

Case Subject: Italian Dual Citizenship

Thank you for your research request. You have requested that we begin obtaining documents to compile a dual citizenship application. Because of Italy's *jure sanguinis* ("by law of blood") citizenship policy, it is possible for descendants of some Italians to apply to claim Italian citizenship.

For this project, you have authorized five (5) hours of research.

Report:

We spent much of our research time evaluating the materials you sent us and compiling a list of documents that you will need to obtain to file a dual citizenship application.

Certified birth, marriage, and death records for each of your relevant ancestors are necessary, in addition to your immigrant ancestor's naturalization paperwork. The Boston Consulate requires that these records are issued by the Vital Records Office of Massachusetts, not from municipal registries. We can order certified copies of these documents for \$20 each. Any American vital records must also bear a notarized translation and an apostille. More specifically:

Required Certified Records	+ Notarized Italian Translation	+ Apostille
Grandfather's Italian Birth Record	n/a	n/a
Great Italian Birth Record	n/a	n/a
Great-grandparents' Marriage Record	if in Italy, no if in USA, yes	if in Italy, no if in USA, yes
Grandfather's Birth Record	Required	Required
Grandmother's Birth Record	Required	Required
Grandparents' Marriage Record	Required	Required
Grandfather's Death Record	Required	Required
Grandmother's Death Record	Required	Required
Father's Birth Record	Required	Required
Mother's Birth Record	Required	Required
Parents' Marriage Record	Required	Required
Father's Death Record	Required	Required
Mother's Death Record	Required	Required
Your Birth Record	Required	Required
Your Marriage Record	Required	Required
Your Spouse's Birth Record	Required	Required



Your Child's Birth Record	Required	Required
Your Grandfather's Naturalization Paperwork with seal from National archives and Records Administration, or your Great-Grandfather's original Naturalization Certificate	No	No

Minor discrepancies in these records may be waved. Major discrepancies will require amended records. It is difficult to evaluate which documents will be permitted and which documents might be rejected, however. Unfortunately, many applicants are unable to learn which documents will be waved until they meet with the Italian Consulate during their citizenship appointment. The Italian Consulate offices do not supply clear guidelines for which name discrepancies will be allowed and which may be rejected – the evaluation is quite subjective. Generally, Frank in place of Francesco, or John in place of Giovanni would be a minor discrepancy and acceptable, while James in place of Vincenzo or Mary in place of Annunziata might require an amended record.

Instances of divorce or adoption for any of the individuals listed above will add to the number of records required.

The most important document in determining whether you qualify for Italian citizenship is the naturalization paperwork that your grandfather filed. To become an American citizen, Italian immigrants were required by United States law to renounce their allegiance to Italy.

The Consulate prefers that an applicant submit the original naturalization certificate that was once handed to his or her ancestor when that ancestor became an American citizen. Of course, few Americans are able to locate this original record. In place of this certificate, a certified copy of naturalization paperwork from the National Archives may be substituted, or a letter of nonexistence from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. We can order these records on your behalf. If you have the original naturalization certificate issued to your grandfather, these documents are unnecessary. The Consulate will request that you bring the original to your appointment and after reviewing it for authenticity, they will make a photocopy of the record.

We located your grandfather's Declaration of Intention from 1937, which reveals that your father {name retracted for privacy} was born several years before {name retracted for privacy} applied to naturalize.¹ Because your father was born before your grandfather

¹ “{name retracted for privacy},” in the Massachusetts State and Federal Naturalization Records 1798-1950. Accessed via ancestry.com, https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=2361&h=1487486&tid=&pid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=RCE4683&_phstart=successSource. [13]



became an American, the right of Italian citizenship was passed on, and you are indeed eligible for Italian citizenship.

While it is possible to apply through your mother as well (you sent us more records and materials relating to her ancestors) we believe it is preferable to apply for Italian citizenship through your paternal ancestors. The presence of your surname, {name retracted for privacy}, throughout all generations may speed along review of your application.

We were able to locate your ancestors' birth records in Italy. {name retracted for privacy} and {name retracted for privacy} were both born in Chiusano di San Domenico. You included a copy your grandmother's birth record from the 1950s. We were able to locate a link to the original record as well. Although these images will not suffice for an application, they make requesting certified copies from Italy significantly easier, since we can now cite the birth certificate number for the year.

{name retracted for privacy} was born 30 January 1894 to {names retracted for privacy}. ² [Birth Record No. 13 for 1894]

{names retracted for privacy} was born 18 May 1890 [different date than naturalization papers] to {names retracted for privacy}. ³ [Birth Record No. 47 for 1890]

After requesting these two records from Italy, we will need to obtain the following vital records (with notarized translations and apostilles). We extracted these dates from records you had sent us, and from other sources when there was no relevant record.

²“{name retracted for privacy},” in Nati, 1894, Chiusano di San Domenico, Stato civile Italiano, Archivio di Stato di Avellino, accessed via antenati.san.beniculturali.it, http://dl.antenati.san.beniculturali.it/v/Archivio+di+Stato+di+Avellino/Stato+civile+italiano/Chiusano+di+San+Domenico/Nati/1894/503/007840640_00727.jpg.html?g2_imageViewsIndex=0. [6]

³“P{name retracted for privacy},” in Nati, 1890, Chiusano di San Domenico, Stato civile italiano, Archivio di Stato di Avellino, accessed via [ancenati.san.beniculturali.it](http://antenati.san.beniculturali.it), http://dl.antenati.san.beniculturali.it/v/Archivio+di+Stato+di+Avellino/Stato+civile+italiano/Chiusano+di+San+Domenico/Nati/1890/502/007840640_00558.jpg.html?g2_imageViewsIndex=0. [7]

⁴“{name retracted for privacy},” in the US Social Security Death Index 1935-2014. Accessed via [ancestry.com](https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=3693&h=19077729&tid=&pid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=RCE4664&_phstart=successSource), https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=3693&h=19077729&tid=&pid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=RCE4664&_phstart=successSource. [8]

⁵“{name retracted for privacy}” in *the Boston Globe*, published 25 October 1966 in Boston. Accessed via [newspapers.com](https://www.newspapers.com/image/433823927/?terms=%2B), <https://www.newspapers.com/image/433823927/?terms=%2B>. [9]

{names, dates, and locations are retracted for privacy}

Conclusion and Suggestions for Continued Research:

We were able to locate the birth record for your grandfather {name retracted for privacy}, the chief record that provided uncertainty for your application. We can write a letter to Italy to request an official copy of his birth record, and an official copy of your grandmother's birth record, {name retracted for privacy}.

If you do not have the original naturalization certificate for your grandfather, we can also order the necessary naturalization records.

In a subsequent round of research, we would gather all the necessary documents from the Vital Records Office, contract a translator to translate and notarize all documents, and acquire apostilles for all records.

We would organize all documents so that you can book an appointment with the Italian consulate after filing out the application paperwork available on the Consulate website.

For these tasks we recommend an additional fifteen (15) hours of research. Charges for documents and translations would be additional to our research and preparation of the materials.

The above report was prepared by Alessandro Ferzoco, a member of the NEHGS research services' staff. If you have any questions or would like us to research this case further, please contact me at the address or telephone number listed below or at research@nehgs.org

⁶ "{name retracted for privacy}," in the *Boston Record America*, published 25 December 1964 in Boston. Accessed via newspapers.com, <https://www.genealogybank.com/doc/newspapers/image/v2:1386C09D6C6D2F8A@GB3NEWS-142D3F81A1CC3EE0@2438755-142A9928565E5FEC@13-142A9928565E5FEC>. [10]

⁷ "{name retracted for privacy}," in Deaths, in the *Boston Globe*, published 27 December 1964 in Boston. Accessed via newspapers.com, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/433785622/?terms=%2Bwaltham>. [11]

⁸ "{name retracted for privacy}," in Deaths in *The Boston Globe*, published 19 June 1980 in Boston. Accessed via newspapers.com, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/428233819/?terms=c>. [12]