

Translation of cousin Marco Guadagni's email to me on topics related to the History of the Guadagni Family.

Dear Francesco,

In putting in order with my brother Andrea the papers which have arrived during the last years in the house of Picille (where Tecla and all the Guadagni met a few years ago), where my parents (Adriano and Betty) have lived since 1971, we thought about assembling and putting on line documents for a "History for the grandchildren" adding some explanatory writings to it.

In preparing these writings I did some research (mostly through Internet) and the most interesting subjects were obviously Aunt Lolly (nickname for "Isabella") with her three husbands and her sister Emma, with her relationship with the Duke of Parma, subject of a book and a movie.

This is how I met the Pejacevic Family and their interesting history, both in the past centuries and in the most recent ones. Eventually, because of the merits they acquired in fighting the Turks in the war the latter were conducting against the troops of Pope Innocent XI Odescalchi, of whom the Pejacevic were the representatives in the area, the Emperor of Austria had given the Pejacevic the border between Hungary and Croatia (which did not yet exist in those times and was called "Lower Hungary").



Pope Innocent XI Odescalchi (1611-1689) Holy Roman Emperor Leopold 1st (1640-1705) Sultan of Turkey Sabbatai Zevi (1626-1676)

That border had always been a problematic area because of the friction between the Christian and the Moslem populations (of the Turkish Empire). Later on, during the Communist dictatorship of Tito (1892-1980), the



Josip Broz Tito

Pejacevic were expropriated and exiled. Recently, Croatia has become independent and I now own a country house in it, Located in Rebici, on the Arsa Canal, in the region of Istria.

In my amateurish (and somewhat “accommodated”) research on the Guadagni of the 19th Century what strikes me is that they move around Europe more easily and glibly than what we are able to do today in the European Union, in which Nationalisms are in fact stronger than in those times. Aunt Lolly, for example, first marries a Hungarian/Croatian (where did she meet him? What language did they use to communicate with one another?), then a Belgian and finally an almost cousin, who, once he was widowed, married a niece of his deceased wife. More than the History, I would like to better understand the “sociology” of those times, but it is a field in which it is not easy to find easily accessible writings.

From this point of view my grandfather Giacomo Guadagni’s autobiography is also interesting (unhappily he interrupted it when he was twelve; I can send you the link if you are interested), with the tale of how his father Guadagno’s (another peculiar family member) family lived at La Traversa (note of Francesco Carloni de Querqui. - Guadagni mountain large chalet in the Appennines, halfway between Florence and Bologna; the family owned it and spent Summer and Fall in it for 4 generations, starting with great-grandfather Guadagno who bought it and transformed it from a Mountain Inn to a noble Bavarian style Chalet, which could comfortably accommodate twenty people for the night, disseminated in 10 bedrooms, plus two smaller bedrooms for the incoming servants; during WW II it was in turn the German and then the American headquarters during the Fall and Winter of 1944; part of it was destroyed by a bomb, but my mother Isabella Guadagni rebuilt it exactly as it was before; the property also had a house for the farmer and his family, whose daughter-in-law was our cook, and his son our butler; the farmer had a cow, who gave us milk, several chicken and rabbits, which we ate, a large garden and a 5 acres backyard, with a huge lawn and 100 gigantic oak trees; there was also a tennis court); of the “nobles” who cover the walls with newspapers instead of wallpaper and glue made with flour! I see in it the love for tinkering that my father Adriano had at Picille and I have at Rebici, in Croatia.

Affectionate greetings,

Marco