



AMHS NOTIZIARIO

The Official Newsletter of the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage
Society of the Washington, DC Area
JULY 2011

Website: www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org



A MOSAIC OF MOLISE TRADITIONS



At the Society meeting of May 15, AMHS Pres. Dick DiBuono, Board Member David Ciummo and Pres. Emeritus Lucio D'Andrea (l-r), gave an excellent presentation on the Festivals and Traditions of Molise highlighting the fascinating activities in this region. VP for Programs, Ennio Di Tullio, thanking the speakers.

AN UNFORGETTABLE VISIT



AMHS members in front of the US Capitol after a private tour to see the famous works of the artist Constantino Brumidi (whom some call the "Michelangelo of the Capitol"). For his great work, the US Congress awarded Brumidi the well deserved Congressional Gold Medal.

NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES:

1. LUNCH/MEETING - Sunday, July 31, at 1:00 p.m. at Casa Italiana, presentation on Carabinieri
2. FERRAGOSTO PICNIC - Sunday, August 14 at Villa Rosa
3. LUNCH/MEETING – Sunday, September 25, program to be announced
4. FESTA ITALIANA – Sunday, October 9 at Holy Rosary, sponsored by HR, ICS, Lido Civic Club and AMHS
5. PRESENTATION PALLADIO – Wednesday, October 20 at 6:30 at Italian Embassy, sponsored by IIC, ICS and AMHS
6. LUNCH/MEETING – Sunday, November 27 at 1:00pm at Casa Italiana, Wine Tasting
7. AMHS CHRISTMAS GALA – Saturday, December 3 at Casa Italiana

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends/Cari Soci ed Amici,

Enjoyment and satisfaction are the rewards of my efforts on behalf of our fine Society. For instance, at the time of this writing (23 June) I have just finished reading, with true satisfaction, an email message from Italy from member Kirsten Keppel, who represented our Society at the *Conferenza dei Molisani nel Mondo* on 20 – 22 June 2011.



The Region of Molise, which hosted the conference of persons of Molisani heritage from organizations like ours in countries around the globe – the United States of America, Canada, Argentina, Venezuela and other countries in South America, and Australia, just to name a few -- paid for Kirsten's travel and lodging costs. Kirsten will be reporting on the conference in a future issue of the *Notiziario* and is filming while there to gain additional footage for use in the film I have asked her to make about our Society. Our Executive Committee approved the expenditure of \$300 of Society funds to allow Kirsten to extend her stay in Campobasso province two days after the conference so that she could visit the area, especially the towns of her maternal ancestors, Jelsi and Riccia. As those towns also are where my DiBuono ancestors lived for the better part of two centuries, I arranged with my cousin Antonio DiBuono, who was born and raised in Jelsi but now lives in Campobasso, to give Kirsten a personal tour of those neighboring *comuni* and the surrounding area. That occurred today and Kirsten tells me in her message that she was thrilled at the experience of walking the very streets, alleys, and sidewalks trod on by her ancestors, at seeing the home of her great grandfather and meeting the local people to whom my cousin introduced her. Of course, as I expected he would, Antonio invited Kirsten to his home (a beautiful one, I must add) to meet his family and enjoy their typical Italian hospitality. And so, yes, this endeavor to send a representative to the conference brought satisfaction on many fronts.

Enjoyment comes from socializing with fellow members. No better recent example is the special tour of the Brumidi paintings in the Capitol that was arranged by Joe Grano. For two and one-half hours on Saturday, 11 June, the 27 of us members and friends who attended were educated and entertained by Steve Livingood of the Capitol Historic Society and by the stellar conservator of the Brumidi paintings, Christiana Cunningham-Adams. To add to this special experience, after the tour we joined for camaraderie and good food at Toscana Café near Union Station, arranged for us by Nancy DeSanti. Ah, yes, this was an enjoyable day.

Members soon will have another opportunity to socialize, on Sunday, 31 July, when we will hold our general Society meeting and luncheon at Casa Italiana. Look for the

announcement flyer in this newsletter and make your reservation early. Following closely afterwards, in August, will be our annual Ferragosto Picnic at Villa Rosa, in Mitchellville, Maryland. Look for information elsewhere in this newsletter.

Cordiali saluti,
Dick DiBuono

NEXT SOCIETY ACTIVITIES:

By Ennio Di Tullio, VP Program

AMHS General Meeting, July 31, 2011, L'ARMA DEI CARABINIERI

The next General Society Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 31, 2011 at 1 p.m. in Casa Italiana. There will be a short business meeting, followed by a luncheon catered by Tony's New York Pizza restaurant of Fairfax, VA. The menu will be Fusilli Primavera, Veal Piccata, vegetables, salad and dessert, with wine and soft drinks served as well.



The guest speaker will be Lt. Col. Giuseppe Battaglia, Military Attaché of the Carabinieri from the Italian Embassy. Lt. Col. Battaglia attended the Military Academy in Modena and the Carabinieri Officers' School in Rome. He has had a distinguished and varied career, including a position as Staff Officer at the Carabinieri General Headquarters, working on illegal immigration, human trafficking, organized crime and protection of human rights.

The focus of his address to the Society will be the history and duties of the Carabinieri. This branch of the Italian military has the special charge of policing not only the military but also civilians. Since many Americans are not familiar with the specific law enforcement functions of the Carabinieri, the program should prove to be an informative experience for AMHS members and

friends. Make your reservations as soon as possible (\$12 for members and \$15 for non-members). We look forward to seeing you on July 31!

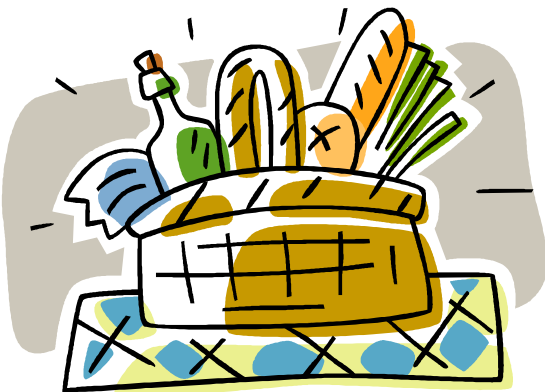


The Speaker, Lt. Col Giuseppe Battaglia

Ferragosto Picnic - A Wonderful Tradition!

Our celebration of Ferragosto, is one that exemplifies all the wonderful culture we share as Italians; the joy of families getting together, the sharing of our wonderful cuisine, the fun of friendly competition from our games, and the music that makes us feel the joy of living. So mark your calendars for **Sunday August 14th**. The celebration begins at **1PM** at the **Villa Rosa Nursing Home 3800 Lottsford Vista Rd, Mitchellville, MD. 20721**. Mass will be conducted by Fr. Antonio Dal Balcon in the chapel at **11:30AM**.

Every year our celebration gets better and better. And, of course, there will be the usual games of bocce, briscola, music, etc.. Beer, wine, and soda will be provided. Grills will be set up for the barbecue enthusiasts. The event will be held under the large pavilion, so please come and enjoy, rain or shine!



Feriae Augusti, It Goes Back to the Romans!

Sent by Dick DiBuono

Ferragosto is an Italian holiday celebrated on August 15. Originally, it may have related to a celebration of the middle of the summer and the end of hard labor in the fields. The Catholic Church celebrates this date as a Holy Day of Obligation to commemorate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary—the real physical elevation of her sinless soul and incorrupt body, into Heaven.

Before the Roman Catholic Church came into existence, however, this holiday was celebrated in the Roman Empire to honor the gods—in particular Diana—and the cycle of fertility and ripening. In fact, the present Italian name of the holiday derives from its original Latin name, *Feriae Augusti* ("Festivals [Holidays] of the Emperor Augustus"). Almost the entire month of August was taken as a holiday and leisure time in Italy in honor of this feast day.

In present days, Ferragosto is mainly a short holiday when Italians take brief vacations. The holiday often coincides with peak activity of the Perseid meteor shower, leaving Italians at a particular advantage to view the astral event, which is seen best at pre-dawn hours.

On Ferragosto, many Italians get the day off. People celebrate on the streets in many cities of Italy. Today, in the United States, many Italian heritage organizations celebrate the day with festivals or picnics.

Source: Wikipedia

RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

AMHS GENERAL MEETING, MAY 15, 2011: FESTIVALS AND TRADITIONS OF MOLISE

By Joann Novello

On Sunday, May 15, AMHS members and friends gathered in Casa Italiana to enjoy an afternoon of camaraderie, good food, and fascinating reminiscences about the celebrations that take place in and traditions that are honored by so many small villages and larger cities of Molise.



After a brief business meeting, attendees were invited to dine on an excellent luncheon of fusilli caprese and chicken brunello prepared by Tony's New York Pizza of Fairfax.

During the meal, a film played in the background highlighting many of the processions and special ceremonies of communities in Molise. But the truly interesting part of the program began when three *molisani* members of AMHS, accompanied by slides, displayed well-deserved pride in their heritage by recounting the unique festivals and traditions of the small towns of their ancestral roots. Dick DiBuono spoke of the Festa del Grano in Jelsi, commemorating the protection of the *commune* during the 1805 earthquake by Sant’Anna. David Ciummo regaled us with a first-hand account of the two day bonfire in honor of Sant’Anastasio, patron saint of Acquaviva d’Isernia. Lucio D’Andrea reminisced about growing up in Roccamandolfi. Among other memories, Lucio spoke of his experiences as an altar boy accompanying the priest to administer last rites.



The audience responded enthusiastically to these personal accounts highlighting the fascinating activities in this region. We came to realize that there is so much to learn about Molise, which, both fortunately and unfortunately, is overlooked by tourists and historians: fortunately, because the area remains unspoiled and truly special to the lucky ones who have connections to Molise; unfortunately, because it is not appreciated as it deserves to be. Hopefully, AMHS can help promote Molise (and Abruzzo, too), but also help preserve the charm and unique character.

CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI TOUR

By Nancy DeSanti

On June 11, 2011, a warm, sunny day in Washington, D.C., a group of 28 AMHS members and friends converged on the Capitol for a private tour to see the famous works of the artist Constantino Brumidi (whom some call the “Michaelangelo of the Capitol”). The special tour was arranged by AMHS Board Member Joe Grano who was instrumental in getting Congress to award a Congressional Gold Medal honoring Brumidi.

The tour was led by Steven Livengood of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society who not only talked about Brumidi’s masterpieces--such allegorical paintings as “The Apotheosis of George Washington” (showing our first President ascending into the heavens) in the “eye” of the Rotunda--but he also told us little-known facts about the artist. He said Brumidi was born in Italy in 1805 to a Greek refugee father and an Italian mother. They lived in Rome and the

parents had a coffeeshop across the street from the Forum. At a young age, Brumidi began to develop his talents as a fresco artist painting with watercolors on wet plaster, and he fairly soon began painting the Vatican. But along the way, he made some political enemies, which led to his being forced to leave Italy. As luck would have it, at the same time Brumidi was being exiled from Italy, the congressional leaders of the United States were looking for a classically trained artist who could apply the European style to distinctly American themes. Thus Brumidi became the first fresco painter in the New World.



Our tour guide pointed out the details of the “American history frieze” circling the walls in the Rotunda and told us how Brumidi fell 75 feet while working on the frieze. Fortunately, he was caught by a safety net but after that incident, he recruited another artist from Italy to help him complete the frieze.

Our next stop after the Rotunda was the Brumidi Corridors, the seven richly decorated corridors on the Capitol’s Senate wing. Joe Grano arranged for us to get a VIP tour by Christiana Cunningham-Adams, an art conservator who has been doing the painstaking work of restoring Brumidi’s work since 1991. She trained in Rome and Florence for 11 years and she told us that three of her Italian colleagues will be coming from Italy soon to help her.

Christiana explained how Brumidi was inspired by the work Raphael did in the Vatican on the Pope’s Loggia. She told us how she uses a scalpel and bright lights to restore the panels inch by inch to the original bright colors underneath layers of grime and overpainting that over the years had dulled the beautiful colors. She explained how Brumidi used the *trompe d’oeil* (“trick of the eye”) technique to give the illusion of three-dimensional (3D) moldings and recessed panels. He had a team of artists from Italy, France and Belgium that she said helped him incorporate animals, flowers, landscapes, patriotic shields and historical figures into the various panels. She told us how a trained eye can see what work on the panels had been done in a single day (known as the “giornata”). As Christiana was telling us about Brumidi with so much enthusiasm, we could see that she does indeed embody his spirit.

After the tour, the group headed for the nearby Toscana Cafe at 601 2nd St., N.E., where Chief Daniele, who had opened his restaurant especially for our group, welcomed

us warmly. (Some may remember Daniele for his cooking classes at Casa Italiana). The delicious food and wine were enjoyed while the conversation turned to the very enjoyable morning spent viewing the Brumidi treasures. A good time was surely had by all!!



SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

Happy to report that our very own member from Joplin, MO is doing relatively well.

By Omero Sabatini

Of course, all of us know of the destruction and loss of life suffered by the Joplin residents. Our hearts go out to them, but, particularly, and naturally enough, to our own Mary Anna Sabatini Prince, my first cousin.

Mary Anna has lived in Joplin virtually her entire life. When the tornado struck, she heard a noise and went out to investigate. Luckily for her, it turned out that "only" a few windows had been shattered, though the house's basic structure was undamaged. Still, Mary Anna was without power, and for a few days stayed with friends. Now she is back home, and for a few days roughing it. *Comunque, fatti coraggio, Mary Anna.* Our prayers are with you!



Mary Anna Sabatini Prince

CONGRATULATIONS TO JAMES VERY

By Renee Very

James Very, son of Renee and Tom, looks forward to starting the next step in academics by attending Penn State University at University Park this summer.

James recently graduated from Mt. Lebanon High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with High Honors. He was a member of National Honor Society and Mt. Lebanon Percussion Ensemble. Since childhood, James learned to play over 40 percussion instruments including marimbas, vibraphones and djembes. He is a skilled drumset and snare drum percussionist. He was snare section leader for Mt. Lebanon Drumline. He performed in Hershey, Chicago, Oklahoma, California, New York and Florida. His drumline is so well liked they were invited to perform at the 2011 NHL Winter Classic Penguins vs. Capitals.



James Very

AN ANNIVERSARY AMONG FRIENDS



Eileen Parise and Rocco Del Monaco hosted a group of friends at the Portofino Restaurant to celebrate Eileen's parents' wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Parise, who live in Florida, were delighted to be honored on their special day. They are also proud to acknowledge their Abruzzese origins!



AMHS MEMBERSHIP

By Maria D'Andrea, VP Membership

2011 Membership Renewal

We are nearing the end of our 2011 membership renewal "campaign". Those of you who had not yet renewed should have received, via mail, a reminder membership renewal letter and membership card. Please act quickly to rejoin to support our Society and all of its activities – and also to receive the *AMHS Notiziario*. As of mid-June, 274 had renewed their membership for 2011 and/or became new members. We (the officers) are extremely grateful for your support of the Society's programs and activities.

New Members

A warm welcome to our newest members: Peter & Claudia Bell, Dr. & Mrs. Louis DeSanti, Nick Ferrante, and Robert & Marlene Lucian.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

The following members will celebrate birthdays and anniversaries in July and August. *Buon compleanno, buon anniversario e Auguri!*

Birthdays

Amy D'Amico, July 1; Vince Marinucci, July 3; Vincent Trasatti, July 4; Rosemarie Del Gizzi and Gene Swann, July 5; Dianne Francesconi Lyon, July 6; John Verna, July 7; Antoniette Mazziotti, July 9; Karen Berl and Nancy Romagnoli, July 10; Carmine Amatucci and Ray Bernero, July 12; David Ciummo, July 13; Dr. Michael Corrado, July 14; Tony D'Onofrio, Paula Malcangio and Gloria Sabatini, July 15; Ines Sozio, July 17; Nancy Hurst, July 18; Karen DeAngelis, July 20; Mario Ciccone, July 21; Lina Pronio, July 23; Silvio Pronio, July 26; Lynn Sorbara, July 27; Gary Redente, August 2; Daniela Di Tullio and Ruth Lapioli Merriman, August 3; Antoinette Bacik, Silvana De Luca and Kendra Swann, August 6; Loretta Pittarelli, August 9; Carmine Melchiorre, August 14; Nancy DeSanti, August 15; Henry Colletto, August 17; Angela Campanella, August 21; Robert Lucian and Joann Novello, August 23; Yolanda Colandreo, August 24; Elia Ciccarello, August 25; Mrs. Bernard Renzy and Frank Rinaldi, August 26; Anthony Frato and Daniela Tamburo, August 27; Donna Caruso, August 30; and Rosa Mazziotti, August 31.

Anniversaries

Bill & Ann Marie Roland, July 2; Joe & Joann Novello and Joseph Scafetta Jr., July 4; Ludovico Giordano, July 6; Anthony & Sonia Spadoni Alioto, July 11; Rod & Maria Ragan, July 12; Frank & Paula Malcangio, Sabatino & Antoniette Mazziotti, and Renato & Rita Orcino, July 19; Paul La Monaca, July 21; James & Nancy Palumbo, July 24; Stefano di Girolamo & Christine Smith, July 25; Stephan & Rita Carrier and Dominic & Adelfina Santini, July 30; David Ciummo & Sabrina DeSousa, July 31; Dr. Joseph & Pam Lupo, August 5; Antoniette Bacik, August 6; Mr & Mrs. Louis Sacchetti, August 7; Domenico & Julia Conti, August 19; Nancy Johnsen Bucci, August 23; Brian & Diane Pasquino, August 25; Guy & Donna Caruso and Emanuele & Frances De

Marco, August 26; John & Catherine Di Feliceantonio, August 29; and Rial & Sandra Coleman, August 31.

FROM THE REGIONAL CORNER

TAGLIACOZZO, PROVINCE OF L'AQUILA, ABRUZZO

By Nancy DeSanti

Translation by Maddalena Borea

Tagliacozzo is a town and comune in the westernmost corner of the province of L'Aquila in Abruzzo, only a few kilometers away from the Lazio region. Although the town's historical records date back to at least 819 A.D., it is a famous battle fought there in 1268 for which Tagliacozzo is most well-known.



The Battle of Tagliacozzo was fought between the French, Provençal and Italian forces of Charles of Anjou and the Italian, Spanish, Roman and German troops of the Hohenstaufen army, led by Conradin (Corradino of Swabia). The German rulers of the Hohenstaufen line had inherited the Kingdom of Sicily from the Normans at the end of the 12th century, and sought to lay claim to northern Italy as well—an ambition vehemently opposed by many northern Italian states and the Papacy.

Although Conradin's forces won the first phase of the battle and broke up to pursue Charles' divisions, at this point, Charles sprung his trap—his hidden reserve forces composed of veteran French knights. This tactical surprise led to the flight and massacre of Conradin's scattered forces. Conradin was forced to flee back to Rome where he was later captured

and executed. The battle resulting in a victory for Charles thus cemented Angevin rule over the Kingdom of Sicily.

Tagliacozzo has roughly 6,820 residents (known as Tagliacozzani). The town's name means "cut in the rock," derived from the Latin "talus" (cut) and "cotium" (rock) to indicate the fissure that divides the nearby mountains. Tagliacozzo is known for its plentiful agricultural products from the numerous farms of the Palentini fields and the Fucino plains. Local specialties include dishes made with sausage, pork loin, coppa, "guanciale" and lamb. Various types of sweets are made according to the festivities: at Christmas, a type of pizza with walnuts; at Carnival, pancakes and zeppoles with honey, chestnuts and "nocchietelle; for the Blessing of the Holy Face, there are biscuits (little horses and doves) made by the cloistered Benedictine nuns; and a Gnocchi Festival in August during which gnocchetti with ceci are specially made.



What to See:

- The Palazzo Ducale (Ducal Palace) built by Roberto Orsini. (In 1400, Pope Alexander V detached Tagliacozzo from the Kingdom of Naples and admitted it to the Papal States, confirming the ownership to Giacomo Orsini which continued for the next 100 years).
- Piazza dell'Obelisco, said to be one of the most beautiful squares in Abruzzo, features a 13th century fountain surrounded by elegant buildings.
- Convent of Saint Francis, containing the tomb of Blessed Tommaso da Celano, who was the first biographer of Saint Francis of Assisi, is known for its ancient portal and Gothic rose window.
- Sanctuary of Maria Santissima dell'Oriente, built in the 14th century on a hill just outside of town.
- Museo Orientale, with a collection of Egyptian, Ethiopian and Eastern artifacts.

TAGLIACOZZO, PROVINCIA DELL'AQUILA, ABRUZZO

Tagliacozzo, un villaggio comunale dell'angolo piu' occidentale della provincia dell'Aquila, si trova a pochi chilometri dalla regione Lazio...Sebbene esistano informazioni storiche riguardanti questa cittadina, che risalgono all'819 dopo Cristo, in effetti vi fu' la famosa battaglia di Tagliacozzo combattuta nel 1269, che l'aveva gia' resa famosa. Tale battaglia fu' combattuta tra i Francesi, le forze provenzali ed Italiane al comando di Carlo d'Angio', e le truppe Spagnole e

Germaniche al comando di Corradino di Svevia della dinastia degli Hohenstaufen. Questa dinastia aveva gia' ereditato il regno di Sicilia dai Normanni nel dodicesimo secolo, e mirava ora al nord Italia. Tale ambizione fu' veremente opposta sia dal Nord che dalla Chiesa. Le forze di Corradino vinsero la prima fase della battaglia ed inseguirono e dispersero le divisioni degli Angioini, ma furono sorprendentemente intrappolati da una guarnigione nascosta di veterani. Questa strategica azione risulto' nel massacro delle forze di Corradino, il quale fu' costretto a fuggire a Roma, dove venne catturato e conseguentemente ucciso. Il risultato positivo della battaglia porto' l'influenza Angioina sul regno di Sicilia.

Tagliacozzo conta circa 6280 abitanti (conosciuti come Tagliacozzani). Il nome Tagliacozzo significa "Taglio nella roccia". Viene dal Latino "Talus" (taglio) e "Cotium" (roccia), per indicare la fessura che divide i monti circostanti. La cittadina e' conosciuta anche per l'abbondanza dei suoi prodotti agricoli, provenienti dalle numerose fattorie dei campi Palentini e dalle pianure del Fucino.. Le specialita' culinarie includono piatti di salsiccia, filetto di maiale, coppa, "guanciale" e agnello. I dolci tipici sono differenti per le differenti feste dell'anno.: A Natale un tipo di pizza con le noci; a Carnevale una specie di pancakes e zeppole con miele, noci e "nocchietelle"; per la benedizione del Sacro Volto ci sono biscotti a forma di cavallini e di colombini, fatti dalle suore di clausura del convento benedettino; in Agosto poi si fanno gnocchi con ceci.



Le attrazione del luogo:

- Il Palazzo ducale costruito da Roberto Orsini. (Nel 1400 il Papa Alessandro V stacco' Tagliacozzo dal regno di Napoli e l'annesse agli stati della Chiesa, confermando Giacomo Orsini padrone. Fu' cosi' per oltre un secolo)
- La piazza dell'Obelisco, ritenuta una delle piu' belle piazze d'Abruzzo, dove si puo' ammirare una fontana del tredicesimo secolo circondata da eleganti palazzi.
- Il Convento di San Francesco dove si trova la tomba del Beato Tommaso da Celano, che fu' il primo biografo del Santo di Assisi. Il convento e' importante anche per il portale e per il rosone della finestra gotica.
- Il Santuario di Maria Santissima dell'Oriente, costruito nel quattordicesimo secolo su una collina all'entrata di Tagliacozzo.
- Il Museo Orientale con una collezione di artefatti Egizi, Etiopi ed Asiatici.

Sources:

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (Da Wikipedia, l'enciclopedia libera)

www.borghitalia.it

www.abruzzocitta.it/comuni/tagliacozzo

FORLI' DEL SANNIO, PROVINCE OF ISERNIA, MOLISE

By Nancy DeSanti

Translated by Maddalena Borea

The picturesque comune of Forli' del Sannio is located 12 kilometers northwest of Isernia and 45 kilometers northwest of Campobasso in the Molise region. The town, situated in a mountainous area, has about 747 residents (known as Forlivesi).



The ancient settlement probably dates back to the Samnite period before the time of Christ, when that tribe fought long and hard against the Romans. The Samnites, who held the Apennines over much of central Italy, were one of early Rome's most formidable rivals before they were finally defeated after three hard-fought wars. The more recent historical information appears under the Normans, when Forli' del Sannio belonged to the monastery of San Vincenzo al Volturno, and later passed to the Borrello family. Originally called by the Latin name "Forulum," it was then given by the Angevins to Ugone Brancia in 1269. In the 14th century, it came under the control of the Cornay family, related to the powerful Carafe, who were also the last feudal lords of the area.

Notable events in Forli' del Sannio include the "Ciciarelli" feast in honor of St. Anthony the Abbot on January 16, and the Grapes Festival in September-October.

The cuisine features dishes typically found in other small Molisani towns, such as sagne a fasciuole, scurpelle, ravioli di ricotta dolci fiadone, pizza di verdura and cicirchiata.

What to See

- Church of San Biagio
- Beautiful forest located in Vandra

FORLI' DEL SANNIO, PROVINCIA DI ISERNIA, MOLISE

Il pittoresco comune di Forli' del Sannio, nella regione Molise, si trova a 12 chilometri a nord est di Isernia e a 45 chilometri a nord ovest di Campobasso. Il villaggio, situato in una zona montagnosa, conta circa 747 abitanti. (conosciuti come Forlivesi). Questa antica comunita' risale ai tempi dei Sanniti, prima della venuta di Cristo. I Sanniti, che occuparono buona parte dell'Appennino centrale. combatterono a lungo ed aggressivamente contro i Romani, di

cui furono acerrimi rivali, fino a quando furono da questi ultimi sconfitti, dopo tre guerre combattute aspramente.



Secondo informazioni piu' recenti, Forli' fu' sotto l'egemonia dei Normanni, quando appartenne al Monastero di San Vincenzo al Volturno, e piu' tardi alla famiglia Borrello. Inizialmente chiamata col nome latino "Forulum", fu data dagli Angioini a Ugone Brancia nel 1269. Nel quattordicesimo secolo Forli' si trovo' sotto il controllo della famiglia Comai, imparentata ai potenti Carafe, che furono gli ultimi feudatari dell'area.

Fra gli eventi piu' importanti di Forli' del Sannio sono da ricordare la "Ciciarelli", festa in onore di Sant'Antonio Abate, che si celebra il 16 gennaio, e la festa dell'uva a settembre e ottobre.

I piatti tipici sono simili a quelli delle altre cittadine molisane: le sagne a fasciuole, le scurpelle, i ravioli di ricotta, dolci fiadone, verdura e cicirchiata.

Sources:

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (Da Wikipedia, l'enciclopedia libera)

www.italyworldclub.com/molise/province-isernia/forlidelsannio.htm

<http://Inx.forlidelsannio.net/joomla/generale/cosa-mangiare-a-forli-del-sannio.html>



Experts charged in Italian quake warning failure

Seven scientists and other experts were indicted on manslaughter charges Wednesday for allegedly failing to sufficiently warn residents before a devastating earthquake that killed more than 300 people in central Italy in 2009.

Defense lawyers condemned the charges, saying it's impossible to predict earthquakes. Seismologists have long concurred, saying the technology doesn't exist to predict a quake and that no major temblor has ever been foretold.

Judge Giuseppe Romano Gargarella ordered the members of the national government's Great Risks commission, which evaluates potential for natural disasters, to go on trial in L'Aquila on Sept. 20.

Italian media quoted the judge as saying the defendants "gave inexact, incomplete and contradictory information" about whether smaller tremors felt by L'Aquila residents in the six months before the April 6, 2009 quake should have constituted grounds for a quake warning.

Specifically, prosecutors focused on a memo issued after a March 31, 2009 meeting of the Great Risks commission which was called because of mounting concerns about the months of seismic activity in the region.

According to the commission's memo, issued one week before the big quake, the experts concluded that it was "improbable" that there would be a major quake though it added that one couldn't be excluded.

Afterward, members of the commission gave reassuring interviews to local media stressing the impossibility of predicting quakes and that even six months worth of low-magnitude temblors was not unusual in the highly seismic region and didn't mean a big one was coming.

In one now-infamous interview included in the prosecutors' case, commission member Bernardo De Bernardis of the national civil protection department responded to a question about whether residents should just sit back and relax with a glass of wine.

"Absolutely, absolutely a Montepulciano doc," he responded, referring to a high-end red. "This seems important."

Such a reassuring verdict by commission members "persuaded the victims to stay at home," La Repubblica newspaper quoted the indictment as saying.

The 6.3-magnitude quake killed 308 people in and around the medieval town, which was largely reduced to rubble. Thousands of survivors lived in tent camps or temporary housing for months.

Defense lawyers contend that since quakes can't be predicted, the accusations that the scientists and civil protection experts

on the commission should have sounded an alarm that a big quake was coming make no sense.



A SPECIAL VISITOR

By Lucio D'Andrea

On Sunday, June 12, Edvige and I had the pleasure of attending a special Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Carlo Liberati, Prelate of Pompeii and Pontifical Delegate to the "Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary" at Pompeii. The Mass, which was celebrated in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., was a beautiful and inspiring event. It was the first visit to the U.S. by the Bishop, who is on a tour to visit a number of churches dedicated to the "Lady of Pompeii," of which there are many. Accompanying him was a framed icon of the Blessed Virgin.



Our Lady of the Rosary

This is the first time it was taken out of the Shrine in Pompeii. One of the co-celebrants of the Mass (celebrated both in Italian and English) gave a brief account of the history of the Shrine. It began to take root in 1873 with the restoration of a dilapidated church in Pompeii, thanks to the intervention of Bartolo Longo, who was born in 1841 to a wealthy family in a town near Brindisi. His early life was full of disappointments, painful experiences and lack of

spirituality. Through the intervention of a Dominican Father, he became a lay Dominican. As the restoration of the church continued, Longo secured from a convent in Naples a painting of Our Lady of the Rosary, which he then had restored and placed in the church. Miracles began to be reported and pilgrims began to flock to the church. Through devotion and donations, the church was enlarged, in time becoming one of the holiest shrines in Italy.



Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii in Italy

Many churches, chapels and shrines in the world are dedicated to Our Lady of Pompeii, as is the case of our Holy Rosary Church in Washington, D.C. The devotion to "Our Lady" was due primarily to the influence of Italian immigrants. For many of them a visit to the shrine in Pompeii was a "must" before boarding a ship in Naples bound for the new world. In New York, the Parish of "Our Lady of Pompeii," as in the case of our Holy Rosary Church with Father Lydio Tomasi, is run by the Scalabrini Fathers and was a point of reference for Italian immigrants to America.



A painting of Bartolo Longo presenting the shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii to Pope Leo XIII, February 19, 1894

On a more personal note, I remember that, while growing up in Roccamandolfi (Molise), my mother, Candida, was deeply devoted to the Madonna and when we began our journey to immigrate to the U.S.A. in 1947, Mamma, with my brother Joseph and me in tow, visited the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary in Pompeii on December 27, seeking the Madonna's blessing before boarding the "Saturnia" the next day. Mamma retained that devotion for the rest of her life. She lived to be 100, plus!!

TEACHING PLACIDO DOMINGO'S YOUNG ARTISTS

By Maddalena Borea, AMHS Member

In the past several years, it has been my good fortune to work with Placido Domingo's Young Artists program at the Washington National Opera. These talented young singers on the verge of international careers are chosen to come here from all over the world--China, Korea, Mexico, Russia, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Colombia, Georgia, the Dominican Republic and Australia in addition to the United States--to get vocal and dramatic direction as well as career guidance.

My role is to teach these young singers proper diction and pronunciation of Italian and along the way I also try to instill in them a love for the beautiful Italian language. During the two years each singer is in the program, I come to know and love these young artists. I enjoy inviting them to my home for dinner (they love Italian food!!) and maybe a song or two.

I have to say that this program would not have been such a success without the full support of Placido Domingo.

Quindi, sabato sera, 28 Maggio, WNO (Washington National Opera) ha affettuosamente salutato, con una festa a sorpresa al Kennedy Center, Placido Domingo, suo Direttore Generale e suo maestro. Il tenore, nella foto con l'insegnante d'Italiano della Casa Operistica, ha, negli ultimi quindici anni, grandiosamente promosso l'Opera, la Cultura Italiana e la lingua Italiana.. Il grande Tenore che si e' recentemente dimesso dall'Organizzazione, lascia un vuoto incolmabile fra gli amatori dell'Opera e fra coloro che hanno avuto l'onore di lavorare per lui o di conoscerlo. Un augurio e molto affetto al Maestro che se ne va.

For further information, please visit the website
<http://www.dc-opera.org/education/dcyap/index.asp>



'WHAT IS AN AMERICAN?'

Excerpt from "What is an American?" Letters from an American Farmer,
Letter III (1782) by Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur

Submitted by Rocco Caniglia

In 1755, a Frenchman named Michel-Guillaume Jean de Crèvecoeur arrived in North America as a soldier during the French & Indian War. At war's end, he decided to settle on a farm in New York, where he became an American citizen.



Years later (1782), he reflected on what it meant to be an American, outlining the essential characteristics Americans shared. Writing under the pen name Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur, he produced a series of letters about the essence of America:

"America is not composed, as in Europe, of great lords who possess everything, and of a herd of people who have nothing. Here are no aristocratical families, no courts, no kings, no bishops, no ecclesiastical dominion, no invisible power giving to a few a very visible one; no great manufactures employing thousands, no great refinements of luxury. The rich and the poor are not so far removed from each other as they are in Europe..."

"Here individuals of all nations are melted into a new race of men, whose labours and posterity will one day cause great change in the world. Americans are the western pilgrims, who are carrying along with them that great mass of arts, science, vigour and industry, which began long since in the East; they will finish the great circle.

"The Americans were once scattered all over Europe; here they are incorporated into one of the finest systems of population which have ever appeared, and which will hereafter become distinct by the power of the different climates they inhabit..."

"The American is a new man, who acts upon new principles; he must therefore entertain new ideas, and form new opinions. From involuntary idleness, servile dependence, penury and useless labour, he has passed to toils of a very different nature, rewarded by ample subsistence. This is an American."

ITALY'S ROLE IN US INDEPENDENCE TO BE HONORED

Sent by Nancy DeSanti

ROME (AP) — The first U.S. museum dedicated to the American Revolution will feature an exhibit explaining the influence of the Italian Enlightenment on the thinking of the Founding Fathers.

Foreign Minister Franco Frattini and the president of the American Revolution Center signed an agreement aimed at opening an Italian section in the center's Museum of the American Revolution, which is due to be opened in Philadelphia by 2015.

The president of the center, Bruce Cole, says the influence of the Italian Enlightenment, particular the ideas of individual liberties and forms of government, on drafters of the U.S. Constitution is a little known but important part of U.S. history.

The Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776, and established the U.S. constitution.



The Signing of the Declaration of Independence 235 Years Ago. "Happy Birthday America"!

ROME AND WASHINGTON, DC BECAME SISTER CITIES

By Joe Grano, Chair The Constantino Brumidi Society Washington, D.C.

After more than five years, the movement to have Washington, D.C. and Rome become Sister Cities has born fruit.

On Tuesday June 7 Washington D.C. and Rome, Italy became officially Sister Cities. The agreement was signed at our city hall, the John A. Wilson Building, at 4:30 P.M. The initiative began during the Anthony Williams administration and was vigorously pursued by the Adrian Fenty administration and was now consummated in the Vincent Gray administration when the mayors of DC and Rome signed the official documents. Rome will now be Washington, D.C.'s. 11th Sister City. I congratulate all three mayors for their steadfast efforts to make this happen. I also thank Patricia Elwood, District of Columbia Chief Protocol Officer under the three administrations, for her untiring efforts in this regard.

Also to be recognized is the Ambassador of Italy, Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, for his assistance in making sure this event happened on the 150th anniversary of Italian Unity. The Ambassador has worked very diligently on programs to celebrate the common values shared by Italy and the United States. The Palladio exhibit at the Building Museum was one and the recently concluded Canaletto exhibit at the National Gallery of Art is another.

Speaking of the National Gallery of Art, now on display there is the famous Capitoline Venus from Rome. This is the first fruit from the new Rome-Washington, D.C. relationship.

AMHS CONGRATULATES JOE GRANO'S SUCCESSFUL EFFORT

It is with pride that AMHS congratulates its distinguished Board of Director member, Joe Grano, in his successful campaign to forge the alliance of Washington, DC and Rome as Sister Cities. Long recognizing the commonalities of the two great capital cities, Joe tenaciously advocated for this honor, and now has the satisfaction to see his efforts rewarded. We are fortunate to have Joe working so diligently for Italian-American causes.



Left, the Mayor of Rome, Gianni Alemanno, and the Mayor of Washington, D.C., Vincent Gray sign the document in the historic John Wilson Building, seat of the D.C. government.



Italian Ambassador, Giulio Terzi, left picture, and AMHS Member, Joe Grano, picture at right, with Rome's Mayor Alemanno

(Pictures by Francesco Isgro')

ITALY WORLD'S BIGGEST WINE PRODUCER

Italians overtake French

(ANSA) - Rome, June 13 - Italy last year overtook France to become the world's biggest wine producer and data for this year show a surge in Italian wine exports, the Coldiretti farmers' union reported.

Citing data from the European Union, Coldiretti said the last harvest produced 49.6 million hectolitres of wine in Italy compared to 46.2 million hectolitres in France. EU wine production in 2010 totalled 157.2 billion hectolitres, down 3.7% from the previous year, Coldiretti added.

"It is with great pride that we can say we are the world's leading wine producer, having surpassed France not only in value but also in volume," Italian Agriculture Minister Saverio Romano said.

"This benchmark is also thanks to the excellent performance our wines are having abroad, with a 31% increase in exports to the United States in the first two months of 2011," he added.

"We are also first for quality, with over 60% of the wine we produce bottled with recognised denomination of origin labels. But we can even do better, we must do better," Romano said.

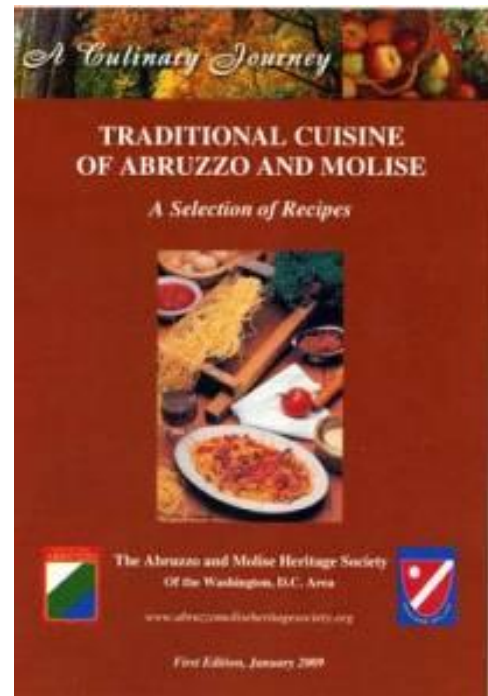
Italy had surpassed France in the past for bulk unbottled wine production, much of which was exported to France where it was used to blend more famous bottled wines like Beaujolais.

Italy overtook France also for the production of sparkling wines with 4.2 million hectolitres of prosecco and spumante bottled compared to four million hectolitres for French Champagne. The first two months of 2011 also saw Italy boost exports to the EU by 6% while those towards China, while relatively low in volume, soared 146%.

The value of Italian wine exports in 2010 climbed to 3.93 billion euros with the export market overtaking the domestic one for the first time.



Order your AMHS Cookbook



A Selection of Recipes from Abruzzo and Molise assembled for the enjoyment of AMHS members and their friends.

The book, lavishly illustrated, includes an introduction describing the cuisine of these two Italian regions, its development from the 1500s, the main dishes, the meats, the fish, the antipasti, the sweets.

Many of the recipes were selected from the list of references given in the introductory essay, some were contributed by AMHS members, some were translated from the Italian adapting the American system of measurements.

PRICE: \$10.00 + \$3.00 per book for postage and handling

Order form for **TRADITIONAL CUISINE OF ABRUZZO AND MOLISE**

Please make check to AMHS; send to AMHS, 1652 Massonoff Court, Vienna, VA 22182

NAME: _____

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NUMBER OF COPIES: _____

AMOUNT: (\$13 x Number of copies): _____



The
Abruzzo and Molise
Heritage Society
Of the Washington, DC Area



Website: abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

LUNCH/MEETING

WHEN: SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2011

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: **“L’Arma dei Carabinieri”**

Menu: Fusilli Primavera, Veal Piccata, salad and dessert, catered by Tony's New York Pizza restaurant of Fairfax, VA. Wine and soft drinks included.

PRICE: \$12.00 members and \$15.00 non members
Paid reservation by July 27.

Casa Italiana

**595 Third St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.**

PROGRAM:

“Nei Secoli Fedele” (“Faithful Through the Centuries”), the motto of the Carabinieri, sets the tone for this AMHS General Meeting.

We are privileged to have with us Lt. Col. Giuseppe Battaglia, Military Attaché of the Carabinieri from the Italian Embassy, who will present a program on the history and duties of the Carabinieri. This branch of the Italian military has the special charge of policing not only the military but also civilians. Come to learn more about the unique and elite corps of law enforcers, the Italian Carabinieri.



For information call: Joe Novello, 301-927-4766; Dick DiBuono, 703-960-5981. **FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!**

cut-----cut

Reservation for AMHS Meeting on Sunday, July 31, 2011

Please make check to AMHS; send to AMHS, c/o Joseph Novello, 7035 Hunter Lane, Hyattsville, MD 20782

NAME: _____ Phone: _____

Number of people: _____ Check amount: _____ Email: _____



The
Abruzzo and Molise
Heritage Society
 Of the Washington, D.C. Area



FERRAGOSTO PICNIC

The Abruzzo & Molise Heritage Society of Washington, DC
 invites you to celebrate our Italian Heritage on Sunday, August 14, 2010
 on the grounds of the Villa Rosa Nursing Home in Mitchellville, MD

THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT!
COVERED PAVILIONS ARE AVAILABLE

Schedule of Activities

- 11:30 AM** Mass celebrated in the Villa Rosa Chapel by Father Anthony Dal Balcon,
 Director of Villa Rosa
- 1:00 PM** Ferragosto begins
 Popular and regional music and entertainment
 Games such as card games (*Briscola, Tressette, etc.*) *Please bring your own cards.*
Bocce Tournament. Be prepared to sign up.
- 6:00 PM** Ferragosto ends

Food and drink

- Bring your own picnic basket or cooler
- Grills will be available – charcoal will be provided
- Soft drinks, bottled water and wine will be provided

Tables and chairs are available but for your personal convenience you may want to bring lawn chairs, card tables, blankets, etc.



Directions

Villa Rosa Nursing Home is located at: 3800 Lottsford Vista Rd, Mitchellville, MD Phone: 301-459-4700
 Take the US Route 50 turnoff from the Capital Beltway I-95/I-495 going East towards Annapolis.
 Take first turnoff (Exit 8) from US Route 50 to Martin Luther King Highway (MD Route 704 North).
 Proceed on MD Route 704 about one-half mile to Forbes Blvd (the 2nd traffic light.)
 Turn right on to Forbes Blvd – proceed to intersection with Lottsford Vista Rd.
 Turn right on to Lottsford Vista Rd – proceed about one-half mile.
 Villa Rosa Nursing Home is located on right side of Lottsford Vista Rd – turn right at entrance sign.
 Proceed past the nursing home building to the Festa grounds in the rear of the property.
 Ample parking on the grassy areas near the Festa grounds, but please observe no parking areas



For information call: Joe Novello 301-927-4766

Website: abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

Festivals and Traditions of Molise, Sunday, May 15, 2011



Festivals and Traditions of Molise, Sunday, May 15, 2011



Visit to the US Capitol, Saturday, June 11, 2011



Visit to the US Capitol, Saturday, June 11, 2011





The
Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society
1652 Massonoff Court
Vienna, VA 22182



Printed courtesy of Mr. Jason Voss.
Thank you, Jason



If you wish to submit an article or news for publication in the next issue of the *Notiziario*, please do so via email to: enniodit@aol.com. Thanks

If you wish to see the Picture Gallery of the Society's events, please go the AMHS web site: abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

AMHS Notiziario is

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Website: www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

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