in 1815, many areas discontinued civil registration.

**Parrocchie** (Parish Churches) records go back to the 1500s.

Many of the *Napoleonic* records have been filmed by the Church of Latter-day Saints and copies are available at the churches Family History centers and the worldwide web.

In-order to perform research in Italy, you must know the name of the town and province, where your ancestor was born. *Comune* officials and archivists have an obligation to provide family information. This is not true of the parish priests

Here are some of the Italian records Elena reviewed and translated:

### Records Released at Birth: *Atto di Nascita*

This document indicates place, date and time of birth, gender and name chosen by the parents. It also includes the nationality and residence of parents. Elena showed us a *Atto di Nascita* from the *Comune di Cabella Ligure, Provincia Alessandria* in the *Piemonte* region, it's dated 1888 and the infant's name is Matia Cugna.

### *Certificato di Nascita* - Birth Certificate

This document certifies someone's birth. It's a summary of the information in the *Atto di Nascita*. Copies of the *Atti di Nascita* and *Certificato di Nascita* can be obtained from the *Registro di Stato Civile* at the *Comune*.

Elena displayed a *Certificato di Nacita* from *Del Comune Avola*, in the province of Siracusa, for Felice Caruso, dated April 7, 1889.

### *Carta di Identita'* - Identification Document

*Carta di identia'* is simply the official Italian personal ID. It indicates the physical characteristics, the resident's address and the profession.

Italy was a Monarchy-*Regno d'Italia* until 1946, when there was a referendum and Italian people chose a democratic republic over a monarchy. Elena displayed a *Carta di Identita'* issued by *Regno D'Italia Comune di Vercelli*, in the *Lombardia* region. The ID card can be used as a passport in Europe.

Elena also showed us an Italian passport for Maria Staltari Furfaro, dated November 25, 1954. Both contain photos of the person.

### Marriage: *Pubblicazioni-Atto e Certifica di Matrimonio*

In Italy, when two people want to get married, they prepare a *Pubblicazioni di Matrimonio* document that announces the intention of the marriage. The document must be made public for 8 days and is posted in the *Comune*. It's a legal procedure in-order to allow anyone to legitimately oppose the wedding. For

example, if someone knows that one of the two is already married somewhere else, it can be reported. In Italy bigamy is a crime.

Elena says, note that since 1972 Italian women who get married keep their maiden names. Before 1972, on many documents the name of the married woman is, for example, printed as Elena Florenzano (my maiden name) in Diurno (my husband last name).

Elena displayed a **Publicazioni di Matrimoni** from *Provincia di Terra di Bari*, for the marriage of Giuseppe Garafalo and Laura Martino, dated 1889.

**Atto di Matrimonio** is a legal document registered in the *Comune* archives. It contains all the personal information of the newlyweds and the witnesses as well as the location of the wedding. The *Atto di Matrimonio* must be signed by those mentioned in-order to be validated.

Before February 11, 1929, the Catholic Church and state of Italy did not have agreement in terms of certification of marriages. People could be married in church but the marriage was not recognized by the Italian State, and vice versa. On that date, an agreement between the Catholic Church and Italian State was signed (*Pattai Lateranensi*). Now people that get married in church are automatically registered to be legally married at the *Comune*.

On the other hand, if a couple gets married in a civil marriage only, the marriage will not be recognized by the Church.

Elena displayed a copy of an *Atto di Matrimonio* from 1896, for Giovanni Vojello and Concetta Mayo. She also displayed a **Certificato di Matrimonio**—Marriage Certificate from the *Comune di Neirone in the Provincia di Genova* for Giovanni Antonio Guarnieri and Luiga Rosasco.

Like the *Certificato di Nascita*, this marriage certificate certifies the marriage. It's a summary of the information in the *Atto di Matrimonio*. Copies can be obtained from the *Registro di Stato Civile* at the comune.

#### **Family Composition-Stato di Famiglia**

*Stato di Famiglia* is a document that certifies the composition of the family. It contains names, place of birth, birth date, gender, relationships of all the family members that live under one roof.

She displayed a *Stato di Famiglia* from *Provincia di Lucca*, for the Vincenzo Castelli, Iginia Scatena family, who lived at *Piazza Angelio*, 3, from 1911-1921.

#### **Death: Certificato di Morte**

A death certificate is called *Certificato di Morte* or *Certificato di Decesso*. This document certifies that

someone passed away. It indicates the deceased name, the date, the place, time of death as well as the name of the person that reported the death.

She displayed a *Certificato di Morte* from the *Comune di Bollate*, Province of Milano, for Giacomo Fouteremaro (52) da fu Roberto.

#### **Certificates released by Catholic Church**

*Certificato di Battesimo*—Baptism Certificate

*Certifico di Cresima*—Confirmation Certificate

*Certificato di Matrimonio*—Marriage Certificate

Elena explained some of the documents archived by the churches in Italy. She showed us a marriage certificate from the Church of SS Giacomo E Nicolo in Quercegrossa (Siena) for the marriage of Alferdo Toreiari di fu Riccardo and Angiolino Oreleti di fu Giuseppe from 1953.

Elena says Italian Americans are more and more interested and charmed by the idea to be able to reconnect with the modern, dynamic, noble side of their historic homeland, regaining a key part of their identity. We like to protect Italian heritage in many ways, encouraging, promoting and preserving our culture. Italian activities are centered upon Italian traditions, newspapers, theaters, churches, recreational clubs, museums, foods, language, religious feasts, folklore, customs, celebrations, music dance and Italian Genealogical Records... Arrivederci e grazie!

There was much interest during Elena's presentation. She answered many questions during and after the presentation and gave us some new records to search for.

*Elena has added this postscript to the her Translating Italian Documents lecture.*

*I forgot to inform the group about a very recent plan regarding personal records (informazioni anagrafiche) in Italy.*

*In fact just last week I have learned that all the 8,000 Comuni in Italy will be connected to an internet platform which will provide a complete database available to citizens for all kinds of digitalized vital record certificates. They are currently working on it and it will take a year or so to have all the Comuni digitalize the considerable amount of data.*

*I think it will be accessible only to Italian citizens, but it is an important and very modern improvement in our system.*

*I thought you might use this information and give it to your members.*

*Grazie, Elena*

## 9 Things You Can Learn About Your Ancestors From the Cemetery

By Diane Haddad

Changing scenery and pleasant temperatures make Fall an especially good time to visit cemeteries (alongside a genealogy buddy for fun and safety). Seeing the gravestone and viewing records in the cemetery office may yield ancestry information you won't find in an online database of burials—although online databases are very helpful, too.

The latest issue of *Family Tree Magazine*, October/November 2016, has our Genealogy Workbook on cemetery research. You'll also find essential guidance in Family Tree University's two-week course on Doing Cemetery Research (your access to course materials starts as soon as you register).

Here are nine things you can learn about ancestors from the cemetery:

1. Name and birth and death dates. Most tombstones have the deceased's name (although sometimes you get the dreaded "his wife") and at least a year of birth and death. But you also might learn parents' names. One of my family cemeteries has a searchable database that includes parents' names, if known. It's the only place I've found parents' names for my third-great-grandmother Elizabeth Butler Norris. (A visit to this cemetery is in order to view records—they may contain information beyond what's in the database.)

2. Babies you didn't know to look for, because they were born and died between censuses and/or before official birth records. Some of my family cemeteries have separate "infant" sections, and tiny stones are easily overgrown, so you might find clues by searching in a database or through records in the cemetery office, even if there's no telltale marker in a family plot.

3. Military service, if there's a government marker or a plaque. My grandpa's headstone gives his rank and branch. Here, I've listed some free databases where you can look for veterans' sites.\*

4. Maiden names. They may be on a woman's grave marker or on a burial record, if it names

parents or if her father or another relative owned the plot. Or you may discover the maiden name by researching those buried near her. It's a bit hard to see in this photo, but my great-great-grandmother's stone has her maiden name, Ladenkoetter.\*

5. Membership in fraternal societies, religious organizations or unions, revealed by symbols on the gravestone. Here's a nice collection of photos of gravestone symbols and their interpretations.\* These can lead you to records of the fraternal society.

6. Immigrant place of origin. This is one I haven't encountered in my own research, but genealogy experts recommend checking burial records and gravestones for immigrant birth places. I found a photo on the *Everyone Has a Story* blog of an Irish immigrant's tombstone with his county and parish of birth.

7. Religion, especially if the person is buried in a cemetery affiliated with a church. If not, a burial record might include a religion or the name of a church where services were held.

8. Cause of death. Rarely, it might be engraved on a headstone, like the examples on this Rootsweb page. They include "was killed by a fall from a building" and "while ... viewing a span of horses he was suddenly kicked by one of them in the lower part of his bowels."

9. More likely, though, you'll get clues to point your research in a direction. The same death date on a woman's gravestone and a nearby child's could indicate a mother died in childbirth. Several deaths around the same time might indicate an epidemic. A young man's death during wartime could mean he died in service.

*\*Please see Diane Haddad's article in the October/November issue of Family Tree Magazine: <http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/insider/2016/10/04/9ThingsYouCanLearnAboutYourAncestorsFromTheCemetery.aspx>*



# The Three R's of Researching Roman Catholic Church Records

by Lisa Alzo

Roman Catholic records offer a wealth of information for genealogists. They are particularly useful when official civil records of key life events (birth, marriage or death) are unattainable or unavailable. Tracing these records for your Catholic ancestors can sometimes be challenging, but worth the work. Follow these three “R’s” for research success.

*[Note: This article focuses on researching Roman Catholic Church records in the United States. When contacting Catholic churches in other countries, you may find that accessibility, availability, and procedures may vary.]*

## 1. Registers

Sacramental records are the first types of documents you should look for when researching your Catholic ancestors. Find these records first in local churches, where they are usually kept chronologically in parish registries. The two most valuable are records of the sacraments of baptism and marriage.

Baptismal records include the date of baptism, child's full name, parents' names (and mother's maiden name), names of godparents (sponsors), and signature of the priest. Other notations or information may be included depending on where the church is located.

Marriage or matrimony records list date of marriage, names of the bride (including maiden name) and groom, and names of two witnesses and the priest. Other details on the registry may include: place and date of birth, occupations, parent's names (including mother's maiden name), parents' residences, and fathers' occupations. If you know the name of the church the bride's family attended, try looking there first for a marriage record, since marriages are traditionally held at the parish of the bride.

For example, my father's home parish was Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Duquesne, Pennsylvania but since my mother's family attended SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, they were married there.

While each parish typically kept its own records (and most still do), keep in mind that many early churches didn't have a priest-in-residence, and sometimes their record books traveled with them, or were held locally. So you may need to check other parishes.

If the church closed and the area was no longer

served, the records probably went to the diocesan [regional] archives. In a bigger city, when a parish closed, the people might go to a neighboring church, and the record books may have been transferred. It's also not out of the realm of possibility for Catholic Church records to be found in the collections of civil archives, universities or historical societies. Furthermore, if your ancestor lived in a town without a Roman Catholic Church, it's possible their records may be housed at a local church of another denomination.

## 2. Rites and Rights

When researching any record group, it helps to learn any laws that govern access and availability. Studying the history of the Roman Catholic Church will give you benchmark dates to understand how the records are kept and why certain procedures are followed.

Besides baptism and marriage, there are five other sacraments in the Catholic Church: First Communion (typically received around the age of seven in the Latin Rite), Confirmation (usually received several years after First Communion), Reconciliation (not always recorded), Holy Orders (received only by priests and deacons), and Anointing of the Sick (formerly known as Extreme Unction or Last Rites). While these records offer less genealogical value than baptismal or marriage registers, it's always worth viewing them to place your ancestor at a particular location or residence on a particular date, or gain clues such as the name of a sponsor for Confirmation (usually a family member or close friend) and in the case of Holy Orders, perhaps the baptismal date of the man receiving the sacrament. Learn more about the sacraments at [AmericanCatholic.org](http://AmericanCatholic.org).

Finally, remember Church records are private records — they don't have to let you look at them.

## 3. Requests

If you know the name and location of your ancestor's parish and it still exists, send a friendly and precise written request for baptism, marriage, or funeral records to the church office. Include details about your ancestor, such as: name, birthdate, marriage date, etc. (If dates are unknown, do your best to give a close estimate.) Be sure to ask for a copy of the actual page of interest within the official parish register and not just a typed or handwritten abstract of the information. A transcribed record may contain errors, and abstracts or church-issued certificates may not include the margin notes.

If you don't have the name of the parish church, find where your ancestors lived. Consult a map of the area and identify the possible places of worship in the area. Resources such as Catholic-Hierarchy, Parishes Online, or USA Church can help you look up churches worldwide. You can also use Google to find the diocesan website or contact information. Keep in mind that access to records outside of America may require different procedures. Also remember that some Catholic churches had strong ethnic ties. There could be several churches close by, with different ethnic groups attending "their own church."

In most instances parish priests and their staff are helpful, but they are also very busy. Their first priority is serving their current congregation, not researching your genealogy. Understand that your request may be delayed, denied, or even go unanswered. It's also possible that a secretary or other staff member may not be familiar with the early records or have to go searching for them, especially if the records are not indexed by surname or are misfiled. Therefore, try not to request more than one to two records at a time and be very specific. Although most parishes will not typically charge for records, you should be prepared to pay a fee, if necessary. At the very least, it's always helpful to send a donation to cover any research time and copy costs. (In addition, I usually send a self-addressed stamped envelope).

When contacting a diocesan chancery or archive, be sure to mention in which parish the sacrament was (or may have been) administered.

### **Other Records**

*Deaths, Burials and Cemetery Records.* Parishes may have detailed records of deaths and/or burials (in particular if the church has its own cemetery). Such records can include the name of the deceased (including maiden names), age at death, date and place of death or burial, the name of the informant, and whether the sacrament of Extreme Unction was received. The birthplace of the deceased may also be listed (if the deceased was an immigrant, perhaps even his or her town or village of origin).

*Marriage Banns, Dispensations and Validations.* Marriage banns were announcements of upcoming to help aid in uncovering any information that might indicate the couple was not eligible for marriage. Such announcements were made in the parishes of the bride and groom for three consecutive Sundays before the marriage was to take place. Bans only stated an intention to marry, but the marriage itself may never

have actually taken place, so always check for the sacramental registry. In some cases, special dispensations from marriage banns were permitted. For example, if the bride was pregnant, if the couple included a widow or widower, or a recent convert, or if one individual was not Catholic (also referred to as mixed religions or disparate cults. Another reason for a special dispensation might be consanguinity or affinity (when a person intended to marry a close-blood relative of their own, or one of their deceased spouse). Check notes in sacramental registries, or for a letter in the diocesan archive. Marriage validations (also called blessings or rehabilitations) may exist in the event of the discovery of a close-blood relationship between the two spouses where there was no previous ecclesiastical dispensation, or for other various reasons. Find them at the church or diocesan level.

*Status of the Souls (Status animarum).* Beginning in the middle 18th century, many Catholic Churches created parish family books (similar to a census). These registers listed dates of marriage, birth of each child, and death or migration of family members. Such lists are usually available only at churches or archives and not typically microfilmed.

*Home and Family Sources.* Look through any inherited family items for bibles, certificates, photographs, pins, jewelry, invitations, First Communion books, and other ephemera. If you don't have any, ask all of your living relatives. You never know who will be in possession of such family treasures.

*Church Histories, Booklets and Newspapers.* Also, don't overlook church and local histories, donation lists, committee meeting minutes, anniversary booklets, and Catholic newspapers — all can be excellent sources of information.

*Religious Order Records.* If one of your male ancestors was a brother, deacon, or priest, or if a female ancestor entered the convent, you may be able to find information in religious order records. Contact the headquarters of their particular order for specific documentation.

My aunt Sister Mary Camilla, was a nun with the Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. She kept a scrapbook from the time she entered the convent, as well as booklets and newspaper articles celebrating the various milestones of her service. You can read more about her on my post, "My Auntie: Christ's Career Woman and Our Family Historian," on *The Catholic Gene* blog.



## Conclusion

Researching your Roman Catholic ancestors may seem daunting at first, but don't be intimidated. Follow the three R's above, and perhaps you'll get a bit of divine intervention to help you along the way!

## References and Additional Resources

Archdiocese for Military Services, USA

*The Catholic Gene* blog

Cyndi's List: Religion & Churches (Catholic)

## Links to Additional Catholic Archives and Libraries

Manson, Craig. Catholic Cemetery Records Online

Ryskamp, George R. Catholic Church Diocesan Records

University of Notre Dame Archives

Source: [www.archives.com](http://www.archives.com)

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## Huntington Historical Society

On December 12, at 7:00 PM, **Carol Proven** will be giving a presentation *Putting Flesh on Your Ancestors* at the Commack Branch of the Smithtown Library, 3 Indian Head Road, Commack, NY 11725.

For more information call: 631-360-2480.

From May 7 – 14, 2017, the Huntington Historical Society with Carol Proven and Bill Chamberlin as co-leaders, will sponsor their Annual Research Trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

A reservation deposit is due by January 21, 2017. Call 631-427-3036 for more information.



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## E-News from the National Archives at New York City

### December 13<sup>th</sup>- Finding Family: Ask the Experts

Join us on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> for our free work workshop, **Ask the Experts**.

Come ask Connie Potter (retired NARA archivist and genealogist), Roger Joslyn, and Leslie Corn (both Certified and Forensic Genealogists) questions about navigating your genealogical research journey.

The panel will also provide examples and tips to aid your research. This program will be held from Noon to 1pm in our 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Learning Center.

Our Finding Family Genealogy Series is offered every fall (September through December) and spring (March through June). The series of workshops are free and open to all interested in learning about genealogical research using records from the National Archives.

Visit our website to view the full listing of fall 2016 Finding Family programs:

<http://www.archives.gov/nyc/public/workshops.html#family>

Space is limited, so registration is required at: [newyork.archives@nara.gov](mailto:newyork.archives@nara.gov) or 866-840-1752

### Transcription Tips and the Citizen Archivist Dashboard

Have you transcribed any of our documents using the [Citizen Archivist Dashboard](https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist)? <https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist>

**We have a new Transcription Tips guide available:**

<https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist/transcribe/citizen-archivist/transcribe/tips>

The guide includes best practices for transcriptions and tips for reading historic documents.

By transcribing documents, you can help us unlock history and discover hidden aspects of records and the stories they contain.

*The National Archives at New York City is one of our nationwide facilities where the public has access to Federal archival records. It is home to more than 150,000 cubic feet of historical records dating from 1685 to the early 2000s, among them photographs, maps, and architectural drawings, created or received by nearly 80 Federal agencies including the Federal Courts. The National Archives at New York City houses records from New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.*

## **New Database Additions to the IGG and GGG Website**

The German Genealogy Group and the Italian Genealogical Group have been given 7 databases from the National Archives. They contain names from the Civil War, War of 1812, Titanic and Lusitania. You'll find these listed under "Ship/Travel Records" and under "Military" on the IGG website and under "Federal" on the GGG website menu.

### **Letters Received from Districts in the Southern Division, 1863 - 1865**

Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau (Civil War). The entries include the district name, the letter's sender and receiver, its subject, date and comments;

### **Certificates and Related Records of Men enlisted in the Navy, 1864 - 1865**

The entries include name, enlistment type, town, enlistment length, bounty, status, age, occupation, birthplace, "substituted for" name, draft status and comments.

### **Southern District of New York Admiralty Lusitania Case File, 1790 - 1966**

This case was initiated to limit the liability of the Cunard Steamship Company, for loss of life and property resulting from the sinking of the Lusitania. The case file contains court papers, evidence, and claims of survivors and representatives of the deceased. The index entries include document description and date.

### **Southern District of New York Admiralty Titanic Case File, 1790-1966**

This case was initiated to limit the liability of the Oceanic Steam Navigation Company, Ltd., for loss of life and property resulting from the sinking of the Titanic on its maiden voyage. The case file contains court papers, evidence, and claims of survivors and representatives of the deceased. The index entries include name, claim and miscellaneous. The claim categories are loss of life, loss of property, injury and property, and life and property.

### **Southern District of New York Admiralty Prize Case Files - Civil War**

This database is an index to letters that were confiscated in the Civil War Prize Cases. The letters are of a personal and business nature (many between Southern and Northern family members) that were captured on ships trying to run the Union blockade of Southern ports. The database contains the names of the writer and recipient; date; place of origin; ship; and a

summary of the letter's content. What's especially interesting is that these letters were never delivered. Many of them tell of personal mishaps and deaths in the family that were never received by the intended party.

### **Southern District of New York Admiralty Prize Case Files War of 1812**

This series consists of libels for the condemnation of enemy property seized as a prize during the War of 1812, answers, motions, interrogatories, depositions, claims of owners and other interested parties regarding such property, statements of charges against prize vessels and cargo, interlocutory and other orders of the court, sentences of condemnation, accounts of sales of prize property, decrees, opinions of the court, legal notices in newspaper advertising by the court, and related papers filed in the district court in prize cases. In addition, case files may contain papers confiscated from the seized vessel, including crew lists, manifests and personal papers.

### **Medical Register of Exams-Recruits and Substitutes, 1st Congressional New York**

The series consists of a register of medical examinations of recruits and substitutes compiled as part of the recruiting and drafting efforts during the Civil War. The entries include name, age, nativity, occupation, marital status, height, physique, where drafted, substitute or volunteer, date, result and remarks. The remarks section notes any medical conditions.

Coming in the future: **Reformed Dutch Church at Fort Plain, Montgomery Co., NY** — Baptism, Funeral, Marriage records.; **Richmond Births; Smithtown, NY Civil War Registrants; Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum; Diocese of Brooklyn Church records;** and more!

Volunteers to help type these upcoming records are more than welcome. If you can donate some of your time now, please contact Mark Waldron at [GenDatabases@gmail.com](mailto:GenDatabases@gmail.com) or Bill Manteria at [bill.manteria@gmail.com](mailto:bill.manteria@gmail.com)

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## **Thank You Hospitality Committee**

Our thanks to **Patricia Kellner** and **Joe DiCristina** for helping set-up the hospitality table at our last months meeting



## Ancestry Updates

Here are some recently added and updated collections on Ancestry.

New York, State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1794-1940

1930 United States Federal Census

New Jersey, Death Index, 1901-1903

New Jersey, Marriage Index, 1901-1914

New Jersey, Birth Index, 1901-1903

U.S., Selected States Dutch Reformed Church Membership Records, 1701-1995, includes NY

U.S., Select Military Registers, 1862-1985

Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1964

New York, New York, Death Index, 1862-1948

New York, New York, Marriage Index 1866-1937

New York, New York, Marriage Index 1866-1937

U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947

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## Missing Beginner's Genealogy Class Notebook

Dear Members,

When I teach my Beginning Genealogy class, I use six notebooks that I share with attendees. Each of these contains copies of several examples of documents, census, church records, directories, etc. However, in preparing for this year's sessions, I discovered that one of these which is in a blue plastic report cover, was inadvertently not returned to me last year.

Would those of you who attended one or both classes last year PLEASE be so kind as to search for this and return it to me or one of the officers either as soon as possible either at a meeting or mail it to me at 32 Mead Lane, Westbury, NY 11590.

This is a very important item and I deeply appreciate your cooperation while realizing how easy it is to mistakenly include something when gathering our own materials.

Thank you for your cooperation!

**Joanne R. Heffernan**

## Holidays Mean Cookie Time!

Although I usually try to avoid homemade baked goods, I made an exception for some cookies that were rapidly disappearing from our refreshment table at our November meeting. What a mistake to make, as I found myself returning for more. I found the lady responsible for such temptation, Loretta Valenti. She was kind enough to share her recipe. She has baked them for so long, she no longer remembers where she got the recipe.

### Cream Cheese Squares

10 T butter

2/3 C brown sugar

2 C sifted flour

1/2 C chopped walnuts

1 cup sugar

2 8oz packages softened cream cheese

2 eggs

2 T lemon juice

4 T milk

1 T vanilla

Cream butter & brown sugar together. Add flour & nuts. Mix well. Set aside 1 C of this mixture for topping. Press remainder in bottom of 9X13 baking pan.

Bake at 350 for 12 to 15 minutes.

Blend granulated sugar and cream cheese until smooth. Add eggs, lemon juice, milk and vanilla. Beat well.

Spread over the bottom crust and sprinkle with reserved 1 C topping. Return to oven, bake 25 minutes more. Cool down first and then chill in refrigerator.

(Note to make a smaller version cut ingredients in half and bake in 8X8 pan.) Thank you Loretta!

*Thinking Italian*

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*School of Italian Language and Culture*

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445 Broadhollow Rd - Suite 25 - Melville, NY 11747  
email : [info@thinkingitalian.com](mailto:info@thinkingitalian.com) - Tel. 631 681 0620  
[www.ThinkingItalian.com](http://www.ThinkingItalian.com) - [facebook.com/ThinkingItalian](https://www.facebook.com/ThinkingItalian)



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

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## Future Meeting Dates for the Italian Genealogical Group

January 14, February 11, and March 11, 2017

The Library opens at 9:00 AM. The meeting starts at 10:30 AM

No meeting in December, Christmas Luncheon

### Directions to the Bethpage Library, 47 Powell Ave, Bethpage, NY:



**By Train:** Take the Long Island Railroad to the Bethpage Station. Walk east one block to Broadway, turn left, go (north) 3 blocks on Broadway. At the second traffic light, turn right on to Powell Avenue, The Library is about 500 ft ahead, on your right.



**By Car:** Via Southern State Parkway. Take exit 28A and go north on the Seaford-Oyster 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.