

Origins of the Surname Bonugli

It is believed that the Bonugli family originated from the Romagna region of Italy over 700 years ago, and in particular were widely known around Forli at the start of the fourteenth century. It was at this time that Cardinal Alborno, on behalf of the Pope who was a refugee in Avignon, subdued the French army who were then occupying Forli. The name BONOLI is still found in Forli today and is probably a later form of BONUGLI. BONUGLI itself may well have derived from the French BONNEUIL which also remains in existence. During the wars of the Cardinals it became necessary for anyone with French names to change their surname to a more Italian sounding form. A branch of the Bonugli family moved to Lazio and Viterbo where the name became BONUGLIA, although there are few with this name that can still be traced in Italy. In the British Museum there is a book called *Istorie della Citta di Forli* written by a Paolo Bonoli in 1661. This contains references to other individuals with similar, slightly variant, names.

Some of the family history researched in these times was by Filippo Bonugli (now deceased), a professor of history in Genoa. A summary of his information, along with a description of the Bonugli family crest is printed below.

“Since the year 1300 we find that the Bonugli were patricians of Forli. In 1525 Andrew of John obtained the title of noble and was one of the Ambassadors sent from the Senate to the Pontiff Clemente VII to obtain the approval of the College of Doctors. This family has given to her country Captains in the Army, doctors in laws, judges and exquisite Lord Mayors. She gave to the church famous prelates that with clear mind and military valour have been able to obtain her country a very good period of five years. At the beginning of the eighteenth century we find a branch of this house in Viterbo. From this family too, we find famous men that dedicated themselves to the Army, Sciences and Politics. This family is prosperous even now and still gains many merits.

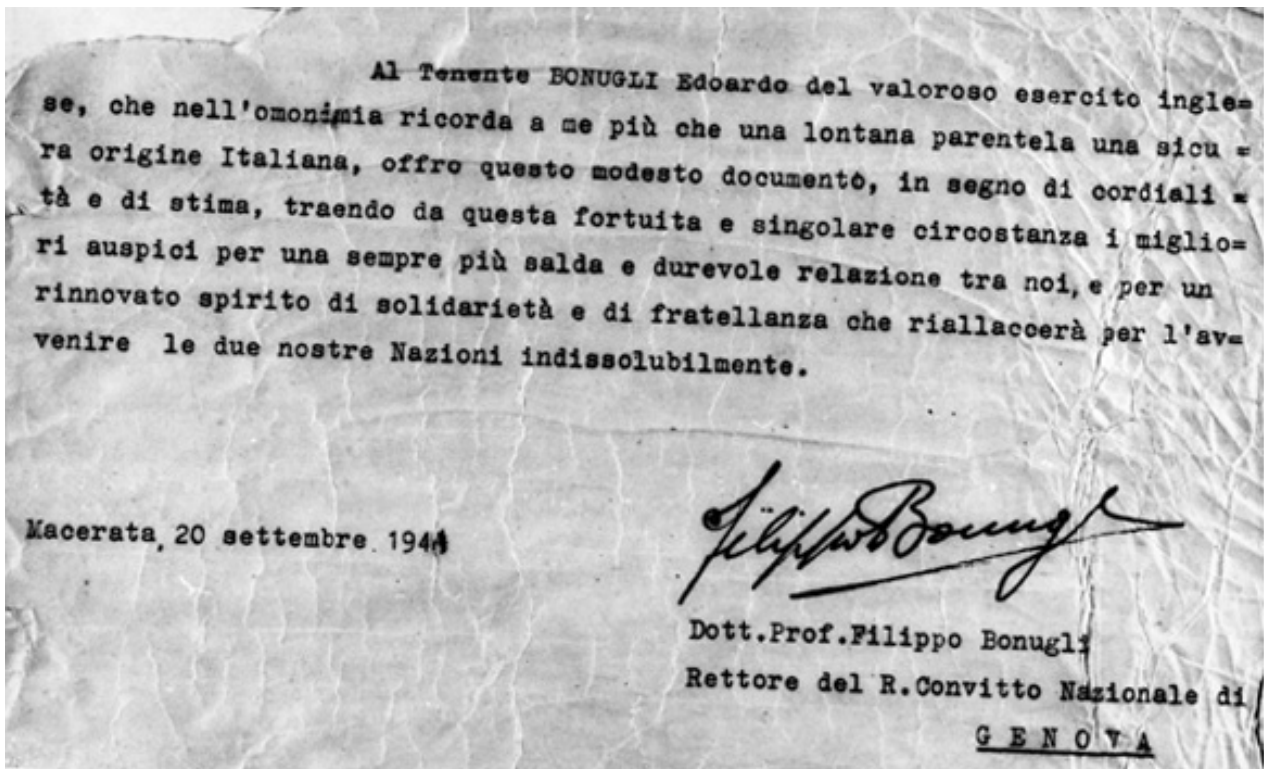
Arms: Gold to the azure roe-buck surmounted by three stars.”

The original document in which this information was recorded is shown below:

Since the year 1300 we find that the
Boungli were patricians of Forli -
In the 1525 Andrew of John obtained
the title of noble and was one of the
Ambassadors sent from the Senate to
the Pontiff Clemente VIII^o to obtain
the approval of the College of the Doctors.
Francesco d. Giacomo was knight knight
(a gilder) and a Bernardino, knight of S.
George - John has been exquisite
Jurisconsult.
This family has given to her
Country Captains in the Army, lord-
mayors, doctors in laws, judges and
exquisite lord-mayors - She ~~the~~
gave to the church too famous
prelates that with clear mind
and military valour have been
able to obtain her (Country) a very
good period of five years.
At the beginning of the XVIII we
find a branch of this house in
Viterbo - From this family too
we find famous men that
dedicated themselves to the Army

Sciences, and Politics.
This family is prosperous even
now and still gains many merits -
Ornamented gold to the azure
rose - crest surmounted by three stars.
Guaranteed the Authenticity
The Director

The family crest, itself, was originally obtained as a sketch by Edward Bonugli from Professor Filippo Bonugli, whilst he was in Italy after the war as a member of the British army. Whilst together, both men signed the following friendship agreement:

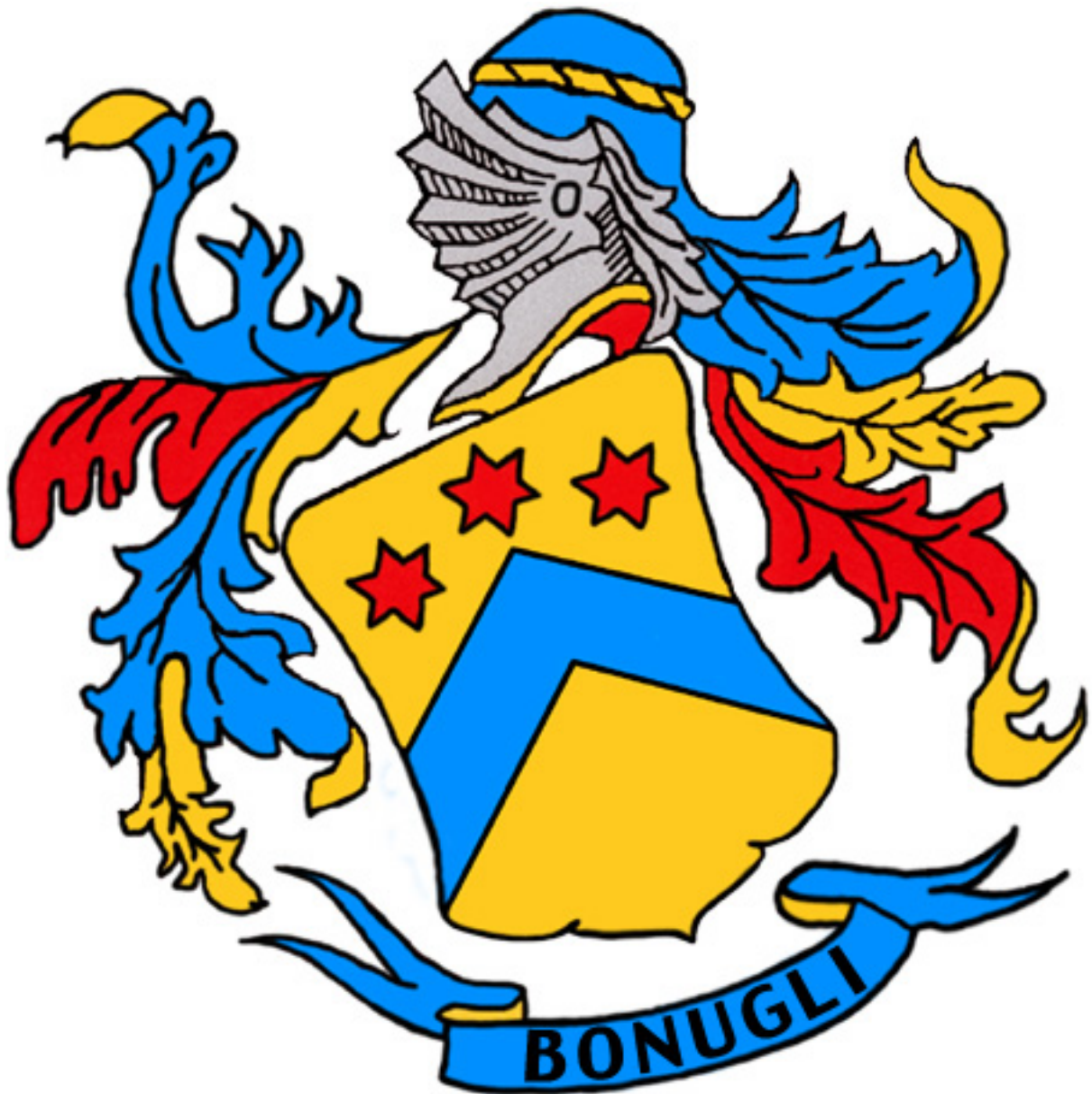


In English, this can be translated as follows:

For Lt. Edward Bonugli of the courageous English army: kinsman, remember more than a distant family link and certain Italian origin, I offer this modest document as a mark of cordiality and esteem made in this fortuitous and unique circumstance. Let this be a pledge for a strong and long-lasting relationship between us, in a renewed spirit of solidarity and fraternity, that will tie together for the future our two nations in a way which shall not be broken.

Macerata, 20 September 1944

The Bonugli family crest is shown below:

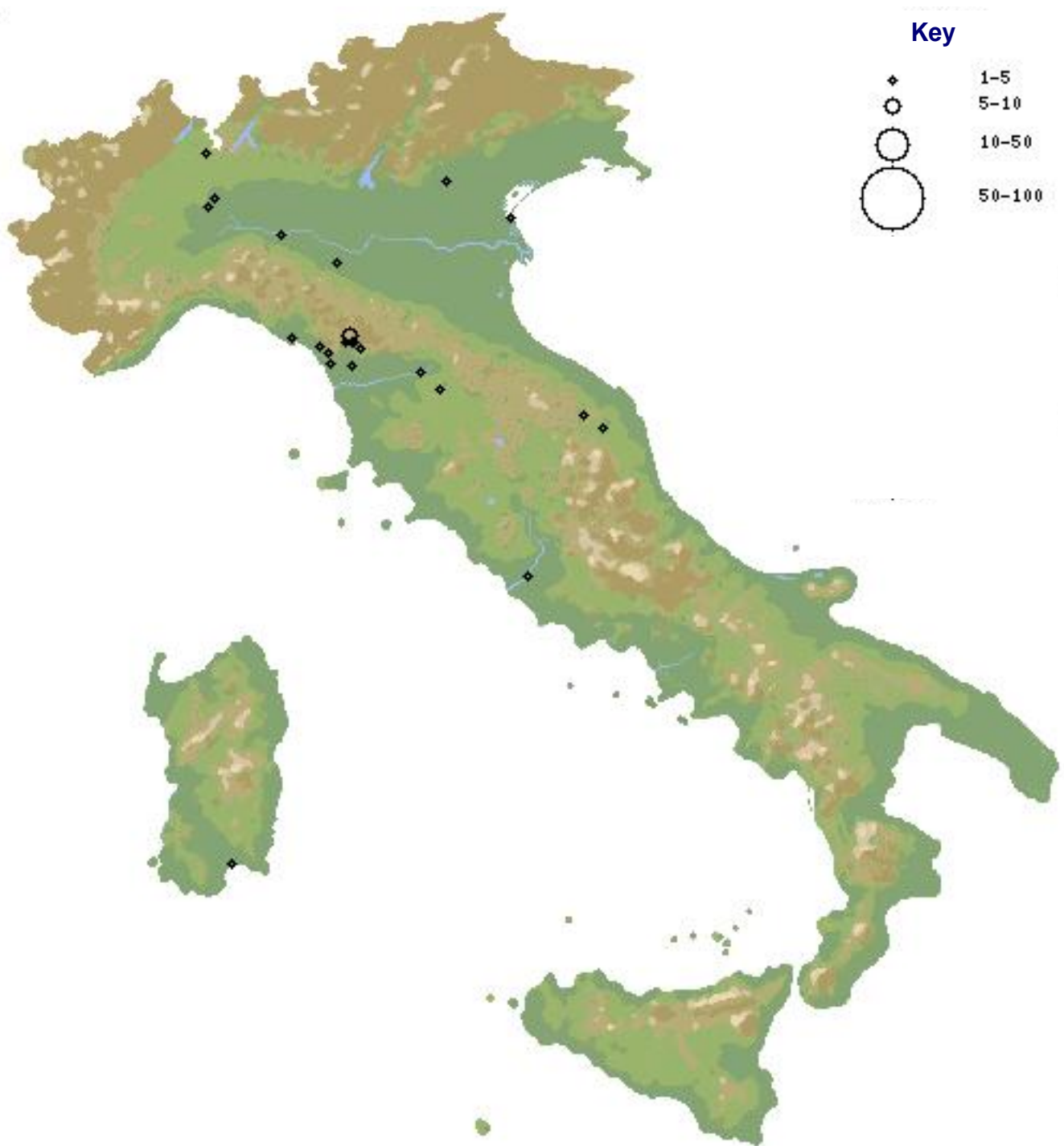


There is little doubt that back in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the Bonuglis were of some distinction, and intermarried with the great Florentine family of the Medicis. Pietro Bonugli (on the main section of our family tree) was married to Giovanna Medici di Garfagnana Fosciandora. The modern-day Bonuglis seem to have originated from a region of Tuscany in the town of Barga, and two smaller villages - Galliciano and Fosciandora. Barga is a medieval town of about 6000 inhabitants. It lies on a hilltop in the Garfagnana - the portion of the Serchio Valley located within the Province of Lucca. Barga is north of the town of Lucca, a medieval city noted for its amphitheatre, ancient towers and medieval churches, and about 60 minutes north of Pisa, known worldwide for its Leaning Tower. Barga, itself, is known for its artistic richness, historic monuments, and mild climate in comparison with much of the country! There is a Cathedral overlooking the whole town, which is surrounded by old city walls.



As you can see from the map above, the small town of Galliciano, and the small commune of Fosciandora which has just 728 inhabitants, are located close to Barga. Barga and its surrounding territories followed the ruling of the Florentine state until 1859. However, Barga differed from other areas of the region, in that even under the protection of Florence, it was governed by an elected party, and was thus effectively independent. Once this independence was lost many of the inhabitants of the town and it's surrounding area emigrated during the 1870's to other countries around the world - in particular Scotland, England, the U.S.A., and a few to South America. This is likely to have included the forbears of the Bonuglis who are found to-day in these different areas of the world. It is for this reason, that all the modern-day Bonuglis, are likely to be related.

The location of the Bonuglis still living in Italy is shown on the following map:



The photo below shows Federico (Fred) Bonugli with his “*Bonugli's Finest Ices*” cart in Mill Meadows, Bedford during the 1930's. “*Bonugli's Finest Ices*” were well known in Bedford before the war, and a permanent kiosk used to exist on the Embankment there.

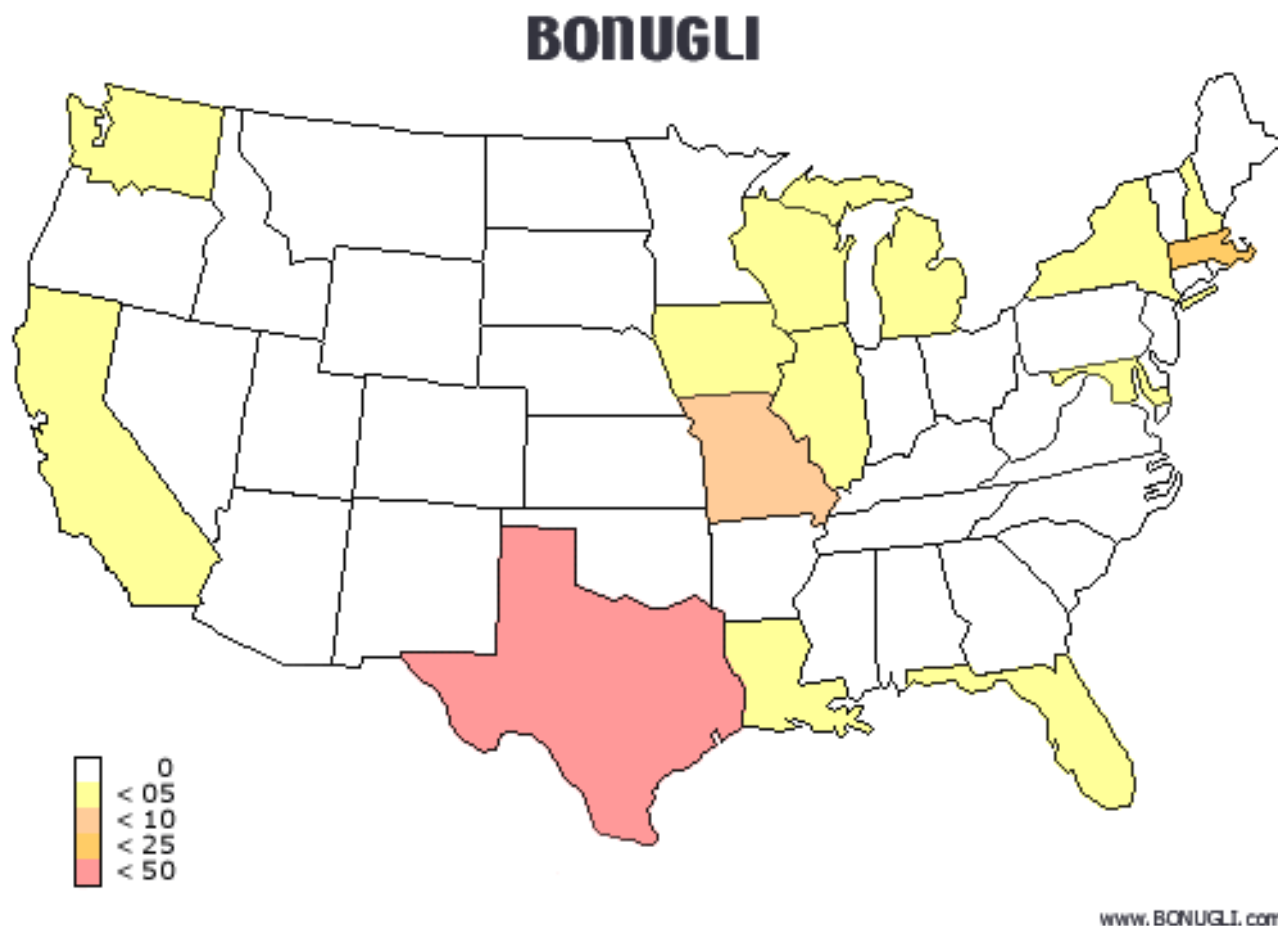


Around the turn of the century Giovanna Bonugli joined her brother Michele in England, where she met the English branch of the Bonugli family, and learned about the ice cream. When she came back to Sardinia she taught the recipe to all of her nephews. The photograph below dates from 1928, and shows Battista Conti, son of Teresa Bonugli, aged eighteen. At present, in Santa Teresa di Gallura, Battista's son Francesco (Cecco) manages some ice cream shops, with his sons, and Domenico has a van running in the north of Sardinia with his “*Finest Ices.*”



Il gelataio Battista Conti con amici (coll. fam. Manca)

There are also many Bonuglis currently living in the United States of America, although it is unclear exactly how this branch of the family is related to those relatives in Italy. A map showing the whereabouts of the Bonuglis in America is below, indicating that most of the American branch of the family live in the state of Texas.



**BONUGLI is the 87,543rd most popular
surname in the United States**
[source: 1990 US census]



<http://www.BONUGLI.com>

Further information about the history of the Bonugli Family can be found on the internet by accessing the Bonugli Family Website. Available in English, Italian, French and Portuguese, this contains several complex family trees, a photograph gallery, birth and death records for Bonuglis in America, directory of Bonuglis worldwide, a discussion board and more! Please email any questions to paul@bonugli.com

Much of the information contained in this PDF was originally researched by Keith Grenville (born John Keith Bonugli) and Professor Filippo Bonugli. Thanks also to Gian Piero Sposito for the information about the continuation of "Bonugli's Finest Ices" in Italy, along with the photograph of Battista. Italy location map courtesy of GENS at www.labo.net

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