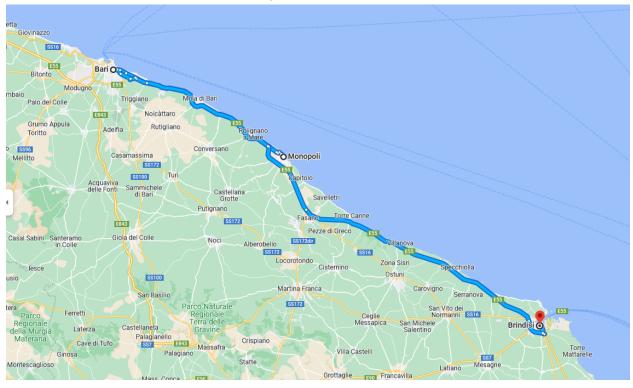
# Where was Giovanni Orto's hometown in Italy? By Deborah A. Carl

The first place to start was with what did I know?

There were several documents that said he and his wife were born in Italy, and I had a pedigree chart my father created that said he was born in "Monapoli? Or Barrie, Italy." I thought I had solved the question when I found John Orto's obituary that appeared in the *Post Star and Times* in Glens Falls, New York. Obituaries are usually written by the family and it said, "He was born in Brindisi, Italy in 1888…"<sup>1</sup> (See Document 1) But then I found an obituary that appeared in the *Tampa Bay Times* in St. Petersburg, Florida which said, "Born in Bari, Italy."<sup>2</sup> (See Document 2) Now I know where Dad got Barrie, and while I didn't know where he got Monapoli, it is between Bari and Brindisi so it was still a possibility.



While going through the hints on Ancestry, I found his World War I Draft Registration Card which said he was born on 30 March 1888 in Monopoli, Italy.<sup>3</sup> (See Document 3) Because John would

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Area Obituaries," *Post Star and Times* (Glens Falls, New York), Thursday, 1 February 1973, p. 12, col. 4, imaged at *Newspapers.com* (<u>https://www.newspapers.com/image/346828742/</u> : accessed 19 May 2023), obituary for John Orto.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "Obituaries," *St. Petersburg Times* (St. Petersburg, Florida), Friday, 2 February 1973, p. 15-B, col. 4, imaged at *Newspapers.com* (<u>https://www.newspapers.com/image/317653022/</u> : accessed 19 May 2023), obituary for John Orto.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (<u>https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6482/images/005266135\_00646</u> : accessed 19 May 2023), New

have provided this information, Monopoli was the most logical place to look for his birth record. From his marriage record, again he was most likely the informant, I learned his parents were Victora Orto and Addolorato Nistrio.<sup>4</sup> (See Document 4) The information was obviously written by the clerk since the handwriting was the same for all the entries on the page, so I suspected the parents' names were close but not exactly correct. So off I went to Monopoli!

And Giovanni Orto was born in Monopoli, Bari, Italy, on 30 March 1888, "figli di genitori ignati" (the son of unknown parents).<sup>5</sup> Looking at birth records for 1885-1895 (1890 & 1891 were missing from the available digital images and 1892 didn't have an index and wasn't searched), John was the only Orto leading me to believe he was a foundling and lied about his parents' names.

Finding the hometown of our immigrant ancestors can be challenging, but I got lucky with this one. I was not able to find an obituary for his wife, Civita Forte, but she came to the United States with her parents, and her father's obituary said he was born in Formia, Italy.<sup>6</sup> Off I went to Formia!

So of course the records for 1888 and 1889 were not available in the digital images so I couldn't search for Civita's birth record, but the records for 1855 were available so I could look for her father. And sure enough, he was born on 17 October 1855 in Mola e Castellone (which in 1863 changed its name to Formia after an ancient town that had been in the area), Latina, Italy.<sup>7</sup> In the margin of his birth record was a note that on 13 December 1883 in Formia, Latina, Italy, Francesco Forte married Filomena Masiello.<sup>8</sup>

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York > Saratoga County > 2 > Draft Card O, image 100 of 134, alphabetical order, card for John Orto; World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, NARA, microfilm M1509, Washington, D.C. <sup>4</sup> "New York, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1847-1849, 1907-1936," database with images, Ancestry.com (<u>https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61377/images/TH-1-159371-69647-19</u> : accessed 19 May 2023), Saratoga > 1903-1920, image 77 of 541, p. 94, no. 468, John Orta and Civita Forte marriage dated 10 May 1909; Saratoga County Clerk, Ballston Spa, New York.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> "Italia, Bari, Stato Civile (Archivio di Stato), 1809-1908," database with images, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYZN-9ZBV : accessed 19 May 2023), Bari > Monopoli > Nati 1888 > image 87 of 293, no. 215, birth record for Giovanni Orto dated 30 March 1888; State Archives, Bari, Italy.
<sup>6</sup> "U.S., Newspapers.com Obituary Index, 1800s-current," database, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com /discoveryui-content/view/512485442:61843 : accessed 19 May 2023), obituary entry for Frank Forte; citing *The Post-Star* (Glens Falls, New York), Friday, 10 June 1938, p. 17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> "Italia, Caserta, Stato Civile (Archivio di Stato), 1809-1866," images, *FamilySearch* (<u>https://familysearch.org</u> /ark:/61903/3:1:3O9M-CS85-H3BK : accessed 19 May 2023), Latina > Mola e Castellone > Nati 1855 (Registro 116.3466) > image 115 of 146, ordine 212, birth of Francesco Paolo Forte dated 17 October 1855 with information about his marriage to Filomena Masiello written in the margin; State Archives, Caserta, Italy. Also, "Formia, Province of Latina, Lazio," *Italy Heritage* (<u>https://www.italyheritage.com/regions/lazio/latina/formia.htm</u> : accessed 19 May 2023), Italy > Regions > Lazio > Latina > Formia, History.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> "Italia, Caserta, Stato Civile (Archivio di Stato), 1809-1866," images, *FamilySearch*, Latina > Mola e Castellone > Nati 1855 (Registro 116.3466) > image 115 of 146, ordine 212, birth of Francesco Paolo Forte dated 17 October 1855 with information about his marriage to Filomena Masiello written in the margin

Civita most likely was born in Formia, Latina, Italy and she traveled with her mother to Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts in 1897 to join her father who had gone to the United States in 1891.<sup>9</sup> (See Documents 5 & 6) Her four siblings were born in Massachusetts.<sup>10</sup> (See Document 7)

for Filomena Masiello and Civita Forte; NARA, Microfilm M237, Washington, D.C.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> "New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (<u>https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7488/images</u> (<u>NYM237\_670-0462</u> : accessed 19 May 2023), Date > 1897 > Jan > 27 > Elysia, images 2 & 3 of 9, entries 59 & 60,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Worcester County, Massachusetts, population schedule, Southborough Town, ED 1676, Sheet 4A, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<u>https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-63JW-SPS</u> : accessed 19 May 2023), Massachusetts > Worcester > ED 1676 Southborough Town > image 7 of 40, dwell. 84, fam. 89, Frank Forte household, line 28; citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 694.

#### Document 1: Corinth Obituary for John Orto

## **John** Orto

CORINTH — John Orto, 84, former resident of Corinth, died Wednesday morning (Jan. 31, 1973) at Bennett Hospital, Venice, Fla.

He was born in Brindisi, Italy in 1888, and had lived in Corinth where he worked for the International Paper Company 46 years. Upon retirement he moved to Venice, Fla., where he lived until the present.

Surviving are his wife, Civita (Forte) Orto; two sons, Victor and John Orto of Corinth; three daughters, Mrs. Louis (Rita) Agosta and Mrs. Sam (Carmina) Guelakis both of Saratoga Springs and Mrs. Edwin (Jane) Eggleston of Corinth; nine grandchildren, several great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be conducted at 9 a.m. Friday at the Rawles Funeral Home, Venice, Fla. Interment will be at Gulf Pines Memorial Park, Venice.

"Area Obituaries," *Post Star and Times* (Glens Falls, New York), Thursday, 1 February 1973, p. 12, col. 4, imaged at *Newspapers.com* (<u>https://www.newspapers.com/image/346828742/</u> : accessed 19 May 2023), obituary of John Orto.

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ORTO, JOHN, 84, of Lot 60, Venice Municipal Mobile Home Park, Venice, Wednesday (Jan. 31, 1973). Born in Bari, Italy. Came to this area in 1960 from Corinth, N.Y. Retired superintendent for International Paper Co. Survived by wife, Civita; three daughters. Mrs. Rita Agosta, Mrs. Jane Effleston and Mrs. Carmina Guelokis, all of Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; two sons, Victor and John, both of Corinth; nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be held at 9 a.m. Rawles today Funeral at Home, Venice Chapel, with burial in Gulf Pines Memorial Venice. Family Park., suggests contributions to Venice Memorial Hospital Fund.

"Obituaries," *St. Petersburg Times* (St. Petersburg, Florida), Friday, 2 February 1973, p. 15-B, col. 4, imaged at *Newspapers.com* (<u>https://www.newspapers.com/image/317653022/</u> : accessed 19 May 2023), obituary for John Orto.

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Document 3: World War I Draft Card for John Orto

"U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6482/images/005266135\_00646 : accessed 19 May 2023), New York > Saratoga County > 2 > Draft Card O, image 100 of 134, alphabetical order, card for John Orto; World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, NARA, microfilm M1509, Washington, D.C.

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## Document 4: Marriage Record for John Orto and Civita Forte

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"New York, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1847-1849, 1907-1936," database with images, Ancestry.com (<u>https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61377/images/TH-1-159371-69647-19</u> : accessed 19 May 2023), Saratoga > 1903-1920, image 77 of 541, p. 94, no. 468, John Orta and Civita Forte marriage dated 10 May 1909; Saratoga County Clerk, Ballston Spa, New York.

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## Document 5: Passenger List Entry for Filomena Masiello

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## Document 6: Passenger List Entry for Filomena Masiello

"New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7488/images/ /NYM237\_670-0463 : accessed 19 May 2023), Date > 1897 > Jan > 27 > Elysia, image 3 of 9, entry 60 for Civita Forte; NARA, Microfilm M237, Washington, D.C.

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## Document 7: Forte Household 1900 U.S. Census Southborough, Worcester, Massachusetts

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		En	umerated by	me on the fifth day	of June, 1900, Horace	. Ewhu	lin	, Enumerator.	
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IN CITIES.	beam, in the order of visituities. Number of family, in the order of visitation.	of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1990, was in this family.		DATE OF Posts	Place of birth of each person and parents of each person States, give the State of Territory; if of foreign i	enumerated. If born in the United with, give the Country only.	a the	PROFESSION of each person TEN YEARS of a and over.	ge 8
Sumber.	tion, the tion, the	Enter surname first, then the given name and moddle in	Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	anon a bircha at bircha at press	Place of hirth of this Place of hirth of Farm Of this terms.	The Place of birth of Mornan of this person.	Torr of inconfermio the United States. Number of years in United States. Maternitization		1 school and
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1900 U.S. census, Worcester County, Massachusetts, population schedule, Southborough Town, ED 1676, Sheet 4A, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<u>https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-63JW-SPS</u> : accessed 19 May 2023), Massachusetts > Worcester > ED 1676 Southborough Town > image 7 of 40, dwell. 84, fam. 89, Frank Forte household, line 28; citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 694.

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