

# Researching Italian Ancestors

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60 S. High Street, Akron, Ohio 44326  
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We have many books that can be helpful for doing genealogical research on Italian ancestors. Take a look at our **international genealogy** section of books, where you will find sources for Italy and Sicily. It may be helpful for you to read our guides on **identifying immigrant ancestors**, **naturalization research**, and **passenger list research** before beginning research on Italian ancestors.

## Where to begin

- Nelson, Lynn. *A genealogist's guide to discovering your Italian ancestors: how to find and record your unique heritage*. 1997. An excellent book for the beginner as well as the advanced researcher on Italian sources.
- Colletta, John Phillip. *Finding Italian Roots: the complete guide for Americans*. 2003. A well-known author and speaker on Italian genealogical research, John Colletta provides enlightening tips and techniques when searching for Italian ancestors.
- Adams, Suzanne Russo. *Finding your Italian ancestors: a beginner's guide*. 2008.

## Additional Resources

- Cole, Trafford R. *Italian genealogical records: how to use Italian civil, ecclesiastical & other records in family history research*. 1995. A reliable resource for learning about the history of official Italian records and interpreting them.
- Ott, George E. *Guide to the genealogical resources of Italy: Region of Sicily: with maps and full index of included towns*. 2004.
- United States Board on Geographic Names. *Italy, official standard names approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names*. 1956.
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania. *From Italy to Indiana County: the Italian immigrant experience in Indiana, Pennsylvania and environs, 1900-1950*. 2001.
- Preece, Floren Stocks. *Handy guide to Italian genealogical records*. 1978.
- Fucilla, Joseph Guerin. *Our Italian surnames*. 1987.
- Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo. *Italian-American family history: a guide to researching and writing about your heritage*. 1997.
- Grifo, Richard D. *Italian presence in Pennsylvania*. 1990.
- Sacchini, Joseph Louis. *The Italians of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, Ohio*. 1997.
- Glazier, Ira A. and Filby, P. William. *Italians to America: lists of passengers arriving at U.S. ports, 1880-1899*. 1992.

Also be sure check out the materials that we have in other Divisions at the library about Italy and Italians. We have a wide selection of books covering topics such as the history of Italy, Italian cuisine, the American perception of Italians, how to learn Italian, Italian Operas on CD and much more.

**Electronic Resources:**

Here are a few websites to refer to about Italian ancestry. There are also websites available that allow you to pay a professional researcher who will search Italian records for you, but a word of warning, they can be quite costly. These sites are not included here, but can be found very easily by typing terms like “Italian genealogy” into any search engine such as Google or Yahoo.

- Italian Genealogical Society of America <http://www.italianroots.org/>
- Council of Italian American Societies of Summit County <http://www.it-am.org>
- The Italian-American website of New York <http://www.italian-american.com/italgen.htm>
- Italian Ancestry <http://www.italianancestry.com>