

A few days ago, our common friend and Guadagni historian Henri Guignard, from Boutheon, Lyon, France, has sent me by email an old book written in 1668, 202 years before Passerini's book, on the history and genealogy of the noble families of Tuscany in 17<sup>th</sup> century Italian, with many pages on the history of the Guadagni. It is a fascinating document, starting to relate the family history before the year 1000, so more than a century before Passerini, and I will start translating it hereafter.

**GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF THE NOBLE FAMILIES FROM TUSCANY AND UMBRIA RECOUNTED BY D. Father EUGENIO GAMURRINI Monk from Cassino, Noble from Arezzo, Academic full of passion, Abbot, Counselor and Ordinary Alms Giver OF HIS VERY CHRISTIAN MAJESTY LOUIS XIV, KING OF FRANCE AND OF NAVARRE, Theologian and Friend of HIS VERY SEREINE HIGHNESS COSIMO III Prince of Tuscany dedicated to the SAME HIGHNESS, FIRST VOLUME IN FLORENCE, In Francesco Onofri's Printing House. 1668. With license of the Superiors.**



Louis XIV, King of France, known as the Sun King, 1638-1715 Cosimo III, Granduke of Tuscany, 1642-1723



Cosimo III as a child (left) and as a young man (right)

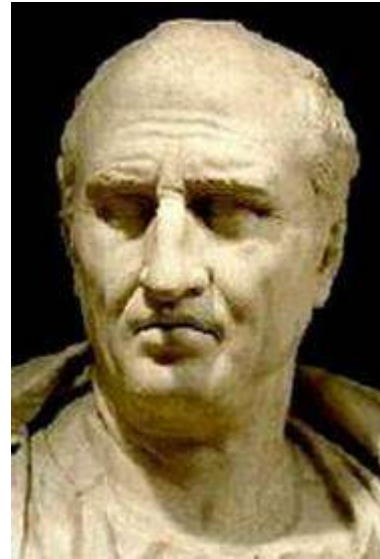
### ***THE GUADAGNI FAMILY FROM FLORENCE***

The Guadagni Family is so ancient and has always been so powerful in wealth and men that some people believe that they could originate from the glorious family of the Counts Guidi, as the latter owned many properties in proximity of the large fiefs of the former; however, after having made all the possible researches, we were unable to prove this hypothesis; on the other hand, we can comfortably prove that they originate from families now extinct; to illustrate this opinion we will now tell everything we found.

The Florentine chroniclers and historians retain that the Guadagni Family originated from Fiesole and affirm that the abovementioned town is the town of origin of the noblest families of Florence, and so truthfully the Guadagni could be listed among the noblest families of the County.



Lucius Cornelius Sulla, Roman general



Catiline (on the right) assembles his fellow conspirators    Lucius Sergius Catiline, our ancestor (08 bc-62bc)

Our direct ancestor Luigi Guadagni (1751-1799) married Elisabetta Catellini (i.e. of the family of Catiline) +1844, and fathered -> Donato Guadagni (1794-1879) -> Guadagno Guadagni (1833-1905) -> Luigi Guadagni (1879-1943) -> Antonio Guadagni (1911-1993) -> Vieri Guadagni (1948...) -> Sterling Guadagni (1972...) -> Anthony Guadagni (1997...)

The Roman Theatre of Fiesole (left picture above) is still used today. Fiesole was founded in the 9<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> century BC, 2 centuries after the Fall of Troy and 2 centuries before the foundation of Rome. In 283 BC it was conquered by the Romans. Sulla colonized it with veterans, who afterwards, under the leadership of Gallius Mallius, supported the cause of Lucius Sergius Catiline, our direct ancestor, as we know.



Since before anyone could remember, the Guadagni have owned the Castle of San Martino a Lubaco, a town near Fiesole, large and beautiful for the presence of Palaces and Churches in it of which we can still see the vestiges like in the Guadagni villas of Folle and Pagnolle, there nearby, all gentlemanlylike witnesses of the above Family.



Villa Guadagni of Gricigliano (4 pictures above); now it belongs to the Martelli Family.





Pieve (“Country Church”) of San Martino a Lubaco, near Fiesole and Masseto



Four pictures of the inside of the Church of San Martino a Lubaco during a celebration.

The Guadagni also had the patronage not only of the parish Church of the Castle named San Martino (“Saint Martin”) but also of the one of San Miniato a Pagnolle, situated in the said domain and such places were bordering with the domains of Acone and Monte di Croce (“Mountain of the Cross”), which were owned by the Counts Guidi in those times.

The abovementioned reporters and the historians state that the Guadagni Family came to Florence in the year 1010 when the inhabitants of Fiesole unified with the Florentines and that they were immediately called with many others to govern the City, which in those days was governed by two Consuls, as in ancient Rome, for a one year period.



Statue of a Roman Consul in Tarragona, Spain

We are going to skip the speculations made by the abovementioned historians on the Guadagni Family Crest and its variations and on the surname they chose for themselves, which are only based on dreams and chatter, with which they thought to enlarge that great Family, like Rondinelli and others, which were more of a prejudice than an enlargement, with showing a tree broken in several spots, creating three branches without a trunk, while if they had well researched for the latter, instead of daydreaming, they would have found the truth with the origin of those three branches which all started only in the year 1480, while they put the first beginning in the year 900, as we will see here below.

In the olden days the Guadagni owned a property near the village of San Martino or Mensola in a place called Guarnone; when they saw their children extend their properties towards the mountain and over the main road that goes from Florence to Ponte a Signa as we see from many



papers mostly from one of the year 1096, written by Alberto, which you can find in the “Sacchetta” (“little bag”) VV. of the Archives of Vallombrosa, in which the properties of the sons of Caroccio are described as bordering the ones of the son of Pagano son of Vinadro, and the document is numbered # 224 and another one # 1267, signed by Giovanni in the year 1078, and described as bordering the land of Caroccio son of Pagano.



Mensola



Ponte a Signa (as it was in the 18<sup>th</sup> century)



Church of San Martino a Lubaco, Pontassieve. Two pictures of the Badia of Florence, which started being built in the year 978 AD.

And his brother, whose name was “Meglio” (i.e. “Better”), said he was from Lubaco; but the real name of Caroccio was Giovanni nicknamed Caroccio, that he used as an added name, and he was married; and in the Little Bag marked S.n.170 and in the Little Bag V number 6, we see the truth of it in Caroccio’s son, also named Giovanni nicknamed Migliorello (affectionate diminutive of “Migliore” like “Jimmy” for “James”), son of Giovanni nicknamed Caroccio, son of Pagano, who lived close to the Badia of Florence, where they already had their very ancient houses before the Abizzi Family came to Florence and purchased “Albizzi Medieval Street” (“Borgo degli Albizzi” in Italian) and in these documents we find Ermingarda, daughter of Bulgaro, and wife of the above mentioned Migliorello in 1094 and it is signed by Teuzzo. So Pagano Guadagni,

grandfather of Migliorello must already have been living in his very ancient house in Florence in the year 1040 or earlier.



Houses and Palace in Medieval Borgo degli Albizzi, Florence, which used to belong to the Guadagni beforehand.

**In his book, *Genealogia e Storia della Famiglia Guadagni*, (“Genealogy and History of the Guadagni Family”), 1873, Historian Luigi Passerini writes: “In my opinion, Guittone, son of a certain Migliore of Lubaco, was the ancestor of the Guadagni family, from whom the family originates. I will prove this with the documents I mention for every member of the family. Guittone was alive in 1080 and he bought properties in a place called Marusia in the parish of San Martino. However, his descendants came to Florence only at the end of the twelfth century.”**

The abovementioned **Meglio** (“other form of Migliore?” like “James” and “Jimmy” in Italian “Migliore” means better or best, ‘meglio’ means better), continues our book, was **Guittone’s father**, as we see in the document marked # 1206, signed by Pietro in the year 1080 (and this is when Historian Passerini starts the history of the Guadagni Family). This Guittone buys land and properties close to San Martino a Lubaco in a place called Marusia. The other son of Meglio (also called “Emilio” Guadagni), was Pagano (who was then Guittone’s brother), who finds himself a witness in a contract of that great donation that Bernardo, son of Brunone degli Uberti, who was a Saint and died in Parma, made to Vallombrosa, and this is signed by Giovanni in 1085. This is confirmed in a little wooden box in the Archives of Vallombrosa.





Vallombrosa Abbey, Tuscany



Saint Bernardo, son of Brunone degli Uberti, abbot of Vallombrosa and Bishop of Parma, died on December 4, 1133, by artist Pietro Perugino (self-portrait of the artist on Saint Bernardo's right)

Guittone Guadagni, son of Meglio, fathered Giovanni, who was the father of Francesco, who married Armellina, daughter of Alberto, and fathered that Guittone who was half detached from the Guadagni Family Tree by Rondinelli, Librarian of the Very Sereine Granduke of Tuscany, now reigning, and how it was all caused by a document found by Corbizo in the year 1152, saying in Latin: *Nos Franciscus fil.b.m. Ioannis Guittonis, @ Armellina lugalis eius filia*

**Alberti, @ Guittone fil.d. Francisci** “We Francesco, son of Giovanni son of Guittone and Armellina Iugali daughter of Alberto, generated Guittone son of Francesco”, and from this branch were generated the two branches of the Guadagni Family, as well as the one in France, as we will see at the appropriate time, as it is now necessary to return to Caroccio’s descendants, from whom I believe other families may have originated, that maybe as time goes by we will find their name or other Historians, luckier than we are, will, and so we will find the original tree trunk from which we were able to find all these descendants.

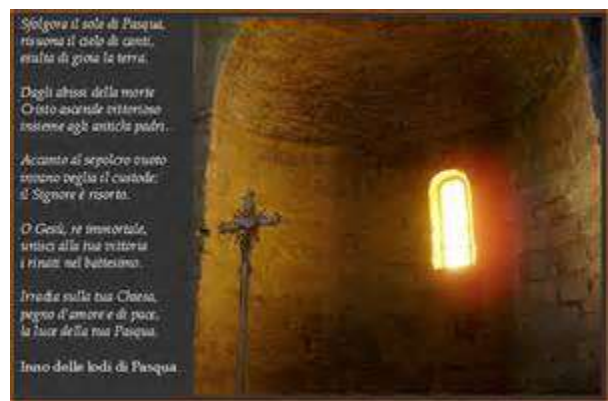
Giannino, nicknamed Migliorello, son of Giovanni, nicknamed Caroccio, was Pietro’s brother and father of Marco nicknamed Marchese, who generated Rustichello, of Mancino, who generated Buonaccorso, and of Piglio, who generated Guadagno, Braccio, Alberto, Spada and Bruno.

The Guadagni’s first names sometimes have a meaning, like “Migliorello” means “Little Migliore”, “Rustichello” means “Little Rustic”, “Mancino” means “Left-handed”, “Braccio” means “Arm” and “Spada” means “Sword”.

Of the abovementioned generation we are informed by a sale made by Piglio to the Abbott of Santa Trinita, confirmed by the above brothers, who was signed in the year 1183 by Borgente, and it is confirmed in the Archives of Vallombrosa, in the little bag marked “V”, #8 where we can still see that Placida was Marco’s wife, with whom she had Rustichello, while Libania was Piglio’s wife.



Basilica of Santa Trinita, Florence  
Masseto



Church of Lubaco, near the Guadagni Villa of





Dome of Santa Maria del Fiore, Cathedral of Florence, with all the tourists on top of it looking at the view. On the right in the back you can see the green dome of the Jewish Synagogue and on the close right you see the façade of Palazzo Guadagni dell'Opera (now Region of Tuscany Capitol) with the stone sculpted Guadagni family Crest above the window and the top of the inside courtyard with the the upper part of the opposite side of the Guadagni Palace behind it. Both visible sides of the Palace surround the Guadagni inner courtyard and are attached to each other as in a rectangle by two other shorter sides, one of the right side and the other on the left, which are not visible in the picture.

Ildebrandino Guadagni was the son of Guittone son of Meglio from Lubaco and he was the father of that Migliore who generated that famous Panza. Migliore was the witness to a sale contract, made by the Metropolitan Canonry of Florence, signed by Giovanni in the year 1196, which says in Latin "*Migliore filii Ildebrandini Guittonis* meaning Migliore son of Ildebrandino son of Guittone; Migliore's wife was named Donnina Imperizia, and she is buried in Santa Maria del Fiore, the Cathedral of Florence

The abovementioned Panza was the father of Migliore, who fathered Lotto, Filippone and Bartolo, as the abovementioned Rondinelli notes in the Guadagni Family Tree; but Rondinelli doesn't quote the source where he gets this information and so he leaves them detached from the other Guadagni because he does not know how to connect them. But we see that Migliore son of Guadagno son of Guittone, as we are going to prove, kept a large stock of merchandise together

with Filippone, son of Migliore son of Panza, which we can clearly see from a document of 1307, requested by Rainerio Tolomei of Florence, which is confirmed in the Archives of Cestello, but as it had not been officially requested, we cannot find a precise number for it.



Cestello Square, Florence with the Arno River upfront.

Lotto Guadagni, son of Migliore son of Panza, married Adalagia daughter of Dolfo son of Bianca de' Pulci in the year 1289. He was among the “nobles” in the year 1294 and in a public document of June 9, 1326. He stands out, with Lotto and Filippone, against Pieraccio and Francesco son of Piero son of Guadagno son of Guittone. They say that they were all allied, but with no obligation of compromises amongst themselves; however Rondinelli does not connect them in the family tree, because he does not find the connection, as we had mentioned before.

But if we want to return to the main branch of the Guadagni Family, i.e. of the descendants of Guitto son of Francesco, from whom all the actually (as of the year 1668 ) living Guadagni descend, Guitto had a son named Guadagno, as you can see in the Archives of the Badia of Florence Call'OO.n.47 in the year 1241, from whom the family took their last name (“Guadagni”) and that was officially registered as the Family surname by the Republic of Florence, according to Rondinelli.

Whoever owned a property or a Lordship, ten or less miles from the outskirts of the city of Florence had to renounce to it to be able to participate in the Government of the Republic, and so Guadagno renounced to it; he was the father of Zato, Migliore and Pierotto, called sons of Guadagno son of Guitto, who bought some properties near the walls of the Castle of San Martino a Lubaco from Alberto, Spada, Braccio, Guadagno and Bruno, sons of Biglio Guadagni, as it is written in a document of Sir Marco of Monte region, who confirms it in the Archives of the Servants in Florence. From the sons of Guadagno in 1340, whose names we can see in the Priorist, containing the extracts of the Priors and of the Gonfaloniers, we can deduct the Guadagni Family tree until nowadays (year 1688).



And, as Rondinelli has composed the Guadagni Family Tree until nowadays from these extracts, we don't know what else to add. We are happy to have found the pedal, all authenticated by the above extracts, which starts from the year 960 after the Birth of Christ (120 years earlier than Passerini who started with the year 1080 AC), and we will write all of it hereafter.

**Gamurrini -**

**Rondinelli**

## *Passerini*

**VINALDRO** (he was active in the year 960

AC).

Pagano

1000.

Giovanni nicknamed Caroccio 1050.

**Meglio**

**1040.**

MIGLIORE

Guido

Giannino aka Migliorello 1090

Pietro

## Guittone

**1080**

Pagano

### Guittone 1080

*Ermingarda daughter of*

*Bulgaro*

Giovanni

**Giovanni**

1120

Ildebrandino 1120

Mancino

Piglio 1140

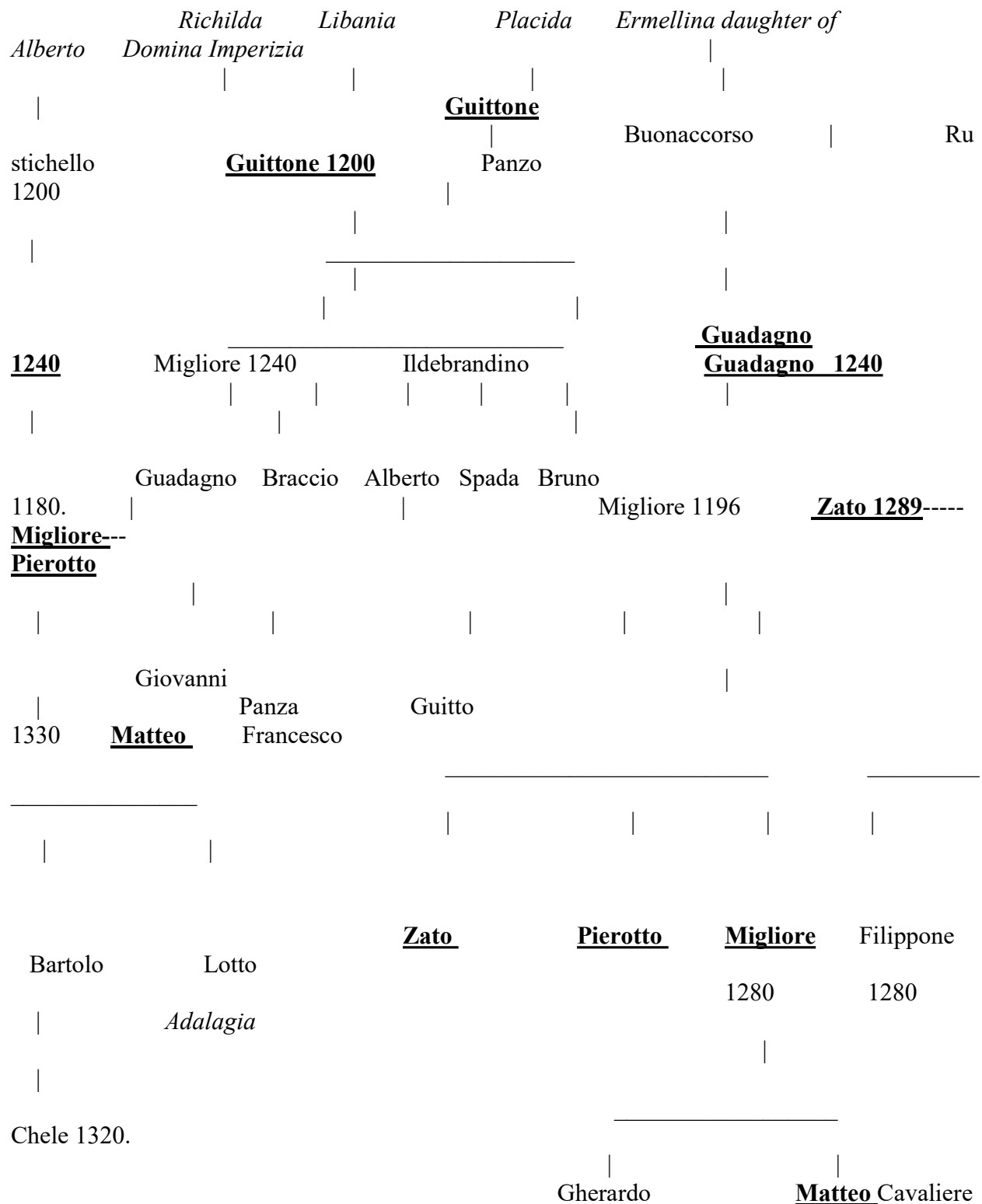
Marco aka Marchese

## Francesco

1160

Migliore 1160

## Francesco 1152



As we compare Gamurrini's and Passerini's Guadagni Family trees, we see that Gamurrini starts two generations earlier than Passerini, with Vinaldro and Pagano, and has more names in the earlier generations, but both have exactly the same main branch names in the same order:

Migliore (who Gamurrini calls “Meglio”) – Guittone – Giovanni – Francesco – Guittone – Guadagno – Zato, Migliore, Pierotto – Matteo, son of Migliore, from whom we all descend. Gamurrini calls him Matteo “Cavaliere” (which means “Knight” in Italian) so we can proudly say that we all descend from a Florentine Medieval Knight. Furthermore Gamurrini states that from the early Middle-Ages the Guadagni were “nobles” of Florence, which is even more than “knight”.

As we have copied the Guadagni Family Tree, Gamurrini continues, we will now start telling the story of the lives of the famous men who have represented since the most ancient Historical times; in the most illustrious way this Family was always registered among the noble ones, who governed the Republic of Florence as Consuls, Elders and Gonfaloniers (“Presidents of the Republic of Florence”).



Gonfalonier of Florence, on the right (from the movie “Assassins’ Creed”)

Guadagno, from whom the Guadagni got their last name, was a man of great reputation and authority in the Republic of Florence, as we read that in 1204, together with the Consuls of the City of Florence, he elected an Ambassador or a Mayor, to go to the Pope with full authority to treat all official treaties of the Republic.





Medieval Consul of the Republic of Florence (with a yellow and white hat and a beard, on the left, during an epidemic of plague)

And we can see Guadagno's son Giovanni in the registers of the nobles, and he was one of the 12 "Anziani" ("Elders") in the year 1253. And in the year 1254, he undersigned and swore to the League made by the Florentines and the Citizens of Siena. And he also signed the peace with the cities of Lucca, Pistoia and others.



Lucca: narrow Medieval Street in the center Pistoia: Square of the "Duomo" ("Cathedral")  
Siena: Del Campo Square



SEZIONE

PALAZZO GUADAGNI STROZZI SACRATI - FIRENZE

Lotto Guadagni, son of Migliore, son of Panza, was an expert in weapons, and as such was hired by the Republic of Florence; and as his endeavors were very important, the Republic of Florence privileged him, even though Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII condemned him, because he was one of the leaders of the Guelph Party (for the Pope), for which he did marvelous things.



Ancient statue of Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII (1275-1313)



His brother Filippone was just as brave and able in battle, and as a brave Captain he was often among the “Feditori” of the Florentine Army [the “Feditori” were a type of Medieval Knight, chosen among the noblest families of the City, to start the battle by being the first to engage the enemy]. He was such a good “Feditore” that the Republic of Florence privileged him more than anybody else for his services to his City.

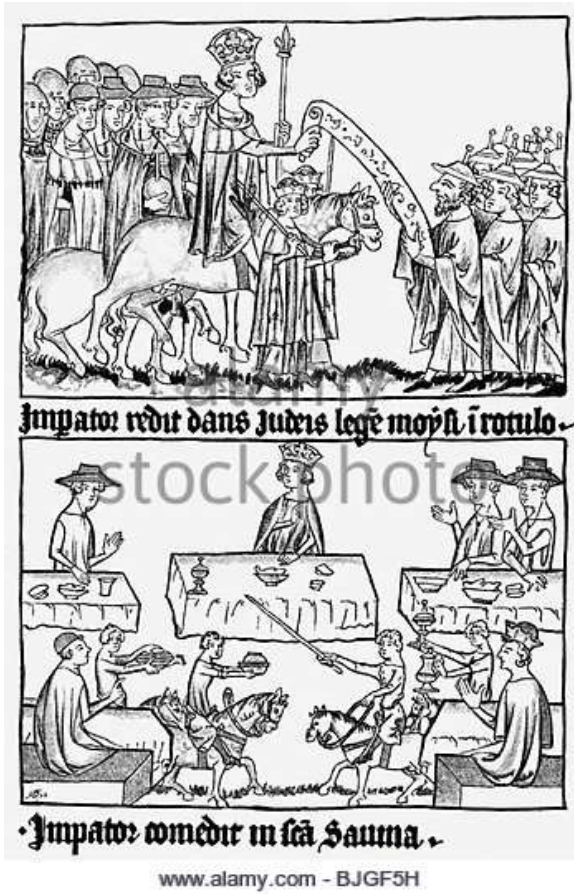


Florentine Feditori (Red Fleurdelys is the Flag of Florence) fighting the Army of the Holy Roman Empire (Black Eagle on golden background is the flag of the Emperor)

Migliore son of Ulivieri Guadagni was among the Elders In the year 1221, as Rondinelli states, having found it out in the Riformagioni (edict, ruling made by a legislative council, that is not part of law), and I (Gamurrini) follow his statement.

Bartolo Guadagni son of Migliore son of Panza was a brave soldier, and one of the leaders of the Guelph faction, and as such he was condemned with all of his brothers and other members of the Guadagni Family by Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII.

Bartolo's son, Chele Guadagni, really imitated his father, because having become an expert in fighting, he showed his bravery in the battle between the Florentines and Castruccio Castracani and, as he was fighting in front of all of his army, he was captured and made prisoner by the enemy.



Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII at war and at peace



Castruccio Castracani





Medieval Knights in battle

Zato Guadagni, son of Guadagno, was a man of great prudence, and as a Mayor, in his name and in his brother's, he was able to divide the common land among the inhabitants of the town of San Martino a Castel Lubaco in the year 1289, and in the division made by Migliore Guadagni and his brother Pietro son of Guadagno son of Guitto, in the year 1296, of the Towers, little towers, Palace and Farmhouse, located in the Castle of the above San Martino a Lubaco called Castle of the Guadagni, and they say that the Squares, Streets and large Doors of the Castle remain undivided between Zato Guadagni and his brothers.

This Zato was father of Guadagno, Migliorozzo, Bindo, Lorenzo, Guitto and Giovanni, who were all born after the year 1300, and I refer them to Historian Rondinelli's Guadagni Family Tree.

Migliorozzo, son of Zato, was also condemned by Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII, as leader of the Guelph Party and experienced man-of-arms; the Republic of Florence gave him the command of several Fortresses, and other military commanding charges, as he had often been among the "Feditori" of the Florentine Army.



Two examples of Florentine Fortresses: Fortress of Monteriggioni



Lari Castle

Lorenzo, Giovanni and Guitto Guadagni were all three experts in military warfare and the Republic of Firenze gave them command of their fortresses.

Migliore Guadagni son of Guitto (and father of Guitto, Passerini Family Tree Plate one) had a great military intelligence and experience in fortifying towns, and so the Republic of Florence used him for all their military operations giving him the general command of all the Florentine

military troops and fortifications (this information comes from Gamurrini – both family trees, Passerini and Gamurrini, complement each other).

Pierotto Guadagni, son of Guadagno son of Guitto, was one of the “mallevadori” (“guarantors”) of the peace that Legate of the Pope Cardinal Latino made in Florence between the Guelphs and the Ghibellines, as he was rich and powerful, and people famous for their nobility, wealth and noteworthy qualities (all three present in Pierotto) intervened in the establishment of the peace in the year 1280. Cardinal Latino was the nephew of Pope Nicholas III.



Pope Nicholas III (1225-1280)

And in the year 1305, Pierotto Guadagni was Gonfalonier of Justice, under his government the Florentines conquered the City of Pistoia, like we find written in the “Pardon by Legislation” (“Riformagioni”) of that year and in the books of Francesco Rucellai.

His son, Francesco Guadagni, was sagacious as well as brave, as in his youth (as you see in the year 1313), he enrolled in the cavalry, at the service of the Republic of Florence and then he was employed in the government of the Fortresses and in other military commissions; he was also Captain of the League of Certaldo, as we find listed in the Riformagioni Book 4 of the Chapters of the year 1334, and it is acknowledged both by the abovementioned Rondinelli and Rucellai.





Fortified medieval town of Certaldo, between Florence and Siena.

Francesco's son, Antonio Guadagni, was as good as his father, as he too was a famous Captain, being appointed Governor of the Fortress of Volterra and other fortresses in the year 1363, after having been Superintendent of all the Mugello; and in the year 1358 he had large authority on all the Florentine militias in Valdarno and fortresses under the authority of the Republic of Florence, as it is written in the abovementioned books.



Fortress of Volterra



Castle of Trebbio, Mugello





Fortress in Valdarno

Mariano Guadagni son of Leonardo son of the abovementioned Francesco studied Letters and Literature in his youth and he became so good in it that he deserved to be made a Prelate and Secretary in Latin Letters of Pope Martin V (1368-1431), and also Apostolic Abbreviator, Acolyte and intimate friend of the above Pope, being Canon of the Cathedral of Volterra, and of the Cathedrals of Pistoia, Pisa and Santa Maria del Fiore (Cathedral) of Florence, with many other honorable charges.



Pope Martin V



Cathedral of Volterra





Cathedral of Pistoia on the right



Cathedral of Pisa with leaning tower



### Cathedral of Florence

Pieraccio (ugly or mean Piero, but in a joking affectionate way) Guadagni son of Pierotto (little Piero) Guadagni son of Guadagno, became a military and he was so good and brave in it that the Republic employed him in several charges, head of the cavalry in the year 1313, and “Feditore of the Florentine Army” in the same year; he was a great enemy of the above mentioned Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII who condemned him as “Leader of the Guelphs (for the Pope)”.

Migliore Guadagni, son of Guadagno son of Guitto, was Gonfalonier of Justice (President of the Republic of Florence) in 1293, he was elected Ambassador with Arrigo Paradisi to Pistoia, to arrange the peace with the Pisans there, and he was so good at it that he was able to conclude it; so the Government of the Republic of Florence sent him as Procurator to sign the peace between the Florentines, the Seneses, and the representatives of Lucca on one side and the citizens of Pisa on the other in the year 1293.

And in the year 1295, he was sent as Ambassador to Pope Boniface VIII for very serious matters, together with Pazzardo de’Pulci, Vanni de’Mozzi and Lapo Salterelli. They were four of the wisest citizens of Florence, as Historians say, leaving the other honorable charges he had.





Pope Boniface VIII (1230-1303)

In September 1303, Sciarra Colonna, slapped Pope Boniface VIII, who was also ruler of the City of Rome and of the Papal States, on the face, accusing him of favoring some of his Roman relatives in regard to an inheritance. It happened in the town of Anagni and remained famous as “the outrage of Anagni.” Sciarra was a cousin of the Guadagni, who are not however involved at all in the “outrage”.

For his piety and Religion, in the year 1260, Migliore Guadagni built the Chapel of Saint Martin in the Basilica of Santissima Annunziata in Florence and his son Gherardo made his last will in 1319, and in the codicil of the year 1329, he asked to be buried in the above Guadagni Chapel with a burial underground with a marble plate with his armed portrait sculpted in it; and that a Convent of Nuns would be built titled “The Nunziata”, (“ The Announced to” [= Blessed Virgin Mary”]) which would be governed by the Prior of the Order of the Servites, who takes care of the Basilica of the Santissima Annunziata (“Very Holy Announced”).





Crest of the Order of the Servants of Mary (Servites): “S” for Servants and “M” for Mary and seven fleurdelys on the crown to indicate the Seven Saints Founders of the Order in the year 1233 in Florence: 3 of the Founders of the Order, Saint Bonfilio Monaldi, Saint Buonaggiunta Manetti and Saint Manetto dell’Antella are cousins of cousins of Vieri Guadagni (1303-1323) and of his direct descendants, us. Actually, on December 31, 2013, there were 803 Servites Friars in the world, of whom 544 are priests.

As we know the above Guadagni Chapel in the Basilica of Santissima Annunziata, built by Migliore Guadagni in 1260, was inherited by the Villani Family, after Historian Giovanni Villani in 1330 married Monna de’Pazzi, widow of our direct ancestor Vieri Guadagni (1303-1323) and mother of Migliore Guadagni (+1383) from whom we all descend. The brothers Jacopo (our direct ancestor) and Filippo Guadagni (direct ancestor of the Guadagni dell’Opera and Torrigiani), both descendants of the above Vieri and Migliore, built another Guadagni Chapel in the Basilica of the Santissima Annunziata (below, center and right), on the left side of the Main Altar, with famous fresco by artist Bronzino, named “The Resurrection” (below left). You can see the Guadagni Family Crest on top of the first chapel on the left of the main altar in the right picture below.





The Chapel of the Crucifix, the first on the left side of the main aisle of the Basilica, was the first Guadagni Chapel in the Basilica, inherited by the Villani in the year 1445 (as explained above) and restructured by Michelozzo (see his portrait and works in pictures below). You can see the actual Guadagni Chapel (in the dark) surmounted by the Guadagni crest immediately on the left of the main altar, in the back.





Michelozzo (1396-1472) Florentine architect and sculptor, considered one of the great pioneers of architecture, during the Renaissance, by artist “Blessed Friar Angelico” (left).



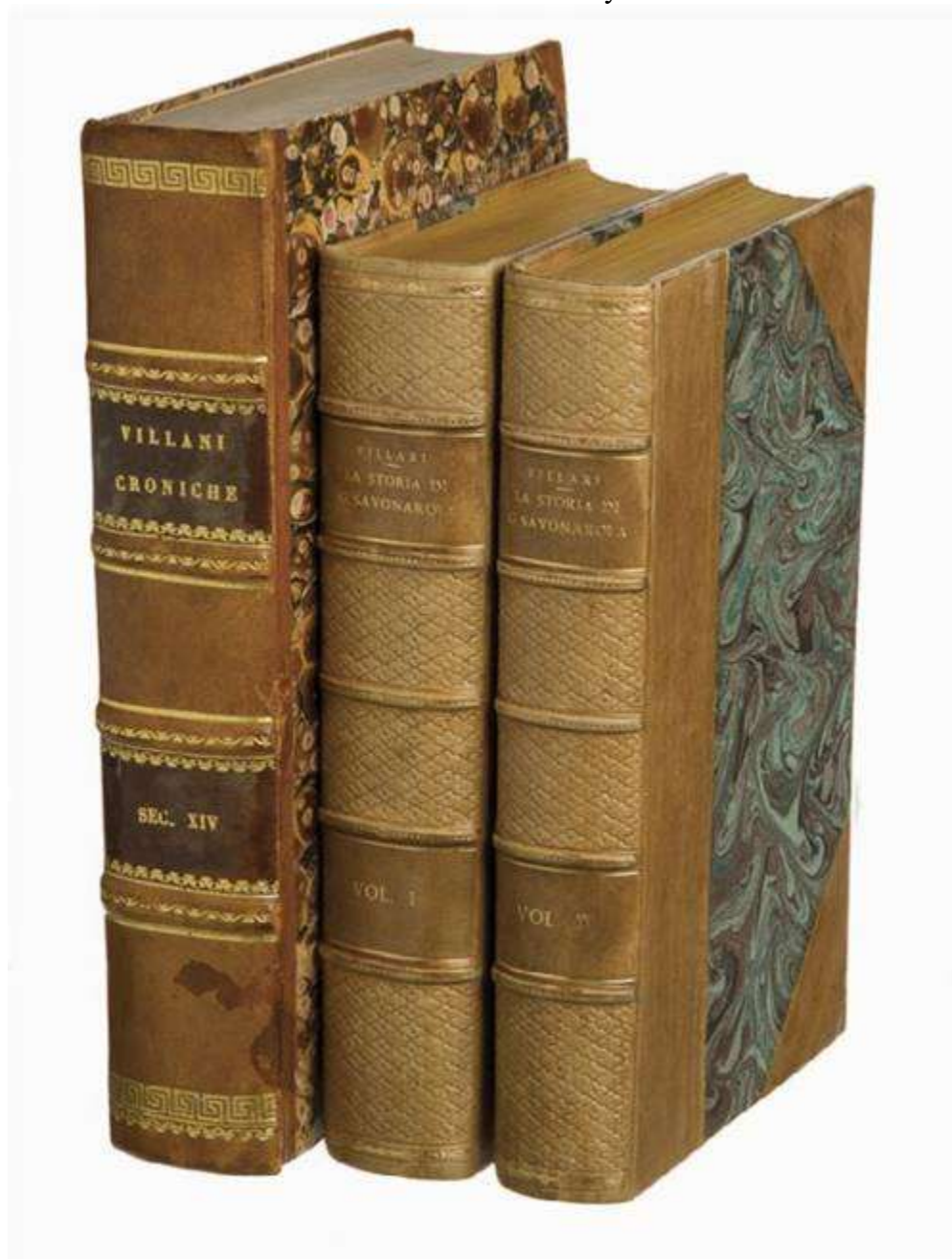
Medici-Riccardi Palace (center) and Angel (right) both by Michelozzo.

The Guadagni had their original Family Tomb in Santa Reparata, where the Duomo was built, aka Santa Maria del Fiore, one of the “most fantastic temples of Europe” (wrote Gamurrini in the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century). The above mentioned Gherardo was not only known for his piety but also because he was a formidable warrior, not less than the other members of his family.

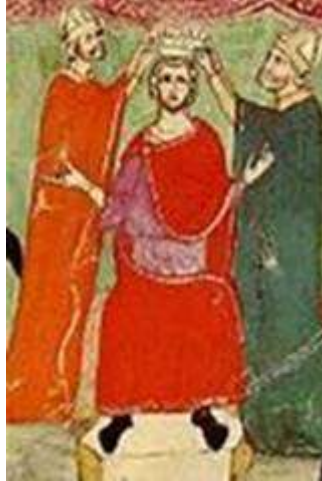
Matteo and Guadagno Guadagni were other famous members of the Guadagni Family; the former (our direct ancestor) was Gonfalonier (President) of the Republic of Florence in 1319 and in 1326, and Governor of Prato, when the latter city was not yet under the Florentine Government, and he commanded several cavalry attacks at different times for the same; he was also a very courageous Knight of the Band and he died as a hero, full of glory, in the war against Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII.



Old Medieval walls of the City of Prato



Step-Direct Ancestor Famous Historian Giovanni Villani's Books of Chronicles.



Medieval front cover of Giovanni Villani's New Chronicles.

Historian Giovanni Villani (1276-1348), was the second husband of Monna de'Pazzi, daughter-in-law of Matteo Guadagni himself, as she married his son, her first husband Vieri Guadagni (1303-1323), when he was 18, and had a son from him a year later, named Migliore, also direct ancestor of all of us, Guadagni and Torrigiani. Vieri Guadagni died when he was 20, a year after Migliore's birth. Giovanni Villani mentions his step-father-in-law, Matteo Guadagni, very honorably in his Book of History.

Below is the front cover of famous historian Giovanni Villani's book, which is a classic in Italian Literature and History and talks about Matteo and other members of the Guadagni Family with honor and praise.



LA PRIMA PARTE DELLE  
HISTORIE  
VNIVERSALI DE SVOI  
TEMPI

Di Giouan Villani Cittadino  
FIORENTINO,

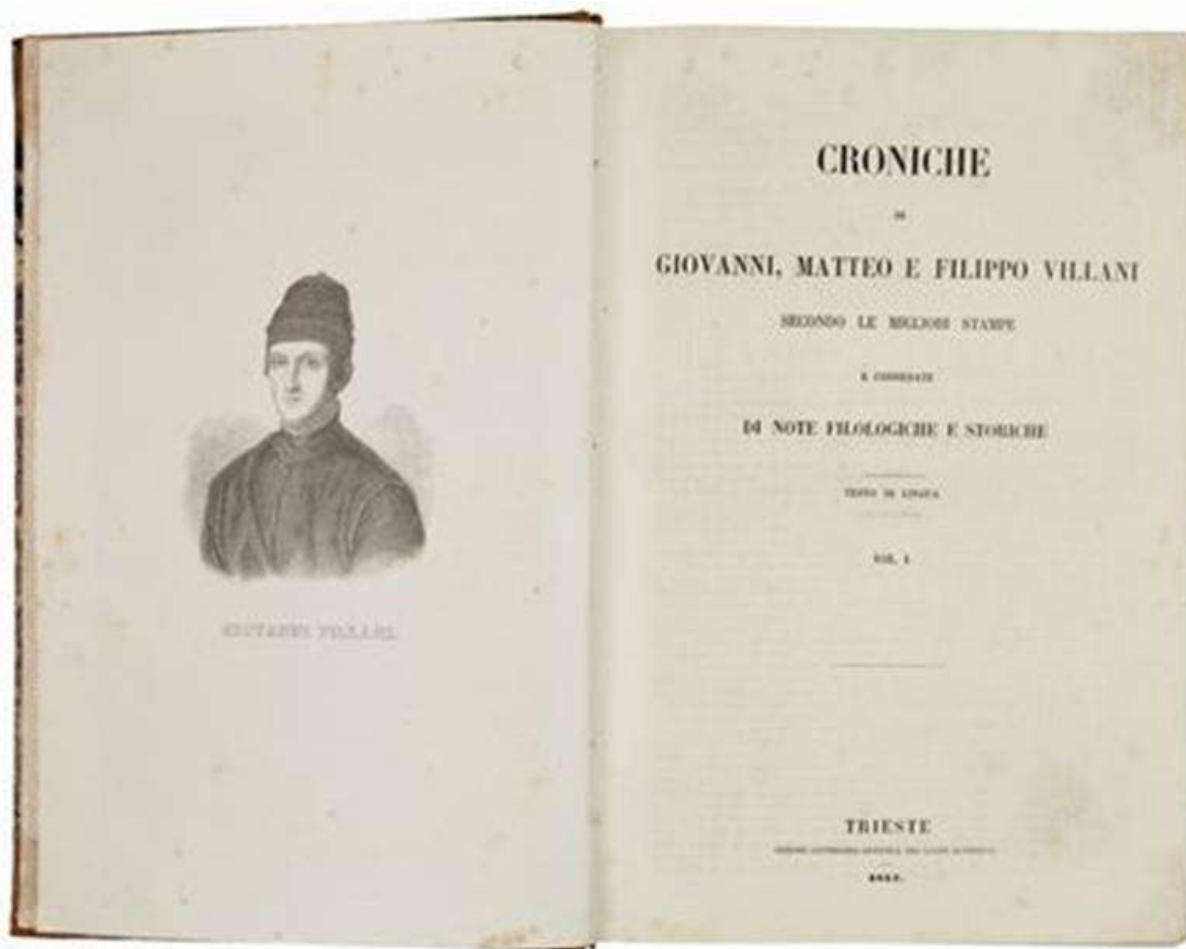
Nuouamente ristampata con Tauole  
necessarie e Postille in margine  
delle cose notabili, fatte per

M. REMIGIO FIORENTINO.



IN VENETIA  
Ad instantia de Giunti di Fiorenza.  
M D LIX.

“The First Part of the Universal Histories of his time by Giovan Villani Florentine Citizen (2<sup>nd</sup> husband of Monna de’Pazzi, widow of Vieri Guadagni, and so Stepson-in-law of Matteo Guadagni and Stepfather of Migliore Guadagni) – newly reprinted with the necessary illustrations and annotations, made by Remigio, Florentine, in Venice, after request of the Giunti Family of Florence, year 1559.”



Portrait of direct step-ancestor of all of us (Guadagni and Torrigiani), Giovanni Villani, on the left page of his Chronicles.

And Vieri Guadagni, son of Matteo, really followed his father's example, because he also wanted to become famous, and he led several cavalry charges against the enemy to obtain glory.

However Migliore Guadagni, son of Vieri, son of Matteo (all three direct ancestors of all of us), passed his father and his grandfather, as much in the treaties as in his bravery in battle and his handling of his weapons; he was sent as Ambassador to different cities, like in 1347, when he went together with Simone Peruzzi, Knight Berardo de'Pazzi and Bellegardo della Tosa; and the same he was sent in 1358, with Piero degli Albizzi, Captain and Governor of the City of Volterra, and he was the first to go there. In 1362, he was sent as Ambassador with Almerico Cavalcanti, Gherardo Buondelmonti and Pietro degli Albizzi in various places; and in 1363, he was elected General Captain of War in the City of Todi, with a provision of 3,000 Florins and he remained in that office for a whole year. He was Vicar of Valdinievole, where he assisted with great authority in military endeavors, and he was commander of many militias.



Medieval General Captain of War Todi



City of Valdinievole



## Page 11

In 1366 he was Vicar of Orvieto. In 1372 he was Captain of the Custody of the City of Pistoia; and in 1376 he was delegated to reorder that Government, together with Niccolo' son of Niccolo' Gherardini son of Giovanni, Tommaso son of Lippo Soldani, Pietro son of Lippo Aldobrandini, and Tommaso son of Neri Lippi, who were the Ambassadors sent by the Republic of Florence to that effect.

Afterwards, he was appointed Ambassador, together with Donato Acciaioli, to go with Ridolfo da Camerino, Captain General of the Florentines in the City of Bologna, and assist with his companions in that war, where they were appointed General Commissaries, representing the body and the authority of their Republic; in 1377 he was sent to Bologna as Ambassador, then to Lombardy, and to Romagna, and in the year 1380 he was Prefect of the City of Fermo; in 1382, he was sent to oversee the fortifications of all the Castles, as it is written in the "Riformagioni" of that year. His son Vieri became glorious for his hard work and prudence; he was able to have the City of Volterra return under the Dominion of the Florentines, for which he obtained many privileges from his Republic of Florence.

Bernardo, son of Vieri Guadagni (and the one who will have Cosimo de' Medici the Elder arrested and put in jail) was Captain of the Florentine Romagna in 1396 and Vicar of S. Miniato al Tedesco in 1403; he was asked to have the City of Pisa subject itself to the Republic of Florence.

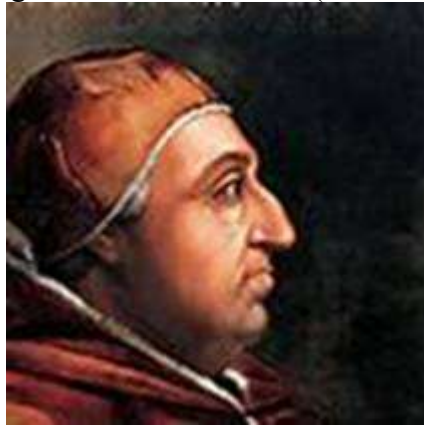
In 1406 Bernardo Guadagni (central figure facing us in the below picture of MEDICI TV series) was Ambassador to the City of Piombino, and with Bartolomeo



Popoleschi he was sent as Ambassador to the King of France Charles VI for the problem of the purchase of Pisa, because the Duke of Orleans and Burgundy pretended that the "prisoners" were kept in that city; they were eventually freed after the death of the above Duke.



King of France Charles VI (1368-1422)



Pope Alexander V



Antipope John XXIII

In the year 1410, Bernardo Guadagni was Ambassador at the Pope Alexander V's in Bologna (picture above, center), with Giovanni Serristori, to persuade him to return to Rome. However, the Pope died in the night of May 3, 1410, it seemed poisoned by Cardinal Cossa (picture above, right), who was then consecrated pope on May 25, 1410, taking the name John XXIII; he was recognized as Pope by France, England, Bohemia, Portugal and numerous Northern Italian city states including Florence and Venice [Our direct ancestor Vieri Guadagni's (1369-1426) first cousin, Clarice Orsini, is also the first cousin of Antipope John XXIII's nephew, Giovanni Cossa.] However the Avignon Pope (in Southern France), Benedict XIII, was regarded as pope by the Kingdoms of Aragon, Castile, Sicily and Scotland, and pope Gregory XII was still favored by King Ladislaus of Naples, Carlo I Malatesta, the Princes of Bavaria, Louis III, and parts of Germany and Poland. For several decades before then, there had been two competing popes, one in Avignon, France, the other in Rome, but now there were three of them warring against each other!!! It is called "THE GREAT SCHISM" in the History of the Church.

It seemed that Pope Alexander V was poisoned by our cousin Antipope John XXIII (born Baldassarre Cossa) a few days after Bernardo Guadagni's visit to the former. Was Bernardo aware of his cousin's intention to poison the Pope?



Antipope Gregory XII



Antipope Benedict XIII

I thought you might be interested in our cousin antipope John XXIII's life.



Baldassarre Cossa 1365-1419 (aged 48) was born on the island of Procida (Kingdom of Naples) to the family of Giovanni Cossa, lord of Procida (picture below with typical multicolored houses)..



Initially he followed the military career, taking part in the Angevin (Kings of France) – Neapolitan war. His two brothers were sentenced to death for piracy by Ladislaus King of Naples. He studied law at the University of Bologna and obtained doctorates in both civil and canon law. Probably at the prompting of his family, in 1392 he entered the service of Pope Boniface IX, (1350-1404, picture below) first working in Bologna and then in Rome.



In 1386 Baldassarre was listed as canon of the Cathedral of Bologna, and Papal legate in Romagna in 1403. Johan Peter Kirsch describes him as “utterly worldly minded, ambitious, crafty, unscrupulous and immoral, a good soldier but no churchman”. Cossa also had links with local robber bands (see 2 pictures below on the left), which were often used to intimidate his rivals and attack carriages. These connections added to his influence and power in the region.”



Cardinal Cossa became a leading figure in the Council of Pisa where they elected a new pope, Alexander V, in 1409. The new pope, visited by Bernardo Guadagni at the beginning of 1410, died soon after (poisoned by Cossa?) and Cossa was consecrated pope on May 25, 1410, taking the name John XXIII. He had become an ordained priest only one day earlier. He made the Medici Bank the bank of the papacy, contributing considerably to the Medici Family's wealth and prestige. In the meantime, there were 2 other popes, so the 3 popes were convened to a general council in Constance, Germany, where they were all asked to abdicate and a new pope, Martin V, was elected and the Schism ended. Cossa was imprisoned in Germany but he was

freed in 1418, after a heavy ransom was paid by the Medici. He submitted to Pope Martin V, who made him Cardinal Bishop of Frascati, and he died only a few months later. Cossa had designated four prominent Florentines as his executors: Bartolomeo son of Taldo Valori, Niccolo' da Uzzano, Giovanni son of Bicci de' Medici, father of Cosimo de' Medici the Elder and founder of the Medici Family, and our direct ancestor Vieri Guadagni (b. 1369), son of Vieri Guadagni Senior and Bernarda Rucellai. Before dying, Cardinal Cossa asked Vieri Guadagni to be the executor of his will, and he deposited all of his money in the Guadagni Bank.



Antipope John XXIII's tomb



Sculptor Donatello (1386-1466)





Michelozzo: Statue in Santissima Annunziata (Is it the portrait of Cardinal Cossa?)

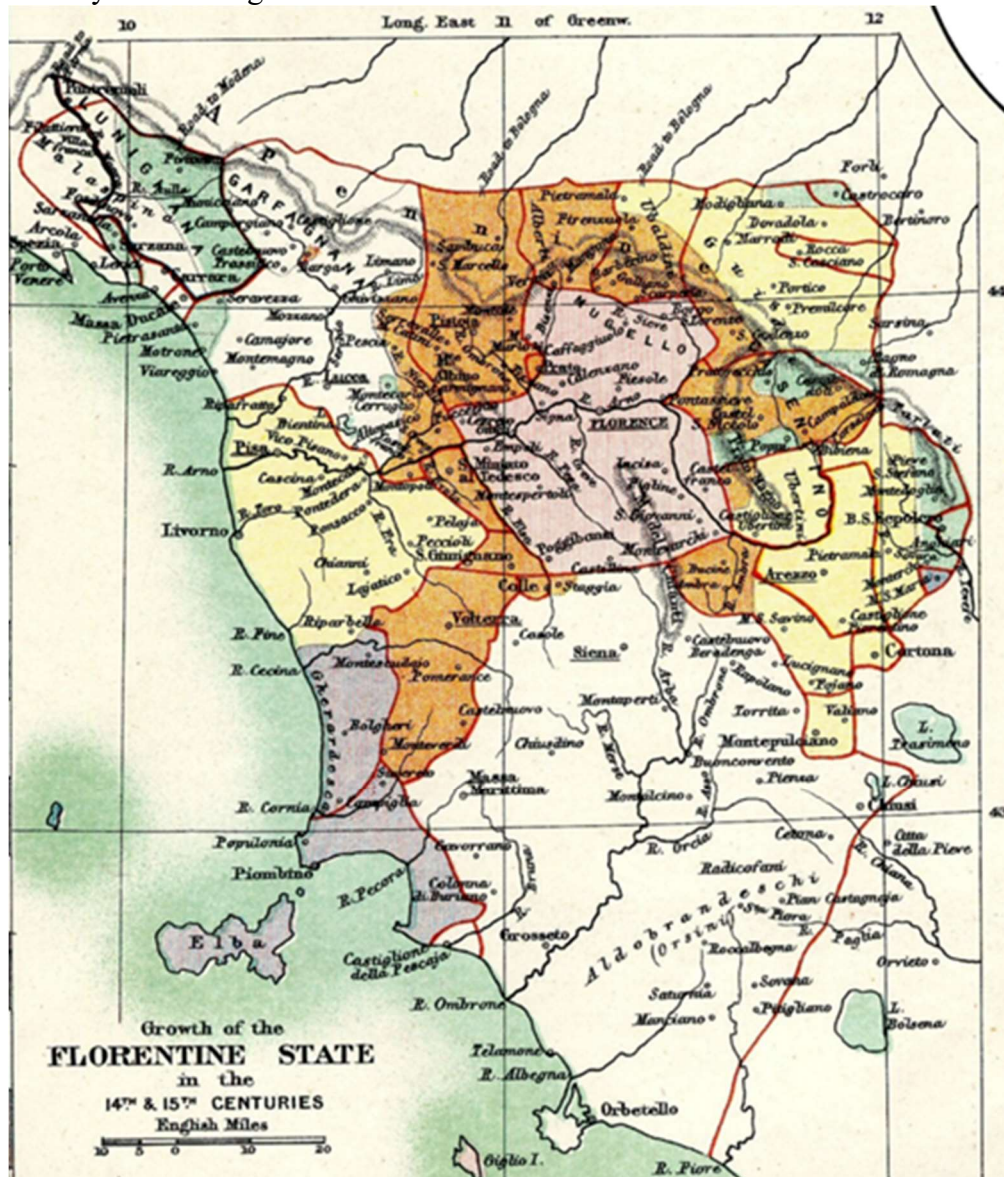


Enlargement of the sculpture for Antipope John XXIII's tomb.

The Medici Family oversaw the construction of his magnificent tomb by Donatello and Michelozzo in the Battistero of San Giovanni in Florence. Pope Martin V protested in vain

against the inscription on the sarcophagus: “John the former pope” (instead of “the former antipope”). It was the largest sculpture in Florence at the time it was built. It was the first monument Donatello and Michelozzo built together.

In the year 1411, Bernardo Guadagni was elected with Iacopo Gianfigliuzzi, Filippo Corsini and Michele Castellani Cavaliere to assist His Holiness to go through the Florentine State, on his way from Bologna to Rome.



The growth of Florence from 1300 to 1500...

[Reginald Lane Poole](#); [LlywelynII](#) - From [File:Italy 1454 after the Peace of Lodi.jpg](#)...

The "Growth of the Florentine State in the 14th & 15th Centuries", an inset map from Plate 68 in Reginald Lane Poole's Historical Atlas of Modern Europe. The boundaries of the Tuscan states in 1300 are distinguished by scarlet borders. The Florentine state in 1300 is colored pink. Its expansion up to 1377 is brown, but areas gained and lost before 1377 have only a brown border. Further expansion up to 1433 is colored yellow; further expansion up to 1494, green. Territory



raccomodato to Florence but never under complete subjection is colored violet, while territory raccomandato to Florence and lost again before 1500 has only a violet border.

And in 1413, Bernardo Guadagni was again Ambassador, with Filippo Corsini and Iacopo Gianfigliuzzi, to the abovementioned Pope Gregory XII in Siena, who had fled



Pope Gregory XII (1326-1417; he was Pope from 1406 to 1415, when he was forced to resign to end the Western Schism)



Coronation of King Ladislaus of Naples in 1403



from Rome, because the City was occupied by King Ladislaus of Naples (1377-1414) and they tried to console him for his loss, and agreed to keep him company for the trip he was planning to do.

In 1414 Bernardo Guadagni was again appointed Ambassador with Niccolo' da Uzzano but this time to the abovementioned Pope John XXIII, in Bologna to tell him about the peace that had been made.



Niccolo' da Uzzano, (1359-1431) Gonfalonier of Justice, bust by Donatello (left). Palazzo Capponi alle Rovinate, Florence, above, was built for Niccolo' da Uzzano in the 15<sup>th</sup> century (center). City of Bologna, Italy (right); it is jokingly called “Bologna la grassa” (“Bologna the fat”) because its inhabitants love to eat “ravioli, tortellini, manicotti, lasagna”, all typical foods originated in Bologna.

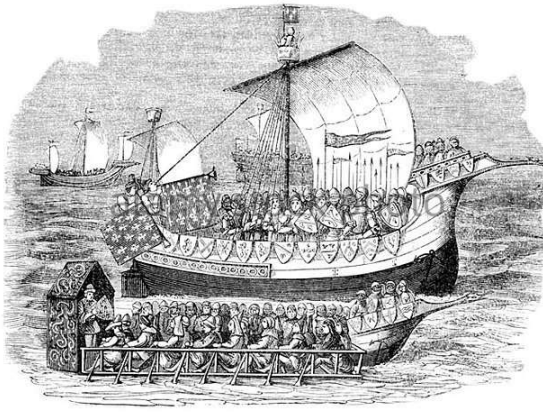
In 1415 he was Ambassador with Giovanni Nofri Arnolfi to Bologna to congratulate that City for the recuperation of the Freedom with the Government of the People and the chasing away of the Pope; in 1416, he was Mayor and Governor of the City of Pisa; in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of his Pontificate, the abovementioned Pope Giovanni asks that the large amounts of money which he had borrowed from Bernardo Guadagni be given back to him, and calls Bernardo: “*Our adorable son, noble man of Florence*”.

In 1421, Bernardo Guadagni was Ambassador with Niccolo' de Nobili to Braccio Fortebraccio Count of Montone and of Perugia to beg him not to damage the City of Castello, after having been there in the year 1420 with Michele de' Pazzi, Ambassador to Queen Violante, wife of King Luigi.



Braccio Fortebraccio da Montone (1368-1424) Montone, Umbria Pazzi Chapel, in the cloister of the Basilica of Santa Croce, Florence by Brunelleschi

In 1423 Bernardo Guadagni was Captain General of the Florentine Army in Lombardy, and Captain General of the large galleys of the Florentine Republic, and Captain and Governor of Pistoia.



15<sup>th</sup> century sailing ships



15<sup>th</sup> Century Knights and infantry

In 1427 Bernardo Guadagni was General Commissary for the Government of Florence, during the war against the Duke of Milano in Mantua, and superintendent to promote and review with immense authority all the armed cavalry and infantry forces. And finally he was Ambassador to Pope Martin V in 1430, to give him an account of the War between Florence and Lucca, and to find an agreement between them; and then Bernardo had to send Ambassadors to Venice, to the Count of Urbino in matters of wars and alliances, with other powerful heads-of-State, employing all his life in the use of his great talents for the service of his Country, Florence; all of this we find in the Riformagioni, Francesco Rucellai and Rondinelli.





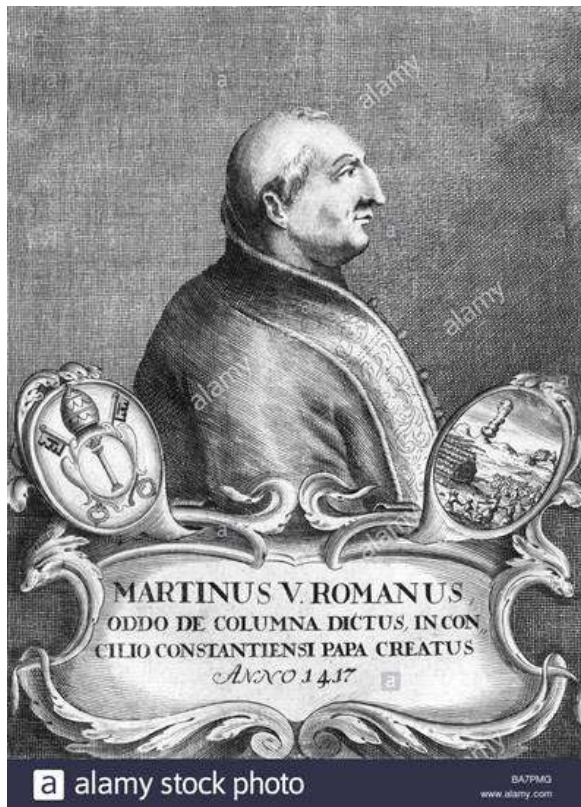
Palace of the Duke of Urbino



Francesco Maria della Rovere, Duke of Urbino



Tomb of Pope Martin V, Rome



We can read in Latin: “Pope Martin V, Roman, named Oddo Colonna (i.e. “Column” which is also his family Crest on the left coat-of-arms), created Pope in the Council of Costantinople in the year 1417” [He is the cousin of Sciarra Colonna (the one who slapped Pope Boniface VIII) and of Vieri Guadagni]



Bernardo's son, Filippo Guadagni, became a soldier and sailed in the sea to dominate it, and learning how to take advantage of the winds, he became such an expert in sailing, that the Republic of Florence gave him and Antonio degli Albizzi the command of two big galleys which he commanded until the year 1431, when he was sent into exile in Siena, and was admitted among the "noble Families of Siena".

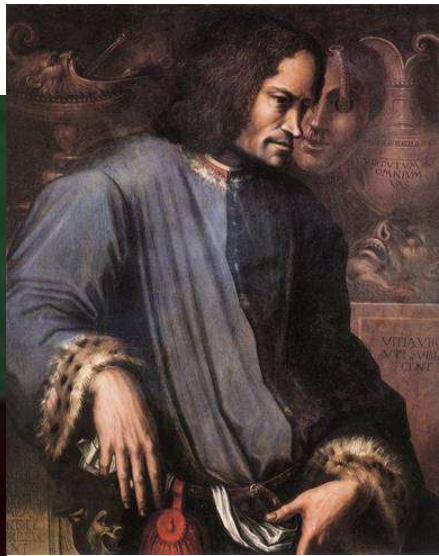
Vieri Guadagni, son of Vieri, son of Migliore, did not want to be inferior in merit to his predecessors; he married Margherita, daughter of Knight Marco Donati, famous for his victories, and after her death he married Francesca daughter of Simone Tornabuoni and sister of Francesco Tornabuoni, father of that Lucrezia who married Piero de' Medici the Gouty, with whom she had two sons, Lorenzo de' Medici the Magnificent and Giuliano, respectively the father of Pope Leo X and grandfather of Pope Clement VII.



Photo Scala, Florence/Fondo Edifici di Culto - Min. dell'Interno

Francesca Tornabuoni, Vieri Guadagni's wife and ancestor of all us. Francesca's father and

Vieri's father in law, Simone Tornabuoni      Lucrezia Tornabuoni, niece of Vieri Guadagni and wife of Piero de' Medici the Gouty and mother of Lorenzo de' Medici the Magnificent and Giuliano de' Medici.



Piero de' Medici the Gouty, Lorenzo de' Medici the Magnificent and his brother Giuliano, sons of Vieri's nephew and niece, Piero the Gouty and Lucrezia Tornabuoni.



Pope Leo X, center, son of Lorenzo the Magnificent and his nephew, future Pope Clement VII (left) Pope Clement VII, grandson of Giuliano de' Medici and great-grandnephew of Vieri and Francesca Guadagni, like all the above (right)





Caterina de' Medici, Queen of France Francis II King of France Charles IX King of France Henry  
III King of France

On Caterina's right are her three sons (all died or were murdered young) great-niece and great-great-nephews of Vieri and Francesca Guadagni and thus related to all of us, direct descendants of Vieri and Francesca.

Through Francesca Tornabuoni (Vieri Guadagni's wife and ancestor of all of us) and her father and brother most of the Royal Families of Europe are the Guadagni's direct descendants or blood relatives.

The above Lorenzo de' Medici also fathered Duke Alessandro of Florence and Caterina Queen of France. The same abovementioned Vieri Guadagni was employed by the Republic of Florence in their army and in their most important dealings with other States. He was sent as Ambassador to Bologna in 1395, and in the Region of the Marche; in 1402 he was Ambassador at the Marquis of Ferrara, so that the latter would intervene for the Count Alberigo Great Constable of the Kingdom of Sicily to accept to be Captain of the Florentines.



Niccolo' d'Este (1383-1441) Marquis of Modena and Ferrara





Castle of the Marquis of Ferrara

And in 1403, with Vanni Castellani, he went to Lombardy to the Great Connestable, so that he could get united with the Lord of Padua.



Padua Italy

He was Ambassador to Pope Innocent VII, to offer him obedience and to congratulate him for his election to the Papacy.



Pope Innocent VII (1339-1406) He was born Cosimo de'Migliorati and was Pope from 1404 to 1406.

In 1409, Vieri Guadagni was Captain of the City of Arezzo, and with Pierozzo son of Biagio Strozzi, he was Ambassador to Siena to complain with its inhabitants because they welcomed the citizens of Pisa and hired soldiers to help them.

Vieri was also Ambassador to King Ladislaus, to the Republic of Venice and to the Republic of Genoa and to other European Heads-of-State. In 1406, Vieri was General Field-Commissary against Pisa, and in 1410, he was General Field-Commissary of the Army of the Princes of the League, which included AntiPope Alexander V and King Louis of Anjou, Tuscan cities like Florence and Siena and the City of Bologna, against Ladislaus King of Naples .





Antipope Alexander V (Alexander quintus in Latin)



King of Naples Louis of Anjou





Muzio Attendolo Sforza general of Louis of Anjou's troops



City of Florence



City of Siena



City of Bologna

Vieri Guadagni was the General Field-Commissary of the troops of all the above Princes and Cities and also of other Princes of the League.

During those military operations against King Ladislaus of Naples, Vieri chose the “Unicorn” as an addition to the Family Crest with the “Motto “Exaltabitur” “I (Vieri) or it (the Unicorn and/or the Guadagni Crest and/or the Guadagni Family )” will be exalted”. [*In Latin “Exaltabitur means “I” or “it” “will be exalted”*] The motto was placed above the “Cross held by the leopard” which had already been the Guadagni Family Crest for several centuries. And



then Vieri went and conquered the City of Cortona in 1410. In the year 1412, he was Captain and Governor of the City of Pisa.



City of Cortona



Cathedral (center) and Tower of Pisa (left) and Baptistery (right)



1. Top: Guadagni Crest.  
Bottom: Torrighiani Crest.

As we know the Torrighiani Family is now a branch of the Guadagni Family who adopted the Torrighiani surname and inherited their fortune two centuries ago when the last Torrighiani married a Guadagni.



I will not mention the Embassies Vieri made to King Ladislaus, and in 1409 to the Legate of Bologna, to the Marquis of Ferrara, to the Count of Reggio, and to the Pope in 1414. And in 1418, he was sent to the Marquis of Ferrara to obtain the freedom of Dante and Vieri, brothers and sons of Guido son of Dante da Castiglione, according to the promises made to Carlo son of Matteo della Scala.



Niccolo' III of Este, Marquis of Ferrara (print and sculpture of the same) b. Ferrara 11/9/1383-  
poisoned in Milan, 12/26/1441. Parisina Malatesta (1404-1425) and Ugo d'Este  
Niccolo' had 3  
wives:

(1405-1425)

- 1) Gigliola da Carrara; he married her in June 1397; she died of plague in 1416 - they had no known children

- 2) Parisina Malatesta (see picture above on the right) – he had her executed on May 21, 1425 for allegedly having an affair with his illegitimate son Ugo d’Este.

They had 3 children: Ginevra (b.1419)

Luzia (also b.1419, maybe born in December, while Ginevra was born in January)

Alberto (born and deceased in 1421)

- 3) Ricciarda of Saluzzo in 1429

In 1419 Vieri was Ambassador to Genoa to complain about the bad treatment made by the Governor of Leghorn (which belonged to the Republic of Genoa) versus the ships of Porto Pisano (which probably belonged to Florence).



Leghorn



Porto Pisano

In 1424, he was Ambassador again to the Marquis of Ferrara; to negotiate the peace with the Duke of Milano; he went with Rinaldo son of Knight Maso degli Albizzi and Doctor Guglielmo, son of Niccolo’ Davanzati, and during that same year Vieri Guadagni went also to see the Pope (our cousin Martin V Colonna) with his abovementioned companions.



Filippo Maria Visconti, Duke of Milano in 1424.



In 1426, as Vieri was part of the Ten of the Committee of War in Florence, he was sent, with very large powers to do whatever he thought appropriate to achieve his goals, as General Commissary to try and recuperate the Castles of the County of Arezzo, against the abovementioned Duke Filippo Maria Visconti of Milano, where, riding at the command of the Florentine Army, he recuperated several of them, however, as he was in the battlefield around Castelnuovo (left picture below), near Arezzo, while he was bravely galloping in front of the whole Florentine Army, as no other Florentine General was present, he was hit by a cannonball in his right arm and he died of that wound the following year, in 1426.



A solemn funeral was organized for him by the Republic of Florence and all the Magistrates and Captains went and met his body at the Door of the City of Florence; he was buried in the



Chapel of St. Martin, near his ancestors in the Basilica of Santissima Annunziata (Iacopo and Filippo Guadagni had not yet built the actual Guadagni Chapel with the fresco by artist Bronzino, so they still shared their original chapel of St. Martin, nowadays called Chapel of the Very Blessed Crucifix, with the Villani Family).



Chapel of the Very Blessed Crucifix in the Basilica of the Santissima Annunziata; it used to be the Guadagni Chapel of St. Martin, the first private Chapel of the Basilica in the Middle-Ages. It was later inherited by our step-descendants Villani; the actual Guadagni Chapel called the Chapel of the Resurrection or Guadagni Chapel is only a few yards from the above, on the left of the Main Altar.

Vieri Guadagni's sons obtained from the Republic of Florence several graces and privileges, and beyond the reimbursement of the many fees personally paid by Vieri for the service of Florence and of the Republic (Florence and all the surrounding areas and towns belonging to Florence) on many occasions in that war, arriving to 4,500 Florins, an amount not small for those times. His children were Ginevra, wife of Tommaso son of Bartolomeo Corbinelli, Cosa wife of Giovanni son of Tedice degli Albizzi, Lena wife of Bernardo son of Iacopo Arrighi, Cassandra wife of Iacopo son of Giovanni Barducci, who then remarried with Iacopo son of Cino son of Cavaliere Rinuccini [Passerini has *Cassandra marries Simone son of Giovanni Barducci cherichini*, then Iacopo son of Cino Rinuccini, like Gamurrini has], Francesco, Migliore, Simone and Malatesta.

Francesco Guadagni was a great man, and very intelligent; he held the highest offices, and positions of the Republic of Florence, and he would have made a very important career in it, like his father, and other ancestors of his, if his uncle Bernardo Guadagni had not been sent into exile in 1434, with his children and all the rest of his family, which made the Florentine Government suspicious and jealous and that blocked his career. His first wife was Caterina daughter of Knight Matteo Scolari brother of Pippo Spano, extremely famous General Captain of Holy Roman Emperor Sigismund, and with a great dowry; his second wife was Lucrezia, daughter of Ghino de' Buondelmonti, wives of the same Scolari.

A few nobles of the City of Florence were exiled at the Duke of Milano's in 1434, and the Duke of Milano (Francesco Sforza I, see picture below on the left) was an enemy of Florence, so they thought that through him they could bring some changes in Florence, encouraged in it by Antonio Rosselli, very eloquent preacher from Arezzo.



Palace of the Bishop of Arezzo

Rosselli had not been able to obtain the Bishopry of Arezzo through the help of the Republic, even though he pretended that it had been promised to him, and he was greatly outraged by it. So his friends decided that, to organize a revolt and change the doings of the State of Florence, nobody was better suited than Francesco son of Vieri Guadagni, as a man who was considered courageous and worthy of esteem, and who was a descendant of Migliore son of Vieri, who was one of the first members of the Government during his time, and he operated great endeavors for the public good. His son Vieri, ancestor of Francesco, was the main reason that the City of Arezzo came under the dominion of the republic of Florence; his father Vieri managed for a long time the most important businesses of the City of Florence, and he died near Arezzo, as General Captain in the service of the Republic in the war against the abovementioned Duke of Milano.

From his mother's side he descended from a daughter of Manno Donati, famous knight and great warrior, and being nephew of the abovementioned Pippo Spano, with whom he had participated in the Wars of Hungary, he could have learned the major spirits of bravery and courage.



Manno Donati's tomb.



Pippo Spano

So after having considered all these qualities, the above Antonio wrote him a letter trying to convince him to join the side of the Duke of Milan, promising him that it would be the means to become one of the most important men of the Republic of Florence, and not inferior to any of his ancestors. However Francesco Guadagni, who was a great soul and a great lover of his City Florence, decided to put the public peace of Florence before his own interest and the one of his Family and so he told everything to the Government of Florence, who told him to meet the Friar, and then take one of the City Doors and defend it with his men (against the Friar and his people) until the arrival of the Count of Poppi with his forces, and so the Republic was freed of that danger that was threatening them.



Castle of the Counts Guidi of Poppi, allies of Florence.

Because of the exile imposed on several Florentine nobles, Francesco's brother, Simone Guadagni moved from Florence to France, stopping for a while in Turin, Piedmont (center picture, with the Alps Mountains in the back), where they say he became part of their nobility, and eventually he stopped in Lyon, France (right picture: Old Lyon, where the Guadagni had their houses and palace, now museum), carrying with him large sums of money.





Simone stayed in Lyon until 1463, in exile from Florence for 29 years, then he was able to return to Florence, as Duke Francesco Sforza granted him a free passport for 4 years if he came through Milano, and in this passport Francesco Sforza called Simone a very dear member of his family and employee of his, as much for the affection he had for his person as for the love he had for his deceased father, Vieri Guadagni (b.1369).



The City of Milano (Mediolanum in Latin) in the year 1493.

In Florence Simone was reintegrated and appointed as before in the Government of the Republic. In France, from his first wife Ginevra, daughter of Pietro son of Vanni Castellani, whom he married in Montpellier in 1446, he had ten children, and he was very famous, as we can see in Rondinelli's historical writings and in Rucellai's books. "I am mostly saying this for all the political honor charges he had, but the family tree is very imperfect, as we can see in the Guadagni dell'Opera Family book" says Historian Gamurrini.

Tommaso Guadagni (1454-1533), who always lived in France, and most of the time in the City of Lyon, where he became a military and as such, and with his wealth, he gave great services to the French King Francis the 1<sup>st</sup> 1494-1547 (left picture below), so that the King elected him Counselor of his Secret Council in the year 1521. The King had been crowned King of France 6 years before on 1/25/ 1515 at 20 years old.





One of the entrances of the Guadagni ('Gadagne' in French) Museum in Old Lyon (right picture above). The Museum, which used to be the old Guadagni Palace, is huge and occupies a good part of all of the old Renaissance Lyon.





In the famous Battle of Pavia (two pictures above) on 2/24/1525, where the French Army, personally led by King Francis 1<sup>st</sup>, was severely defeated by the Spanish and German Army of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, Tommaso Guadagni showed so well the capacities of his sword in several victorious hand-to-hand combats that he was personally admired and complimented by the King of France himself, even though Tommaso was 70 years old at the time...! see pictures below [This interesting detail of Tommaso Guadagni's life is not mentioned in Passerini's or Lejeune's books on the Guadagni].



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In the same year Tommaso Guadagni lent the King of France 50,000 Florins, very important amount for the necessities of the Crown of France who had to pay the ransom for King Francis 1<sup>st</sup> himself, captured in Pavia by the troops of Emperor Charles V, and with this gesture Tommaso showed the love he had for France and for his Majesty the King Francis 1<sup>st</sup>. For his generosity and devotion the King honored him by appointing him one of the Ordinary Masters of His House, which was a very high honor for those times, in the year 1526.





Castle of Chambord, France, built by King Francis 1<sup>st</sup>. As Ordinary Master of the King's house, Tommaso Guadagni must have spent many days of his life here.

While Tommaso was purchasing many properties in France, like St. Victor de la Cote, Gualargues, Lunel, Rochemaure, St. Jean dans la Foret, Amberieux-en-Dombes, Cher and Verdun in Burgundy, Beauregard, Chars and Proueux in the area of Lyon, he also built and decorated the beautiful and large Hospital of Saint Laurent for the sick of plague, located above the Rhone River, beneath the road going towards the Lordship of Beauregard, where you can find many military memoirs of the Guadagni Family, as also in the Church of Our Lady of Confort in the City of Lyon itself, where Tommaso had a large and sumptuous chapel built, in which church, when he died in 1533, Tommaso Guadagni 1<sup>st</sup> had himself buried next to his wife Peronnette Buatier, Florentine noblewoman, who died in 1521, with no children. Until today, in the center of the above church you can see their tomb with the following marble epitaph:"

HERE RESTS THE NOBLE MAN THOMAS OF THE GUADAGNI FAMILY  
FLORENTINE CITIZEN, COUNSELOR



AND MASTER OF THE HOUSE OF THE ORDER  
OF THE VERY CHRISTIAN KING OF FRANCE FRANCIS

I

WHO DIED ON THE DAY....A.D. MD....  
AND THE NOT LESS NOBLE PERNETTA BUATIER  
HIS DEARLY BELOVED WIFE  
WHO DIED ON THE DAY XXIII AUG. A.D. MDXXI

(8/23/1521)

John the Baptist the Hermit of Soliers writes in his "French Tuscany", that Tommaso had another Great Hospital built for the sick of the Plague in Avignon, with great amounts of money to cover their expenses.

As Tommaso Guadagni died without heirs, the abovementioned Tommaso Guadagni chose as his successor his nephew Tommaso Guadagni II, son of Ulivieri Guadagni son of Simone, as he was already in France, living with his uncle, who loved him very much, who had him marry, as his successor, Pernetta daughter of Guglielmo son of Tommaso de'Berti and of Claudia Gianfigliuzzi, both from noble Florentine families, so he became his wife's nephew. For all his qualities Tommaso II was called "the Magnificent" and "the Rich". He almost always resided in St. Victor de la Coste, in Languedoc, where he kept a "Court" with officers, musicians, artists, plus a large barn full of numerous horses, and many dogs to fit any large, solemn hunting party, which he cherished.



St Victor de la Coste: ruins of the old Guadagni castle on top of the hill, the Guadagni owned Renaissance Guadagni Residence in the village of St. Victor de la Coste. the village below. I have been to the top of the Castle: beautiful view of the Mediterranean Sea It was Tommaso Guadagni II's favorite residence, always full of artists, upfront (South) and of the Valley of the Rhone and the Alps Mountains on the right (East). musicians and writers.

He was the Lord of Beauregard in the Lyonnais (zone de Lyon), St. Victor de la Coste, Rochemaure and Galargues in Languedoc. In his will you can read in Latin” ***Generosus Thomas***



***Oliverii de Guadagnis nobilis Florentinus, Dominus, @ Baro Luneti, ac Dominus Bocorum de Gailargues Patria Ligua Quitania S.Galdoneri, @ S. Eugedi Patria Forensis, @ Ambaie.*** ”Generous Tommaso Guadagni son of Ulivieri, Florentine noble, Lord, Baron of Lunettes, and Lord of the Bouches de Gaillargues of the League from Aquitaine, his home country abroad is St. Eugene”.





Left picture: St. Victor de la Coste, seen from the ruins of the Medieval Guadagni Castle on top of the hill. The Parish Church both of the Castle and of the palace in town is on the right. I have been inside: it is Medieval, simple and beautiful.

Right picture: Guadagni Castle (on top of the hill) and town (surrounded by Medieval walls with battlements) of Rochemaure. I have been there also with Lejeune and Guignard. The view from the castle is spectacular.



Guadagni Fief of “Gallargues-le montueux” (“Gallargues on the mountain”) French corrida in the ex-Guadagni fief- no killing of the bull at the end of the corrida, however the “toreadoers” have to be careful not to be injured by the bull’s horns and hoofs)

The Duke of Orleans, who later became King of France Henry II, honored with his presence a visit to Tommaso II’s house in Avignon, and gave him the charge of Maitre d’Hotel (i.e. Master of the Palace), which his uncle Tommaso 1<sup>st</sup> had, as we remember, and also the one of Councilor of his “Secret Council”.





King Henri II (1519-1559) King from 1547 to 1559, when he was killed by accident in a tournament, when the point of the spear of his opponent broke accidentally in the visor of his helmet and a small bit of it entered his eye and his brain and killed him. His widow was our cousin Queen Catherine de' Medici (above center), who became the mother of three Kings of



France, Francis II, Charles IX and Henry III and mother-in-law of King Henry IV (Who however divorced her daughter and married her cousin Maria de' Medici, (above right) from whom all the actual Kings of France descend)



An engraving of the fatal tournament of King of France Henry II, on the right, with a piece of broken spear hanging from his visor (the text says “der Kunigh” i.e, “The King” in German) on the other side, having lost his broken lance, scattered on his left on the above field, is his opponent the Lord of Montgomery, also called Lord of Lorges, and it is written “Lorge.” next to his helmet, while a young squire, unaware of the fatal accident to the King, is bringing a new spear from the right above.

Tommaso Guadagni II was very charitable, giving large alms to various people, mostly to poor young women for them to find a husband, which he thought was the most important of all things, and to poor and shameful people. In the great famine that came to Florence, his home country, he sent 100 gold bars. When the plague greatly ravaged the City of Avignon in 1542, he had the great joy of charity, which shined on his forehead, resplend abundantly; he moved to the City of Corimans, and he nourished most of its poors for all the time that he lived there, and he also had a large Hospital, to lodge in it all the sick of plague, newly rebuilt there, to replace the one of the “Field of the King” which was ruined in 1536.

He also had an apartment built in the Great Hospital of St. Bernard in Avignon, with the door always opened to receive all the needy. In the same City he also founded the Convent of the Converts, where nowadays the Minimal Fathers live; finally, he spent a lot money in the improvement and adornment of various churches and Holy places, mostly in the City of Avignon where he spent a great deal of time, as it was the closest city to his beloved Castle of St. Victor de la Coste, which he enjoyed more than any other.





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Convent of the Converts, now of the Minimal Fathers, built by Tommaso II Guadagni in Avignon

However, in Avignon, Tommaso II also had a great, magnificent and very comfortable palace built for him, with every confort and source of joy...and the width of that palace made it possible to have all kinds of rooms in it, courts, lodges, halls and barns and containing in it a sumptuous and devoted Chapel; so that from this great and marvelously beautiful palace, the street where it was located was named “Rue de’Guadagni” (“Gadagne” in French) “Guadagni



Street”; and even though there are palaces of other noble families in Avignon, the Guadagni Palace beats them all in magnificence.



Palace of the Popes, Avignon



1st Guadagni Palace, Avignon



2<sup>nd</sup> Guadagni Palace, Avignon





City of Avignon with the palace of the Popes in the back and the medieval city walls upfront.

Tommaso Guadagni II died in his castle of St. Victor de la Coste in 1542, and his body was taken to Lyon and buried in the Guadagni Chapel of Notre Dame de Confort. He left four children: Elena Guadagni who was the wife of Lorenzo, son of Cappone Capponi, Lord of Ambrieu, whose descendants actually still live in France, Giovanna who married Lorenzo son of Alessandro Antinori, Gulielmo and Tommaso.



Lorenzo Capponi husband of Elena Guadagni  
("Guillaume de Gadagne") in the Museum of the Guadagni Castle of Boutheon



Actor playing Guglielmo Guadagni





Gadagne Street, Lyon



Painting of the same



“Rue de Gadagne” Guadagni Street in French



Gadagne Street by artist



Guadagni Coffee House in Lyon



Another view of the Guadagni Coffee House in Lyon; Schoolchildren visiting the Guadagni Museums in Lyon

Tommaso Guadagni had also two daughters from his wife Hilaire de Marconnay: Luisa Guadagni wife of Giorgio de Galleon, Lord of Vedene and the Dame of Beaulieu, of whose children we will talk about hereafter.





Vedene





AUREIL. — Château des Sèches



Beaulieu

With his wife Renee' de Clos descendant of German Princes, Baldassarre Guadagni had Guglielmo III and Tommaso. Guglielmo III, Lord of Aureuil, commander of the Light Cavalry from Catalogne, is the only remnant of the French Branch of the Guadagni (writes Gamrrini in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century). His sisters were Maria Guadagni, wife of Marchese Alessandro Bandini, Diana, wife first of Bandino Panciatichi, from a very important noble family from Pistoia and

Florence, then of noble Florentine Senator Antonio della Rena, and nowadays mother of Marchese Tommaso della Rena, and finally Anna Guadagni, who first married the very French noble Lord of Vernueil, and then, as a widow, she married Marchese Niccolo' Bufalini, Field-Marshal of the Armies of the Very Christian King (of France) and now at the service of the very Sereine Grand Duke Ferdinando Second of Tuscany, as Battle General Sargeant.



Grand Duke Ferdinando II of Tuscany (1610-1670)

Claudio Guadagni , brother of the abovementioned Baldassarre, married Eleonora de Coligny of the marchesi of Saligny, from whom he had Anna Guadagni, who married the marchese of Castel Gue', in the Province of Auvergne, and Luisa, who married the Lord of Vedene, of the great Family of the Galleans, who originate from the same stock as the Doria Family, who today are very famous in Liguria (a Region of Italy, like Tuscany and Lombardy), for the great personalities famous in the whole world, with the titles of Dukes, Princes and rulers of many states.





The Battle of Meloria, 1284, a major victory of Oberto Doria. Marchioness Brigida Spinola Doria, 1606, age 22, as painted by artist Peter Paul Rubens. Right: Jean Baptiste Budes, Count of Guebriant.

From the abovementioned Luisa Guadagni were born many children, of whom the most famous was Luigi Knight of Malta, who fulfilled the hopes put in his valor, another one was his brother, Lord of Agulle, who, after having become Count of St. John in Lyon, could not resist his natural inclination to military actions and participated in the wars in Germany under the command of the famous Marshall de Guebriant (see portrait above on the right). But in everything and better than all the other brothers, and who has given the greatest splendor to the Guadagni Family, was the youngest, who has always used and adopted the glorious surname of his mother i.e. Guadagni, even now (obviously contemporary of Gamurrini) he goes by “Count Guadagni” (“Comte de Gadagne “ in French) and today I can say that he is the luckiest of all his brothers, even though often criticized by the ones who are jealous of his bravery; however the laurels who crowned his predecessors don’t put any shadow on his merit and all these now deceased lights seem to form the dawn of his Day.

This perfect Captain was not yet fourteen when, feeling heated by such an honorable fire, by which he was even more encouraged, he is seen swimming across the sea, with his sword in his hand, to the Islands of Saint Marguerite and Saint Honore’, where he was wounded six times by sword strikes without his wounds putting him knock out, because during the same operation, he went and defended the trenches between Fort Rangon and St. Margaret, where he was so fortunate and brave that he captured the enemy Captain who was leading the counterattack.





Island of St. Marguerite (fortifications on the left)



Fortifications of the islands.



Fortifications of Island Saint Marguerite, which Charles-Felix Guadagni attacked when he was not yet fourteen years old and, in spite of having been wounded six times by enemy swords, he was able to capture their officer leading the counterattack!!!!

This action, which young Guadagni did as flag-bearer of the Regiment of the Galleys, gave the first signs of his invincible courage, of which we will have to fill the history of his life, given his presence in 23 campaigns, in which he has always served in the French Royal Armies, full of faith and courage in the Service of His Very Christian Majesty.



Chateaufort, (New Castle of the Guadagni) Capital of the independent country  
Duchy of Gadagne, of which Charles-Felix de Gadagne (Guadagni) was the ruler.





Charles Félix de Galléan, premier duc de Gadagne (1669).  
Lieutenant-Général des armées en 1661, il commanda un corps de  
bataille à la bataille des Dunes.  
Conseiller du Roi en tous conseils.  
Généralissime des troupes de Venise en 1689 (1620-1700).

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Charles Felix de Gallean, first duke of Gadagne (Guadagni) (1669), [His father was Gallean, his mother was Guadagni; as he had older brothers who continued the Gallean surname, he picked his mother's last name for his own] Lieutenant-General of the Armies in 1661, he commanded a battalion in the Battle of the Dunes. He was a Counselor of the King in all of his Councils. He was General-in-Chief of all the troops of the Republic of Venice in 1689.

Charles Felix de Gallean, (1600-1680), 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Gadagne (Guadagni); he bought the little independent country of Chateauneuf ("New Castle"), which changed its name in Chateauneuf de Gadagne after him in the year 1668. It had always been independent from the year 1100; it was named Duchy of Gadagne and belonged to the Guadagni Family until 1790 (for 122 years) when, after the French Revolution, it decided to join France and become part of it. The Guadagni Dukes however kept the ownership of the castle and some surrounding farmlands. The town of Chateauneuf de Gadagne is now simply called "Gadagne" i.e. "Guadagni" and it has its Hospital, Museum, Seminary and Soccer Team named "Gadagne". So if you follow the Soccer Championship in France root for "Gadagne".



Gadagne ("Guadagni") soccer team playing above and in a team picture below. You can find more about them in internet



It says: "The **Seniors 2** (Gadagne) Reserve team (above) has just beaten the "Calavon 2" team in the "Cup of Hope".





Part of the Guadagni Castle on top of the hill of “Gadagne”, where I was a guest with Guadagni Historian Lejeune fifteen years ago for a beautiful weekend. The owners were pleased to have with them in the castle the first Guadagni Family member since the French Revolution in 1789! You can see the bottom floors of the large tower in the center of the picture with a view of the top of the descending park on the right and my bedroom window on the ground floor on the left. The Medieval walls of the castle are so thick that large walk-in closets had been dug in them for the adjoining bedrooms and even though I was there in the heart of summer the rooms were very cool without any need of air conditioning. Even though I was sleeping on the ground floor, as the Guadagni Castle was on top of the highest hill in the whole area, I had a beautiful view from my window for miles and miles.

Swimming pool of the Guadagni castle, on an adjoining battlement on the floor below mine, in the picture above on the right.



Gate going out into the hill from the bottom of the Guadagni Castle Property. Church of Gadagne, next to the castle (the trees on the right belong to the castle, on top of the hill).





Medieval walls of Avignon, the City of the Popes, located seven miles from Gadagne. View of the Alps (left) and of the fertile plains of Provence and the Cote d'Azur (out of the picture on the right) from the top of the tower with battlements of the Guadagni Castle (upfront right).



Dining room of the Guadagni castle on the second floor with a view on the patio of the first picture above on the left. Main entrance door, from the street that goes up to the castle and the church across the town.



Walls of Gadagne enclosing the town, going up the hill towards the castle with city door on the right. The whole town and Duchy is called Gadagne after the Gadagne Family who bought it and ruled it, like the Country of Liechtenstein, in the Alps between Switzerland and Austria, owes its name to the Princes of Liechtenstein, who are still ruling it nowadays, as the Grimaldi Family (Prince Ranieri and wife Grace Kelly, now deceased, their offspring is the new ruler) are ruling the Principality of Monaco

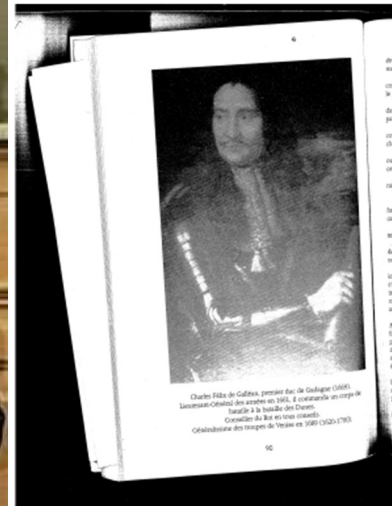




Principality of Liechtenstein (capital: Vaduz) Liechtenstein Castle of the Princes of Liechtenstein  
As you can see in the larger map above, it is also close to the borders of Italy and Germany



Prince and Princess of Liechtenstein with their four children - Ranieri III Grimaldi Prince of Monaco - Princes Ranieri and Grace of Monaco



Castle of the Grimaldi - Princes of Monaco Henri, Grand Duke of Luxembourg - Charles Felix Duke of Gadagne

By owning and ruling the independent Duchy of Gadagne, the Guadagni became one of the independent ruling families of Europe, like the Liechtenstein, the Grimaldi, the Hapsburg of Austria, the Bourbon of France and Spain, the Savoy of Italy, the Royal Family of England, and so forth.

Chateauneuf used to be part of the Roman Empire, then it was conquered by the Arabs when they invaded Southern Europe from Gibraltar and Spain in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century AD, but it was freed by Knight William “Black Heart”, who lived in it with his men. When William entered the nearby Abbey of Saint William in the Desert, where he became a monk and eventually a Saint, he gave Chateauneuf to the Abbey stating that their only duty was to give the Abbey a “cow” every year on the day of Saint William, i.e. May 28<sup>th</sup>. So Chateauneuf became independent not having to pay taxes or obey to anybody else, and was ruled by several families, under the protection of the Popes, who ruled Avignon and the whole surrounding region.

The last ruling family before the Guadagni were the Simiane, In the year 1668, old and with many debts, and eleven children, Francois de Simiane sells Chateauneuf and the neighboring fief, which was called “the Baronny of Giraud-Amic”, to our great-uncle Charles Felix, Count of Gadagne, for 68,000 gold coins. Charles Felix will pay a one time tax of 9,000 gold coins to the Apostolic Chamber of the Pope. The new independent country changes forever its name to “Gadagne” and the town itself, its capital, to “Chateauneuf de Gadagne”. On January 6, 1670, Charles-Felix, Count of Gadagne, Knight and Army General, Duke of Chateauneuf and other places, convoques the Parliament (“Congress”) of Chateauneuf and officially becomes the owner and ruler of the new country.

(This privileged status ended in 1789 when the country joined the Republic of France after a vote of its Parliament, while the Guadagni Dukes were living in exile in Switzerland because of the French Revolution, and so ceased to exist as an independent country).

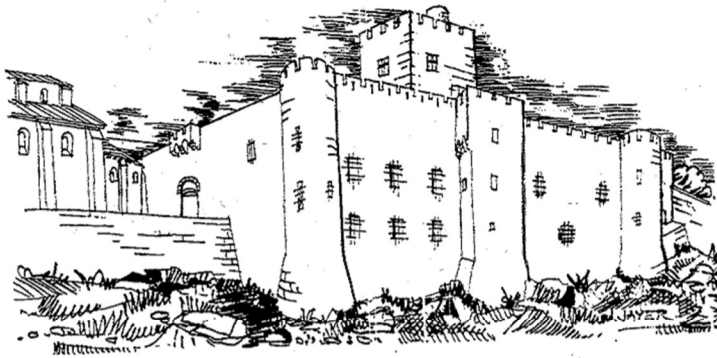




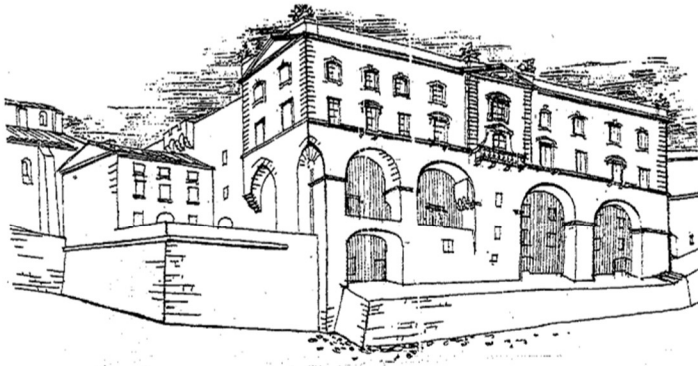
Steep Gadagne road with stairs on the left taking to the church and the castle on top of the town.



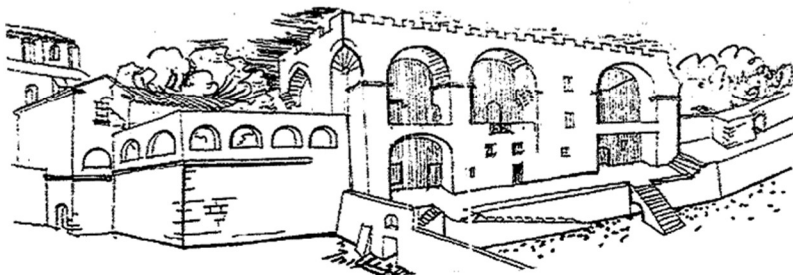
External defensive walls of the town of Gadagne climbing from right to left to the top of Guadagni Hill, in the center, with the belltower of the church which is now the tallest point of the town and battlements of the Guadagni castle itself, which is on the right. During the French Revolution, the Guadagni emptied their castle of all its artistic treasures and their precious personal objects and left it empty before going into exile. When they returned, they found out that the inhabitants of Gadagne had completely demolished the top two floors of the Guadagni Castle and used them as building material to enlarge or embellish their own private homes. This is why before the Revolution, the Guadagni Castle with its battlements used to be two stories higher than in the above picture, and as high as the steeple of the Church.



115. Le château au XII<sup>e</sup> siècle.



116. Le château au XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle.



117. Le château au XX<sup>e</sup> siècle.

Le château de Châteauneuf-de-Gadagne et son évolution du XII<sup>e</sup> au XX<sup>e</sup> siècle  
(Essai de reconstitution par J. Jayer).



115. The Castle of Chateauneuf de Gadagne in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century. It belonged to the Giraud-Amic Family in those times. The door leading to the church and the church are the same as now.

116. The castle with the two new floors, added by Charles-Felix de Gadagne, in Florentine Renaissance style, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is now much bigger and higher than the church.

117. The castle as it is now, after the two floors added by Charles-Felix were slowly and orderly taken away, stone by stone, by the inhabitants of Chateauneuf de Gadagne, during the French Revolution, when the Guadagni Dukes were in exile in Switzerland, to enlarge and embellish their homes. The closest quarries were on the Alps several hundred miles away, and no Guadagni peasant made enough money to have them come from there. When the Guadagni came back from exile, they were not the “rulers” of the Duchy anymore, just the owners, because the Duchy had politically joined France in their absence and become a province of the French Republic, so they moved to a nearby castle they owned to live in.



I recopied the picture I showed above. If we look at picture 117, seen from the outside of the castle, the above picture is taken from the inside and the two arches covered with foliage on the right correspond to the first two arches attached to the left of the castle above and the half stone outer vault in the center correspond to the same on the left corner of the castle above. My bedroom window is inside the arched covered wall above and cannot be seen from the outside of the Guadagni castle..

Cette visite nous a procuré l'avantage d'avoir un croquis du village à cette époque, car Monseigneur Bordini était accompagné d'un secrétaire qui notait l'organisation du clergé local, et les observations nécessaires. Il faisait aussi un dessin représentant chaque paroisse visitée (un agrandissement de ce dessin est à la mairie).

Le clergé du lieu dépend du prieuré de Saint-Ruf à Avignon, qui dépendait lui-même de l'ordre de Saint-Ruf à Montpellier. En 1650, par exemple, Pierre Ginestel est nommé vicaire perpétuel du prieuré, pour l'église de Saint-Jean-Baptiste (la nôtre).

En 1682 le chapelain du duc de Gadagne est un érudit. Il se nomme Pictou ou Pictoy et il écrit des livres dont nous ignorons le sujet.

En 1696 un litige oppose le parlement communal au vicaire. Celui-ci est absent depuis plus d'un an. Son neveu qui est un laïque, perçoit les bénéfices de la charge, mais garde l'argent pour lui, privant même de nourriture, les autres prêtres. Souvent le parlement se plaint de ce que les prêtres n'exercent pas bien leur mission.

Notons aussi que la chapelle des Pénitents blancs, qui se trouve derrière le Portail-Vieux, a un prêtre attiré: Messire Jean-Joseph Penet, en 1731.

#### CASTRUM NOVUM



Ce croquis de Châteauneuf (*Castrum novum*) a été réalisé par le dessinateur-secrétaire qui accompagnait l'évêque de Cavaillon Jean François Bordini en 1597.



Sketch of Chateauneuf in 1597, 71 years before Charles-Felix bought it. The last time I was there, a year and a half ago, it had not changed from the above sketch: powerful sturdy medieval walls all around it, with a few doors in them, which were the only way to penetrate into the town. Old towers and houses are going up the hill and Castle of the Guadagni and Church are on top of the hill. From the Guadagni Castle you can see for miles, wine groves and olive trees of the “Provence” Region of France, with the sparkling Blue Mediterranean Sea and the white capped majestic Alps. The Medieval City of Avignon, siege of the Papacy during the Middle-Ages is only seven miles away, with its medieval walls, palaces and towers.

Charles Felix Guadagni was wounded again in the siege of Leucata; from here he entered the service of the Navy, with the same dedication; as he was near Zoaf on the borders of the town they had conquered, a pistol shot wounded him in his arm, fighting with the last soldiers in the presence of the Baron de Beaumes de Piles, who was commanding a batalion of the same regiment and said that with his courage and his behavior Guadagni saved the whole French Army from being defeated.



Baron de Beaumes de Piles

From there he was sent to the Siege of Aire’ where he was shot with a musket in the shoulder and struck with a spear in the thigh. So many proofs of his courage brought the Count of Guadagne to be promoted Lieutenant of his Company, to make his valor better known; in the following military campaign, as he was defending the Fort of Ranzau in Aras, he was twice wounded \with a sword and twice with a spear and he was captured by the enemy. But who could slow down the pace of such a glorious career? The action of such a Hero will fill up the history of all the Wars in France! He finds himself in the most famous fights, and he makes himself known in the midst of the greatest dangers.

As soon as he is freed, he appears as a Captain of the above mentioned Regiment in the sieges of Bapaume, Bassea and Tarragone.



Bapaume

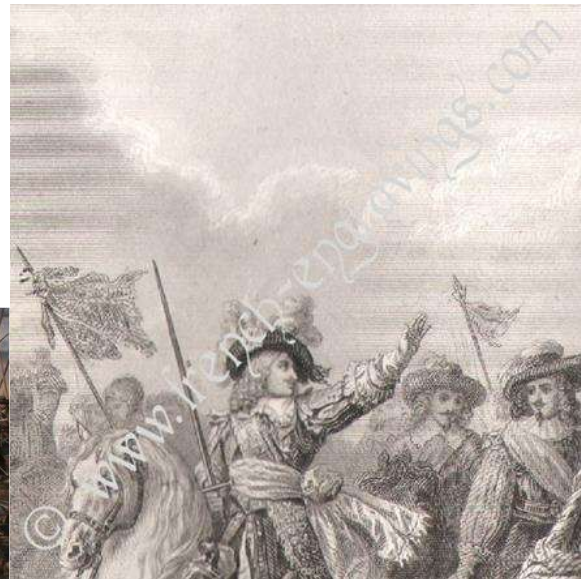


Tarragone



Battle of Rocroi

From there, finding himself in the famous battle of Rocroi, in which not only did he contribute to the honor of that victory, making Don Francesco de Peynes prisoner, he also crowned the day with an astonishing duel that he did at the head of his army with the spear in his hand against Don Diego Barque de Macouquer First Captain and Major of the Regiment de Garsis, whom he made his prisoner after having wounded him with two blows of his sword.



Battle of Rocroi: left: the Spansh last "Tercio" (squadron) gets ready to fight to the finish against Guadagni and his victorious French troops closing in on all sides. Right: Guadagni gets ready to lead the charge of the French cavalry against the Spaniards.

Count Guadagni (Charles Felix de Gadagne) also served under the Prince of Conde' in the Siege of Lerida. From there he went to the Siege of Roses, where he attacked in the middle of the enemies, so that he was wounded twice with a sword and a gunshot broke his leg, so that the Baron of Baume had to load him on his shoulders. After this episode Guadagni commanded the most important regiment and lead the attack to help other French forcess in Arras.





Baron of Beaume



Source gallica.bnf.fr / Bibliothèque nationale de France

**Battle of Arras: Guadagni leads the French troops on the left against the Spanish on the right.**

You can find him in the most famous fights, and he makes himself known in the greatest dangers. As soon as he had recuperated his freedom, he appears as Captain of the above mentioned regiment in the sieges of Bapaume, Basilea and Tarragona.



Bapaume



Basilea



Tarragona



Arras



Rethel

## Page 418

After that he was in Doncherchen and in the campaign of Rodes, even though weakened by his wound; however his courage prevailed over his weakness in the attack and conquest of Rethel (right picture above).

There, against any logic, he left the place where he had been ordered to launch only a false attack, and attacked the guarding corps on the Bridge, in which he had part of the Regiment of the Navy enter, who was eventually rejected by Lipontis, Governor of the Fort; but he attacked so many times and so vigourosly that Lipontis surrendered with the whole city and we can truthfully say that in that action Count Guadagni was the savior of part of the State (I presume part of France). He was successively appointed for an action just as important when he was entrusted with the defense of the City and of the Bridge of Gren, with the passage of the rivers, which were the only obstacles to the advance of the enemies and to the defense of the rest of the Monarchy. This valor exercised for so long never left him in his actions. We see the Count Guadagni in the Siege of Estampes [in the \year 1652 Jacob Chevalier wrote and published the “Journal i.e. Diary of what happened in the Siege of Estampes between the Army of Marshall Turenne (which incl;uded Count Guadagni) and the Army of the Princes” (you can find it in the Denver Public Library)] when he commanded 500 men in the quality of Field-Marshal with whom he was able to



block the conjunction of the forces coming from the City of Paris with the ones coming from the Subburbs.

We are not mentioning the wars of Paris, Villanova and St. George which the Duke of Lorraine made. Finally Lorraine had to retreat and accept the propositions presented by Count Guadagni from the Marshal of Turenne, Commander in chief of all the armies of the King of France.



www.alamy.com - ERG1W4

#### Marshal of Turenne

Count Guadagni was the commander of the Infantry of the Army in the Battle of Saint Antoine where all of France witnessed Guadagni's action in which he captured the Colonel of the German Cavalry. In Athens Guadagni captured the Crescent Flag of the Turks and also another important emblem of theirs. He was marching ahead of five battalions of infantry to the important help of Ars, when a musket shot hit him in the head and made him unable to attack the enemy. Finally Marshal Guadagni was not only the shield but also the sword of the French and when he stopped commanding as Lieutenant General of Catalonia he retired with his troops in the City of Rodes, because by going into that city he brought terror in the hearts of his enemies who did not dare to continue their attacks. Returning into the Army with the same position of Lieutenant General he did all that could be expected by a leader not less good or cautious than when he was in Valenciennes and was attacked by Monsieur de Martin who was commanding a corps of 4,000 or 5,000 men and tried to stop him from retreating, after having saved all the troops of the other encampments. While Guadagni was charging the enemy to try and pass through them he was wounded and captured, finding himself alone with only his sword to defend himself. His capture gave a great advantage to his enemies, after 18 months they traded him with Marchese Cognac, and the same day of his recuperated freedom was fatal to his enemies.



#### 17<sup>th</sup> century French musketeers



Castle of Cognac Fournes – Battle of the Dunes (see below) Dunkirk – Battle of the Dunes (see below)

He found himself in the Battle of the Dunes, commanding the first Infantry line under Marshal Turenne, and here, in the presence of his enemies he made a very considerate move, attacking the plains from the side of Fournes where he attacked two large enemy batalions which he made retreat so much under Prince of Conde's cavalry, that His Highness could not use his Infantry, with which he ould have probably have his enemies retreat until "Doncherchen" (old 17<sup>th</sup> century Italian spelling of "Dunkirk") and so have such a great success very different from the one Guadagni had, so favorable to the French.

After the siege of Gravelines Marshal Turenne wanted to take the City of Minin, but he heard that Prince de Ligne (7<sup>th</sup> cousin of his adversary Charles Felix de Gadagne) [You might ask yourselves: why do cousins fight each other? Maybe they love each other tenderly on a personal basis but if their countries fight against one another, each of them must do his duty as commander of his own rival army] and his army had set camp under Commines on the other side of River Lys with 3 or 4,000 men, so he marched in that direction and Count Guadagni commanded the attack that day and with only 6 Squadrons attacked, fought and defeated his adversary.



Town of Ypres, Belgium



Oudenaarde, Belgium

In the attack of Ypres the same Count Guadagni opened a trench in the fortifications of the City with the Regiment of the Guards and advancing them until the beginning of the city, he was able to conquer the City in a few days, and the same with the cities of Oudenaarde, Menen and other small towns that opened their doors to him.





Menen, Belgium

Finally the Spanish General Olivares made peace with our generals and the Peace stopped the working of our Champion with his 23<sup>rd</sup> campaign in the 37<sup>th</sup> year of his life. A short while later Charles Felix Duke of Gallean and Lord of Gadagne married Jeanne de Grave' of a noble family of Bretagne, France. Charles Felix Duke of Gallean. Lord of Gadagne, Lieutenant General of the Army of the King and of the Province of Berry had three brothers and three sisters, one of whom was Dame of Honor of the Queen Mother of France and Her Majesty kept as her relative, Armanda, Mother Superior of San Salvatore of Buccaire, and Dame Ilaria of Gallean, who was the Dame of the Grand Duchess of Tuscany married to Count Ulisse di Montauto of the very noble Barbolana Familuy, today Vice-Lieutenant of the County of Burgundy.

Francesco Guadagni son of Simone son of Vieri was sent as Ambassador and Commissary of the Awards to serve King Charles VIII of France (1470-1498) in the name of all the State of Florence in 1495 when the latter left Lombardy to conquer the Kingdom of Naples. When the King happened to be in Lyon, France, Francesco Guadagni was again sent



Charles VIII of France



to him as Ambassador to tell him how all the League and the Powerful Princes of Italy had turned against Florence because the Florentines were friends of the French King and that the latter could not resist against such a great fury unless the French King gave them money, to raise an army, and came in Italy himself to help them.; also because Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I (1459-1519), see center picture above, wanted to conquer Leghorn, which belonged to Florence. The French King answered that if he lent the Florentines a certain amount of money he would have to interrupt his war in the Asti Region (right picture for Asti, Piedmont) and that Francesco Guadagni should be satisfied that all the land and Cities already held by the Florentines, which had not been of the King's Allies, could remain theirs and that they had to give back to King Francis only all the territories they had before the King's arrival in Italy. Before leaving, the King told Francesco very politely that he would satisfy all the obligations he had with the Florentines, and that if he would come again into Italy it would be only to annul the promise he had made in the Duomo of Florence, and that if he should die earlier, he would send his successor to undo the above promise. And in 1498 Francesco Guadagni was Governor of the Fortress of Livorno ("Leghorn")



Two pictures of the Fortress of Leghorn – Francesco Guadagni was its Governor (its walls were in better shape five centuries ago).

Giovan Battista Guadagni son of Filippo, son of Vieri\, was abbot of Turpenay in Touraine, after the death of his cousin Tommaso Guadagni son of Jacopo, and of S.Gualdo in Bretagne, favorite abbey of King of France Charles IX. According to Davila, he was Almoner and Secret Counselor of Queen Mother Catherine of France and her very important confidant, for her and for the King, he took care of several difficult and important treaties; thus, in the year 1572, he was sent by King Charles IX as his greatest confidant together with Mister de la Noue, to the Rochelle to exhort them to return to the obedience to the Crown, and the following year he was sent all alone

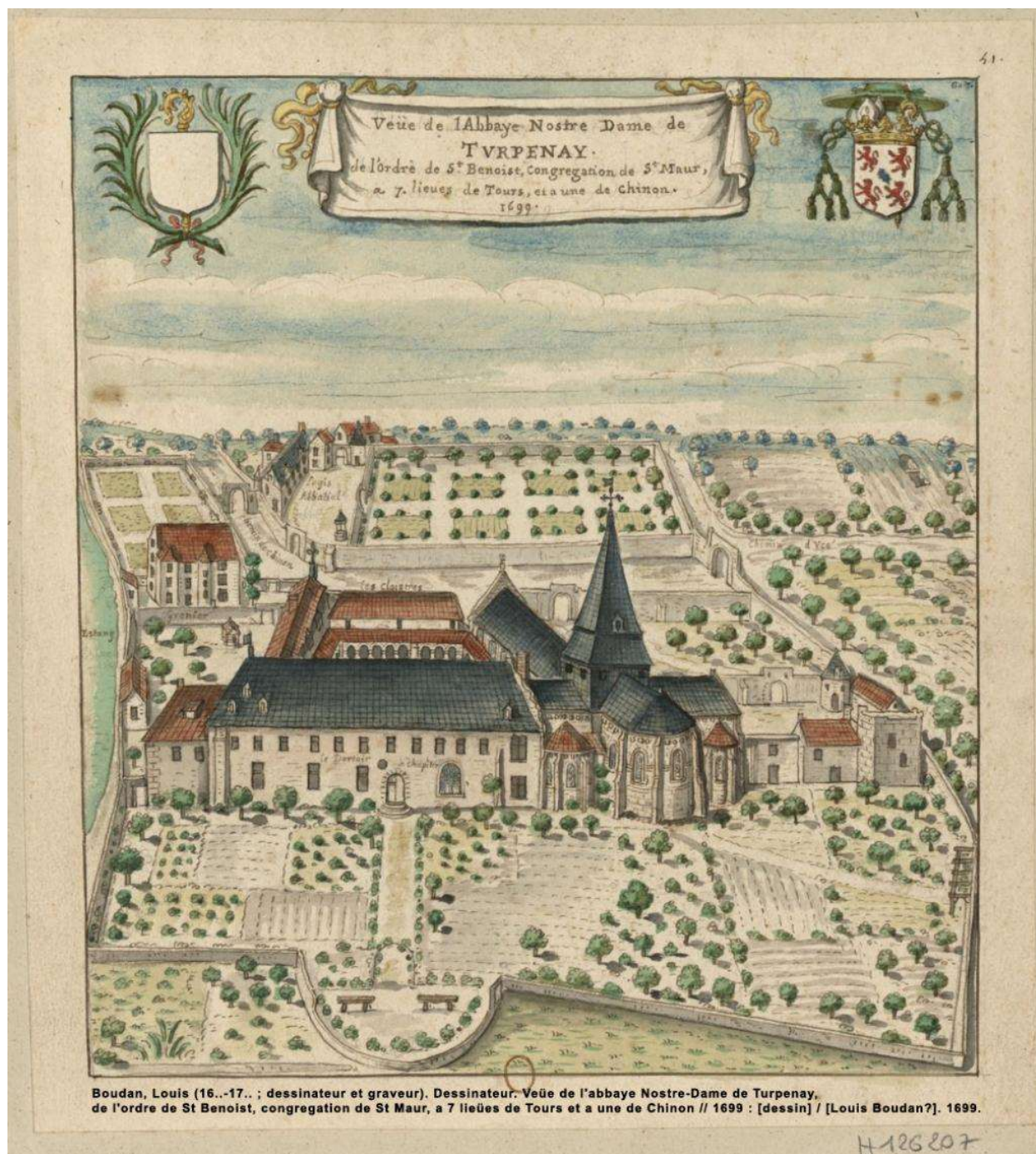




Francois de la Noue



La Rochelle, Protestant stronghold in France



The Abbaye of Turnpenay when great-uncle Giovambattista Guadagni joined it.





Abbey of Turpenay in Touraine as it was a few years ago and as it is now.

again to deal with the Deputies of La Rochelle about the same topic, in the same year 1573, he was sent by the King to the same location and to convince the inhabitants of La Rochelle to return to the devotion towards their King, he prayed in public in the presence of Marshall de Biron, of Filippo Strozzi and of the Lord of Villequier.



Armand de Gontaud, Baron of Biron, Marshal of France (1524-1592) left picture above; Queen of France Catherine Maria Romula de' Medici (1519-1589) (center picture above): her husband, King Henry II of France (1519-1559) (right picture above) who died in a joust in 1559. Cousin Catherine was also the Queen Mother of three Kings of France, her three sons: Francis II, Charles IX, and Henry III



King of France Henri II is hit in the visor by his opponent Gabriel de Montgomery, Captain of the Scottish Guard (center picture). A splinter of Gabriel's lance got by mistake into King Henri's visor and penetrated his eye. (left picture) The king's surgeon, Ambroise Pare' (picture on the right), was unable to cure the infected wound.



King Henry II of France 1519-1559 before he was killed in a joust - King Francis II of France 1544-1560 - King Charles IX of France 1550-1574





King Henry III of France 1553-1589 (left picture above) murdered by fanatical Friar Jacques Clement (right picture above)

King Henry III founded the Knightly Order of the Holy Spirit, and invested our ancestor Guglielmo Guadagni with it.

As Queen Catherine is the direct descendant of Simone Tornabuoni, father-in-law of our direct ancestor Vieri Guadagni (1369-1426), we are all blood-related to the above Queen and Kings of France (except King Henry II, our relative by marriage) as we all share the same Tornabuoni blood and this probably was one of the causes of so many Guadagnis' roles in the important political events of France in those troubled but glorious times.

In 1574 Queen Catherine sent Giovambattista Guadagni to Poitou and to Saintonge to arrange a suspension of the hostilities with Monsieur Francois de la Noue, who had become the leader of the Protestant Rebels of La Rochelle and Guadagni was able to obtain the desired effects though his prudence and dexterity.



As you remember my grandmother Madeleine Querqui Guadagni owned the Castle of Le Puybelliard (left picture above) and my mother, Isabella, and my Aunts Beatrice and Tecla Guadagni with my grandfather Bernardo Guadagni and grandmother Madeleine used to spend two or three months there almost every summer. Le Puybelliard is very close to La Rochelle, Protestant stronghold, and my grandmother and her family were Protestant Huguenots. Francois de la Noue, leader of the Huguenots, (his castle is right picture above, his own picture 16 pictures above) was a cousin of the French ancestors of my grandmother Madeleine and of my mother and mine and thus indirect great-uncle cousin of all the Guadagnis.

In 1586 Giovambattista Guadagni was sent several times by the Queen to the King of Navarre and to the Marshal of Biron, to obtain a suspension of the hostilities, and Giovambattista's dealings were very successful, because the important meeting requested for the month of October 1586 in St. Brieux took place and Queen Mother Catherine came with the Duke of Nevers and the Marshal de Retz, and Mr. degli Albizzi Rambouillet, Abbot Guadagni and other important people, and the meeting was very famous for the people who came there and for the great wisdom shown and expressed by all the participants.



Marshal de Retz aka Albert de Gondi (1522-1602)

Vieri Guadagni's (1369-1426) great-great-great niece, Francesca Tornabuoni (+1555) is Marshal de Retz's aunt, and Louise de Gadagne, Dame of Chateauneuf is the great-niece of his sister, Maria Gondi.

Following the death by tuberculosis of King of France Charles IX, Queen Mother Catherine sent Abbot Guadagni quickly to Poland to her son Henry, who had been elected Monarch of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Royal Banner of it below on the left) from 1573 to 1575, and convince him to return to France to become its King





and to give him advice of how important was his departure from Poland and his trip back to France. At the request of Queen Catherine and of her sons, Giovambattista kept for a long time Don Antonio of Portugal as a guest in his house [No other Guadagni historian I have ever read before Gamuttini, tells us that Abbot Giovambattista Guadagni kept for a long time Don Antonio of Portugal (center picture above) as a guest in his house; of course Gamrrini was almost contemporary of the fact, Passerini lived two centuries later]

Don Antonio of Portugal, Prior of Crato, 1531-1595, sometimes called *The Determined*, *the Fighter* or *The Independentist* was a grandson of King Manuel I of Portugal 1469-1521 (right picture above) and claimant of the Portuguese throne during the 1580s dynastic crisis. According to some historians, he was King of Portugal as Antonio I of Portugal for 33 days in 1580.



After the crowning of Philip II of Spain (left picture above) as King of Portugal (1581), Antonio claimed the throne until 1583. He was a disciple of the famous Dominican Friar Batholomew of Braga (center picture above), Archbishop of Braga, Spain, from 1559 to 1582, beatified by Pope St John-Paul II on 11/4/2001.

I find it interesting to find out who were the guests of the Guadagnis during their 10 centuries history. In Florence we say: "Dimmi con chi vai e ti diro' chi sei!" ("Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are...!") For several years the almost permanent guest of great-uncle Giovambattista Guadagni was His Majesty King Antonio 1<sup>st</sup> of Portugal, even though the King was in exile). It could also be that our Cousin Queen of France Catherine wanted Giovambattista to keep Don Antonio in his house to keep him from getting himself into trouble by trying to organize a private army to reconquer the throne of Portugal from King Philip II of Spain and thus throw South Western Europe in an unnecessary bloody conflict creating problems also for neighboring France who would have to pick a monarch, ...Philip or Antonio?





Royal Palace of Portugal outside and inside, left and right pictures above.

Giovambattista Guadagni came to Italy in the year 1589, with the Very Sereine Granduchess of Tuscany Cristina of Lorraine, as her Major Majordome sent by her grandmother the Queen Mother Christine of Sweden- Regent of Lorraine.



Granduchess of Tuscany Cristina of Lorraine (1565-1637) her father, Charles III the Great, Duke of Lorraine (1543-1608) and her grandmother Christine of Sweden (1521-1590) Regent of Lorraine.

Giovambattista came back from Tuscany in 1591 and died in Langres causing great sadness in King of France Henry IV who had a great love and esteem for him professing that he had received noteworthy services from Guadagni. And it goes for certain that if Giovambattista had lived any longer he would have received many more personal great honors from the French King (center picture below).



On looking for Giovambattista Guadagni (1542 -1591) in internet I found the above left picture. I cannot guarantee it is him though.

There was another Giovambattista Guadagni, son of Filippo son of Bernardo, brother of our direct ancestor Vieri, who lived in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and became a monk with the name of Brother Bernardo. He led a very penitent life. He was known for his great humility, he always asked for the lowest and most degrading chores in the monastery. Worn out by abstinences and mortifications, he died very young. He was fondly remembered for his virtues and his name figures in the catalogue of the “Blessed” of the Church. Because of the 15<sup>th</sup> century costume he seems to be wearing in the picture, the above Giovambattista Guadagni could be “Blessed Giovambattista aka “Bernardo” Guadagni, not to be mistaken with Blessed Cardinal Giovanni Antonio Guadagni 1674-1759 (whose original name was Bernardo) and was the brother of our direct ancestor Neri Andrea Guadagni (1673-1748).

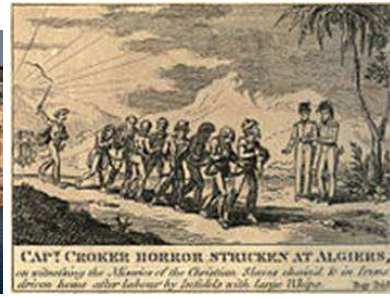
Giovambattista Guadagni united the study of Letters with the frankness of his soul, mingled with dexterity and a marvelous ability to be able to achieve any dealing, even difficult and hampered; he served the King well, having conquered with his ingenuity even the little affection the King was able to have for anybody. At his death he left his brother Senator Alessandro Guadagni coupons of his credits for more than 50,000 francs (ducats?) that the latter and his heirs could levy (cash); the above had spent the same amount of his own for the service of the Very Christian King. We can get all this information from several Histories of France, and mostly from Monsieur de Solier’s in his French Tuscany and from Historian Rondinelli’s notes.

Brother Piero Guadagni son of Filippo son of Olivieri or his brother Vieri, was Knight of Malta, Prior of Tuscany and Commendator of St. James in Campo Corbolini of Florence, and very esteemed in his Order. He served the King of France in the civil wars and the King to show him his gratefulness in 1572 (King Charles IX of France, our cousin) (Right picture above) gave him some pensions.

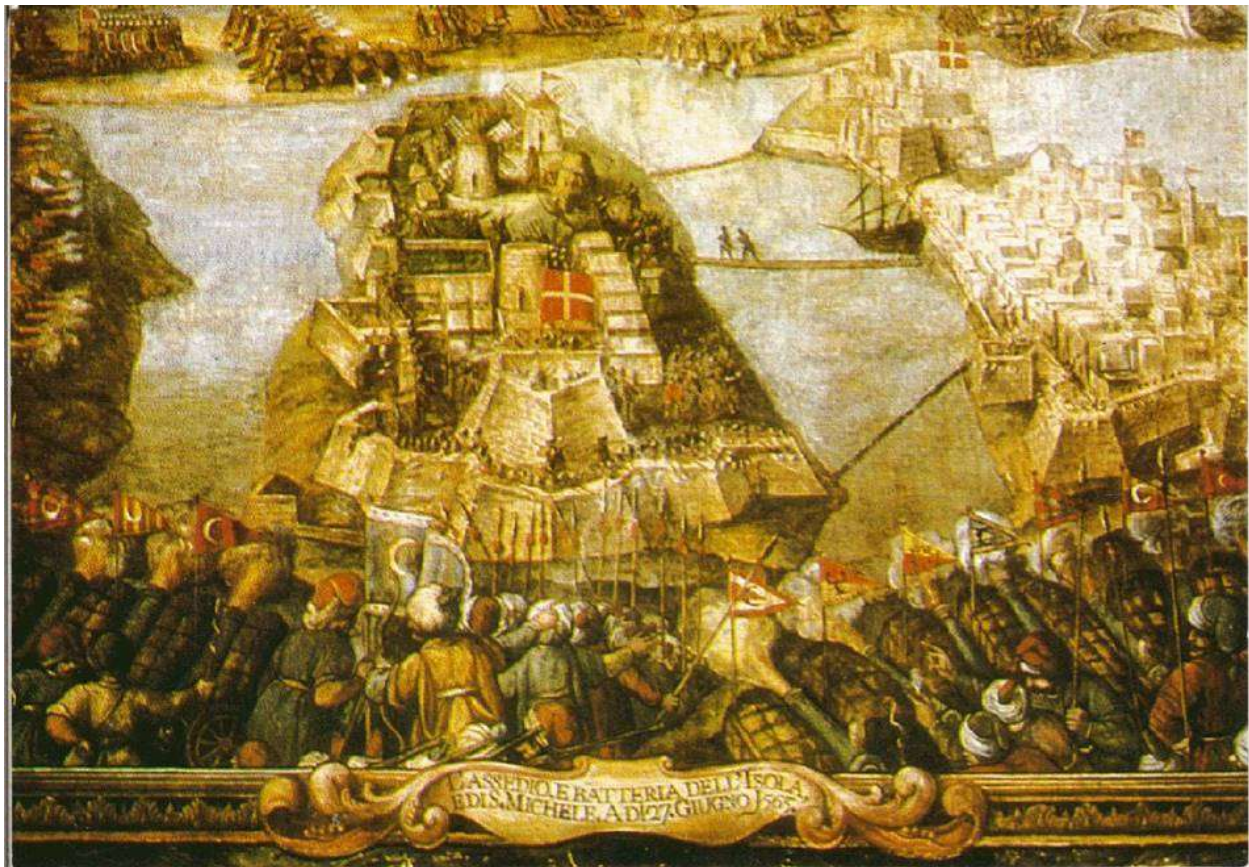
In 1565, Piero Guadagni found himself in the defense of Fortress St. Elmo, where he was severely wounded and was captured with a few others and sold to certain pirates who had penetrated into the cave before the rest of the Army of the pirates and falsely pretended that their



prisoners were unable to defend themselves so that they were not savagely killed like everybody else found there by order of Mustafa, leader of the pirates. So, after having been a slave for a while, Piero redeemed himself, when the Order of Malta thought he was dead.



Piero Guadagni, Knight of Malta - Fortress St. Elmo, Island of Malta - Christian slaves of Barbary Pirates



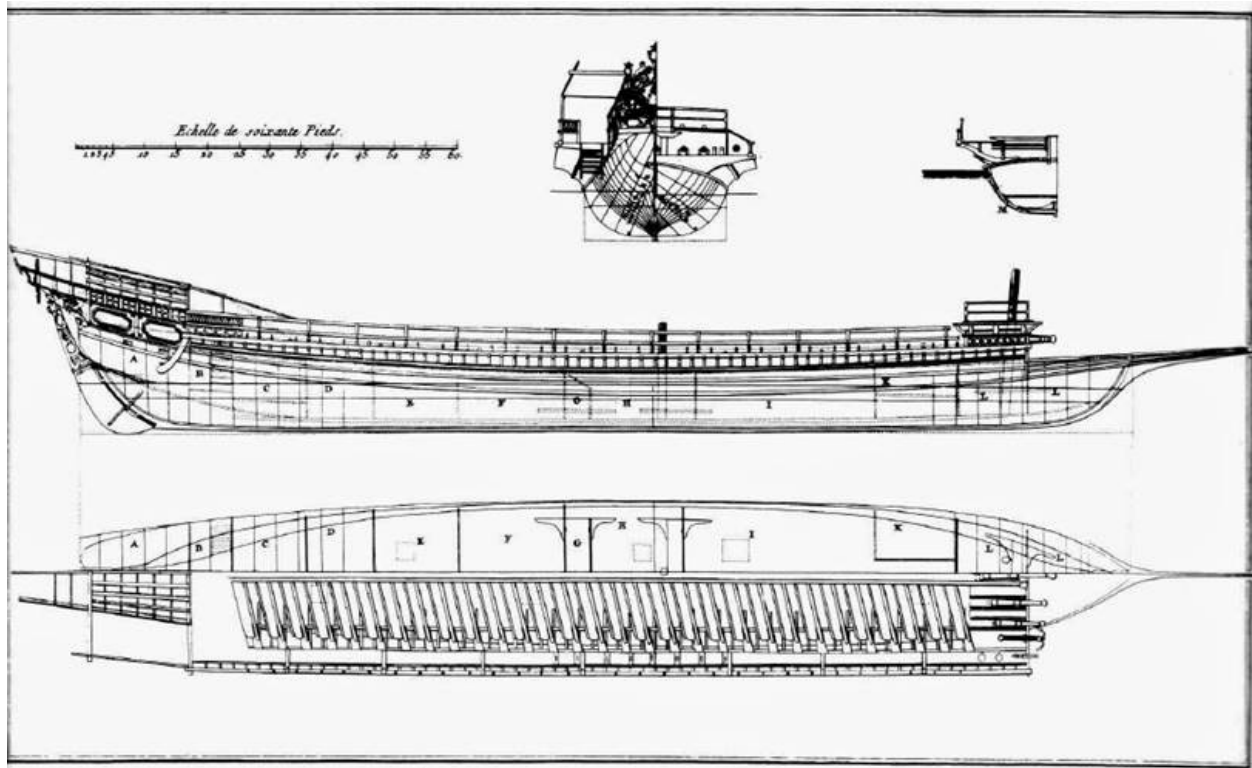
Malta attacked by the Turks on June 27, 1565

He began to serve as a Knight in his Order of Malta again when he was captured and sold as a slave a second time (see picture below of slaves rowing in a Turkish ship).



He was freed and made Governor of a Galley by public request, and Governor of the Fortress of St. Elmo, in Malta, then he was appointed General Receptor for all of Tuscany and Lieutenant of the Priory of Pisa of the Order of Malta,.





*A plan of a Maltese galley from an eighteenth-century French encyclopaedia, although effectively copied from of Chapman's great work Architectura Navalis Mercatoria of 1768. The vessel, rowing 30 benches a scaloccio, is typical of the last generation of galleys, although this example was a flagship of the Captain of the Order of St John of Malta. The armament was standard for the time: a 36pdr on the centreline, flanked by two 8pdrs and two 6pdrs, plus about eighteen small pierriers.*

## Galley of the Knights of Malta



Fortress of St. Elmo, Malta

In Malta he started to build himself a beautiful palace, brought to perfection by his brother Alessandro, and because his sons Giovambattista and Migliore Guadagni were Knights of Malta of his Family, he was allowed to die in Florence in the year 1591.

Brother Guglielmo son of Tommaso Guadagni ran away from home at the age of twelve and joined the French Forces fighting in Burgundy, but was recognized by his brother-in-law, Lord of Grossouvre, and sent to guard a Fortress on the borders of Savoy. Then he was made White Cornet of Monsieur of St. Geran, Governor of the Bourbonnais and a relative of his and as he was seventeen, his father sent him to Italy to become a Knight of the Order of Malta.





Bourbonnais

Having become a Knight of Malta, Guglielmo returned to France and found himself in the fraction close to Verdun, in which the above mentioned Mr. Gaspard de Gadagne, Governor and Count of Verdun had been killed (in an ambush by the Catholic League for being too lenient towards the Protestants); he was appointed of the same charge by His Majesty the King of France, which he held for five years, close to Marshal de Biron (see picture below), with whom he learned good military discipline.



Charles de Gontaut, Duke of Biron (1562-1602)      Gozo Island, Malta

When the wars in Burgundy finished, Guglielmo Guadagni returned to Malta where he continued his career as an active Knight of Malta. In 1598 he was captain of the cavalry of Gozo, Malta with whom he performed a noteworthy action, with 160 horsemen, as he was able, with a military stratagem, to send two thousands Turks back to their galleys. The Turks had disembarked from their thirty galleys to get water; when Guglielmo noticed it, he ordered that the abovementioned horsemen scatter in several little paths and between a few little hills, and then, at a sign of his, would appear charging the enemy at full speed on all sides, and the latter, fearing they were in greater number than they really were, and struck by their bravery and fury,

reembarked in disorder and several drowned while doing it. The Order of Malta complimented him greatly for it.



Knights of Malta charging from all sides.

In the year 1601, Guglielmo was Captain of the San Giorgio Ship and went to Florence on the occasion of the Wedding of Maria de' Medici with King of France Henry IV and escorted Her Majesty until Marseilles, France, with an escort of ships of the Order of Malta.





Wedding of our cousins' cousin Princess Maria de' Medici with King Henry IV of France by artist Peter Paul Rubens



Detail of the arrival in France of Princess Maria de' Medici to marry King Henry IV of France by famous artist Peter Paul Rubens; Knight of Malta Guglielmo Guadagni, commander of the escort of Princess Marie de Medici, can be seen standing on the left (with a black mustache and the uniform of Knight of Malta). This painting is now in the Louvre Museum, Paris, France.

On August 17<sup>th</sup> of the same year he commanded the disembarkment of four Galleys of the Order of Malta, as he was the captain of the abovementioned Galley of San Giorgio, and they conquered the Fortress of Passau from the Turks (see picture below)





Turkish fortress of Passau

On August 13, 1602 the City of Mumetta was taken by five Galleys of the Order of Malta, under the command of Guglielmo Guadagni, who tried to stop the inhabitants of the city from throwing stones on his soldiers from the top of the city walls. Thirty of his soldiers were killed and he was badly injured, but he was able to conquer the city.

In 1604, he conquered Slimani in Caramania by day with two warships and captured eleven Turkish ships in the harbor and 35 bronze cannons and was able to keep the city for eight days in his power, and from here he heard of the City of Namur and he sailed for it and he conquered it by night with his own people and he took 55 pieces of artillery also of bronze from it and 400 slaves and he kept the city for ten days, but outside of the town the Turks poisoned the water and many of his soldiers died and he caught a disease which lasted a long time.



City of Namur, Turkey





Ancien Roman door in Caramania, Southern Turkey.

In 1606 Guglielmo conquered Fenicia attacking it by day with only two ships, where he caught many slaves and took 10 bronze cannons.

In 1607 he found himself in the attack of Bona, made by the Army of the Very Sereine Grand-Duke of Tuscany Ferdinando 1<sup>st</sup>, where he commanded both the Vanguard and the Reargard of the desembarment, and he took its castle by assault, with brave and obstinate fighting, as those Barbarians never wanted to surrender as long as any of them was still alive.



Bona, Algeria

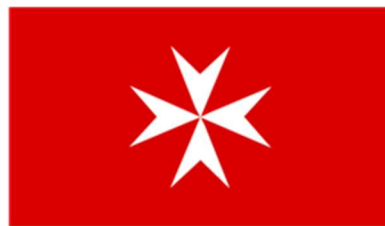
In 1608 the abovementioned Knight Guglielmo Guadagni found himself commander of the Galleons of the Very Sereine Highness of Tuscany to try and attack twice the Fortress of Laja, together with the ships of the same Highness, and he found himself the Commander both of all the attackers and of the galleons, and of the other warships and of the Knights of Santo Stefano themselves; but because they found the fortress well guarded with cavalry because of their civil wars, he decided to reembark all his troops and because of their good military discipline he did not lose any of his men and he was greatly commended for it.

On October 17, while he was General of nine galleons of the same Grand Duke of Tuscany he went on a reconnaissance trip to see the Turkish fleet, which had a great number of Ships, backed up by the Army of galleons, which he fought, defeated, and annihilated, an endeavor that no other Power or Army had ever dared to try before; the battle lasted the whole night, and even part of the following day, in which they took the great galleon of the Wife of the Sultan, even though they feared that somebody might have set it maliciously on fire.





Sea Battle between Turks and Knights of Malta - “Haseki Sultan” i.e. “Chief Wife of the Sultan”



Flag of the Turkish fleet and of the Turkish (Ottoman) Empire - Flag of the Knights of Malta - Ottoman (Turkish) Empire at its largest.

Italy is very close to its North-African and Western borders.

The island of Malta is the little almost invisible dot under Sicily, between Sicily, Tunis, Libya and Southern Greece. Except for Malta and Sicily they were all part of the Turkish Empire.

Coming back from the above trip Guglielmo found Grand Duke of Tuscany Ferdinando I dead, so for private business of his he went to France and arrived at the Court to give homage to King of France Henry IV the Great, who treated him very kindly and through Monsieur de Zamet offered to hire him at his service with a large honorable salary.

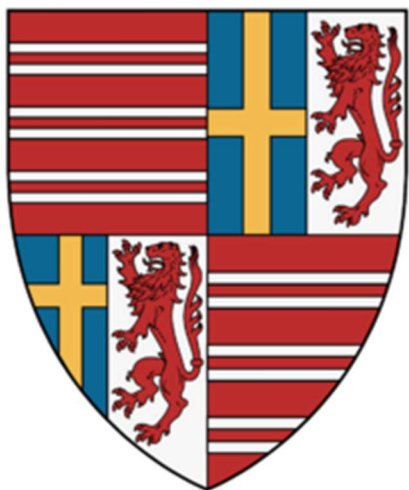


Grand Duke Ferdinando I de' Medici (1549-1609) in his old age; Grand Duke Cosimo II de' Medici (1590-1621)

However, as Guglielmo had already engaged himself with Grand Duke Cosimo II de' Medici (picture above), he could not accept such an offer; so he returned to Florence and on October 10, 1610, with the galleons of His Very Sereine Highness in the East he fought against 23 Turkish Galleons with the army of His Sereine Highness under his command and a big Galleon of Turks, North of Capobianco in Cyprus, and even though it was a very large fight, the Tuscan Army was not damaged.

In 1613, he went as War Counselor of the Very Sereine Francesco de' Medici in the expedition made to help Mantua and in 1615 he died in Florence in a time when the same Highness of Tuscany had decided to give him the position of General of the Cavalry and the great Cross of Marshal of his Order and wanting to recognize both as a reward for his courage and for his integrity as a Knight famous for his well known military operations, and if he had lived longer he would have obtained the first and highest honors of his Order.





Order of the Holy Spirit.



Guglielmo Guadagni's Castle of Boutheon, France near Lyon.