

Italian Journeys – Telling Stories through Records

Italian Migration Journeys

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Since Roman times, Italians have carried the “*voyage gene*.” From Marco Polo to Christopher Columbus, Italians have been explorers. The largest voluntary migration in history of mankind happened after the Italian Unification (1871), when close to a third of the entire Italian population left -- nearly 13 million people.

Unlike other European powers, Italy didn't have substantial colonies, so Italians went primarily to the American continent where economic opportunities were abundant.

- Northern Italians usually departed from Genoa and migrated primarily South, mostly to Brazil (Rio and Santos) and Argentina (Buenos Aires), seeking land to farm. They tended to travel in large groups or entire families. The travel costs were usually paid by the sponsoring countries with the understanding that these people would repay them by working in the plantations.
- Southern Italians usually departed from Naples and headed North to USA (New York & Boston) and Canada, seeking jobs in the construction, manufacturing and mining industries. These *birds of passage* were primarily young males and would cross the Atlantic many times before bring a wife and settling. The costs were usually covered by the prospective employers and friends.

Today many northern and southern Americans can claim Italian ancestry: 32M Brazilians, 25M Argentinians, 18M Americans, etc. Altogether more than the entire population of Italy today!

Key Online Resources:

US Immigration/Passenger List:

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/category.aspx?cat=40>

Ellis Island: <http://www.ellisland.org/>

USCIS - Alien Registration Files: <http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy>

Canadian Passenger Lists, 1881-1922:

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1823240>

Brazil Immigration Cards, 1902-1980:

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2140223>

Argentina- Apellidos Italianos:

<http://www.apellidositalianos.com.ar/inmigracion/entradas-a-argentina.html>

That's Amore! - Civil Registration Tells A Story

Suzanne Russo Adams, MA, AG®

Records FamilySearch Unlocking Centuries of Italian Ancestry Records:

<https://media.familysearch.org/familysearch-unlocking-centuries-of-italian-ancestry-records>

Stato Civile Napoleonico-SCN

Napoleon introduced civil record keeping in Italy as early as 1806 in some areas of Italy and it continued until he was taken out of power in 1815. Thus, the Napoleonic records, as a rule, span the period 1806-1815.

Stato civile della Restaurazione- SCR, 1815-1865

These records are also called Stato Civile Borbonico (at least in the South) because it was the Bourbon king, Ferdinando IV of the Kingdom of Naples who dictated changes to Napoleon's civil records and how they should be kept. Napoleonic style civil registration was introduced to the Kingdom of Naples in January 1809 by Gioacchino Murat and was reintroduced in the Kingdom of Naples in 1816 by the Bourbons. However, in Sicily it was not introduced until 1820.

Stato Civile Italiano- SCI, 1866-present

The official civil records of the unified Italy began in 1866 and span to the present. This is the official year that Stato Civile Italiano (or records of the Italian government) began to be kept more uniformly throughout Italy and its islands. The records of Italy from 1866 to 1874 are generally in handwritten/paragraph style form because pre-printed forms were not always provided. Around 1875 pre-printed forms were prevalent and we see the change in many of the names of jurisdictions in Italy. The province of Rome did not begin keeping records until 1871.

Access to Italian Civil Registration Online:

FamilySearch Italian records online:

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/location/1927178>

<https://www.familysearch.org/catalog/search>

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Italy_Civil_Registration

Portale Antenati (Genealogy Portal- Italian State Archives)

Portale Antentati (English)

<http://www.antenati.san.beniculturali.it/en>

Portale Antenati (Italian)

<http://www.antenati.san.beniculturali.it/>

Telling Stories through Processetti, Allegati and Diversi

Ruth Lapioli Merriman, MLS, AG® Emeritus

Processetti and *allegati* are the terms used for the packet of documents required of the bride and groom before a marriage could take place. They exist for church and civil marriages. You may see *allegati* connected to birth and/or death records in the catalog; these differ from the marriage *allegati*. You will see *processetti* only in relation to marriage records.

In southern Italy and Sicily the records were called *processetti* until 1866; after that time, they were referred to as *allegati*. Because civil registration in the northern part of the country existed mostly from 1807-1815 and 1866 to the present day, you will mostly see them referred to as *allegati*.

Processetti and *allegati* are indicated in the Family History Library Catalog as shown in these examples:

Roccapreturo (cont.): Nati, matrimoni, morti, notificazioni, diversi, **processetti**
1817-1820
Messina: **Allegati** di matrimoni, 1866-1867
Padova: Matrimoni, **allegati**, 1941

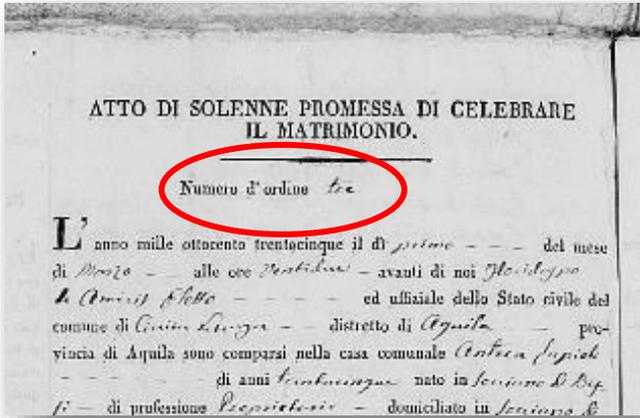
What is included?

- Copies of birth or baptism records of bride and groom (If they are copied from church records, they will most likely be in Latin.)
- Copies of death records of fathers, paternal grandfathers, mothers (often), and previous spouse (If they are copied from church records, they will most likely be in Latin.)
- Declaration of military service
- Declaration of poverty (to allow them to not have to pay for the documents)
- Dispensations (consanguinity, relationship by marriage, under age, etc.)
- Copies of marriage banns
- Any notary documents that were necessary – and these can include some real surprises

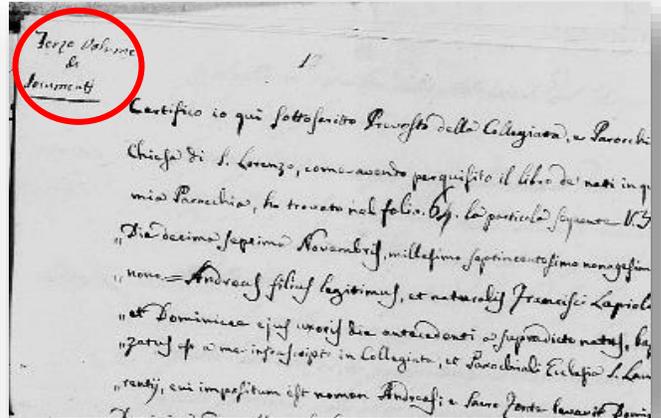
Usually, but not always, your packet of information will be numbered with the same number as the marriage record. If you're very lucky, there will be a title page.

Marriage records and the documents that accompany them are the best source of genealogical information in Italian church and civil vital records. Although some may be hand written and difficult to read, be sure to never overlook a marriage document ... you never know what you will find.

Marriage record of Andrea Lapioli, #3



First page of *processetti* packet, terzo volume (3rd booklet)



Diversi are miscellaneous records that may include adoptions, early divorces (1809-1815), births or deaths that occurred out of town or at sea, recognitions and legitimizations, etc.