

BRIEF HISTORY NOTES ON THE ANGLICAN CEMETERY OF BAGNI DI LUCCA

In 1840 Mr. Henry and Mrs. Elizabeth Stisted obtained permission by the Prince of Lucca Carlo Lodovico di Borbone Parma to build a Church and a Cemetery of Anglican rite for the British community resident in Bagni di Lucca.

The small Cemetery, opened in 1842 and now abandoned, needs urgent restoration. It is about 1800 square meters and it was divided into 46 spaces of first class, 260 of second class and 84 of third class. For children were projected 25 spaces of second class and 12 of third. Therefore, it could host 427 burials, 225 on the right side and 202 on the left.

In the Cemetery are buried 139 people whose names can all be obtained from documents now preserved in the Historical Archives of the Municipality, but some also from the tombstones. Many graves are no longer visible.

The original plant is still quite recognizable in its essential forms. Immediately after the gate of entrance a short flight of steps leads to the central path, that slightly uphill, reaches the Chapel for the funerals. About at two thirds of the way to the chapel another path crosses the middle one to form a Christian cross.

The semicircular paths that started from the height of the stairs are no longer visible, they connected to the paths which went through the walls and from which started little paths to access to individual graves.

The Chapel for the funerals has been restored, together with essential furnishings, in 2003 thanks to a grant of the Rotary Club of Lucca. It has a neo-Gothic shape and are preserved inside a simple altar-pulpit and a catafalque both in neo-Gothic style.

Not all those who are buried here died in Bagni di Lucca, but were buried here or for their expressed will or on the recommendation of relatives or friends and this shows that the English Community of Bagni di Lucca, with its church and its cemetery of Anglican cult, was a sure reference for the English who lived in nearby towns such as Lucca, Pisa, Livorno, but also in Rome and abroad.

The Cemetery which belongs to the City Council, is administered since 2012 by the Michel de Montaigne Foundation and by the Bagni di Lucca Section of the Lucchese Historical Institute.

Significant interventions have been made during their administration, all of which aim to restore dignity to this place rich in historical and artistic memories.

Thanks to the intervention of the Lions Club of Garfagnana and of the Versilia Lunigiana and Garfagnana Credito Cooperativo Bank, in 2012 cypress trees were planted along the perimetrical fence.

The Montaigne Foundation planted cypress trees along the central lane and the side lane, as well as next to the Chapel where funerals are performed.

Also in 2012 the restoration of memorials began and the Pisani Family Chapel was secured.

To date, 22 funeral monuments have been restored and about 15 tombs with serious structural instability have been reconstructed.

These interventions were made possible thanks to the specific contributions by the Banca del Monte di Lucca Foundation and above all, by private citizens.



We now give information about the major characters who are buried here. In order to facilitate the identification of their grave has been indicated a serial number found on the enclosed map.

1)-Colonnello Henry Stisted(Folkeston 1786-Bagni di Lucca 1843)

Elizabeth Clotilde Stisted (Dublino 1790- Bagni di Lucca 1868)

The Colonel belonged to The Royal Dragoons, was on the direct orders of Wellington, fought against Napoleon in Waterloo.

His wife Elizabeth was a woman of great culture, hosted in her house in Bagni di Lucca, Lord Byron, Percy Shelley, Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett, Walter Scott and Charles Lever. She wrote a book *Letters from the bye-ways of Italy* the sale of which helped the construction of the Church and the Anglican Cemetery. Note that the name of Elizabeth is not mentioned in the epigraph of the monument.

2)-Louise de La Ramèe (Ouida) (Suffolk 1839- Viareggio 1908)

Prolific writer of novels and short stories of great success. Her tomb was made by the sculptor Luigi Lucchese Norfini in clear reference to the famous tomb of Ilaria del Carretto, work of Jacopo della Quercia preserved in the Cathedral of Lucca.

3)Charles Isidore Hemans (St. Asaph NW1818 - Bagni di Lucca 1876) younger son of the famous English poet Felicia Hemans.

4)-Ernst Georg Gryzanowski (Königsberg 1824 - Lucca 1888), Doctor of Medicine and Philosophy and a member of the Association against the vivisection of animals.

5)-Andrew Berry Archbald (American 1829 - Florence 1881)

Famous botanist who studied in depth the flora of the Apennine region of Lucca.

6)-Benjamin Gibson (Conway UK1811 - Bagni di Lucca 1851). He was a member of the 'Archaeological Association in London. His tomb is the work of his brother the famous neoclassical sculptor John Gibson, a pupil of Canova.

7)-Nelly Erichsen (England 1862 - Bagni di Lucca 1918), Poet, writer and painter.

8)-Rose Elizabeth Cleveland (New York 1849 - Bagni di Lucca 1918), Sister of U.S. President Stephen Grover Cleveland, was a woman of culture and dedicated to works of charity during her stay in Bagni di Lucca. It was a close friend of her neighbor of tomb.

9)-Evangeline Whipple (Boston, 1863 - London 1930). She settled in Bagni di Lucca in 1912 where she worked to help the families of refugees and called on the front of the First World War. She wrote an important volume about Bagni di Lucca: *A famous corner of Tuscany*. He died in London, but wanted to be buried here next to her friends.

10)- John Marshall (Liverpool 1862 - Roma 1928)

Edward Perry Warren (Waterton 1860 - Lewes, Sussex 1928)

High-profile personalities in the history of American art patronage and art collecting. They were united by friendship in life and in death.

11)- Henry Döhler (Berlin 1778 - Lucca 1843), Master of Foreign Languages of the son of Prince Charles Louis of Lucca, and secretary to the Prince himself.

12) Halexander Henry Haliday (Ireland 1807 Lucca 1870), eminent entomologist, was among the founders of the Entomological Society Italian.

The latest burial dates back to 1953, the year of final closure of the Cemetery.



Visitors who wish to contribute to the maintenance and the restoration of the Cemetery, through discretionary offerings, can contact the Municipal Library by phone using the following numbers: 0583-87619; 335-5821080/4, or they can make a bank transfer in favor of:

Fondazione Michel de Montaigne

Banco Popolare Società Cooperativa Agenzia di Bagni di Lucca

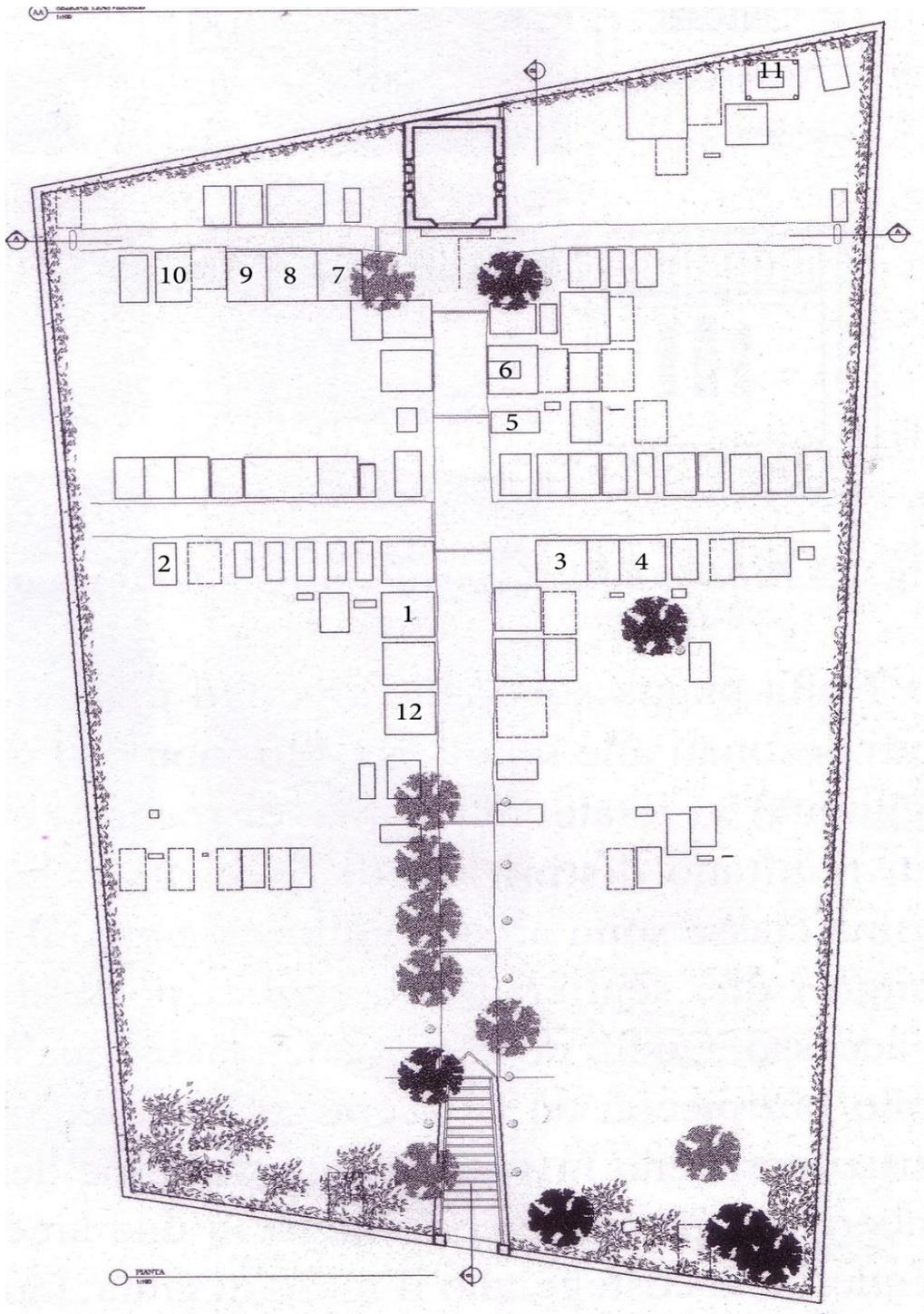
Via Casalini,13

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In this regard please note that the Legislative Decree n.83/2014 “Art Bonus” provides significant tax benefits in the form of tax credit, for those who wish to invest in culture by making donations of money designed to support maintenance, protection and restoration of cultural public works.

The tax credit will be up to the extent of 65% for donations made in the tax years 2014-2015; 50% for those made in the tax year 2016 and anyway it will be refunded in three years.



Bibliography:

- AA. VV., *Il Cimitero Inglese ai Bagni di Lucca. Analisi e proposte di restauro*, Ed. Regione Toscana, Marzo 1994
- AA. VV., *Il Cimitero Anglicano ai Bagni di Lucca*, Istituto Storico Lucchese L'Aldilà, Rivista di Storia della Tanatologia, Year IX, 2003, nn. 1-2
- **Laura Giambastiani**, *Il Cimitero Anglicano dei Bagni di Lucca, Iscrizioni e Fonti Archivistiche*, idem, Years XII/XIV- 2006/2008 nn. 1-2