

Italian Genealogy I

Instructor Mike Garrambone

Italian Genealogy I
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 Family History Jamboree
 Cultural Program
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Agenda

- Introduction
- Italian Linkages
- The Country
- The Records
- Examples
- The Migration
- Your Search
- Collaboration

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Italy

Size: 116,341 Sq miles
 Population: 58.76 Million
 Religion: 84% RC
 Largest Cities:
 Rome 2,761,503
 Milan 1,401,152
 Naples 1,046,797
 Turin 917,060

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Introduction

When you think of Italians, you think of:

- The People
- The Country
- The Heritage
- The Family
- The Church
- The Music
- The Food
- The Arts
- The Architecture

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Three Basic Research Facts

To find people, you need three basic facts

1. Full Original **Name** (nome, cognomen (surname))
 - For example, Antonino Porcello
 - Watch for variations in spellings (e.g., A. Porchella)
2. Approximate **Date of Birth** (nascita)
 - For example, 10 December 1888 (note 4 digit year)
 - Estimates (Son's birth year = fathers birth year + 20)
3. **Location of Birth** or town (comune)
 - Country and region
 - Provinces and towns

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1. Finding the Name

You may find variations, but you need the Italian name

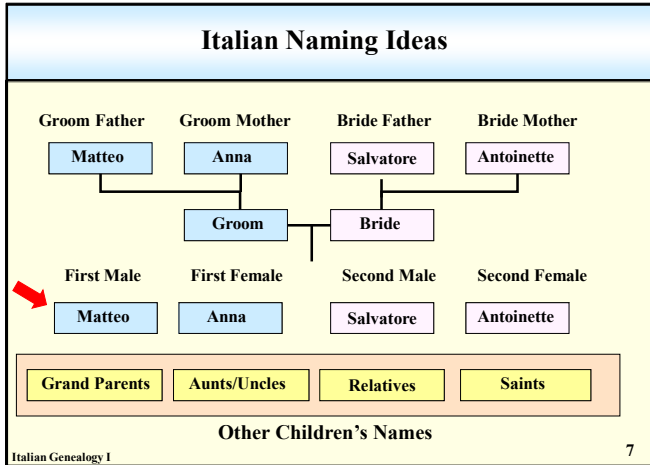
- Talk to Relatives (Best and Worst way)
 - Gather existing documents
 - Watch for mistakes, watch for omissions
- Research Documents
 - For example, there is a son born named Pietro
 - You find a son in a census named Peter
- Search Heirlooms
 - Travel cards, religious articles
 - Family Bibles, photographs
 - Passports, newspaper clippings

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2. Finding the Birth Date

Expect errors, omissions, bad memories, bad estimates, enhancements

- Many Sources
 - Birth Records
 - Baptism Records
 - Marriage Announcements
 - Marriage records
 - Death records
 - School records
 - Censuses (watch the spellings)
 - Passenger Ship records
 - Family Bibles
- Other Sources
 - Military records
 - Draft card records
 - Naturalization records
 - Wills & Court records
 - Adoption records
 - Insurance records
 - Discharge records
 - Employment records
 - Obituaries

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Passenger Ship Searching

Address: <http://www.ellisland.org/search/passRecord.asp?FNM=MATTEO&LNM=PORCELLO&PLNM=PORCELLO&RF=2&pd=10>

ELLIS ISLAND

PASSENGER RECORD

Here is the record for the passenger. Click the links on the left to see more information about this passenger.

1892-1924

ADD TO YOUR ELLIS ISLAND FILE VIEW ORIGINAL SHIP MANIFEST VIEW SHIP

Name: Porcello, Matteo
 Ethnicity: Italian
 Place of Residence: Naro, Sicily
 Date of Arrival: February 15, 1913
 Age on Arrival: 14y
 Gender: M
 Marital Status: S
 Ship of Travel: San Giorgio
 Port of Departure: Palermo, Sicily, Italy

The Market Garden at <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/ships/nship19.shtml>
 World Vital Records at <http://www.worldvitalrecords.com/indexinfo.aspx?is=ellisland>

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Passenger Ship Record

Associated Passenger	Date of Arrival	Port of Departure	Line #	Page #	0388
Porcello, Matteo	February 15, 1913	Palermo	-	previous next	Original page

Manifest for San Giorgio
Sailing from Palermo

Name	Gender	Age	Married	Ethnicity	Place of Residence
0001. Protopapa Tira, Sante	M	37y	M	Italian	Militello, Sicily
0002. Pulio, Caterina	F	14y	S	Italian	Militello, Sicily
0003. Porcello, Antonino	M	60y	M	Italian	Naro, Sicily
0004. Curto, Angela	F	47y	M	Italian	Naro, Sicily
0005. Porcello, Matteo	M	14y	S	Italian	Naro, Sicily
0006. Porcello, Vincenzo	M	10y	S	Italian	Naro, Sicily
0007. Grifo, Ignazio	M	18y	S	Italian	Naro, Sicily
0008. Lucia Esposito, Alfonsa	F	16y	S	Italian	Naro, Sicily
0009. Mendola, Calogero	M	9m	S	Italian	Naro, Sicily
0010. Mendola, Giovanna	F	41y	M	Italian	Naro, Sicily
0011. Mendola, Giuseppe	F	1y	S	Italian	Naro, Sicily
0012. Alfano, Benedetto	M	8m	S	Italian	Naro, Sicily
0013. Erba, Angelo	M	4y	S	Italian	Naro, Sicily
		21y	S	Italian	Naro, Sicily
		18y	S	Italian	Sommatino, Sicily

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3. Birth Location

Northern Italy

Major Cities

- Milan
- Turin
- Genoa
- Bologna
- Verona
- Padua
- Trieste
- Venice
- Livorno
- Florence
- Pisa
- Rome

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Birth Location

Southern Italy




Major Cities

- Rome
- Foggia
- Naples
- Bari
- Salerno
- Taranto
- Cosenza
- Calabria
- Palermo
- Catania
- Cagliari

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Regional MAP OF ITALY




Twenty Regions

- Abruzzo
- Basilicata
- Calabria
- Campania
- Emilia-Romagna
- Friuli-Venezia Giulia
- Lazio
- Liguria
- Lombardia
- Marche
- Molise
- Piemonte
- Puglia
- Sardegna
- Sicilia
- Toscana
- Trentino-Alto Adige
- Umbria
- Valle D'Aosta
- Veneto

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110 Italian Provinces



Abruzzo 1. Chieti 2. L'Aquila 3. Pescara 4. Teramo	Friuli-Venezia Giulia 26. Gorizia 27. Pordenone 28. Trieste 29. Udine	Molise 54. Campobasso 55. Isernia	Toscana 82. Arezzo 83. Firenze 84. Grosseto 85. Livorno 86. Lucca 87. Massa-Carrara 88. Pisa 89. Prato 90. Pistoia 91. Siena
Basilicata 5. Matera 6. Potenza	Lazio 30. Frosinone 31. Latina 32. Rieti 33. Roma 34. Viterbo	Piedmonte 56. Alessandria 57. Asti 58. Biella* 59. Cuneo 60. Novara 61. Torino 62. Verbania-Cusio-Ossola* 63. Vercelli	Trentino-Alto Adige 92. Bolzano 93. Trento
Calabria 7. Catanzaro 8. Cosenza 9. Crotona* 10. Reggio Calabria 11. Vibo Valentia*	Liguria 35. Genova 36. Imperia 37. La Spezia 38. Savona	Puglia 64. Bari 65. Brindisi 66. Foggia 67. Lecce 68. Taranto	Umbria 94. Perugia 95. Terni
Campania 12. Avellino 13. Benevento 14. Caserta 15. Napoli 16. Salerno	Lombardia 39. Bergamo 40. Brescia 41. Como 42. Cremona 43. Lecco* 44. Lodi* 45. Mantova 46. Milano 47. Pavia 48. Sondrio 49. Varese 22. Piacenza 23. Ravenna 24. Reggio Emilia 25. Rimini	Sardegna 69. Cagliari 70. Nuoro 71. Oristano 72. Sassari	Valle D'Aosta 98. Aosta
Emilia-Romagna 17. Bologna 18. Ferrara 19. Forlì 20. Modena 21. Parma 22. Piacenza 23. Ravenna 24. Reggio Emilia 25. Rimini	Marche 50. Ancona 51. Ascoli Piceno 52. Macerata 53. Pesaro	Sicilia 75. Agrigento 76. Catania 77. Caltanissetta 78. Palermo 79. Ragusa 80. Siracusa 81. Trapani	Veneto 97. Belluno 98. Padova 99. Rovigo 100. Treviso 101. Venezia 102. Verona 103. Vicenza

Four more in left reference

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Locating a City

Family History Library Locality Catalog Italy

Italy, Rieti, Castelfranco - Church Records
 Italy, Agrigento, Naro - Civil Registrations
 Italy, Matera, Stigliano - Church Records

Country
(Paese)

Province
(Provincia)

Town
(Comune)

Information

Region? 16

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Finding City File Information

ITALY, AGRIGENTO, NARO - CIVIL REGISTRATION

Naro (Agrigento). Ufficio dello stato civile. Stato civile, 1821-1865. -- Salt Lake City : Filmati dalla Genealogical Society of Utah., 1988. In 20 bobine di microfilm: 16 mm

20
Rolls

Microfilm dei registri originali nell' Archivio de Stato, Agrigento. Microfilm di alta riduzione (42x) Adoperare una macchina di alto ingrandimento

Births, Marriages, Banns, Deaths.

Include indici parziali

Film
Order Numbers

Nati, morti, notificazioni----- 1468162
matrimoni 1821-1823

Nati, morti, notificazioni----- 1468163
matrimoni 1823-1825


Partial
Indices
(nice)

Contents

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Sicily



Major Cities

- Palermo
- Messina
- Catania
- Syracuse
- Ragusa
- Enna
- Licata
- Agrigento
- Sciacca
- Marsala
- Trapani
- Alcamo

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Juicy Records

United States Records

- **Civil Records**
 - Birth records
 - Marriage records
 - Death records
 - Census
 - Naturalization
 - Military, land, & tax
- **Church Records**
 - Baptism records
 - Marriage Announcements
 - Marriage records
 - Death records

Italian Records

- **Civil Records (Stato Civile)**
 - Birth record (Nascita)
 - Marriage records
 - Death records
 - Census (cencimento)
 - Military, land & tax
- **Church Records**
 - Baptism records
 - Marriage Announcements
 - Marriage records

Combinations

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Things to Know About Italian Records

- Some Italian history →
- Where to find records
- How to get them
- How they are arranged
- Standard forms
- Concept of index
- Vocabulary (key words)
- Handwriting Styles
- Changes over time

- The City States
- Council of Trent (1564)
- Napoleon Era (1796)
- End of Napoleon Era (1815)
- il Risorgimento (1860's)
- The Kingdom of Italy (1870)
- Reunification-Migration

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Migration

To Ports

- New York
- Boston
- Baltimore
- Philadelphia
- New Orleans

From Ports

- San Francisco
- Los Angeles
- Seattle
- Canada
- Mexico & others

Number of Italian Immigrants to the U.S.
1870-1930

FIGURE 5-1 (Source: Historical Statistics of the United States)

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Passenger Ship Records

They just didn't swim!

Ellis Island Foundation

S. S. San Giorgio
Sailing from Palermo
28 Jan 1913
Arrived Port of New York
15 Feb 1913

U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES & RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

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Family History Center Records (FamilySearch)

ITALY, AGRIGENTO, NARO - CIVIL REGISTRATION
Naro (Agrigento). Ufficio dello stato civile. Stato civile, 1821-1865. -- Salt Lake City : Filmati della Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. -- in 20 bobine di microfilm ; 16 mm.
Microfilm dei registri originali nell'Archivio di Stato, Agrigento. Microfilm di alta riduzione (42x). Adoperare una macchina di alto ingrandimento.
Births, marriages, banns, deaths. Include indici parziali.

Nati, morti, notificazioni, matrimoni 1821-1823	1468162	I
Nati, morti, notificazioni, matrimoni 1823-1825	1518044	
Nati, morti, notificazioni, matrimoni 1825-1828	1518045	
Nati, morti, notificazioni, matrimoni 1828	1518046	I
Nati, morti, notificazioni, matrimoni 1829	1546587	I
Nati, morti 1830		
Nati, morti, notificazioni, matrimoni 1830-1833	1468217	
Nati 1834		
Nati, morti 1834-1835	1468218	
Notificazioni, matrimoni 1834-1835		
Nati 1836		

More on this later

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Arranged by Locality

- Anno (year)
- Provincia (province)
- Distretto (district)
- Comune (city or town)
- Type records (b, b, n, m, d)
- Indexed/non-indexed records
- Grouped records
- Municipal records

Help, I can't read Italian



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Yes, you can! Especially the key words

1-Uno	1st- primo	January-gennaio
2- due	2nd-secondo	February-febbraio
3-tre	3rd-terzo	March-marzo
4-quattro	4th-quarto	April-aprile
5- cinque	5th-quinto	May- maggio
6-sei	6th-sesto	June-giugno
7-sette	7th-settimo	July-luglio
8-otto	8th-ottavo	August-agosto
9-nove	9th-nono	September-settembre
10-dieci	10th-decimo	October-ottobre
11-undici	Year- anno	November-novembre
40-quaranta	Month- mese	December- dicembre
60- sessanta	Day-giorno/di	
70-settanta	Hour-ore	
100- cento		
1000- mille		

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Some Additional Key Words

Mayor- sindaco	Mr-signore	birth- nascita
Official-ufficiale	Mrs-signora	baptism- battesimo
City-città	father-padre	marriage- matrimonio
Act of- atto di	mother-madre	banns-solenne promessa di
Certificate-certificato	husband- marito	celebrare matrimonio
Profession-professione	wife- moglie	death- morto
Parish-parrocchia	son- figlio	name- nome
Parish priest-parroco	daughter- figlia	surname-cognome
Priest-sacerdote	baby (m)-bambino	parents-genitori
Bishop-vescovo	baby (f)-bambina	great grandfather-
Time-tempo	grandmother-nonna	bisnonno
Witnesses-testimoni	grandfather-nonno	great grandmother-
Notice-indicazione	aunt-zia	bisnonna
Page- foglio	uncle-zio	as above- come sopra

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Vocabulary (get this word list)

GENEALOGICAL WORD LIST
Italian
(34071)

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™
BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND
THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN GENEALOGISTS

This list contains Italian words with their English translations. The words included here are those that you are likely to find in genealogical sources. If the word you are looking for is not on this list, please consult an Italian-English dictionary. (See the "Additional Resources" section.)

Italian is a Romance language derived from Latin. Many of the words resemble those of Latin. See *Latin Genealogical Word List* (34077).

Italian is spoken in Italy and the southern part of Switzerland in the cantons of Ticino and Graubünden. Italian is also spoken in Yugoslavia near the border with Trieste. Some of the records of Corsica, Nice, and Savoy were written in Italian before those areas became part of France. Clusters of Italian immigrants in major cities like New York, Chicago, Montreal, Toronto, and Melbourne also speak Italian.

Sicilian, Neapolitan, Romanesque, and Venetian are major dialects of Italian, and they use words similar to the words on this list. Several other minor dialects are spoken in the various provinces of Italy.

write *ava paterna* (paternal grandmother) or *avo paterno* (paternal grandfather).

Plurals. For nouns ending with -a, the plural is formed by replacing the last letter with -e; for nouns ending in -o or -e, replace the last letter with -i to form the plural. For example, *figlia* (daughter) becomes *figlie* (daughters), and *padrino* (godfather) becomes *padrini* (godparents).

Articles and adjectives take -e as the feminine plural ending, and -i as the masculine plural ending. *Buona figlia* becomes *buone figlie* (good daughters) and *buono padrino* becomes *buoni padrini* (good godparents).

Verb tense. Verbs also vary depending on mood, who is acting, and whether the action is in the past, present, or future. For example, the Italian verb *sposare* (to marry) could appear with various endings:

Present	Past Tenses
marry	married, was married
(she/he) sposa	è sposato, fu sposato, sposò
(they) sposano	sono sposati, furono sposati, sposarono

LANGUAGE CHARACTERISTICS Diacritic Marks

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Atrocious Italian Hand Writing

<i>Rosa</i>	Rosa	2	<i>Francesco</i>	Francesco
<i>3</i>		3	<i>nascita</i>	nascita
<i>4</i>		4	<i>sessanta</i>	sessanta
<i>Rosina</i>	Rosina	16	<i>sessanta</i>	sessanta
<i>17</i>		17		
<i>Rosa</i>	Rosa	29		
<i>31</i>		31		
<i>34</i>		34		
<i>Rosa</i>	Rosa	47		
<i>49</i>		49		
<i>50</i>		50		
<i>127</i>		127		

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Example Birth Record (top half)

ATTO DI NASCITA		INDICAZIONE	
Numero d'ordine <i>86</i>		del giorno in cui è stato amministrato il Sacramento del Battesimo	
L'anno <i>milleottocento, sessantasei</i> il di <i>quattro</i> del mese di <i>Maggio</i> alle ore <i>quattro</i> avanti di Noi <i>Milionario Tommaso Capponi</i> ed ufficiale dello Stato Civile del Comune di <i>Nova</i> Distretto di <i>Genova</i> Provincia di <i>Genova</i> è comparso <i>Calisto Costa</i> di anni <i>sessantotto</i> di professione <i>caricatore</i> domiciliato <i>in Nova quartiere di Santa Caterina</i> quale ci ha presentato un <i>scritto</i> secondo il quale abbiamo, ocularmente riconosciuto, ed ha dichiarato che lo stesso è nato da <i>Luigi Antonio Costa</i> e <i>Costa</i>		Numero d'ordine <i>86</i> L'anno <i>milleottocento, sessantasei</i> il di <i>quattro</i> del mese di <i>Maggio</i> il Parroco di <i>Santa Caterina</i> ci ha restituito nel di <i>quattro</i> mese, anno <i>sessantasei</i> il notamento, che Noi gli abbiamo rimesso nel giorno <i>quattro</i> del mese di <i>Aprile</i> anno <i>sessantasei</i> controscritto allo di nascita in più del quale ha indicato, che il Sacramento del battesimo è stato somministrato a <i>Luigi Antonio Costa</i>	

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Example Birth Record (Bottom Half)

ed ha dichiarato che lo stesso è nato da *Luigi* stato somministrato a *Angelo*
Luigi *Luigi* *Luigi* domiciliata *Luigi*
 di anni *Luigi* domiciliata *Luigi*
 con *Luigi* *Luigi*
 e da *Luigi* nel giorno *Luigi*
 di anni *Luigi* di professione *Luigi*
 come *Luigi* domiciliato *Luigi*
 nel giorno *Luigi* del mese di *Luigi*
Luigi anno *Luigi*
 alle ore *Luigi* nella casa
Luigi
 Lo stesso ha inoltre dichiarato di dare al *Luigi*
 medesimo il nome di *Luigi*
 In vista di un tal notamento dopo di averlo cifrato, abbiamo disposto, che fosse conservato nel volume dei documenti al foglio *Luigi*
 Abbiamo inoltre accusato al Parroco la ricezione del medesimo, ed abbiamo formato il presente atto, che è stato in-

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Book References

Harper Collins Italian Dictionary. Harper & Row: New York, 1990 (ISBN 0-06-055253-0)

Colletta, John Philip. Finding Italian Roots. Betterway Books: Cincinnati, Ohio 1997. (ISBN 1-55870-426-4)

Nelson, Lynn. Discovering Your Italian Ancestors. Betterway Books: Cincinnati, Ohio 1997 (ISBN 1-55870-426-4)

Cole, Trafford R. Italian Genealogical Records. Ancestry Incorporated: Salt Lake City, 1995 (ISBN 0-916489-58-2)

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Terrific FHL and other Italian Reference Materials

- Family History Publications**
 - Family History Library Catalog (30968)
 - Italian Genealogical Word List (34071)
 - Italian Letter-Writing Guide (36338)
 - Italian Research Outline (34113)
- Books and Other Helps**
 - Nelson, Lynn. *Discovering Your Italian Ancestors*, Betterway Books: Cincinnati, Ohio 1997, (ISBN 1-55870-426-4)
 - Harper Collins Italian Dictionary Harper & Row, New York, 1990 (ISBN 0-06-055253-0)
 - Colletta, John P. *They Came in Ships*. Ancestry Publishing, 1998 (ISBN: 0-91648-942-6), 109 pages

All on the FamilySearch Website: www.familysearch.org

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The San Giorgio

SHIP IMAGE

You can purchase this image and information by clicking "Add to Shopping Cart."

The San Giorgio

ADD TO YOUR ELLIS ISLAND FILE

Associated Passenger	Date of Arrival	Port of Departure
Porcello, Matteo	February 15, 1913	Palermo

Purchase this item

Choose a size:

- 5x7 \$10.00
- 9x12 \$12.50

ADD TO SHOPPING CART

Built by Oswald Mordaunt & Company, Southampton, England, 1886. 2,187 gross tons; 307 (bp) feet long; 41 feet wide. Compound engine, single screw. Service speed 11 knots. 920 passengers (20 first class, 900 third class).

Built for British owners, British flag, in 1886 and intended to be the *Shakespeare*, Italy-New York service. Completed for Italian owners. Transferred to Italian owners, in 1886 and renamed *San Giorgio*. Wrecked off Italy on November 23, 1920.

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Summary

- Italy is a beautiful country with great people and great records
- We need a good name, birthdate and location to find folks
- There are many records in the US and in Italian archives
- Italy is divided into regions, provinces, and towns
- Maps and historical knowledge are very helpful to your search
- You can learn some key words to understand records
- Old Italian handwriting is challenging but records can be read
- Today, we learned to read an 1800 Italian birth record
- Help is available to assist in finding and reading records

Remember, Tartaglia could never have out fought Sonny!

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Point of Contact Information

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