

In their progressive conquest of South Eastern Europe, the Turks were aiming at conquering Vienna, capital of the Holy Roman Empire, as door to Central Europe and also because it was built around the Danube River, the most important waterway between the Black Sea, on whose shores Constantinople, aka Istanbul, capital of the Turkish (aka Ottoman) Empire was located, and Central Europe.

The Ottoman army had already besieged Vienna for 2 months in August 1683, two years before Ascanio Guadagni's birth, but it had been defeated on September 12, 1683, by an Army of the Holy Roman Empire allied to the Holy League of Poland and Lithuania.



Battle of Vienna, September 12, 1683

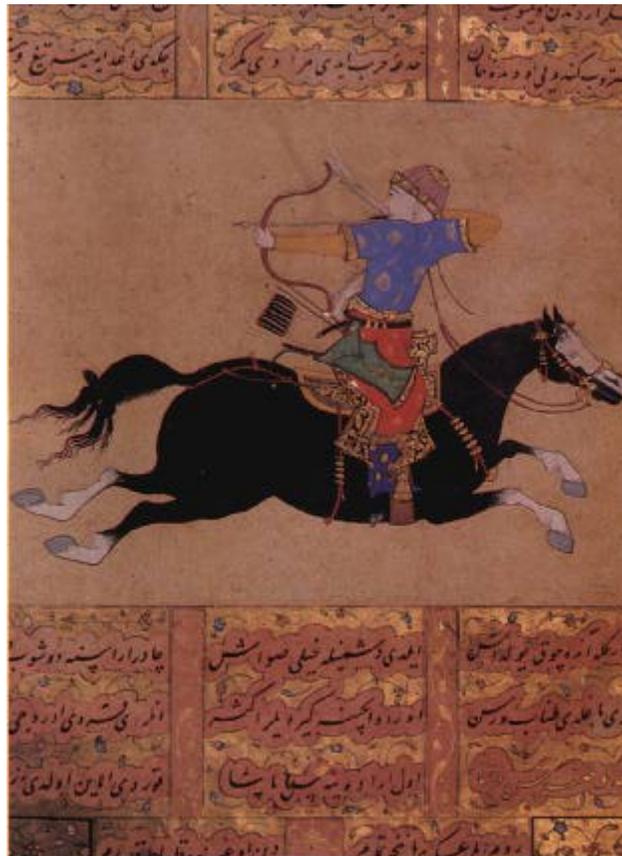
However, in 1716, the Ottoman Army was coming back trying to regain some of the territories lost in the Peace Treaty of Karlowitz (1699), following their defeat at Vienna in 1683. So Prince Eugene of Savoy, at the head of the Austrian army, in which captain Ascanio Guadagni had just enlisted, marched towards them (Austro-Turkish War 1716-1718).

In 1716, Grand Vizier Damat Ali (second in command in the whole Ottoman Empire, which spread across 3 continents: Europe, Asia and Africa), gathered a 150,000 strong Ottoman army at Belgrade, at that time part of the Ottoman Empire, at the core of which were 40,000 Janissaries [the Janissaries were chosen before they reached adulthood from among the Christian population living in the European Provinces and Anatolia of the Muslim Ottoman Empire to become the elite fighting force of the Ottoman Empire], 20,000 Sipahi [Ottoman cavalry] and 10,000 Tatars (Volga River

Cavalry aka “Golden Horde”) together with some renegade Kuruc cavalry (Hungarian anti-Hapsburg rebels, some of whom were Protestants rebelling against the Catholic Hapsburg Monarchy).



Janissaries



Ottoman Sipahi (“mounted archer”)



Tatars



Kuruc Cavalry

The entire Austrian Army of Prince Eugene numbered 83,000 not much more than half of Damat Ali's army. The decisive battle took place on August 5, 1716 at Petrovaradin.



Petrovaradin Fortress over the Danube River.

The fortress, which already existed in the Paleolithic Age (from 19,000 to 15,000 BC), was strengthened by the Austrians in 1687, after it had been under the Turks for 150 years.



Royal Gate of the fortress.



Underground passages of the fortress.



Petrovaradin Fortress (on top) and town of Novi Sad (at the bottom).

Prince Eugene decided to engage the Ottomans at Petrovaradin. He set the Imperial army 83,000 strong on the march from their quarters in Futog. There was an Austrian 8,000 man garrison in the fortress. In the Austrian army served Croatian and Hungarian infantry and cavalry regiments (approx. 42,000 men) and Serbian soldiers.

On August 2, the first skirmish between the Imperial vanguard and Ottoman horsemen occurred. By the next day, the Grand Vizier had already reached Petrovaradin and immediately dispatched 30,000 Janissaries against the imperial positions. They dug trenches and began to bombard the fortress.

The core of the Imperial army only crossed the Danube on the night of August 5 by two pontoon bridges after which they encamped.

At 7 o'clock on the morning of August 5, Prince Eugene began the Austrian offensive. While the right flank under Prince Alexander von Wurtemberg stormed an Ottoman artillery battery, the Imperials rode into trouble in the center - deployment because through the small gate of the fortress they could only proceed slowly. The Janissaries went on the counter-attack immediately and forced the imperial army back into the fortress. Prince Eugene sealed off the central incursion with additional troops and sent his cavalry into the Ottoman flanks, by which means they were encircled. The Grand Vizier could not manage to break the encirclement with his Sipahis nor could he regroup his troops. The Tatars even pulled back without engaging in combat.

After the defeated Ottomans were wiped out, Prince Eugene personally led his troops against the Grand Vizier's encampment. Supported by the guns of six frigates of the Danube River fleet, the battle was won by two o'clock, with the Grand Vizier himself among the slain. Barely 50,000 Ottomans returned to Belgrade. Soon, from Constantinople came a messenger from the Sultan with order of execution of Damat Ali. He is buried at the Belgrade Fortress, Kalemegdan, in a tomb known as "Damat Ali Pasino Turbe".



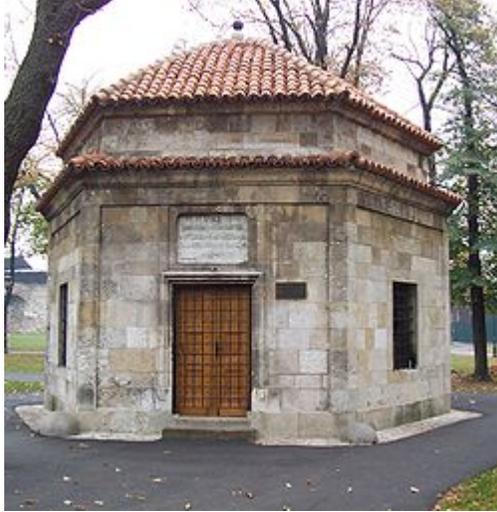
Prince Charles Alexander of Wurttemberg (1684-1737), officer in Prince Eugene's Imperial Army



Grand Vizier



Officials in front of the Grand Vizier



Tomb of Damat Ali, in the fortress of Belgrade.

After the war, a church commemorating this event was built on Tekje, also known as Snowy Mary. The church is special because it has both Catholic and Orthodox altars and both Christian denominations use it. The site is a place of pilgrimage on every August 5, anniversary of the above mentioned Austrian Victory by Prince Eugene of Savoy and Ascanio Guadagni against the Ottomans in 1716.



Church of Saint Mary of the Snow, Tekje.

We have no specific detail on Ascanio's behavior during the hard fought battle against the Ottomans. But, by his fast and brilliant career in the Austrian Army we can be sure that he fought strenuously and like a hero during the whole battle and greatly contributed to the Austrian victory.

On October 12, 1716, the Austrian troops, led by Prince Eugene and Ascanio Guadagni attacked the Castle of Temeswar, in Hungary. The Ottomans led by Grand Vizier Kara Ahmed Pasa had captured it on July 26, 1552 (164 years before). They had transformed it into the administrative center of the Ottoman Province of Temeswar. They rebuilt its castle-fortress and used it as a major military base, along with Belgrade, in Serbia.





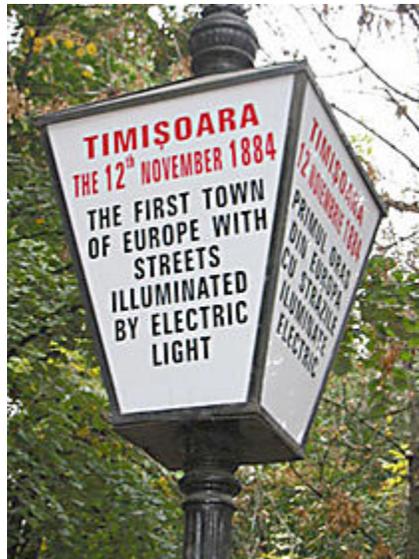
Inside of an Islamic Mosque.



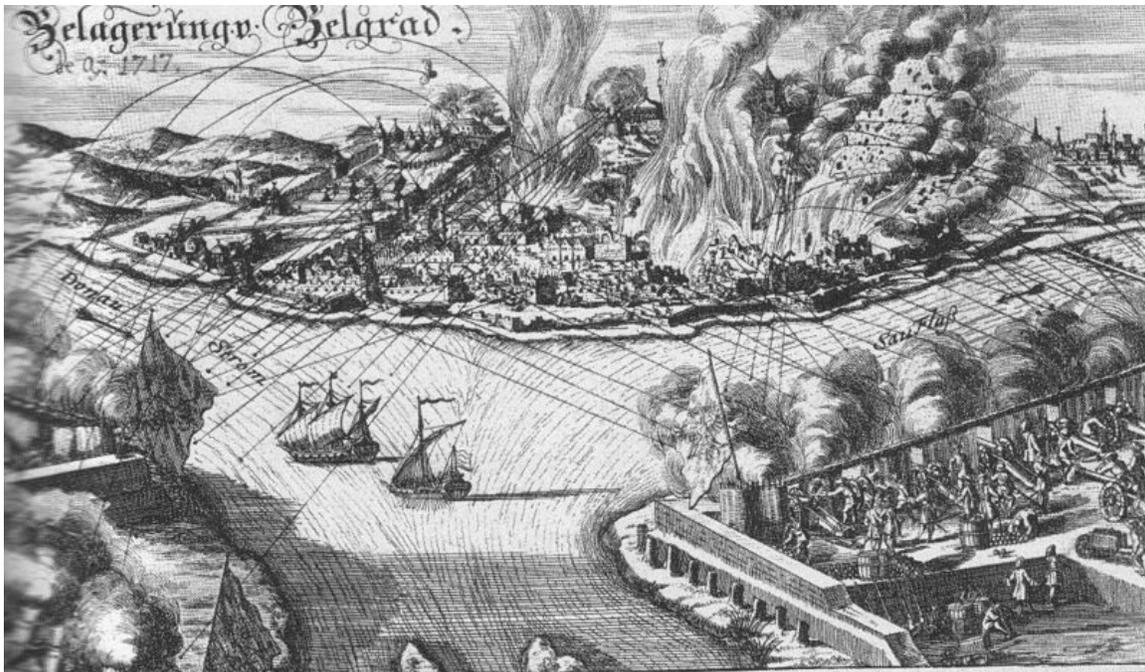
Turkish Public Bath

After a battle of 6 days, on October 18, 1716, Prince Eugene, Ascanio and the Austrian Army conquered the castle and the city. Because the town had burned down during the siege, it was completely rebuilt by Claudius Florimund Mercy, appointed as Governor of the city by Prince Eugene.

Under Hapsburg rule, a new stone fortress was built around the city in 1723. Inside the walls, houses, hospitals, schools and churches were being raised, while outside the city, factories were being opened. German, Italian and Spanish settlers were brought in to settle in the area.



Temeswar (“Timisoara” in Hungarian) became the first European city to have electric street lights in 1884. It was also the first city in Hungary and Romania to have an ambulance station.



Austrian conquest of Belgrade 1717 by Prince Eugene of Savoy and Ascanio Guadagni during the Austrian-Turkish War of 1716-1718. Explosion of the Ottoman powder magazine in the center of the picture.

After the success of his 1716 campaign, Prince Eugene of Savoy and Ascanio Guadagni had one main objective: the conquest of the fortress of Belgrade, Serbia. The city is located exactly at the confluence of the Sava River and the Danube. The fortress, located on an arm of the Sava, can be attacked from the South. The strategic



Panoramic view of Belgrade and the confluence of the Sava River and the Danube from Belgrade Fortress.

value of this position lies in its walls which can resist both attacks from the south-east and those from the north-west and this makes it a key to the Balkans for both the Austrian and the Ottoman Empire. In the map below, you can see Belgrade on the Danube River (border between the Balkans in the South, and the rest of Eastern Europe in the North), more or less in the center of the picture. Southern Italy and part of Sicily are in the lower left,



Constantinople (aka Istanbul), capital of the Ottoman Empire, even though it is not indicated, is located where the Black Sea meets the unnamed small body of water north-east of the Aegean Sea.

The Turks dominated most of the Balkans and they would often organize surprise attacks on the coastal towns of Apulia (the heel of the Italian “boot”). My brother-in-law, Gian Domenico Profilo, is from that area. When things go wrong, most of his friends, still say “Mamma, arrivano i Turchi!” (“Mom, the Turks are arriving [to raid and plunder]!”), centuries-old expression of fear of Ottoman attacks still in usage.

In 1688, Belgrade was wrested from the Ottoman after a siege, but two years later, the Ottoman Empire recaptured it. Prince Eugene was seriously wounded during the first siege and now strongly supported the need for a river flotilla on the Danube as being essential for the conquest of Belgrade. The mission of the fleet was to provide assistance and support to the imperial army. Prince Eugene managed to enlist the Emperor’s support, and the crew for three ships was hastily recruited in the Netherlands.



Prince Eugene of Savoy (1663-1736) from the school of Godfrey Kneller, 1712.



Dutch Sailors capturing Mauritius Island's Giant Tortoise

The allies of Austria were Russia, which limited itself to a prudent line of defense, and Poland, both still militarily engaged in the Great Northern War against Sweden and Charles XII.

Meanwhile, the States of the Holy Roman Empire provided only a modest cash contribution and Bavaria joined the side of Austria.

On May 13, 1717 Prince Eugene and Ascanio left Vienna with their troops from Futtak. Even before the troops were assembled, on May 21, Prince Eugene and Ascanio began their march toward Belgrade with about 70,000 men, reinforced by 6,000 Bavarian and other Austrian troops stationed in the Banat for a total of about 100,000 men. In addition, Prince Eugene commanded the Danube flotilla, consisting of about fifty boats of various types and ten naval vessels armed with light artillery. Eugene wanted to reach the city and begin the siege as soon as possible before any Ottoman troops would reinforce the city. The biggest problem was that the city could not be attacked from the south, and progress could only be made after crossing the Danube and the Sava.



Sava River in Belgrade

He chose the direct route, by crossing the Sava River, although, on this side, the defense of the fortress was the strongest. On the advice of one of his generals, and maybe Ascanio, he chose to return across the Danube, surprising the Ottomans who did not expect the enemy to cross the river at that point. The Austrian army managed to cross almost intact between June 15 and 16. Eugene deployed his artillery while the Imperial troops began digging trenches, both in front of the fortress and at the rear of the army.



18<sup>th</sup> century trench

The Ottoman defenders in Belgrade numbered 30,000 men. Prince Eugene and Ascanio were informed that an Ottoman army had been sent to relieve Belgrade. This army arrived on July 28. However, instead of taking actions against the besiegers, they

also began digging trenches. Prince Eugene's troops were caught between the fortress and the relief army. Because of losses to cannon fire as well as malaria, the strength of the Austrian army was slowly diminishing.



Skeletons of 18<sup>th</sup> century soldiers, who died of disease.

The situation became perilous because the Ottomans wanted to let the enemy wear themselves down in a long siege. While the situation was rather worrying for the imperial troops, on August 14, Belgrade was suddenly shaken by a powerful explosion: a mortar shell struck the powder magazine inside the fortress and 3,000 defenders were killed in the explosion. At this time, Eugene ordered an attack on the Ottomans for the next day: at midnight, on August 16, the attack began with infantry in the center and cavalry on the wings. Apart for those men necessary to defend the trenches facing the fortress, the entire army led by Ascanio was involved in the attack.

The night attack surprised the Ottomans; after the first hours of fighting, while the sun rose, the Ottomans had predicted an opening in the center of the Austrian attack and attacked in force, before a counterattack by the Austrian cavalry, led by Eugene himself and Ascanio, not only pushed them back but took the trenches, throwing the Ottoman camp into turmoil and causing the soldiers to flee.



Eugene of Savoy and Ascanio Guadagni counter attack in the Battle of Belgrade and defeat the Ottomans.

After 10 hours of fighting, the battle was won by the Austrians. The garrison of Belgrade surrendered after the defeat of the army in exchange for safe passage. Ottoman losses were approximately 20,000 men and a large amount of equipment, ammunition and artillery.



However Ascanio was wounded for the second time, in the counterattack (in the center, falling backwards, hit by a bullet, while leading the attack against the Belgrade Fortress).

Belgrade fell into the hands of the Austrians, and a year later, the Passarowitz Peace (July 2, 1718) was signed by Austria which obtained at the expense of the Ottoman Empire, the area of Banat, Belgrade, North Serbia, Wallachia and other neighboring areas. Under Prince Eugene of Savoy and Ascanio Guadagni the Austrian Empire reached its maximum expansion and the Balkans. Belgrade remained a territory under the domination of Austria for over twenty years.

Ascanio recovered from his wound in the Battle of Belgrade and participated in the war against Spain, in Sicily.

Frustrated by the loss of his Italian possessions after the War of Spanish Succession (to which Ascanio had participated) Bourbon King Philip V of Spain invaded Sicily in July 1718. He was taking advantage of the fact that Austria was tied up in the Austro-Turkish War of 1716-18, in which Ascanio Guadagni himself was fighting.

However, following the victory of Belgrade by Prince Eugene of Savoy and Ascanio Guadagni, on July 21, 1718, the Treaty of Passarowitz ended the war with Turkey (aka the Ottoman Empire).

Meanwhile the Spanish Army, under the Command of the Marquis of Lede, had conquered all of Sicily, with the exception of the area around Messina.

On October 13, 1718, the British Fleet landed an Austrian army near Milazzo, close to Messina, under Austrian Count von Daun, to lift the siege by the Spanish forces. This led to the battle of Milazzo on October 15.

Led by Ascanio Guadagni, the Austrians attacked very early in the morning, taking the Spanish by surprise. The two Spanish Dragoon regiments (Batavia and Lusitania) stopped the attack, to give the rest of the Spanish army time to deploy.

Both regiments were decimated, but their sacrifice gave Lede the opportunity to counterattack. The Austrians were pushed back and the Spanish pursued the fleeing army, causing many casualties.

The Austrian lost 1,500 killed or wounded and 300 prisoners. The Spanish lost 1,500 killed or wounded and 200 prisoners. Messina was taken by the Spanish, but the Marquis de Lede did not take the opportunity to drive the Austrians completely from the island, leaving them a bridgehead around Milazzo. This bridgehead and naval supremacy gave the Austrians a chance to send over more troops the next year, leading to the Battle of Francavilla. This long interval in Milazzo gave Ascanio time to recover completely from his wound in the Battle of Belgrade.



Milazzo, Eastern Sicily



Milazzo Castle

By June 1719, the Austrians had moved an experienced army of 24,000 men under the Count of Mercy from the Balkans to the South of Italy, where they were sailed across the Messina Strait by the British Fleet.



The Strait of Messina from the Calabrian Coast. Snow topped Volcano Mount Etna can be seen in Sicily, across the Strait.

The Spanish had abandoned the siege of Milazzo and pulled back to a more favorable position around the village of Francavilla di Sicilia, where they were covered by a river and a monastery on a hill.



Francavilla di Sicilia and the Alcantara Valley, close to the Northern slopes of the Volcano Mount Etna.

On the morning of June 22, 1719, the Austrians, led by Ascanio, attacked the fortified Spanish positions in three columns. The first column attacked the fortified village of Francavilla three times, but was pushed back every time. The second column succeeded in conquering the trenches on the foot of the monastery hill, but were stopped by the second Spanish line. The Count of Mercy was wounded in this phase of the battle. The third column attacked the Spanish left flank, drove them off San Juan Hill, but were themselves pushed back under heavy Spanish fire and had to take cover in a crevice, suffering many casualties including general Holstein, who led the attack.

The Spanish artillery under the Marquis of Villadarias played a crucial role during the battle, causing many casualties and confusion in the Austrian army.



The battle raged until evening, when a counterattack by the Spanish cavalry removed all hopes of an Austrian victory. The Austrians withdrew, leaving 3,100 dead and wounded. The Spanish losses were 2,000 dead and wounded.

The Marquis de Lede didn't pursue the Austrians, giving them the opportunity to recover from this defeat. The Austrians later besieged Messina, which fell under 9 enemy attacks, several of them led by Ascanio.



Austrian troops attacking

The war continued with Count of Mercy, who had recovered from his wound in Francavilla, besieging Palermo, the capital of Sicily. The peace was signed in the Treaty of The Hague (1720) on February 17, 1720. The Spanish troops had to evacuate Sicily and were transported back to Spain by the British Navy. The island of Sicily became an Austrian possession.



Count Claudius Florimund of Mercy (1666-1734)

In the Austrian-Spanish War Ascanio distinguished himself and was promoted Field Commander.” We can imagine Ascanio participating in all the major battles of the 2-year war, courageously leading his soldiers in attack and defense against the enemy wherever and whenever needed.”

In 1730, at 45 years old, Ascanio was already general of the Austrian Cavalry.

Pictures of 18<sup>th</sup> century Austrian cavalry under General Guadagni



Austrian Cavalry Grenadier 18<sup>th</sup> century



Austrian cavalry officer



Austrian 18<sup>th</sup> century cavalry charging



Guard cavalry reiter regiment early 18<sup>th</sup> century dragoon

General Ascanio Guadagni was sent to Italy to oppose the Treaty of Seville, which granted the succession to the Grand Duchy of Tuscany and to the Duchy of Parma and Piacenza to a Spanish prince. He did not remain there long, because the dispute was settled peacefully.

The Italian campaign, which began in 1733, was much more serious. It was fought for the Succession of Augustus II, King of Poland, which other European powers widened in pursuit of their own national interests. The war's major military campaigns occurred outside Poland. Spain tried to regain control over the kingdoms of Naples and Sicily, lost in the War of Spanish Succession, a few years before. General Guadagni was promptly sent to Southern Italy to defend the Hapsburg Austrian dominion of it against the Bourbon Spanish efforts to recapture it. The Austrians chose to defend a large number of fortresses. Don Carlos, son of King Philip V of Spain and heir to the Spanish throne, assembled an army composed primarily of Spaniards, but also including some troops from France and Savoy, allies of Spain.

Moving through the Papal States (Rome and Central Italy), Carlos' army flanked the Austrian defense at Mignano, forcing them to retreat in the fortress of Capua.



Castle of Mignano



Capua – walls of the city fortress visible upfront with old Roman door.

Don Carlos was then practically welcomed into Naples, by the city fathers, as the Austrian viceroy had fled toward Bari, and the fortresses held by the Austrians in the city were quickly captured.



Contemporary view of Bari, on the Adriatic Coast, in Apulia, clockwise from the upper left: Middle Age castle of Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II, night view of “Pane e pomodoro” (“bread and tomato”) beach, Bari University in Rossi Street, view of Punta Perotti seaside area, Ferrarese Square.

While maintaining a blockade by 6,000 soldiers of the largest Austrian holdings at Capua and Gaeta, a large portion of the allied army, 12,000 Spanish troops, led by their commander, Duke of Montemar, gave chase to the retreating Austrian Viceroy, Guido Visconti, and the remaining Austrian forces.

Visconti fled by ship on May 21 with one of his generals, leaving Giuseppe Antonio, Prince of Belmonte, with Ascanio, in command of the Austrian forces. The retreating Austrians were reinforced by troops that arrived from the island of Sicily, and a shipload of recruits that arrived at Taranto. Aware that the Spanish were likely to get reinforcements from their fleet, Belmonte moved to Bitonto on May 24 to force an action with Montemar before his army grew even larger.

Placing inexperienced troops in the town itself, Belmonte and Ascanio adapted low walls and two monasteries as a defensive line and awaited the Spaniards. Belmonte received later reports that Montemar was reinforced by 3,000 men, raising his troop count to about 14,000 experienced and well-equipped troops.

When the Spanish arrived on the scene at daybreak on May 25, Montemar lined his troops up to face the Austrians, infantry facing infantry, cavalry facing cavalry; as the Spanish cavalry significantly outnumbered the Austrian, some of them were held in reserve on the right flank.



Jose' Carrillo de Albornoz, duke of Montemar

After a few feints in which the Spaniards attempted to draw the Austrians out of their defenses, the attack commenced. In spite of being largely outnumbered, the Austrian cavalry, led by Cavalry General Ascanio Guadagni, fearlessly charged the overpowering Spaniards. The Austrian Black on Gold Two-headed eagle flag was floating in the wind. The Austrians were quickly surrounded, but bravely unloaded their pistols on their foes and then fought with their spears and swords. Bodies were falling all over the place, trampled by the horses' hoofs, disappearing under a thick brown dust. However, more Austrians were falling than Spaniards because attacked by more than one enemy at a time. Ascanio was everywhere, helping his men one by one, galloping where the battle was the toughest.

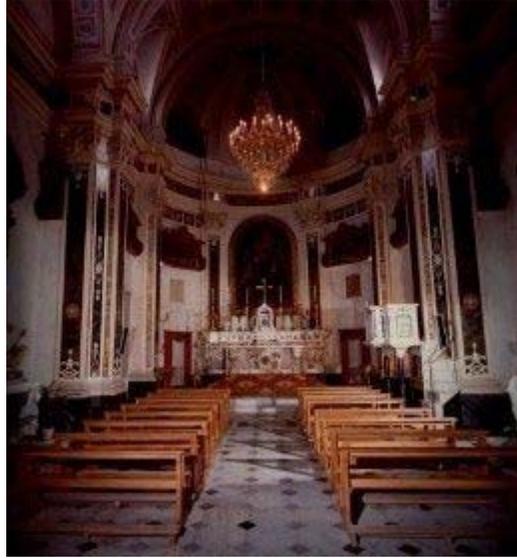
Around 10 am the Austrian cavalry finally gave way, with most of it beginning a disorganized retreat toward Bari. Ascanio, Commander in chief Giuseppe Antonio Belmonte and a few select friends remained behind to cover their retreat.

The rest of the Austrian collapsed, with some companies following the cavalry and others trying to escape to the north and into Bitonto.



Bitonto: Tower of Santa Croce.

Defenders in the two monasteries, whom Ascanio had quickly joined, held their ground, and those defenses were taken by storm. The garrison in the city surrendered the next day, owing to a shortage of ammunition and provisions. Some were crying: "We will never surrender...!" but Ascanio convinced them that without gunpowder it would be a useless slaughter by the well-armed Spaniards.



Monastery of Santa Maria delle Vergini (“Saint Mary of the Virgins”), Bitonto



Sanctuary of the Madonna of Sterpeto – near Bitonto.



Bitonto – St. Francis Church



Historical procession in Bitonto with costumes of the time of the battle - 1734.

Belmonte and Ascanio attempted to reorganize the remaining forces at Bari, capital of Apulia, but opposition from the local population, which was mobilizing in favor of the Spanish, made this virtually impossible. They ended up surrendering 3,800 men to the local authorities. Several hundred troops that escaped the battle to the north managed to reach Pescara, which had not yet been taken by the Spanish.

Other cities in the kingdom recognized Spanish rule, with only two Austrian-held fortresses continuing resistance until autumn. Gaeta, blockaded early in the conflict, was placed under siege and held until August. Count von Traun defended Capua until November 30, when he finally surrendered. His garrison marched out with full honors of war.



Don Carlos, future King Charles III of Spain, on horse at the Siege of Gaeta.



In 1734, fourteen years old Charles Edward Stuart, Jacobite Pretender to the throne of England (1720-1788), portrait above, observed the Siege of Gaeta. It was his first exposure to war. Later on, he fell in love with the “Nunziata” Guadagni Palace in Florence and bought it from Niccolo’ Guadagni.

The return of the Two Sicilies to Spain was confirmed by the Treaty of Vienna in 1738, which ended the war. Interestingly, both adversaries in the Battle of Bitonto were compensated for their valor. King Charles III of Spain named General Montemar “Duke of Bitonto”. Holy Roman Emperor Francis I promoted Ascanio to “Lieutenant-Marshal”.

Ascanio did not remain idle this time either. He was sent to Hungary, where war raged against the Turks.

As we remember, after the victorious campaign against the Ottoman Empire by Prince Eugene and marchese Ascanio Guadagni and the victory of Belgrade, the Treaty of Passarowitz 1718 had left the Austrians in control of Belgrade with Ottoman Bosnia restricted closely to its modern border behind the Drina, Sava and Una rivers. Austria was allied to Russia by a secret treaty but was reluctant to attack the Ottoman Empire following the Russian invasion of Turkish Crimea in 1736. Prince Eugene of Savoy died in 1736 and Austro-Russian relations were strained. Nonetheless Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI demanded that Austria honor its obligations and enter the war on Russia’s side the following year. With their mediation efforts Austrian diplomats managed to delude the Turks as to their intentions and the element of surprise was achieved when the Austrian army invaded in July 1737.

The overall Austrian commander was 63 year old Field Marshall Seckendorf, an experienced soldier who had fought in the 1717 campaign. He was disliked by his subordinates and the Hofkriegsrat in Vienna largely because of his blunt manner as well as being a Protestant. Command of the detached corps tasked with invading Bosnia went to Prince Hildburghausen. He was a favorite of the Emperor and had only reluctantly admitted he was too young and inexperienced for supreme command.

Seckendorf was scathing about the quality of his army. Recruits were described as poor specimens, with few veterans and irregulars who preferred stealing to fighting. He regarded many of the Generals incompetent and the supply situation chaotic.

Hildburghausen advanced on the Turkish fortress town of Banja Luka. The Vizier of Bosnia, Ali Pasha, son of a renegade Venetian physician and former Grand Vizier, moved his 20,939 militia, which included mounted Spahis and Bosnian frontiersmen, irregular light infantry together with regularly paid fortress troops and five companies of Janissaries.

When Ali Pasha arrived at Banja Luka his army came down from the hills onto the plain, the Janissaries in the centre with the Spahis and light troops on the wings. The Austrian had been reinforced with 8,000 regulars and Serbian irregulars bringing the total strength to around 20,000. They took up a defensive position with light cannon



Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI (1685-1740)

Infantry, using a bend in the river to protect their flanks. The centre and left wing of the Turks pushed the Austrians back and Hilburghausen reinforced his position with troops from the other side of the river. After some four hours of fighting the Ottoman right wing commander Ali Mohammed broke through and cut off the bridges. The Austrians fled, although most were slaughtered or drowned in the river Verbas. Only two hundred escaped. The besieging force retreated, leaving heavy weapons and equipment for the victorious Ottoman army.

Ascanio was with Seckendorf and the main Austrian army, advancing down the Morava Valley to Nish. He heard sadly about the Austrian defeat and regretted not being there. A few months later Ascanio defeated the Ottomans at Kornya, Eastern Hungary, and captured the fortress of Meadia, winning two of the very few victories by the Austrians in the Austrian-Turkey War of 1737-1739.



Hajdudorog, near Kornya, Hungarian Eastern Plain.

In 1738 the Ottoman forces took the initiative with a series of raids into Austrian territory. With the arrival of the main Ottoman army in 1738 Ottoman Bosnian forces reinforced by Tartar troops crossed the Una and captured the fortress of Ziren and devastated the border areas. Ali Pasha then concentrated his army and joined the main Ottoman army commanded by the Grand Vizier besieging Belgrade. The war ended with

the Peace of Belgrade on September 18, 1739. The Austrians gave up northern Serbia, Belgrade and portions of Bosnia and Valachia.

On October 20, 1740, Charles VI of Hapsburg, Holy Roman Emperor, King of Hungary, Croatia and Bohemia, Archduke of Austria, died. As we remember, he was the same age as Ascanio Guadagni, one year younger than King Philip V of Spain. When they were barely 20 and 21, they fought side by side or one against the other(s) in the War of Spanish Succession (1700-1713). On August 1, 1708, Charles VI married Elizabeth Christine of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttel, by whom he had his two children, Maria Theresa, born in 1717, and Maria Anna, born in 1718.

Lack of sons irked Emperor Charles and eventually led to the promulgation of the **Pragmatic Sanction of 1713**, a document which abolished male-only succession and declared his lands indivisible. For the next twenty years, Charles sought approval of the Sanction from the other European powers. In total, Great Britain, France, Saxony-Poland, the Dutch Republic, Spain, Venice, States of the Church, Prussia, Russia, Denmark, Savoy-Sardinia, Bavaria, and the Diet of the Holy Roman Empire recognized the sanction. France, Spain, Saxony-Poland, Bavaria and Prussia later reneged.

For a short time, however, it seemed that the Pragmatic Sanction was gratuitous, when Empress Elizabeth Christine gave birth to a baby boy in 1716. But he died soon after. A year later, Maria Theresa, his elder surviving child, was born. Contemporaries wrote that at her baptismal ceremony, Charles, despite his best efforts, appeared upset at the child's gender. The next year saw the arrival of another girl, Maria Anna.



Charles VI with his wife and their daughters in 1730.

The issue of Charles' elder daughter's marriage was raised early in her childhood. She was first betrothed to Leopold Clement of Lorraine, who was supposed to come to Vienna and meet Maria Theresa. Instead, he died of smallpox in 1723, which upset Maria Theresa (who was 6 years old). Leopold Clement's younger brother, Francis Stephen (1708-1765), then came to Vienna to replace him.

Francis Stephen remained at the imperial court until 1729 (when he was 21), when he ascended the throne of Lorraine, but was not formally promised Maria Theresa's hand until January 31, 1736, during the War of the Polish Succession. King Louis XV of France demanded that Maria Theresa's fiance' surrender his ancestral Duchy of Lorraine to accommodate his father-in-law, Stanislaw Leszczyński, who had been deposed as King

of Poland. Francis Stephen was to receive the Grand Duchy of Tuscany upon the death of childless Gian Gastone de' Medici.



Francis Stephen in hunting outfit, when he was fifteen, in 1723, when he came to Vienna, after his older brother's death, to meet his future wife Maria Theresa, who was six at the time..



Maria Theresa of Austria when she met Francis Stephen. They will get married and have 16 children.



Grand-Duchy of Tuscany at its greatest extent (The star is where Florence is located).

The couple were married on February 12, 1736, he was 28, she was 19.



Maria Theresa and Francis Stephen at their wedding breakfast, by Martin van Meytens

Upon Gian Gastone de' Medici's death on July 9, 1737, Francis Stephen ceded Lorraine and became Grand Duke of Tuscany. In 1738, Charles VI sent the young couple to make their formal entry into Tuscany. Ottavio Guadagni (1684-1746), older brother of Ascanio, was the main responsible member of the Government of Florence for the organization of their triumphant entry into the city. A triumphal arch was erected at the Porta san Gallo celebration, where it remains today.



Triumphal Arch built by the committee led by Ottavio Guadagni in Piazza San Gallo, Florence for the entry of Maria Theresa and Francis Stephen in the city. The Austrian two-headed eagle can be seen sculpted in the center of both sides of the arch.

Their stay in Florence was brief. Charles VI soon recalled them, as he feared he might die while his heiress was miles away in Tuscany. In the summer of 1738, Austria suffered defeats during the ongoing Russo-Turkish War. The Viennese population rioted at the cost of war. Francis Stephen was popularly despised, as he was thought to be a cowardly French spy.

Charles VI died on October 20, 1740, probably of mushroom poisoning. He left Austria an impoverished state, bankrupted by the recent Turkish war and the War of Polish Succession; the treasury contained only 100,000 florins, which were claimed by his widow. The army numbered only 80,000 men, most of whom had not been paid in months. In her *Political Testament*, Maria Theresa recalls: "I found myself without money, without credit, without army, without experience and knowledge of my own and finally, also without any counsel because each one of them at first wanted to wait and see how things would develop."

Immediately after her ascension, a number of European sovereigns who had recognized Maria Theresa as heiress broke their promises: Queen Elizabeth of Spain, Elector Charles Albert of Bavaria, King Frederick II of Prussia, and the King of France. At this point, 55 years old Marshal Ascanio Guadagni gallantly took her side and went back into battle leading the outnumbered, unpaid and poorly armed Austrian troops, in defense of their young, 23 years old, Empress.

Historian Passerini does not know which battles Ascanio fought in the wearisome War of Austrian Succession (1740-1748). We know for sure that, after the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, which ended the war, Ascanio was promoted to Field-Marshal in 1754. As we know the rank of Field-Marshal of the Holy Roman Empire was the highest military rank existing in the Empire. It meant being the supreme commander of all the armies of the Holy Roman Empire, responsible only to the Holy Roman Emperor himself and nobody else.

However, we will list here the victories of the armies of the Holy Roman Empire during the 9 year war. I am sure that Ascanio participated heroically in several of them.



Ascanio Guadagni during the War of Austrian Succession.

In 1741, Austrian troops move on the offensive against Bavarian forces and occupy Munich.

In 1742, Maria Theresa won the full support of the Hungarian Diet and the promise of aid from Great Britain. Early in 1742, Austrian troops drive French and Bavarian troops out of Bohemia.

They win victories over the Spanish in Italy.

By 1744, Austro-British forces enter Alsace, in Eastern France.

In 1744, King Frederick of Prussia invades Bohemia (part of the Holy Roman Empire), He is soon expelled by Austrian and Saxon forces. Bavaria is again overrun by Austrian troops and forced out of the war.

By the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, the Hapsburg retain the major part of their Empire, even though they have to cede most of the region of Silesia to Prussia. It is however a great victory for Maria Theresa, considering the very weak conditions from where she started, and the power of her adversaries. Important part of her success is due to Ascanio Guadagni's generous active participation in it.

At this point, Ascanio had to retire from the army, due to the many wounds which made him unable to continue an active military life, states Passerini. I presume several of these wounds came during the “War for the Austrian Succession” as we know of only two before that.

We will include information on the monument of Slavonski Brod Fortress, location: Slavonski Brod, Pozesko-slavonska County, Croatia, date: 1691-1731; Type of Monument: Military urbanism; Artist: Johan Lucas von Hildebrandt (1668-1745), related to Ascanio Guadagni, received from our cousin Marco Guadagni.



According to plans adopted in 1715, the fortress seemed to take the form of fortresses from an earlier period initially, differing from them only in size. The large size was the result of adopting the quadrant style of the existing settlement. This originally square fortress was modernized in 1729 by the Swiss architect Nicolaus Doxat de Demoret, the main architect of all Border towns including Vauban in Austria, who transformed it into an impressive star-shaped fortress. After defeat by Turkey (1737-1739), the death of Emperor Charles VI and the subsequent change in historical circumstances during the early reign of Empress Maria Theresa, the military border became the main residence of army personnel in preparation for the battlefield.

**The military commander of Slavonia, General Ascanio Guadagni – a Florentine in the Imperial service and later Marshall and Governor of Tyrol – (“bold” characters in the original) muted his proposals for the construction of a church at**

Slavonski Brod in 1739. On his initiative, in 1742, the Court Council of War decided to construct a Military Church at Slavovnski Brod.

Source:[[http://www.discoverbaroqueart.org/database\\_item.php?id=monument;BAR;hr;Mon11;14;en&cp](http://www.discoverbaroqueart.org/database_item.php?id=monument;BAR;hr;Mon11;14;en&cp)]

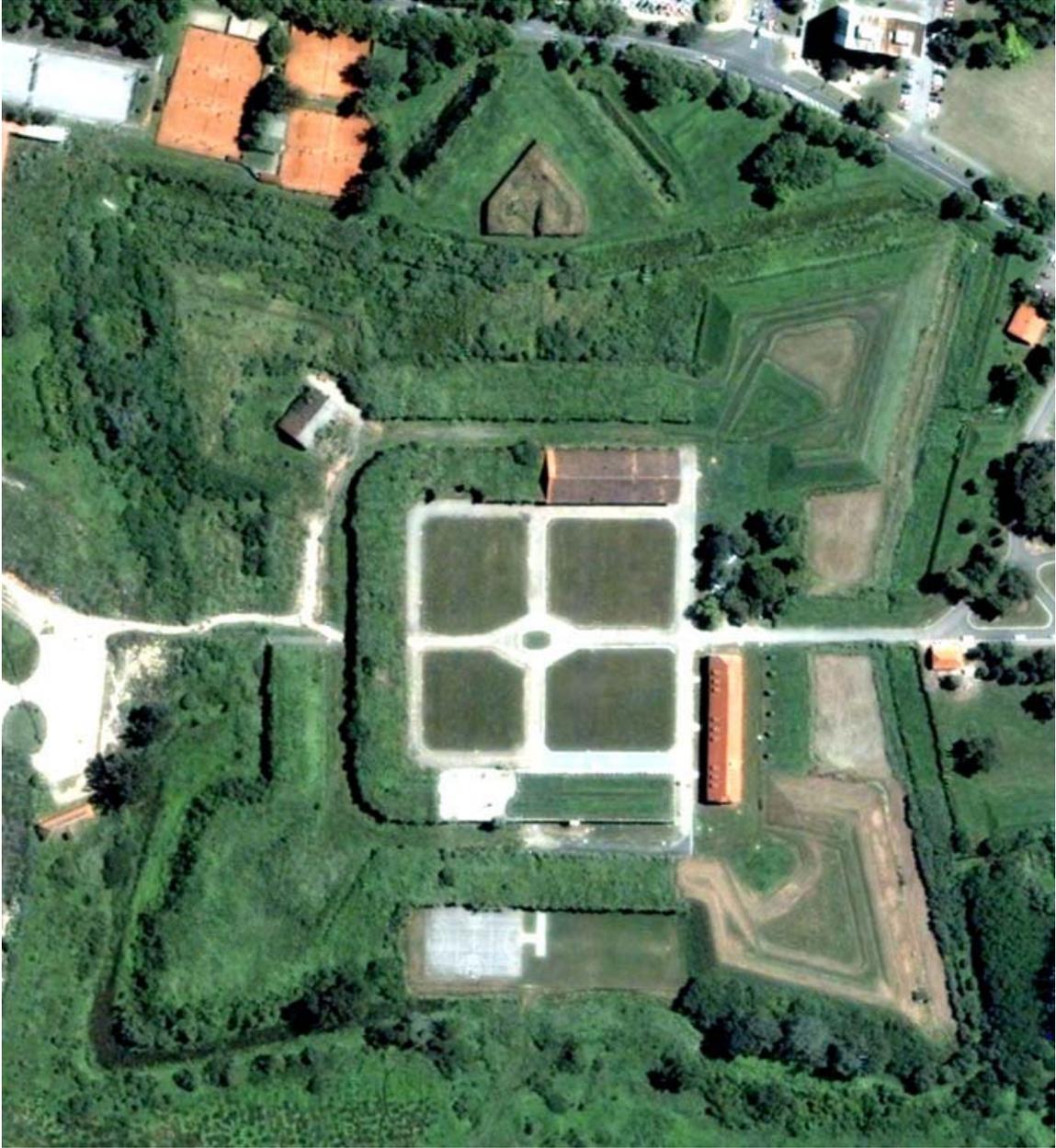


Slavovnski Brod Fortress (photos above and below)





The fortress Chapel, built by Ascanio in 1742.



Fortress seen from above.

Ascanio was appointed Governor of Southern Hungary (bottom half of the map below) and resided for some time in Eseck.



Later he was promoted to Military Commander for all the region of Tyrol.



South Tyrol (Alto Adige) and Trentino (beige and blue areas) were conquered by Italy from Austria at the end of WWI.



Castle of the Counts of Tyrol, from where the region gets its name

Ascanio Guadagni died in Innsbruck, Tyrol, on February 17, 1759. His ashes were deposited in the church of the Servite Fathers.



Church of the Servite Fathers, Innsbruck, Austria.

His nephews Pier Antonio and Niccolo' Guadagni, sons of his brother Ottavio (1684-1746), put the following inscription on his tomb (The text in Latin is on page 23-24 of Historical Notes Plate three, Guadagni Website):

“Here rests the soul of the very excellent and famous Marquis Ascanio, of Pierantonio Guadagni, of Florentine family  
Noteworthy for his noble ancestors, his own merits, his virtue and his work – very attached to the Catholic Religion and to the majesty of the Emperor of the Austrians  
He fought in the Spanish war and in both Hungarian wars  
He was promoted through all the grades of the army  
Until he became Chief Commander of all the cavalry and Field Marshall, he resigned

To be appointed Military Commander of all of Tyrol  
He excelled in courage and military science  
In advice and wisdom in civil matters  
In religious practice and integrity of life  
Fidelity to his sovereign, sanctity in family life  
Love and patronizing of arts and literature  
Authority and leadership mixed with understanding and sensitivity with everyone  
When he was thinking of retiring to his hometown (Florence), such a great man died,  
after fifty four years of fighting in wars  
On February 27, 1759, he lived 73 years, 10 months, and one day  
He was buried with military honors, because of all his great virtues  
Pier Antonio and Niccolo', his brother's sons, built this funerary monument to their  
beloved uncle.

Neri Andrea Guadagni, son of Donato Maria, was born on April 13, 1673. His mother was Maria Maddalena Corsini, daughter of Marchese Bartolomeo Corsini, sister of Pope Clement XII Corsini and niece of Cardinal Neri Corsini. His closest younger brother, Bernardo, born a year after him, in 1674, became Cardinal Giovanni Antonio Guadagni, whose Catholic Church official procedure for Sainthood is well on its way and is progressing steadily. His brother Bernardo gave him and all the Guadagni Family the 1,700 year old miraculously preserved Body of Roman Martyr Saint Faustina as a present. It is now kept in a transparent glass display under the main altar of the Church of San Martino a Pagnolle close to Masseto. The Guadagni Family has the Patronage of the above mentioned church. The Relic used to be displayed in the private Chapel of the Guadagni Family in the Guadagni Palace of Piazza Santo Spirito.

Donato Maria Guadagni bought the above mentioned palace in 1683, so Neri Andrea moved into it when he was ten years old.



Uncle Pope Clement XII (1652-1740) and Cousin Neri Maria Corsini (1685-1770)



Younger brother Cardinal Bernardo (aka Giovanni Antonio) Guadagni (1674-1759)



Portrait of Cardinal Giovanni Antonio Guadagni at an older age.

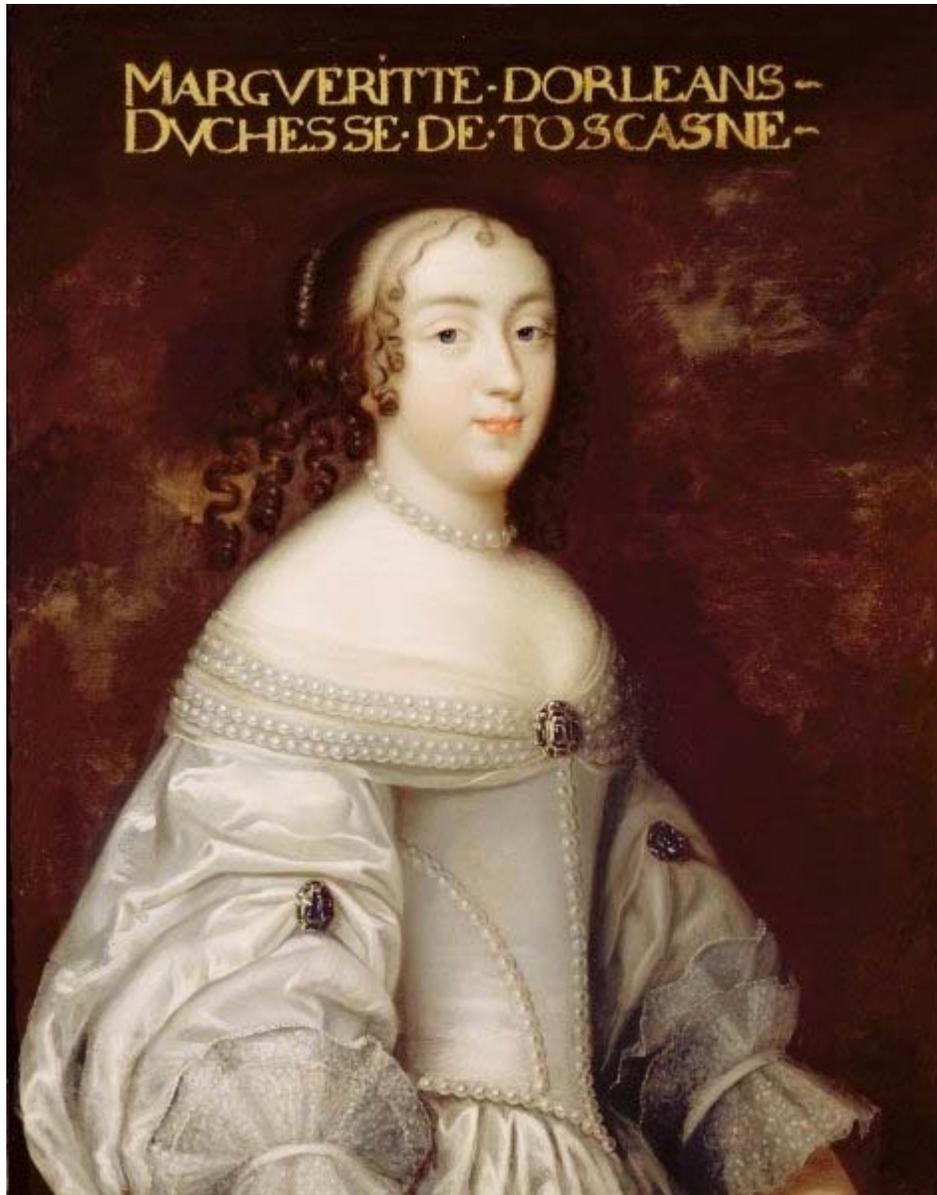
Some famous very closely related family members.

Under the protection of his father, Neri Andrea was admitted to the court of the Grand Duke when he was very young. The Grand Duke of Tuscany was Cosimo III de' Medici (1642-1723), elder son of Grand Duke Ferdinando II (1610-1670) and Vittoria della Rovere (1622-1694), the young Italian Princess who got married when she was only eleven, and was tutored by Ortensia Guadagni whom she made "1st Marchese of San Leolino".

Donato Maria Guadagni (1641-1718), Neri Andrea's father and Ortensia Guadagni Salviati's nephew, started his life as a page at the Court of Grand Duke Ferdinando II when he was quite young. Then he was promoted to Squire of the Grand Duke. In 1670, when he was 29 years old, he became Steward of the Grand Duchess Vittoria, wife of Ferdinando II. In 1683, when he was 42, he was promoted Lord-in-waiting of the same. So from the time he was a teen-ager, Donato Maria was a favorite of both the Grand-Duke and his wife the Grand-Duchess.

When Neri Andrea was admitted to the court of the Gran-Duke, I presumed when he was about 12, so around 1685, Grand-Duke Ferdinando II had been dead for 15 years, and his son Cosimo III had been a Grand-Duke for the same amount of time. Cosimo III had married Princess Marguerite Louise d'Orleans (1645-1721), first cousin of King Louis XIV of France, on Sunday April 17, 1661, when he was 18 and she was 15.

They had 3 children: - Ferdinando, Grand Prince of Tuscany;  
- Anna Maria Luisa, Electress Palatine;  
- Gian Gastone, Grand Duke of Tuscany.  
-



Marguerite Louise d'Orleans, Grand Duchess of Tuscany (1670-1721).



Cosimo III de' Medici, Grand Duke of Tuscany (1642-1723)

Neri Andrea had a very pleasant personality and soon became one of the Grand Duke's favorite gentlemen-in-waiting. In August 1705, when he was just 32 years old, he was sent as an Extraordinary Ambassador in Vienna, to the Holy Roman Emperor Joseph I, to lament the death of the monarch's father, and to congratulate him on his succession to the throne. Joseph I's father was Emperor Leopold I (1658-1705) of whom Pierantonio Guadagni, Donato Maria's brother and so Neri Andrea's uncle, had been Gentleman-in-waiting of the golden key i.e. Chamberlain. I presume he was still in Vienna at the time and could introduce his nephew to all the important personalities of the Austrian metropolis.

Neri Andrea remained in the Tuscan Embassy in Vienna for eight months. Pierantonio's youngest son, Ascanio Guadagni (1685-1759), Neri Andrea's first cousin, was only 20 at that time and had already enlisted in the Army of the Holy Roman Empire and was fighting in Spain in the War of Spanish Succession. He had already taken Barcelona and was attacking the cities of Lerida and Tarragona, in Eastern Spain. So the Guadagni were at the same time active in the military, Ascanio, in the diplomatic, Ambassador Neri Andrea, and in the administration, Chamberlain Pierantonio, sectors of the Holy Roman Empire.

In those years Europe was torn apart by the War of Spanish Succession (1701-1714): the last Spanish descendant of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V of Hapsburg, King Charles II of Spain, died childless in 1700. He had an Austrian Hapsburg cousin

and a French Bourbon cousin. Both wanted to become King of Spain and of its colonial empire, at that time the largest in the world. Part of Europe was in favor of the French candidate, part in favor of the Austrian one and the war between the two European coalitions ravaged Europe during 13 years. Tuscany was neutral. The Holy Roman Emperor wanted the army of the Grand-Duke of Tuscany to join Austrian and German troops in their conflict against the French, and to recognize the Austrian pretender, the Archduke Charles, younger brother of Holy Roman Emperor Joseph I as the legitimate King of Spain. They also wanted at least a large financial contribution from the Grand-Duke of Tuscany to finance the war.

As we read in Passerini, the Emperor asked Neri Andrea Guadagni for “enormous” financial contributions often in a threatening and violent way. While Florence had been one of the richest cities of Europe during the Renaissance, with powerful bankers like the Medici, the Guadagni, the Strozzi, the Pitti, etc. now the Grand-Duchy was financially destitute. Grand-Duke Ferdinando II de’Medici (1610-1670) punctuated his 49 year reign by the termination of the remaining operations of the *Medici Bank*, and the beginning of Tuscany’s long economic decline.



Vienna, capital of the Holy Roman Empire, in 1683

A plague which killed 10% of the Florentine population in 1630, contributed to it. Unlike the Tuscan nobility, Ferdinando and his brothers stayed in the city to try to ameliorate the general suffering. Tuscany participated in the *Wars of Castro* and inflicted a defeat on the forces of Pope Urban VIII in 1643. The Tuscan treasury was so empty that when the Castro mercenaries were paid for, the state could no longer afford to pay interest on government bonds. The interest rate was lowered by 0.75%. The economy was so decrepit that *barter trade* became prevalent in rural market places. At the time of Grand Duke Ferdinando’s death the population of the Grand Duchy was 730,594 souls; the streets were lined with grass and the buildings on the verge of collapse in Pisa.

Another problem was the succession of the Medici in Florence. Anna Maria Luisa de' Medici, daughter of Grand Duke Cosimo III was the last ruler of that family. She was a widow and had no children. Which European



Anna Maria Luisa de' Medici (1667-1743)

Country or ruling family was going to inherit the Grand-Duchy of Tuscany at Anna Maria Luisa's death?

Emperor Joseph however liked Neri Andrea Guadagni (our direct ancestor) and asked him to become resident ambassador at the Imperial Court. Thus Neri Andrea remained in Vienna as resident ambassador from 1708 to 1713.

Let us return to the Guadagni Archives.

**671** [829, 40]

872

*"40" Gain and Expense [of Neri Andrea]*

Parchment bound register (10x7x1 inches).

*...for personal expenses and small shared expenses.*

**Oct. 22, 1717 – 1732**

**672** [359, 47]

873

*"47" Gain and Expense [of Neri Andrea]*

Parchment bound register (10x7x1 inches).

Gain, expenses both in clothing and various.

**Aug. 1, 1732 – 1748**

**Subseries: Debtors and creditors [673]**

1 register

**1698-1706**

874

**673** [498, 26]  
875

**Jul. 5, 1698 – 1706**

*“26”Debtors and creditors [of Neri Andrea] A*

Parchment bound register with leather supports (14x10x2 inches) of 24 written papers.  
With alphabetical listing (inserted in opening).

*... Will be used to register all the interests of the aboved mentioned Mr. Neri Andrea daily.*

**Series: Bernardo, son of Donato Maria, Cardinal Giovanni Antonio** 876

Bernardo (1674-1759), entered the Order of the Discalced Carmelites under the name of Giovanni Antonio of San Bernardo and became abbot of the Abbey of San Zeno in Pisa. He was elected Bishop of Arezzo and Feudal Lord of the County of Cesa in 1724. In 1731, he was appointed cardinal by Pope Clement XII Corsini, brother of his mother Maria Maddalena.

**Subseries: Administration Books [674- 675]**

**1725-**

**1733** 877

2 registers.

Debtors and creditors, Gain and expense and cash register of the Bishopric of Arezzo.

**674** [637, 45]

**1725 –**

**1728** 878

*“45”Debtors and creditors of the Bishopric of Arezzo*

Parchment bound register with leather supports (19x14x3 inches) of 56 written papers.

**675** [540, 46]

**Dec. 20, 1725 – April**

**25, 1733** 879

*“46”Gain and expense and cash register [of the Bishopric of Arezzo]*

Parchment bound register with leather supports (15x11x3 inches) of 250 papers.

With alphabetical listing (inserted in opening).

*...kept by Mr. Scaletti rector of the seminary and Gaetano Salucci house master of Mons. Brother Giovanni Antonio Guadagni Bishop of Arezzo.*

Extremely difficult to read.

**Series: Piero and Donato sons of Neri Andrea**

880

In the History of the Guadagni Family, 1872, Passerini writes that Neri Andrea Guadagni (1673-1748), second son of Donato Maria Guadagni (1641-1718) and Maria Maddalena Corsini, marries Argentina, daughter of Marquis and Senator Ottavio Vettori

and has only one child from her, Donato (1719-1797), who marries Caterina degli Alessandri and has 4 sons from her, one of whom, Luigi is our great-great-great-grandfather, another, Tommaso, is the great-great-great-grandfather of the actual (Guadagni)Dufour Berte branch.

*Everything is correct, except that in the Guadagni Archives, page 185, historian Rita Romanelli writes “Piero” and Donato “sons” of Neri Andrea (see above).*

In page 183, **Series: Neri Andrea son of Donato Maria** <sup>866</sup> of the Inventory of the Guadagni Archives, Romanelli wrote (as reported above) ““Neri Andrea (1673-1748), in 1718 married Argentina Vettori, who gave him two children and died in 1722”.

We wrote: Passerini does not mention a second child. He only states that the first child, our direct ancestor Donato Guadagni, was born in 1719, and that Argentina Vettori Guadagni “died suddenly”, four years later, on January 21, 1723. Where does Rita Romanelli, the author of the “Inventory of the Archive of the Guadagni Family” get this information about a second child? We might find a birth certificate of him or her and more information in the Archives later on.

This is the “later on”:

**Subseries: Administration books [676 - 678]**

**1761-1783**

<sup>881</sup>

3 registers.

Gain and expense and cash register (1761-1778); Journal (1761-1783); Debtors and creditors (1761-1783).

**676** [476]

**May 31, 1761 –**

**March 31, 1778** <sup>882</sup>

[Gain and expense and cash register of Piero and Donato] C

Parchment bound register with leather supports (18x12x3 inches) of 311 papers.

... Which will be used to register all the earnings and expenses of their house starting on this day June 1<sup>st</sup> 1761 written by very Reverend Priest Giuseppe Sardini their house master.

The cover, entitled “Journal of the bishopric of Arezzo”, results reused.

**677** [449]

**June 1, 1761 – May**

**31, 1783** <sup>883</sup>

Journal of Piero and Donato C

Parchment bound register (19x13x4 inches) of 171 written papers.

With alphabetical listing (inserted in opening).

**678** [433]

**June 1, 1761 – 1783**

<sup>884</sup>

Debtors and creditors of Piero and Donato C

Parchment bound register (20x17x5 inches) of 297 papers.

With alphabetical listing.

Piero Guadagni seems to disappear in the following pages of the Archives.

From this page we know of his existence. He is immediately mentioned as a son of Neri Andrea Guadagni (“di” in Italian means son or daughter “of”...) and a brother of our ancestor Donato, as they are both listed together as sons of Neri Andrea Guadagni. Usually the older brother or son is mentioned first. So Piero is older than Donato. Donato is born in 1719 (he dies at 78 in 1797) and his mother, Argentina Vettori dies suddenly in 1723, 3 or 4 years after his birth.

Neri Andrea was already 46 years old at the birth of Donato, so he probably married late, but as we remember he was an ambassador in Vienna until 1713. So he probably married Argentina sometime between 1714 and 1718.

In Archive “676” we read *cash register of Piero and Donato* and then *their house, their house master*. So they were living together, probably in the Santo Spirito Guadagni Palace. Their father Neri Andrea had died in 1748, several years before, so the two brothers were on their own. Donato had married Caterina in 1741, and his 4 sons were born between 1743 and 1751, all before the beginning date of the archives mentioning the 2 brothers living together, 1761-1783. Caterina degli Alessandri, wife of Donato, dies in 1782.

In the following page of the Archives, where Piero is not mentioned any more, Donato hires a new house master, Ferdinando Salucci, in 1783.

“In 1718, Neri Andrea married Argentina Vettori, who gave him two children and died in 1722”, states the Inventory of the Guadagni Archives, reported by Romanelli. So, if Piero is the eldest, he must have been born either at the end of 1718 or the beginning of 1719, and the two brothers must have been born close together, since Donato was born in 1719. Or were they twins and Piero was the first born of the two? We might find more “later on”.

Let us continue to analyze the two brother situation: Passerini tells us that Donato was Knight of Santo Stefano and Chamberlain of the Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo. Also, that, in 1748, at the death of his father, he became the fourth Marquis of San Leolino. If Piero was the eldest of the two, according to what the Archives seem to tell us, why did not Piero become 4th Marquis of San Leolino? Passerini does not tell us anything about Piero’s life, as he did of the other Guadagni of his century, but of course Passerini did not even know Piero existed. For the moment, we have found Piero mentioned only in one of the 291 pages of the “Inventory of the Guadagni Archives”. Let us remember that our great-uncle Guitto Guadagni bought the Archives back from our Dufour Berte cousins only in 1939. So maybe Passerini could not or did not consult them in their entirety.

Let us go back to the Archives, we might find more about Piero Guadagni.

## Series: Donato son of Neri Andrea

885

Donato (1719-1797) married Caterina daughter of Giovanni degli Alessandri in 1741. She died in 1782.

### Subseries: Earnings and expenses [679-683]

1745-1801

886

5 registers

**679** [605, 54]

**June 30, 1745 – May**

**31, 1750** 887

*“54”Gain and Expense [of Donato son of Neri Andrea] D*

Parchment bound register with leather supports (15x11x3 inches) of 287 papers.

The register is attributed to Donato because of the ancient numeration (recuperated from the remaining label fragments) and the date.

Expenses are registered by cost element.

**680** [609, 55]

**May 31, 1750 – May**

**31, 1753** 888

*“55”Gain and Expense [of Donato son of Neri Andrea]*

Parchment bound register with leather supports (16x11x2 inches) of 350 pages.

The register is attributed to Donato because of the ancient numeration (which could also be read as 55) and the date.

Expenses are registered by cost element.

Hard to read.

**681** [676, 57]

**Jan. 3, 1758 – May**

**31, 1761** 889

*“57”Gain and Expense of rent and renters*

Parchment bound register with leather supports (16x11x2 inches) of 175 papers.

Expenses for liveries, furniture and fertilizers.

The register is attributed to Donato because of the ancient numeration and the date.

It also contains a small notebook of Gain and expense by Donato (1762-1766).

Hard to read.

**682** [477]

**April 5, 1778 – May**

**31, 1783** 890

*Gain and expense and cash register of Donato son of Neri Andrea C 2nd*

Parchment bound register with leather supports (18x12x3 inches) of 232 papers.

**683** [491]

**June 1, 1783 – Oct.**

**22, 1789** 891

*Gain and expense and cash register [of Donato son of Neri Andrea]*

Parchment bound register with leather supports (18x13x3 inches) of 146 papers.

*...In my hand of Ferdinando Salucci new house master.*

**Subseries: Administration books [684-691]**

**1768-**

**1801** 892

8 registers

**684** [473]

**Dec 31, 1783 – Jan.**

**17, 1796** 893

*Journal [of Donato son of Neri Andrea's possessions]*

Parchment bound register with leather supports (18x13x3 inches) of 90 written papers.

**685** [445]

**1783 –**

**1797** 894

*[Debtors and creditors of Donato son of Neri Andrea] D*

Parchment bound register (20x16x5 inches) of 178 papers.

With alphabetical listing labeled "D" (inserted in opening).

**686** [472]

**Oct. 23, 1789**

**– 1801** 895

*Cash gain and expense*

Parchment bound register with leather support (18x13x2 inches) of 114 written papers.

With alphabetical listing .

*...kept by Knight Marco del Rosso guardian of the Patrimony of Donato Guadagni elected by a decree of the "Magistrato dei Pupilli" on October 16, 1789 and arrived in the hands of Ferdinando Salucci house master of the aforementioned Donato.*

[Interdiction procedures in early modern Tuscany were managed by the "*Magistrato dei Pupilli et Adulti*" (Magistrate for young people and adults), the Tuscan Court of Wards in charge of guardianships and patrimony administration of orphans whose fathers had died intestate, and of adults with physical or mental disabilities. The legal basis for the curatorship and interdiction of adults (set out in 1565, but only recurrently applied after a reform in 1717) stated that "the dumb and deaf, the raving mad (*furiosi*), the fools (*mentecatti*), the demented (*dementi*), prodigals (*prodighi*), squanderers (*dilapidatori*), and any others in need of being interdicted from the administration of their possessions and faculties" were "exclusively" under the jurisdiction of the *Magistrato dei Pupilli*.

Before the 1717 reform, the Pupilli "could" protect the mentally impaired, but after it became their duty to do so.]

Three Guadagni males, were officially put under the Jurisdiction of the Magistrato dei Pupilli, Niccolo' (1730-1805), son of Ottavio, of the "Nunziata Branch", Donato (1719-1797) our direct ancestor, son of Neri Andrea, and Neri (1790-1862) of the elder Santo Spirito Branch, now extinct in the Dufour Berte, son of Tommaso.

**687** [790]

**Dec. 18, 1748 –**

**March 18, 1778** 896

*Book of Recollections [of Donato son of Neri Andrea Guadagni] C*

Parchment bound register (12x5x1 inches).

*This copybook titled "Recollections" will be used to annotate certain things to bring them back to his accounts.*

The attribution of the register to Donato is due to its date.

Some paragraphs of Romanelli's original version of the Inventory refer to Donato son of Neri Guadagni, others to Donato son of Neri Andrea Guadagni. When Romanelli writes "son of Neri Guadagni" she adds a question mark behind it as if to say: "Who is this Neri Guadagni?" In reality there is no Donato son of Neri Guadagni in the Family Tree. There is only a Donato son of Neri Andrea Guadagni, and a Donato Guadagni son of Tommaso, or Luigi, or Guitto Guadagni. So we will write Neri Andrea Guadagni, everytime we see Donato Guadagni son of Neri Guadagni. It might be that Neri Andrea was sometimes abbreviated in Neri.

**688** [685]

**Dec. 24, 1773 – Oct.**

**19, 1779** <sup>897</sup>

*[Stable and carriages expenses]*

Cardboard bound register (12x9x1 inches) of 8 written papers.

With loose receipts.

**689** [1046, 63]

**June 1, 1782 – May**

**10, 1788** <sup>898</sup>

*"63" Journal [of Donato son of Neri Andrea]*

Cardboard bound register (12x9x1 inches) of 8 written papers.

The attribution of the register to Donato is due to the ancient numeration and the date.

**690** [768]

**Oct. 14, 1785 – Nov.**

**1, 1790** <sup>899</sup>

*[Earning] and Expense [of Donato son of Neri Andrea]*

Cardboard bound register (12x9x1 inches) of 118 pages.

Written by Ferdinando Salucci per assignment.

The archivistic unity is formed by 2 parts of registers, one for earnings one for expenses, both with groups of cut pages.

**691** [795, 22]

**April 1, 1768 – Dec.**

**21, 1776** <sup>900</sup>

*[22 [Rough draft of Donato Guadagni (1719-1797) and his wife Caterina degli Alessandri (1724-1782)]]*

Parchment bound register (12x7x1 inches).

*This book will be used for rough draft to write down all the collections and payments...*

### **Subseries: Recollections books [692-693]**

**1748-1787** <sup>901</sup>

2 registers

Active state of Donato Maria Guadagni (1641-1718), son of Tommaso (1582-1652), of his son Neri Andrea Guadagni (1673-1748) and of his grandson Donato Guadagni (1719-1797), with information on wills, "fedecommissi" (Disposition of the will stating that the

heir must keep the inheritance intact and give it to another specified person at a future specified date) and goods purchased by various members of the family before the year 1787; 10% feudal earnings of Donato, at the death of his father Neri Andrea (1748-1751).

**692** [787]

**Before 1787** 902

*Active state of Marchesi Donato Maria, Neri Andrea and Donato Guadagni (our direct ancestors) from 1667 to 1718 (death of Donato Maria) and 1747( Neri Andrea dies in 1748) to 1787 (Donato dies in 1797).*

Cardboard bound register (13x10x1 inches) of 74 papers

With information on wills, “fedecommissi” (see above for English translation) and goods purchased by various family members.

**693** [899]

**1748 - 1751** 903

*[Feudal tithes of Donato Guadagni (1719-1797), son of Neri Andrea (1673-1748)]*

Cardboard bound register (12x8x1 inches).

With information on the previous years and Indian ink drawing of the family tree.

## **Section: Firstborn branch of the Guadagni of Santo Spirito – Registers** 904

### **Series: Tommaso Guadagni son of Donato**

905

Tommaso Guadagni (1743-1814), founder of the first-born branch of the Guadagni of Santo Spirito married Maria Maddalena, daughter of Giovanni di Poggio Baldovinetti in 1781.

Alesso Baldovinetti is a famous Florentine Renaissance painter, see picture below. He was from a family of rich merchants during the Renaissance. He might be the ancestor of the counts Baldovinetti, see Chianti wine label below, probably of the same family of Maria Maddalena di Poggio Baldovinetti. These are only hypotheses.



Portrait of the Lady in Yellow by Florentine Renaissance artist Alesso Baldovinetti  
c.1465



### Counts Borghini Baldovinetti Wines

Tommaso Guadagni was Knight of Santo Stefano in 1763 and marchese of San Leolino in 1797. He was appointed Imperial Chamberlain of Grand Duchess of Tuscany Elisa Baciocchi (Napoleon's sister) in 1808. He was Gonfaloniere (mayor) of Florence in 1807-1808, during the Napoleonic period. He lived in Villa della Luna in San Domenico of Fiesole (Florence).



2 portraits of Grand Duchess of Tuscany Elisa Bonaparte Baciocchi (1777-1820)

Tommaso was “Imperial Chamberlain” of Grand-Duchess of Tuscany Elisa Bonaparte Baciocchi because Elisa became “Imperial Highness” in 1804, when her brother Napoleon crowned himself “Emperor of the French”.

Tommaso was at the same time a high official at Elisa's Court and the official charged with the management of the living quarters of the Grand-Duchess of Tuscany. He was also "Gonfaloniere", i.e. Mayor of Florence, so he had to operate in Florence the new laws and directives coming from the Grand-Duchess.

Maria Anna Elisa Bonaparte Baciocchi Levoy (1777-1820) was the fourth surviving child and eldest surviving daughter of Carlo Buonaparte and Letizia Ramolino. A younger sister of Napoleon Bonaparte, she had elder brothers Joseph and Lucien, and younger siblings Louis, Pauline, Caroline and Jerome.

As Princess of Lucca and Piombino, then Grand Duchess of Tuscany, she became Napoleon's only sister to possess political power. Their relations were sometimes strained due to her sharp tongue. Highly interested in the arts, particularly the theatre, she encouraged them in the territories over which she ruled.

As her Chamberlain and at the same time Mayor of Florence, Tommaso Guadagni shared the intimacy of her political decisions and probably tried to change them or modify them for the best and became de facto the most powerful person in Florence during her reign.

On March 19, 1805, Napoleon awarded Elisa the Principality of Piombino, as we remember the very small independent state, bordering the Guadagni Marquisate of Montepescali. Piombino was of major strategic interest to Napoleon due to its proximity to the islands of Elba and Corsica.



View of Piombino



Letizia Ramolino, Elisa and Napoleon's mother, from Corsica (Island now belonging to France, close to Italy and Sardinia) (1750-1836)

Felice Baciocchi (Elisa's husband) and Elisa took the titles of Prince and Princess of Piombino. In June 1805, the independent Republic of Lucca (close to Pisa) was added to Felice and Elisa's domain.

Napoleon had contemptuously called Lucca the "*dwarf republic*", due to its small size in terms of territory, but despite this it was a bulwark of political, religious, and commercial independence. What is happening in Lucca now, will try to happen in Florence three or four years later. By seeing what Elisa is doing now will make us better

understand what Tommaso Guadagni will have to try and stop or promote for all the Grand-Duchy of Tuscany.

Most of the power over Lucca and Piombino was exercised by Elisa, with Felix taking only a minor role and contenting himself with making military decisions. The inhabitants of Lucca, under French occupation and begrudging the loss of their independence, knew Elisa ironically as “**la Madame**” and had little sympathy for Napoleon, Elisa, or their attempts to “Frenchify” the republic.

Elisa set up a court etiquette inspired by those of the Tuileries (the Emperor’s palace in Paris, France). On March 31, 1806, Napoleon added Massa and Carrara to Elisa’s possessions. Carrara was one of the biggest white marble suppliers in Europe and Elisa bolstered her prestige by establishing an Art Academy, designed to host the greatest sculptors and thus make Carrara an exporter of marble statues, which had a greater value than the raw marble. She also set up the Elisian Bank (from her name “Elisa”) to give financial aid to sculptors and workers on marble taxes.

She reformed the clergy at Lucca and Piombino from May 1806, during which reforms she nationalised their goods and lands and closed down convents which did not also function as hotels or schools. She also carried out legislative reform in Lucca, producing laws inspired by the Napoleon Code (such as the notable “Rural Code of the Principality of Piombino”, issued on March 24, 1808) and producing a new penal code which was promulgated in 1807 and first reformed in 1810.

In 1807 she set up the Committee of Public Charity for distributing charity funds, made up of clergy and lay-people, and also instituted free medical consultations for the poor so as to eradicate the diseases then ravaging Lucca’s population. She demolished Piombino’s hospital to build a new one in the former monastery of Sant’Anastasia, with the new building opening in 1810, and also set up a Sanitary House, a dispensary in the town’s port. On May 5, 1807, she decreed the establishment of the “Committee for the Encouragement of Agriculture, Arts and Commerce” to encourage and finance the invention of new machines and new techniques to increase the territories’ agricultural production and experimental plantations such as those of mulberries at Massa, where a Silk School was created on August 16, 1808.

Elisa also set up many teaching establishments in Lucca and, in 1809, a “General Department of Public Education”. On December 1, 1807, she set up the “Felix College”, the only boys’ secondary school in the principality. For girls, she began by fixing set curricula for convents that also operated as schools, then set up a body of “Ladies Inspectors” to verify that these curricula were being adhered to. Teaching of girls aged 5 to 8 was made compulsory, though the laws were not always well applied. On July 2, 1807, Elisa founded the “Elisa Institute” within the limits of a former convent for noble-born girls, to produce well-educated and cultivated future wives. On July 29, 1812, Elisa set up an establishment for young poor girls, the “San Felice Congregation”, though this did not long outlive Elisa’s fall.

As with Napoleon, Elisa set up city improvement works in her territories, mainly to expand the princely palaces. These works were hotly contested, especially in Lucca, where the expansion of the princely palaces necessitated the demolition of the Church of San Pietro in March 1807. She also razed an entire block in Lucca to build a piazza in the French style in front of her city residence (now the seat of the province and the prefecture). That block had included the Church of San Paolo with the venerated image of the Madonna of the miracles and so its demolition seriously affected the city's medieval architecture and almost sparked a revolt.

At Massa, she demolished a cathedral on April 30, 1807. The palace at Lucca was fully redecorated and the gardens improved, with the creation of a botanical garden with a menagerie and aviary in 1811. She also began road construction, notably the "Friedland route" to link Massa and Carrara, with work beginning on August 15, 1807 but becoming delayed and only completed in 1820. Lucca's status as a spa town was also bolstered by her improvement of the architecture and decor of the town's baths. She began construction of an aqueduct into Lucca in 1811, but this too was completed after her fall.

A decree was officially created between March second and third 1809, which established the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, made Florence its capital and Elisa its grand duchess. However, the terms of the decree required Elisa to enforce the decisions of Napoleon and his ministers and denied her the power to modify any of these decisions. This was a significant difference compared to the relative autonomy Elisa enjoyed in Lucca and Piombino.

On April 1809, Elisa arrived in Florence, where she was coldly received by the nobility, ("states Wikipedia"). Tommaso Guadagni instead joined her Government, was appointed Imperial Chamberlain (in 1808, before Elisa was even officially named Grand Duchess of Tuscany) and elected "Gonfaloniere" (i.e. Mayor of Florence).

Also the Torrigiani Branch of the Family accepted Elisa's Ruling of Tuscany and cooperated with it. Pietro Guadagni (who adopted the Torrigiani surname and inherited the large fortune of Cardinal Torrigiani) started his



The Court of Elisa Baciocchi by Pietro Benvenuti, 1813. Who of these is Tommaso Guadagni? And who is Pietro Guadagni Torrigiani?

relationship with the Bonaparte Family and Empire in a more adventurous way. When Napoleon's troops conquered half of Europe, they also occupied Tuscany. General Gauthier was their leader. In Arezzo (city of Southern Tuscany) however, the citizens rebelled against the French troops. In Florence itself, reactionary forces were ready to fight the new French Republican ideas of "brotherly love, equality, and freedom" brought by the French.

General Gauthier wanted to avoid a possible Florentine insurrection against his troops. He decided to capture some of the leading Florentine citizens and keep them as hostages. Pietro Torrigiani was respected and esteemed by many. On the night of May 7, 1799, French soldiers knocked at his door. They entered Pietro's house and arrested him. Pietro was taken to the Fortress of Leghorn. He was imprisoned there for two weeks. Then he was taken to Genoa by sea, and from there, to France. With him were taken several other important Florentine citizens.

Pietro's exile lasted only one year. Napoleon created the new "Kingdom of Etruria" in Tuscany with Prince Louis of Bourbon as King. King Louis had Pietro come back home and appointed him Chamberlain.



Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821)

A few years later, Napoleon changed his mind. The Kingdom of Etruria ceased to exist and was replaced by the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, which became a province of the French Empire, with his sister Elisa as Grand Duchess. Pietro was sent to Emperor Napoleon in Milan, as Deputy of Tuscany. Napoleon had great respect for Pietro. He appointed him member of the City Council of Florence and of the General Council of the Department of the Arno. He also made him President of the Assembly of Lastra-a-Signa (a small town near Florence). Later Napoleon gave Pietro the Cross of Knight of the Legion of Honor (the highest decoration in France even today), and made him Baron of the Empire.

Grand-Duchess of Tuscany Elisa made Pietro Grand Master of Ceremonies and Major Hunter. In 1810, Pietro was sent to Paris, as deputy of Tuscany, on the occasion of Napoleon's marriage with Archduchess Marie Louise, Daughter of the Emperor of Austria. After two years, Pietro Guadagni Torrigiani became A French citizen.

As Grand-Duchess of Tuscany, Elisa tried to nationalize the goods of the clergy and closed many convents. She started the Astro-physics Observatory of Arcetri.



Observatory of Arcetri, on the Florentine hills in the Fall.

In spite of the widespread opposition of the Florentine nobility versus the ideals of the French Revolution and the replacing of legitimate authority with members of the Bonaparte Family, both Tommaso Guadagni and Pietro Guadagni Torrigiani were able to bypass it and the destruction of ancient churches and beautiful Medieval city neighborhoods and closure of Convents by Grand Duchess Elisa, to see the positive aspects of the building of schools, of opening education and literacy also to girls, of researching innovations in the productive system, hospitals for everybody and improvements in the life of the working class, several decades ahead of any other European State.

**Subseries: Earnings and expenses [694-696]**

**1801-1814** 906

3 registers

**694** [460, 70]

**March**

**1, 1801 - 1814** 907

*“70” Earning and expense and cash register of Tommaso Guadagni son of Donato.*

Parchment bound register with leather supports (19x14x3 inches).

With alphabetical listing (inserted in opening).

**695** [657, 73]

**Jan. 1, 1803 –**

**May 31, 1804** 908

*“73” Marchese Tommaso [son of Donato Guadagni (1719-1797)]*

Cardboard bound register (14x10x1 inches).

*...it will be used to register all the day by day expenses of Gaspero Ranfagni on behalf of Marchese Tommaso Guadagni.*

**696** [922, 74]

**1804** 909

*“74” Marchese Tommaso Guadagni*

Half parchment bound register (12x9x1 inches) of 144 papers.

*This book will be used to register the renters, of the houses owned by the very eminent marchese Tommaso Guadagni from Florence.*