

# CHAPTER ONE

# ITALY,

# THE HOMELAND



## Chapter 1 Guide

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# **Chapter 1: Italy**

## **Part One – The Homeland**

### **Introduction**

**Paul and Sandra grew up in Scranton, PA. Like many other families in Scranton in the 1950s, their ancestors had emigrated from Italy in the early 1900s and made their home in Scranton, PA in hopes of providing a better life for their families. Even though Sandra and Paul have “Italian” roots, their families had originated in different regions of Italy, each of which have their own cultures and dialects, emanating from their unique history.**

**In recent years, lots of people have had their DNA tested. Many Italian Americans, who believed they were 100% "Italian," are finding that the heritage is not quite that simple, due to the variety of cultures that inhabited areas of Italy over the past centuries. Recent DNA tests are helping historians determine what regions in Italy, and the rest of the world, were influenced by what races, tribes and nations. To add more complexity, DNA analysts have found varying results utilizing different methods of testing DNA.**

**Italy's history, which is summarized later in this Chapter, illustrates the numerous groups over the centuries that inhabited that peninsula projecting into the Mediterranean Sea. This includes indigenous people, such as the Umbrians and Etruscans, others who migrated to Italy, such as the Greeks and the Jews, as well as those who invaded the peninsula, at one time or another, such as the Celts, Germans, Arabs, Normans, French, Spanish, Carthaginians (from Africa) and Austrians. Descendants of these groups as well as the indigenous people make up the modern-day “Italians”. This diversity can be seen in the DNA of Paul and Sandra as described in the Introduction to this Book.**

**Reviewing Italy's history will give you a better understanding of how the various regions and provinces were formed and the peoples that had a hand in their formation.**

**Italians that reside in Italy and those that migrated to America are generally more attached to the region of Italy they call home, rather than to the whole country of Italy. Since Italy was divided into many warring city-states**



**throughout much of its history, the result is that each region and province developed its own traditions and oral dialects. Today, Italy has twenty regions and even more dialects.**

### **Map 1 - Twenty Current Regions of Italy**

### **Map 2 - Italy's Many Dialects**

**In addition, since the families of Paul and Sandra originated in different parts of Italy, later in this Chapter we describe the towns where their ancestors lived. As Annamaria Altomare (Paul's 2nd cousin once removed) explained,**

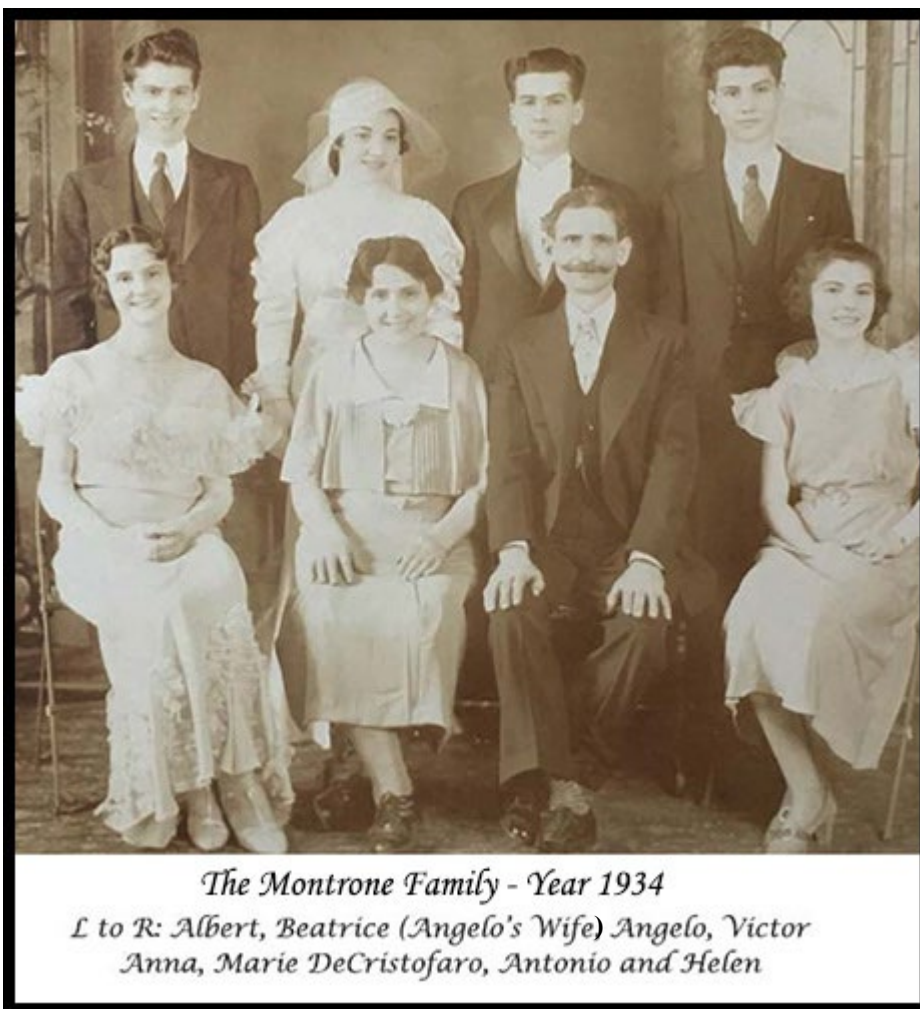
**It's really different because in Italy we have twenty regions. And in every region, there is a dialect. So, you have almost to translate the sentence because if you don't get used to listening to dialect, you can't understand really.<sup>1</sup>**

**Here is a summary of the historical areas where Paul and Sandra's ancestors resided.**



## Montrone and DeCristofaro

Paul's father, Angelo's (G2 - M) family, the Montrones (formerly known as the Ventrones), were originally from Maddaloni, in the Province of Caserta which is in the Campania Region. As the family grew, some members of the family moved further north to Boiano, which is now known as Bojano, in the Province of Campobasso in the Molise Region.



Angelo's mother's family, the DeCristofaros, were also from Boiano.

## Giancini and D'Annibale



Beatrice (G2 - M), Paul's mother, and her family resided in Ceccano, in the Province of Frosinone, which is in the Lazio Region. Beatrice's father, Eugene (G1 - M) Giancini, was born in Rome, the capital of Italy as well as the regional

capital of the Lazio Region. He was an orphan raised by adoptive parents in Ceccano. The D'Annibales, Beatrice's mother's family, were also from Ceccano.

### Box 1.1 Eugenio Giancini, Orphan



## Gaudenzi and Cavagnaro

Sandra's family originated in regions further north in Italy. Her father,

Jerome (G2 - G)

Gaudenzi's, family was originally from Gualdo Tadino in the vicinity of Perugia, the capital of the Umbria Region.

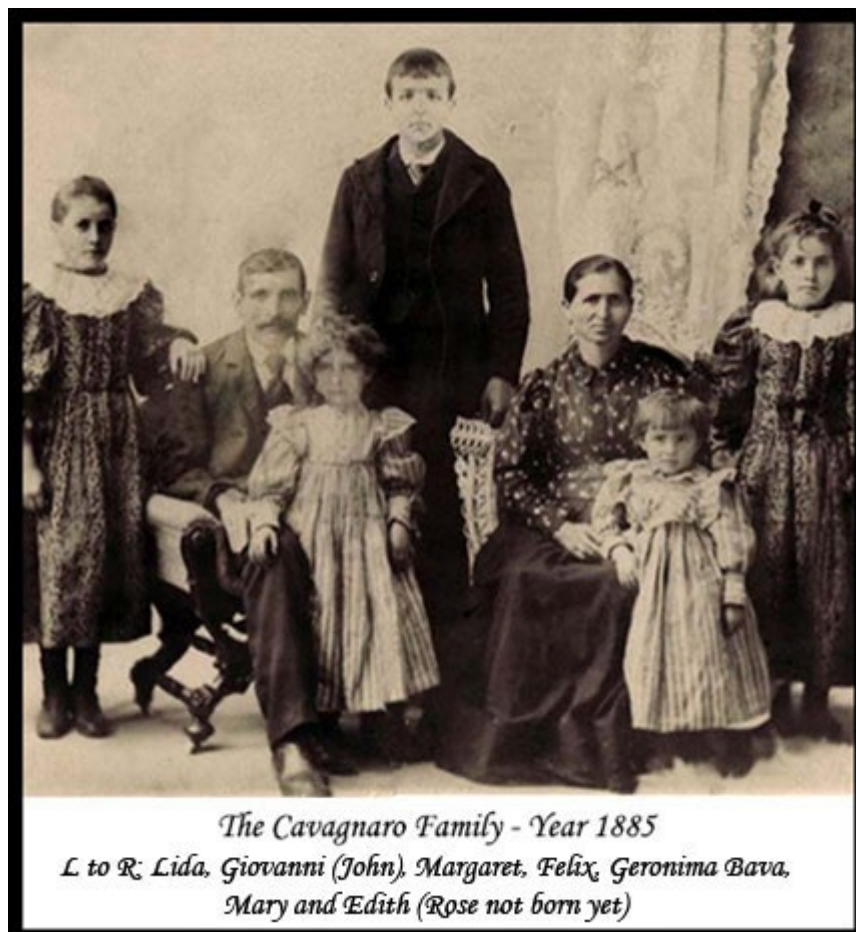


**Arch of Augustus**

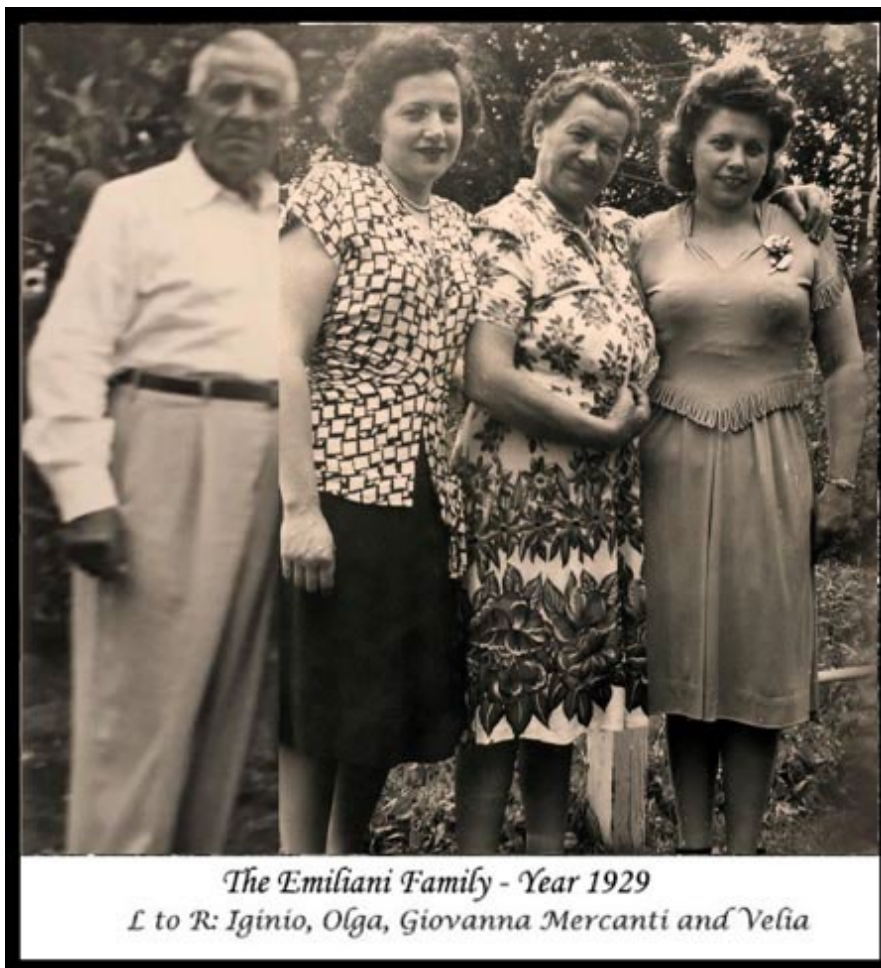
The Etruscan name of this city is Perusna, while the Latin name is Perugia, as you may read on the Arch of Augustus which is one of the eight gates in the Etruscan wall of Perugia. Lake Trasimeno, where

the Romans fought their historical battle against Hannibal in 217 B.C. during the Second Punic War, is located in Perugia.

Jerome's mother's family, the Cavagnaros, originated much further north in Italy. They are from Torriglia, a municipality located in the metropolitan city (and Province) of Genoa in the Liguria Region.



## Emiliani and Mercanti



The Emilianis were the paternal family of Sandra's mother, Olga (G2 - G). They were from Sassoferrato in the Province of Ancona located in the Marche Region. Olga's grandfather originally resided in Pesaro, which is also located

in the Marche Region, but later moved to Sassoferrato where he married and raised his family.

Olga's mother's family, the Mercantis, were also from Sassoferrato, with documents tracing their history there back to the 1700s.

All of the cities and regions discussed above are described later in this chapter in the "Italian Origins" section. They are also

**highlighted in maps included with the section entitled “History of Italy”. That section reviews the geographical and political changes that occurred in Italy from 700 BC onward.**

**It is important to understand these changes because the origins of the people of Italy, and the various nations that ruled these regions throughout their history, have had a huge impact on the people that live in or are from those regions. For example, the D’Annibales (Paul’s mother’s ancestors) have a long history of living in Ceccano, but their family legend suggests they have ties to Spain.**

### **Box 1.2 The D’Annibale Oral History Tradition**



## ***Is Italy Coming Together?***

**The remnants of *campanilismo* (a sense of regional identity and pride) stand as evidence of Italy's long history of multiple peoples, the fragmentation of the country into city-states, and the isolation of certain areas due to geography and (until the early to mid-1900s) poor transportation.**

**Although regionalism is still present in Italy, unification and the educational system have, in some ways, succeeded in bringing disparate areas together. Over time, fewer and fewer Italians only speak the local dialect or speak with a local accent that their grandparents and even parents would no doubt have had. And, in the case of Italian Americans in the U.S., they increasingly think of themselves as having Italian heritage with less emphasis on harkening back to the regional identities of old.**

## *Italian Origins*

This section provides a summary description of the towns and their traditions that formed the heritage of Sandra and Paul, and the families that resided in each town. They are as follows (English version, if applicable, in parentheses):

SANDRA'S FAMILIES			
<u>Family</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Province</u>	<u>Region</u>
Gaudenzi	Gualdo	Perugia	Umbria
	Tadino		
Cavagnaro		Genova (Genoa)	Liguria
Emiliani	Sassoferrato	Ancona	Marche
	Pesaro	Pesaro and Urbino	Marche
Mercanti	Sassoferrato	Ancona	Marche
PAUL'S FAMILIES			
<u>Family</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Province</u>	<u>Region</u>
Montrone	Maddaloni	Caserta	Campania
Montrone & DeCristofaro	Bojano (Bioano)	Campobasso	Molise
Giancini & D'Annibale	Ceccano	Frosinone	Lazio

**In the following town descriptions, each heading indicates the name of the town, then the Province, then the Region (similar to a town, county and state in the U.S.). Many regions and towns are spelled and pronounced the same in Italian and English.**

**However, there are several that are not.**

### **Box 1.3 English Equivalent of Certain Italian Regions and Cities**

## **Gualdo Tadino, Perugia, Umbria (Gaudenzi Family)**



*Gualdo Tadino*

**The Umbrian city of Gualdo Tadino, home of Sandra's father's ancestors, the Gaudenzi and Capoccia families, is located in the Province of Perugia and the Region of Umbria, northeast of Rome. The Tiber River runs through Umbria to Rome and is an important waterway for the hilly landlocked region, perched on the lower flanks of Mt. Penna in the Apennine mountains.**

**The Umbrian Region has a rich cultural history and is at least partially responsible for the diffusion of Italian gothic style.<sup>2</sup> The Province of Perugia is also known for its ceramics, and although**

**not much is known about the history of Gualdo Tadino during ancient Roman times, ceramics production was a tradition during the Middle Ages, and the town is still an important center for Umbrian ceramics today.<sup>3</sup>**

**Jerome's (G2 – G) Gaudenzi's grandparents were born in the adjacent towns of Nocera Umbra and Valfabbrica, then later lived in Gualdo Tadino during the late 1800s and their children were born there. The Gaudenzi family farmed the land, and Clementine's (Sandra's paternal great-grandmother) parents were landowners. Jerome's father, Francesco (G1 - G), "also owned land over there" until his death in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in 1950. His widow, Mary (G2 – G), was the one then tasked with selling off that land even though she had lived her entire life in Scranton.<sup>4</sup>**

**There has been a strong connection between Gualdo Tadino and northeastern Pennsylvania since the height of Italian immigration (1890–1920). In celebration of that fact, Mayor Rolando Pinacoli of Gualdo Tadino donated a monument to the area. It was placed at the entrance of Scranton's Italian American Cemetery, located in Minooka. The mayor stated,**

**“From the town of Gualdo Tadino (Italy) in memory of its fellow citizens buried here.” In 2000, nearby West Pittston, Pennsylvania declared Gualdo Tadino its sister city.<sup>5</sup> Today Gualdo Tadino has a population of just over 15,000.**



## **Torriglia, Genova, Liguria (Cavagnaro Family)**



*Torriglia*

**Torriglia, a town of about 2,500 inhabitants, is in the Province of Genova (Genoa) and Region of Liguria. About 12 miles northeast of Genoa, the economy of Torriglia is mainly agriculture and cattle raising, however the commune is most famous for its Italian pastry called Canestreletti, a star shaped sugar dusted cookie with a hole in the middle, a traditional Easter favorite. There is even a festival in its honor.**

**Sandra's paternal grandmother, Mary (G2 - G), was born in America, both of her parents, Giovanni Silvestro Cavagnaro and**

**Geronima “Jane” Bava, were from Bavastri, Torriglia, like their parents and grandparents before them.**

**The mountainous Liguria Region is popular with tourists because of the rugged beauty of Cinque Terre and the stunning city of Genova. The Region stretches along the western Italian coast from the French border to Tuscany.<sup>6</sup> The proximity to France might lead to the Genovessas’ reputation for refinement, as implied by Frank (G2 - G) Gaudenzi: “They have that French in them. The Genovessa language is a lot more like French.”<sup>7</sup>**

**Natalie Cavagnaro (G2 – G), daughter of Mary’s cousin Joseph, joked, “We’re refined, aren’t we? I was told that Genovessa people are refined.”<sup>8</sup>**

**Bavastri is a *frazione*, or subsection of Torriglia, located in a hilly area at the foot of Mount Prelà. Although it is considered the same town, Bavastri’s six-mile distance from the center of Torriglia would have isolated the community somewhat from Torriglia before the advent of modern transportation. Natalie’s grandmother Rose came from that area. She was told that life in the area was “very poor, and they used to go to the creek to wash their clothes . . . on the stone[s]. . . And they used to go picking**

**mushrooms. . . because there were a lot of chestnut trees [and the mushrooms] grow around them.” Her grandmother’s family had “just their own farm. And they used to sell . . . some of the stuff that they would raise.”<sup>9</sup>**

**The patron saint of Torriglia is Our Lady of Divine Providence (Nostra Signora della Divina Provvidenza). The feast is celebrated annually on the last Sunday of August. Although the Cavagnaro family members did not relate any stories about celebrating the religious feasts, Natalie did recall what she was told about the local practice concerning their church leaders. “The priest in their town—well, I think a lot of towns in Italy—they weren’t on salary or anything. The parishioners used to have chickens. They would bring eggs or if they had produce. . . That is how they kept the priest.”<sup>10</sup>**

## **Pesaro, Pesaro and Urbino, Marche (Emiliani Family)**



*This Fountain, which is located in the main square of Persario, dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.*

**Pesaro is where Sandra's mother's paternal grandfather, Emiliano Emiliani lived in the early 1800s until he later moved to Sassoferrato. It is a city located in the Region of Marche and is the capital of the Province of Pesaro and Urbino. It is located on the Adriatic Sea at the mouth of the Foglia (Pisaurum) River and was established by the Romans in 184 BC.**

**Pesaro is today the second largest city in Marche with a population of 95,011. It is known for being the birthplace of the composer Gioacchino Rossini, who composed The Barber of Seville opera, other operas, and the William Tell Overture.**

**From the onset of the Roman age, Pesaro has been an important center for trading and craftsmanship. The city flourished during the Renaissance era under the rule of three different families, and it was during this period that numerous public and private palaces along with a new line of walls were constructed.**

**Examples of popular construction in the Province during the 15<sup>th</sup> century include Ducal Palace, a massive castle called Rocca Costanza which is a fortress that protected Pesaro during the Middle Ages, and a suburban palace with extensive gardens called Villa Imperiale of Pesaro.**

**Since 1462, Pesaro has been famous for its majolica (a type of heavyweight pottery coated with enamel and ornamented with paints), and a museum located in the city contains the richest collection in Italy.**

**Pesaro is today known for sulfur refining, boatbuilding, furniture making, majolica pottery, manufacturing motorcycles, and of**

**course tourism and commerce. Agriculture has declined in importance, although viticulture remains notable, as does the fishing industry.**

**Multiple churches are found in Pesaro, with Pesaro Cathedral being one of the most popular. Built over the course of the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, it is a Romanesque-Gothic Basilica that was dedicated to St. Terence during the Middle Ages. St. Terence was the city's first bishop who was martyred in the 3rd century and is Pesaro's patron saint.**



## **Sassoferrato, Ancona, Marche (Emiliani & Mercanti Families)**

### **and notes on Coldellanoce**



### *Sassoferrato*

**Sassoferrato is located in the Province of Ancona in the Region of Marche. It is the town where Sandra's mother's paternal grandmother's family – the Mercanti's – lived. Sassoferrato's beginnings can be traced to 1150 and Count Atto of Genga's founding of a Castle called Sassoferrato. In the centuries that followed, the city was built along the mountain near the castle. The Atto Counts governed until 1460, when Sassoferrato was declared a free city. Like many other areas in Marche (and Italy in general), Sassoferrato was subject to a series of rulers.**

**During the 1600s, it experienced an apparent period of financial turmoil that kept monuments, churches, and other buildings**

from receiving proper care and upkeep. It would see another period of turmoil during the 1700s when the Papal States, of which Sassoferrato was a part, were involved in conflicts with outside invaders.

Historically an agricultural economy, the town underwent a huge boom during the chemical revolution of the late 1800s producing sulfur, used to make sulfuric acid, one of the most important base chemicals used for bleach making. It is also an agent used against a common agricultural disease, to name just a few of its applications. Marche, along with Romagna, accounted for 5% of the world's sulfur production with Sicily accounting for 75%. Unfortunately, worldwide competition eventually made it difficult for Italy to keep up and post WW I, all but 2 sulfur mines in these regions shut down with disastrous economic consequences.<sup>11</sup> In the mid-1900s the establishment of paper mills and other industries gave a boost to the local economy and the population gradually increased to its current 7,000 inhabitants.<sup>12</sup>

Olga (G2 – G) had strong historic ties to Sassoferrato. Her parents, Iginio (G1 - G) Emiliani and Giovanna (G1 - G)

(Mercanti) Emiliani, married there in 1909. They had multiple generations of Sassoferrato ancestors. Some of the families intermarried to form a tangled web of relations from the area. Olga (who visited there in her youth) reasoned, “Yes, because they come from small areas, ... I think most of them were probably related. Going back. . . I think they were [within] walking distance, because I can remember, as a child, walking from one place to the other.”<sup>13</sup>



*Coldellanoce*

Like much of Marche, Sassoferrato is surrounded by hilly and mountainous terrain.

Coldellanoce and several other *frazioni*, or town subsections, of Sassoferrato are entirely isolated from the center of Sassoferrato. Coldellanoce is the birthplace of Olga’s mother, Giovanna (G1 – G). It is tucked away on a hillside separate from other Sassoferrato neighborhoods. Its population is fewer than 100 people. Other

**than having electricity and paved roads, Coldellanoce is a community frozen in an earlier time. It has a somewhat medieval quality, and residents can be hesitant toward outsiders and the modern world. <sup>14</sup>**



## **Maddaloni, Caserta, Campania (Ventrone / Montrone Family)**



*Maddaloni*

**Maddaloni was where the Ventrone family (Paul’s father’s ancestry, name changed later to Montrone) lived from sometime before the late 1700s until midway through the 1800s. The families who later married into the Ventrone family, such as the Branco and Bove families, can also be traced back to the area of Maddaloni.**

**According to Michele Battista (IT – M) (Paul’s second cousin twice removed), the change from Ventrone to Montrone probably came about as follows,**



Quite probably, Antonio Ventrone (Paul's great great paternal grandfather) changed his name from Ventrone (that could be translated as "huge belly") into Montrone ("huge mountain"). Changing names was like starting anew; it was a new family, and they considered themselves as the founding princes.<sup>15</sup>

In Maddaloni the Branco family plied their trade as butchers. Francesco Branco (Paul's paternal ancestor), the son of Antonio Branco and his wife, Angela Negro, was born in Maddaloni around 1778.<sup>16</sup> Francesco married Rosa Pascarella before 1809. With his wife by his side, he worked as a butcher (in Italian, *macellaro* or *beccaio*). They helped ensure that the town was supplied with a variety of meats, many of them from the local farmers of the area—including the salted meats that are synonymous with Italy. Francesco's and Rosa's children were born in Maddaloni and continued in the profession of butcher.

Two generations later, Francesco and Rosa's granddaughter, Anna Carmela Branco (Paul's paternal great grandmother), who was from Boiano, met and wed Angelo Montrone (Paul's paternal great grandfather), who had moved to Boiano from Maddaloni.

## **Boiano, Campobasso, Molise (Ventrone/Montrone Family)**



### *Boiano*

**Boiano (spelled Bojano in Italian) in the Province of Campobasso in the Region of Molise, rests to the east of Campania in southern Italy and has a present-day population of about 8,000.**

**Boiano was home to Angelo Ventrone (later Montrone) & Anna Branco (Paul's paternal great grandparents). Although both the Ventrones/Montrones and the Brancos previously lived in Maddaloni, Angelo Ventrone wed Anna Carmela Branco on 17 August 1881 in Boiano, where all seven of their children were born (sadly, 4 of the 7 died before reaching their first year).<sup>17</sup> The youngest child, Maria Incoronata Filomena (Montrone)**

**Buontempo (Paul's paternal great aunt), remained, and her five children grew up there “in Boiano, in the house that was built by [their] father.”<sup>18</sup>**

**Although the Ventrone's/Montrone's oldest son, Antonio (G1 - M), immigrated to America, he went back to Italy to wed a local Boiano girl, Maria Carmina Vincenza De Cristofaro (G1 - M). Her family and its affiliate families (such as Patullo and Ritota families) had been in the area since as early as the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.**

**Antonio's sister (Rachele) (Paul's paternal great aunt), also married a De Cristofaro, Alfredo. They emigrated to America, although after Alfredo died, she returned to Boiano.**

**The Montrone family ran a successful grain operation in Boiano. Maria (Montrone) Buontempo's eldest child, Anna (IT - M) Battista, recalled,**

**I am ninety-one years old and remember perfectly the history of our family as my mother related it to me when I was already an adult.**



**My grandfather, Angelo Montrone, and my grandmother, Anna Branco, who were both born in the nineteenth century, ran a small business in wheat and other grains, which at that time was a flourishing and profitable occupation. In addition, in Boiano they also had an overseer who was responsible for Boiano and nearby locations—they were worked by two laborers on a permanent basis. The family's economic conditions were more than good. Angelo's surviving children [the other four dying before reaching their first year], therefore, lived comfortably—two girls, Rachele and Filomena, and an only boy, Antonio, who was the favorite of his mother, Anna Branco. The elder daughter, Rachele, helped to manage the overseer's accounts. Among the coins then in circulation was the gold Marengo. My mother (Filomena) told me that her sister, Rachele, often helped herself to some of these gold coins until she had accumulated a nice sum.<sup>19</sup>**

**St. Bartholomew (San Bartolomeo) is Boiano's patron saint. The annual feast day is August 25, the favorite *fiesta* of Anna. Her son**

**Michele Battista (IT – M) (Paul’s 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin twice removed) explained, “The day of Saint Bartolomeo was always a very happy day. Marching bands would come and perform, there were famous songs by Mina and Ivan Zanicchi, and also arias from Verdi and Rossini operas were performed.” He and his**



*Cerro al Volturno*

**mother also enjoyed the parades and the good food.<sup>20</sup>**

**Cerro al Volturno is a small town located about 30 miles from Boiano, in**

**the Isernia Province of the Molise Region. Although she grew up in the Boiano, after her marriage to Carlo Battista in 1948, Anna moved to Cerro al Volturno. Her description of her new hometown, as told through her children, provides a good insight into the rural lifestyle in Italy during her era.**

**After moving there, she claimed not to miss her hometown, since she built deep and loyal connections to her new place of residence: “There was Cerro al Volturno, the town where I married. I lived there for fifty years.” In actuality, although**



**Anna loved having and raising her family in Cerro al Volturno, she did initially find it hard to adjust to all the changes.**

**I had difficulties. Very many. They all know it. When I got married the village was very small. There was no electricity, no gas, no running water. I had come from Boiano, a much larger place. My family did not own any property. But the family of my husband did. They had several properties. They grew grain. After one year, my mother-in-law passed away. And then they wanted to hand over all the responsibilities of the household to me. Harvest the olives, take care of the corn. Everything. That was very hard for me. I came from a much more civilized village. But I had my husband [Carlo] who loved me. We loved each other. So I put my heart into my hands, and I tried to adjust. But I suffered. That is the truth. . . There was no hairdresser. I had to do my own hair. Wash my own hair. There were no stores. There was not even a grocery store to buy some pasta or rice or sugar. We had to get everything from Boiano. Later, when I worked as a schoolteacher, I had to walk five kilometers, two and a half each way. Also that was not easy. But I overcame all this. Because I am tough, and I don't let obstacles beat me down.**

**In addition to memories of the town's isolation and small size, Anna recalled that when she first moved there World War II had recently ended, and it was a particularly difficult period,**



**“Everyone was very poor. There was lots of misery.” But her long association with the town granted her a valuable perspective. She described how, even with the conditions of village life now much improved, the good people of the town have kept their old-style positive character.**

**In the years following World War II certain things changed, I have to say. In the small villages, things are more civilized. That, yes. People have a better standard of living, more money. They have cars, houses, bathrooms inside the house, running water in the house as well. In former times that did not exist. But people did not change.<sup>21</sup>**

**Even before modern amenities became available in Cerro al Volturno, Anna’s daughter Cleonice (IT – M) who grew up there, found ways to enjoy her small-town childhood. Cleonice’s daughter, Annamaria (IT – M), related,**

**When she was young, she liked to stay at home with her family. She lived in a very little town in Italy, and so she liked to stay with her friends and to go by bicycle a lot. . . She liked a lot to stay with her grandfather. . . She liked a lot to stay with him very close to the fire. And he told her a lot of his stories.<sup>22</sup>**

**Cleonice and her brother, Michele, also remembered enjoying celebrations every August (on the fourth Sunday) for the patron saint of Cerro al Volturno, Sant’Emidio.<sup>23</sup> According to Michele, “I remember all the country traditions. The corn harvest, the harvest of the oil, of grapes, wine makers. The country traditions.” He has continued the family tradition of making wine. “[My nephew] Carlo and I last week made wine. It is a family tradition that I love most: to make the new wine from the grapes. . . . Barrels. Grapes. The crush pad. This is a very, very good family tradition.”<sup>24</sup> His niece, Annamaria, noted that even today the family has striven to maintain their traditions:**

**In Italy it is really common to save the traditions of the family. Now a little bit less, but in the past, it was very common, like . . . for example, my grandfather Carlo makes the wine . . . by himself. My Uncle Michele now is making the wine by himself every year, like a tradition, so . . . we try to save these traditions. It’s not so easy.<sup>25</sup>**

## **Ceccano, Frosinone, Lazio (Giancini/D'Annibale)**



*Ceccano*

**Ceccano is 60 miles southeast of Rome, in the Province of Frosinone and the Region of Lazio, in central Italy near the western coast. Ceccano has been home to many of the families in Beatrice (G2 – M) (Giancini) Montrone’s ancestry. These include the D’Annibale and Ricci families, from at least the mid-18th century and her Leo ancestors who settled in the area by the 17th century. Beatrice once mused, “In Ceccano, in this little town, they were happy to be there. They were not wanderers. If they came to America, they wanted to go right back to Ceccano. It was like a feudal town.”<sup>26</sup>**

**Box 1.4 The Sacco River: Life Blood of Ceccano**

The main businesses in town during the 1800s were two pulp mills, a paper mill, three oil mills, and two factories manufacturing wagons and carriages. The population was steadily growing upwards from its 7,000 citizens in 1871.<sup>27</sup> Perched on a hill overlooking the Sacco River valley, with the most ancient buildings nearest to the top, Ceccano now has a population of just over 23,000.

**Box 1.5 The Leo Family, Giancini Ancestors**

David (G2 - M) Giancini said of this close-knit area, “All of the little places that they built, I knew all of them because everything is four or five kilometers from one another. You know, Frosinone is nine kilometers from Ceccano. That’s only about four or five miles, one way or another. You understand. That’s the way the towns were there.”<sup>28</sup>

The father of Beatrice and David, Eugene (G1 – M) Giancini began his life in Rome in 1884 as an orphan (the orphanage gave

him the last name of Giancini). Eugene was adopted and brought to Ceccano by Luigi and Filomena Sebastianelli.

If Eugene hadn't been brought to Ceccano by his adoptive parents, he never would have met his future wife, Settimia (G1 - M) D'Annibale, who was born in Ceccano in 1889. The two wed there on December 12, 1907, and shortly thereafter Eugene began a series of journeys to America where the family would ultimately settle.

Before emigrating to America in 1920 with his mother, brother Dominick (G2 - M), and sister Beatrice, David Giancini spent his first twelve years playing in the remains from the era in which protecting the towns from attackers was necessary. He described it;

Where I come from, you heard about the closing [of the gate] at night so that the invaders wouldn't come in. We used to go to these secret underground passages [that we found] . . . going to school, like shortcuts downtown and so on. They were just big enough to carry the shield and the lance.

David also spoke of one way that he knew that Italian history and the history of the city-states intersected with his own area:

**There was a king over there [nearby to Rome]. Every town was [part of] a kingdom, and . . . when they had a hard time, they got grain from Ceccano.<sup>29</sup>**

**The most common surnames in Ceccano are Ciotoli, Masi, Tiberia, Del Brocco, and Maura.<sup>30</sup> Upon learning about her relationships to the Masi, Tiberia, De Santis, and Carlini families, Beatrice exclaimed, “All these names in Italy, in Ceccano, I think everybody’s related to everybody. You hear these names. I didn’t even know that we’re related!”<sup>31</sup>**

**Because of the hillside location, “the houses were at different levels” with steps (on the street) leading to different stories.<sup>32</sup> Eugene and Settimia’s rented home was “built into a terraced hillside about two doors away from Beatrice’s maternal grandparents—Fausta (Leo) and Giovanni D’Annibale (Paul’s maternal great grandparents).”<sup>33</sup>**

**Two generations later, another Fausta, David’s sister “Flo” (G2 – M), who was raised in America, returned to Ceccano in 1950 to marry a distant cousin, Tullio D’Annibale. She explained this phenomenon;**



**You're coming here, you're coming up here, and these are all steps. . . And here's the house there. . . The first floor you get in on these steps. Second floor you get in on these steps. . . The third floor on that step. . . Apartment buildings . . . Because then when you get to the top of these steps [there was] La Piazza de San Giovanni. That's where I was married. St. John's church. . . And on either side is all the stores. The butchers and all. . . Now Santa Maria de Fiume was not there when I was over there. There was an empty meadow. . . And they rebuilt it [later]. . . I should have been married at Santa Maria de Fiume, but I was married at San Giovanni because that's where they [her husband, Tullio, and the townspeople] were going.<sup>34</sup>**

**David reported that his family “did have some land, but the land wasn't big enough, you know what I mean, to supply whatever we needed. And then it used to be flooded [with the Sacco River nearly]. . . It would be fertile. We had a lot of fruit trees around, but you can't live only on fruit trees. You need something else.”**

**David's father, Eugene Giancini's, adoptive mother (Filomena Sebastianelli) “had a lot of land in the country, but this [Ceccano] was the town [where] they had a home. Because there weren't that many hotels then— small town—... so that would be their town [home]. It wasn't a large home, but it was a home that they**

could use when they came to the town.” According to Beatrice, in the early 1900s, a parcel of this land was purchased by Ceccano’s mayor, Pietro Masi. Her mother’s family, headed by Giovanni, also had a few pieces of land. <sup>35</sup>

World War II brought significant devastation to Ceccano. For example, spanning the Sacco River is the Ceccano Bridge, which Flo (G2 – M) described “was an old, old bridge. It was historic, and they bombed it . . . during the war. But the Americans rebuilt it. . . And some of them lived on the one side and some on the other. Then the railroad was on the other side.”<sup>36</sup> David added that “the railroad was also the target of the bombing.”<sup>37</sup>

By the end of the war, more than 60 percent of the homes in Ceccano were destroyed. Like many other Italian cities, Ceccano rebuilt and recovered by the 1960s. Flo described some of the effects of the town’s rebuilding and some of the moving around caused by the war.

A lot of whatever they had was destroyed in the war. They rebuilt, and they were all like little stores. There was a guy selling cheese there in Ceccano. . . . We were buying cheese in Trenton (NJ) one day. He had the place next to the bakery, and I said, “Oh, I saw cheese like this in Italy.” And he says, “Oh, are you from Italy?” I

said, “I was married there.” He said, “Where?” And I said, “Ceccano.” He said, “I had a cheese store in Ceccano.” “When?” He told me. I says, “Get outta here. It was your cheese store I saw then.”<sup>38</sup>

Another site bombed during that time was the “huge estate” of Marquis Phillippe Berardi, where Eugene’s foster mother, Filomena Sebastianelli, worked. Eugene’s daughter Beatrice reminisced,

We lived across the street, as children. . . We were told there were a hundred rooms in the place. They had a private garden, and they had their own amusements, which we were allowed to use sometimes, like [a] merry-go-round. But that’s where she worked for them.<sup>39</sup>

Flo, Eugene’s middle daughter, added that the garden contained “animals. They had like a zoo. A private zoo.” His youngest daughter, Marie (G2 – M), was told by her brother David that;

Once a year, [the owners would] throw open the gates [of] the House of Berardi and let the kids in. [We] “went to this Marquis’s place. We used to go on the river, when it was low. You could go round and round the bridge and everything else and go right in. He had the big carousel, you know, with big horses and things. They had the

dough. The town must have had [at] the most a dozen people that were well-to-do, [with] lands or something like that.<sup>40</sup>

**During the war, both the majestic estates and more modest places suffered damage. According to David,**

Everything [was] all broken down to the plains past there. . . . The Allies, they found the darn place that's right over there. They even bombed the palace. . . . It was only four floors, but big floors because over there, they [wanted protection] from the heat and everything. [If] the water [went] high, they wanted it [to stay] dry. [Afterwards] they made all apartments for people.<sup>41</sup>

**Two saints are particularly associated with Ceccano: St. John the Baptist (San Giovanni Battista), the patron saint of the town, whose feast is celebrated June 24, and St. Paul of the Cross, who is said to have preached in the area in the mid-eighteenth century. David reported:**

You know St. Paul of the Cross, he had a good friend, a Ceccanese. His name was Chevelete, or something like that—you know, one of those names—or Angeles. Here we never [hear] a word about it. I have to come to America after seventy-five years to learn that St. Paul of the Cross passed on my town, the road there, and I stepped on the dirt that he stepped.<sup>42</sup>

**In fact, Angelo (G2 – M) Montrone and Beatrice honored this saint by naming their second born son after him. Paul adds, “It is a great honor.”**



## ***Part Two - History of Italy***

### ***700 BC to 1946 AD***

**This section is intended to provide a background to help explain the DNA we inherited from our ancestors who emigrated from Italy. This covers the period from 700 BC to 1946 AD, when Italy became a Republic.**

**As you will observe, the Italian peninsula (or boot), because of its projection into the center of the Mediterranean Sea, was a focal point for a multitude of tribes, kings, and emperors from a wide variety of geographic areas. Although there were long periods of peace, wars and chaos incessantly followed with the invasion of a seemingly unending series of different cultures.**

**In concentrating on the multitude of invasions of the Italic peninsula, one area that also impacted the heritage (and DNA) of our family relates to religion.**

**In that regard, one group that migrated to the peninsula thousands of years ago was the Jews. The earliest record of their presence was in 139 BC, preceding Christianity, and their**

migration continued on and off over the centuries that followed. This variation was a result of the relationship of the Jews to the ruling kings and emperors, which vacillated between positive and negative. On the positive side, by 500 AD, there were flourishing Jewish communities, especially in southern Italia.

With the rise of Christianity, and Catholicism in particular, and the growing power of the Papacy, the Jewish relationship to those in power was particularly tenuous. Two factors, the Crusades and the Spanish Inquisition, had serious effects on the Jewish people and the Italic population in general, including the Montrone ancestry (see Box 1.2 The D'Annibale Oral History Tradition).

On the other hand, the Jews were particularly astute at commerce, banking and international trade. This made them far more valuable to those in power, particularly in the growing city-states in the Middle Ages and beyond.

To give an illustration of who controlled the various areas of Italy (Italia before the unification) we have added a series of maps. Each represents an approximation of the occupants of Italia in the year shown. The names of the various current cities on the

**ancient maps are the cities of Paul and Sandra's heritage. They are there to show the history of these locations in Italia.**

**From 700 B.C. – Umbrians (Italic tribe), Etruscans (Italic tribe), Greeks, Romans, Carthaginians (African), Illyrians (a Balkan tribe)**

**Italia (the Italian peninsula) first appears in written records of the Greeks around 700 BC. Most of its inhabitants lived as farmers or herders in villages or small towns, and spoke European-type languages. Greek colonists established several city-states in south Italia and part of Sicily. These colonists brought Greek civilization to the Italic tribes along with its alphabet, Gods, styles of art and architecture, and other Greek ways. These were adapted much later into Roman culture, e.g., the assimilation of Greek Gods which then were given Roman names. However, except for the Mediterranean lands where the Greeks were flourishing, the majority of northern Europe was dominated by Celtic tribes, who originated in central Europe.**

**The Etruscans and Umbrians were the larger tribes in Italia and, until recently, historians believed they were indigenous to the**

peninsula. But DNA research done by a group of scholars at the University of Perugia have led many historians to now believe that these tribes originated in central Europe and then came to Italia mixing with other ethnic groups. Additional research studies on DNA, brought some historians to also believe that the Etruscan's originated in what is now western Turkey<sup>43</sup>.

The Etruscans reached their peak of power in about 500 BC, and were important in the history of Italia because historians believe that the Etruscans are basically the teachers of the Romans. "A lot of what the Romans did, and a lot of their beliefs, came from the Etruscans; " says Professor Yaroslav Gorbachov, a linguistics professor at the University of Chicago.<sup>44</sup> "So they are the teachers of our teachers."

In central Italia, the small city of Rome was trying to win its independence from the Etruscan domination and become its own new city republic occupied by "Romans". In 753 BC Romulus, the twin brother of Remus, and after whom Rome was named, is said to have outlined the holy boundary (Pomerium) of the city with an ox cart, which was both the Latin and the Etruscan custom for founding a city. According to the legend,

**when Remus crossed the Pomerium with his Etruscan army, Romulus killed him.**

**The twin brothers were Rea Silvia's sons, and she was the daughter of Numitore, Latin king of Albalonga (not far from Rome), which brought most historians to believe Romulus and Remus were Latin (inhabitants of the current region of Lazio), as we read, for example, in Virgilio's Eneide. Not all historians agree on that though, and some of them assert they were Etruscans.**

**During the same time period, the Carthaginians, who had immigrated from northern Africa, inhabited the islands of Sardinia and part of Sicily. The Illyrians, a tribe who inhabited land in the western part of the Balkan Peninsula (to the east of Italia) also migrated to Italia around this time into Venetia (current day Venice) and Apulia (current day Puglia), but the Etruscans maintained control of this area.**

### **Map 3 – 500 BC**



**From 400 BC – Celtics (Gauls), Teutonics (Germans), Romans, Greeks, Carthaginians (Africans), Samnites (Italic tribe), Umbrians (Italic tribe)**

**After 400 BC, there were major changes in Italia. First, the Celtic tribes, known to the Romans as Gauls, expanded into the northern areas of Italia. The Gauls, assisted by the Teutonics, a German tribe, began to expel the Etruscans, and sent their raiding parties deep into the peninsula. The Gauls reached Rome and all but destroyed the city, before heading back north. This was a traumatic experience for the early Romans.**

**After this regional change, the small city of Rome started to gain independence from Etruscan domination and to expand its reach, beginning with the capture of Veii, a city north of Rome, from the Etruscans in 396 B.C. After this victory, Rome was established as a new city-republic.**

**Meanwhile, the various Greek tribes expanded their territory in southern Italia to include the island of Sardinia.**

**At the same time, another Italic tribe, the Samnites, first appeared to historians around 400 BC. They were a warlike**

tribal people, probably coming from Sabine, in the Apennine Mountains in central Italia, near Rome. It is unclear if they took control of this area from the Umbrians or if they were an Umbrian tribe.

### **Map 4 – 400 BC**

The Samnites turned out to be one of the Roman's greatest rivals. The Samnite Wars, there were three in total, were fought between the Roman Republic and the Samnites between 343 BC and 290 BC. Although the Samnites proved to be Rome's most formidable rivals at that time, the Great Samnite Wars finally ended in Rome's victory.<sup>45</sup>

### **From 300 BC -- Roman Expansion**

In addition to the long fierce wars against the Samnite, the Romans also fought the Umbrian hill tribes, and they conquered Etruscan and Greek city-states. Taranto (of Greek origin) and Vulsinii (of Etruscan origin) were the last cities to surrender to the Romans respectively in 272 and 265 BC. In approximately

**250 BC, the Roman Republic also took control of the island of Corsica in the Tyrrhenian Sea.**

**The Romans also fought three wars against the Carthaginians from northern Africa. These were known as the Punic Wars.**

**The First Punic War, 264-241 BC, took place mostly in Sicily and northern Africa. This resulted in the Carthaginians being pretty much pushed out of Italia except for a very small area at the tip of the island of Sicily. Sicily then became the first Roman Province.**

**The Second Punic war, 218-202 BC, took place all over Italy, starting north and then down to Cannae in present day Puglia area. It began when Carthaginian General Hannibal, left Spain in 218 BC, and returned to Italia, leading a formidable army over the Alps during the treacherous winter in order to invade Italia from the north in what historian Michael Grant calls “the most terrible of all Rome’s struggles.”<sup>46</sup> Rome was defeated by Hannibal in both Trebia in northern Italia and lake Trasimene in the Umbrian region in central Italia.**

**The Second Punic war lasted 16 years during which Hannibal's armies took a toll on Rome's resources and men, with the Battle of Cannae (now present-day Puglia) representing the greatest defeat in Roman history. However, the allies of Rome mostly held firm in their loyalty to the Romans even in the face of Hannibal's devastating invasion.**

**After losing several battles, Roman consul, Claudius Nero, turned things around by using Hannibal's own tactics against him and forced Hannibal and the Carthaginian Empire to return to north Africa.**

### **From 200 BC -- The Roman Empire**

**By 200 BC, throughout Europe and primarily in Italia, there was a new power on the rise, Rome. The Romans first expanded their power to control almost all of Italia, especially across the central and southern areas. This marked the beginning of Roman domination and what was eventually to become The Roman Empire. The free inhabitants of Italia enjoyed full Roman citizenship and provided Rome with the bulk of its soldiers and officials.**

**Map 5 – 200 BC**

**The Third Punic war, against the Carthagians, began in 149 BC. The Romans, led by Scipio the Younger, captured and destroyed the entire African city of Carthage in 146 BC, turning Africa into yet another province of the growing Roman Empire.**

**In northern Italia and in Europe, the Celtic tribes still held strong and were responsible for pushing the Etruscans out of northern Italia. The Celts would prove to be a force for the Romans in later years.**

**Pursuing a far-sighted policy, Rome did not treat defeated opponents as conquered peoples, but formed them into a confederation of allies under her leadership. A network of roads and colonies underpinned Roman control of the peninsula. Rome's allies provided troops for the great wars Rome would lead, ultimately helping to reach its absolute power in the Mediterranean Sea.**

**Over the next 200 years Rome continued to expand its domination of all of Italia, as well as western Europe and the**

**Mediterranean. Its empire encompassed Spain, Gaul, parts of north Africa, Greece and parts of the Middle East. Troops provided by Rome's Italic allies played their part in Rome's conquests.**

**As its overseas empire grew, however, Rome behaved more and more arrogantly towards her allies in Italia. This led the people of the hills of central Italia to demand full Roman citizenship, which had already been a cause of conflicts in the past, so much so that between 90 and 88 BC these previous Italic allies took up arms in the so-called Social War. The Roman Senate quickly granted full citizenship to all Italic people living south of the Po River valley.**

**After many victories, in 46 BC, Caesar was named dictator of Rome. To secure his position, he needed an heir. With no son of his own, he adopted Octavian (Augustus Caesar). Plans to assassinate Caesar are attested to as early as the summer of 45 BC, and in fact, on the Ides of March of 44 BC, he was murdered by a conspiracy. Augustus Caesar was just age 19, but immediately threw himself into the backstabbing world of**



**Roman politics, even though at this time Rome seemed to be flourishing compared to the rest of the world.**

## **Map 6 – 30 BC**

### **From 27 BC – The High Roman Empire Period**

**After many continuing conflicts, in 27 BC Augustus Caesar "restored" the Republic of Rome, though he himself retained all real power as the princeps, or "first citizen" of Rome. Later in that same year, despite being a Republic, the Roman Empire was founded when Augustus Caesar proclaimed himself the first Emperor of Rome.<sup>47</sup> This began what is known as the High Roman Empire Period.**

**From that point on, the Roman Empire grew into the most extensive political and social structure in western civilization, ruling most of Europe. It also included most of the territory surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, including western Asia and North Africa. By 200 AD, Italia had seen more than two centuries of almost unbroken peace and for the most part the Roman Empire brought peace and expanded commerce.**

**In 212 AD Emperor Antoninus Caracalla issued an edict, known as the Antonine Constitution, which gave Roman citizenship to all the free people who were settled in the Roman Empire.**

### **From 235 AD – Empire Crisis Period and Formation of the Eastern & Western Empires**

**As a result of its size, over time the absolute power of Rome, capital of the Empire, was weakened. After 235 AD Rome's main priority became defending its borders from the continuous attacks by the Barbarians (from Eastern Europe) and from the Sasanians (from Persia). This was known as the period of crisis due to invasions, internal wars, economic decline and the plague, which caused a reduction of the Empire population (70 million in 250 AD, 50 million in 270 AD). More important, its population was unable to replace itself, which quite alarmed the imperial government.**

**As a consequence of these constant wars, the Roman army was very expensive to maintain, and thus the Empire became crippled with debts up to insolvency. This in turn impoverished the population and many lost their identity and**

**values. Furthermore, many citizens began to doubt their Pagan Polytheism religious beliefs, especially with the arrival of new Christian doctrines from the East.**

**Because of its sprawling geography, in 285 AD, the Emperor Diocletian decided that the Roman Empire had grown so much that it was difficult to rule from one central location. So, he divided the Empire into the Western Roman Empire, ruled by Rome, and the Eastern Roman Empire, ruled by the ancient city of Byzantium. Diocletian abdicated in 305 AD when he became seriously ill. Since he had no sons, chaos and competition emerged between a series of successor Emperors on each side of the divided Empire.**

**During this time, Italia's traditional economic activities, such as manufacturing, agriculture and trade also started to suffer an increasingly deeper crisis until they collapsed completely, creating a long period of instability and the end of the High Roman Empire Period.**

**Map 7 – 300 AD****From 300 AD – The Low Roman Empire Period**

**The next era was The Low Empire Period. In 288 AD, Constantine assumed power of the Western Roman Empire, and became one of the most important emperors ever to rule. In 324 AD, he confronted and defeated Emperor Licinius, then the ruler of the Eastern Roman Empire, and became the sole Emperor. He then renamed Byzantine to Constantinople and made it the imperial capital of the entire Empire.**

**As another of his major changes, Constantine instituted Christianity as the official religion of the Empire (Edict of Milan, 313 AD). His mother, who had converted to Christianity, is reputed to have influenced this decision.**

**Constantine's re-unification of the Empire was ultimately reversed by the Emperor Theodosius, who, prior to his death in 395 AD, divided the ruling between his two sons Arcadius and Honorius, once again creating the Western Roman Empire**

**(Italia, Spain, Gaul, Britain and North Africa) and the Eastern Roman Empire (Greece, Illyria, and Asia).**

**From 400 AD -- Gradual Deterioration of The Roman Empire; Goths, Huns, Ostrogoths, Vandals, Byzantines, Lombards, Avars**

**In 370 AD there was a major barbarian attack when a large horde of Goths (Goths were a nomadic Germanic tribe) devastated large territories in the Balkans, just east of northern Italia. The Gothic invasion was caused by turmoil in eastern Europe. Fiercer than the Goths, were the Huns, who were a nomadic people who historians believe were part of the Hunnic tribes of Central Asia. Led by King Attila (known as Attila the Hun) they caused major damage to the Eastern Roman Empire.**

**Then around 376 AD the Huns invaded the Goths, pushing the Goths further into the Western Roman Empire. This western movement of the much-feared Huns caused major problems for the Western Roman Empire. The Huns eventually established themselves as the rulers of various Germanic tribes and from there were able to carry out destructive raids on other Western Roman Empire territories.**

**In 451 AD the Goths allied with the Romans and the joint Roman-Gothic army defeated King Attila and the Hun confederation, but the damage to the Roman Empire had already impacted much of their territory.**

**Finally, in 476 AD, the Western Roman Empire was overthrown by the Germanic leader Odoacer who was previously a soldier in the Roman army that had revolted against Emperor Romulus Augustulus because of his treatment of the army. The last emperor of the west was then dispatched to Constantinople and Odoacer was proclaimed King of Italy.**

**Afterward (488 AD), the Eastern Emperor Zeno, saw Odoacer as a rival, so he allied with the Ostrogoths (an east Germanic tribe and a branch of the Goths<sup>48</sup>) and pitted the Ostrogoth Theodoric the Great against Odoacer. Theodoric repeatedly defeated Odoacer and killed him in 493 AD, and the Ostrogoths took control of Rome and virtually all of Italia. Despite their opportunistic alliance, tensions remained between the Ostrogoths and the Roman Empire. But Roman law and civil government remained in place.**



**Other German tribes then took control of other parts of Italia. The Vandals (a Germanic people who first inhabited what is now southern Poland<sup>49</sup>) took control of the islands of Sardinia, Corsica and part of Sicily. In the north, the Visigoths (a Germanic tribe and a branch of the Goths) and the Burgundians (generally thought to be a Germanic people<sup>50</sup>) took territories that had been under the rule of other Gothic tribes.**

### **Map 8 – 500 AD**

**Although these conflicts virtually destroyed the Western Roman Empire, the Eastern Roman Empire (also referred to as the Byzantine Empire) remained prosperous. The provinces there were considered the wealthiest in the empire and the Graeco-Roman civilization carried on.<sup>51</sup> Over time, however, the Eastern Roman Empire suffered enormous territorial losses. In 535 AD, despite these losses, Emperor Justinian of the renamed Byzantine Empire, ordered his forces to bring Italia back under imperial control by removing the Ostrogoths and reestablishing the Western Roman Empire.**

**The resulting wars between the Byzantines and the Ostrogoths lasted almost twenty years and were a disaster for Italia. The Roman cities of Italia, above all Rome itself, suffered terribly and shrank to a fraction of their former size. These decades effectively marked the end of Roman prominence, and the capital of what remained of the Western Roman Empire was relocated to Ravenna.**

**Emperor Justinian, however, did succeed in conquering some parts of Italia and former Roman Empire lands in northern Africa and southern Spain, with a series of campaigns ranging from approximately 535 to 552 AD. But this victory was short lived. Between 568 – 569 AD another German tribe, the Lombards led by King Alboin, swept down and conquered much of the peninsula leaving Italia divided between the Lombards and the Byzantines.**

**At that time, the bishop of Rome, the Pope, became the effective ruler of Rome, as he had the support of the populace. The Lombards continued to pose a potent threat to the Byzantines, and their army also began threatening Rome.**

**Then yet another threat loomed. In 610 AD, the Avars, a nomadic people coming from the eastern steppes of Mongolia in Asia, led a coalition of Slavic tribes in a full-scale attack on Roman territory causing the Eastern Roman Empire to lose control of huge areas of land in the Balkans. This was another part of the ancient Roman urban civilization which was fast vanishing as once great cities were reduced to villages. In 626 AD, the Avars tried to conquer Italia, but failed and the Lombards remained as their primary rulers, especially in the north. The Avars also tried to conquer Constantinople but Emperor Heraclius pushed them back.**

### **Map 9 – 750 AD**

**From 750 AD – Charlemagne, Papal States, Holy Roman Empire, Kingdom of Italy, Normans (Vikings), Kingdom of Sicily**

**Meanwhile beginning in 750 AD a new dynasty was taking shape in western Europe, the Carolingian Dynasty. This Frankish kingdom eventually led by their great King Charlemagne, conquered far into Germany and central Europe. In 774 he conquered a large part of the Lombard kingdom, taking control**

**of northern Italia. He pushed what was left of the Western Roman Empire and the remaining Lombard control deeper into the southern part of the peninsula. In addition to Italia, in 788 AD Charlemagne conquered the southern German territory of Bavaria and in 795 AD he defeated the Avars in Eastern Germany.**

**The Carolingians had a close link with pope Leo III in Rome and Helped to uphold his status as the leader of the Catholic Church of western Europe. Charlemagne gave much of the conquered Lombards' territory in central Italia to the Pope, thus founding the principality known as the Papal States which was codified in 781 AD.**

**In the north, Charlemagne convinced the Pope to crown him Holy Roman Emperor which also allowed him to claim he had reconstituted the Roman Empire in the west. With the later decline in Frankish power, the Papal States emerged as independent, with the Pope as their ruler.**

**In 814 AD Charlemagne died and his son Louis the Pious succeeded him. In 822 AD, Louis' first son Lothair became King of his newly formed Kingdom of Italy. In 843 AD, with the Treaty**

of Verdun, the then named Roman Empire was divided into three kingdoms (western, middle and eastern); Lothair retained sovereignty until 855 AD, when he abdicated to become a monk (dying 6 days later) and the three kingdoms were taken over by his three sons. All three kingdoms gradually dissipated.

In southern Italy, the Lombards, led by Duke Arichis II of Benevento, were able to hold onto some of their territory but that area was soon fragmented into several states which were constantly fighting with each other.

The Eastern Roman Empire, or Byzantine Empire, managed to survive and was able to retain control of some areas of southern Italia and also reconquer some of the territory the Roman Empire had previously lost, especially in the Balkans.

### **Map 10 – 950 AD**

In northern Italia, beginning in the 950s AD, another major power arrived. The Kingdom of Italy was conquered by the German King Otto. This Kingdom became part of the huge political entity that was once again reconstituted as in the Holy

**Roman Empire, and in 962 AD King Otto became its Emperor. Later a new dynamic arose. In 1016 Norman (Viking) adventurers traveled from France to southern Italy, where they established themselves as mercenaries for the Lombard rebels attempting to overthrow Byzantine rule. By 1030, the Normans had become lords of Aversa (north of current Naples in southern Italy), and from there they set out to conquer all of southern Italy. By 1071, the Norman princes captured Bari (on the Adriatic Sea in southern Italy), the last Byzantine stronghold in Italy, bringing to an end to over five centuries of Byzantine rule in the south.**

**Meanwhile Sicily had become a centralized and wealthy state, but Byzantine and Arab elements failed to produce a brilliant culture. As a result, by 1091 the Normans captured Sicily, ending a century and a half of Arab rule over the island. In about 1130, the Normans founded the Kingdom of Sicily, led by Norman King Roger II.**

### **From 800 AD – The Rise of City-States**

**At the same time, a number of the cities of northern and central Italia became city-states. That is, they were areas of land that**



were ruled by the governing body of a large nearby city. Each city-state had its own government.

One of these was the maritime city of Venice. The earliest Venetians were actually Romans and Illyrians (from the Balkans). In the 400s to the 800s AD, waves of barbarian invasions (Lombards above all) swept the Venetians toward the lagoon, where they found refuge. They wanted to live free and those who survived made every effort to make their new home in the water (their main activities were fishing and salt production) and to build a new city, Venice. In the 800s AD, Venice had emerged as an effectively independent city-state under its Duke (Doge) and ruling Council. It experienced a great commercial expansion in this period, coming to dominate the Adriatic trade, and became a powerful maritime empire independent of the Holy Roman Empire.

Some other northern cities of Italia, while still part of the Holy Roman Empire led by the German king, were growing in wealth and power. These cities experienced a vigorous expansion of trade and industry which increased the economic power and self-confidence of the merchants and other urban classes. Milan and

**Florence developed trade contacts across Europe. While Genoa dominated many Mediterranean Sea routes.**

**These northern cities remained in a state of constant conflict as they were divided between the Pope and The Holy Roman Empire. At the Peace of Constance (1183), these cities' self-government was recognized, so long as they pledged sworn loyalty to the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and paid taxes.**

**During this period, Pisa and Genoa were competing city-states. In 1016, the island of Sardinia became part of the Republic of Pisa and the control of the island of Corsica was transferred to that powerful Republic in 1090 by Pope Urban II. It was his hope that this transfer would end the struggles between Pisa and Genoa, which also wanted Corsica, but it didn't.**

**Nominally, Genoa was ruled by the Holy Roman Emperor and the Bishop of Genoa was President of Genoa; however, actual power was wielded by a number of "consuls" annually elected by popular assembly. Genoa was one of the so-called "Maritime Republics" (Repubbliche Marinare}, along with Venice, Pisa, and Amalfi. Trade, shipbuilding and banking helped to give Genoa**

**one of the largest and most powerful navies in the Mediterranean.**

### **Map 11 – 1215 AD**

**Struggles for power between Genoa and Pisa went on for about 200 years, but Genoa eventually won the Battle of Meloria in 1284, and gained dominance over Pisa and the Tyrrhennian Sea, including the islands of Sardinia and Corsica. While this strengthened Genoa's role as a maritime power, it was not unchallenged. In 1297 James II of Aragon was declared to be the ruler of Sardinia, but the Aragonese did not exert actual power until they conquered the island (1323-24).<sup>52</sup>**

**Nonetheless, with the development of large-scale international commerce and banking, Genoa, along with Florence and Venice, began to take the lead. This increased the economic power of the merchant classes and their wealth helped to fund the increasing number of mercenary armies which fought the inter-city wars of the period. In fact, in 1406, Pisa succumbed to Florence.**

**Milan, Florence (by 1434 under the domination of the Medici family) and Venice expanded their territories to become substantial regional powers, while Venice and Genoa, bitter commercial rivals, continued to dominate the sea-lanes of the Mediterranean.**

**The independent city-states such as Florence, Venice, and Milan continued to create a class of affluent businessmen and became more and more independent. Florence, for example, was a republic, like ancient Rome. This meant that the citizens elected their own leaders. Meanwhile, the Papal States had fallen into near-anarchy as local tyrants seized power from papal officials.**

**In the south, Frederick II (1212-1250), who inherited the Norman throne, brought the government of the Kingdom of Sicily to a peak of centralized administrative efficiency, quite unknown elsewhere in Europe. After him, weakness and instability set in, and another major change took place in the south. It began with the War of the Sicilian Vespers between the Spanish Aragon and the French, with Sicily on the side of Aragon. In 1282, the Spanish gained supremacy over the Kingdom of Sicily (encompassing Sicily and southern Italia) and the Spanish**

**Kingdom of Aragon also began its rule over what became known as The Kingdom of Naples.**

### **From 1350 - The Renaissance and French vs. Spanish Habsburgs**

**It was the wealth and competitive spirit of the northern city-dwellers that, beginning in the late 1300s, fueled the launch of the cultural movement later known as the Renaissance. The Renaissance would eventually spread to northern Europe, but it was in Italia that this cultural rebirth truly flowered.**

**The wealthy merchants and businessmen in Florence had the money to hire artisans and craftspeople. This inspired competitions among artists and thinkers. Art began to flourish with Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael and Michelangelo as creative leaders; and new thoughts began to emerge from thought leaders Copernicus, Kepler and Galileo, and philosophers Lorenzo de' Medici, Petrarch and Machiavelli.**

### **Map 12 – 1450 AD**

**In 1494, once again, peace in Italia collapsed with the invasion by King Charles VIII of France. This was caused by the continuing**

**struggle for power between the French monarchs and the Spanish Habsburg monarchies as they made conflicting claims to the throne of the southern Kingdom of Naples. The wars between the two powers lasted more than a half of a century and led to incessant conflict between the southern states.**

**This intense rivalry also resulted in the terrible sack of Rome by Habsburg troops in 1527 and drew in neighboring states with consequent misery and loss of independence. In 1559, The treaty of Cateau-Cambresis imposed Spanish Habsburg dominance in Italia, including the Kingdom of Naples. The only significant states which retained their independence were Tuscany (now a Grand duchy under the Medici), the Dukedom of Savoy, and the Republic of Venice.**

**The Spanish Habsburg monarchs imposed their authority over their large kingdom beyond Italia. In fact, it was the Spanish crown that sponsored the voyages of Christopher Columbus in 1492, who discovered a whole new landmass which later was named “America”.**

**The Republic of Venice remained an important Mediterranean power, but its position in the eastern Mediterranean was being**



**progressively whittled down by the Ottoman Empire, a fierce Turkish tribe (one of the largest empires in history). In 1453, the Ottoman Empire captured the city of Constantinople, which was then the capital of what was left of the Byzantine Empire. At one time it looked as though the Ottoman navy would dominate the entire Mediterranean Sea, but in 1571 at the Battle of Lepanto the Spanish, Venetia and Papal forces rallied together to stop the Ottoman expansion in the Mediterranean. Although This was the first major loss for the Ottoman Empire and it contained their expansion. The Ottoman wars in Europe would continue for another century.**

### **From 1500 – Reformation – Spanish Bourbons, Austrian Habsburgs, Enlightenment**

**Over time, the Reformation (the 16<sup>th</sup> century religious upheaval that splintered Europe) created deep conflicts between Protestants and Roman Catholics. The Catholic Habsburgs, tried to overcome Protestant states, like Sweden, Denmark and parts of Germany. However, France, although Catholic, continued to maintain a conflictual position toward the Habsburgs in Spain striving for hegemony in Europe. This resulted in the Thirty Years**

**War (1618-1648) which set the stage for a weakening of Spanish power. Although some battles were fought in Milan and Piemonte, the conflict did not spread much into Italia. But there were some important consequences after the war and a certain decadence started throughout Italia.**

**Towards the end of the 1600s, Spain was beginning to lose its stronghold. France and Sweden had made territorial gains and were now two of Europe's leading nations. Portugal and the Dutch Republic had also won their freedom from Spain.**

**But the Habsburg family had two dynasties, Spanish and Austrian. In Italia, the Austrian Hapsburgs gained much of the territory that the Spanish Habsburgs had previously ruled, including Naples, Milan, and Sardinia.**

**Then some territorial swapping ensued. In 1721, Sardinia was given to the independent Savoy, and Austria received Sicily. This situation was partially reversed when, in 1734, the Spanish Bourbons (a European dynasty of French origin) gave Tuscany to the Austrian Habsburgs, and in return received Naples and Sicily, forming the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. The only two Italia states to retain their independence were Savoy, whose duke**

**was made the King of Sardania (including Piedmont), and the Venetian Republic.**

### **Map 13 – 1750 AD**

**In parallel with these political changes, by the early 1700s, the period of the Reformation had morphed into one of Enlightenment and the Scientific Revolution. This period emphasized reason and science, fostering many new scientific discoveries and ideas on what was important in art, philosophy and politics.**

**Despite these political upheavals, the Italic people continued to develop their artistic talents. In the early 1600s Baroque art emerged in Rome. Baroque art was much more dramatic in grandeur than Renaissance or Mannerism art that had characterized the previous century. It incorporated various disciplines such as architecture, music, paintings, and sculptures which continued until the late 1700s. The popularity of this art moved quickly and spread through most of Europe.**

**Art and culture had become significant for wealthy aristocrats and "Grand Tours" across Europe became popular and**

**fashionable among young people of means who would undertake cultural pilgrimages in a search for arts and culture at a time when the world was not connected and there was much curiosity about it.**

**Since Italia was considered a highly cultural region and famous for its art and historic buildings, travelers would spend longer period of time there. Turin, Florence, Rome, Pompeii and Venice would be amongst the cities most visited, generally enticing those into extended stays.**

### **From 1790 - Revolutions and the Italian Independence Movement**

**After 1789 Europe experienced more than a quarter of a century of near-constant wars. No country, including Italia, was left untouched. With the decline of Spanish power, the French and Austrians continued as important forces in Italia. At one time or another during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars (1793-1815), all of Italia except Sicily came under French rule.**

**In 1814 the states of Europe allied themselves to defeat Napoleon. The Italic states that the French controlled soon followed suit and**

**allied with Austria against him. As part of 1814/1815 congress & subsequent settlement, Italia was restored close to where it was in 1795. Austria's pre-war dominance of northern Italia was confirmed and Venice was added to its territories. Southern Italia and the Kingdom of Two Sicilies remained under the rule of the Spanish Bourbon monarchy. The only state left under rulers of native Italic origin was that of the House of Savoy, which included Piedmont-Sardinia.**

### **Map 14 – 1815 AD**

**After 1815 however, the movement for independence and unity of the Italic states was growing and there was a rise in pan-Italic and anti-Austrian feeling. Revolutionary groups such as the Carbonari became active, and a number of insurrections occurred throughout Italia in the 1820's and 30's.**

**The nationalists wanted all of Italia as one nation with a single identity, named Italy. Despite the diversity of ethnic ancestry, they were seeking to promote the cultural unity of Italy as a country. From a nationalist perspective, Italianness was defined**

as claiming cultural and ethnic descent from the Latins, as well as other ethnic groups.

Italian nationalism is often thought to trace its origins to the Renaissance, but it actually only arose as a political force much later in the 1830s under the leadership of Giuseppe Mazzini. Mazzini was a politician, journalist and an activist for the unification of Italy. Throughout his life, he founded and supported revolutionary groups who sought to free Italia of foreign powers and unite the different states. The Italian nationalists and revolutionary groups like them served as a cause for Risorgimento (Rising Again) in the 1860s to 1870s.

From 1850 – Unification, Risorgimento (Rising Again), the Kingdom of Italy (1861), and the Republic of Italy (1946)

The Risorgimento was the political movement that strove to unify the peninsula into a single nation of Italy. This resulted in a wave of revolutions that broke out throughout the peninsula. In early 1849 the Italian nationalist leaders Giuseppe Garibaldi and Giuseppe Mazzini seized Rome from the Pope and declared it a republic. However, a few months later the French arose once again, and the new president of the French Republic, Louis-

**Napoleon, sent troops to occupy Rome and hand it back to the Pope. At this time all the nationalist movements were crushed by the Napoleon or Austrian forces.**

**The failure of these revolutions brought the statesman Camillo Benso, Conte di Cavour (known to most as simply "Cavour"), the prime minister of Piedmont-Sardinia, to center stage. By skillful diplomacy, he brought France into a war against Austria alongside Piedmont-Sardinia (1858-1859), which ended up with Piedmont-Sardinia in control of most of northern and central Italia. It was hoped that he would perform a similar role for the rest of the peninsula. A brilliant and steadfast diplomat, he played a leading role in the unification and creation of Italy.**

**The next year (1860) a rag-tag army under the inspirational Garibaldi landed in Sicily and swept all before it as it occupied that island and then marched on to Naples. The king of Piedmont-Sardinia, Victor Emmanuel II, of the House of Savoy, then moved south with his army and joined forces with Garibaldi in Teano, near Naples, to dominate that area.**

### **Box 1.6 Montrone vs. Garibaldi – Hiding the Horses**



**As a result, after many difficulties, most of the states of the Italian peninsula and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies were united and the Kingdom of Italy was then officially proclaimed on March 17, 1861. It was a constitutional monarchy with a parliament, and with Victor Emmanuel II as its first King.**

### **Map 15 – 1861 AD**

**In 1866 Italy became an ally of Prussia in the Austro-Prussian war of that year and was rewarded by being given Venetia; and in 1870, the Italian army annexed Rome and the Papal States. These additions gave Italy roughly its modern boundaries, and the city of Rome became the Italian capital.**

**The Kingdom of Italy lasted until civil discontent with the monarchy arose. This resulted in an institutional referendum on June 2 of 1946 and the Republic of Italy was then proclaimed (see Map 1).**

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<sup>1</sup> Cleonice (Battista) Altomare [via daughter Annamaria Altomare], daughter of Anna (Buontempo) Battista and granddaughter of Philomena (Montrone) Buontempo, interview by Rhonda R. McClure, July 2011, transcript held by Paul Montrone

<sup>2</sup> Domenico, *The Regions of Italy: A Reference Guide of History and Culture*, 352.

<sup>3</sup> “Storia della Ceramica Gualdese,” online at [www.roccaflea.com/](http://www.roccaflea.com/) : accessed 30 January 2014.

<sup>4</sup> Frank Thomas Gaudenzi, son of Francesco and Mary (Cavagnaro) Gaudenzi, interview by Brian O’Connell, transcribed 5 August 1996, transcript held by Paul (G3) Montrone.

<sup>5</sup> Stephanie Longo, *Italians of Northeastern Pennsylvania* (Arcadia Publishing, 2004), 80.

<sup>6</sup> Domenico, *The Regions of Italy: A Reference Guide of History and Culture*, 155.

<sup>7</sup> Natalie Ann Cavagnaro, Frank Gaudenzi, and Teresa Giovanni Perugini, interview by Brian O’Connell, transcribed 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

- <sup>8</sup> Natalie Ann Cavagnaro, Frank Gaudenzi, and Teresa Giovanni Perugini, interview by Brian O’Connell, transcribed 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>9</sup> Natalie Ann Cavagnaro, Frank Gaudenzi, and Teresa Giovanni Perugini, interview by Brian O’Connell, transcribed 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>10</sup> Natalie Ann Cavagnaro, Frank Gaudenzi, and Teresa Giovanni Perugini, interview by Brian O’Connell, transcribed 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>11</sup> <http://www.miniereromagna.it/en/> 28 July 2018
- <sup>12</sup> <http://www.comune.sassoferrato.an.it/zf/index.php/storia-comune> 1 January 2018
- <sup>13</sup> Olga (Emiliani) Gaudenzi, daughter of Iginio and Giovanna (Mercanti) Emiliani, interview by Brian O’Connell, 21 August 1995, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>14</sup> “Storia della citta’,” online at [www.sassoferratocultura.it/storia\\_della\\_citta.htm](http://www.sassoferratocultura.it/storia_della_citta.htm) : 9 February 2014.
- <sup>15</sup> Email from Michele Battista (Paul Montrone’s 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin) 24 May 2019, email held by Paul Montrone
- <sup>16</sup> Atto di morte, Francesco Branco, 1841, numero d’ordine 254, Comune di Campobasso (FHL microfilm 142492).
- <sup>17</sup> Estratto per riosunto di Atto di Matrimonio, Angelo Ventrone and Anna Carmela Branco, 1881, numero d’ordine 38, Comune di Bojano.
- <sup>18</sup> Anna (Buontempo) Battista, daughter of Salvatore and Filomena (Montrone) Buontempo, translation of interview by Rhonda R. McClure, 2 October 2011, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>19</sup> Translation of handwritten narrative supplied by Anna (Buontempo) Battista to Rhonda McClure, during visit to Rome, October 2011.
- <sup>20</sup> Anna (Buontempo) Battista, niece of Antonio Montrone, interview by Rhonda R. McClure, 2 October 2011, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>21</sup> Anna (Buontempo) Battista, granddaughter of Angelo Montrone, translation of interview by Rhonda R. McClure, 2 October 2011, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>22</sup> Cleonice (Battista) Altomare [via daughter Annamaria Altomare], daughter of Anna (Buontempo) Battista and granddaughter of Philomena (Montrone) Buontempo, interview by Rhonda R. McClure, July 2011, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>23</sup> Cleonice (Battista) Altomare [via daughter Annamaria Altomare], daughter of Anna (Buontempo) Battista and granddaughter of Philomena (Montrone) Buontempo, interview by Rhonda R. McClure, July 2011, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>24</sup> Michele Battista, son of Anna (Buontempo) Battista, interview by Rhonda R. McClure, 2 October 2011, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>25</sup> Annamaria Altomare, granddaughter of Carlo Battista, interview by Rhonda R. McClure, July 2011, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>26</sup> Beatrice (Giancini) Montrone, daughter of Eugenio and Settimia (D’Annibale) Giancini, interview by Brian O’Connell, undated, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>27</sup> “Ceccano” (<http://www.laciociaria.it/comuni/ceccano.htm> : accessed 30 January 2014).
- <sup>28</sup> David/Diodato Giancini, son of Eugenio Giancini, interview by Brian O’Connell, 25 July 1995, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>29</sup> David/Diodato Giancini, son of Eugenio Giancini, interview by Brian O’Connell, 25 July 1995, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>30</sup> “The common family names in the municipality of Ceccano,” online at <http://italia.indettaglio.it/eng/lazio/ceccano.html> : accessed 29 January 2014.
- <sup>31</sup> Beatrice (Giancini) Montrone, daughter of Eugenio and Settimia (D’Annibale) Giancini, interview by Brian O’Connell, undated, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>32</sup> Fausta (Giancini) D’Annibale and Marie (Giancini) Teot, children of Eugenio and Settimia (D’Annibale) Giancini, interview by Brian O’Connell, transcribed between 10 December 1996 and 21 April 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>33</sup> David/Diodato Giancini, son of Eugenio Giancini, interview by Brian O’Connell, 25 July 1995, transcript held by Paul Montrone; Sylvia (Ware) Montrone, Bea’s History, written as Beatrice (Giancini) Montrone’s introduction for the Elmcroft Staff.
- <sup>34</sup> Fausta (Giancini) D’Annibale and Marie (Giancini) Teot, children of Eugenio and Settimia (D’Annibale) Giancini, interview by Brian O’Connell, transcribed between 10 December 1996 and 21 April 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>35</sup> Beatrice (Giancini) Montrone, daughter of Eugenio Giancini, interview by Brian O’Connell, undated, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>36</sup> Fausta (Giancini) D’Annibale, daughter of Eugenio and Settimia (D’Annibale) Giancini, interview by Brian O’Connell, transcribed between 10 December 1996 and 21 April 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.
- <sup>37</sup> David/Diodato Giancini, brother of Fausta (Giancini) D’Annibale, interview by Brian O’Connell, 25 July 1995, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>38</sup> Fausta (Giancini) D'Annibale and Marie (Giancini) Teot, children of Eugenio and Settimia (D'Annibale) Giancini, interview by Brian O'Connell, transcribed between 10 December 1996 and 21 April 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>39</sup> Beatrice (Giancini) Montrone, daughter of Eugenio Giancini, interview by Brian O'Connell, undated, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>40</sup> Fausta (Giancini) D'Annibale and Marie (Giancini) Teot, children of Eugenio and Settimia (D'Annibale) Giancini, interview by Brian O'Connell, transcribed between 10 December 1996 and 21 April 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>41</sup> David/Diodato Giancini, brother of Fausta (Giancini) D'Annibale, interview by Brian O'Connell, 25 July 1995, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>42</sup> David/Diodato Giancini, son of Eugenio Giancini, interview by Brian O'Connell, 25 July 1995, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>43</sup> *"Where did the Etruscans Come from? The linguistic and genetic clues are Piling Up"* by Alina Simone 4/18/2016 lpri.org (public radio international) <https://www.pri.org/stories/2016-04-15/where-did-etruscan-people-come-we-still-dont-know-linguistic-and-genetic-clues>

<sup>44</sup> Same article as above.

<sup>45</sup> *"The Samnite Wars (341-290 B.C.)"*; [www.thelatinlibrary.com/imperial-ism/notes/samintewars](http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/imperial-ism/notes/samintewars)

<sup>46</sup> *"Hannibal's Invasion of Italy"* by Michael Grant; [www.shorthistory.org/ancienthistory/ancientRome](http://www.shorthistory.org/ancienthistory/ancientRome)

<sup>47</sup> *"Augustus I Biography, Accomplishments"*; <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Augustus-Roman-emperor>

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Ostrogoths>

<sup>49</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandals>

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.historyfiles.co.uk/KingListsEurope/FranceBurgundy.htm>

<sup>51</sup> Note: Based on the research done by Peter Britton, a highly regarded historian and author at TimeMaps [www.timemaps.com](http://www.timemaps.com)

Information on all the maps including the geographical boundaries come from 'Timemaps.com': Timemaps.com utilized renowned Peter Britton, a historian who has been producing and publishing digital history resources for some thirty years. The maps were created by Alexander Kent, a widely respected cartographer.

Information for this chapter was also gathered from the following sources; Britannica.com, italiaoutdoors.com, Wikipedia.com, nationalgeographic.com, historycollection.com, metmuseum.org and encyclopedia.com

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/place/Sardinia-island-Italy/Vandal-and-Byzantine-rule>

## Frequently Used Names in Chapter 1

### Montrone Lineage

<u>Code used in book</u>	<u>Birth Name</u>	<u>RELATIONSHIP</u>
Angelo (G2 - M)	Angelo Henry Montrone	P. Montrone's father
Antonio (G1 - M)	Antonio Giuseppe Montrone	P. Montrone's paternal grandfather
Beatrice (G2 - M)	Bice Mary Giancini	P. Montrone's mother
David (G2 - M)	Diodato D. Giancini	P. Montrone's maternal uncle
Dominick (G2 - M)	Domenico Stanislaus Giancini	P. Montrone's maternal uncle
Eugene (G1 - M)	Eugenio Alberto Giancini	P. Montrone's maternal grandfather
Flo (G2 - M)	Fausta Josephine Giancini	P. Montrone's maternal aunt
Maria (G1 - M)	Maria Carmina DeCristofaro	P. Montrone's paternal grandmother
Marie (G2 - M)	Marie A. Giancini	P. Montrone's maternal aunt
Paul (G3 - M)	Paul Michael Montrone	Sandra's husband
Settimia (G1 - M)	Settimia D'Annibale Giancini	P. Montrone's maternal grandmother

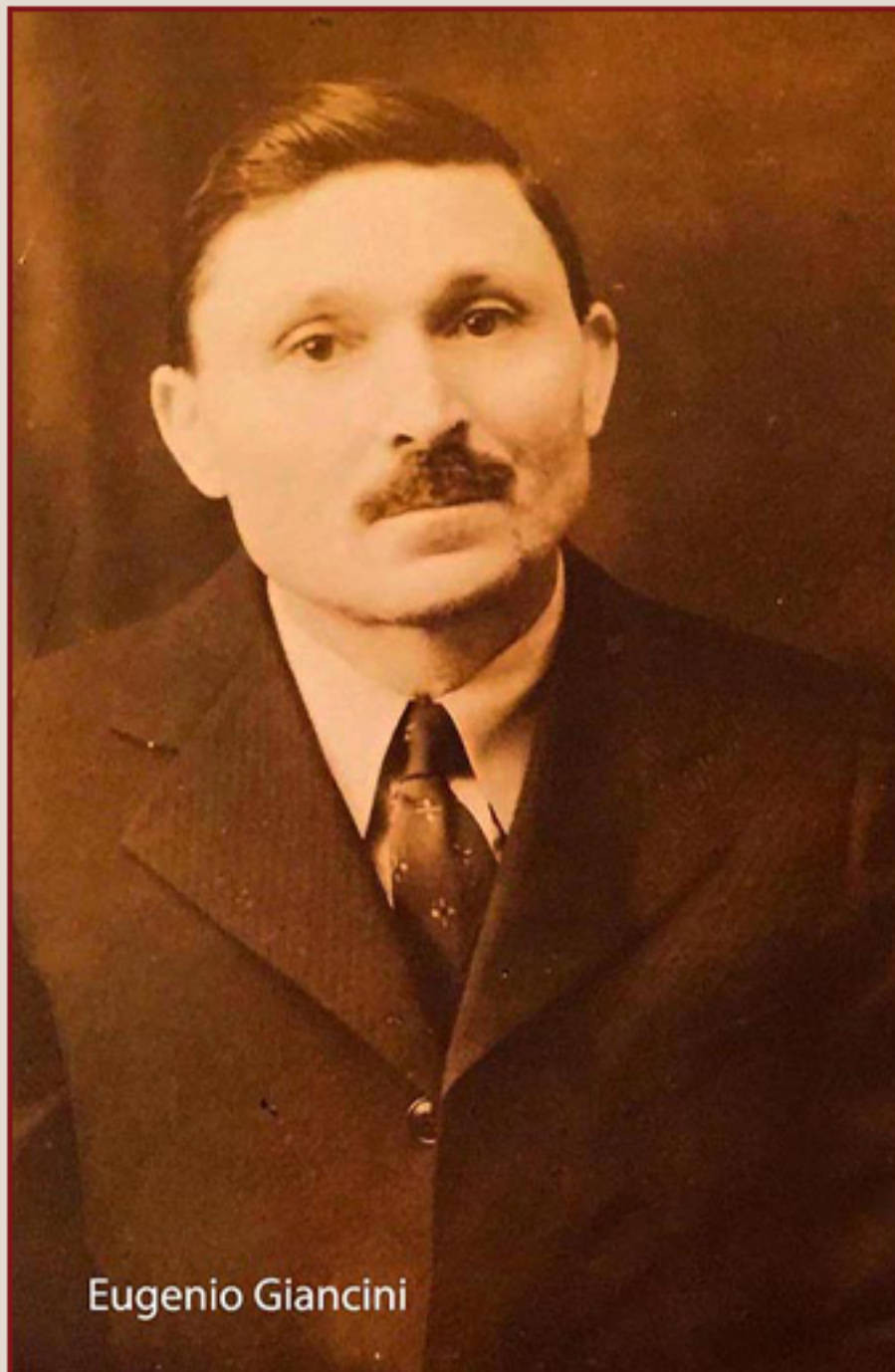
## Frequently Used Names in Chapter 1

### Gaudenzi Lineage

<u>Code used in book</u>	<u>Birth Name</u>	<u>RELATIONSHIP</u>
Francesco (G1 - G)	Francesco Ubaldo D. Gaudenzi	S. Montrone's paternal grandfather
Frank (G2 - G)	Frank Thomas Gaudenzi	S. Montrone's paternal uncle
Giovanna (G1 - G)	Giovanna Maria Mercanti	S. Montrone's maternal grandmother
Iginio (G1 - G)	Iginio Gino Emiliani	S. Montrone's maternal grandfather
Jerome (G2 - G)	Jerome Francis Gaudenzi	S. Montrone's father
Mary (G2 - G)	Mary M. Cavagnaro	S. Montrone's paternal grandmother
Natalie (G2- G)	Natalie Ann Cavagnaro	S. Montrone's distant cousin
Olga (G2 - G)	Olga Ann Emiliani	S. Montrone's mother
Sandra (G3 - G)	Sandra Rosalie Gaudenzi	Paul's wife

Box 1.1

# EUGENIO GIANCINI, ORPHAN



Eugenio Giancini

## **Box 1.1**

### **Eugenio (Eugene) Giancini, Orphan**

**Eugene (G1 - M) Giancini was an orphan and, despite many efforts, thus far Paul and Sandra have not been able to identify his parents and their heritage.**

**Beginning in 1985, Paul and Sandra hired Lineages, Inc., a firm specializing in genealogy research. Emma Urban was their leader for this project and spent considerable time in Italy researching Eugenio.**

**From the research, it appears that Eugene was born in S. Giovanni Hospital in Rome in January 1884, and on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 1884, was sent to the S. Spirito Orphanage.**



**Shortly thereafter, he was adopted by Luigi and Filomena Sebastianelli and taken to Ceccano.**

**Eugene's daughter, Flo (G2 - M), shares a story about her father's parents changing their mind about putting him up for adoption and showing up at the Sebastianelli's home in Ceccano and demanding him back.**

**When they adopted my father, the persons that gave him up for adoption changed their mind. They wanted him back. But by this time, they had all grown to love him. So, they're supposed to come back on "X" day. Well, that day they were met . . . by the whole neighborhood, by the whole town practically, with pitchforks and shovels. Try to take that baby. And they couldn't take him.<sup>1</sup>**

**Eugene was treated "as though he were the Sebastianelli's blood son. He was the one that Filomena Sebastianelli left**

**her property to” even though Eugene had emigrated to America.<sup>2</sup>**

**Like many old family stories, we do not know if the story is completely true or who the people were who claimed to be his parents. The research on Eugenio is continuing today using the DNA of relatives as well as modern ancestry records that may provide some insights. There are apparently many Giancinis in Rome, so it is possible that the orphanage gave Eugene his parents’ name, but we have no verification of that.**

**This Box 1.1 will be updated when more information about Eugene is found.**

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<sup>1</sup> Fausta (Giancini) D’Annibale and Marie (Giancini) Teot, children of Eugenio and Settimia (D’Annibale) Giancini, interview by Brian O’Connell, transcribed between 10 December 1996 and 21 April 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

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<sup>2</sup> Fausta (Giancini) D'Annibale, daughter of Eugenio and Settimia (D'Annibale) Giancini, interview by Brian O'Connell, transcribed between 10 December 1996 and 21 April 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

Box 1.2

# THE D'ANNIBALE ORAL TRADITION



Giovanni Battista D'Annibale

## Box 1.2

### The D'Annibale Oral History Tradition

**Paul's maternal grandmother, Settimia (D'Annibale)**

**Giancini grew up in Ceccano. The earliest D'Annibales that**



*Settimia (D'Annibale) Giancini*

**are identified through records**

**lived in Ceccano as early as 1791,**

**but oral tradition places the**

**family there hundreds of years**

**earlier. Settimia's children heard**

**origin stories from their**

**grandfather, Giovanni Battista**

**Francesco D'Annibale (IT – M), and a third cousin, Joseph**

**D'Annibale. Settimia's daughter Beatrice (G2 – M) began**

**the tale, recalling what she had heard:**

**Their last name was D'Annibale. . . The “D” stands for**

**“house of.” . . . My grandfather would tell stories to some**

**of the relatives, and what he would tell them was they fled the Spanish Inquisition [1478 – 1834] and they moved to Italy. I later learned, I don't know, through a little history or something, that part of Italy, I think, was under Spanish rule.**

**Beatrice's younger brother Dominick (G2 – M) supplied additional commentary.**

**That was the time they had to flee [from Spain] because they thought they were going to get them in there. During the Inquisition in Spain, if anybody didn't like you, they [would] say that you . . . had something to do with the devil. And the first thing you know, they'd put you to death.<sup>1</sup>**





*Spanish Inquisition -The burning of condemned prisoners during the Spanish Inquisition.*

Family members were also told a story from an earlier time by Joseph D'Annibale, the son of Giovanni Battista's brother John and uncle to Flo's (G2 – M) husband, Tullio D'Annibale. Beatrice summarized this earlier version of the family's history:



Now, what we heard from [Joseph D'Annibale] was that the D'Annibales were also involved in the . . . ones that went to rescue the Holy Grail, the army that . . . went to the Holy Land. Anyway, he said that they went. They were in that army. It was like a religious army. It was all about the church. They were going to the Holy Land. That's what he has in his roots, we were told.<sup>2</sup>

**Dominick added more about the Crusades:**

The only thing that I know about the D'Annibale name [was that it] originated from England. This one uncle we had or granduncle, he looked up, and he found out that he [the ancestor] came in not from Spain, [but] from England. He was in [with] King Richard the Lionhearted, in his contingent . . . who went in the Last Crusade. . . Lord D'Annibale, he was one of his men, the men . . . who went into the Last Crusades. See, there were about five or six Crusades. This was the last one. It was around between 900 and 1000 A.D. Then when he came back, they stopped in Italy, and that's where he met our great-grandmother from way back. That's where he stayed and established himself there. He didn't go back to England. He was supposed to have been a big giant with fire red

hair and a red beard. . . [So] Lord D'Annibale . . . landed in Naples and around Italy here. And he met our grandmother from thirty generations back. I figured about thirty generations. And he stayed there in Italy.<sup>3</sup>

Beatrice claimed that a distant grandmother belonged to the Leo family so the connection between the two families went back to the beginning.

Versions of the family story differ. Flo said, “He went to fight the Crusades, this Lord D'Annibale. . . On the way back, he stopped in Italy . . . D'Annibale, because he's Irish.” Her sister Marie (G2 – M) interjected, “That's why we say ‘The Irish Crusader.’ . . . What is the real story? . . . Was there a shipwreck and he stayed? Was there not a shipwreck? Did they pull into port and he stayed? What? . . . Did he jump ship and stay?” “Did he see some of the cute Italian dames and say, ‘I'm staying here’?” teased Flo. Her younger sister, Marie continued,

**Nobody seems to know exactly how that happened. And that he was nobility? And where does D'Annibale [come from]? How does that [get to] be Irish? . . . Dave (G2 – M) said that Grandpa said that his father escaped from Spain during the Spanish Inquisition and came to Italy.<sup>4</sup>**

**More than one D'Annibale might have settled in Italy at different times and for different reasons. Or perhaps the Crusader stopped in Spain, with his descendant fleeing the Spanish Inquisition to Italy. There were nine major and numerous minor Crusades sent from Europe to the Holy Land between 1095 and 1291. The Spanish Inquisition began in 1478 and continued through 1700. The trials of the Inquisition were not officially abolished until 1834.**

**Dominick observed; “Yeah. See now, some [D'Annibale ancestors] would be [from] one part of the Europe and**

**others would be some of the other. That’s how some of them wound up in Spain.”<sup>5</sup>**

**Though at present many mysteries and speculations remain, perhaps someday research will shed more light on the fascinating early history of the D’Annibales.**

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<sup>1</sup> Dominick Giacini, Beatrice (Giacini) Montrone, and Marie (Giacini) Teot, grandchildren of Giovanni Battista Francesco D’Annibale, interview by Brian O’Connell, transcribed 30 September 1996, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>2</sup> Beatrice (Giacini) Montrone, granddaughter of Giovanni Battista Francesco D’Annibale, interview by Brian O’Connell, undated, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>3</sup> Dominick Giacini, Beatrice (Giacini) Montrone, and Marie (Giacini) Teot, grandchildren of Giovanni Battista Francesco D’Annibale, interview by Brian O’Connell, transcribed 30 September 1996, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>4</sup> Fausta (Giacini) D’Annibale and Marie (Giacini) Teot, grandchildren of Giovanni Battista Francesco D’Annibale, interview by Brian O’Connell, transcribed between 10 December 1996 and 21 April 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>5</sup> Dominick Giacini, Beatrice (Giacini) Montrone, and Marie (Giacini) Teot, grandchildren of Giovanni Battista Francesco D’Annibale, interview by Brian O’Connell, transcribed 30 September 1996, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

## Box 1.3

# ENGLISH EQUIVALENT OF CERTAIN ITALIAN REGIONS AND CITIES

Napoli - Naples

Genoa - Genova

Milano - Milan

Firenze - Florence

## Box 1.3

### English Equivalent of Certain Italian Regions and Cities

Many Italian regions and cities are spelled and pronounced the same in English. However, there are several cities and regions that are not. Those are listed in alphabetical order below with their English equivalent.

Towns/Regions (in alphabetical order)	
Italian Name	English Name
<b>Bojano</b>	<b>Bioano</b>
<b>Citta Del Vaticano</b>	<b>Vatican City</b>
<b>Firenze</b>	<b>Florence</b>
<b>Genova</b>	<b>Genoa</b>
<b>Lombardia</b>	<b>Lombardy</b>
<b>Milano</b>	<b>Milan</b>
<b>Napoli</b>	<b>Naples</b>
<b>Piemonte</b>	<b>Piedmont</b>
<b>Puglia</b>	<b>Apulia</b>
<b>Roma</b>	<b>Rome</b>
<b>Sardegna</b>	<b>Sardinia</b>
<b>Sicilia</b>	<b>Sicily</b>

<b>Torino</b>	<b>Turin</b>
<b>Toscana</b>	<b>Tuscany</b>
<b>Trento</b>	<b>Trent</b>
<b>Val D'Aosta</b>	<b>Aosta Valley</b>
<b>Venezia</b>	<b>Venice</b>



# Box 1.4

## THE SACO RIVER



Life Blood of Ceccano

## Box 1.4

### The Sacco River: Life Blood of Ceccano



The Sacco River, Ceccano,

**The Sacco River runs along the base of the hill on which Ceccano sits, and that river provided a livelihood for the residents of the town. David (G2 – M) Giancini explained,**

**The main thing was fishing. Because it is a town [situated on a river], there were a lot of fishermen. You see, there's a river**

there named Sacco, which means bag. You know the burlap bag? Well, that's a *sacco* there, and you see where it starts it looks like a bag.<sup>1</sup>

His sisters noted that their father, grandfather, and great-grandparents (on the D'Annibale side) were fishermen by trade. Youngest sister Marie (G2 – M) joked, “That’s why we love fish today.”<sup>2</sup>

The Ceccano-born sister, Beatrice (G2 – M), used to keep her grandmother company at night “because Grandpa would be gone two, three days on his fishing expedition . . . and so she would be alone. And so I would sleep in bed with her.”<sup>3</sup> During these sleepovers, “Nights that were stormy, because of my *nonna* being near water, she would awaken me to pray with her for St. Barbara’s intercession. Patroness of lightning.”<sup>4</sup> Meanwhile, David sometimes accompanied

**his grandfather. On the subject of fishing, he stated, “I did some, a little bit, as a boy.”<sup>5</sup>**

**David’s sister Flo (G2 – M) described the fishing methods used by the family:**

**They . . . bought this big net. You know those? Did you ever see the movies when they throw out [a big] net? . . . He [my grandfather, Giovanni (IT – M)] was in business with my father-in-law and my father, and I don’t know if my [other] grandfather was in on it too. What they used to do, they’d go fishing together, and when they’d bring the fish back, the wives would go out selling the fish. And they would split whatever they made.<sup>6</sup>**

**Flo’s sister Beatrice explained what their grandfather, “Nonno Tito,” did after bringing in the catch:**

**He would bring live crabs home. He would tie a string so we could let them walk, you know. . . He’d always have a**



goody for us, like fruit or something, when he'd come home and after they'd had their fishing over with and sold. They would sell the fish to restaurants. Some of the time . . . if they were closer to Ceccano, they would bring [the catch] home. Because people would come to the house with their dishes then, you know, that they were using like bags. And they would leave their dishes and [an indication of] what they wanted. Sort of a private store. . .

My mother knew whether the men were coming home with the fish or would sell them to restaurants. It depended how far they would go from Ceccano. So if they were close, they knew that certain time in the afternoon, they would return. My mother knew everybody. [She] especially like selling the fish and stuff. She knew everybody in the town. Everybody remembered her when she went to Italy [for a visit after having emigrated].<sup>7</sup>

**Unfortunately, by 1950, fishing conditions on the Sacco River had deteriorated because of industrial pollution. Flo's brother-in-law, whose livelihood had been fishing, told Flo, "They made a soap factory right there, and that poisoned the water. . . A lot of the fish are dying and everything."<sup>8</sup>**



*Local woman doing laundry from the flow of the Sacco River*

**The Sacco River was useful to the town in other ways beyond fishing. Beatrice remembered that "women did laundry in a pooled area beside the**

**river while children cavorted over the stonewall surrounding the pool."<sup>9</sup> Flo related the following story, which she had heard from her great-aunt Adele, a "change-of-life baby"**

**born when Giovanni Battista Francesco D'Annibale was in the service.**

**Most of the men, they wouldn't be caught dead wash[ing] their clothes out in the river. . . He [my grandfather] used to have his uniform on. They used to have the cape. And he would take her soiled linens in a basket, put it under his cape, and go down to the river to wash them. . . Ma used to be so pleased [about] her father doing that. And afterwards the women used to say to her, "Your father used to go down to the river and wash those soiled clothes. And his were the whitest of all. We'd be beating our heads out against the stones there, and his were whiter than all of ours." I thought, "That's a gentleman."<sup>10</sup>**

**Beatrice remembered that when her brother Dominick (G2 – M) Giancini was a baby, during World War I, she had an adventure on the river. Their mother was unable to nurse**



him. “They didn’t have milk,” she recalled. “But La Marquesa, she would send over cans of milk.”<sup>11</sup> Beatrice, then six years old, was sent to fetch the milk for her nursing mother. The river was deep for her to cross, but a kind man saw her and carried her over on his shoulders, then took her over again and then home with the milk.<sup>12</sup>

Beatrice was also tasked with being Dominick’s “diaper” girl. “Yeah, my mother used to give her the diapers” Dominick said; “She had to go and clean, wash ’em.” Beatrice again tried the open laundry later in life and relayed the experience.

They gave you soap and you wash, and they had like a board. They weren’t boards but it was like cement or whatever. You soaped here, and they had two to rinse, okay? And God forbid somebody would spill the soap into the rinse [area] and dirty the water. They [would] kill them.<sup>13</sup>

**The Sacco River remains a major feature of Ceccano.**

**Though pollution and changing ways of life have lessened the river's vital role, its importance to the lives of the town's former residents remains in their memories.**

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<sup>1</sup> David/Diodato Giacini, grandson of Giovanni Battista Francesco D'Annibale, interview by Brian O'Connell, 25 July 1995, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>2</sup> Fausta (Giacini) D'Annibale and Marie (Giacini) Teot, children of Eugenio and Settimia (D'Annibale) Giacini, interview by Brian O'Connell, transcribed between 10 December 1996 and 21 April 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>3</sup> Beatrice (Giacini) Montrone, granddaughter of Giovanni Battista Francesco and Fausta (Leo) D'Annibale, interview by Brian O'Connell, undated, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>4</sup> *My Memories: A Written Record of My Life and Times to Hand Down to My Family* (Metropolitan Museum of Art); completed by Beatrice M. Giacini Montrone in 1985, held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>5</sup> David/Diodato Giacini, grandson of Giovanni Battista Francesco D'Annibale, interview by Brian O'Connell, 25 July 1995, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>6</sup> Fausta (Giacini) D'Annibale and Marie (Giacini) Teot, children of Eugenio and Settimia (D'Annibale) Giacini, interview by Brian O'Connell, transcribed between 10 December 1996 and 21 April 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>7</sup> Beatrice (Giacini) Montrone, granddaughter of Giovanni Battista Francesco and Fausta (Leo) D'Annibale, interview by Brian O'Connell, undated, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>8</sup> Fausta (Giacini) D'Annibale and Marie (Giacini) Teot, children of Eugenio and Settimia (D'Annibale) Giacini, interview by Brian O'Connell, transcribed between 10 December 1996 and 21 April 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>9</sup> Sylvia (Ware) Montrone, *Bea's History*, written as Beatrice (Giacini) Montrone's introduction for the Elmcroft Staff.

<sup>10</sup> Fausta (Giacini) D'Annibale, granddaughter of Giovanni Battista Francesco D'Annibale, interview by Brian O'Connell, transcribed between 10 December 1996 and 21 April 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>11</sup> Fausta (Giacini) D'Annibale, daughter of Eugenio and Settimia (D'Annibale) Giacini, interview by Brian O'Connell, transcribed between 10 December 1996 and 21 April 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>12</sup> Sylvia (Ware) Montrone, *Bea's History*, written as Beatrice (Giacini) Montrone's introduction for the Elmcroft Staff.

<sup>13</sup> Dominick Giacini, Beatrice (Giacini) Montrone, and Marie (Giacini) Teot, children of Eugenio and Settimia (D'Annibale) Giacini, interview by Brian O'Connell, transcribed 30 September 1996, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

Box 1.5

# THE LEO FAMILY



The Leo Family Crest

## **Box 1.5**

### **The Leo Family, Giancini Ancestors**

**The Leo family (ancestors of the Giancini's) have been in Ceccano since at least the birth of Benedetto Leo, around 1690. The family's deep roots in the area were represented by a Leo crest on the door of their home. One descendant, Beatrice (G2 – M) (Giancini) Montrone, bemoaned the fact that later generations are without so much as a photograph of the crest for a keepsake. She related,**

**They had a crest on the door, but we never saw it. We didn't think about crests when we were children, but as we grew older, we knew there was a crest. We were told that when the Germans, in a sense, invaded Italy, they took all the metals from all the doors. . .**

**When you're a child of eight, you don't think about these things. In later years, we heard my mother talk, but then**

**we were in the United States, and we couldn't do anything about looking up these things.<sup>1</sup>**

**Beatrice's elder brother David (G2 – M) Giancini remembered the matter slightly differently. "The Leo family . . . they had the name right on the outside, on the stone, you know, where they were living."<sup>2</sup>**

**In whatever manner the name appeared on the house, Beatrice said of the Leos, "They were really a very nice family, as we understand it." By the time Perseo Leo (Paul's great great maternal grandfather) was an adult in the latter half of the 1800s, the Leos were "a prominent family in the town. . . They were gentlemen farmers. They had . . . all these parcels of land." Recalling the success and honor of her great-grandparents Perseo and Teresa (D'Annibale) Leo, Beatrice said:**

**There were many people that they hired because they had many tracts of land, but I think they were very religious people. They would pay them daily, and if someone didn't show up to get their pay, that money didn't belong to them. He [Perseo] would put it outside on the windowsill because it wasn't his. It was the workers' money.<sup>3</sup>**

**Unfortunately, tragedy struck the family. Beatrice was told a story of family reversals by her mother, Settimia (G1 – M):**

**Perseo had a couple of sons. And they were away to the next town, Frosinone. It was like a college or something . . . And he [Perseo] wasn't taking care of the business at all [so] they came back, and they were not used to being out in the sun. And they were sun struck [and] died, [at] nineteen, twenty years old. . . First one and then the other. That's the story that my mother used to tell us.<sup>4</sup>**

**Although those boys, her great-uncles, died before she was born, Beatrice remembered meeting their sister.**

We went visiting this woman, and she lived near the tract of land that Grandpa and Grandma owned, where the water would come from the ground. They'd call it terrible smelling water because [there were] the sulfur springs on the property. . . We passed that, and we stopped at this house in the country. Kind of "countryish." She was talking with this woman, and I went into her ear—I was six, seven; we left when I was 8—and I whispered to her, "This lady looks just like you, Grandma." And she said, "Bea, she's my sister. Like you're sister to your brother Dave." She was trying [to explain who the woman was], 'cause I hadn't seen her before, or if I had, I wasn't aware. But I remember that sister.<sup>5</sup>

Unfortunately, Perseo Leo ended up losing almost all of his property. Beatrice's sister, Flo (G2 – M), remembered her mother Settimia telling her that he gambled it away. "She used to say like the days in the year, three hundred sixty-five





*Fausta (Leo) D'Annibale,  
Beatrice's Grandmother*

**days, three hundred sixty-five properties. In fact, one of the properties, I saw where it was when I was in Italy. . . It was mineral springs. . . But he lost them all. He lost them all.”<sup>6</sup>**

**Beatrice shared the story of what happened to the land over time:**

**Well, Perseo was my grandmother's father, and he would be my mother's, Settimia's, grandfather. And he lived with them . . . but he was the gambler. There are a lot of properties still in Ceccano that have never changed ownership because he would gamble and then forget about them. . . Aunt Erminia had a large family, and she needed a home. And this home, the taxes were still coming in the name of the Leo's. So she reclaimed it. . .**

**But I know that my aunt did go, and because they never bothered to [note these ownership changes] at City Hall, it was still under the Leos' name. And I bet you they still are. Only that they didn't do anything about it, but she did. She went and reclaimed it. . . He gambled just like a sport-type thing, but he had all this land that he . . . was the land-owner [of]. . . They probably had dairy . . . farms and all that.<sup>7</sup>**

**Despite the Leo family's upheavals, descendants of Perseo Leo continue to thrive in both Italy and America. Some of them have even had the chance to visit lands and places he formerly owned.**

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<sup>1</sup> Beatrice (Giancini) Montrone, great-granddaughter of Perseo Leo, interview by Brian O'Connell, undated, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>2</sup> David/Diodato Giancini, son of Eugenio Giancini, interview by Brian O'Connell, 25 July 1995, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>3</sup> Beatrice (Giancini) Montrone, great-granddaughter of Perseo Leo, interview by Brian O'Connell, undated, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>4</sup> Domenick Giancini, Beatrice (Giancini) Montrone, and Marie (Giancini) Teot, children of Settimia (D'Annibale) Giancini, interview by Brian O'Connell, transcribed 30 September 1996, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>5</sup> Domenick Giancini, Beatrice (Giancini) Montrone, and Marie (Giancini) Teot, grandchildren of Fausta Felicia Maria Angela (Leo) D'Annibale, interview by Brian O'Connell, transcribed 30 September 1996, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

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<sup>6</sup> Fausta (Giancini) D’Annibale, daughter of Settimia (D’Annibale) Giancini, interview by Brian O’Connell, transcribed between 10 December 1996 and 21 April 1997, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>7</sup> Beatrice (Giancini) Montrone, great-granddaughter of Perseo Leo, interview by Brian O’Connell, undated, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

Box 1.6

# MONTRONE VS GARIBALDI HIDING THE HORSES



General Giuseppe Garibaldi

## Box 1.6

### Montrone vs. Garibaldi - Hiding the Horses



*Angelo Montrone*

**During the Risorgimento—the movement for Italian political unity—Angelo Montrone (Paul’s paternal great grandfather) is said to have hidden his family’s horses to prevent the Garibaldini, the military company of General Giuseppe Garibaldi, from taking them for transport as they passed through his town of Maddaloni in October 1860. They were on their way to a battle in Capua, Italy.<sup>1</sup> Capua is in the province of Caserta, which is also the province where Maddaloni is located. Passed down the generations, the story was recounted in**

**2011 by Angelo's granddaughter, Anna (Buontempo)**

**Battista (IT – M).**

**I remember my mother telling the story that her father had hidden their horses in a farmhouse in the countryside. And the Garibaldini passed by, shouting, “Off to Capua! Off to Capua! (about 25 km north of Naples)” . . . When Angelo was small, he went with his father to hide the horses. He wanted to open a window, because Garibaldini were passing by, and he was curious to see them. . . And his father said, “Close the window, close the windows!” Because had Garibaldi's men seen the horses they would have taken them away for sure, for transport. They [Angelo's family] had to hide the horses because the horses were essential for their livelihood.<sup>2</sup>**

**Michele (IT – M), Anna's son, filled in some historic context, saying, “1848 [when Angelo was born] was the beginning of the War of Independence in Italy. It was a time of many revolutions, displacements, [and movements] from one county to another county. [In telling this story,] we are**

**talking about . . . 1860.” Elisabetta Altomare, Anna’s granddaughter, further explained:**

**So the story is that Garibaldi left from the middle of Italy and went to Capua, which is in the South. They [the family] lived just in the middle. Garibaldi and his men came through, and they took all the horses they could find, because they needed them. So Angelo, with his father, went to hide the horses, in order not to lose them to the Garibaldi troops [because] the horses were really important for their business.<sup>3</sup>**

**Antonio Buontempo (Paul’s 1<sup>st</sup> cousin once removed) “could only remember that his grandfather Angelo [Montrone] worked on a cart that went back and forth between Boiano and Caserta. Once, while making a trip, Angelo was stopped by the Garibaldini . . . and they took his earring. (It was fashionable in those days for men to wear an earring.)”<sup>4</sup>**





*Expedition of the Thousand, Giuseppe Garibaldi in Pretoria Square in Palermo, 1860*

**The incident with the horses almost certainly occurred between 19<sup>th</sup> of August and early October 1860, during the Battle of Volturno. In August, Giuseppe Garibaldi led his Red Shirts in the Expedition of the Thousand, landing in Calabria and marching north. On October 1, Neapolitan soldiers marched from Capua to attack the Garibaldini based in Caserta while the Garibaldini captain Nino Bixio was set to defend nearby Maddaloni. The Garibaldini**

**successfully defended themselves, causing their opponents to retreat and surrender. This set of events eventually led to the final surrender by the French Bourbons who controlled the south, and the unification of much of Italia forming the Kingdom of Italy in early 1861.<sup>5</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ancientcapua.com/risorgimento/garibaldi-and-the-battle-of-volturnus>

<sup>2</sup> Anna (Buontempo) Battista, granddaughter of Angelo Montrone, interview by Rhonda R. McClure, 2 October 2011, transcript held by Paul Montrone. Translation assistance was provided by Anna's son Michele and her granddaughter Elisabetta Altomare.

<sup>3</sup> Michele Battista and Elisabetta Altomare, son and granddaughter of Anna (Buontempo) Battista, interview by Rhonda R. McClure, 2 October 2011, transcript held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>4</sup> "Research Report (#40155 Montrone)," 1 December 1985, Emma Urban, Lineages, Inc., page 15, held by Paul Montrone.

<sup>5</sup> "La Battaglia del Volturno," on the website of the Associazione culturale Neoborbonica, online at <http://www.neoborbonici.it/>. [Garibaldi led the Expedition of the Thousand, a troop of a little over 1,000 men tasked with defeating the French Bourbons ruling the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Garibaldi's men were nicknamed The Red Shirts because their uniform simply consisted of red shirts with grey pants.]

# Map 1 - Twenty Current Regions of The Republic of Italy



## Footnotes:

*(Red is Montrone family; Purple is Gaudenzi Family)*

<sup>1</sup> **Torriglia:** Cavagnaro Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>2</sup> **Pesaro:** Emiliani Family 1700s - 1850s

<sup>3</sup> **Sassoferrato:** Emiliani Family 1850s - 1900s  
Mercanti Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>4</sup> **Gualdo Tadino:** Gaudenzi Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>5</sup> **Boiano:** DeCristofaro Family 1700s - 1900s  
Montrone Family 1850s - 1900s

<sup>6</sup> **Ceccano:** D'Annibale Family 1700s - 1900s  
Giancini Family 1880s - 1900s

<sup>7</sup> **Maddaloni:** Ventrone / Montrone family 1700s - 1850s

## Map 2 - Italy's Many Dialects

There are more dialects in Italy today as there are regions (shown on map below). Some people hypothesize that it is the diversity of dialects that led to the collections of hand gestures that Italians use for communication. See examples of Italian hand gestures in Chapter 7.



### Footnotes:

*(Blue is Montrone family; Purple is Gaudenzi Family)*

<sup>1</sup> **Torrighia:** Cavagnaro Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>2</sup> **Pesaro:** Emiliani Family 1700s - 1850s

<sup>3</sup> **Sassoferrato:** Emiliani Family 1850s - 1900s  
Mercanti Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>4</sup> **Gualdo Tadino:** Gaudenzi Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>5</sup> **Boiano:** DeCristofaro Family 1700s - 1900s  
Montrone Family 1850s - 1900s

<sup>6</sup> **Ceccano:** D'Annibale Family 1700s - 1900s  
Giancini Family 1880s - 1900s

<sup>7</sup> **Maddaloni:** Ventrone / Montrone family 1700s - 1850s



# Map 3 - 500 BC

*Celtic Tribes*

• = Names of Italian Cities

Balkan Peninsula

*Illyrian Tribes*

Balkan Peninsula

**Etruscans**

**Torriglia<sup>1</sup>**

**Umbrians**

**Pesaro<sup>2</sup>  
Sassoferrato<sup>3</sup>**

**Gualdo Tadino<sup>4</sup>**

**Greeks**

**Corsica**

**Rome**

**Boiano<sup>5</sup>**

**Ceccano<sup>6</sup>**

**Maddaloni<sup>7</sup>**

**Naples**

**Bari**

**Sardina**

**Carthaginian  
Empire**

**Greeks**

**Palermo**

**Reggio di Calabria**

## Footnotes - Origins by Family:

*(Red is Montrone family; Purple is Gaudenzi Family)*

<sup>1</sup> Torriglia: Cavagnaro Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>2</sup> Pesaro: Emiliani Family 1700s - 1850s

<sup>3</sup> Sassoferrato: Emiliani Family 1850s - 1900s

Mercanti Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>4</sup> Gualdo Tadino: Gaudenzi Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>5</sup> Boiano: DeCristofaro Family 1700s - 1900s

Montrone Family 1850s - 1900s

<sup>6</sup> Ceccano: D'Annibale Family 1700s - 1900s

Giancini Family 1880s - 1900s

<sup>7</sup> Maddaloni: Ventrone / Montrone family 1700s - 1850s

*\*The vast territory lying between the Black sea and the Adriatic sea comprising the modern states of Romania, Albania, Greece, Croatia, Bosnia- Herzegovina, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro was known as the Balkan Peninsula.*

**AFRICA**

# Map 4 - 400 BC

• = Names of Italian Cities



## Footnotes - Origins by Family:

(Red is Montrone family; Purple is Gaudenzi Family)

<sup>1</sup> Torriglia: Cavagnaro Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>2</sup> Pesaro: Emiliani Family 1700s - 1850s

<sup>3</sup> Sassoferrato: Emiliani Family 1850s - 1900s  
Mercanti Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>4</sup> Gualdo Tadino: Gaudenzi Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>5</sup> Boiano: DeCristofaro Family 1700s - 1900s  
Montrone Family 1850s - 1900s

<sup>6</sup> Ceccano: D'Annibale Family 1700s - 1900s  
Giancini Family 1880s - 1900s

<sup>7</sup> Maddaloni: Ventrone / Montrone family 1700s - 1850s

# Map 5 - 200 BC

• = Names of Italian Cities



## Footnotes - Origins by Family:

(Red is Montrone family; Purple is Gaudenzi Family)

<sup>1</sup> Torriglia: Cavagnaro Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>2</sup> Pesaro: Emiliani Family 1700s - 1850s

<sup>3</sup> Sassoferrato: Emiliani Family 1850s - 1900s

Mercanti Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>4</sup> Gualdo Tadino: Gaudenzi Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>5</sup> Boiano: DeCristofaro Family 1700s - 1900s

Montrone Family 1850s - 1900s

<sup>6</sup> Ceccano: D'Annibale Family 1700s - 1900s

Giancini Family 1880s - 1900s

<sup>7</sup> Maddaloni: Ventrone / Montrone family 1700s - 1850s



# Map 6 - 30 BC

• = Names of Italian Cities



## Footnotes - Origins by Family:

*(Red is Montrone family; Purple is Gaudenzi Family)*

<sup>1</sup> Torriglia: Cavagnaro Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>2</sup> Pesaro: Emiliani Family 1700s - 1850s

<sup>3</sup> Sassoferrato: Emiliani Family 1850s - 1900s

Mercanti Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>4</sup> Gualdo Tadino: Gaudenzi Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>5</sup> Boiano: DeCristofaro Family 1700s - 1900s

Montrone Family 1850s - 1900s

<sup>6</sup> Ceccano: D'Annibale Family 1700s - 1900s

Giancini Family 1880s - 1900s

<sup>7</sup> Maddaloni: Ventrone / Montrone family 1700s - 1850s

# Map 7 - 300 AD

• = Names of Italian Cities



AFRICA

# Map 8- 500 AD

**BURGUNDIAN KINGDOM**  
(Germanic Tribe)

**VISIGOTH KINGDOM**  
(Germanic Tribe)

Illyrian Tribes

**OSTROGOTH KINGDOM**  
(Germanic Tribe)

Illyricum

Eastern Roman Empire

**OSTROGOTH KINGDOM**  
(German Tribe)



**VANDALS**  
(Germanic tribe)

Palermo

**SICILY**

Eastern Roman Empire

Reggio di Calabria

• = Names of Italian Cities

Milan

Venice

Bologna

Genoa

Torriglia<sup>1</sup>

Florence

Pisa

Pesaro<sup>2</sup>

Sassoferrato<sup>3</sup>

Gualdo Tadino<sup>4</sup>

Rome

Ceccano<sup>6</sup>

Maddaloni<sup>7</sup>

Naples

Boiano<sup>5</sup>

Bari

## Footnotes - Origins by Family:

(Red is Montrone family; Purple is Gaudenzi Family)

<sup>1</sup> Torriglia: Cavagnaro Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>2</sup> Pesaro: Emiliani Family 1700s - 1850s

<sup>3</sup> Sassoferrato: Emiliani Family 1850s - 1900s  
Mercanti Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>4</sup> Gualdo Tadino: Gaudenzi Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>5</sup> Boiano: DeCristofaro Family 1700s - 1900s  
Montrone Family 1850s - 1900s

<sup>6</sup> Ceccano: D'Annibale Family 1700s - 1900s  
Giancini Family 1880s - 1900s

<sup>7</sup> Maddaloni: Ventrone / Montrone family 1700s - 1850s



# Map 9 - 750 AD

## KINGDOM OF THE FRANKS

(Germanic Tribe)

• = Names of Italian Cities

Avars /  
Slavic Tribes

## LOMBARD KINGDOM

(Germanic Tribe)

## BYZANTINE EMPIRE

(Eastern Roman Empire)

## LOMBARD KINGDOM

(Germanic Tribe)

## BYZANTINE EMPIRE

(Eastern Roman Empire)

## BYZANTINE EMPIRE

(Eastern Roman Empire)

Corsica

Sardina

Torriglia<sup>1</sup>

Milan

Bologna

Venice

Pesaro<sup>2</sup>

Sassoferrato<sup>3</sup>

Gualdo Tadino<sup>4</sup>

Florence

Pisa

Rome

Ceccano<sup>6</sup>

Maddaloni<sup>7</sup>

Boiano<sup>5</sup>

Bari

Naples

Palermo

Reggio di Calabria

### Footnotes - Origins by Family:

(Red is Montrone family; Purple is Gaudenzi Family)

<sup>1</sup> Torriglia: Cavagnaro Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>2</sup> Pesaro: Emiliani Family 1700s - 1850s

<sup>3</sup> Sassoferrato: Emiliani Family 1850s - 1900s

Mercanti Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>4</sup> Gualdo Tadino: Gaudenzi Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>5</sup> Boiano: DeCristofaro Family 1700s - 1900s

Montrone Family 1850s - 1900s

<sup>6</sup> Ceccano: D'Annibale Family 1700s - 1900s

Giancini Family 1880s - 1900s

<sup>7</sup> Maddaloni: Ventrone / Montrone family 1700s - 1850s

AFRICA

# Map 10 - 950 AD

• = Names of Italian Cities

FRANKS

HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

BALTIC PROPERTIES

Kingdom of Italy  
(French)

MAGYARS

SERBIA

BALKANS

BULGARIA

Genoa

Torriglia<sup>1</sup>

Milan

Bologna

Venice

Florence

Pisa

Pesaro<sup>2</sup>

Sassoferrato<sup>3</sup>

Gualdo Tadino<sup>4</sup>

PAPAL STATE

BENEVENTO

(Ruled by the Lombards  
German Tribe)

Corsica

Rome

Ceccano<sup>6</sup>

Maddaloni<sup>7</sup>

Boiano<sup>5</sup>

Bari

Sardina

Naples

CAPUA

Independent States

SALERNO

BYZANTINE EMPIRE

BYZANTINE EMPIRE

Palermo

## Footnotes - Origins by Family:

(Red is Montrone family; Purple is Gaudenzi Family)

<sup>1</sup> Torriglia: Cavagnaro Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>2</sup> Pesaro: Emiliani Family 1700s - 1850s

<sup>3</sup> Sassoferrato: Emiliani Family 1850s - 1900s  
Mercanti Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>4</sup> Gualdo Tadino: Gaudenzi Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>5</sup> Boiano: DeCristofaro Family 1700s - 1900s  
Montrone Family 1850s - 1900s

<sup>6</sup> Ceccano: D'Annibale Family 1700s - 1900s  
Giancini Family 1880s - 1900s

<sup>7</sup> Maddaloni: Ventrone / Montrone family 1700s - 1850s

# Map 11 - 1215 AD

## HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

• = Names of Italian Cities

FRANCE

Kingdom of Italy  
(German)

(German Hohenstaufen Family)

Savoy

Milan

Bologna

Venice

(A Maritime Republic and an independent state)

HUNGARY

BALKANS

BULGARIA

"Maritime Republics" that were self-governed but still loyal to the Holy Roman Empire

Genoa

Torriglia<sup>1</sup>

Florence

PISA

(Republic of Pisa an independent state)

Corsica  
(Arabs)

Sardina

Pesaro<sup>2</sup>

Sassoferrato<sup>3</sup>

Gualdo Tadino<sup>4</sup>

PAPAL STATES

Rome

Ceccano<sup>6</sup>

Maddaloni<sup>7</sup>

Boiano<sup>5</sup>

Bari

Naples

KINGDOM OF SICILY  
(Normans)

Palermo

SICILY

Reggio di Calabria

### Footnotes - Origins by Family:

(Red is Montrone family; Purple is Gaudenzi Family)

<sup>1</sup> Torriglia: Cavagnaro Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>2</sup> Pesaro: Emiliani Family 1700s - 1850s

<sup>3</sup> Sassoferrato: Emiliani Family 1850s - 1900s  
Mercanti Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>4</sup> Gualdo Tadino: Gaudenzi Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>5</sup> Boiano: DeCristofaro Family 1700s - 1900s  
Montrone Family 1850s - 1900s

<sup>6</sup> Ceccano: D'Annibale Family 1700s - 1900s  
Giancini Family 1880s - 1900s

<sup>7</sup> Maddaloni: Ventrone / Montrone family 1700s - 1850s



# Map 12 - 1450 AD

## HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE



### Footnotes - Origins by Family:

(Red is Montrone family; Purple is Gaudenzi Family)

<sup>1</sup> Torriglia: Cavagnaro Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>2</sup> Pesaro: Emiliani Family 1700s - 1850s

<sup>3</sup> Sassoferrato: Emiliani Family 1850s - 1900s  
Mercanti Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>4</sup> Gualdo Tadino: Gaudenzi Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>5</sup> Boiano: DeCristofaro Family 1700s - 1900s  
Montrone Family 1850s - 1900s

<sup>6</sup> Ceccano: D'Annibale Family 1700s - 1900s  
Giancini Family 1880s - 1900s

<sup>7</sup> Maddaloni: Ventrone / Montrone family 1700s - 1850s



# Map 13 - 1750 AD

## HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

• = Names of Italian Cities



### Footnotes - Origins by Family:

(Red is Montrone family; Purple is Gaudenzi Family)

<sup>1</sup> Torriglia: Cavagnaro Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>2</sup> Pesaro: Emiliani Family 1700s - 1850s

<sup>3</sup> Sassoferrato: Emiliani Family 1850s - 1900s  
Mercanti Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>4</sup> Gualdo Tadino: Gaudenzi Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>5</sup> Boiano: DeCristofaro Family 1700s - 1900s  
Montrone Family 1850s - 1900s

<sup>6</sup> Ceccano: D'Annibale Family 1700s - 1900s  
Giancini Family 1880s - 1900s

<sup>7</sup> Maddaloni: Ventrone / Montrone family 1700s - 1850s

# Map 14 - 1815 AD

• = Names of Italian Cities



## Footnotes - Origins by Family:

(Red is Montrone family; Purple is Gaudenzi Family)

- <sup>1</sup> Torriglia: Cavagnaro Family 1700s - 1900s
- <sup>2</sup> Pesaro: Emiliani Family 1700s - 1850s
- <sup>3</sup> Sassoferato: Emiliani Family 1850s - 1900s  
Mercanti Family 1700s - 1900s
- <sup>4</sup> Gualdo Tadino: Gaudenzi Family 1700s - 1900s
- <sup>5</sup> Boiano: DeCristofaro Family 1700s - 1900s  
Montrone Family 1850s - 1900s
- <sup>6</sup> Ceccano: D'Annibale Family 1700s - 1900s  
Giancini Family 1880s - 1900s
- <sup>7</sup> Maddaloni: Ventrone / Montrone family 1700s - 1850s

# Map 15 - 1861 AD

• = Names of Italian Cities



## Footnotes - Origins by Family:

*(Red is Montrone family; Purple is Gaudenzi Family)*

<sup>1</sup> Torriglia: Cavagnaro Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>2</sup> Pesaro: Emiliani Family 1700s - 1850s

<sup>3</sup> Sassoferato: Emiliani Family 1850s - 1900s  
Mercanti Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>4</sup> Gualdo Tadino: Gaudenzi Family 1700s - 1900s

<sup>5</sup> Boiano: DeCristofaro Family 1700s - 1900s  
Montrone Family 1850s - 1900s

<sup>6</sup> Ceccano: D'Annibale Family 1700s - 1900s  
Giancini Family 1880s - 1900s

<sup>7</sup> Maddaloni: Ventrone / Montrone family 1700s - 1850s