

Civil Registration Online: *Antenati*

Italy “How to” Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

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GOAL

This guide will teach you how to use the website *Antenati* to access Italian civil registration records.

INTRODUCTION

Civil registration records are vital resources for researching ancestors in Italy. These are government documents that record births (*nati* or *nascita*), marriages (*matrimoni*), and deaths (*morti*). Civil registration records are organized by the town (*comune*). To effectively use civil registration records, you must know the **town** and **province** where your ancestors were from.

HOW TO

Civil Registration

One of the difficulties of dealing with civil registration in Italy is that there are three different time periods. The records from these periods are called the ***Stato civile napoleonico*** (Napoleonic civil registration), ***Stato civile della restaurazione*** (Civil registration of the restoration), and ***Stato Civile Italiano*** (Italian civil registration).

Stato civile napoleonico (1806-1815) – When Napoleon conquered parts of Italy, he instituted civil registration in those areas. The starting date for these areas depends upon when the area was conquered. When Napoleon lost power in Italy, this period of civil registration ended. For areas where Napoleon did not rule, this period of civil registration does not exist. These entries are usually handwritten and in paragraph form, though printed forms were used in some areas.

Stato civile della restaurazione (1815-1866) – After Napoleon’s defeat, Italy was separated back into smaller independent kingdoms and duchies. Some of these areas, mainly those in southern Italy, continued keeping civil registration, while others, mainly those in northern Italy, discontinued it. This means some areas that have records from the Napoleonic period and none from the restoration period. In some cases, extracts from church records were created (usually of males for military purposes) and may appear as restoration records. These records can be found as pre-printed forms, handwritten forms, or paragraph-style records.

Stato civile italiano (1866-present-day) – This final period of civil registration began in 1866 and continues through today. A few areas began later depending upon when the area was unified with Italy. Earlier entries are usually handwritten paragraphs; later records are found on pre-printed forms.

To learn more about Italian civil registration, read the article found at:
https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Italy_Civil_Registration- Vital_Records

Civil registration records online: *Antenati*

The Italian *Ministero dei beni e delle attività culturali e del turismo* (Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities) has created a website with the intent to publish all civil registration records. The name of this website is *Antenati*, located at: <http://antenati.san.beniculturali.it>. The digitized civil registration records are available for free. They are currently in the process of publishing images by province. If your province does not appear in the list, check back periodically.

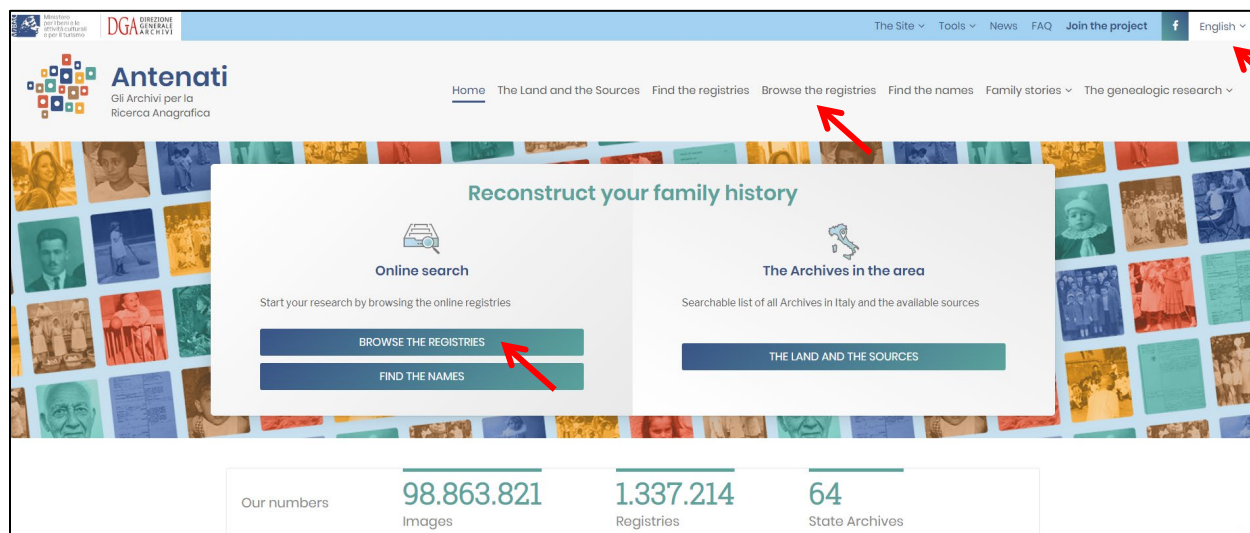
Although the home page can be switched to English, most pages are only available in Italian. The following table will help you identify records found on *Antenati*:

Nati/Nascita	Birth
Matrimoni	Marriage
Morti	Death
Archivio di stato di...	State Archive of...
Stato civile napoleonico	Napoleonic civil registration
Stato civile della restaurazione	Civil registration of the restoration
Stato civile italiano	Italian civil registration

Accessing civil registration images:

To access the images, go to the *Antenati* website, located at <http://antenati.san.beniculturali.it>. You can switch the language of the website by clicking on the drop-down menu in the upper right corner of the page. Keep in mind only some pages are available in English. If the English page is not available, the website will revert to Italian.

The easiest way to access these records is by clicking on the hyperlinked words **Browse the registries** (in English) or **Sfoglia i registri** (in Italian). This is found in the navigation bar or in the picture tile **Online search**. The image below shows where this link is located.



This will take you to the main navigation screen where you can access the records, organized by provincial archive. As stated, you need to know the name of the **town** and **province** where your ancestor lived. If you know the name of the town, but not the province, conduct a Google search. Look for the results from Wikipedia or Google Maps, which usually list the name of the province. Once you have the town and province name, use the following steps to find the records for your town:

1. Choose the province where your town is located. The name of the province is listed after the words **Archivio di Stato di...**
2. Choose the civil registration period that corresponds to the desired record of the ancestor. These registration periods are the **Stato civile napoleonico** (Napoleonic civil registration, 1806-1815), **Stato civile della restaurazione** (Civil registration of the restoration, 1815-1866), and the **Stato Civile Italiano** (Italian civil registration, 1866-present- day).
3. An alphabetical list of all towns with digitized records within that province will appear. Only the first 45 towns are shown. To view subsequent pages of towns, click on either the desired page number, located above the list of towns in very small font, or the words **successivo** (next page) or **ultimo** (last page) located in the upper right corner of the list of towns.
4. Once you have chosen your town, choose the record type (**nati**, **matrimoni**, **morti**, etc.). Refer to the word list above for help. You may also refer to the Italian genealogical word list, found at: https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Italian_Genealogical_Word_List.
5. Select the year you want to view. As with the list of towns, only the first 45 results will be listed. To view subsequent pages of years, click on either the desired page number or use the navigation terms **successivo** or **ultimo**. Once you have selected your year, you may see a two-, three-, or four-digit number. This is an archival folder number; click on it to access the images.
6. Choose the image. As with the list of towns and years, only the first 45 image thumbnails will be shown. Use the same navigation tools to identify the image you would like to view. As most civil registration volumes contain a handwritten index at the back of the book, be sure to check to see if your book has this feature.
7. Once you have clicked on an image thumbnail, you will see a larger view of the image. From here, you have several options available to you:
 - To browse the images, use the four navigation terms **primo** (first page) **precedente** (previous page), **successivo** (next page), and **ultimo** (last page).
 - To view a larger version of the image, click anywhere on the image. From this screen, you can zoom in or out by clicking on the appropriate magnifying glasses located at the top right corner of the image. You can also save the image by right-clicking on the image and using the **Save As** window. To close the zoomed-in image, click on the large **X** in the upper right corner.
 - The website URL will point directly to this image. You may copy the entire URL and paste it as a source in your personal genealogical program or online family

trees such as FamilySearch's Family Tree.

8. To navigate backwards, use the series of links beginning with » ITALIA » Archivio di Stato di Notice that each step you have taken is showing up in the series. You can return to any of the sections by clicking on that section.

Indexed records

There is an effort to index the civil registration registers. Currently only a very small portion has been indexed. To search these records, click on **Find Names** or ***Trova i Nomi*** from the navigation bar at the top of the page.



Keep in mind if you do not find your ancestor in the index, it does not mean the records for your town aren't available. It just means the name most likely has not been indexed.

Find Names

In this section you can browse the name database of the Civil Registry searching by First or Last Name, place of birth, home town, and period: you may search using only one of these tags, but the more tags you use the more accurate will be your research.

Once you find the file of the person you are looking for you will find a digitalized copy of the certificate in which he or she is mentioned (birth, marriage, death). Indexation is a slow and laborious task and requires a great effort in terms of human resources and time, so the number of names available on this site is considerably lower than the number of images.

It is possible to search by name at the following State Archives:

Agrigento, Asti, Bari, Benevento, Bergamo, Brescia, Caltanissetta, Campobasso, Chieti, Cremona, Enna, Forlì-Cesena, Genova, Grosseto, Imperia, L'Aquila, Mantova, Modena, Mondovì (Cuneo), Napoli, Padova, Pesaro, Pescara, Potenza, Prato, Ragusa, Reggio Calabria, Rieti, Roma, Salerno, Savona, Taranto, Torino, Trapani, Udine, Urbino, Vicenza, Viterbo.

Check the Indexing Status.

Every user of the Site can contribute to increase the number of personal sheets joining our indexation project, whenever he or she wants, with no schedules. If you are interested in joining the volunteer force of the Ancestry Portal you just have to send an email to the [Newsroom](#) or visit the section [Join our project](#).

Please remember that many Civil Registries **hold annual and decennial indexes** that allow us to search by name.

The section surrounded by the red box tells you which provinces have indexed records available. Remember, the areas mentioned are likely not fully indexed. To search, type in the name and surname of the ancestor, then click on the box **Search** or **Cerca**. Depending on the search, the results may take **several minutes** to load. The search results will be in Italian. The following list of terms may help you understand the results.

Età	Age
Padre	Father
Madre	Mother
Comune/Località	City/Town
Data	Date
Coniuge	Spouse

PRACTICE

Follow the steps below to locate 1900 death records in Teodorano, Forlì, Italy:

1. Go to the **Antenati** website, located at: <http://antenati.san.beniculturali.it>.
2. Keep the website in Italian. In the paragraph, click on **archivi di stato**.
3. Click on **Archivio di Stato di Forlì**.
4. After choosing the archive, choose the desired period of civil registration. Because the records we are searching for are in 1900, choose **Stato civile italiano**.
5. Now, locate the town **Teodorano** in the town list. Notice it is not on the first page; you will need to view the next page. Either click on the number **2** in the top left corner, or on the word **successivo** in the bottom right-hand (or top right-hand) corner.
6. After clicking on **Teodorano**, identify the correct record type. As shown in the list above, the word for death in Italian is **Morti**. Do not click on **Morti, allegati** as this is a different record type.
7. From here you will choose the year. Choose 1900 from the list. Then click on the archival folder number to access the images.
8. You should now see thumbnail images of the volume. To find out how many images there are, click on **ultimo** in the upper right corner to find the last page and identify how many images exist for this year. There is a total of 49 images.
9. Click on the last image. Notice this image is a handwritten index of the volume. Keep in mind the certificate numbers listed in the index do not necessarily correspond with the image number, but rather correspond with handwritten numbers. You will need to browse the images to find the correct certificate.

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.