

In This Issue: Little Known Italian Explorers, part 2; Mother's Day and Prosecco!

*Member News & Articles*

**LICS Bollettino Periodico**

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# L'Osservatore Lancastriano

**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](mailto:LICSnewsletter@gmail.com)



**So, you never got to spend time in the kitchen with your nonna and we all know she never wrote down her recipes, nor did she measure. Here is the nonna and the directions you long to have.**

*Gina Making Spaghetti Aglio e Olio  
(Garlic & Oil):*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDOxLa5x9GY>

Click on the above link or photo to watch the video.

**MAY YOUR  
MOTHER'S DAY**  
*be filled with*  
**PROSECCO**

The delightful bubbly Prosecco we know and love today came from the village of Prosecco, a suburb of Trieste. The name “prosecco” is actually Slovenian, from prozek, or “path through the woods.” (Prior to being called Prosecco, the region was known as Puccino or Pizzino.) Today, Prosecco production extends beyond the small village, but this is where it all began.

The Glera grape, which grew well in the Prosecco region and became the basis for Prosecco, was grown in Ancient Rome. In fact, in his Natural History, Pliny the Elder—who died in 79 AD—talks of Julia Augusta, “who gave the credit for her eighty-six years of life to the wine of Pizzino.”

The *Bellini* was born in 1948 at the famed Harry's Bar in Venice, where some clever barman came up with a drink that would keep bridal showers socially manageable for decades to come: fresh white peaches pushed through a sieve, the puree topped with crisp, bright Prosecco.

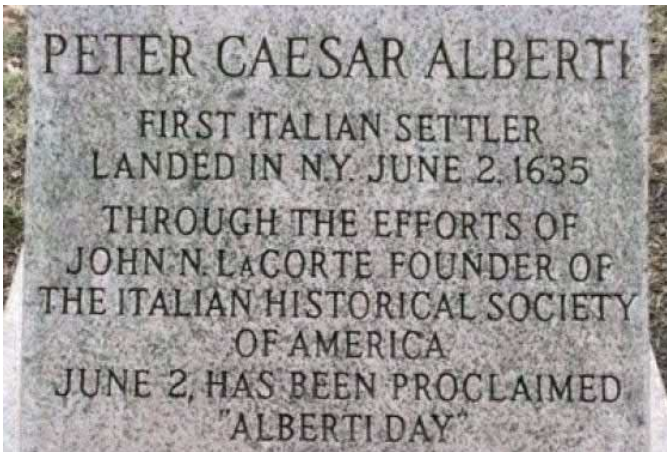
So, this Mother's Day, let us raise a glass to our dear mothers:

**Salute mamma, e grazie per tutto. Ti voglio bene!**

### Italian Explorers and Early Settlers in America by Marian Caroselli - Part 2

In our minds, the early years of the United States and the founding fathers of the republic seem to belong to the British— Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, Franklin, etc. Little is known of Italians in America at this time.

The first Italian to reside in what became the United States of America was Pietro Cesare Alberti. His family, which came from Venice, was influential throughout the Italian peninsula and also had a branch in Genoa. In 1635, Pietro, a Venetian seaman, settled in what would eventually become New York City. He married a member of the Dutch Reformed Church. The couple had seven children from 1642 to 1655, and lived in a home on Broad Street until 1646 when Pietro applied for a land grant from the Dutch. The Albertis farmed 100 acres in Brooklyn until Pietro and Judith were killed in an Indian raid in 1655. A small stone in New York City's Battery Park, near the bronze statue of Giovanni da Verrazano, commemorates Pietro Alberti's arrival and declares June 2 to be "Alberti Day".



Over the centuries, the family name Alberti had variations in spelling like Albertis, Alburto, Alburto and Burtis. Indeed, nearly every American bearing the surnames Burtis and Alburto can trace their ancestry back to Pietro Cesare Alberti.

The Taliaferro family (also spelled Talliaferro, Tagliaferro, Talifero, or Taliferro), originally from Venice, was one of the first families to settle in Virginia.

Francesco Maria de Reggio, known in French as François Marie, Chevalier de Reggio, was an Italian nobleman and an influential government official in Louisiana. He held the title of Captain-General of Louisiana until 1763, when the Spanish Empire took over the French colony. The Chevalier was well liked by the new Spanish officials, and was given a new title in the government of Spanish Louisiana: First Justiciary of the Estates and Property of the Crown.



Above: "Tontine Coffee House, N.Y.C." by Francis Guy depicts the Coffee House, which dates from 1792, and can be identified by the American flag on its roof.

Another colonial, merchant Francis Ferrari of Genoa, died in 1753 and in his will speaks of Genoa, his ownership of three ships, cargo of wine and his wife Mary, who went on to own one of the oldest coffee houses in America, the Merchant Coffee House of New York on Wall Street at Water St. Her Merchant Coffee House moved across Wall Street in 1772, retaining the same name and patronage. Before the Revolution, it was one of the meeting places of New Yorkers opposed to British imperial policy. During the 1780s, merchants and others met there to organize the Bank of New York and to reorganize the Chamber of Commerce.

Today, the descendants of the Alberti-Burti, Taliaferro, Fonda, Reggio and other early families are found all across the United States.

**In our next segment we will look at Italians and Italian Americans around the time of the War of Independence.**

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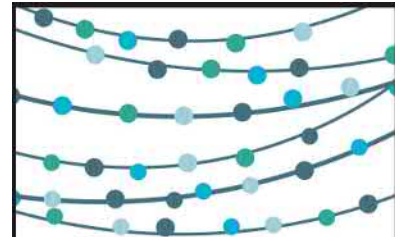
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