



# THE CRACO SOCIETY

## JULY IN CRACO VECCHIO

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July was another busy, but rewarding month for citizens of Craco Vecchio.

They were occupied with the heavy manual labour of threshing the grain harvested in the prior month and finalizing the cultivation of fave and ceci.

Threshing grain is the process of separating grains from the stalks of the plant called chaff. In the 1950's, mechanical threshers were introduced in the area although it was difficult to get these machines onto the farms due to a lack of roads and the hilly terrain.

By today's standards it was a slow process which has now been replaced by the use self-propelled combines to comb swaths of wheat and spew the separated grain into trucks travelling alongside.

For the fave and ceci beans, horses were used to trample over the dried crops to separate the legume from the plant. Farmers then relied on the presence of a strong wind to blow away the plant and leave the edible legumes behind.

Some were dried to preserve them for use during the long winter.



**Arduous Task**—The mechanical thresher that was introduced in the 1950's was a magnificent improvement over the arduous task of flailing the



**Figs**—By July all the fig trees are full of sweet, ripe fruit.



**Sizing the Crop**—A sieve like this was used to size the various legumes.



# ANCIENT COSTUMES OF LUCANIA – DRESS OF CRACO'S NEIGHBORS

*"Uomo di Casalnuovo. Donne di: Rotondella, Stigliano, Craco, Gagliano"*



*"Donna del Paese di Ferrantina" del 1700  
Raccolta fiorentina delle Gouaches (1785/1797)  
Pittori: Antonio Berotti e Stefano Santucci*



*"Ferrantina" anno 1820*



## JOSEPH RINALDI'S JOURNEY TO REACQUIRE ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP

The rewarding journey of becoming an Italian citizen can be lengthy, detailed, and somewhat daunting. In my case, it became even more complicated because, although I was born in Italy, I renounced my Italian citizenship when I became a naturalized Canadian at the age of 18.

I was only six years old when my family left Craco in 1967 to begin a new life in Canada. As a child, I remember that during election times when enumerators went door to door to build the voters' list, our family was excluded because we were not Canadian citizens. When I turned 18, there was no hesitation in my mind that I would seek naturalization to fully experience the opportunities that Canada had given me. And so with great pride and honour I was sworn in as a Canadian on October 30, 1979. At the time I wasn't aware that Italian citizenship was exclusive so if you took another country's citizenship, you automatically lost your Italian citizenship. I was immensely proud of what I had gained, but at the same time, I didn't quite understand what I had given up.

Between 1992 and 1997 the Italian government provided those individuals who had lost Italian citizenship the opportunity to reacquire it. My older siblings who had also become naturalized Canadians took advantage of this opportunity. At the time I did not see the need for it. It wasn't until I visited Craco as an adult that I felt a deep sense of connection with my heritage and a longing for solidifying my Italian roots by reacquiring Italian citizenship. And thus my journey began.

After making the decision to reacquire my Italian citizenship, I was faced with an arduous list of prerequisites, the first of which being qualification. For anyone wanting to embark on the journey of dual citizenship, understanding the various categories of qualification is a great place to start. These can be found on the website of your local Italian consulate. Overall there are three possible paths for becoming an Italian citizen: by descent (*jure sanguinis*), by naturalization, or by marriage.

### Citizenship by descent (*jure sanguinis*)

*Jure sanguinis* (by blood), is one of the fastest and easiest ways to obtain Italian citizenship. In order to be granted Italian citizenship by descent you need to prove that either your father or mother was an Italian citizen at the time of your birth, or that the ancestor who was born in Italy and through whom you are claiming citizenship passed his or her Italian citizenship to the next individual in the

Italian lineage, then down to you without breaking the chain. Italy does not have a generational limit when applying, meaning you can apply for Italian citizenship through parents, grandparents, great grandparents, and great great grandparents. There are however clear laws to qualify. The length of time to complete this process can range from about three months to three years depending on the complexities of your case and the wait time at your local Italian consulate. Contact the consulate with jurisdiction over the state in which you reside if you have any questions regarding the required documentation.

### Citizenship by Residency/ Naturalization

Perhaps the most complex way to gain Italian citizenship is through residency/naturalization. You are required to establish a legal residence in Italy, live in Italy over six months of the year, and meet the mandatory time requirement. This process is also intended for individuals who lost Italian citizenship by naturalizing on or before August 15, 1992, and did not avail themselves of the opportunity to reacquire it between 1992 and 1997. They may still reacquire Italian citizenship by establishing residence in any Italian municipality and signing a statement of reacquisition at the local Comune (city hall).

### Citizenship through marriage

The non-Italian spouse of an Italian citizen who wishes to acquire Italian citizenship may submit an application if he/she has been married to an Italian citizen for at least three years (or 18 months if the couple has a child together, even if adopted). The couple must continue to be married right up to the day that the applicant is to be sworn in as an Italian citizen, which may take approximately 4 years from the date of application.

In my case, the only option available to me was citizenship through marriage since I had previously renounced my Italian citizenship and had no plans to return to Italy to establish permanent residency there. We began the process by first obtaining Italian citizenship (by descent) for my wife. This was relatively easy because, although my wife was born in Canada, her father retained his Italian citizenship when he immigrated to Canada in 1961. The process took about four to five months and required official birth and marriage certificates from the Italian town in which her parents were born. From the Canadian authorities my wife required "Long Form" copies of her birth certificate and our marriage certificate and a confirmation from the



Joseph Rinaldi being sworn in as an Italian citizen—May 11, 2022

federal authorities that her father had never requested naturalization. Once my wife obtained her Italian citizenship she was able to extend it to our minor children.

I was now able to apply for Italian citizenship through marriage. This process required a formal application accompanied by the following documents: birth certificate (obtained through Craco), record of our marriage in my wife's parents' town in Italy, "Long Form" versions of my Canadian citizenship record and our marriage certificate, and a criminal record check. All documents had to be translated into Italian by a translator authorized by the Italian consulate. The application, with all supporting documentation was submitted in person at the Italian consulate in Toronto on May 4, 2017. The application was approved five years later on February 10, 2022 and the official swearing in ceremony was held on May 11, 2022.

It is a wonderful feeling to once again be recognized as an Italian. For me, having dual citizenship goes beyond the formality of having rights and duties and a passport in Italy and Canada. It solidifies my sense of belonging to the two countries that I proudly call "home". Italy, my birthplace and the birthplace of my ancestors, has given me a strong cultural heritage rich with centuries-old traditions, while Canada has given me, and so many other immigrants, opportunities for economic prosperity and well being in a land that welcomes and celebrates cultural diversity.

## COMING YOUR WAY— SAN ROCCO IN NEW YORK: 133 YEARS



# Mark your Calendar for the 133rd Annual Feast of Saint Rocco In New York

### LOCATION

*The Most Precious Blood Church  
113 Baxter St (A.K.A. 109 Mulberry St)  
New York, NY*

### DATE

Sunday, August 21, 2022

### SCHEDULE

12:00 PM: High Mass of St Rocco

1:00 PM: Outdoor celebration

2:00 PM: Procession through the streets of Little Italy

Visit online: [Saint Rocco Society of Potenza \(stroccosociety.com\)](http://stroccosociety.com)

#### HOW TO CONTACT US—COME CONTATTARCI



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