"Dear fellow genealogist,

After 4 years of searching for the biological parents of a friend (Francine), a project entitled 'A Tale of Two Twinned Cities: Corato and Grenoble' was created. In this framework, the fruits of this work, the **family tree** and a **database** of referenced civil status records, have been made public.

These two resources are linked and complementary, and updated in real time as I expand them. You will be able to access them freely on the Internet, according to the procedures I will describe in this note. At the same time, I cannot resist the temptation to share some tips with you:

1°- **'albero genealogico coratino dell'Atelier Généalogique'**-
The tree contains more than 18,000 people (85% Coratini, 10% Molfettesi), all related or linked in one way or another.

2° - **'database dell'Atelier Généalogique dello stato civile italiano':** more than 15,000 photos of referenced *stato civile* records (as well as a few others); and also files concerning the naturalization of coratini emigrants in France, from the 1920s to the 1970s (extracts from the monumental work of the French civil servant Maurice Loisel).

How should one use these two resources? If you know a person among your ancestors who was alive around 1850, look for him or her first in the tree. Then, if you want to check the data in the tree, and perhaps discover a new branch of your family, do a name search in the database.

How does one access them ?

1.   **The family tree**

You can access it free of charge here (and change the language if necessary) :
https://gw.geneanet.org/anchorpoints_w
or here:
https://www.myheritage.com/pedigree-tree-449620341-7000001/francine-canepa?treeId=7

You can also access it here :
https://www.ancestry.it/family-tree/tree/167791321/recent?lang=it-IT

This is Ancestry's Italian site, which costs only €9.95 per year. I don't intend to advertise Ancestry in any way, but at this price, I think it's worth subscribing, for the following reasons:
-     You'll be able to follow my tree updates in real time, because Ancestry is where I create my trees; the trees on Geneanet and MyHeritage are only updated periodically ;
-     From your subscription on Ancestry.it, you'll still be able to access Ancestry.com or Ancestry.fr, so you'll be able to access English or French commands and tool features ;
-     You'll be able to create an unlimited number of trees on Ancestry: I think it's much simpler and more convenient than the two sites mentioned

above, and you'll be able to copy individuals and families (after checking, if necessary), which you can't do elsewhere;
- Ancestry has by far the largest database of trees created by people who have done a DNA test: for Italian genealogy, this is a considerable advantage, because you will find more trees of descendants of Italian immigrants to the US than anywhere else;
- You'll be able to use the search function in all public trees posted on Ancestry by genealogists from around the world, as well as access all of Ancestry's free online registries (including some U.S. and U.K. census records); you won't have access to the U.S., U.K. or French-specific registers; but you will have access to all the Italian-specific registers (especially under the 'catalogue' section).

If you create a tree, I advise you to take this subscription on Ancestry.it, then transfer the tree to Geneanet and MyHeritage by gedcom, if you wish, to find matches. The basic Geneanet subscription is free, but you'll get more search capabilities (especially in the 'library') by paying a €50 annual premium subscription. In the trees on Geneanet, you will often find good 'matches' with trees of Italian families who have emigrated to France. The same can be said for MyHeritage and Filae.com: however, on these two sites the possibilities for searching and creating trees are limited, unless you take out a relatively expensive subscription.

It should also be noted that if you intend to do a DNA test, you'd be well-advised to do it with Ancestry because, I repeat, this company has by far the largest database, i.e. more than 16 million people tested to date (April 2020). I don't intend to make an exhaustive comparison of the companies that sell tests here; but some companies offer the possibility to 'upload' for free (or for a moderate fee) Ancestry's raw data, whereas the opposite is not true. Either way, a serious DNA search involves doing multiple tests (at least those from Ancestry and 23andMe), and uploading your raw data to other companies' sites (such as Gedmatch, FamilytreeDNA, MyHeritage). Note that if you purchase a DNA test from Ancestry, you don't need a subscription to create your tree.

Finally, I would like to remind you that the Mormon site, Familysearch.org, is generally the best site for research in the USA and other English-speaking countries (unless you have a USA, UK or World subscription on Ancestry). For example, Familysearch.org provides for free immigration documents that are only available for a fee on Ancestry; also, all Italian civil records photographed by the Mormons for the period 1901-1910, as well as some Italian church records. I remind you that the Italian civil registers from the Napoleonic period onwards (so, for example, for Corato and Molfetta, from 1809 to 1900) are on the public and free site of Antenati.it.

2.   **The database**

You can access it here on Google Drive: https://bit.ly/3eNt8GV
As well as the database itself, there is a Word file entitled 'Note on how to use the database'.

Ideally, this database should be freely available without permission; but the IT solution that would allow it remains to be found. You will be able to download this database (15Go) on Google Drive, in part or even in full, but you will not be able to search it if you don't have a Google account. On the other hand, Google Drive allows an on-going update of the database.

In summary, it is necessary to open a Google account (free), then to register on Google Drive. See the registration instructions here:

Create a Google account :
https://support.google.com/accounts/answer/27441?hl=eng

How to use Google Drive :
https://support.google.com/drive/answer/2424384?hl=eng

Once you are registered, **you can then write to ateliergenealogique@gmail.com,** and an invitation will be sent to you to share the database, that is, to access it. You will then have the possibility to search for a record by entering a name, or a surname and a first name, in the search window. You can also download records.

My sharing of the database with you will not use your 15 Giga storage allocation on Google Drive.

Feel free to write to ask questions (or report errors!) about the tree or the database; or for more information about the project 'A Tale of Two Twinned Cities: Corato and Grenoble'.

James Smith, Atelier Généalogique, Marseille.
April 2020