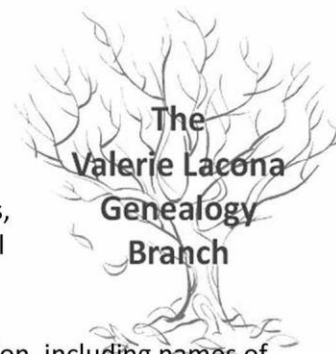


# Finding Your Ancestors In Newspapers

By Kathy Foggia



Newspapers can give a fascinating look into the lives of your ancestors. They can be searched for ancestor's death notices, obituaries, personal announcements and celebrations, community involvement, social news and gossip, lodge and club news, employment ads, real estate transactions, legal notices, casualty lists, military news, and much more.

## 1,000 Persons Pay Tribute To Renda

Approximately 1,000 persons attended the funeral of Frank Renda, who died at his home early Saturday morning, following an illness of over one year, last Monday morning at St. Anthony's church here.

A solemn high mass was celebrated for the funeral services.



A resident of Des Moines for the past 41 years Mr. Renda was really one of the pioneer Italians who came to the city. He came here at the age of fifteen years and made

Cut. R&T  
Frank Renda his home here the rest of his life. He was born in Triola in the province of Catanzaro in Italy

Funeral services began Monday morning from the home of the pioneer at 24 Granger ave., with the Argonne Post Band leading the procession directed by Dr. Akin, playing "Adeste Fideles." They were followed by 12 altar boys, the entire Societa Stemma D'Italia lodge with the regular flag bearers heading the group and a long line of friends of the late Mr. Renda.

Following the church services the band led the way through Woodland Cemetery to St. Ambrose, playing Chopin's funeral march, where Mr. Renda was buried. The priest gave his last blessing at the cemetery and Charles Gazzo, president of the Societa Stemma D'Italia, of which the pioneer was a charter member, praised him for his work for the lodge and for the fine life he had led in the community during his 44 years in the city.

Mr. Renda is survived by his widow, four sons and six daughters, all of Des Moines. The sons are: Thomas, John, August, and William. The daughters include: the Mesdames Mary Leonetti, Katherine Cordaro, Elizabeth and Edith Cataldo, Margaret Mauro and Miss Carmella Renda.

He is also survived by three brothers, Louis and Thomas of Des Moines and Antonio of Italy.

Des Moines and the Italian-American community as well as the Societa Stemma D'Italia have lost a good friend and sincere worker with the passing of Mr. Renda.

Obituaries can provide a massive amount of historical information, including names of siblings, sons, daughters, and parents as well as the date and location of birth, any records of military service, the relative's occupation, the location of the burial site, and even the church in which the funeral was held.

Birth announcements and christenings did not begin to appear in newspapers until the 20th century, but one of the more important pieces of information that we can find might include the legal or "real" names of the person who we are researching. There are times when relatives might have been known to members of the family by their middle name or a nickname that is completely different from the name on their birth certificate.

While millions of newspaper pages from across the world are available online, millions more are still in print and/or microfilm format in an archive waiting for you to access.

### Non-Digitized Collections

Iowa State Historical Library has a large collection of Iowa newspapers on film, including the Des Moines Register, the Des Moines Tribune, The American Citizen, Iowa State Bystander.

### Digitized Collections

[Newspapers.com](http://Newspapers.com) - This subscription site boasts itself as the largest online newspaper archive with over 8,800 newspapers from the 1700's through the 2000's. Here, you can find the Des Moines Register and Des Moines Tribune.

[Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov) - This free site includes newspapers from all over the country, 69 from around Iowa and one from Des Moines - The Iowa State Bystander. If something newsworthy happened in Iowa you will probably find it in newspapers all over Iowa, so it may have happened in Des Moines, but it would be in the newspaper in Cedar Falls also.

[Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) - This monthly fee site has newspapers from all over the country, including many from Iowa - The Iowa State Bystander from Des Moines.

[Genealogybank.com](http://Genealogybank.com) - This monthly fee site has newspapers from all over the country, including many from Iowa - The Iowa State Bystander.

Iowa Genealogical Society - Has the American Citizen Newspaper. Free for members.

Italian American Cultural Center - Has the American Citizen Newspaper. Free. This newspaper, for those not familiar with it, was the Italian-American newspaper published in Des Moines by Anthony Sarcone from 1923 to 1972. It contains a wealth of family history. Pictured is an obituary from The American Citizen dated September 24, 1937. It tells us where and when Mr. Renda was born, when he died, names of his children, where they live, when he came to America, names of his brothers and where they live, and that he was a charter member of the Societa Stemma D'Italia, and an early Italian pioneer coming to Des Moines. This newspaper is searchable by name, which makes it very easy to find your family.