

We have both spent many years researching our individual Italian heritage, so it is easy to see why a One-Name Study for a European surname has so much appeal. After all as you spot a reference to the surname of interest you would more than likely record it, just in case, and we have all done that, haven't we?

This handout will hopefully signpost you to a variety of further references that you can access and explore.

What is a One-Name Study?

A One-Name Study is effectively a project that solely centres on one surname only, and perhaps several variants. In the case of the global Orlando study (<http://orlando.one-name.net/>) there are two variants of ORLANDA and ORLANDE also registered.

Why start a One-Name Study?

There can be a variety of reasons, perhaps a brick wall in your own family history, to see if two or more individuals are related, or perhaps you are curious about your surname? Everyone will have their own catalyst for undertaking a study.

How do I start a study?

As with research in general you break the project down into small, manageable chunks. Perhaps you start where in the town, area where you live and then expand outwards, perhaps you start where the name is the most common or perhaps you start from where the name hails from. Julie lives in England, and her Orlando's hail from a village in Sicily called Sutera and the biggest concentration of the surname as you might expect is in Italy with huge occurrences in the United States and South America. Julie has written quite a lot about surnames in general, Italian surnames, the Orlando study and the Introduction to One-Name Studies course and these various posts can be found at www.anglersrest.net and a full list of articles can be accessed via the top menu bar on the site. Michael too, has written a great deal about Italian genealogy at his website <http://www.digiroots.net/>

Italian One-Name Studies & Surname Research
Guild of One-Name Studies Webinar Series August 2018

The Guild, in their publication “Seven Pillars of Wisdom” – The Art of One-Name Studies talks about the seven pillars or steps. There is no formal process, in that you must conclude each step, in order. In fact, Tessa Keough in one of her YouTube presentations aligned the process to Fred and Ginger dancing up and down the steps!

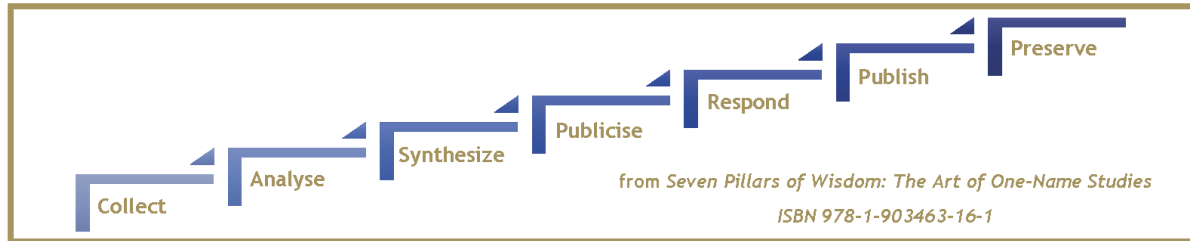


Image produced by Tessa Keough for the Guild of One-Name Studies and used with permission

Resources

■ Books

- [“Seven Pillars of Wisdom” – The Art of One-Name Studies](#) – Published by The Guild of One-Name Studies 2012 (ISBN 978 -1 – 903463161)
- Surnames Handbook by Debbie Kennett (ISBN 978-0752468624)
- Italian Surnames by Joseph Fucilla (ISBN 978 – 0806311876)
- Genealogists Guide to Discovering Your Italian Ancestors by Lynn Nelson (ISBN 978-1558706934)
- Italian Genealogical Records by Trafford Cole (ISBN 978-0916489588)
- Finding Your Italian Roots by John Colletta (ISBN 978-0806317410)
- Sicilian Genealogy & Heraldry by Louis Mendola (ISBN 978-0615796932)
- The Family Tree Italian Genealogy Guide by Melanie D Holtz (ISBN 978-1440349058)
- The Archipelago: Italy since 1945 by John Foot (ISBN 978-1408827246)

■ Podcasts & Presentations

- Guild of One-Name Studies YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bO7Fsb-K8Is>)
- Presentations on the Guild website available free of charge - <https://one-name.org/conducting-a-one-name-study/>
- Who Does that? – An Introduction to One-Name Studies by Guild Member Tessa Keough (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvXIJkXqWA>)

■ **Societies & Organisations**

- Guild of One-Name Studies – www.one-name.org
- Anglo Italian FHS – www.anglo-italianfhs.org.uk
- Catholic FHS – <http://www.catholic-history.org.uk/cfhs/>
- Italian Genealogical Group – www.italiangen.org

■ **Websites**

- FamilySearch – Italian Ancestors - <https://familysearch.org/italian-ancestors/>
- “Il Portale” - <http://www.antenati.san.beniculturali.it>
- European Ancestors – www.european-ancestors.info
- The Immigrant Ancestors Project – immigrants.byu.edu
- DNA Surname Projects - <http://www.familytreedna.com/projects.aspx>
- Surname World Profiler - <http://worldnames.publicprofiler.org/>

■ **One-Name Studies courses**

- Introduction to One-Name Studies - <https://www.pharostutors.com/details.php?coursenumber=901>

Top Tips to getting Started!

- Where does your surname appear globally? – check out world Profiler
 - <http://www.mappadeicognomi.it/>
 - <http://www.gens.info>
- Know your place - find villages of origin, and study them
- Women retain their birth surname in Italy, but tend to take their husband’s in the United States & elsewhere
- Facebook groups may help you learn more, and their members can often help with translations and research strategy. Some to join/explore:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/italiangenealogicalgroup>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/italiangenealogy>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/siciliangenealogy/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/323837064682234/> (Southern Italian DNA & Genealogy)
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/207249746127157/> (Italian, Sicilian & Sardinian DNA)
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/208530689162140/> (Anglo Italian FHS)
- Foundlings and their Surnames
- Alien & Naturalisation Records
 - There are many resources for US naturalization records and alien files (A-Files). A surname search of the National Archives catalogue is a good place to start: <https://www.archives.gov/research/catalog> (though, do note, this is just an index and the files themselves are not online – but can be ordered.)

Italian One-Name Studies & Surname Research
Guild of One-Name Studies Webinar Series August 2018

- Be sure to check South America, as well – hundreds of thousands of Italians resettled there, largely in the early 20th century. FamilySearch offers outstanding record sets
(https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Brazil_Emigration_and_Immigration is a great starting place for Brazil) and many of the records include photographs and other forms of documentation.
- Military Information – the Golden books <http://www.cadutigrandeguerra.it/>
- Unification (1861) and what it meant for records:
 - The Napoleonic Era 1805-1814 (Stato Civile Napoleonico)
 - Restoration Period 1816-1860 (Stato Civile Della Restaurazione)
 - Civil State Registration 1861 (Stato Civile Italiano)
- **Italian Surnames**
 - Derive from the head of the household – Patronymic eg Giovanni, Rosa and Roland
 - Geographical eg Licata, Lazio
 - Nick Names eg Magro (Skinny), Grassi (big), Forte (Strong)
 - Occupation eg Medici (Physician) Pastone (Shepherd)
 - Spellings might have regional origins eg those ending isi from Sicily, or those ending iu are from Sardinia. Those ending igo are Venetian
 - Foundlings might be given the name of the town they were found in or a name that does not exist at all in the town. Foundlings are named by the person declaring the birth by law.
 - **Dettos** these are where a surname is merged with another and yet is not hyphenated. An example is Magro Malosso. These typically happen where there is a need to distinguish one branch of the family from another and that distinction continues across generations and into official records.
- Records are written in Latin and Italian and perhaps dialect and then subsequently Anglicized eg Giuseppe Pastone could become Jo or Joseph Shepherd.

Hopefully the presentation and this syllabus has gone some way to inspiring you to consider a One-Name Study. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at either cuono@one-name.org or orlando@one-name.org

Remember, each study will be as individual as we are and every journey begins with a single step!