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The Wandering Divianis

Carlo Giuseppe Diviani (born 1798) [of the Pociga branch of the family] and **Maria Margherita Brentini** (born 1808) were married in the church of St Atanasio, Calpiogna on 2 June 1829. Their third son Giuseppe **Giovanni** (born 1833) probably left Campello in the late 1850's and travelled to London where he appeared in the 1861 Census along with his brother **Maurizio** and his cousin **William** Diviani at 428 Euston Road. All of these were listed as being Confectioners.

Giovanni's and **Maurizio's** eldest brother **Clemente** was shown in this 1861 census at 5 Mile End Road along with **Gaudenzio** Diviani again both of them shown as Confectioners. **Gaudenzio**, who was featured in the last newsletter, was to change his occupation to that of Photographer by the end of the decade

In 1861 living at 426 Euston Road was 16 year old **Sarah** O'Doherty a tobacconist's assistant born in Bradford. By the end of 1863 **Giovanni and Sarah** were married probably at the Spanish Place Chapel.

Also in London in 1863 was **Maria Carlo Giuseppe Antonio** (known as **Antonio**) Diviani. He came from the Teresa branch of the family being the second son of **Giuseppe Maria** Diviani and **Rosa Madalena** Urietti. He was also a distant cousin to **Giovanni**.

Antonio married **Elizabeth** Butler on 15 September 1863 at the Spanish Place Chapel where one of the witnesses was a John Sheil O'Doherty, perhaps he was a brother to Sarah Jane?

The other witness to their marriage was **Ellen** Healand who was to marry **Gaudenzio** Diviani in 1867.

Until recently nothing more was known of the life of **Antonio** and his wife **Elizabeth** as there were no christening records for any children, nor death entries for them in either Campello or England. However whilst researching on the Internet I chanced across an entry for **Antonio** and **Elizabeth** Diviani together with a **John (Giovanni)** and **Sarah** Diviani shown on a shipping passenger list bound for New Zealand in 1863!

Further research is ongoing and indicates that **Antonio** and his wife **Elizabeth** received assistance and remained in New Zealand. **Giovanni** and **Sarah** returned to London where their first child **Margherita** (who was born in New Zealand) was christened at the Italian Church in Clerkenwell on 3 August 1866.

Giovanni and **Sarah's** sons **Maurizio** (1867) and **Charles** (1869) were born in London whilst their third



Charles Diviani
born 1869

and fourth sons **Guglielmo** (1871) and **Roberto** (1873) were born in Faido. **Giovanni** died in London in August 1874 and **Roberto** died in December 1876 just before his fourth birthday.

The story shows that even 150 years ago members of the Campello community were adventurous in travelling to new countries to forge new lives for themselves and their families. This pioneering spirit may explain why their descendants are scattered far and wide over the world today.

Reunion 2003

Some of us have a colourful and extensive knowledge of our Swiss ancestry whilst others are still trying to find our origins or fit snippets of information into a much larger jig-saw. The 2003 reunion hopes to enhance and further this knowledge and family relationships and provide material for visitors to explore their ancestry, the local social history, the village and its environs.

The reunion will be in Campello on 2 and 3rd August 2003 and everyone who has links with, or is interested in the Diviani and Brentini families are most welcome to attend. The itinerary is quite informal leaving plenty of time to explore the displays and material, the village and to meet up with members of the families.

Campello celebrates Swiss National day on 1 August with an evening meal, raffles, Bingo plus a bonfire and fireworks and this will be an ideal starting place for the weekend.

Will you be with us to share the experience?