

In This Issue: All Souls and All Saints Days, chestnut memories, General Edward Ferrero.

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L'Osservatore Lancastriano

Salve a tutti,

Le ricorrenze del mese di Novembre sono “Tutti I Defunti” e “Tutti I Santi”. Queste ricorrenze sono osservate nelle famiglie e dalla Chiesa che incoraggia i fedeli di attendere la Santa Messa per ricordare, onorare i morti e pregare per i vivi.

L'altro mio caro ricordo è quello della stagione delle Castagne. Mia madre spesso le cuoceva per tutti noi come una merenda o come “dulcis in fundo” alla fine di un pasto. Durante Novembre o Dicembre ci sorpredeva anche con “La Torta di Castagne”...buonissima!



Ma il preferito ricordo è quello di mangiare le castagne dopo essere uscita dalla scuola o per altri, dal lavoro. Di solito, durante i mesi più freddi, tra tutta la città si incontrano per le strade i venditori di Castagne arrostiti. Che modo migliore di scaldare le mani e lo spirito consumando un cartoccio di Castagne comprate con solo 50 Lire! Non ho mai incontrato in America una così cara tradizione, peccato! Quando qui finalmente le castagne appaiono nei locali negozi, le compro, faccio un taglio sulla cortecchia, le arrostisco nel forno per qualche minuto e, mangiandole, ritorno con la fantasia a Roma, camminando piano piano verso casa.

Nella Seward wrote the November festival article in Italian (left), and Marian Caroselli and Mary Cae Williams translated Nella's article (below). This a chance to practice your Italian language skills!

Greetings everyone,

The anniversaries of the month of November are “All Souls Day” and “All Saints Day”. These anniversaries are observed in the families and at church, which encourages the faithful to attend the Holy Mass to remember, honor the dead and to pray for the living.

My other dear memory is that of the chestnut season. My mother often cooked them for all of us as a snack or as a “cap it off” at the end of a meal. During November or December she also surprised us with the chestnut cake (Castagnaccio)...how good it was!

But the favorite memory is that of eating chestnuts after leaving school or for others, after leaving work. Usually, during the colder months, one encounters vendors of roasted chestnuts in the streets throughout the city. What better way to warm your hands and your spirit than by consuming a paper cornet of Chestnuts bought with only 50 Lire (a nickel)! I have never encountered such a precious tradition in America, too bad! When the chestnuts finally appear here in the local shops, I buy them, make a cut in the shell, roast them in the oven for a few minutes and, eating them, I return with my imagination to Rome, walking slowly...slowly toward home.

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Edward Ferrero by Marian Caroselli

As we continue our focus on Italians and the US Civil War, we turn our attention to Edward Ferrero (1831-1899). Ferrero was born in Granada Spain to Italian parents who later moved to New York City. Ferrero's father, a noted dancer and a personal friend of the revolutionary General Giuseppe Garibaldi, soon opened a dance academy. When the elder Ferrero

retired in his early fifties, Edward took over operation of the academy. He educated the wealthy and elite of New York society in the art of dance, and originated many dances that spread in popularity throughout the country. Ferrero became renowned as one of America's leading experts in dance. He worked part-time as a dance instructor at the United States Military Academy at West Point during the 1850s, a common occurrence. The physicality required of military drills and exercises parallels the movements and precision necessary for the many dances popularized in mid-19th Century America. Through its ability to assist in the development of social grace, etiquette, and discipline, dance instruction was considered vital for officers and elite members of society.

Edward was the author of *The Art of Dancing* in 1859. This book is both a history of dancing and a dance manual that provided instruction to dancers about the rudiments of dancing, etiquette, and the most modern dances, from the quadrille to the waltz. Illustrative figures assisted in this instruction, and music is printed at the end of the book.

Ferrero was interested in military affairs from his association as a youth with Garibaldi, and from his uncle, Colonel Lewis Ferrero, who had served in the Crimean War and the Italian campaign. Edward Ferrero became the Lieutenant Colonel of the 11th New York Militia Regiment, serving for six years in the militia organization. With his skills in choreography and instruction, his troops soon became known for their parade ground precision and military drill.

With the outbreak of the Civil War in early 1861, Ferrero raised a regiment at his own expense, the 51st New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment (the "Shepard

Rifles"). He commanded both brigades and divisions in the eastern theater consisting of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia and the coastal fortifications and seaports of North Carolina. He also commanded both brigades and divisions in the western theater consisting of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Louisiana east of the Mississippi River.

His military career included many stunning Union victories that earned him citations for bravery and distinction. He began as Colonel of his own 51st New York Regiment in 1861 and rose to the rank of Major General by December 1864 for "bravery and meritorious services" following the siege of Petersburg. Ferrero commanded a brigade at Vicksburg, Fredericksburg, and Antietam, where he received his commission as Brigadier General on the field.

His career also included some less glorious battles. He commanded a division of the United States Colored Troops at the Siege of Petersburg where they suffered significant losses supporting the initial attack of Brig. Gen. James H. Ledlie's division. Both Ferrero and Ledlie received criticism for remaining in a shelter behind the lines through most of the battle, passing a bottle of rum between them. A court of inquiry cited Ferrero for "being in a bomb-proof habitually, where he could not see the operation of his troops [nor know] the position of two brigades of his division or whether they had taken Cemetery Hill or not."

Ferrero mustered out of the army on August 24, 1865, and returned home to New York City. He chose not to reopen his previous dance academy, but instead leased a building in a new location, eventually turning it into a world-famed ballroom known as Apollo Hall 31 on West 28th Street at Broadway. In 1872, he terminated his lease and the building was converted into a theater.

Ferrero leased the ballroom of Tammany Hall for his academy and joined the Tammany Society becoming socially active in Democratic political circles, although he never ran for office. He was active in veterans affairs, including the Grand Army of the Republic (a fraternal order of veterans) and the Loyal Legion (a patriotic order.) He also joined the Freemasons. He published a second best-selling book, *The History of Dancing*, which remains in print today.

He leased the Lenox Lyceum in January 1889 and continued as one of the country's foremost dance instructors for another decade. He retired in May 1899 when he became ill with a variety of ailments that claimed his life by the end of the year.

Ferrero died in New York City and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn.



Los Angeles Herald obituary dated December 14, 1899:

GENERAL FERRERO DEAD

A Scandal of the Late Civil War Is Recalled

New York, Dec. 13.—Major General Edward Ferrero is dead at his home in this city, aged 68 years. He was born in Spain of Italian parents. His father was a famous dancing master and he himself became a teacher of dancing. In 1861 he raised the Thirty-first New York regiment, called the Shepherd Rifles, of which he was made colonel. He led a brigade in Burnside's expedition to Roanoke Island, where his regiment took the first, fortified redoubt captured in the war. He also commanded a brigade at Newbern under General Reno, and in 1862 served in Pope's Virginia campaign. He was in the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, and for his bravery in the latter was commissioned brigadier general of volunteers September 19, 1862. He served at Fredericksburg and Vicksburg and commanded a division at the siege of Knoxville.

He afterward marched the Ninth army corps over the mountains without roads and by compass only to Cincinnati. He was in command at the defense of Fort Saunders against the desperate assault of Longstreet. In Grant's final campaign, including the siege of Petersburg, he commanded the colored division of the Ninth army corps and on December 2, 1864, he was breveted major general for "bravery and meritorious services."

General Ferrero's death recalls one of the great scandals of the Civil War. At Petersburg when a mine was blown up which engulfed seven companies of the Confederates and four cannon, the colored troops and a brigade of whites were to charge, but half the men laid down their arms and refused to charge. The other brigade, 3,500 strong, advanced until met by a squad of 300 Confederates at the cavity left by the exploded mine. They retreated without firing a single shot. Their support of 1,200 white men were trapped in the mine and slaughtered almost to a man.

By the investigation which was subsequently made by the court-martial, of which Major General W. S. Hancock was president, the failure of the assault after the mine explosion was ascribed in part to Brigadier General Ferrero "for want of readiness for the assault, not going with troops, but remaining in a bomb-proof."



Member News: Members, please send us any news about member accomplishments, awards, graduations, engagements, marriage, births, and deaths. Please email member news to:

LICSnewsletter@gmail.com

Did you know?

Italy is slightly larger than Arizona. Almost 20% of Italy's population is over 65 years old. Italy's contributions to science include the thermometer, barometer, electric battery, nitroglycerin, and wireless telegraphy. The ice cream cone and eyeglasses are Italian inventions.

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L'Autunno è proprio arrivato: guarda che brina questa mattina!
What a frost, this morning: the fall has definitely arrived!

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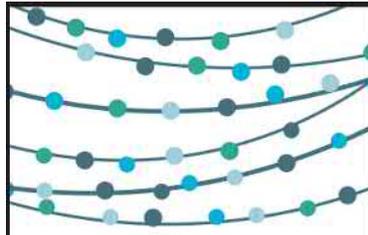


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