

# **Italian Immigrant Women**

Weaving their Way into the Multi-Cultural  
Society in Connecticut

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Individual Website

Student-composed words: 1,200

Multimedia: 0:50 Minutes

Process Paper: 454 Words

## Process Paper

As I learned throughout my education, America was founded by immigrants, seeking opportunity and to live the American dream. I learned that many die-hard workers took the treacherous journey to the land of opportunity in order to be paid fairly and either eventually return to their respective homes, or afford to bring their entire family along. In school, I learned about fearless men taking the riskful voyage, but I never learned about the women who had the same if not harder experience. As I researched immigrant women I thought of my grandmother, who immigrated here from Italy over 50 years ago. Through further research of Italian immigrant women, sparked by my grandmother, I realized this would be a perfect topic for this year's History Day. I continued to conduct research by finding informational websites online, checking out books from local libraries, such as *Farms, Factories, and Families: Italian American Women of Connecticut*, by Anthony V. Riccio, and even conducting interviews, such as with my grandmother. Finding this book intrigued me very much because it revolved around immigration from Italian women in Connecticut, the state in which I was born and currently reside in.

This year, I decided to do a website because it can not only display all kinds of materials online, but also be an interactive piece. Websites can display my own historical analysis while also showing primary and secondary sources. By creating a website, I could create my own, unique format without having to buy supplies or props. This way, I could very easily create an accessible project, adding quotes, pictures, and even multimedia! For my project, I chose to keep my website grayscale, matching the pictures taken during this time period. This allows my text to blend in with the pictures used, and create a consistent background and layout for my website.

The mass influx of Italian immigrant women to America during the turn of the twentieth century relates to this year's theme, Breaking Barriers in history, because these powerful women started new lives in a new world and brought with them their Italian culture. Italian American women broke physical barriers by marching in protest of poor working conditions, and by using their prosperity of work experience to enter Connecticut's thriving industries and settle to keep alive their long-lasting traditions, which can still be seen today. Although they faced injustices as Italians and as women, they broke through to settle, create families, and continue their ever-lasting traditions. These fearless women fought for what they believed in, no matter what

prejudice they were fighting against or language barriers stood in their way. These powerful women laid the foundation for the next generations to more freely become successful in the land of opportunity.