



**Genealogical
research &
local history**

**Our experience as
Associazione
Genealogica Lombarda**



**L'Associazione
Genealogica Lombarda**



- Historical backgrounds of our association its organization and its local settings
- AGL main objectives and approach
- Main genealogical sources in our areas
- AGL special project
- Activities and meetings
- Our internet site



L'Associazione Genealogica Lombarda



- Historical backgrounds of our association its organization and its local settings
- AGL main objectives and approach
- Main genealogical sources in our areas
- AGL special project
- Activities and meetings
- Our internet site



AGL organizational issues



- AGL has been officially incorporated in 2007
- AGL organization:
 - General assembly of associates
 - General Direction councils of 5 persons
 - President, Vice president, counselors and a treasurer
- AGL Affiliation:
 - *Federazione delle Associazioni Italiane di Genealogia, Storia di Famiglia, Araldica e Scienze Documentarie - F.A.I.G.*



AGL its location



The association has its headquarter in Trezzo sull'Adda the historical border between the Ducat of Milan and the Venetian Republic



AGL its location



1395 - 1797



697 - 1797

The Ducat of Milan and the Venetian Republic: for centuries were two opposite worlds, but together have given a substantial contribution to our genealogical researches



L'Associazione Genealogica Lombarda



- Historical backgrounds of our association its organization and its local settings
- AGL main objectives and approach
- Main genealogical sources in our areas
- AGL special project
- Activities and meetings
- Our internet site



AGL main objectives.



- *Help whosoever wishes to start (by himself) researching his roots.*
- *Increase awareness of our local communities concerning issues related to the research of local family history.*
- *Promote access to research sources enhancing local historical archives.*



AGL Approach



- Our association considers that genealogy represents an unavoidable route in order to reconstruct any local community history. Genealogy contribution becomes essential when we need to rebuilt the proceedings of the original families of the country, their social evolution, the mingling of the different families, their alliances and their rivalry during the centuries.
- Following this approach we can derive the social stratification of a town/village in a certain period, finding out typical local surnames and their evolution in time; understanding the historical importance of certain families during the centuries even their professional activities. Even nicknames still surviving today, can be traced back.



AGL Approach



- Families today may recognize themselves in an historical setting, far from great and important events and personages. It is the history of their own ancestors generation after generation; at the end any local community it is the sum of all choices and lives of these people, choices and events deriving directly from our own ancestors.
- In the near future we are interested to investigate the history of single communities analyzing sources and documents generally used for genealogical researches. We believe that this is the most effective way to attract interest on genealogical researches and genealogical archives preservation.



L'Associazione Genealogica Lombarda



- Historical backgrounds of our association its organization and its local settings
- AGL main objectives and approach
- Main genealogical sources in our areas
- AGL special project
- Activities and meetings
- Our internet site



Main genealogical sources in our area





Main genealogical sources in our area



- Municipal archives:
 - Municipal records
 - Citizenship lists
- Fiscal Records of Venetian Republic and citizenship lists
- Ecclesiastical / Parish records
- Other sources:
 - Land and real estate records
 - Charity association records
 - Public health records (Venetian Republic)
- Historical Archives & Internet sites



Municipal archives



- Generally local history is poorly represented in local municipal archives
- “I registri di popolazione” [Population Records] started on 1866. Very rarely we have historical records before 1800 [In our region].
- In the past a local community was not organized around a Municipal house, it was rather conceived as the General Assembly of the Householders meeting together in the “public plaza” at the sound of a bell
- In some State Archives it is possible to find the minutes of the Mayor’s assemblies where were listed all family representatives of the community.



An exception: Bergamo Historical Municipal Archive



Bergamo Historical Municipal Archive
Section Ancient Period (centuries XV – XVIII))



<http://www.bibliotecamai.org/>

Citizenship records



In Bergamo series 10 of Historical Archive – Section Ancient Period - preserves documentation established by Deputies and from the Council charged of conferring citizenship rights.



The fiscal system of the Venetian Republic



ALLA SERENISSIMA
REPUBBLICA
VENETA

- The Venetian Republic in order to consolidate relationships - for fiscal reasons - with middle class of the different cities created the system of "original Citizenships".

- Because of this approach some families were granted with privileged fiscal positions. Families in order to obtain such a position needed to elaborate their genealogy



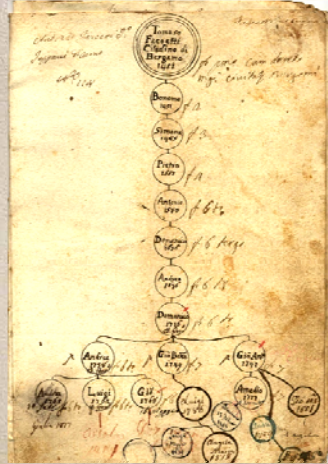
The fiscal system of the Venetian Republic: citizenship lists



In these lists are recorded all surnames of the families that obtained citizenship recognition along with archival references necessary to research in all related original documents .



The fiscal system of the Venetian Republic: genealogical trees



Along with detailed documentation it is possible to find an attached genealogical tree linking the pleading party to the ancestor originally recognized as a Bergamo citizen



Ecclesiastical / Parish Archives



- These archives are the repositories of unique and irreplaceable documents originating - generally speaking - from the Council of Trento (1564), where it was established that local priests had to keep record of baptisms, marriages, deaths and list of families residing in the area (Stati d'Anime);
- During the period of Austrian domination (as from 1816), local parishes were responsible for keeping civil records





Ecclesiastical / Parish Archives: Milan Area



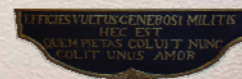
- Cardinal Carlo Borromeo since the Council of Trento gave an important impulse for local parish record keeping in Milan dioceses, at the time the greatest in the world.
- In the diocesan archive of Milan have been deposited many “Stati d’Anime” as from the end of XVI century, these records help us to define a quite clear picture of the families existing in every single parish.



Charitable associations records (Luoghi Pii)



- Charitable organizations “Le Opere Pie” were local moral lay organizations that managed funds in order to help the poor, people in need or the sick.
- Those funds mainly derived from donations and moneys bequited by testament deeds
- In Bergamo a very interesting example is: “l’Istituto Luogo Pio della Pietà Bartolomeo Colleoni” which since 1476 up to our days donates Dowries to needy and honest “Young Girls” of the city and of the ancient Bergamo province in order to facilitate a legitimate marriage.





Charitable associations records (Luoghi Pii)



- The value of the dowry was variable according to the importance of the original ancient relationship of the pleading girl to historical families of the area.
- Genealogies needed to be provided along with the plea





Land and real estate records (Estimi)



- Land register records “Polizze d’estimo” represent another important family and historical source of data allowing us to determine the wealth level of a single family as well of the whole community.

Land and real estate records: some examples

In Bergamo area many “Estimi” were edited by the Venetian Republic as from 1401 and 1784 - ASBg

In the Milan Ducat we can find “Estimi” registers organized at the time of the Emperor Charles V in 1558 with subsequent updates up to the XVII century” - ASMi,



Public health records of the Venetian Republic



Registers of causes of death are kept in the State Archive in Venice as from 1447.
The purpose of these records was to monitor public health and prevent endemic diffusion of diseases especially after the “Black Plague” which killed about one third of the total population. Entries in these registers are: name of the person, age, cause of death for each person living in the “Repubblica Serenissima” from Croatia up to Bergamo.



L'Associazione Genealogica Lombarda



- Historical backgrounds of our association its organization and its local settings
- AGL main objectives and approach
- Main genealogical sources in our areas
- AGL special project
- Activities and meetings
- Our internet site



AGL special project



- Our association has developed some projects of digitalization and reorganization of local ecclesiastical / parish archives in agreement with local priests with the intentions of preserving them and facilitate future access.



L'Associazione Genealogica Lombarda



- Historical backgrounds of our association and its local settings
- AGL main objectives and approach
- Main genealogical sources in our areas
- AGL special project
- Activities and meetings
- Our internet site



AGL activities and meetings



- Monthly general meeting
- Yearly general members meeting (financial reports)
- Participation to conventions of other associations:
 - *Convegno sulla Trascrizione degli Archivi* a cura dell'Associazione storico-genealogica "Nostre Origini" di Torino
 - Bologna *VI Convegno Nazionale sulla Storia di Famiglia "Racconta la Tua Storia di Famiglia"* a cura dello IAGI – Istituto Araldico Genealogico Italiano



AGL activities and meetings



- Activities
 - Maintaining an internet site with useful documentation related to our activities
 - Preserving parish and every possible record of our area in order to help people to find their ancestors (see special project)
 - Definition of transcription standards for names, places and dates
 - Sharing of genealogical data of AGL member in our internet site
 - Software definition (Family Tree Maker) and training session for associates
 - Training sessions on different aspects of baptisms, marriage and deaths ecclesiastical records



AGL activities and meetings



- Meetings:
 - DNA molecular genealogy, meeting with the Italian representative of North Italian area
 - Family Search and Historical society of Utah and its related internet library
 - Meeting with a professional Archive organization service company with special focus on the Municipality archives and its related access rules
 - Meeting on actual Italian legislation concerning privacy and the research rights for genealogical purposes
 - Participation of associates to a paleographic training reading session organized by local historian
 - Meeting with Bergamo former responsible of Diocesan archives



AGL activities and meetings



- Personal actions of associates promoting AGL:
 - Specific evenings in local communities sponsored by Local Municipalities concerning local Family History
 - A Specific evening in local Parish related to local parish history as inferred from local archives. Followed by a summary pamphlet.



L'Associazione Genealogica Lombarda



- Historical backgrounds of our association its organization and its local settings
- AGL main objectives and approach
- Main genealogical sources in our areas
- AGL special project
- Activities and meetings
- Our internet site



AGL our internet site



- Public area:
 - Contact info & AGL presentation
 - Deeds of association, deontological code
 - Member lists
 - Association forms
 - Some open genealogies of associates
 - Legislation info on researchers rights
 - Cooperation issues with other family history researchers
 - Meetings and activity info
 - News concerning events of genealogical interest in the area
 - Links to regional institutions and archives, to other local sites of genealogical interest



AGL our internet site



- Reserved area:
 - On line genealogies of some associates
 - List of digitalized parish records obtained by AGL
 - Material, business cards and pamphlets of AGL
 - Power point presentation of seminaries held during special events occasions
 - Minutes of annual associates assembly
 - Financial reports



Our contact info



THANK YOU
for your attention

www.associazionegenealogicalombarda.it

info@associazionegenealogicalombarda.it