

On the hills behind Lucca, my father Tonino Carloni had inherited a large olive oil farm (i.e. 4,000 olive trees with 4 families of peasants working on it and an old half ruined castle, called Montemagno [“Big Mountain”]) My mother Isabella Guadagni managed it but she was often abroad with my father, who was an Italian diplomat, so I managed it, by going there once a month for a few hours during the harvest season (December-March). Eventually we sold it. Three of the four families of peasants stole from us, as we were so seldom there to keep an eye on them, but the fourth peasant, named Cesare Cinquini, was very honest and even though he had only 1,000 olive trees like everybody else, his share of the harvest that went to us owners (43% of the total) was 3 times as big as the other ones. Originally Cesare wanted to become a Catholic Priest but my Protestant American Grandmother Eleanor Graham Allen Carloni convinced him to get married and work as her peasant, which he did and had four or five children with his wife.



Rural town of Montemagno



Ruins of our castle of Montemagno – we had a large apartment in it for us at the 1st floor and a family of peasants lived on the 2nd floor.



Old medieval tower of our castle. Isabella liked to take care of old castles and family farmland so she enjoyed being the owner of Montemagno.