ITALY
1809 TO 1910

Beginning Italian researchers will also need the *Genealogical Word List: Italian* (34071).

If your ancestor lived in Italy between 1809 and 1910, follow the steps in this booklet to find the records of his or her family. These instructions will show you which records to search, what to look for, and what tools to use. One piece of information will lead to another until you have identified each family member and filled out a family group record.

1 Find your ancestor's birth record in civil records.

2 Find birth records for your ancestor's brothers and sisters in civil records.

3 Find any death records of your ancestor's brothers and sisters or parents in civil records.

4 Find the marriage of your ancestor's parents in civil records or church records, if available. This family is now complete.

Latter-day Saints:
Now see additional instructions for submitting names for temple ordinances.

The steps and tools you will need are described inside. ▶

You should have already gathered as much information as possible from your home and family and filled out family group records and a pedigree chart. You may have checked FamilySearch™ or other computer files to see if others have researched your Italian family.
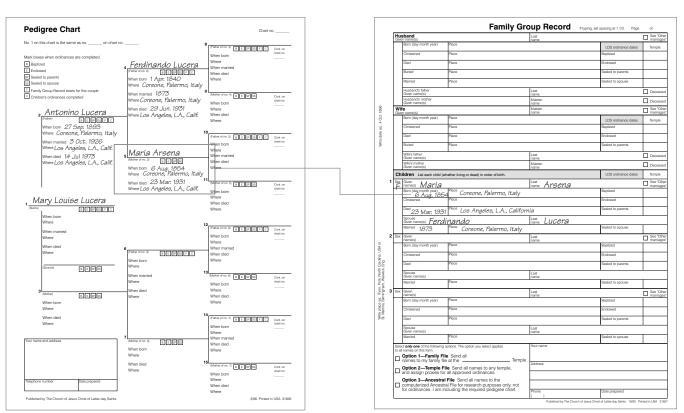
To begin:

A. From your pedigree chart, choose an ancestor who was born in Italy between 1809 and 1910. You must know the approximate birth date and the birthplace (town) in order to find your ancestor's family. It is helpful to know the province.

B. Write your ancestor's name in the children's section of a new family group record. Read through the instructions in this booklet. Then follow the steps below to find your ancestor's family.

Tips

If you don't know your ancestor's birth date:

• Start with a more recent generation. You will learn how to do research, and you will probably discover something you didn't know about your family.

• Find the records for the family in the example given. This will teach you basic research skills before you search for your own family. This is a good class activity.

A. Mary's pedigree chart

B. Mary begins a family group record with Maria Arsena listed as a child

THE RESEARCH PROCESS

The following pages can walk you through the research process. In the case study, Mary is looking for the family of Maria Arsena. She takes her family group records and pedigree chart to a family history center. Here she looks in the Family History Library Catalog for the records she wants and orders the microfilms she needs. She makes several visits to the center. Follow these same steps to find your family.

Case study: Maria Arsena, born in 1854 in Corleone, province of Palermo, Italy.

Your ancestor: _____ , _____ , in _____ , _____ , Italy.
                      name   birth date   town   province
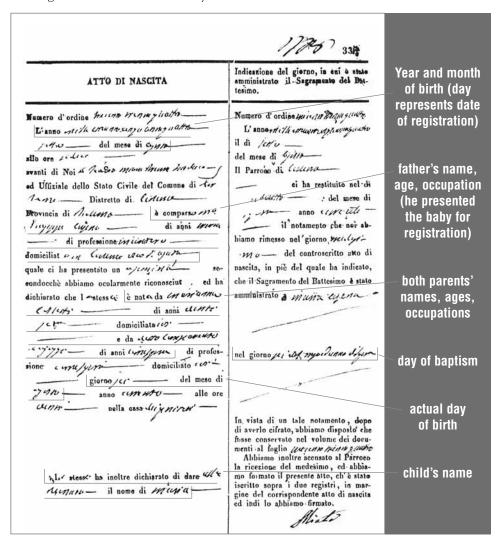
1   **FIND YOUR ANCESTOR'S BIRTH RECORD IN CIVIL RECORDS.** (See "Civil Records: Birth" on page 10.)

A. At the family history center, Mary searches in the Family History Library Catalog for the town in Italy where her ancestor was born (Corleone). Then she looks for civil records. (See "Using the Family History Library Catalog" on page 9).

B. She finds the film number 1195438 and orders it. She finds Maria's birth record on the film. Maria's parents' names and ages are in the record. Mary finds the actual date of birth about half way down the page. She photocopies the record for her files.

C. On the family group record, Mary writes:
(1) Maria's birth information on the front and
(2) source information (such as town name, film number, volume and years covered, and page number) on the back.

Year and month of birth (day represents date of registration)

father's name, age, occupation (he presented the baby for registration)

both parents' names, ages, occupations

day of baptism

actual day of birth

child's name

2   **FIND BIRTH RECORDS FOR YOUR ANCESTOR'S BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CIVIL RECORDS.**

A. Mary now looks for birth records for the years before and after Maria's birth for those of brothers or sisters. She finds births on three other films for 1851 (film 1195437), 1857 (film 1195439), and 1859 (film 1195440).

B. On the family group record, Mary writes:
(1) information about all of Maria's brothers and sisters on the front and (2) source information on the back.

Family Group Record

If typing, set spacing at 1 1/2.   Page   of

1

Husband Given name(s)	*Giuseppe*	Last name	*Arsena*		☐ See "Other marriages"

4

	Born (day month year) *31 Dec. 1822*	Place *Corleone, Palermo, Italy*		LDS ordinance dates	Temple
	Christened	Place		Baptized	
	Died	Place		Endowed	
	Buried	Place		Sealed to parents	
	Married *27 Apr. 1850*	Place *Corleone, Palermo, Italy*		Sealed to spouse	

Husband's father Given name(s) *Paolo*		Last name *Arsena*	☐ Deceased
Husband's mother Given name(s) *Maria*		Maiden name *Stilla*	☐ Deceased

4

1

Write date as: 4 Oct. 1896

Wife Given name(s)	*Marianna*	Maiden name	*Colletti*		☐ See "Other marriages"

4

	Born (day month year) *28 Sep. 1826*	Place *Corleone, Palermo, Italy*		LDS ordinance dates	Temple
	Christened	Place		Baptized	
	Died	Place		Endowed	
	Buried	Place		Sealed to parents	

Wife's father Given name(s) *Paolo*		Last name *Colletti*	☐ Deceased
Wife's mother Given name(s) *Marianna*		Maiden name *Salerno*	☐ Deceased

4

Children List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth.

				LDS ordinance dates	Temple

Write place as: Tryon, Polk, North Carolina, USA or St. Martins, Birmingham, Warwick. Eng.

1

1	Sex M	Given name(s) *Paolo*	Last name *Arsena*		☐ See "Other marriages"

2

	Born (day month year) *4 Jun 1851*	Place *Corleone, Palermo, Italy*		Baptized	
	Christened	Place		Endowed	
	Died	Place		Sealed to parents	
	Spouse Given name(s)		Last name		
	Married	Place		Sealed to spouse	

2	Sex F	Given name(s) *Maria*	Last name *Arsena*		☐ See "Other marriages"
	Born (day month year) *6 Aug 1854*	Place *Corleone, Palermo, Italy*		Baptized	
	Christened	Place		Endowed	
	Died *23 Mar 1931*	Place *Los Angeles, L.A., California*		Sealed to parents	
	Spouse Given name(s) *Ferdinando*		Last name *Lucera*		
	Married *1873*	Place *Corleone, Palermo, Italy*		Sealed to spouse	

2

3	Sex M	Given name(s) *Giovanni*	Last name *Arsena*		☐ See "Other marriages"
	Born (day month year) *17 May 1857*	Place *Corleone, Palermo, Italy*		Baptized	
	Christened	Place		Endowed	
	Died *1 Mar 1859*	Place *Corleone, Palermo, Italy*		Sealed to parents	
	Spouse Given name(s)		Last name		
	Married	Place		Sealed to spouse	

2

3

Select **only one** of the following options. The option you select applies to all names on this form.

☐ **Option 1—Family File** Send all names to my family file at the _____ Temple.

☐ **Option 2—Temple File** Send all names to any temple, and assign proxies for all approved ordinances.

☐ **Option 3—Ancestral File** Send all names to the computerized Ancestral File for research purposes only, not for ordinances. I am including the required pedigree chart.

Your name

Address

Phone ( )   Date prepared

Published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 10/93 Printed in USA 31827

Front of family group record

Children List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth.

				LDS ordinance dates	Temple
4	Sex M	Given name(s) *Giovanni*	Last name *Arsena*		☐ See "Other marriages"
	Born (day month year) *5 Dec 1859*	Place *Corleone, Palermo, Italy*		Baptized	
	Christened	Place		Endowed	
	Died *23 Aug 1860*	Place *Corleone, Palermo, Italy*		Sealed to parents	
	Spouse Given name(s)		Last name		
	Married	Place		Sealed to spouse	

3

Sources of information Add further information on attached sheets as necessary.

1 *Corleone Civil Registration, 1829-1910.*

2 Film #1195438 (Births 1853-1856), p. 334

Film #1195437 (Births 1850-1851), p. 312

Film #1195439 (Births 1856-1858), p. 223

Film #1195440 (Births 1858-1859), p. 216

Film #1195454 (Deaths 1857-1860), p. 33   **3**

Film #1195419 (Marriages 1849-1854), p. 131

Film #1815404 (Supplemental Marriage Records   **4**

[Processetti] 1849-1854), p. 131

Note: Please take every reasonable step to see that the information on this form is as accurate and complete as practical. This will help maintain the integrity of Church family history files and reduce duplication of temple ordinance work.
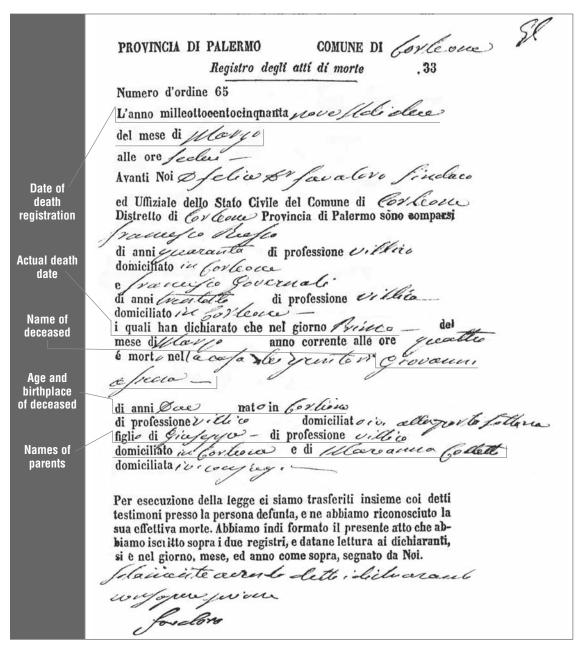
Back of family group record

3 FIND ANY **DEATH RECORDS** OF YOUR ANCESTOR'S BROTHERS AND SISTERS OR PARENTS IN CIVIL RECORDS.

A. Since Mary discovered that the brothers born in 1857 and 1859 had the same name, she realizes that the one born earlier had died sometime before the latter one was born. She looks in the Family History Library Catalog and finds a film that has deaths from 1857-1860. She orders film 1195454 and finds the death for the earlier brother in 1859. Browsing further, she finds the death record of the latter brother in 1860.

B. On the family group record, Mary writes:
(1) the new information in the appropriate places and
(2) source information on the back of the record.

4 FIND THE MARRIAGE RECORD OF YOUR ANCESTOR'S PARENTS IN **CIVIL RECORDS OR CHURCH RECORDS** (IF AVAILABLE).
(See "Civil Records: Marriage" on page 11.)

A. Mary looks in the catalog for records of marriages performed where the children were born. In the civil records of Corleone, the marriage records for the years just prior to the first child's birth are on film 1195419.

B. Mary starts with the date of the first child's birth and searches earlier records until she finds the marriage. If she couldn't find it, then she would search later records or records from nearby towns.

C. On the family group record, Mary writes:
(1) the marriage information and (2) source information on the back. Mary now has the information she needs for this family.

D. The marriage record includes a list of documents submitted to the authorities at the time of the wedding. Mary looks in the catalog for "Processetti" or "Allegati"; the supplemental records are on film

1815404. In the supplemental records she finds handwritten copies from civil and church records that consist of the births of the bride and groom, the death date of the bride's father (which includes his parents' names), the death of the bride's paternal grandfather (and his parents' names), the marriage banns, and a handwritten copy of the marriage record.

Marriage date

Groom's name, age, birthplace, occupation. Names of parents and their ages

Bride's name, age, birthplace, occupation. Names of parents and their ages

List of documents submitted for marriage: Birth of groom, birth of bride, death of bride's father, death of bride's paternal grandfather

Latter-day Saints now have the minimal information required for this family's temple submissions. See additional instructions for submitting names for temple ordinances.

NOW YOU CAN REPEAT STEPS 1 THROUGH 4 TO FIND ANOTHER FAMILY
Look for the families of each of your ancestor's parents. Start with a new family group record, and look first for a birth record.

To find records in the Family History Library Catalog and to search Italian civil and church records, you will need to know the name of the town where your ancestor lived. Larger cities had more than one parish, so if your ancestor was from a large city and you need to search the church records, you will need to know the name of the parish. If you do not know the parish name, you will need to be prepared to search all of the parishes in that city.

Place Levels (Jurisdictions)

Places are listed from smallest to largest. Regions are not usually listed.

For example:

Corleone,	Palermo,	Italy
(Town)	*(Province)*	*(Country)*

Towns and Villages

• To find births, marriages, or deaths in civil records, you need to know the name of the town or village where your ancestor lived. Each town usually had its own parish, except, perhaps, for extremely small villages.

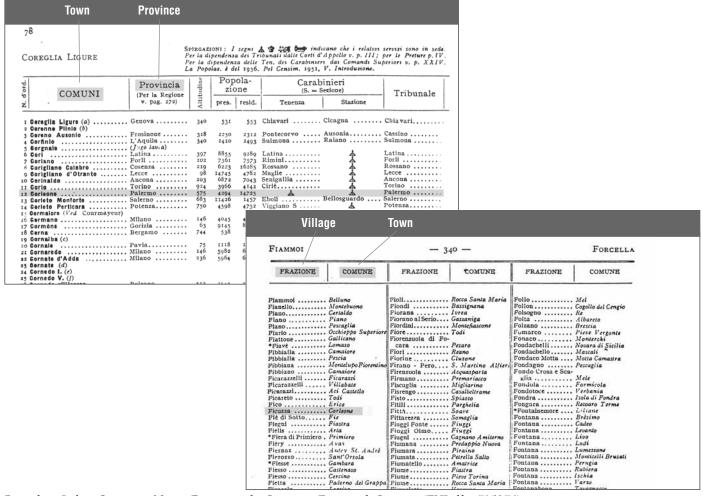• A town (*comune*) not only consisted of the town itself but had outlying boundaries that encompassed smaller villages (*frazioni*). Events were often recorded in the small villages, but sometimes were recorded in the *comune* to which it belonged.

Province

• Each region in Italy is divided into provinces.

• Because some towns have similar or identical names, it is helpful to know in which province your town lies.

• Italian records are kept on a town level. Very few records are on a provincial or regional level.

Tips:

• To determine the province your town is in, see the Italian gazetteer *Nuovo Dizionario dei Comuni e Frazioni di comune* (FHL [Family History Library] film 795276).

  - To find a very small village, check the back section of the gazetteer for *frazioni,* and it will give the name of the larger town with which it is affiliated (see below).

• To find the name of the parish in each town, see *Annuario delle Diocesi d'Italia* (FHL film 780556. The index to the Annuario is on FHL film 780555).

Pages from Italian Gazetteer: Nuovo Dizionario dei Comuni e Frazioni di Comune (FHL film 795276).

The current provinces of Italy have basically the same boundaries that were set up by Napoleon between 1809-1815, with a few changes.

* New province since 1993

Italy

(Present-day Regions and Their Provinces)

Valle D'Aosta
1. Aosta

Piemonte
2. Alessandria
3. Asti
4. Biella*
5. Cuneo
6. Novara
7. Torino
8. Verbano-Cusio-Ossola*
9. Vercelli

Lombardia
10. Bergamo
11. Brescia
12. Como
13. Cremona
14. Lecco*
15. Lodi*
16. Mantova
17. Milano
18. Pavia
19. Sondrio
20. Varese

Trentino-Alto Adige
21. Bolzano
22. Trento

Veneto
23. Belluno
24. Padova
25. Rovigo
26. Treviso
27. Venezia
28. Verona
29. Vicenza

Friuli-Venezia Giulia
30. Gorizia
31. Pordenone
32. Trieste
33. Udine

Liguria
34. Genova
35. Imperia
36. La Spezia
37. Savona

Emilia-Romagna
38. Bologna
39. Ferrara
40. Forlì
41. Modena
42. Parma
43. Piacenza
44. Ravenna
45. Reggio Emilia
46. Rimini

Campania
79. Avellino
80. Benevento
81. Caserta
82. Napoli
83. Salerno

Basilicata
84. Matera
85. Potenza

Calabria
86. Catanzaro
87. Cosenza
88. Crotone*
89. Reggio Calabria
90. Vibo Valentia*

Sardegna
100. Cagliari
101. Nuoro
102. Oristano
103. Sassari

Republic of San Marino (104)

Toscana
47. Arezzo
48. Firenze
49. Grosseto
50. Livorno
51. Lucca
52. Massa-Carrara
53. Pisa
54. Pistoia
55. Prato*
56. Siena

Marche
57. Ancona
58. Ascoli Piceno
59. Macerata
60. Pesaro e Urbino

Umbria
61. Perugia
62. Terni

Sicilia
91. Agrirento
92. Caltanissetta
93. Catania
94. Enna
95. Messina
96. Palermo
97. Ragusa
98. Siracusa
99. Trapani

Lazio
63. Frosinone
64. Latina
65. Rieti
66. Roma
67. Viterbo

Abruzzo
68. Chieti
69. L'Aquila
70. Pescara
71. Teramo

Molise
72. Campobasso
73. Isernia

Puglia
74. Bari
75. Brindisi
76. Foggia
77. Lecce
78. Taranto

ITALY (Under Napoleon–1812)

1. Piedmont (Empire of the French)
2. Kingdom of Italy (Controlled by Napoleon)
3. Not part of Italy
4. Lucca (Controlled by Napoleon)
5. Empire of the French
6. Naples (Controlled by Napoleon)
7. Sicily (Independent)
8. Sardinia (Independent)

ITALY (After Napoleon–1815)

1. Piedmont
   Piedmont-Sardinia (House of Savoy)
2. Lombardy-Venetia
3. Not part of Italy at that time
4. Parma
   Piedmont-Sardinia (House of Savoy)
5. Modena
   Piedmont-Sardinia (House of Savoy)
6. Lucca
   Piedmont-Sardinia (House of Savoy)
7. Tuscany
   Piedmont-Sardinia (House of Savoy)
8. Papal States
   Piedmont-Sardinia (House of Savoy)
9. Kingdom of the Two Sicilies
   (Under Bourdon control)
10. Kingdom of the Two Sicilies
    (Under Bourdon control)
11. Sardinia
    Piedmont-Sardinia (House of Savoy)

USING THE **FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG**

Use the Family History Library Catalog to find any record available from the Family History Library. In it, you can find the call numbers you need to find and order records. The catalog is available at www.familysearch.org and at family history centers.

To find the information you need in the catalog, click **Library**, and then click **Family History Library Catalog**.

1. Click **Place Search**.

   You will see:

   Place

   Part of (optional)

2. For the "Place," type: **the name of the town**

3. For "Part of," type: **Italy**

4. If books or microfilms regarding your town are in the library, a link will appear. Click on it.

5. Choose a topic, such as **Civil registration**.

6. Click on the title that you want.

7. Click on **View Film Notes**.

8. Look for the kind of record that you want, such as *nati* (births), for the years you want. Write down the FHL (Family History Library) film number.

For more help, see *Using the Family History Library Catalog* (30966).

Tips

If no records are listed when you type in the place:

• Look for spelling variations of the place-name.
• Try the next larger town in case the records might be there.

When typing a place-name in the catalog, ignore diacritics (accent marks). For example, Cefalù could be written as Cefalu.

USING MICROFILM

At this time, most of the Family History Library's records are on microfilm. When you have found and ordered the microfilm you need, the family history center staff can help you find a microfilm reader and thread the film onto the machine.

Tips

When using the microfilm:

• If the image will not come into focus, make sure the film is between the two glass plates.

• Learn how to turn the handle to move the film backward and forward. Be careful not to roll the film off the reel.

• Make sure the years on the title page are the years you need. Three or four separate books may be on a single microfilm. If the first title page doesn't cover the years you want, quickly spin through the film to the next title page, and look for the years covered.

Each item or book on a film has a title page.

Title page for civil births in Corleone, 1854

Use Birth Records to:

- Find birth information for virtually every person who lived in Italy. (If your ancestors were from Sicily, the records begin in about 1823.)

- Verify the birthplace of an ancestor.
- Find the names of an ancestor's parents.
- Establish a time and place of a family's residence.

If you don't find your ancestor's birth in one town, look in nearby or other likely towns.

Many civil birth records include the baptism information. The Italian word for birth is *nascita* or *nati,* meaning "born" or "those born." The Italian word for baptism is *battesimo.*

Content

- Name of the person who reported the birth (usually the father or the midwife)
- Parents' names, ages, occupations, and residence
- Date of birth
- Child's name
- Names of witnesses (not always relatives)

Tips

- The first date in the birth record is the date the birth was registered. For the actual birth date, look further down in the record.

- For help reading the records, see *Genealogical Word List: Italian.* (See "Where to Order Publications" on page 17.)

Searching Birth Records

Before searching you must know:
- Your ancestor's name.
- The town and province of birth.
- The approximate birth date.

Located at:
- Family History Library
- Provincial, court, or communal archives

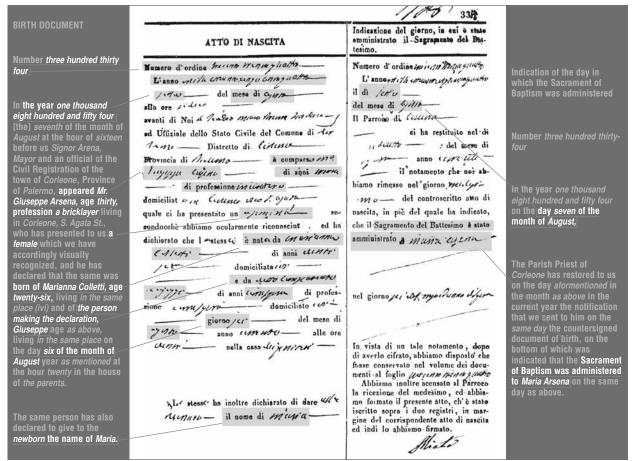Family History Library Catalog:
Place search:

Place	[name of town]
Part of	Italy

Topics to choose: Civil registration

Search by:
1. Surname (*cognome*) in the indexes (some early indexes are ordered by the given name).
2. Date (day, month, year), from earliest to most recent.

BIRTH DOCUMENT

Number *three hundred thirty four*

In the year *one thousand eight hundred and fifty four* [the] *seventh* of the month of *August* at the hour of *sixteen* before us *Signor Arena, Mayor* and an official of the Civil Registration of the town of *Corleone,* Province of *Palermo,* **appeared** *Mr. Giuseppe Arsena,* age *thirty,* **profession** *a bricklayer* living in *Corleone, S. Agata St.,* who has presented to us **a female** which we have accordingly visually recognized, and he has declared that the same was **born** of *Marianna Colletti,* age *twenty-six,* living *in the same place (ivi)* and of **the person making the declaration,** *Giuseppe* age *as above,* living *in the same place* on the day *six* of the month of *August* year *as mentioned* at the hour *twenty* in the house of *the parents.*

The same person has also declared to give to the **newborn** the name of *Maria.*

ATTO DI NASCITA

Indication of the day in which the Sacrament of Baptism was administered

Number *three hundred thirty-four*

in the year *one thousand eight hundred and fifty four* on the **day** *seven* of the **month of** *August,*

The Parish Priest of *Corleone* has restored to us on the day *aforementioned* in the month *as above* in the current year the notification that we sent to him on the *same day* the countersigned document of birth, on the bottom of which was indicated that the **Sacrament of Baptism was administered to** *Maria Arsena* on the same day as above.

Birth record of Maria Arsena, 6 August 1854, Corleone, Italy (FHL film 1195438).

Use Marriage Records To:

• Find a couple's marriage date and place, occupations, and their ages.

• Find a couple's parents' names and occupations.

• Find witnesses, who may be family members.

Content

• Groom's name, age, occupation, place of birth, parents' names

• Bride's name, age, occupation, place of birth, parents' names

• Marriage date

• Dates marriage banns were posted

• List of supplemental documents provided by bride and groom

Usually three witnesses are listed in these records. The witnesses knew the bride and groom and attested that they were legally able to get married.

Searching Marriage Records

Before searching, you must know:
• The names of the bride and groom.
• The approximate birth date of the first child.
• The town of residence.

Located at:
• Family History Library
• Italian provincial, court, and communal archives

Family History Library Catalog:
Place search:

Place	[name of town]
Part of	Italy

Topics to choose: Civil registration

Search by:
1. Town.
2. Date (day, month, year), from earliest to most recent.
3. Couple's names.

Tips

• To find a marriage record, look first in the town where the first child was born, then in the town where the bride lived, and then in nearby towns.

• Most couples were married in the town where the bride lived. If the groom lived in another town, marriage banns were posted in both towns. Marriage banns have also been filmed. If you can't find the marriage record, check the marriage banns to see if it occurred in a nearby town.

• In addition to the marriage record, supplemental documents had to be submitted by the bride and groom. Look for those records called *processetti* or *allegati.* An example of *processetti* follows on the next page.

• Women are almost always referred to by their maiden names in all records, including deaths.

• For help reading Italian records, see the *Genealogical Word List: Italian.* See "Where to Order Publications" on page 17.

MARRIAGE DOCUMENT

Number *sixty-six*

In the year one thousand eight hundred *fifty* on the day *seventeen* of the month of *April* at the hour of *one,* before us *Bernardo d'Anna, mayor* and the Official of the Civil Registration of the town of *Corleone,* District of *Corleone,* Province of Palermo, **appeared in the "city hall" *Maestro (Mr.) Giuseppe Arsena, single,* age *twenty-seven,* born in** the town of *Corleone,* District of *Corleone,* Province of *Palermo,* **profession *bricklayer,*** living in the town of *Corleone,* street _____, number_____, **son of *Paolo,* age 59, profession *bricklayer,* living *ditto [ivi],* and** of *Maria Stilla, age 52, his wife,* living *ditto;*

And *Marianna Colletti, single,* age *twenty-four,* born in the town of *Corleone,* living *ditto,* street_____, number_____, **daughter of *the deceased (fu) Paolo,* profession_____, living _____, and of *Marianna Salerno, his wife,* living at *ditto***

who, in the presence of witnesses …

The banns … were posted on the doors of the "city hall" on the *seventeenth* of the month of *March 1850* on Sunday …

Documents supplied for marriage, processetti.

Marriage record of Giuseppe Arsena and Marianna Colletti, 17 April 1850, Corleone, Italy, (FHL film 1195419).

Birth of Giuseppe Arsena, 31 December 1822, Corleone, Italy (FHL film 1815404).

The processetti provide Mary with the following information:

1. Birth date and place of ancestor's father, his parents' names, and their ages.

2. Birth date and place of ancestor's mother, her parents' names, and their ages.

Birth of Marianna Colletti, 28 September 1826, Corleone, Italy (FHL film 1815404).

Death record of Paolo Colletti, 2 August 1831, Corleone, Italy (FHL film 1815404).

3. Death date of ancestor's mother's father and his parents' names.

4. Death date of ancestor's father's father, his wife's name and his parents' names.

5. Marriage banns.

Death record of Francesco Colletti, 24 September 1812, Corleone, Italy (FHL film 1815404).

Marriage banns of Giuseppe Arsena and Marianna Colletti, 1 August 1850, Corleone, Italy (FHL film 1815404).

Use Death Records To:

- Find death information for virtually every person who died in Italy. (If your ancestors were from Sicily, the death records didn't begin until 1823.)
- Verify the death of an ancestor.
- Find the names of the ancestor's parents, especially if the ancestor was born before civil registration began (1809 for much of Italy, 1823 for Sicily).
- Establish a time and place of a family's residence.

The Italian word for death is *morte* or *morti,* meaning "dead" or "the deceased."

Content

- Date of death registration.
- Names, ages, and professions of witnesses reporting the death. Sometimes the witnesses are family members, but not always.
- Actual date of death.
- Name, age, birthplace, residence, and profession of deceased.
- Names of deceased's parents.
- Names of deceased's spouse.

Searching Death Records

Before searching, you must know:
- Your ancestor's name.
- The town and province of death.

Located at:
- Family History Library
- Provincial, court, or communal archives

Family History Library Catalog:
Place search:

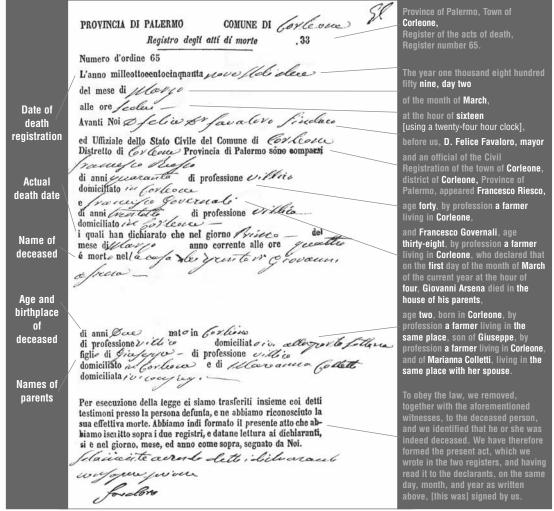| Place | [name of town] |
| Part of | Italy |

Topics to choose: Civil registration

Search by:
1. Surname (*cognome*) in the indexes (some early indexes are ordered by given name).
2. Date (day, month, year), from the earliest to most recent.

Tips

- To find a death record, first look in the town where your ancestor was born or where his or her children were born. If you can't find the death in the town where the children were born, check nearby or other likely towns.
- Women are always listed by their maiden name. The name and surname of their husband is noted in the record.
- For help reading the records, see *Genealogical Word List: Italian.* (See "Where to Order Publications" on page 17.)

Date of death registration

Actual death date

Name of deceased

Age and birthplace of deceased

Names of parents

Province of Palermo, Town of **Corleone,**
Register of the acts of death,
Register number 65.

The year one thousand eight hundred fifty **nine, day two**

of the month of **March,**

at the hour of **sixteen**
[using a twenty-four hour clock],

before us, **D. Felice Favaloro, mayor**

and an official of the Civil Registration of the town of **Corleone,** district of **Corleone,** Province of Palermo, appeared **Francesco Riesco,**

age **forty,** by profession **a farmer** living in **Corleone,**

and **Francesco Governali,** age **thirty-eight, by profession a farmer** living in **Corleone,** who declared that on the **first** day of the month of **March** of the current year at the hour of four, **Giovanni Arsena** died in **the house of his parents,**

age **two,** born in **Corleone,** by profession **a farmer** living in **the same place,** son of **Giuseppe,** by profession **a farmer** living in **Corleone,** and of **Marianna Colletti,** living in **the same place with her spouse.**

To obey the law, we removed, together with the aforementioned witnesses, to the deceased person, and we identified that he or she was indeed deceased. We have therefore formed the present act, which we wrote in the two registers, and having read it to the declarants, on the same day, month, and year as written above, [this was] signed by us.

Death of Giovanni Arsena, 1 March 1859, Corleone, Italy (FHL film 1195454).

Use Church Records To:

- Find births, marriages, and deaths after the Council of Trent in approximately 1564. Some were actually started earlier. As of yet, very few church records have been microfilmed.

- Find births, marriages, and deaths when civil records are not available.

Tips

- All church records are in Latin.

- The first name is always in Latin form, while the last name remains in Italian.

- Early church indexes, when they exist, are in alphabetical order by the Latin form of the first name. Use an index to save time finding a record.

- Less information is provided in church records than in civil records.

- Women are always referred to by their maiden names, except in very early church records. In later church records the maiden name will often appear after the married name, preceded by the word *et,* i.e. Arsena et Musso.

- For help reading the records, see *Genealogical Word List: Latin* (34077). (See "Where to Order Publications" on page 17.)

- Using indexes, such as the one below, saves time in finding marriages.

Searching Church Records

Before searching, you must know:
- Your ancestor's name.
- The town or parish of the birth, marriage, or death. (Large cities will have many parishes; small towns will have just one.)
- The approximate birth, marriage, or death date.

Located at:
- Family History Library
- Parish church archives

Family History Library Catalog:
Place search:

Place	[name of town]
Part of	Italy

Topics to choose: Church Records

Search for:
1. Town.
2. Date (day, month, year), from the earliest to most recent.
3. Name of the ancestor.

Day 24 May 1790

I baptized an infant born at the hour 24 of **Antonius (Antonio)** and **Francesca Stilla et Palermo** and imposed the name **Maria**.

Godparents were Antonio Ristivo and Anna Palermo.

Baptism record of Maria Stilla, 24 May 1790, Corleone, Italy (FHL film 2151030).
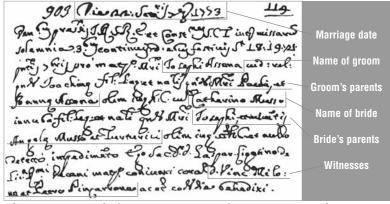

Day 29 July 1787

I, Priest Don Gaetano Restivo, baptized an infant born at the hour 16 **of Josepho (Giuseppe) and Catherina (Caterina) Arsena et Musso** and imposed the name **Paulus (Paolo).**

Godparents were Franciscus (Francesco) and Antonia Laudato.

Baptism record of Paolo Arsena, 29 July 1787, Corleone, Italy (FHL film 2151030).

Marriage date

Name of groom

Groom's parents

Name of bride

Bride's parents

Witnesses

The marriage record of Giuseppe Arsena and Caterina Musso, the grandparents of Maria Arsena, including the names of the next generation (22 September 1773, Corleone, Italy [FHL film 2151324).

Names in Latin form (first name)   **Page number**

Index to the marriage record of Giuseppe Arsena and Caterina Musso, the grandparents of Maria Arsena, including the names of the next generation.

READING ITALIAN HANDWRITING

Reading Italian handwriting may be difficult at times, since every registrar had his own style. Although it may seem overwhelming at first, you will find that the writing in each register is usually consistent and you will be able to accustom yourself to it.

You will also find that after learning the most common given names and a few common terms in Italian and Latin, you will be able to read most of the documents you encounter.

COMMON TERMS AND NAMES

Italian	English	Latin		Italian	English	Latin
nato/a	born	natus/a		fù	deceased	quondam
morto/a	died	mortus/a		vivente	living	vivus
figlio	son	filius		di	of	ex
figlia	daughter	filia		Giovanni	John	Joannes
madre	mother	mater		Giuseppe	Joseph	Josephus
padre	father	pater		Paolo	Paul	Paulus
il dì	the day	die		Elisabetta	Elizabeth	Elisabetha
mese	month	mensis		Giovanna	Joanna	Joanne
anno	year	annum		Antonio	Anthony	Antonius
matrimonio	marriage	matrimonium/coniugium		Giuseppa	Josephine	Josepha
levatrice/ostatrice	midwife	obstetrix		Pietro	Peter	Petrus

SUMMARY: FINDING AN ITALIAN FAMILY, 1809–1910

For detailed steps, see "The Research Process" on pages 2–6.

1. Find your ancestor's birth record in civil records.
   - This verifies what you know.
   - Write down what you find, and record your source information.
2. Find your ancestor's brothers and sisters in civil records.
   - Look for births before and after the birth of your ancestor.
   - Write down what you find (names, birth dates, etc.).
   - Write down your source information.
3. Find death records for your ancestor's brothers and sisters or parents in civil records.
   - Look for deaths in years following the births, especially if two children were given the same name.
   - Write down the information you find and your source information.
4. Find marriage records of your ancestor's parents in civil or church records.
   - Look for records of marriages in the town where the oldest child was born.

- Start with the date of the first child's birth, and search backward and forward until you find the marriage.
- Write down what you find, and record your source information.

Then follow the same steps to find a parent's family.

Naming Customs in Italy

Since surnames became common with most Italians by the 1400s, a particular naming pattern was used by many. The following pattern may be helpful in researching family groups and determining parents.

- The first boy was usually named for the father's father.
- The second boy was usually named for the mother's father.
- The third boy was usually named for the father.
- The first girl was usually named for the father's mother.
- The second girl was usually named for the mother's mother.
- The third girl was named for the mother.
- If a child died, often the same name was given to the next child born of the same gender.

Time Line

1546 Council of Trent required all parishes to keep records of birth, marriage, and death.

1559-1796 Italy was ruled by Spain and then Austria.

1796 Napoleon Bonaparte drove the Austrians from Italy.

1805-1814 Napoleon ruled most of Italy, divided the country into provinces and communes, and required nationwide civil registration with a set form.

1815 Napoleon was defeated. Civil registration stopped in most northern provinces but continued in the south.

1821 Civil registration began in Sicily.

1821-1861 A series of revolts occurred, and new governments were established and defeated.

1861-1870 Unification of Italy occurred.

1866 Civil registration once again was required nationwide; most forms follow Napoleonic style.

1871 First national census was taken and repeated every 10 years thereafter (not standard, names only head of household, limited use).

1911 First census records began to name all family members with ages, occupations, birthplaces, etc.

What's Next?

Research Outline: Italy (36113) describes records for more advanced searches.

More about Italian Research

- Cole, Trafford R. *Italian Genealogical Records: How to Use Italian Civil, Ecclesiastical, & Other Records in Family History Research*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, Inc., 1995. (FHL Book 945 D27c).

- Colletta, John Philip. *Finding Italian Roots, the Complete Guide for Americans*. Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1996. (FHL Book 973 F2cf).

- Nelson, Lynn A. *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Italian Ancestors: How to Find and Record Your Unique Heritage*. Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 1997. (FHL Book 945 D27n).

Archives and Libraries

Family History Centers
http://www.familysearch.org
Tel. 800-346-6044

Family History Library
35 N. West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400
Tel. 801-240-2331

Helpful Internet Addresses:

wwwdb.archivi.beniculturali.it/UCBAWEB/indice.html (Lists the following about each provincial archive: address, telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, hours, services, etc.)

www.chiesacattolica.it/cci/diocesi/index.html (Lists addresses, etc., of all Catholic dioceses in Italy.)

www.nonsolocap.it (Lists postal zip codes in Italy.)

www.cimorelli.com/pie/faq/pfaq_toc.html (Frequently asked questions regarding Italian genealogical research.)

www.italgen.com (Basics for Italian research, very good historical and background information.)

www.angelfire.com/ok3/pearlsofwisdom/Davids_form_letters.html (Form letters to use for requesting copies of documents from civil and ecclesiastical archives.)

www.teldir.com/eng/euro/it (Italian telephone directories.)

Where to Order Publications:

- Internet: http://www.familysearch.org

- Salt Lake Distribution Center: phone 800-537-5971

All Family History Library publications are described in: Family History Materials List (34083) and at: http://www.familysearch.org

Family Group Record

If typing, set spacing at 1 1/2.   Page   of

Husband
Given name(s) | Last name | ☐ See "Other marriages"

		LDS ordinance dates	Temple
Born (day month year)	Place		
Christened	Place	Baptized	
Died	Place	Endowed	
Buried	Place	Sealed to parents	
Married	Place	Sealed to spouse	

Husband's father Given name(s)	Last name	☐ Deceased
Husband's mother Given name(s)	Maiden name	☐ Deceased

Wife
Given name(s) | Maiden name | ☐ See "Other marriages"

		LDS ordinance dates	Temple
Born (day month year)	Place		
Christened	Place	Baptized	
Died	Place	Endowed	
Buried	Place	Sealed to parents	

Wife's father Given name(s)	Last name	☐ Deceased
Wife's mother Given name(s)	Maiden name	☐ Deceased

Children   List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth.   LDS ordinance dates   Temple

1 | Sex | Given name(s) | Last name | ☐ See "Other marriages"

Born (day month year)	Place	Baptized	
Christened	Place	Endowed	
Died	Place	Sealed to parents	
Spouse Given name(s)	Last name		
Married	Place	Sealed to spouse	

2 | Sex | Given name(s) | Last name | ☐ See "Other marriages"

Born (day month year)	Place	Baptized	
Christened	Place	Endowed	
Died	Place	Sealed to parents	
Spouse Given name(s)	Last name		
Married	Place	Sealed to spouse	

3 | Sex | Given name(s) | Last name | ☐ See "Other marriages"

Born (day month year)	Place	Baptized	
Christened	Place	Endowed	
Died	Place	Sealed to parents	
Spouse Given name(s)	Last name		
Married	Place	Sealed to spouse	

Select **only one** of the following options. The option you select applies to all names on this form.

☐ **Option 1—Family File** Send all names to my family file at the _____ Temple.

☐ **Option 2—Temple File** Send all names to any temple, and assign proxies for all approved ordinances.

☐ **Option 3—Ancestral File** Send all names to the computerized Ancestral File for research purposes only, not for ordinances. I am including the required pedigree chart.

Your name

Address

Phone ( )   Date prepared

Husband Given name(s)		Last name		
Wife Given name(s)		Maiden name		

Children List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth.			LDS ordinance dates	Temple

4 | Sex | Given name(s) | | Last name | ☐ See "Other marriages" |

	Born (day month year)	Place	Baptized	
	Christened	Place	Endowed	
	Died	Place	Sealed to parents	
	Spouse Given name(s)		Last name	
	Married	Place	Sealed to spouse	

5 | Sex | Given name(s) | Last name | ☐ See "Other marriages" |

	Born (day month year)	Place	Baptized	
	Christened	Place	Endowed	
	Died	Place	Sealed to parents	
	Spouse Given name(s)		Last name	
	Married	Place	Sealed to spouse	

6 | Sex | Given name(s) | Last name | ☐ See "Other marriages" |

	Born (day month year)	Place	Baptized	
	Christened	Place	Endowed	
	Died	Place	Sealed to parents	
	Spouse Given name(s)		Last name	
	Married	Place	Sealed to spouse	

7 | Sex | Given name(s) | Last name | ☐ See "Other marriages" |

	Born (day month year)	Place	Baptized	
	Christened	Place	Endowed	
	Died	Place	Sealed to parents	
	Spouse Given name(s)		Last name	
	Married	Place	Sealed to spouse	

Other marriages   List other marriages and sealings of the husband, wife, and children on this form. List any necessary explanations.

Sources of information   Add further information on attached sheets as necessary.

Note: Please take every reasonable step to see that the information on this form is as accurate and complete as practical. This will help maintain the integrity of Church family history files and reduce duplication of temple ordinance work.

INDEX

Other publications you will need:

Genealogical Word List: Italian (34071)
Using the Family History Library Catalog (30966)

For Latter-day Saints:
Instructions for submitting names for temple ordinances.

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