



Merlo / Pluma Family

SUMMARY REPORT

PREPARED FOR

[Client Name]

24 February 2022

OBJECTIVE:

1. Obtain further documentation on the Merlo family line, including any church documents at La Iglesia de Jesus, Maria y José and Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje.
2. Obtain further documentation for Federico Merlo, who was born 1821 Havana Cuba, and Emilia Pluma Merlo, who was born 1828 in Havana Cuba, specifically, birth/baptism records.
3. Identify any siblings of Federico Merlo.

INFORMATION FROM CLIENT:

The client completed a previous phase of research through Trace.com (Project 44742). The original objectives were to identify the parents of Federico Estevan Merlo, and if possible, trace Emilia Pluma's parents to their place(s) of origin.

Research in Cuban archives and churches in Old Havana provided the following facts about the Merlo / Pluma Family:

MERLO FAMILY

Federico Estevan Merlo married Emilia de Pluma on 28 April 1845 at La Iglesia Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje in Old Havana. They were both native of Havana, and it was the first marriage for the both of them. Federico was the son of José Nicolás Merlo and María del Rosario Medina. Previous research did not determine where José Nicolás and Rosario were born.

Emilia was the daughter of Juan Bautista Pluma Berta and María Josefa de la Acensión Sanchez Otero. Juan Bautista Pluma Berta was born 1 April 1775 in Finale Ligure, Savona, Italy and immigrated to Cuba between 1803 and 1818. María Josefa de la Acensión was born in Old Havana, Cuba. Juan Bautista married María Josefa de la Acensión on 3 June 1818 at the La Iglesia del Espíritu Santo in Old Havana. His parents were Mariano Pluma and Rosa Berta. Her parents were Fernando Sanchez and María Isadora de la Luz Otero.

Federico and Emilia had the following children:

1. Lorenzo Merlo, male, born in Cuba about 1849
2. Enriquetta Merlo, female, born in Cuba about 1851
3. Carmen Merlo, male, born in Cuba about 1854
4. Pablo Juan, male, born 4 August 1860, baptized La Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje, Havana, Cuba about 1849
5. Francisco Merlo, male, born in Cuba about 1861
6. Emilia Merlo, female, born in Cuba about 1863
7. Rosario Merlo, female, born in Cuba about 1865

The family immigrated to America on the 15 September 1875. They departed Havana, Cuba on the *SS Columbia*, arriving in New York City. Federico was fifty years old, and Emilia was forty-eight. They immigrated with all their children, except for Pablo, who likely died in Cuba before their departure. Federico was a cigar maker. He and his son Lorenzo likely worked for C. Melichros and Company, a Turkish cigar making company at 1339 Broadway, New York, New York. The family were living at 233 West 27th Street, in a neighborhood called Chelsea when Federico died on 31 December 1879. He was buried at Calvary Cemetery, Queens, New York.

PLUMA FAMILY

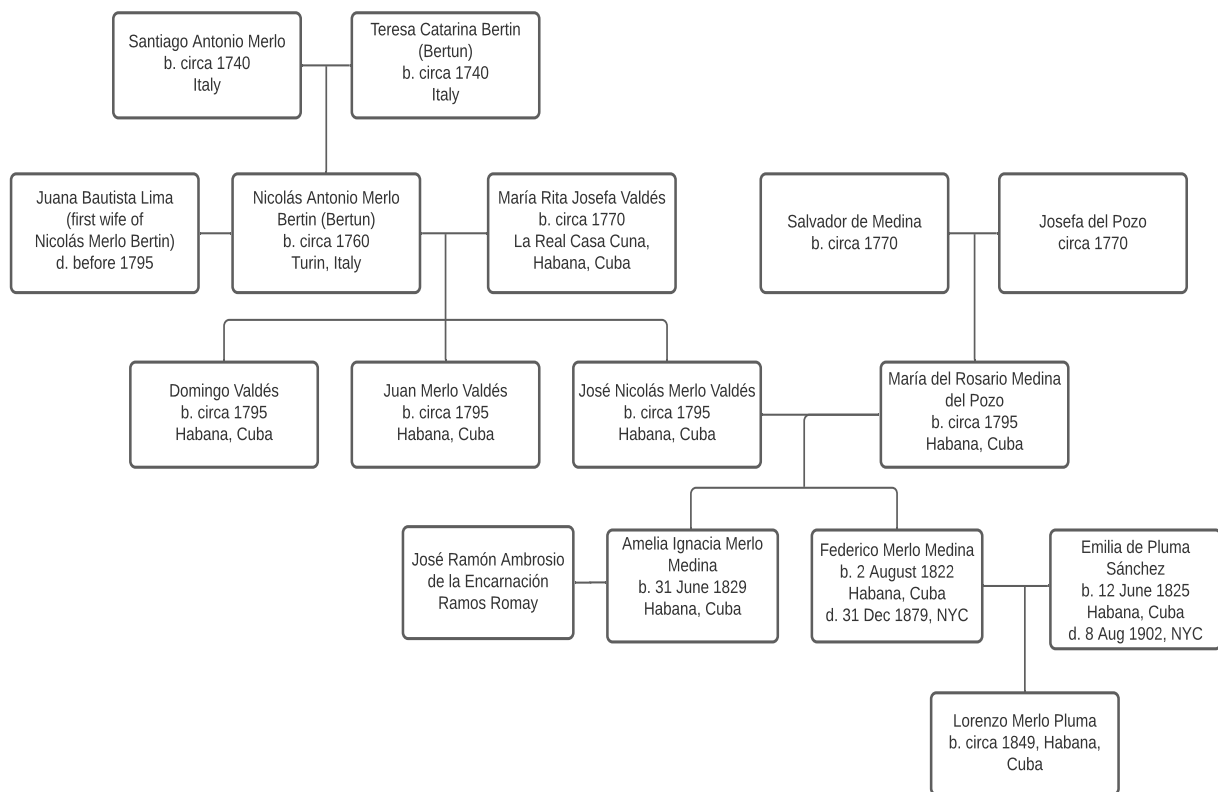
The marriage record for Federico Merlo Medina and Emilia Pluma Sanchez at La Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje, identified Emilia's parents as Juan Bautista Pluma and María Josefa Sanchez. Juan Bautista requested a marriage license to marry María Josefa in La Iglesia del Espíritu Santo on 3 June 1818. This record identified his parents as Mariano Pluma and Rosa Berta. María Josefa's parents were identified as Fernando Sanchez and María Isadora de la Luz Otero. María Josefa was native of Habana.

With Juan Bautista Pluma's marriage request, he presented his overseas identity documents. Juan Bautista was born 1 April 1775 in Finale Ligure, Savona, Italy. He was baptized in the Basilica de San Biagio. He likely immigrated to Cuba between 1803 and 1818.

María Josefa Sanchez Otero was born 11 May 1792 and baptized at La Iglesia del Espíritu Santo in Habana. Her father, Fernando Sanchez, was native of Gijón, Spain. Her mother, María Isadora del la Luz Otero was native of Habana, Cuba. Her paternal grandparents were Don Manuel Francisco Sanchez and Francisca Jove. Her maternal grandparents were Bartolome Otero and Juana Teresa Sendon [Cendon].

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

MERLO FAMILY PEDIGREE CHART



MERLO FAMILY

This second phase of research in Cuba for the MERLO family, added two additional generations. Research reached a generation born in Turin, Italy around 1740. Thus, it has been established that both the MERLO and the PLUMA families originate in Italy.

Based on documents found in this second phase of research, it is evident that the Merlo family were part of Havana's colonial high society. Their social circles included distinguished individuals, of wealth, political rank, and titled nobility to the Spanish crown.

Baptism of Federico Estevan Merlo Medina

Federico Estevan Merlo Medina was born 2 August 1822 in Havana, Cuba. He was baptized fifteen days later, on the 17 August 1822 at La Iglesia del Espíritu Santo in Old Havana. From previous research, we know that Federico's parents were José Nicolás Merlo and María del Rosario Medina, both native of Havana, Cuba.

The acquisition of Federico's baptism identified all four of his grandparents. His paternal grandparents were Nicolás Merlo and R[?] Josefa Valdes[z] [document broken]. Maternal grandparents were Salvador Medina and Josefa del [..zo]. The godparents were José Ma[?] and Lorenzo de Medina. Though damage to the document could not make out the full spelling of their names, we know from other documents found that the complete names are Rita Josefa Valdés and Josefa del Pozo.

Federico's name is spelt ESTEBAN in his baptismal record, and ESTEVAN in his marriage record to Emilia Pluma, which was included in previous research. The marriage record that was obtained was a digital image of the original document from the church. His baptismal record was a transcription of the original record. Though his baptismal record is closer to his identify, information found on an original record is deemed more accurate. Provision of clear evidence from the primary source is critical to support all conclusions and statements of fact. Therefore, for the purposes of this report and any future reports, Estevan's name will be spelt with a V, the way it was listed in the original marriage record to Emilia de Pluma.

José Nicolás Merlo Valdés and María del Rosario Medina del Pozo, Federico's parents

José Nicolás Merlo and María del Rosario Medina were married 28 December 1818 at La Iglesia del Espíritu Santo in Old Havana, Cuba. The acquisition of their marriage record confirms the correct spelling of the names of their parents and provided additional information that could not be clarified due to document deterioration in Federico Estevan Merlo's baptismal record.

José Nicolás and María del Rosario were both born in Cuba and residents of the parish in which they were married. This was the first marriage for both. José Nicolás was the first son of Nicolás Antonio Merlo and María Rita Valdés. In their grandson Federico's baptismal record, Rita was not legible. This document confirms her entire name as María Rita Josefa Valdés [z].

María del Rosario was the second daughter of Salvador Medina and Josefa del Pozo. The acquisition of this document provides the complete spelling of Josefa's last name, which was not legible in Federico's baptismal record due to deterioration.

The witnesses were Felipe Alfonso and Estevan Alonso (Alfonso?). Godparents were Alejandro del Castillo and Lorenza de Medina. It is possible that Lorenza de Medina was the sister to María del Rosario Medina.

Sibling of Federico Estevan Merlo Medina, Amelia Ignacia Merlo y Medina

Baptismal records for Federico's siblings were researched at La Iglesia del Espíritu Santo in Old Havana. Unfortunately, no baptismal records were found. However, a published history of Federico Estevan Merlo Medina's sister was found in *Genealogias Habaneras*, by Rafael Nieto Cortadellas.

Amelia Ignacia Merlo Medina was born 31 June 1829. She was baptized 28 August 1829 at La Iglesia de Jesús María y José, in Old Havana (folio 80, núm. 679, libro 7). The documented history confirms her parents as José Nicolás Antonio de la Encarnación Merlo Valdés and María del Rosario Medina del Pozo. Amelia married José Ramón Ambrosio de la Concepción Ramos y Romay on 19 August 1852 at the Parrish of Salvador del Mundo (El Cerro).

Amelia Ignacia's husband, José Ramón Ambrosio came from an illustrious Cuban family. His grandfather was the renowned Dr. Tomás José Domingo Rafael del Rosario Romay y Chácon. He is famous for introducing in Cuba the vaccine for smallpox and conducting early investigations into the causes of yellow fever. He was also a founding member of *La Sociedad Patriótica*, one

of the key institutions in the development of Colonial Cuba. The marriage of Amelia Ignacia to José Ramón Ambrosio suggests that the Merlo and del Pozo families were of high society Colonial Cuba.

Don José-Ramón-Ambrosio-de la Concepción Ramos y Romay, del Puerto y González, antes mencionado, nació el 7 de diciembre de 1822 y bautizado en la parroquia del Sagrario de la Catedral habanera el 23 del propio mes (folio 20 vuelto, núm. 56, libro 25), estuvo muy ligado a su tío político el licenciado de la Luz y Caballero, formando parte del cuerpo de profesores del «Colegio del Salvador». Casó y veló en la parroquia del Salvador del Mundo (El Cerro) el 19 de agosto de 1852 (folios 123 vuelto y 124, núm. 391, libro primero), con doña *Amelia-Ignacia Merlo y Medina, Valdés y del Pozo*, nacida el 31 de junio de 1829 y bautizada en la de Jesús María y José el 28 de agosto inmediato (folio 80, núm. 679, libro 7), hija de don José-Nicolás-Antonio-de la Encarnación Merlo y Valdés, y doña María del Rosario Medina y del Pozo. De su citado matrimonio, don José-Ramón-Ambrosio-María de la Concepción Ramos y Romay, del Puerto y González, tuvo: a María de la Ascensión-Luisa Gonzaga-del Espíritu Santo; a José-Ramón-Pablo; a María del Rosario-Desideria-del Espíritu Santo; a José-Ramón-de la Encarnación; a Amelia, y a Aurelio-Andrés Corsino-de las Mercedes Ramos y Merlo, Romay y Medina. Los cuales:

Genealogias Habaneras, Amelia Ignacia Merlo y Medina

Nicolás Antonio Merlo Bertin and María Rita Josefa Valdés, Federico's grandparents

In the city of Havana, on the 26 of April 1795, Nicolás Antonio Merlo Bertin married María Rita Josefa Valdés in the private oratory of the Countess of San Juan de Jaruco in La Iglesia del Espíritu Santo.

Nicolás Antonio Merlo Bertin was from Turin, Italy. He was the son of Santiago Antonio Merlo and Teresa Catarina B...[document broken]. He was a widow, previously married to Juana Bautista Lima. His new wife, María Rita Josefa Valdés, was born in Havana and was an orphan of *La Real Casa Cuna*, an orphanage house in Old Havana. Her parents were not documented, as would be expected.

The witnesses were:

- The Marques of Monte Hermoso
- Don Ambrosio María Suaso [Suazo]
- Don Gaspar Chaple (Gaspar José Chaple y Davila, Nanangle y de la Torre)

The Godparents were:

- Don Ramón Semana, Lieutenant Colonel of Dragones (Ramón de Sentmenat y Copons)
- The Countess of San Juan de Jaruco, Doña Teresa de Santa Cruz

La Real Casa Cuna and the Valdés Surname of María Rita Josefa Valdés

La Real Casa Cuna, now known as *La Casa de Beneficencia y Maternidad de La Habana* (The House of Charity and Maternity of Havana) was, and continues to be, a charitable orphanage in Havana, Cuba. In 1794 it moved to its current location in an area of Havana called San Lazaro, at the corners of San Lazaro and Belascoáin Streets.

It was founded in 1687, but due to a lack of resources, it was left unfinished. It was later taken over by Bishop Fray Gerónimo de Nosti y Valdés, who took over the failing orphanage and restored *La Real Casa Cuna* in a building he built on the corner of Oficios and Muralla Street. Finally, in 1792, it moved to its current location in San Lazaro, on the initiative of the Countess of Jaruco (La Condesa de San Juan de Jaruco, Teresa de Santa Cruz), the Marquises of Cárdenas of Monte Hermoso, the Marquis of Casa Peñalver and the Bishop of the Provinces of Louisiana and Florida. It accepted only females.

Aside from orphans, mothers could also leave their children at *La Real Casa Cuna* for economic reasons or for the shame of being a single mother. On the side of the building, there was a lathe; a mother could leave her infant and ring the bell. On the other side of the lathe, the child was received by a nun from the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul.

The Countess of San Juan de Jaruco and the Marques of Cárdenas of Monte Hermoso were important figures that supported *La Real Casa Cuba*. As previously noted, they were also a witness and godparent at Nicolás Antonio Merlo and María Rita Josefa Valdés' marriage.

Furthermore, Doctor Tomás Romay, was also an important figure at *La Real Casa Cuna*, as the orphanage doctor. Nicolás Antonio Merlo and María Rita Josefa's granddaughter Amelia Ignacia

Merlo y Medina married Doctor Tomás Romay's grandson, José Ramón Ambrosio de la Concepción Ramos y Romay. This further establishes that the Merlo family had relationships with distinguished individuals in colonial Cuban society.



The Baby Lathe at La Real Casa Cuna

María Rita Josefa Valdés was an orphan at *La Real Casa Cuna* when she married Nicolás Antonio Merlo Bertin in 1795. Children who had no last name were given the surname VALDÉS upon entering the orphanage. The name is derived from the Bishop Fray Gerónimo de Nosti y Valdés, who took over the failing orphanage and restored *La Real Casa Cuna* in a building he built on the corner of Oficios and Muralla Street. He is buried at La Iglesia del Espíritu Santo, Old Havana.

Because María Rita Josefa did not have a last name, the surname VALDÉS was given to her at *La Real Casa Cuna*. This is how she became known as María Rita Josefa VALDÉS.



*La Real Casa Cuna, Habana, Cuba.
Now known as La Casa de Beneficencia y Maternidad de La Habana*

Notable People in the Marriage of Nicolás Antonio Merlo Bertin and María Rita Josefa Valdés

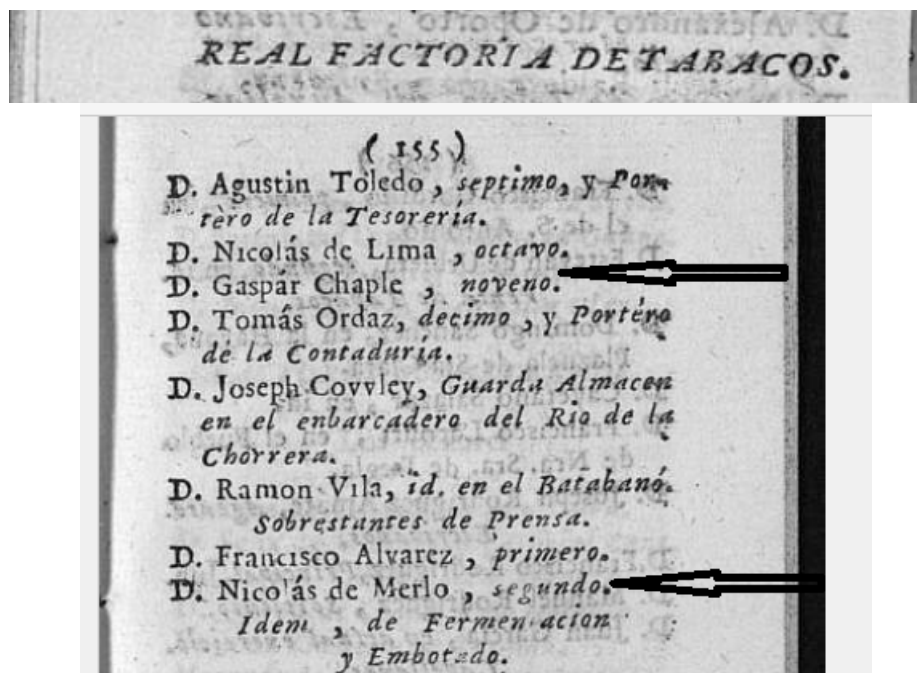
There were significant figures that were godparents and witnesses to the marriage of Nicolás Antonio Merlo Bertin and María Rita Josefa Valdés. Some of them were Spanish military and some were part of the aristocracy and nobility of colonial high society Cuba.

Aside from the Countess of San Juan de Jaruco, and the Marques of Monte Hermoso, who were of Spanish nobility, and both founders of *La Real Casa Cuna*, there were also other notable participants in the marriage:

I. **Don Gaspar Chaple (Don Gaspar José Chaple y Davila, Nanangle y de la Torre)**

Don Gaspar Chaple was an employee of the *Real Factoría de Tabacos* (Royal Tobacco

Factory) in Havana from 1793 to 1838 as an officer and first assistant. He was also a local magistrate of the town of El Gabriel in Güira de Melena, Mayabeque, Cuba. Gaspar Chaple was of Polish descent. His father was a wealthy landowner, both in the Havana jurisdiction of Jesús del Monte and in the area of La Lisa, Marianao district, in the province of Havana. He was the trunk of an illustrious Havana family that has given the country a large number of professionals, some of them notable personalities.



*Guía de Forasteros de la Isla de Cuba, 1795
(Guide of Foreigners of the Island of Cuba, 1795)*

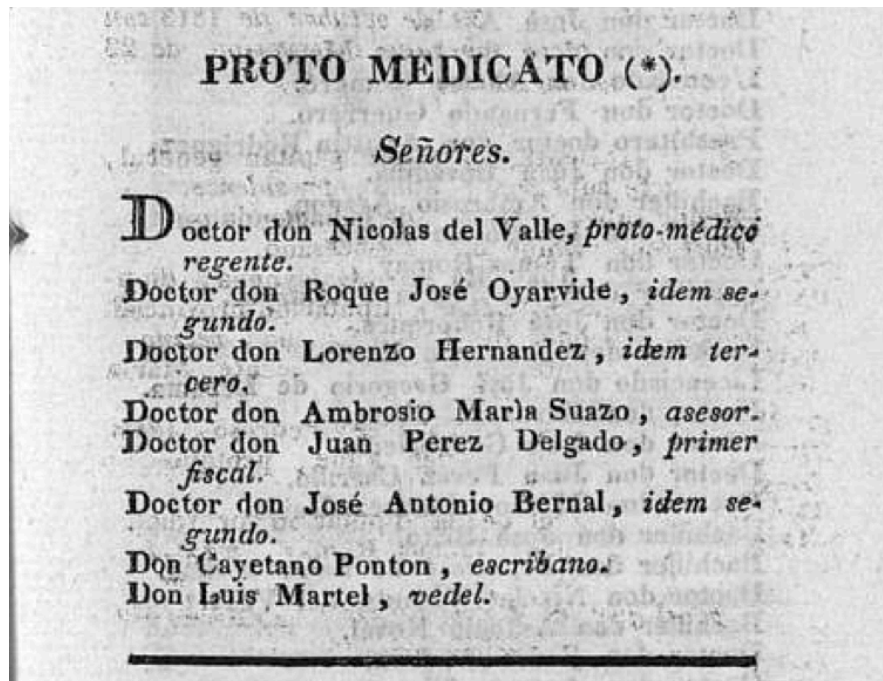
In the 1795 *Guía de Forasteros de la Isla de Cuba* (Guide of Foreigners of the Island of Cuba), both Don Gaspar Chaple and Don Nicolás Merlo were found as employees of *Real Factoría de Tabacos* (Royal Tobacco Factory of Havana).

- II. **Ramón Semana (Ramón de Sentmenat y Copons)** (Peñíscola, Valencia, Spain, 1754 - Havana, 1840). Ramón Semana, could possibly be Ramón de Sentmenat y Copons. He was influential in the military. In 1781, from Havana, he enlisted and participated in the American Revolutionary War against the British. He returned to Cuba in 1782 as a decorated

soldier for his participation in the Naval Battle of Pensacola in 1781. From 1789 he was part of the Dragoons of America regiment, reaching the rank of colonel. He was promoted to commander of the Cavalry, Brigadier, and finally to Lieutenant Colonel of the Cavalry in 1820. By Royal Decree, he was declared a Knight of the Royal and Military Order of San Hermenegildo. Ramón was also a member of *La Sociedad Patriótica*, as was the Countess of San Juan de Jaruco, the Marques of Monte Hermoso and Doctor, Tomás Romay.

III. Don Ambrosio María de Suazo [Suazo]

Don Ambrosio María de Suazo was a member of the *Protomedicato de la Habana* (Medical Protocol Commission of Havana). He was also part of the Spanish Military.



Ambrosio María Suazo, Guía de Forasteros de la Isla de Cuba, 1814

The life and social sphere of Nicolás Antonio Merlo Bertin in late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, suggests that he was part of society that had an elevated economic and social position in Colonial Cuba. The presence, at his wedding, of the important doctor, Ambrosio María de Suazo, a member of *Protomedicato de la Habana*, and Ramón Sentmenat, a decorated Spanish military lieutenant coronal in Cuba and the United States, as well as the

business relationship with Gaspar Chaple. Finally, the presence of individuals of nobility, Teresa Beltrán de Santa Cruz y Calvo de la Puerta, Countess of San Juan de Jaruco, and the Marques of Monte Hermoso.

The Countess and the Marques were founders of *La Real Casa Cuna*. It is possible that they served as a witness or godparent to all the girls in the orphanage since they did not have family of their own. This relationship between the nobility and the girls of *La Real Casa Cuna* is possible, but one must not be swayed by the philanthropic charm of the Havana aristocracy. It is unlikely that people of their noble status were participating as a witness and godparent to all the orphans of *La Real Casa Cuna*. However, this theory also does not account for the other distinguished individuals.

It is probable that Nicolás Antonio Merlo Bertin was part of the elevated social class of Colonial Cuba. The marriage of Nicolás Antonio with María Rita Josefa was an act of pure love and not an arranged marriage between families of high economic position, as was customary at the time. The foundation is expressed by the humble origins of María Rita Josefa Valdés, a girl from *La Real Casa Cuna*, where children without parental protection were welcomed and who were given the last name VALDÉS.

It is a story with a high degree of affection and devotion. The Italian merchant, Nicolás Antonio Merlo Bertin did not care about the humble and unfortunate past of María Rita Josefa Valdés and recognized her as his wife, and later as the mother of their son, José Nicolás Merlo Valdés. It was likely a marriage with noble intentions, and the acceptance by a circle of society who found María Rita Josefa Valdés suitable for marriage.

Furthermore, it is evident that Nicolás Antonio Merlo Bertin did not lose his social status for marrying an orphan girl from *La Real Casa Cuna*, as years later his granddaughter, Amelia Ignacia Merlo Medina, married the grandson of the prominent Dr. Tomás Romay.

Real Factoría de Tabacos (Royal Tobacco Factory)

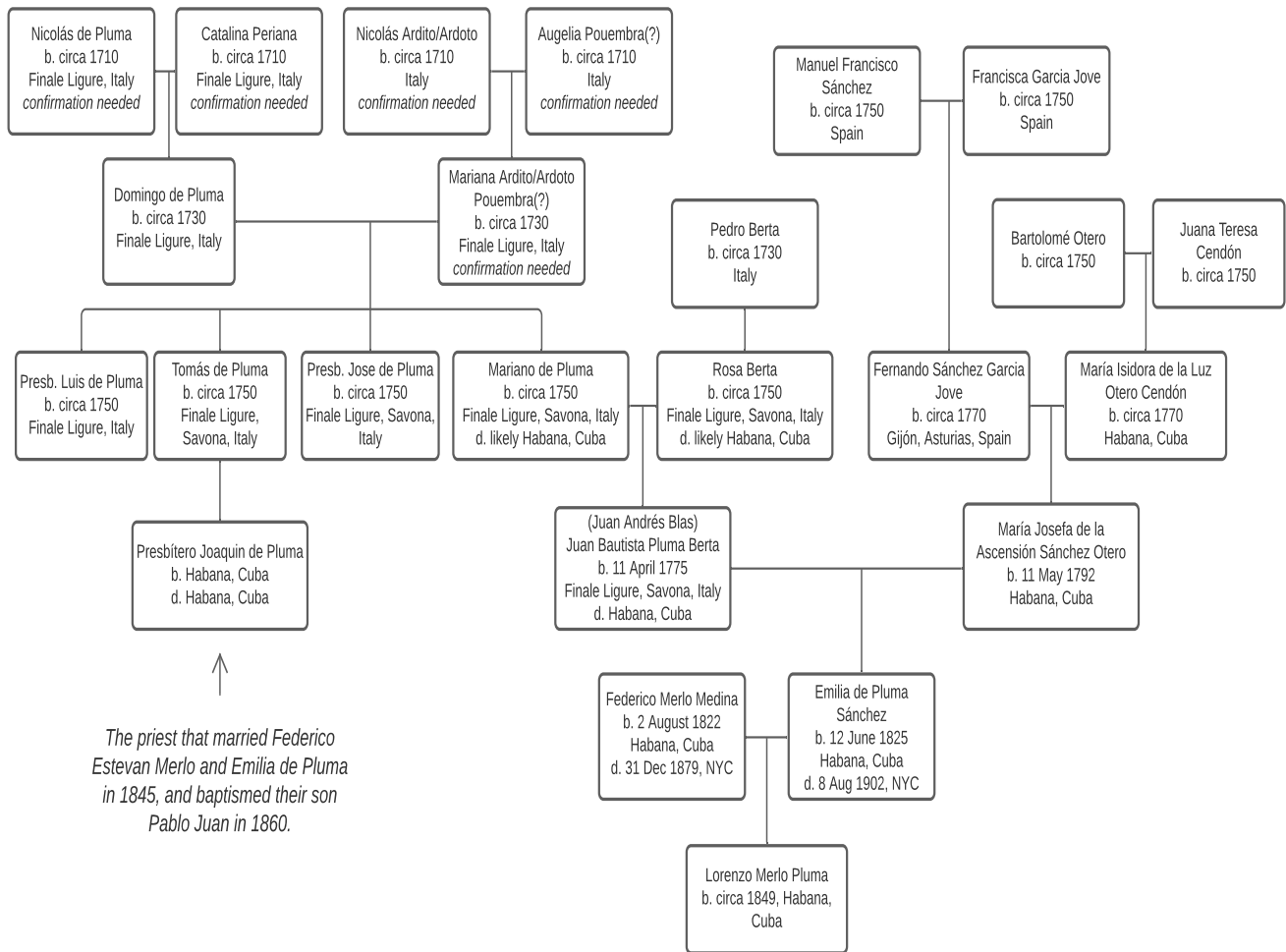
Tobacco influenced Spain and its colonies, particularly Cuba, in profound ways. Tobacco was vital to Cuba's economy prosperity, and that of the Spanish Crown. Cuba's *Real Factoría de Tabacos* (Royal Tobacco Factory) required a staggering number of bureaucrats throughout Cuba, as well as Spain. Tobacco led to the creation of a distinct Cuban society deeply rooted in the new Spanish monopoly. From high-ranking officials in Spain and Cuba to the lowly mule

pack drivers in Havana. Tobacco was Cuba's primary crop, however, Spaniards sent from Spain managed this monopoly.

Real Factoría de Tabacos was described as one of the city's principal edifices. It was a large structure with massive, high walls. All tobacco, whether it was destined for Spain or elsewhere, passed through the properties well-secured entrances. Once processed, the island's tobacco was prepared for the voyage to the empire's main tobacco monopoly headquarters in Spain.

Cuba's nobility also participated in the tobacco industry on the island by either donating or selling land to the Crown for the sole purpose of growing tobacco and supporting their king. At the turn of the century, the Count of San Juan de Jaruco, the husband of Countess San Juan de Jaruco, Teresa de Santa Cruz, became involved this way. He donated 9,700 acres to the crown. Nicolás Antonio Merlo's relationship with the Spanish nobility was likely connected to his employment at *La Real Factoría de Tabacos*.

PLUMA FAMILY PEDIGREE CHART



PLUMA FAMILY

Previous research traced the Pluma family line three additional generations with branches originating in Finale Ligure, Savona, Italy, and Gijón, Asturias, Spain. However, the client wished to know more about Emilia Pluma, the wife of Federico Estevan Merlo Medina. Emilia's baptismal record was found, along with a family tree that likely adds two more generations to the Pluma line beginning around 1710 in Finale Ligure, Savona, Italy.

Emilia de Pluma Sánchez, wife of Federico Estevan Merlo Medina

Emilia de Pluma Sanchez was born 12 June 1825 in Havana, Cuba. She was baptized a month later on the 8 August 1825 at La Iglesia del Espíritu Santo, Old Havana, Cuba. Her baptismal record confirms the origin of her father Juan Bautista Pluma[s], which indicates that he was from the territory of Finale in Génova, Italy. Her mother is confirmed as Josefa Sánchez, who was born in Havana, Cuba. Her grandparents, who were listed on the birth record are consistent with previous research. Her paternal grandparents were Mariano Pluma and Rosa Berta. Her maternal grandparents were Fernando Sánchez and María de la Luz Otero. The godmother was Doña María Dolores Ambroa.

Emilia immigrated to America with her husband and children in 1875. She lived to the age of seventy-seven years old. She died in New York City on 8 August 1902 of Typhoid Fever and Asthenia (physical weakness). At the time of her death, she was living in Harlem at 268 West 131st Street. She is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Queens, New York, in a plot with her son Federico Merlo. Emilia's husband Federico Estevan Merlo is also buried at Woodlawn.

Now that Emilia's baptismal record was acquired, we know that she was born on 12 June 1825, making the information on her headstone incorrect.

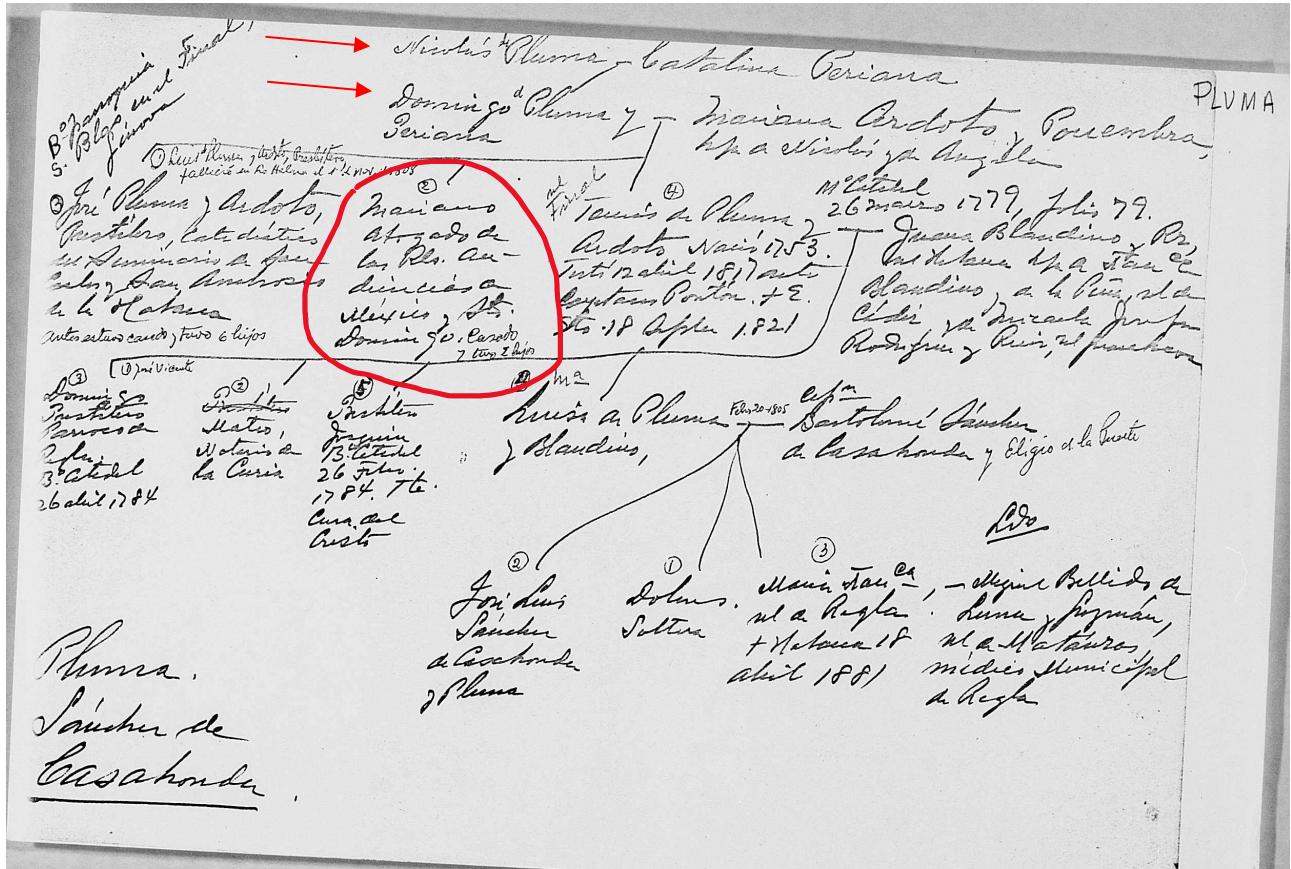


Grave of Emila Pluma Merlo, Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, New York

Origins of the Pluma Family

Historia de Familias Cubanas, sometimes referred to as *El Conde de Jaruco*, was researched and written by Francisco Xavier de Santa Cruz y Mallen. It is one of the most authenticated books on Cuban genealogy, documenting over 800 Cuban family histories in a series of six books. Not all of the author's work made it into the books. However, his unpublished notes were recently digitized.

His handwritten notes included the following PLUMA family from the Parrish of San Blas in Finale Ligure, Italy. This provides strong credibility that it is the client's direct line.



Historia de Familias Cubanas, by Francisco Xavier de Santa Cruz y Mallen
unpublished notes

This family tree suggests that Mariano de Pluma, Emilia’s grandfather, was one of three brothers. Mariano’s father, Domingo de Pluma, is consistent with information obtained on Mariano’s son Juan Bautista Pluma’s marriage record in Cuba. Though this information needs to be substantiated with church documents in Italy, it strongly suggests that this is the client’s direct line.

The findings:

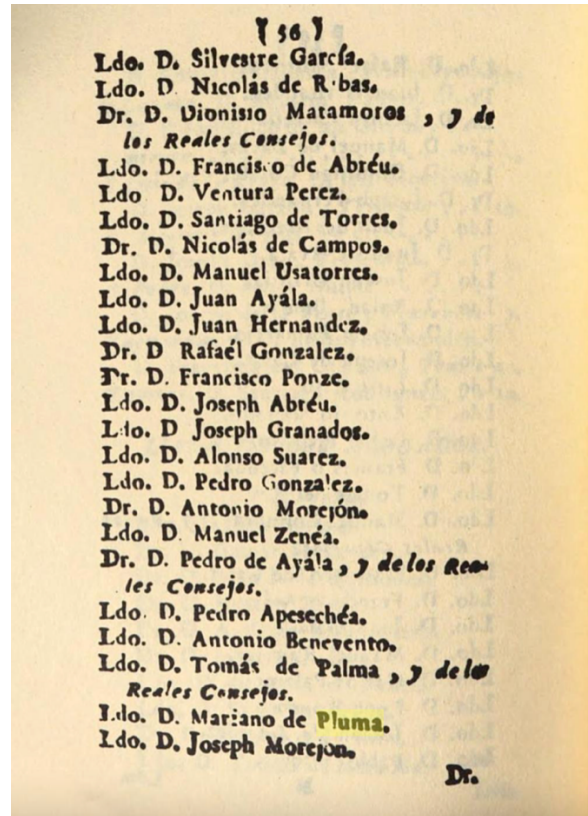
- Mariano de Pluma had three siblings, all baptized at the Basilica of San Blas, Finale Ligure, Savona, Italy
 - Luis Pluma y Ardoto, Presbítero (Priest), died in Havana 1808

- José Pluma y Ardoto, Presbítero (Priest), seminary professor of San Carlos and San Ambrosio of Havana. He was previously married and had six children.
- Tomás Pluma y Ardoto was born 1753. This is consistent with previous research that estimated Mariano's birth year as circa 1750. Tomás married Juana Blandino Rodriquez, in Havana in 1779. They had five children, three of which were priests. One of their sons was Presbítero Joaquin de Pluma, the priest that married Federico Merlo and Emilia Pluma, the subjects of this research. This would make Presbítero Joaquin de Pluma Emilia's great uncle.
- Mariano's father was Domingo de Pluma, which is consistent with previous research.
- Mariano's paternal grandparents were Nicolás Pluma and Catalina Periana. Both born circa 1710.
- His mother was Mariana Ardoto y Pouembra[?]
- His maternal grandparents were Nicolás Ardoto and Augelia Pouembra[?]. Both born circa 1710.
- Mariano was an *Abogado de la Real Ausencias de México and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic* (Lawyer of the Royal Ausencia of Mexico and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic).
- The family tree indicates that he was married with two children.
- Mariano's professional position and the marriages of his siblings in Cuba, would suggest that his son, Juan Bautista Pluma, immigrated to Cuba with Mariano as a result of his father's position in the New World.

Though the maternal surname is spelt ARDOTO by the author, it is likely ARDITO, a common Italian name.

Mariano de Pluma, Emilia de Pluma's grandfather

The Pluma family tree indicates that Mariano Pluma was a lawyer. In the 1795 *Guía de Forasteros de La Isla de Cuba* (Guide of Foreigners on the Island of Cuba), he is also documented as an *Abogado* (Lawyer) (Ldo).



(D) Don Mariano de Pluma, *Guía de Forasteros de la Isla de Cuba*, 1795

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH:

MERLO FAMILY

- Allotted research time did not permit for completing the objective of identifying all of the siblings of Federico Merlo. Additional research time is needed for researching collateral lines. Possible siblings include:
 - Jose Buenaventura Merlo Medina: lawyer in Havana in 1844
 - Ramón Merlo: lawyer in 1840, who also resided on the same street as José Nicolás Merlo and his family – Real de Jesús María, Old Havana.
 - Felipe Merlo: priest at La Iglesia del Pilar in 1844
 - Lorenzo Merlo, witness at the marriage of Federico Merlo to Emilia de Pluma
- Utilize the researcher's archivists in Italy to research the MERLO family in Turin, Piedmont, Italy.
- Continue research for María del Rosario Medina, who was born in Havana around 1795. Locating her baptismal record will possibly determine where her parents, Salvador Medina and Josefa del Pozo, were born. The Medina and the del Pozo lines are important lines in the history of the Merlo family in Cuba, as they were likely of high social status during colonial times.

PLUMA FAMILY

Three of Emilia Pluma's four grandparents immigrated to Cuba. Two from Finale Ligure, Savona, Italy, and one from Gijón, Asturias, Spain. Therefore, research for the Pluma line can be broken into three research goals.

- Research the only line that continues in Cuba - María Isadora de la Luz Otero Cendón, born about 1770 in Cuba. There is a branch of the OTERO family in Cuba that is published in *Historias de Familias Cubanas*. Researching the OTERO line may connect to this already documented family.

- Utilize the researcher's archivists in Italy to research the PLUMA and BERTA family lines in Finale Ligure, Savona, Italy.
- Utilize the researcher's archivists in Spain to research the SÁNCHEZ and JOVE family lines in Gijón, Asturias, Spain.