



Begin Your Journey with Italian Civil Registration

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Stato Civile Napoleonico-SCN, 1804-1815

Napoleon introduced civil record keeping in Italy as early as 1804 in some areas of Italy and it continued until he was taken out of power in 1815. Thus, the Napoleonic records, as a rule, span the period 1804-1815.

- **Papal States** - In the area formerly known as the Papal States—which included from what is now Molise, Lazio, Umbria, and Marche to Emilia-Romagna—Napoleonic records cover the period of 1810 to 1815.
- **Veneto and Lombardia** - Napoleonic records began about 1806 and ended in 1814 or 1815.
- **Piemonte** - Napoleonic records cover 1804 to 1815.
- These records do not exist for areas that Napoleon never ruled such as Sardegna, Sud Tirol, and Sicilia.

Stato civile della Restaurazione- SCR, 1815/16-1865

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

- **Regno di Napoli** - (comprising most of southern Italy from Napoli and Campania down to Calabria and Puglia), Toscana, and the Abruzzo region – continued keeping records. *Beginning in 1809 in some areas.
- **Ducato di Savoia** - Piemonte area -1839
- **Trento- Alto-Adige** - parish priests recorded civil registers
- **Sicilia** - Sicily began civil registration in 1820 using a format nearly identical to the Napoleonic records.

Provinces were named differently in this period, too. If you are looking for an ancestor in Salerno, it was known as "*Principato Citeriore*." For a list of administrative subdistricts of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies go here: https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suddivisione_amministrativa_del_Regno_delle_Due_Sicilie

One of the primary differences in civil registration during this time is the inclusion of Catholic church baptismal and marriage information in a column to the right of the civil act. In a large city

or a city with multiple parishes this can be an amazing lead to the parish an ancestor attended, opening a new avenue to extend a family line.

Stato Civile Italiano- SCI, 1866-present

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

Information on the Civil Records

The amount of information depends on time period. Below you will find the typical information found on Italian civil registration from 1866 to the present.

Birth – Atto di Nascita

- Record number
- Date act was recorded (and minute)
- Locality where recorded
- Name of person declaring child's birth, profession, age, where lives (usually the father or midwife)
- Time of birth
- Date of birth (day/month)
- Street name and number
- Name of mother
- Child's gender
- Name of Child
- Witnesses (2)
- Marginal notations (marriage, death, name changes, etc.)

Marriage – Atto di Matrimonio

- Record number
- Date of marriage (and time)
- Locality where married
- Name of groom, age, occupation, where born, where residing
- Name of groom's father and residence
- Name of groom's mother and residence
- Name of bride, age, occupation, where born, where residing
- Name of bride's father and residence
- Name of bride's mother and residence
- Witnesses (2)

Death – Atto di Morte

- Record number
- Date act was recorded (and minute)
- Locality where recorded

- Two declarants- name of person declaring death, age, profession, where lives
- Time of death
- Date of death (day)
- Street name and number
- Name of deceased (age, profession, resident in, born in)
- Parents of deceased
- Witnesses (2)

Second Part - *Parte Seconda*

Parte seconda or Part II are those birth marriage and death records held in a separate book for “non-typical” reporting of life events.

Birth

Series A: birth certificate received by the civil status officer of the municipality where the birth took place (sent a copy to the municipality of residence of the parents for transcription)

Series B: births occurring while traveling, children found, acts of recognition or disavowal, adoptions, birth certificates received abroad, etc.

Marriage

Series A: marriages celebrated in the same municipality before the Catholic priest and before ministers of other churches

Series B: the same in another municipality

Series C: marriages celebrated by the registrar outside the municipal office, by proxy, abroad, etc.

Death

Series A: death occurred outside the place where the deceased had his residence

Series B: deaths that occurred outside the residence of the deceased from communication with institutions, hospitals, judicial police, etc.

Series C: death certificates received abroad, presumed death, etc.

Reference:

1939 explanations of *Parte Seconda*:

http://presidenza.governo.it/USRI/magistrature/norme/RD1238_1939.pdf

http://www.genealogica.it/stato_civile.htm

Between 1816-1865 in the south birth and marriage documents included ecclesiastical information. Birth records included baptismal information and the parish where baptized. Marriages were called *Atto di solenne promessa* (Act of solemn promise) and included the parish where married and the date.

Supplemental Documents - *Allegati/Processetti*

These usually relate to marriage records and are supplemental documents filed by the bride and groom in association with their promise to marry.

What you might find in these files:

- Copy of birth/baptismal certificate of groom
- Copy of birth/baptismal certificate of bride
- Death records of parents or grandparents
- Names of former spouses and death records
- Marriage publications/banns
- Permissions to marry or statements of support from relatives

Other Types of Civil Records:

Marriage Banns – *Pubblicazioni*

State of the Family – *Stato di Famiglia*

Censuses – *Censimenti*

Citizenship - *Cittadinanze*

Where to Find the Records

FamilySearch

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

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

Portale Antenati (Genealogy Portal- Italian State Archives)

Portale Antenati (English)

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

Portale Antenati (Italian)

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

Ancestry.com

There are a few civil registration records unique to Ancestry.com. These are image-only collections (not indexed) and are accessible via their catalog.

- Belluno (1871-1938): <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1896/>
- Casale Monferrato (1866-1938): <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1551/>
- Gela (1866-1939): <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1889/>
- Lodi (1866-1936): <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1589/>

Research in Italian civil archives- *comune*

<http://www.comuni-italiani.it/>

Additional Resources and Translation Helps

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

Pre-1865 Civil Birth - <https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/File:CivilBirthRecord.jpg>

Post-1875 Civil Birth -

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/img_auth.php/d/d3/Atti_di_Nascita_post-1875.pdf

Pre-1865 and Post-1875 Civil Marriage -

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

Pre-1865 Civil Death -

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/img_auth.php/8/80/CivilDeathRecord.jpg

Post-1875 Civil Death -

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/img_auth.php/7/7a/Atti di Morte post-1875.pdf](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/img_auth.php/7/7a/Atti_di_Morte_post-1875.pdf)

Italian Genealogy Handbooks

Adams, Suzanne Russo. *Finding Your Italian Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide*. Provo: UT: Ancestry Publishing, 2009.

Cole, Trafford. *Italian Genealogical Records: How to Use Italian Civil, Ecclesiastical & Other Family History Research*. Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry, 1995.

Colletta, John Philip. *Finding Italian Roots*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2009.

Holtz, Melanie D. *The Family Tree Italian Genealogy Guide: How to Trace Your Family Tree in Italy*. Cincinnati, OH: Family Tree Books, 2017.

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