



THE HOUSE WHERE ALESSANDRO VOLTA WAS NURSED

You can find this point of interest in Como 6 – Stage 3.

INFORMATION

Location: two houses have been indicated as the home of the Monti-Pedraglio family, where little Alessandro would have been sent to be nursed: one in Via Pietro e Maurizio Monti 9 and the other in Via Volta 5

Paving: Via Pietro e Maurizio Monti is paved with porphyry cubes; Via Volta is paved with porphyry cubes; the Como – Brunate funicular station is not far away. The parking spaces available are few and almost all for residents. ATM and Pharmacy in via Pietro e Maurizio Monti. In Via Monti there is a grocery and fruit-vegetable shop

Leisure and Catering: Funicular; bars, trattorias and restaurants in the area

Other information: both buildings are private homes, not open to visitors.

DESCRIPTION

(by Silvia Fasana)

Alessandro Volta spent the first years of his life in Brunate, cared for by Elisabetta Pedraglio, because in those days it was customary for noblewomen not to breastfeed their children personally, but to appoint a wet nurse. The Brunate historian Maurizio Monti in his *History of Como* (1832) claims to have taken information about her from an "old man" of the town, who told him that the woman «*was not quite mad, but reputed so because she loved very much to lead a solitary life; on the other hand, she was a very judicious woman.*»

Elisabetta's husband, Lodovico Monti, would have been a barometer-maker, a profession that was quite common at that time among the inhabitants of the town. According to some biographers, Alessandro Volta's early childhood was characterized by such a late linguistic development that it was feared that he was to remain mute; but, albeit slowly, he would recover his expressive ability around the age of seven. However, there are no documents of the time that establish precisely where the Monti-Pedraglio family house was. A postcard from the early twentieth century of the administration of the Funicular and some photos from the same period indicate a building located at number 9 of Via Pietro e Maurizio Monti, while a plaque affixed in 1949 to a building in Via Volta 5 (see photo), still recalls: «In this house / Alessandro Volta / spent the first years of his life / 1745-1827 / The Pro Brunate on the 150th anniversary of the battery.»