

Pisterzo History

The first historical notation in regards to our town appears in the Chronicles (Fossae Novae) in the year 1125. In the Chronicles, Pisterzo was referred to as Terno or Terzo whenever mention was made about the destruction of our town by the papal troops Onorio II. The name Tertium also appears that same year.

The name Terno or Terzo is derived from the word Retaria meaning a place where one cleans up the river- bed with a net. It was a location where people in the years 1028 to 1125 came to form urban centers near towns such as Prossedi (then known as Castrum) and Rocca Secca (previously known as S. Cross). It is also interesting to note that in the ditches of Terzo in the valley of Amaseno the Tower of De Pineis was thought to exist.

In the following years, the Valley of the Amaseno had Papal and Norman Imperial Armies pass through its land. One of the conquerors Vassali from Ceccano, formed alliances with other army forces to take over the region; among them Terzo.

Under the dynasty of Ceccano the name Terzo was changed to Pisterzo and became the present town. The fall of the counts of Ceccano marked a dark period for Pisterzo. In 1425, with the election of Pope Martino V. Ildebrandino, under the counts of Valmontone, Pisterzo became a feudal system.

In 1478, Pisterzo was given to Federico, Abbot of St. Gregorio of Urbe who in turn gave the town to the family Chigi of Siena. On April 9, 1544 (10 years later) the Chigi family transferred Pisterzo to Lucal Massimo and under his control the town experienced a revival period.

In 1600, Maximum Camillo had the church of S. Michel Archangel built in Pisterzo. The church was restored in 1720-1724. It was rebuilt in 1924 because of a fire that destroyed it in 1921.

On April 28, 1762, Francesco Camillo Massimo sold the feudalism of Pisterzo to the marquis Angelo Gabrielli who that same year also received from Pope Clement XIII the principalities of Prossedi and Rocca Secca.

Once the feudal period ended, Pisterzo became attached first to S. Lorenzo and then to Prossedi. With declaration by royal decree 5928/1870 and under the law of August 18, 1870, Pisterzo became the principality of Prossedi.

In 1934, with the creation of the province of Littoria-Latina, Pisterzo, together with Prossedi, became part of the 93rd Italian province.

Pisterzo survived the past invasions and wars and became a working town that supported public buildings such as a church and school. It sponsored cultural events such as festivals and sponsored a band and a soccer team.

Unfortunately the hilly position, which in the past was so crucial to our town, isolating it from the wars of the valley below, became a very heavy handicap. It halted growth and development. The lack of land to build on, insufficient agriculture land and inadequate road links for transportation to markets all contributed to the oceanic emigration that reached its peak in the 1950's and 1960's. The above reasons led Pisterzo to unavoidable depopulation. The rest is the reality of our times.

