The 1481 Affirmation of Freedom for Angrogna Families

On 4 February 1481, Philibert I, Duke of Savoy (reigned 1472-1482), issued a proclamation reaffirming the freedoms of the heads of families of Angrogna. That was 11 years before Columbus discovered the "New World"!

The heads of families in Angrogna had complained to the Duke that their local lords were abusing their rights. Those local lords were the lords of Luserna and, more specifically, the Rorenghi, lords of Angrogna.

In exchange for one pound of wax per year—which he would use to validate or "seal" his official documents, in the manner of the ancient Roman Empire—the Duke reaffirmed those rights. This is evidence that these rights were not then "new," for the Duke was reaffirming rights these men had already held; and also that these men and their families were not serfs, but were free, even though they proffered their loyalty to their local lords.

In addition to the wax, the Duke would use the occasion to confirm his own authority over those local lords—and any other local lords in his domain who wondered about the Duke's power to control them.

The act mandates that anyone abridging the freedoms of these citizens was to be publicly flogged. He specifically states that his mandate is to "preserve them from the undeserved and illegal oppression."

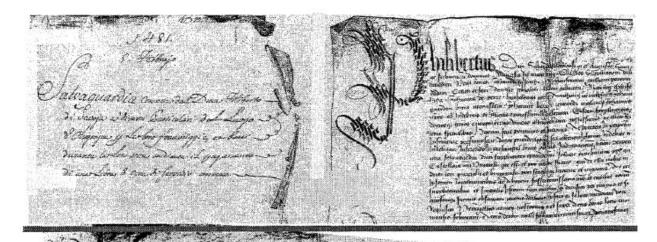
There probably aren't enough intervening documents that survive to permit your documenting your direct ancestry to one of these men. But it is of interest to note at least the surnames of those in Angrogna at that early time.

The names of the 35 Angrogna heads of families are as follows:

Michele Aliaudi, Ugoneto Barreri, Pietro Cugno, Lorenzo di Pratosuyto, Giovanni Benedetto, Pietro Boneto, Giovanni Rossengo, Pietro Chanforan, Guglielmo Perrone, Martino Benedetto, Pietro Richa, Giovanni Bellonato, Ugo Chanforan, Martino Bareri, Manfredo Oddino, Colletto Orsello, Daniele Genolato, Martino Arbarteta, Martino Chanforan, Giovanni Malan, Bonfouro Revel, Martino Bastia, Martino Fenoglio detto Frascha, Giovanni Richa, Giovanni di Peyre, Bartholomeo Corsone, Antonio Arnulphi, Giovannetto Smeriglio, Guglielmo Girod, Goneto Aliaudi, Giovanni Balangero, Giovanni Benedetto, Girardo Malan, and Giovanni Borno, all of Angrogna.

The original document, on parchment, is still preserved and is very large in size. We reproduce here only the date panel, the first part of the declaration showing the decorative "P" beginning the Duke's name (Philibert), and the first few lines that include the names of the heads of families.

Description of the document and the list of heads of households from *Bulletin de la Société d'Histoire Vaudoise* number 11 (1984) pages 73-74); photocopy courtesy of the State Archives, Torino



Sicarmon perpetune Marchini rhalla Minnecto perconona Macago berastario rum invent Micraetio diano. Duroner Laved | Dete angui America te praeofineo, tolimmo harrom bestieri Deri triba, fotantino bestieri Deri triba, fotantino bestieri Deri triba, fotantino bestieri Durone transco diano de fotanti de fotantino fotant comerge multierming envolv moner alrande foliande balangerin file pour numbenets. Geredus orni our de engrouma firect fire nobre facte benigete Inchiari Spotence (appliamere place Tubdicos Summer Somme tour commercia of Dungling Mechon comm Summan Comtover framelos et laboratores bona nueno bismings er minfine fperier epif tome (in et fub falingmedia emilamo et preferione opumbrendurante effectolumne et manere. L'imqui de fantamquorium figure aufu romeravio France of bando Improvendo Inquienunto compellendo del allo quotiber nonstatem fen moleffram m et bil ne ducentum liberionin forem proqueliber erbicagnaliber fenouent Inchifus.) Dec ber margliboum cere bone et futfinencie quolibet annom fofto famomazion venatie for manib. mera company legitimie senebimo computano Alimonnie viorecca dilecho noffes Caffellas rabamerhe et fumilie offinavne hore mounte et finnidigere de que pane pernenernit feir m fub vena afunth voemffe poo quotibet L2 harring Das noas fatnemore littuas photos Donn Citavin forma et tenoven fuenne attendant et amolabe observene . tenangattinde et per crous leaser mourbus talia fice foliere poorlaman fanane et melhlomme inman, numbre fuent maeribne timento. Le mus de trinovana le volent qualare. Samin damberiare die quinte