

## No 8

### The Thomé House

This house belonged to important landowners, the Thomé couple, Charles Bernard Thomé and Angélique Labretonnière. In 1798, Charles Bernard was also the Mayor of Alex. They had three children:

Charles Esprit, postmaster at La Paillasse and whose son Charles Joseph was born in the village of Alex, at his grandmother's house, rue de la Tour;

Auguste, who died without leaving an heir. He was a public prosecutor as well as an agronomist and was appointed Mayor of Alex in 1837. He established an agricultural school which he installed in his château in 1849.

Alphonse, who also passed away without leaving an heir.

### The Castle

The Thomés owned considerable property in the area. There was a saying that if one walked from the Château de Pergaud located 3 km past Alex towards Livron and passed by the Gardener, one could reach the distant Barnaire district without trespassing the property of others. Suffice to say that the complete southwest area of the village belonged to them. However, they suffered from bad investments (in particular in the General Union bank that went bankrupt in 1882), leaving them financially ruined.

As a consequence, the years 1880-85 saw the sale of the Vermenelle, Traversier and Gardener farms as well as the house located in the village, purchased by the Diocese, remaining a parish cure until 1970.

As for the castle and its adjoining land, they were sold by their heirs, to a Doctor Francis Perrier of Valence, then resold to a farmer, Marcel Salvignon, in 1961.