Chapter 13

CLAIRAC

While it is clear Scipion remained in Tarbes and frequented Bayonne before his death, the location of the rest of his family has been harder to trace. At the time of Scipion's marriage in Tarbes it seems likely that his parents and his brother Charles were still in Carcassonne. At some point they moved to Clairac. This was discovered through the surprising discovery of yet another brother of Luigi, who was mentioned briefly in the previous chapters.

Charles Parménide Sagrini

According to a nationalization record in *Bulletin de Lois de la République Française XIIe Série Deuxième Semestre de 1887* he was born in London on 2 July 1838. No birth records have been found in London to corroborate this.

34° Le sieur *Sagrini* (*Charles-Parménide*), professeur de musique, né le 2 juillet 1838 à Londres (Angleterre), demeurant à Clairac (Lot-et-Garonne);

Very little is known about Charles other than he was a piano teacher who remained in Clairac his entire life. He married Marthe Marie Larrat on 17 November 1868 in Clairac. He died 29 August 1910 in Bourran, a small village near Clairac.

The connection of Charles with Clairac helped uncover some very important family information, the death records of Giulio Gabriel and his wife Suzanne. The records include details about their birth location and parents which help explain the travels of the family over the years back to Lausanne.

Sep 1863 – Death of Giulio Gabriel

The father of Luigi Sagrini, often referred to in newspapers simply as Signor Sagrini, was a constant presence during Luigi's early performing years. After they reached England the father was mentioned less in newspapers there and appeared more in the newspapers of Lausanne. The births of Scipion and Charles in England can help locate the family at those times, but how they moved around and how the children received their musical training is mostly unclear. Certainly the guitar was the primary instrument with Luigi, and for Italo for his first performances. Based on this we could assume Giulio Gabriel was primarily a guitar player. Italo and Scipion had their earliest concerts on piano and guitar, but their later concerts were devoid of the guitar. There are some mentions of Scipion being a student of Thalberg and Giulio Gabriel teaching piano in Lausanne. Perhaps the father was also a skilled pianist, or at least knew enough to be able to make a living teaching piano. No concerts have been found with Giulio Gabriel clearly listed as performing on the piano.

Giulio Gabriel died in Clairac on 17 September 1863 at the age of 75, putting his birth around 1788. At the birth of his son Italo he was listed as 36 years old, which would put his birth in 1786. He is listed as a "professor of music," so apparently he was still teaching in Clairac until his death. The death record also notes his birth location as Vercelli, Italy and the names of his parents Joseph Antoine Sagrini and Marie Ferrero. His birth record and records for his parents have not been found.

February 1866 – Death of Madame Sagrini

Giulio Gabriel's wife was seldom mentioned in newspapers and documents, so information about her was more difficult to uncover until her death record was found. She signed her name as "Marie Sagrini" on the marriage record of Scipion, yet was listed in the text of the document as "Susanne Chappalaz." This name was key in discovering her death record in Clairac. The spelling of her last name is often different depending on the document. She died on 13 February 1866 in Clairac and her death record lists her name as "Jeanne Suzanne Chapalas." The details of the record include her birth location of Lausanne and the names of her parents Louis Chapalas and Charlotte Chanay. This information made it possible to locate census records from Lausanne for her family [see the Census Records Appendix for details]. The census records for 1805 through 1813 list her name as "Susette Chappallaz." The death record lists her age as 64, putting her birth in 1802, which is corroborated by the census records. Her actual birth date was 10 August 1801. She was not the mother of Luigi as she married Giulio Gabriel in Annemasse, Haute-Savoie, France on 21 October 1822.

Certainly the family's connection to Lausanne is now clear. It could also explain why Luigi remained in London while the rest of the family returned to Lausanne and southern France. Once the birth records of Luigi are found his birth mother will be known and more details of his early years can be uncovered.

Sep 1869 – Jean François Jules Gabriel

Jean François Jules Gabriel Sagrini, the son of Charles and Marthe, was born in Clairac on 6 September 1869. He appears to have used just the name "Gabriel" in later years. He entered military service in 1889 and was awarded the Legion of Honor in 1917. After leaving military service he married Marguerite Faragou in 1920 and lived at the Poulard estate in Bourran, a small village near Clairaic, the remainder of his life. From 1929 to 1933 he was the mayor of Bourran. A photo of Gabriel and his wife in front of their house in Poulard, as well as a letter from him offering his father's piano to the public school of Bourran, is included in the Family Records Appendix.

The website Société des amis de Clairac has much information on Gabriel as well as paintings of Clairac by his wife. Clair Morizet of the Société kindly shared the photo and letter of Gabriel. The details of Gabriel's military service are outlined on the website as follows:

> Enlisted as a volunteer for three years on October 30, 1889 in Agen, he was incorporated into the 10th Dragon Regiment. He was appointed brigadier on August 3, 1890, brigadier-furrier on November 14, 1891 and maréchal-des-logis on July 23, 1892.
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> He signed a new contract for five years on October 24, 1892. He was appointed marshal-des-logis-fourrier on March 15, 1893, and marshal-des-logis-chief on January 9, 1896. He entered into a new two-year commitment on 21 October 1897. He was assigned to the 4th Spahis Regiment on December 13, 1898 and took out a three-year contract on November 1, 1899. Commissioned on November 1, 1902, he resigned on November 5, 1804. He campaigned in Tunisia from December 28, 1898 to November 6, 1904 and more particularly in the Saharan regions from March 7 to 9, 1901. When he was mobilized on August 1, 1914, he was called back to the 9th Regiment of Mounted Chasseurs. He campaigned against Germany from August 3, 1914.
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> He was promoted to temporary Administrative Officer 3rd Class (Territorial) in the Health Service on March 31, 1915, and appointed to permanent appointment on September 9, 1917, effective March 31, 1915. He was permanently appointed Administrative Officer 2nd Class on July 1, 1918.
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> Holder of the Military Medal and Knight of the Order of Nichan Iftikhar, he was appointed **Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur** to take the rank of 10 July 1917. His appointment order states, "*A very deserving officer. Coming to the front at his request, never ceases to set an example of the utmost activity and absolute dedication.*"
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> (https://amisdeclairac.com, Accessed 6 November 2021)

December 1874 – Jeanne Marie Suzanne

The second child of Charles and Marthe was a daughter, Jeanne Marie Suzanne Sagrini, born in Clairac on 7 December 1874. She lived with Gabriel and his wife in their house in Poulard according to census records from 1921 through 1931. She is not listed in the 1936 census and whether she died or moved elsewhere is unknown.