

GRIAA Board Member Offers Free Genealogical Research

Greater Rockford Italian American Association director and community service committee member, Steve Salvato, is available to conduct family history research at no charge for Rockford area Italian-Americans. His research began in 1999, and he updates his more than 150,000 name database on a daily basis. A large percentage of the Italian surnames in his database are from western Sicily, the geographical region from where most Rockford Sicilian families emigrated. In addition to his database, he uses many domestic and international platforms. From these databases he often times is able to find original source documents, such as ship manifests, census information, obituaries and more. The ultimate product of his research is a generational print-out which usually starts with the earliest ancestor or ancestors arriving in the United States followed by their descendants. For each person listed, some information is provided such as place and date of birth/ death, marriage, church, and organization memberships, employment and military service. Often, Steve's research will include information about the earliest U.S. immigrant's parents and siblings in Italy. To request research, contact Steve at roccamena77@gmail.com