



FRANCIS III BY THE GRACE OF GOD, Duke of Lorraine and Berry, Grand-Duke of Tuscany, King of Jerusalem, Marquis, Duke of Calabria, Geldria and Montferrato in Silesia, Teschena, Prince of Carlopolis, Multiponti & Nomenei, Knight of the Provinces of Valdemontis, Albimontis, Zutphaniae, Saarwerdenae, Salma, Falcientheimes, and so forth, and so forth, and so forth.



FRANCISCVS MARIA AB ETRVRIA
FERDINANDI II. MAGNI DVCIS ETRVRIÆ FIL.



Francesco (Maria) III de' Medici (1660-1711) in a print (left) and by artist Sustermans (right)

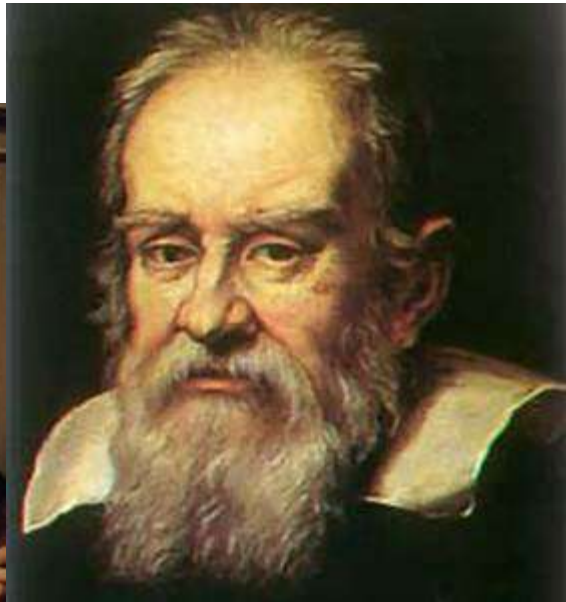


Ferdinand II de' Medici (1610-1670)

We make it known, both to the literary educated people and to every individual, that in the year 1645, our predecessor the Very Sereine Ferdinand II, in the Castle of San Lorino (aka San Leolino) del Conte, has formally announced together with the senate, the people and the inhabitants of four bordering towns, Sambucheta, Bucigna, Vierle and Varena under the Vicariate of Poppi in the Province of Arezzo together with the same Castle, situated there, and those from the same town, and those from a separated Vicariate, that he erected the whole abovementioned area to the dignity of Marquisate, created and firmly established for Dame Ortensia Guadagni, daughter of Francesco Guadagni, for her whole life, in a noble, ancient, binding fief, which he submitted to her with several contracts, and chapters, which can be seen in the same Feudal Diploma made at that time; in the Year 1660 to the abovementioned Lady Ortensia, the Sereine Ferdinando II, in that testament which favored his generosity, indulged with a new regard for her and stated that the afore mentioned Marquisate would pass over in the Senate to the brother of the said Guadagni (Ortensia), Tommaso Guadagni (1582-1652), *[who has 10 children, one of whom, Donato will inherit the Marquisate and is our direct ancestor]*, who has children and male descendants, legitimate and natural, so that the Concession of the Feud (Marquisate of San Leolino) would remain in the Guadagni family (Ortensia Guadagni remained widow at a young age and had no children; her husband, Filippo Salviati, famous Florentine scientist, astronomer, friend and collaborator of Galileo Galilei, and senator, died of a duel at 32 years old) in the year 1651, as long as they want by all means, that the fief afterwards could be claimed by Tommaso's successors, if there were several of them, and confirm in the year 1671 Donato (1641-1718) *[our direct ancestor]*, son of Tommaso as Marquis and in the years 1718 and 1724 Marquis Neri (1673-1748) and Marquis Donato Guadagni (1719-1797) (Tommaso's son and grandson). Since to prefer Neri as Marquis in these times when the laws of Feudalism are prescribed our merit should be to cling to them and impose in the Grand Duchy a more seriously chosen successor soliciting the foretold innovation to be followed or concede its confirmation as worthy of us.



Filippo Salviati



Galileo Galilei

Views of parts of the Guadagni Marquisate of San Leolino:



www.alamy.com - CYTCHY

Vierle Valley



Bucigna



Farm of San Leolino with Guadagni Crest on top of the door



Bedroom in the Guadagni Villa of San Leolino



Sitting room in the same



Outer stairs of the same.



Castle of San Leolino del Conte (left), partially destroyed by the Republic of Florence during the early Renaissance, because it was too powerful and threatening for the nearby Republic (It was considered the strongest and most powerful castle of the whole region) [picture taken in the 1920s; the actual ruins are smaller and hidden in the forest but still impressive]; Villa of San Leolino (right) both ruins of the castle and villa are part of the Guadagni Marquisate.