

“17” Deeds and writings from the year 1761 to 1780

29 folders in envelope, numbered (1-29)

Certain folders contain purchase and sale contracts of properties and lawsuits in San Lorino (# 1, 10, 13 with deeds of 1852, 14, 27) and in Palagio (# 9, 20, 24); deeds for the management of the family patrimony (# 2, 16, 21, 26, 28), of the properties of Florence (# 25 with the concession standard of 1778 of the house of Borgo Tegolaio to Giuseppe Riccardi); honors (# 6, 8, 11, 15, 17-18), wills # 3 of Piero Guadagni (1688-1764), son of Donato Maria of 1762, # 5 of Donato Guadagni (1762), news of death (# 4 of Pierantonio Guadagni (1727-1762), son of Ottavio, in 1762, of Pietro Guadagni (1688-1764), son of Donato Maria, in 1764).

Folder # 12 is the stack of a lawsuit between Donato Guadagni (1719-1797) and the Priest Giuseppe Comucci for a hunting reserve (1768); # 22 is the stack for the trial for the separation of the properties from the obligation of inheritance versus the freedom to sell them, like the “Nunziata” Guadagni Palace promised to Pietro Spada (1775).

Folder # 29 contains the papers related to the arbitration for the treatment of Tommaso Guadagni (1743-1814), son of Donato, on the occasion of his marriage with Maria Maddalena Baldovinetti (1780).

Tommaso was the oldest son of Donato Guadagni (1719-1787), 5th marchese of San Leolino, and his wife Caterina degli Alessandri (1722-1782), Dame of the Order of the Cross with Stars.

The Degli Alessandri were a branch of the Degli Albizzi, who, as we remember, were staunch allies of Bernardo Guadagni (1367-1434) against Cosimo de’Medici. One of the Degli Albizi, Alessandro degli Albizi, in 1372, changed his name in Alessandro degli Alessandri, and started a new family, followed by a brother of his. He did this to avoid being excluded from public offices as a noble, like the Degli Albizzi and the Guadagni and other members of old Florentine families were. Donato Guadagni and Caterina degli Alessandri are also the parents of our great-great-grandfather Luigi Guadagni (1751-1799). So we can say with pride we are the direct descendants of both the Guadagni, obviously, and the Degli Albizzi and Degli Alessandri.

Tommaso Guadagni was Knight of Santo Stefano and 6th Marchese of San Leolino, in 1797, at the death of his father Donato, 5th marchese of San Leolino. On June 7, 1781, he married Maria Maddalena Di Poggio-Baldovinetti (+ 10/23/1824), daughter of Giovanni. They had two children, Neri (1790-1862) and Caterina (1785-1823). Tommaso, had three brothers: Bernardo, Neri and Luigi. Bernardo was born on November 17, 1747. He died on February 10, 1763, at 15 years old, while attending the Nazareno Boarding School in Rome. Neri was born on November 9, 1749, and died on

April 19, 1784, at 34 years old. He did not get married nor have any children. Nothing more is known about him. Luigi is our ancestor and we talked about him above.



Baldovinetti Palace, Florence

Grand-Duke Pietro Leopoldo of Lorraine became Holy Roman Emperor in 1790, when Emperor Joseph II died without children. Pietro-Leopoldo's second son, Ferdinand von Habsburg-Lorraine (5/6/1769-6/18/1824), became Grand-Duke of Tuscany Ferdinand III.

In 1792, during the French Revolution, Ferdinand III was the first monarch to formally recognize the new French First Republic, and he attempted to work peacefully with it. As the French Revolutionary Wars commenced, however, the English and Russian monarchs persuaded him to join their side in the War of the First Coalition. Ferdinand provided his allies with passive support but no enthusiasm. After he witnessed a year of resounding victories by the French, he became the first member of the coalition to give up.

In a proclamation dated March 1, 1795, he abandoned the alliance and declared Tuscany's neutrality in the war.



Baldovinetti Tower, Florence

His normalization of relations with France helped stabilize his rule for several years. However, by 1799 he was compelled to flee to Vienna for protection when republicans established a new government in Florence.

He was forced to renounce his throne in 1801 by the Treaty of Aranjuez. Napoleon brushed him aside to make way to the Kingdom of Etruria, new name of the Grand-Duchy of Tuscany, which Napoleon gave to the House of Bourbon-Parma, in compensation for their loss of the Duchy of Parma.



Family crest of our ancestors degi Alessandri.

Etruria was, in its turn, annexed by the French in 1807, becoming the Departments of Arno, Mediterranean and Ombrone. Finally, Napoleon changed its name back to Grand-Duchy of Tuscany and made his sister Elisa, Grand-Duchess of Tuscany.

On April 2, 1809, Elisa arrived in Florence, where she was coldly received by the nobility. Tommaso Guadagni however was appointed Imperial Chamberlain of Grand-Duchess Elisa Bonaparte Baciocchi in 1808. However, we have no information on what exactly Tommaso did as an Imperial Chamberlain. Elisa was obliged by her brother Napoleon to enforce all Napoleon's decisions and the ones of his ministers in the Grand Duchy, and she was denied the power to modify any of them.

Mandatory conscriptions and new taxes imposed on Tuscany by Napoleon were sources of conflicts in the region. Elisa tried to nationalise the goods of the clergy and closed many convents.

In 1813, with Napoleon facing the allied coalition after his Russian campaign, Elisa was forced to abdicate as Grand Duchess of Tuscany in favor of Grand Duke Ferdinand III's restoration.

249 [130]

1781 June 12 – 1789 Oct. 21

304

1780 – 1795

“18” Deeds and writings from the year 1781 to 1790

22 folders in envelope, numbered (1-22)

Certain folders contain mostly papers related to the management of the patrimony of Donato Guadagni (1719-1797), son of Neri Andrea, and of his sons, Tommaso, Neri and Luigi.



Grand-Duke of Tuscany, Ferdinand III.

In particular, the following numbers contain:

- 1) The marriage certificate of Tommaso Guadagni (1743-1814), son of Donato, with Maria Maddalena Baldovinetti, with documents and receipts for the wedding expenses (1780-1795);
- 2) News of the death of Caterina Alessandri, Donato Guadagni (1719-1797)'s wife, on April 23, 1782;

9) Request by Niccolo' Guadagni (1730-1805) to succeed in the first born rights of the inheritance of Ottavio Piccolomini d' Aragona (1656) for the Principality of Nachod (1785).

In folder # 15, we notice the presence of the appraisal by Mario Del Rosso for the necessary works needed in the farms of San Lorino, Masseto, Palagio and La Luna (1786).



Elisa Bonaparte Baciocchi Levoy, Princess of France, Duchess of Lucca and Piombino, Grand Duchess of Tuscany, Countess of Compignano (1/3/1777-8/7/1820), by artist Marie-Guillemine Benoist about 1805.

250 [131]

1791 Feb. 28 – 1800

305

1791 – 1815

“19” Deeds and writings from the year 1791 to 1800

16 folders in envelope, numbered (1-16)



Elisa Bonaparte as a little child.

Folders mostly contain papers related to the management of the goods and patrimony of Donato Guadagni (1719-1797), son of Neri Andrea, and of his son Tommaso (1743-1814).

In particular the following numbers contain:

- 2) Permission to read the forbidden books granted to Donato Guadagni (1792);
- 7) Papers related to the will of Donato Guadagni, son of Neri Andrea (1796);
- 11) Papers related to the sale of a “podere” in Fiesole, called Malafrasca, by Giovan Battista Tavanti to Tommaso Guadagni (1743-1814) and the trials which followed it (1798-1815);
- 25) Documentation of the damages caused to the Farm of Palagio by the passage of French and Austrian troops (1799-1800).



Napoleon's French troops

“20” *Deeds and writings from the year 1801 to 1807*

22 folders in envelope, numbered (1, 3-15, 17-19, 21-25).

An inside note, signed by Edoardo Dufour Berte, warns us that “today July 5, 1916, folders 2-11 have been taken away and given to lawyer Druch.”

The folders contain mostly papers related to the management of the properties and estates of Donato Guadagni, son of Neri Andrea, by now inherited by his sons Tommaso and Luigi.

In particular, the following numbers contain:

4)concession of a position of excellent page to Neri Guadagni, who was twelve years old, son of Tommaso, in 1802;

10)appointment of Pietro Pannilini as curator of the inheritance of Niccolo’ Guadagni (1805);

11)verdict on the ownership of the Mugello estates to Tommaso (1743-1814) and Donato Guadagni (1794-1879).

21) nomination of Tommaso Guadagni as depute for the administration of the patrimony of marchese Vincenzo Riccardi, with related documentation (1807-1812);

24)pledge of allegiance to Napoleon by marchese Tommaso Guadagni, gonfalonier of the city of Florence (1807).



Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of the French

Without referral to the original folder, it also contains a register with the “Report on the Farm of Le Fonti and Tigliano by consultant Luigi Bacci of November 1806”, written after the death of its owner, marchese Niccolo’ Guadagni, on March 11, 1805.

We still have the cover of folder # 2.

“February 6, 1801. Trial about the lawsuit between Knight Tommaso Guadagni and the guardians of Marchese Donato. Tommaso was Donato’s uncle. Donato lost his father Luigi (Tommaso’s younger brother) when he was only four. That is why in this trial versus his uncle, he is probably still a minor and is represented by his “guardians”. The trial concerns some credits claimed by marchese Tommaso, who had eight days to produce the documents justifying them. In these eight days he was also expected to show consultant Giuseppe Boninsegni the jewels for an appropriate appraisal of their value. Consultant Boninsegni has appraised the furniture existing in the Palace of Piazza (Square) Santo Spirito. Inventory and assignment of the same.”

252 [133]

1808 Feb. 2 – 1808 Oct. 26

307

1805 – 1808

“21” Deeds and writings from the year 1808

5 folders in envelope, numbered (2-6)

The folders mostly contain papers related to the management of the properties and patrimony of Tommaso Guadagni (1743-1814), son of Donato.

In particular the numbers contain:

- 2) description of the sickness of marchese Neri Guadagni (1790-1862), son of Tommaso;
- 4) trial in the lawsuit between Tommaso Guadagni (1743-1814), son of Donato, and his nephew Donato Guadagni (1794-1879), son of Luigi, over the “fedecompresso” (Italian word meaning the obligation of an heir to keep his inheritance or part of it until a specific designated time when he will have to give it to another designated person) induced in the will of Jacopo Guadagni (1570-1643), son of Francesco, of 1643, with the advice of lawyers Ottavio Landi and Giovan Battista Brocchi (1805-1808);
- 5) papers related to the inheritance of Antonino di Poggio Baldovinetti, deceased on July 14, 1808, partly inherited by his sister Maria Maddalena.

253 [931]

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17th Century – 1875

“22” Deeds and writings from the year 1809 to the year 1812

Cardboard bound folders, in envelope.

The envelope is incomplete. It was formed during the reorganization of the Archives (2007), with the loosely found folders recuperated at the moment of the documents transfer to the State Archives.

Folders #:

3) is empty. It contained “Napoleon’s nomination brief of Tommaso Guadagni (1743-1814), son of Donato, as Chamberlain of his sister, the Grand-Duchess of Tuscany (1810). Napoleon, at that time, practically lord of all of Europe, personally picked our great-uncle Tommaso Guadagni, as chief officer of the household of his beloved sister.



Elisa Bonaparte



Napoleon Bonaparte

5) Deeds and verdict of the downfall of Tommaso Guadagni, son of Donato, from the inheritance of Niccolo’ Guadagni (1730-1805), son of Ottavio (1810).

6) Claims advanced by marchese Donato Guadagni (1794-1879), son of Luigi, against his uncle Tommaso for the first born rights of inheritance of Maria Acciaioli (1810).



Acciaiuoli castle in Scandicci, near Florence.

Maria Acciaiuoli (+1675) was the wife of our ancestor Tommaso Guadagni (1582-1652) and mother of Donato Maria, starter of the Santo Spirito Branch of the Guadagni.

8)Conscription (mandatory military service) of the year 1810 in Tuscany. It was requested by Napoleon to his sister the Grand-Duchess of Tuscany, because he needed more soldiers. It included Neri Guadagni (1790-1862), son of Tommaso. Neri was twenty years old at the time.

11)Lawsuit of Tommaso Guadagni, son of Donato, versus Luigi Magini, while M. Formichini was public prosecutor (1806-1811), 34 chapters, with list of deeds.

12)Rectifying the course of the road Florence-Bologna near Covigliaio (1811). La Traversa Guadagni mountain house, which used to belong to Luigi Guadagni and Antonietta Revedin, and where Tony, Zato, Mary and siblings grew up, was near Covigliaio and the road course Florence-Bologna was slightly changed around it.

13) Purchase of the podere of Camoggiano near Barberino (Sept 27, 1811).

16)Loan of Tommaso Guadagni (1743-1814), son of Donato, to Matteo Linari.

18)Inheritance of Caterina Burzi, maid of Tommaso Guadagni, son of Donato (1812).

20)Report of Filippo Calvelli, administrator of Palagio.

21) Election of Tommaso Guadagni, son of Donato, to the Presidency of the Assembly of Fiesole (1812). Tommaso Guadagni was Gonfalonier of Florence, Imperial Chamberlain of the Grand-Duchess Elisa Bonaparte, and President of the Fiesole Assembly.

It also contains a hodge-podge of papers related to Tommaso Guadagni, son of Donato, and his son Neri, of the oldest branch of the family, for the division of the family patrimony with Luigi of the youngest branch (1804)(our branch);

Memos to the tithes payers (17th Century); in the Feudal System, peasants had to pay tithes (10% of their crop to the Feudal Lord as well as another 10% to the Church); the Feudal System in the Grand-Duchy of Tuscany was abolished by the Holy Roman Emperor just a few years before the French Revolution of 1789. In the 17th century it still existed. The Guadagni were Feudal Lords of their Fief of San Leolino;



Church of the Guadagni fief of San Leolino

Medieval picture of the Castle of San Leolino on the right.





Villa le Corti: old farmhouse in the fief of San Leolino

You will forgive me if I copy here the history of San Leolino. You might want to skip it but I would like it to remain in the Guadagni Archives, as the Guadagni are and forever will be the only “Marchesi of San Leolino”. I feel the responsibility to keep and transmit its history.

This is the “first” of the two histories of San Leolino, written by different historians, who concentrate on different aspects of it. Both are interesting and complete each other. The second one will follow.

History of San Leolino

On the top of a hill of about 1,800 feet, along the road connecting the villages of Londa and Vierle, is located Villa San Leolino close to the remains of the relevant Castle, ancient Manor of the Counts Guidi.

The very first news of this impressive stronghold are in a donation act made in 1100. The castle belonged to Counts Guidi up to about 1350, when, after the revolt of Earl Guido, the feud passed under the property of the Republic of Florence.

The castle was destroyed by Grand-Duke Cosimo I de’ Medici. Later on, the “San Lorino” feud, as it was now called, was granted to the Guadagni Family, one of the most prominent families of Florence since the 11th Century.

The history of this family, whose coat of arms was a golden spined cross in a red field and whose motto was “Ich macht nich” (German for “I am not doing anything” in the sense of “Even if I conquer great castles, and win huge battles, for me, a Guadagni, it’s nothing, “it’s a piece of cake...!”) , is rather complex. *[We know that the Guadagni have also another motto “Exaltabitur” Latin for “I will be exalted”, which Vieri Guadagni chose in 1409, when he was sent as field commissary against Ladislao King of Naples. By his motto Vieri intended that he was going to be exalted by his loyal behavior].*

The Guadagni family was banished from Florence in 1444, after the return to power of Cosimo the Elder, as Bernardo Guadagni was involved in the plot conceived by the Albizzi family. Bernardo Guadagni and all his relatives resettled in France, where they increased their economic power, creating close relationships with the King Francis I

The Guadagnis lent the money to Francis I for the payment of the ransom required by Emperor Charles V for his release. After that the family had great influence in the financial administration of the French King, increasing their wealth over and over again. At the time of Grand-Duke Ferdinando I de’ Medici, Guglielmo Guadagni could get back to Florence.

“In 1645, Grand-Duke Ferdinando II granted Ortensia Guadagni the old Manor of San Leolino as a feud, with the title of Marquis and heritage rights, adding the four villages of Sambucheta, Bucigna, Vierle and the hamlet of Rata...For the rule of their feud the Guadagnis built, close to the Castle, their Palace, where a Constable was installed”...(F. Niccolai. Guida del Mugello e della Val di Sieve. Multigrafica Editrice, 1914) (“F. Niccolai. Guide to the Mugello and the Sieve Valley. Multigrafica Publishing House, 1914”)

“In front of the Parish Church, at a distance of about 900 feet, one can see the remains of the old, very strong, rock previously belonging to Counts Guidi, named San Lorino...Near it there is a Villa, located a few steps away from the Rock, where a Constable is administering Justice in the Feud area”. (G.M.Brocchi. Descrizione della provincial del Mugello. Stamperia D’Anton Maria Albizzini. Firenze.1748) (“G.M.Brocchi. Description of the Mugello Province,D’Anton Maria Albizzini Publishing House, Florence, 1748”).

In 1776 when the feudal system was suppressed, the Constable was removed, and the Guadagni Family transformed the old Palace of Justice in a residential villa. (M. Becattini, A. Granchi. Alto Mugello, Mugello e Val di Sieve. Firenze, 1985.) (“M. Becattini, A. Granchi. Upper Mugello, Mugello and Sieve Valley, Florence, 1985.”)

In the middle of the 18th Century the Villa passed to the Dufour Berte Family and, through them, to the present owners.”



Romanic Pieve (Country Church) of San Leolino

Stack in a lawsuit Guadagni and Luigi Magini, public prosecutor being Formichini (beginning of 19th Century); Contracts and business deals of Neri Guadagni, son of Tommaso, living in Borgo Tegolaio, just behind the Guadagni Santo Spirito Palace; to the estates of Mugello (estate of Torre bought by Maria Acciaioli from Cassandra Rinuccini, and left to her son Donato Maria in 1669); papers of Ottavia Guadagni Dufour Berte concerning tax on buildings (1865), for the acknowledgement of the cadastre (1868), and for the land of the Villa of the Luna (1875); printed legal acts (18th-19th Centuries); annotation of the books of the Guadagni Family Library, which were sold and count of the related earnings (1800-1804).

254^[134]
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1813 April 2 – 1814 March 11

1808 -

1816

“23” Deeds and Writings from the year 1813 to the year 1814

7 folders in envelope, numbered (1-7)

The folders contain mostly papers related to the management of the goods and the patrimony of Tommaso Guadagni (1743-1814), son of Donato.

In particular, the following numbers contain:

1) purchase of 5 poderi in Santa Brigida, in the district of Pontassieve (1813);

2)marriage contract between Mattias Arrighetti and Caterina Guadagni (7/2/1785-9/9/1823), daughter of Tommaso, with papers related to the claims and payments made (1813-1816);

3)description of the health condition of Caterina Guadagni, daughter of Tommaso.

7)description of Tommaso Guadagni's health condition on occasion of his death on November 3, 1814.

It also contains a numberless folder with documents for the inscription to the Corsini Benefits of the Religion of St. Stephen (1808-1809).

255^[135]
310

1815 Jan. 7 – 1815 Nov.14

1797 -

1817

"24" Deeds and Writings of the year 1815

6 folders in envelope, numbered (1-6).

The folders contain mostly papers related to the management of the goods and the patrimony of Tommaso Guadagni (1743-1814), son of Donato, by now passed to his son Neri (1790-1862) and to Neri's mother, Maria Maddalena Baldovinetti (+1824)
In particular, the following numbers contain:

3)papers related to the lawsuit for the divisions of the patrimony between the brothers Tommaso and Luigi Guadagni (1751-1799), sons of Donato, and of Tommaso's son, Neri (1797-1815).

256^[136]
311

1815 July 28 – 1821 June 12

1804 -

1839

"25" Deeds and Writings from the year 1815 to 1822

37 folders in envelope, numbered (1-24, 26-38).

The folders contain mostly papers related to the management of the goods and the patrimony of Neri Guadagni (1790-1862), son of Tommaso.

In particular, the following numbers contain:

1)marriage stipulations between Neri Guadagni, son of Tommaso, and Lucrezia Capponi, daughter of Lorenzo (1816);



Capponi Chapel in Santa Felicita Church, painted by Pontorno in 1528.

2,11)papers related to the patrimony left by Lucrezia Capponi Guadagni, who died on 11/13/1817, giving birth to her first-born child, Ottavia Guadagni;

14)purchase of the Palagio Farm by Neri Guadagni from his cousin Donato Guadagni (1794-1879), son of Luigi;



Villa Fattoria del Palagio (Palagio Farm)



Palagio Castle.

17)purchase of the house in Borgo Tegolaio in Florence by Neri Guadagni from the inheritance of Niccolo' Guadagni (1730-1805) of the "Nunziata" Branch, in 1819.

Folder # 27 concerning the damages inflicted on the Torre Farm by the passing Austrian troops is empty. A note says:"Given to Signor Spinetti on August 14, 1824". It is now in # 15 of envelope "19".

In folder # 15, there is the presence of documentation related to the restoration of the Church of San Cristofano in Novoli, under the patronage of the Guadagni and the Buonomini of San Martino (1809-1877).



Church of San Cristofano in Novoli, under patronage of the Guadagni who restored it in the 19th century.



Inside of the Church of San Cristofano in Novoli, under the Guadagni patronage.



Same as above

257^[137]

1823 March 13 – 1827 Dec. 19 ³¹²
1811 - 1827

“26” Deeds and Writings from the year 1823 to 1827

21 folders in envelope, numbered (1-21).

The folders contain mostly papers related to the management of the goods and the patrimony of Neri Guadagni (1790-1862), son of Tommaso. Many purchases of land in the district of Londa.

In particular, the following numbers contain:

9) duties of the churches of Fiesole, Cavallina, Londa and Pagnolle after the death of Maria Maddalena Baldovinetti Guadagni in 1824;

12) documents related to the inheritance from the brothers Antonino and Jacopo Baldovinetti, divided between the sisters Settimia, widow of Pucci and Maria Maddalena widow Guadagni and the four great-nieces Maddalena, Vittoria, Teresa and Giovanna, daughters of late Giovanni Baldovinetti, son of Antonino and Jacopo's brother, Francesco (1811-1825);

13) papers on the legitimate inheritance due to Caterina Guadagni Arrighetti's son (grandson of Tommaso Guadagni and nephew of Neri Guadagni) by Maddalena Baldovinetti;

17) papers related to priest Giuseppe Paterni, ex Capuchin, living in the Guadagni house (1821-1827);

20) announcement of the death and of the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Tommaso Guadagni (November 2, 1814); Lucrezia Capponi Guadagni (November 13, 1817); Maria Maddalena Baldovinetti Guadagni.

21) mortgage registrations in favor of Neri Guadagni (1809-1821).

Folder # 6, related to a debt of Giuseppe Roselli, is empty and a note communicates that on June 30, 1834, the contents were given to Pietro Sarti, new steward of the Farm of San Lorino.

Folder 15, with a document concerning the rental of a mill in Londa, is missing. Replacing it is a note: “In this date of September 10, 1880, these documents were given to Marchese Casimiro Dufour Berte, recipient of the Farm of Londa, where the Mill is located”.

258^[138]

1828 Aug. 21 – 1835 Dec. 5 ³¹³

“27” Deeds and Writings from the year 1828 to 18[35]

27 folders in envelope, numbered (1-9, 11-19, 21-25, 27-28, 30-32).

The folders contain mostly papers related to the management of the goods and the patrimony of Neri Guadagni (1790-1862), son of Tommaso, managed by Ferdinando Arrighetti (probably related to Mattias Arrighetti, husband of Neri's sister, Caterina Guadagni Arrighetti.)

In particular, the following numbers contain:

6) memoirs on the chapel of San Giuseppe in the church of Santo Stefano in Pozzolatico, which used to belong to the Agnini Family, then to the Mario Guadagni Family (extinct in 1805 with Niccolo' Guadagni's death, "Nunziata" Branch);



Church of Santo Stefano in Pozzolatico, Florence Archdiocese

9) letters of Marianna Bocchineri, widow Baldovinetti, concerning the miniature portrait of her son Giovanni, given to her by Senator Guadagni (1825);

19) appraisal of Giuseppe Bezzuoli for the restoration works to be done on the paintings of the Guadagni Family Art Gallery in the Santo Spirito Guadagni Palace (1832);

22) project for the construction of a small dam in the Sieve River, to raise the level of the waters to the advantage of the Palagio Farm Mill. Drawing of the project by engineer Giuseppe Vestri (1832);

28) Recaps and justifications for the expenses incurred in the restoration of the Villa of Malafrasca in Fiesole (1835-1836).

Probably sold by the Dufour Berte, Villa Malafrasca is now "The European University Institute: Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies". Students from all over the world come and study in it.

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18th Century

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"28" Deeds and Writings from the year 1828 to 18

Folders, printed booklets, loose papers in envelope.

The documentation contained in the envelope is not the one described in the 19th Century index, at # 28. It concerns instead a hodge-podge of papers related to Niccolo' Guadagni (1730-1805), son of Ottavio (1762-1771), with bills and receipts, contracts, demonstrations of goods and writings on: "Acknowledgement of coal received by Gaspero Mammoni (1795).

It also contains a register written by Donato Maria Guadagni, in 1703, when he was 61 years old, with “Necessary information for my successors”, which means his children; the will of a not better identified Antonio, son of Pietro (1716); writings from somewhere else; manuscript with information and history of the Dome (Cathedral) of Florence; Outline of the Spanish Monarchy by Tommaso Campanella; printed instructions and laws (18th Century); printed information on current lawsuits: Piccolomini first-born rights and Altemps trial, Marriage between Giovanni Ferroe, Lutheran, and Caterina Dormer, Catholic (1767-1768), Bottarelli Brothers and Magi (1787), Luigi Torrigiani’s will, Alessandro Pomposi and Domenico Ugolini (1777), Amerigo Strozzi and Amerigo Cellesi (1797), Ginori and Ginori (1779), Amerigo and Giovanbattista Strozzi and Andrea Santi Brunetti (1779).



Duomo of Florence as it was in Niccolo’ Guadagni’s time without the marble façade of the 19th Century.



Façade of the Duomo of Florence as it is now



Inside of the Duomo of Florence



Inside of the Cupola of the Duomo of Florence, frescoed by Vasari during the Renaissance. You can climb a steep narrow winding stone staircase inside the Cathedral's wall and you reach the balcony at the bottom of the frescoed Cupola itself, which you can see on the four edges of the picture. You have a breath-taking view of all the inside of the Cathedral, and people below look like ants. After a while of walking on the balcony, a little door opens and another winding narrow stone staircase inside the ceiling of the cupola takes you out on a small balcony outside on top of the Dome. From there you have a gorgeous view of all of Florence, with the Arno River and the surrounding hills, including Fiesole.



The narrow steel balcony on top of the cupola is where you come out. On the right of the Duomo you can see a small green dome (it seems very small from the Duomo, but not when you are below it), it is the Jewish Synagogue, one of the most beautiful in Italy. All that part of Florence, right of the Duomo, used to belong to the Guadagni in the 18th century. They could walk from Masseto, which is on the hills on the right, to the Duomo, without ever leaving Guadagni owned properties.

They were one of the four richest families of Florence. During the Renaissance, banished from Florence because of their plot against the Medici, they became the richest family of France, and the wealthiest in Europe.

Pieve (rural church) of San Leolino



Pieve Romanica of San Leolino



Pieve of San Leolino, near Panzano

260_[140]

1842 March 8 – 1858 Sept. 15 ³¹⁵
1796 - 1884

“29” Deeds and Writings from the year 18
28 folders in envelope.

The folders are titled and marked as belonging to envelopes 28 and 29 and regard the management of the patrimony of Neri Guadagni (1790-1862), son of Tommaso, managed by Ferdinando Arrighetti.

Stacks # 9-12, 14-16, 20-22 (with watercolor India ink drawing of the blueprint of a road near the Stura brook in the Farm of La Torre), 24, are present.

Folders # 7 (with watercolor India ink drawing of the blueprint of the soil of the house of the farm of Londa), # 11 (with watercolor India ink drawing of the blueprint of the mill of Londa), # 12-13 (with drawing of the blueprint of the roads crossing the Guadagni properties in San Domenico of Fiesole), 15-17, 20, 23-25, 27-30, 37-41.



San Domenico of Fiesole



Street of Fiesole. Florence in the background, down in the valley. Masseto is a few miles from Fiesole.



Roman theatre in Fiesole.

261^[141]

1833 – 1843 316

“31” Deeds and Writings from the year 18
Folders in envelope.

Correspondence, declarations, calculations and other on the Guadagni properties and goods for the necessary appraisals for the guardianship, after the interdiction (disqualification) of Neri Guadagni (1790-1862), son of Tommaso, last male of the Santo Spirito’s oldest branch and father of Ottavia, who married Dufour Berte and brought all the Guadagni patrimony into that family.

- 1) “Memo of the matters dealt with in the meetings of the family Council of the noble marchese Neri Guadagni”, interdict, half-leather bound register (12x9 inches) (January 26, 1839).
- 2) “Guadagni Guardianship. Report” (November 30, 1840).
- 3) “C.s. Enclosed procedure.”
- 4) “Inventory of the dowry of the eminent Lady Ottavia Guadagni, bride-to-be of eminent marchese knight bali’ (“nobility title”) Edoardo Dufour Berte” (1837).
- 5) Correspondence, reports and papers related to the Guadagni Guardianship (1833-1843).

Neri Guadagni purchased the Torre Palagio Villa and Farm from his cousin Donato Guadagni (1794-1879), our great-great-grandfather, son of Luigi, before being interdict. This villa, inherited by the Dufour Berte, when Neri’s daughter, Ottavia, married Odoardo Dufour-Berte, and sold by them some time later, is now on rental for marriages and parties.

I found a detailed description of it and its history, which I copy here, as it used to belong to our branch of the Family, before Donato Guadagni sold it to Neri.

Villa Torre Palagio

Inside the Villa

Atmosphere full of history and harmony

A place surrounded by furnishings, colors, style, landscapes, particularly consistent with your personality and your tastes. This is what you want for your wedding reception this is what you get!

Inside it retains all the fifteenth-century drawing of the rooms, a flight of salons one after the other until you reach the central hall at the “Jardin d’Hiver” (French for “Winter Garden”) enriched by a stone well of the 1400. The great entrance, adorned by two large pictures that run the length of the walls, sweeps you in a majestic alternation of colors.



Inside of the Guadagni Villa of Torre Palagio.

The titanic gate has written the story of this ancient and historic property with the crests of the noble families of the Marquis Guadagni and the Marquis Dufour Berte paintings that frame the great room. The adjacent rooms follow one another with alternating arms full of understated elegance where you can still hear the laughter of Lorenzo de' Medici the Magnificent (grandson of the Cosimo de' Medici who was arrested and exiled by Bernardo Guadagni), Luigi Pulci, Mariotto Davanzati, and Bernardo Giambullari (three famous Florentine Renaissance poets, friends of Lorenzo the Magnificent).



The Guadagni Crest on the left and the Dufour Berte on the right in the big double-crest on the right at the end of the hall, facing a large room of the Guadagni villa.



The Guadagni-Dufour Berte double-crest looks on a different room of the Guadagni Villa.



Same as above.

History of the Villa Torre Palagio

The first information on the villa can be found in a document dated 1427 in which Jacopo Pulci, son of Francesco, declares the ownership of a fortress situated in the district of Latera in Mugello to the Land Office (“cadastre”) of Florence. A square courtyard, a “loggia” with small columns, an old well, and part of a tower are the remains of the ancient fortress. From 1457 to 1466, the fortress was a meeting place of writers and humanists such as Luigi Pulci, Lorenzo de’ Medici the Magnificent, Mariotto Davanzati, and Bernardo Giambullari.



Luigi Pulci



Lorenzo de' Medici the Magnificent

Here love songs and poems were written, like *la Nencia da Barberino* and *La Beca da Dicomano*. In 1490, Antonia, widow of Bernardo Pulci, sold the property to Piero Bettini, son of Francesco. Piero sold it to the Marchesi Guadagni, who transformed it into a villa, as it is written in a stone plate on the main entrance.

The villa was restructured in the 19th Century as it is now.



Facade of the Guadagni Villa



Back of the Guadagni Villa

The Park of Villa Torre Palagio

The park was redesigned by famous French architect Cambrai-Digny. He utilized the great difference in height existing in the the back of the villa, where the ground level is much lower. You can spot a series of small paths intersecting with the surrounding tree lined alley. Along it there are spots to relax and view the Valley of the Sieve River.

In the lawn, bounded by a fence, you can see a majestic Cedar of Lebanon, shading the surrounding grass. On the side of the villa a grove of walnut trees creates an enchanted atmosphere.

The broad avenue which departs from there, winds along the park, characterized by several old trees leading quietly to one of the most magical and amazing scenarios of the Mugello Valley.

Among the many examples of old trees are included: Map, Atlas Cedar, Cephalotaxus-fortunei-hok, Lawson Cypress, Diospyros, Beech, Giant Tuja, Picea Obies, Picea Orientalis, Elm, Opercus Petra, Sequoia Sempervirens.

In the park you can also admire an extraordinary example of the California Cypress species “Giganthea”, recognized as the largest tree in the world.



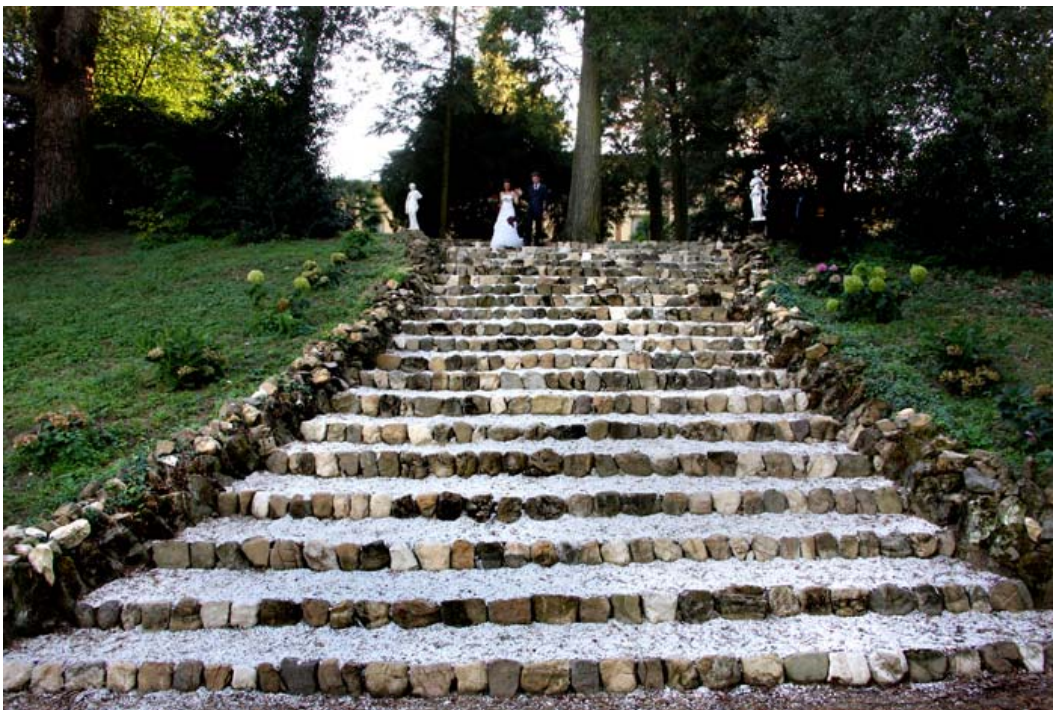
Guadagni Villa's Park.



Sieve River Valley and Bilancino Lake seen from the Guadagni park.



Same as above



Staircase leading to the lower ground level behind the villa.

“35” Deeds and Writings from the year 18
35 folders in envelope.

The documentation contained in the envelope is not described in the index, which stops at stack 31. The numbered folders are related to documents of the Dufour Berte Family, who in a first moment had continued the numbering of the documentation of the Guadagni Family for the goods brought in as a dowry by Ottavia Guadagni, daughter of Neri.

Furthermore, it contains a hodge-podge of papers, not in folders, related to the Delle Fonti Farm (1760-1763), to expenses of Pierantonio Guadagni (1762), and other Guadagni members; a package of correspondence to Teresa Dufour Berte (1827-1868), to Eduardo Dufour Berte (1860-1883); deeds of the lawsuits Dufour Berte and Galli and Relatives (19th Century), some Dufour Berte papers related to the Delle Fonti Farm (up to 1894).

The numbered folders, related to stack # 35 are the following: 5-6, 8-13 (with India Ink drawings on shiny paper of the projects for the new roads in San Domenico of Fiesole) 14-18, 20 (with deeds of the sale of the San Domenico Villa to Bartolommeo Saint Pierre, 22-23, 25-31, concern all of the Dufour Berte Family).

Villa Guadagni Dufour Berte, in San Domenico, Fiesole, also known as Villa Guadagni delle Lune, Fiesole





Old 18th Century print of the above.



Pieve of San Leolino, near Panzano