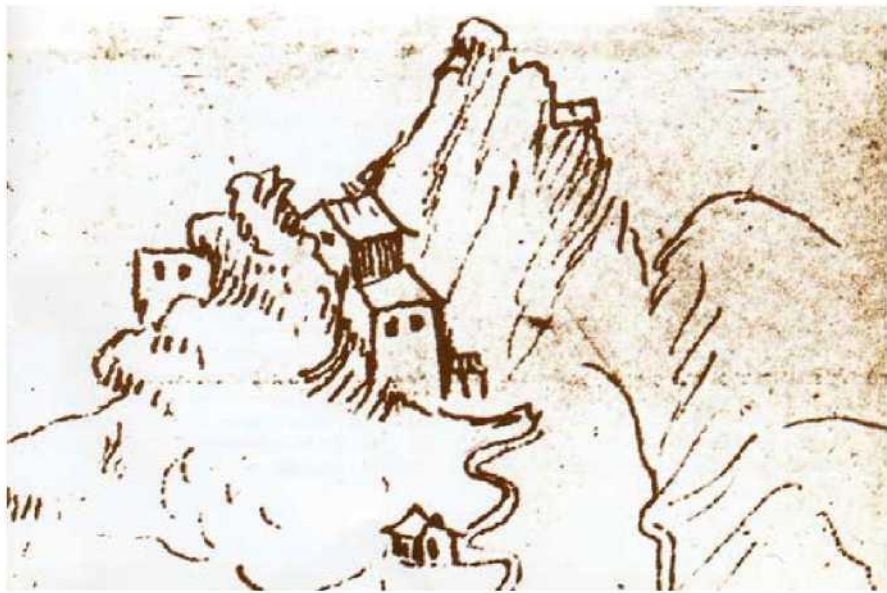


Oral tradition and some 16th-century scholars trace the origins of the **Petra** Family back to **Marcus Petreius**, a Roman general belonging to the **Gens Petreia** who was a supporter of Pompey the Great and an enemy of Caesar. After his defeat at Tapso and his duel with King Juba I, **Marcus** fled from Zama, landed at Alba Docilia (Albisola) in Liguria, and took refuge in the Apennines, where he was welcomed by a tribe of Ligurians.

Toward the end of the 10th century, after overcoming the barbarian invasions, the family built the castles of **Mongiardino** and **Pietra di Vobbia**. In 1040, Ardizzone's feudal rights were confirmed by the Bishop of Tortona, and the family spread to the plains of Pavia and Milan and to the Ligurian coast. Some settled along the Via Francigena, as far as Flanders and England.



The family also took up residence in Genoa under the surnames **Petra**, **Pietra**, or **Shia de Petra**. There, they contributed to the creation of the "Compagna Communis" commune, and later the Republic of Genoa.

Some members who distinguished themselves in the siege of Antioch during the First Crusade in 1098 were nicknamed **sciapa pria**, **shiapa petra** in the Ligurian language.

Also at the time of the First Crusade, the first foreign branches of the family became consolidated with the names **Hide** in the Chester area of England (now Cheshire County), **Petrie** in Scotland, and **de Petra** or **von Stein** in Flanders.

Beginning in 1163, the nickname became a surname on some notarial deeds and in the Annals of Genoa, where it was written as **speça petra**.

In 1182 and 1189, **speça petra** was Consul of the Republic of Genoa. In this capacity he signed an agreement for the rights to Albisola Castle and the peace treaty of 1188 with Pisa.

In 1189, **speça petra** was one of the commanders of the Genoese fleet in the Third Crusade, where he collaborated in the conquest of Acre. In 1191 and 1194, **Fulco** or **Fulcone Speçapetra** held the consular post of Console dei Placiti.

The First and Third Crusades saw further expansion of the family into southern Italy, along the Black Sea coasts, and to the main islands of the Mediterranean.

In 1227, disagreements between Genoa and Savona over Albisola Castle, among other things, led to a rapid war of conquest.

After Genoa's victory over Savona and its allies in 1227-28, a compromise with the Alessandrini was reached in Milan whereby **Assalito della Pietra e di Mongiardino** was reinstated in all his fiefs in the Ligurian Apennines, and the family acquired additional properties in Albisola.

In 1241, the Bishop of Genoa reconfirmed **Opizo de Petra f. Jacobus** in the ancient fiefs of Mongiardino and Vobbia.

In the 13th century, with Genoa's conquest of the Black Sea and the establishment of colonies, the Romanian and Ukrainian branch of the **Petrei** or **Petraeus** was formed.

In 1296, the **Petras** sold the fiefs and castles on the Apennines to the allied **Spinola** family and moved permanently to Albisola.

In 1389, **Gugliemus Schapapetra**, Vice Podestà of Varazze, was one of the eight people who drafted and signed the first **Statutes of the City of Albisola**.

In 1394, **Antonius Sihapaprea condam Iohannis de Albizola, Bertholomeus, and Petrus Sihapaprea** were among the Albisola men who swore allegiance to the City of Savona. In 1411, **Pietro Schiappapietra** was captain of the Ships of Savona.

in 1468 and in 1470, **Iohannes Schiappapetre antianus Saone** was sent to Milan as Ambassador and appears as Signore "domini" in various deeds from 1474.

The church of **San Nicolò** in Albisola Superiore, which was the mother church of the Schiappapietra Family, established baptism and marriage registers from 1566, and a register of the deceased from 1597. From these dates onward, the family trees of all the family branches that still exist today can be accurately traced.

The modern history of the family therefore began in 1566, and with it came the first major emigrations.

In the early 17th century, some members settled in Seville and Cadiz, starting the **Chapa** and **Chapapria** surname branches.

In 1647, Giovanni Battista Schiappapietra emigrated to the New World and hispanicized his name to **Juan Bautista Chapa II**. He became secretary to many governors and a historian of the **New Kingdom of León**, as well as the progenitor of the Mexican-Texan **Chapa** branch.

In 1665, the Schiappapietra Chaplaincy or Canonry was founded at the parish church of San Nicolò in Albisola Superiore under secular patronage.

In the 18th century, **Pietro** and **Giovanni Battista Schiappapietra**, emigrated to Portugal and became the progenitors of the Portuguese Schiappa Pietra.

In 1768, **Vicente Chapaprieta**, along with other Ligurians living in Tabarka who had been taken prisoners Bey of Tunis, was ransomed by King Charles III of Spain and transferred to Nueva Tabarca, near Alicante, where he generated the Spanish branch with his name.

The 19th century then saw more conspicuous and widespread emigration to Latin American countries, particularly California, Argentina, and Peru. Brothers **Federico, Antonio, and Leopoldo Schiappapietra** undertook various entrepreneurial activities in California, contributing to the founding of Ventura and the development of the large Santa Clara del Norte Ranch.

The 19th century also saw Canon **Antonio Giovanni Battista Schiappapietra** become Provost of Albisola Superiore. He also started working as an archaeologist, and carried out the excavations of the Roman villa of **Alba Docilia**. He wrote several texts on the excavations and the history of Albisola, and provided for the restoration of the parish churches of **San Nicolò** and **San Pietro**.

In the early 1970s, Luigi F. A. Schiappapietra purchased Casaforte Cotti di Ceres in Neive from his maternal grandmother's cousins, and, in 2022, Schiappapietra Finanziari Srl purchased Palazzo Cotti di Ceres in Asti, along with its rich archives and library.

The Cotti di Ceres Archives – perhaps the most important repository of grape growing and winemaking history in Piedmont – will be shared between the State Archives of Asti, the Historical Library of the Metropolitan City of Turin, and the Cotti di Ceres Palace in Asti.

With the latest acquisitions, the Foundation has adopted a new corporate name:
SCHIAPPAPIETRA COTTI DI CERES FOUNDATION.