

Agnone

Place Names in Historic Chronology

In genealogy, there are two schools of thought regarding the place for an event. The first, and generally more accepted, is to use the historic name of the place at the time of the event. The second is to use the most current name of the place. As to each, there is the further question of how many layers of governmental entities should be included, normally beginning with the city and listing each greater entity until you reach the country.

For Agnone, it is known from historic records that from around 1273 to Napoleon's invasion, the city was known as Agnone, the district was Lanciano, the region was Abuzzo Citra, and the county was the Kingdom of Naples.

Napoleon first invaded northern Italy in 1796, but the battle did not reach Naples until ten years later. In January 1806 the King of Naples, Ferdinand, fled to Sicily, and the following month the French entered Naples. Napoleon declared his older brother Joseph Bonaparte as King of Naples, and later his brother-in-law Joachim Murat as the successor King of Naples. They instituted civil records for births, marriages, and deaths, and required that a copy of those records be kept and transferred to a higher governmental level. In Agnone, the civil books for marriages and deaths began in 1809, and for births in 1811, and copies delivered to Isernia. Murat also created the new Province of Molise, which has continued to the present.

After Napoleon's fall, Joachim Murat was captured and executed in October 1815, and the exiled Ferdinand eventually returned to Naples. It took until 7 December 1816, for him to become the King of the newly formed Kingdom of the Two Sicilies (Naples and Sicily).

During the next fifty years there were various efforts to unify Italy, with the Pope and others opposed. Eventually, on 17 March 1861, the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies was overcome and became part of the larger Kingdom of Italy, although that still did not include Rome. From that day and for the next hundred years, there were numerous changes, some were large such as change after WWII in 1946 when the Kingdom of Italy became the Republic of Italy. Instead of trying to trace and follow all those nuances, the FamilySearch place team adopted the simple place name of "Agnone, Campobasso, Italy" for that entire period of time.

Based on these factors, we are using the following place locations as does FamilySearch, which are repeated in the General Notes of each FGR:

- 1273-1811 Agnone, Lanciano, Abruzzo Citra, Kingdom of Naples
- 1812-1816 Agnone, Molise, Kingdom of Naples
- 1817-1861 (Mar 16) Agnone, Molise, Kingdom of the Two Sicilies
- 1861 (Mar 17) - 1970 (Jan 31) Agnone, Campobasso, Italy
- 1970 (Feb 1) - Present Agnone, Isernia, Molise, Italy