



**Merlo-Pluma Family Genealogy  
Research Report**

**Prepared for**



**23 March 2021**

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## OBJECTIVE:

1. Identify the father of Frederico Esteban Merlo
2. Trace Emilia Pluma's parents to their place(s) of origin

This research is part of the client's ultimate goal to understand both of these ancestors' lives and be able to share them with client's mother.

## INFORMATION FROM CLIENT:

Frederico Esteban Merlo was born around 1821 in Havana, Cuba and died 31 December 1879 in Manhattan, New York, United States. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery in New York. Frederico was married to Emilia Pluma, who was born June 1828 in Havana, Cuba and died 8 August 1902 in Manhattan, New York, New York. Frederico was the possible son of Jose Buenaventura Merlo, born in Cuba and died 5 October 1860 in Guaibacoa, Havana, Cuba. Jose is a possible father/uncle/relative, but client hasn't been able to trace to Frederico.

Client does have the names of Emilia's parents and they are buried in the Espada Cemetery. Family lore says they left in 1875 on a mail ship quickly to avoid uprising. Client has been told that Merlo and de Pluma are not common Cuban last names. Client believes they are Italian. Client's family has spent the last 30 years researching these two family names. Recently, client was able to locate the burial locations for Frederico Esteban Merlo and his wife, Emilia Pluma, who were both born in Cuba in the 1820s. Emilia's father's name is Presb. Joaquin de Pluma, who was born in Italy per Emilia's death record and her mother's name is Josefa Sanchez, born in Cuba. The Italy assumption is based on Emilia Pluma Merlo's death record stating her father was born in Italy; so, the next assumption is that Merlo is also Italian and that all came from Italy to Cuba and different time frames but unsure why and how they acquired a plantation.

Client uploaded a document for Jose B Merlo, which shows where Jose's plantation was. However, client does not know if this individual is indeed Frederico's father, as she suspects. This is the only Merlo client could find living in Cuba, which is why she suspects he may be Frederico's father.

Client also uploaded a few documents her parents found in a book that they scanned at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. This book had the Merlo name in it; however, the client's family does not know if they are indeed related to any of the individuals named in this book. The client's parents scanned these pages 30 years ago, before they had any research experience. So the client understands the pages may not be applicable or helpful, but wanted to pass it along, just in case it is.

*Other notes regarding family's interest:*

Client's mother would like to be able to go back a few more generations, preferably back to Italy and beyond on Merlo (priority) and Pluma side. They are interested in any birth or death records or even any photos or journals that talk about their ancestors. Client knows they have Italian blood; however, client's mother does not know how and from whom, so we are assuming the Merlo/Pluma line is the Italian side based off of Emilia Pluma Merlo death record that listed her parents, Josepha (Cuban) and Juaquin Pluma (Italian). Client's mother would also like to know as much about why they came to Cuba and about their Sugar Cane Plantation, based on passed down stories. If possible, the family would like to learn if/why Federico, Emilia and their children left Cuba so quickly.

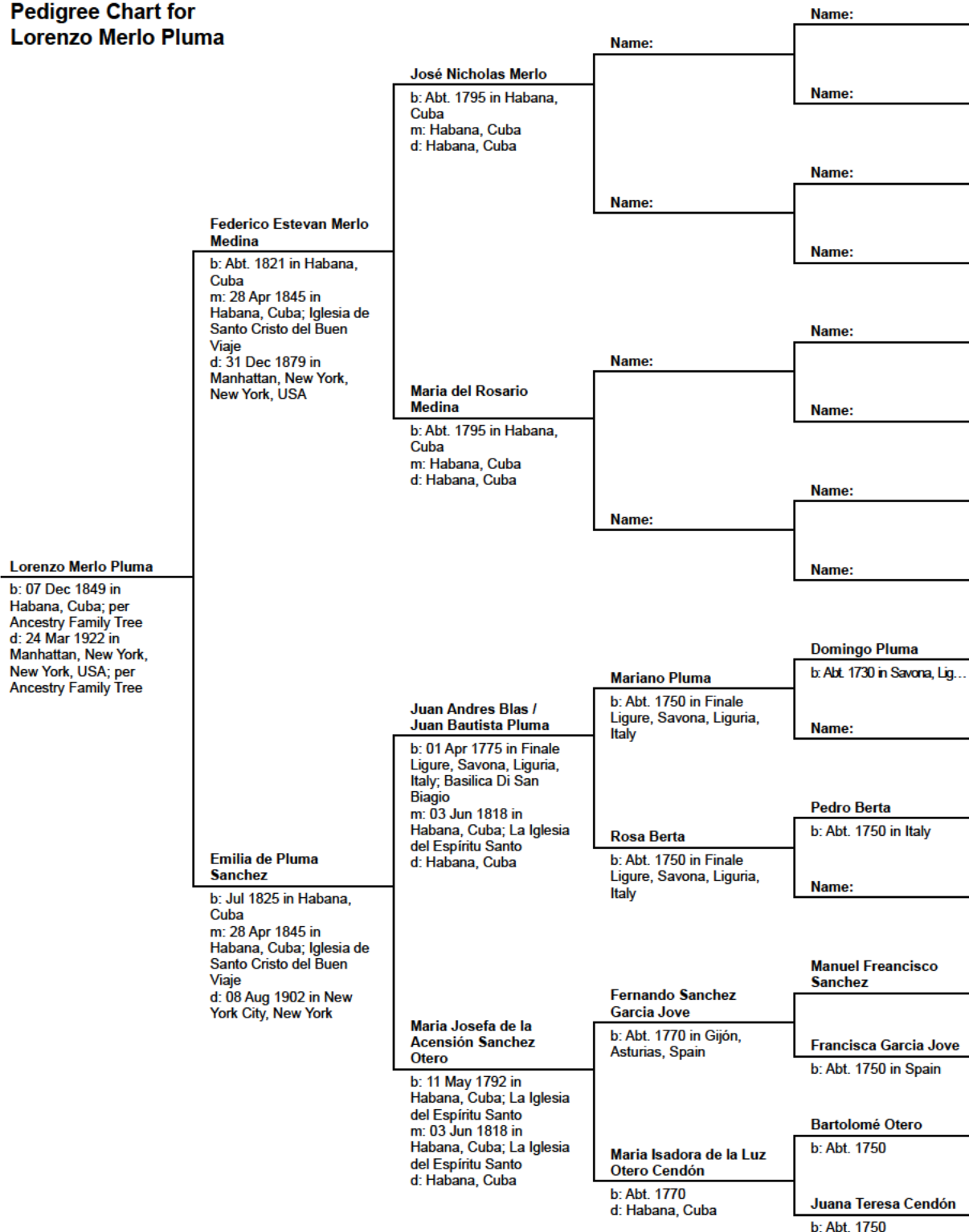
If possible, the client would like information on Dr. Emilia Consuelo, the client's 1st cousin 3x removed, including residence, profession, her medical specialty, where she received her degree and where she practiced.

## SUMMARY:

Marriage records and baptismal records obtained from Cuban church archives identified the correct spelling of Frederico Esteban Merlo's name as Federico Estevan Merlo. Federico was the son of José Nicolas Merlo and Maria del Rosario de Medina, both native of Havana, Cuba. Documents further identified the street in Havana where the Merlo family lived. Additional published sources also identified José Nicolas Merlo's profession in Havana and the names of two of his siblings.

The Pluma family line was traced back three additional generations with branches originating in Finale Ligure, Savona, Italy. The Sanchez family line was traced back three additional generations with a branch originating in Gijón, Asturias, Spain.

## Pedigree Chart for Lorenzo Merlo Pluma



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH:

### Merlo Family

- The first Merlos in Cuba were documented as the descendants of Captain Blas Merlo from the 1500s. Doing a little bit more research on the Merlo line may connect this family to some of the already documented branches of this family.
- Federico Merlo lived with his parents José Nicolas Merlo and Maria del Rosario de Medina on the street called Real de Jesus Maria in Havana. This was located in the area of Havana that was dedicated to the church *La Iglesia de Jesus, Maria y José*. Reviewing church documents at *La Iglesia de Jesus, Maria y José* may result in additional findings on the Merlo family line.
- There were several other Merlo men in Havana during the 1840s, including Jose Buenaventura Merlo y Medina, who shared the same two surnames as Federico Merlo Medina. These men can be examined to determine if they are siblings.

### Pluma

- Emilia de Pluma's parents were married in La Iglesia del Espíritu Santo. Emilia's baptismal record is likely located at this church.
- Additional research time dedicated to La Iglesia del Espíritu Santo would likely result in extensive findings for the Pluma family line.
- It was possible that the Priest (Presbítero) Joaquin de Pluma was related to Emilia de Pluma. Researching ecclesiastical records in the Archives of La Havana may provide additional information on Joaquin de Pluma's life. His death record in the church where he was a priest (La Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje) will also identify his parents and provide a familial link.
- There were a few ecclesiastical people with the surname Pluma in Havana during the mid-1800s. For example, Domingo de Pluma was a lawyer, doctor, professor, Secretary of the Scholastic Council of the Cathedral of Havana, and Chaplain of the Iglesia de Regla. Juan Pluma's baptismal record named his paternal grandfather as Domingo, it was possible that this Domingo de Pluma was a brother of Juan Bautista Pluma. The Pluma family may have been devout Catholics dedicating themselves to the priestly career.
- The Otero surname was a well-known surname in Havana during the 1800s. Additional research on María Isadora de la Luz Otero may connect her to this documented line.

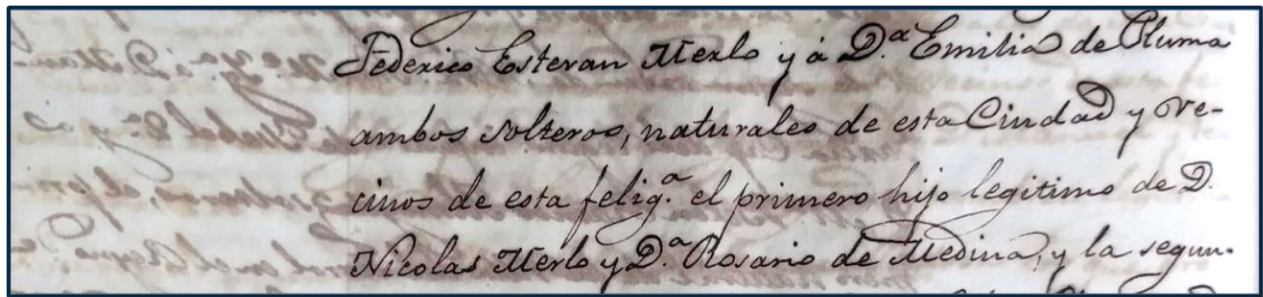


- Additional research in Gijón, Asturias, Spain may further the Sanchez family genealogy, as will research in Italy for the Pluma last name.

## RESEARCH DETAILS:

### *MERLO FAMILY*

Federico Merlo was born circa 1821 in Havana, Cuba, per his death certificate from New York City.<sup>1</sup> Though his death certificate did not identify his parents, the marriage record for Federico Merlo to Emilia de Pluma, which was obtained in La Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje in Havana, identifies Federico as the first son of José Nicolas Merlo and Maria del Rosario de Medina.<sup>2</sup>



*Federico Merlo Marriage Record to Emilia Pluma<sup>3</sup>*

#### *Translated Excerpt:*

Federico Estavan Merlo y Doña Emilia de Pluma both single, native born of this city, neighbors and parishioners of this church, the first legitimate son of Don Nicolas Merlo and Doña Rosario de Medina.<sup>4</sup>

Federico's father, José Nicolas Merlo, worked at the Military Hospital of San Ambrosio in Havana as a Cabo de Sala.<sup>5</sup> A Cabo de Sala was a Corporal of Rooms in the military hospital. The

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<sup>1</sup> "New York City Municipal Deaths, 1795-1949," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 25 February 2021), certificate image, Federico Merlo, 31 December 1879, no. 33666; citing New York Municipal Archives, New York.

<sup>2</sup> Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje (La Havana, Cuba), Marriage Records, entry no. 386, Merlo-Pluma marriage (1845).

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> Abraham Marrero, *Manifiesto Segundo a Que se Acompaña un Testimonio de Lo Mas Sustancial de La Causa Del Hospital Militar de S. Ambrosio de la Ciudad de la Havana, Seguido Contra el Coronel Graduado de Milicias Don Mariano Romay* (Imprenta de Don Ignacio: Madrid, 1839), 48-9; e-book, Google Books (<http://books.Google.com> : accessed 1 March 2021).

San Ambrosio Military Hospital was located on Calle de Picota between Paula and San Isidro in an area called La Havana Vieja “Old Havana.” In this hospital, the School of Practical Anatomy was established with an amphitheater and museum to give free classes to practice medicine.<sup>6</sup>

A book about the Military Hospital of San Ambrosio published written letters and testimony by declarants within the hospital; each letter addressed to the Corporal of Rooms, Don José Nicolas Merlo and Don Domingo Merlo. They documented the considerable evidence and frauds that the hospital inspector was committing.<sup>7</sup>

The following letter, one of many published in the book, was written by Federico’s father José Nicolas Merlo and outlined the fraud that was happening in the hospital. In this letter, he identifies his brothers as Don Juan Merlo and Don Domingo Merlo, who both also worked at the military hospital.<sup>8</sup>

xa. Soy de V. su mas atento S. S. Q. B. S. M.—Abraham Marrero.—Agosto 2 de 1837.—Señor don Abraham Marrero —Consecuente con lo que vd. se sirve manifestarme, y muy agradecido al concepto que de mi se ha formado, debo decirle. Que todo es preferible para mi, antes de faltar á la verdad de las cosas. Partiendo de tal principio empiezo á contestar á vd. en el mismo órden con que me hace las preguntas. A la primera digo, que es cierto el hecho que vd. refiere del año 29, y agrego yó que me quedé admirado de la llegada de dicho señor asesor y escribano y el como no se continuó el procedimiento, pues aunque el señor inspector nos lloró porque encubriésemos sus faltas, estábamos decididos á decir la verdad, por la ofensa que nos hacía en el público el concepto de ladrones con que nos regalaba S. S., cuando él era el que se tomaba tantas y tan gruesas cantidades. Del mismo modo es una verdad notoria la venta que hizo di-

cho inspector de las plazas, de cabos de sala y enfermero mayor á mis hermanos D. Juan y D. Domingo. De D. Juan no recuerdo lo que me dijo, mas de D. Domingo, me consta que fueron treinta onzas en oro. Como V. ha olvidado las cuarenta onzas de oro que se le dieron á dicho señor inspector á su pedimento y á los ocho dias de haber tomado posesion de su plaza, y á las quince mas que se le entregaban todos los meses, se lo recuerdo para que obre sus efectos. Con lo cual concluyo, manifestando á V. que estoy pronto á declarar esto mismo ante cualesquiera autoridad. Soy de V. su afectisimo servidor Q. B. S. M. — José Nicolas Merlo. —

*Manifiesto Segunda by Don Abraham Marrero<sup>9</sup>*

6 Francisco Gonzalez Del Valle, La Havana en 1841 (La Havana, 1952).

7 Marrero, Manifiesto Segundo, 48-9.

8 Ibid.

8 Gonzalez Del Valle, La Havana en 1841.

9 Marrero, Manifiesto Segundo, 48-9.

Translation of letter by José Nicholas Merlo in El Manifiesto Segundo:

I am your most attentive dependable servant that kisses your hand [S. S. Q. B. S. M. - Seguro Servidor Que Besa su Mano ] - Abraham Marrero – August 2 of 1837 – Mr. Don Abraham Marrero -

Consistent with what you are telling me, and very grateful of your opinion of me, I should tell you. That all is better to me before I tell you a lie. Starting with that principle, I will answer your questions in the order that you ask me. As to your first question, it is true what you are referring to what occurred in 1829, and I add that I was surprised at both the arrival of the consultant and notary and that the procedure did not continue, and although the inspector begged us to cover his mistakes, we were going to tell the truth because of the public perception that S.S. made us look like thieves, when it was he taking the large and gross amounts. From the same manner, it is notoriously true of the sale that the same inspector for the positions of corporal and head nurse to my brother D[on] Juan and D[on] Domingo. Of D[on] Juan I don't recall what he told me, moreover of D. Domingo, I know that it was 30 ounces of gold. As you have forgotten the 40 ounces that were given to the said inspector when he petitioned for it, 40 ounces more eight days after starting in the position, and fifteen more that were given monthly. I remind you so that you are aware. With this I conclude, and letting you know that I am ready to testify this to any authority.

I am your affectionate server that kisses your hands [Q.B.S.M - Que Beso Sus Manos] – José Nicholas Merlo -<sup>10</sup>

Federico's father was identified as Don José Nicolas Merlo in the book *Manifiesto Segundo*. However, he was identified as Nicolas Merlo in the marriage record of his son Federico Merlo.<sup>11</sup> Additional church records obtained from La Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje in Havana showed that he was also documented as José Nicolas Merlo, further identifying them as the same individual.<sup>12</sup>

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10 Marrero, Manifiesto Segundo, 48-9.

11 Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje (La Havana, Cuba), Marriage Records, no. 386.

12 Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje (La Havana, Cuba), Baptismal Records, entry no. 554, Pablo Merlo baptism (1860).

### Calle Real del Jesus Maria, Havana Vieja

The Merlo family lived on Calle Real de Jesus Maria in Havana.<sup>13</sup> There was no definitive number of the house on the street that they lived on. Calle Real de Jesus Maria is near where the Military Hospital of San Ambrosio was located, which was on Pícolo and San Isidro and close to the churches Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje and the Church of Espiritu Santo, both of which contained documents found for the Merlo and Pluma families. During this time, it was typical to live, work and attend church in close proximity.

A marriage record for José Nicholas Merlo to Maria Rosario de Medina was not found at the Church of Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje.<sup>14</sup> However, based on the street that they lived on, it was possible that marriage records and birth records for their children were located in other churches in Old Havana, in particular La Iglesia de Jesus, Maria y José, which was dedicated to the area where the Merlo family lived.

### Marriage of Federico Estevan Merlo and Emilia de Pluma

On 28 April 1845, Federico Estevan Merlo married Emilia de Pluma, at the church of Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje in Old Havana. They were documented as both being single, neighbors, and native of the city of Havana, Cuba. Their marriage banns were read three times at church with no objections. As previously noted, Federico was listed as the first legitimate son of Don Nicholas Merlo and Doña Rosario de Medina. A child listed as legitimate does not imply that Don Nicholas had illegitimate children before Federico. It simply implied that the child was born through wedlock. Emilia de Pluma, also legitimate, was the child of Don Juan Bta. [Bautista] Pluma and Josefa Sanchez. The witnesses were Don Pedro Duanres[sp] Don Silverio Ariza. The godparents were Don José Mes y Doña Bergoña Carbajal. The priest who married Federico and Emilia was Joaquin de Pluma.<sup>15</sup>

It should be noted that documents provided by the client suggested that Emilia's family were of the Presbyterian faith and that the Merlo family were Catholic. Santo Cristo del Buena Viaje, where Federico and Emilia were married, was a Catholic church. Though there were Presbyterians in Cuba in 1845, it was not acceptable for Catholics to marry outside of their faith, nor could two people of different faiths marry within the Catholic church.<sup>16</sup> The client's

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<sup>13</sup> Eduardo Jones, Directorio de La Ciudad de la Havana (Madrid: Imprenta de R. Oliva, 1840) page 144.

<sup>14</sup> Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje (La Havana, Cuba), Marriage Records, negative results.

<sup>15</sup> Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje (La Havana, Cuba), Marriage Records, no. 386.

<sup>16</sup> Peter Carr, Guide to Cuban Genealogical Research (San Bernardino, California: Clearfield Company, 1991), p. 17.

documents suggested that Joaquin de Pluma was Presbyterian and possibly Emilia de Pluma's father. The abbreviation "Presb." as written sometimes when referring to a priest in the Cuban Catholic church does not mean "of the Presbyterian faith". The abbreviation "Presb." means "Presbítero." It was the Spanish word for a priest in the Catholic church. Presbíteros, in the early 1800s in Cuba, like today, were required to be celibate and unmarried.<sup>17</sup> Therefore, the Priest (Presbítero) Joaquin de Pluma, who married Federico Merlo and Emilia de Pluma, could not have been Emilia's father.



*La Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje*<sup>18</sup>

La Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje was located in Old Havana in the Plaza Cristo. It was the second parish in the city after the Iglesia del Espíritu Santo.<sup>19</sup> It was built in 1640, during a time

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<sup>17</sup> Deacon Emilio Blanco, Miami, Florida, conversation with Trace Genealogist, "Presbíteros en Cuba - Historia," 13 August 2020, transcript privately held by Trace Genealogist.

<sup>18</sup> Cesar Ojeda, "Cuba Pintoresca," 12 August 2011, *ODISEA2008* (<http://www.odisea2008.com/2011/08/cuba-pintoresca.html> : accessed 26 February 2021), La Iglesia de Cristo Santo del Buen Viaje.

<sup>19</sup> "La Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje," e-newsletter, *Norfi Carrodeguas*, (<https://norfipc.com/cuba/la-iglesia-del-cristo-buen-viaje-habana-vieje.php> : accessed 26 February 2021)

when transatlantic crossings and immigration to Cuba was risky. As a result, it became popular during colonial times as a church dedicated to travelers and navigators.<sup>20</sup>

### Children of Federico Merlo and Emilia de Pluma

Federico Merlo and Emilia de Pluma had at least six children per the ship manifest of their arrival in the United States in 1875.<sup>21</sup>

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. Francisco Merlo, male, born in Cuba about 1861
5. Emilia Merlo, female, born in Cuba about 1863
6. Rosario Merlo, female, born in Cuba about 1865

Birth records for the children of Federico and Emilia were researched in La Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje, where the couple was married. Only the birth record for Emilia Merlo, the daughter of Federico and Emilia, and one other child, born in 1860, who was not enumerated on the ship manifest, was located.

On Saturday, 4 August 1860, Federico Merlo and Emilia de Pluma baptized a son named Pablo Juan Merlo. Pablo was born on 12 July 1860. He was baptized in the church of Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje in Old Havana. Priest Joaquin de Pluma performed the services. Pablo was documented as the legitimate child of Federico Merlo and Emilia de Pluma, both native of Havana. His paternal grandparents were documented as Don José Nicolas and Doña Maria del Rosario Medina. Pablo's maternal grandparents were documented as Don Juan Bautista and Doña Josefa Sanchez.<sup>22</sup> Pablo del Pluma was his godfather. It was not known who Pablo del Pluma was; however, it was probable that he was a brother or cousin to Emilia de Pluma.

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<sup>20</sup> *Wikipedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 26 February 2021), "Iglesia Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje, Havana," rev. 12:03, 24 August 2020.

<sup>21</sup> "New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 February 2021) entry for Federico Merlo, 15 September 1875, SS Columbus.

<sup>22</sup> Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje (La Havana, Cuba), Baptismal Records, no. 554.

As noted, the newborn child, Pablo Juan Pluma, was not enumerated on the ship manifest in 1875 to America.<sup>23</sup> He would have been fifteen years old at the time. It was possible that Pablo Juan died in Cuba prior to the family's immigration to New York City.

The birth record of infant Pablo Juan Merlo substantiates that Don Nicholas Merlo and Don José Nicholas Merlo are the same person. Nicolas Merlo was identified as "Nicolas Merlo" in his son Federico's marriage record.<sup>24</sup> He was identified as "José Nicolas Merlo" on the baptismal record of his grandson Pablo Juan Merlo.<sup>25</sup> Both records identified José Nicolas Merlo's son as Federico Merlo and his wife as Rosario Medina. The consistent identity of his son as Federico Merlo and his wife as Rosario Medina in all these documents confirmed that they were most likely the same individual.

The baptismal record for Pablo Juan Merlo named his paternal grandmother as Doña Maria del Rosario Medina, which differed from how she was listed in the marriage record for her son Federico Merlo. In the marriage record for her son, she was listed as Rosario de Medina. The difference in names was not contradictory. It was common practice in Hispanic countries for women to be called "Maria del" and go by their middle name. Therefore, Rosario de Medina and Maria del Rosario de Medina were most likely the same individuals.

It was also interesting to note that Federico and Emilia's youngest daughter, Rosario, was likely named after her maternal grandmother Maria del Rosario Medina.

### Cuban Ten Years' War

The Ten Years' War, which occurred from 1868-1878, was part of Cuba's fight for independence from Spain.<sup>26</sup> Military records in Cuba were reviewed of those who fought during the Ten Years' War, as well as those that were a part of the Cuban Mambi Army. The term Mambi referred to the guerilla Cuban independence soldiers who fought against Spain in the Ten Years' War and

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<sup>23</sup> "New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957," database, *Ancestry.com*, entry for Federico Merlo, 1875, Columbus.

<sup>24</sup> Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje (La Havana, Cuba), Marriage Records, no. 386.

<sup>25</sup> Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje (La Havana, Cuba), Baptismal Records, no. 554.

<sup>26</sup> *Wikipedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 27 February 2021), "Ten Years' War," rev. 05:07, 9 March 2021.



the Cuban War of Independence.<sup>27</sup> No records were found that suggested that Federico was a part of the fight for independence.<sup>28</sup>

It was not known why the Merlo family immigrated to America. However, during the years that the war dragged on, New York received the casualties of the conflict in Cuba. Soldiers who fought for independence, widows, and children, those being at risk of being executed or imprisoned, as well as many others who found it difficult to live in a country whose economy and future was uncertain. There were those who just wanted to expand their horizons and their family's opportunities as well. For cigar makers or aspiring cigar makers, employment prospects were better in Manhattan than in a country that was ravaged by war.<sup>29</sup>

### Merlo Family Immigrate to America

Federico Merlo and Emilia de Pluma immigrated to America at the ages of fifty-years-old and forty-eight-years-old with their six children. They departed Havana, Cuba, on the *SS Columbia*, arriving in New York City on 15 September 1875.<sup>30</sup> The family did not travel in steerage, which was the most economical way to travel. They paid for at least one cabin on the ship. Federico was listed as a merchant.

Although it was not known where the Merlo family resided when they first arrived, three years after their arrival in 1878, Federico Merlo worked in the cigar industry with his son Lorenzo. Federico and his family were living at 503 Eight Avenue, and Federico was working at 1339 Broadway.<sup>31</sup> The Merlo home and Federico's business place were only one New York City avenue away from each other. Cigar makers tended to live where they worked, conforming to the patterns of working-class New Yorkers. The working class was still unable to afford transportation and had to live near their jobs.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> *Wikipedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 14 October 2020) "Mambises," rev.23:49, 4 March 2021.

<sup>28</sup> "Ten Years' War Officers," Cuban Genealogy Club of Miami, database online, *ClubGenWeb.com* (<http://cubagen.org> : accessed 14 October 2020). Negative result, Merlo, Pluma, Federico, Frederico; also "Mambi Army," database, *ClubGenWeb.com* (<http://www.cubagenweb.org/mil/mambi/search-mambi.htm> : accessed 14 October 2020) Cuban Genealogy Club of Miami. Negative result, Merlo, Pluma, Federico, Frederico.

<sup>29</sup> Lisandro Perez, *Sugar, Cigars and Revolution: The Making of Cuban New York* (New York, New York University Press, 2018) p. 174.

<sup>30</sup> "New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957," database, *Ancestry.com*, entry for Federico Merlo, 1875, *SS Columbus*.

<sup>31</sup> New York City, New York, City Directory, digital image, *FindMyPast* (<http://findmypast.com> : accessed 15 October 2020), image number 1021, image count 1824.

<sup>32</sup> Perez, *Sugar, Cigars and Revolution*, 162-3.

By 1860, cigar manufacturing had started its ascendancy as a major occupation of Cubans living in New York. By 1870, almost thirty-four percent of all Cubans living in New York declared tobacco-related occupations.<sup>33</sup>

It was possible that Federico Merlo worked as a cigar maker for C. Melichros and Company, a Turkish Cigar company owned by Constantino Melichros. In 1911, C. Melichros and Company occupied the building space at 1339 Broadway in Manhattan.<sup>34</sup>

By 1879, the Merlo family lived at 233 West 27<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City's 20th Ward, as indicated on Federico's death record, a neighborhood known today as Chelsea. They lived on the top floor of a dwelling with fifteen other families in the building.<sup>35</sup>

On New Year's Eve, 31 December 1879, Federico Merlo died at his home at 233 West 27<sup>th</sup> Street. The physician who attended him, treated him for five days before he passed. He died of pneumonia and asphyxia. He was fifty-eight years old. Federico was buried on 2 January 1890 at Calvary Cemetery, which was located in Maspeth and Woodside, Queens, New York City. Calvary Cemetery was a Roman Catholic cemetery and had the largest number of interments of any cemetery in the United States.<sup>36</sup>

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33 Perez, *Sugar, Cigars and Revolution*, 11.

34 "Smokehouse a la Turco," *United States Tobacco Journal*, vol 75, p. 12-13, digital images, GoogleBooks (<http://books.googlebooks.com> : accessed 15 October 2021),

35 "New York City Municipal Deaths, 1795-1949," FamilySearch, Federico Merlo, 1879, no. 33666."

36 *Ibid.*

## *PLUMA FAMILY*

Emilia de Pluma married Federico Estevan Merlo on 28 April 1845 at La Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje in Old Havana.<sup>37</sup> As previously noted, Emilia's parents were identified as Juan Bta [Bautista] Pluma and Josefa Sanchez. The priest who married Federico and Emilia was Priest (Presbítero) Joaquin Pluma.

### *Marriage of Juan Bautista Pluma and Maria Josefa Sanchez*

Emilia's parents, Juan Bautista Pluma and Maria Josefa Sanchez requested a license to marry at La Iglesia del Espíritu Santo in Old Havana on 3 June 1818. In the marriage license, Juan Pluma was documented as being from Genoa, Italy. His parents were Don Mariano Pluma and Doña Rosa Berta. Maria Josefa, native of Havana, was the legitimate daughter of Don Fernando Sanchez and Doña Maria Isadora de la Luz Otero.<sup>38</sup>

#### *Spanish Transcription:*

Damos licencia al Cura Parroco de la Iglesia Parroquial del Espiritu Santo para que en tres dias festivos amoneste á Don Juan Bautista Pluma, natural de la ciudad de Final territorio en Genoba en Italia, hijo legitimo de Don Mariano Pluma y Doña Rosa Berta, y a Doña Maria Josefa Sanchez, natural de esta ciudad hija legitima de Don Fernando Sanchez y de Doña Maria Isidora de la Luz Otero, que pretende contraer matrimonio y sin resultando impedimento los despose y los vele con arreglo al Ritual Romano constandole ante la solteria de la novia, la feligresia de ambos que obra a la vez de la suya; mediante quedar evacuadas en este Tribunal las demas diligencias ordinarias. Havana junio tres mil ochocientos diez y ocho.

O Gavan. [ rúbrica original]

Por Orden del Señor Prebítero y Vicario

Joseph Martinez [ rúbrica original]<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje (La Havana, Cuba), Marriage Records, no. 386.

<sup>38</sup> Iglesia del Espíritu Santo (Havana, Cuba), "Libros de Bautizos," Pluma-Sanchez (1818), Libro #16, Folio 214 vuelto; Archivo del Arzobispado de La Havana.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.



*Iglesia del Espíritu Santo, Havana, Cuba<sup>40</sup>*

#### Overseas Identity Document for Juan Bautista Pluma Berta

Located in the matrimonial records of the Archivo del Arzobispado de La Havana, Juan Pluma's Italian Catholic baptismal record was found along with his marriage record to Josefa Sanchez. Foreigners living in Cuba were required to comply with Catholic marriage proceedings before marrying in the country. It required that a foreigner present documentation to prove his/her Catholic background so that they could become a parishioner in the Catholic church in their new country and marry and baptize their children. Juan Pluma's baptismal document contained

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<sup>40</sup> Jipe7, "Iglesia del Espíritu Santo," digital image, *Flicker.com* ([www.flicker.com](http://www.flicker.com) : accessed 2 March 2021), Havana, Cuba, 12 June 2015.

several layers. It was issued in 1803 in Italy and then was translated into Spanish in Cuba in 1818. Only the translated Spanish version from 1818 survived.

Juan Pluma immigrated to Cuba sometime between 1803 and 1818 from Finale Ligure, Savona, Italy. In 1803, Juan requested a transcription of his baptismal record from the parish where he was baptized in Finale Ligure. It was probable that Juan Pluma immigrated closer to 1803 as he would have requested this document around the time of his departure from Italy.

### Baptism of Juan Bautista Pluma Berta

Juan Andres Blas Pluma Berta was born on 1 April 1775 and baptized the following day on 2 April 1775 at the Basilica de San Biagio in Finale Ligure, Savona, Italy. His parents were Mariano Pluma and Rosa Berta. His paternal grandfather was Domingo Pluma, and his maternal grandfather was Pedro Berta. His godfather was Juan Andres Noceti, who was the son of Juan Bautista and Catalina Otona. Catalina was the daughter of Pedro Agustin and all were parishioners in the parish. The document was certified on the 8 of November 1803.<sup>41</sup>

The second portion of the record dated 18 September 1818 in Havana stated that it was a literal translation done in Cuba and translated from Latin and Italian originals into Spanish.

It was interesting to note that Juan Pluma was baptized with the name Juan Andres “Blas.” His godfather was Juan Andres Noceti Otono, son of Juan “Bautista” and Catalina. The documents for his marriage license to Josefa Sanchez in Cuba stated that his name was Juan Bautista Pluma Berta, name by which his descendants were likely known before.

### *Spanish Transcription and Notes:*

En los libros de bautismos de esta insigne colegiata y Parroquia de San Blas Obispo y Martir de la ciudad de Final<sup>42</sup> escrito por su actual preposito<sup>43</sup> D. Luis Bergalli y custodiado por mi actual sub-preposito, se lee la partida siguiente= Año de 1775 dia 2 de Abril yo D. Luis Bergalli Preposito de la insigne colegiata y Parroquia de San Blas de Final, bautize un niño que nacio ayer hijo de Rosa Berta hija de Pedro y de Mariano Pluma, hijo de Domingo de la ciudad de

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<sup>41</sup> Parroquia de San Blas (San Biagio) (Italy), “Expedientes Matrimoniales, Pluma Berta (1803); Archivo del Arzobispado de La Havana.

<sup>42</sup> Finale Ligure, Savona, Italia. It is written as Final because that was the direct translation in Spanish for Finale in Italian.

<sup>43</sup> Superior: Person who presides or commands in some religions or religious communities according to the above decree.

Sabona, pero que a muchos años son mis parroquianos y estan casados<sup>44</sup> se le puso por nombre Juan Andres Blas. Fueron sus padrinos Juan Andres Noceti hijo de Juan Bautista y Catalina Otona hija de Pedro Agustin, todos feligreses mios = En testimonio de lo cual doy esta en Final año 1803 dia 8 de noviembre Annibal Carenzi. Preposito.<sup>45</sup> -----

Nos<sup>46</sup> Luis Rossi Vice - Consul de S.M.C<sup>47</sup> en ésta Republica de Genova en Final Certificamos a cuantos interesan pueda que la firma que dice Annibal Carenzi Preposito es la misma que usa por tener de ella pleno e indubitable conocimientos en prueba de lo cual he hecho y firmado la presente certificacion con mi propia mano y puestole el sello comun de los Vice-Consules = Luis Rossi Vice - Consul de S.M.C. En Final 6 de noviembre de 1803.<sup>48</sup>

Es traduccion literal que he hecho de los originales latin e italiano á consecuencia del decreto que antecede. Havana 18 de septiembre de 1818.

Licenciado Justo Velez [ rúbrica original]

Juan Pluma's baptism record stated that he was baptized in Finale Ligure, Savona, Italy. However, his marriage license in Cuba stated that he was from Genoa, Italy, which was about forty-six miles east of Finale Ligure. He was likely living in Genoa at the time of his departure to Cuba and traveled to his hometown to acquire the appropriate documentation from where he grew up and where his ancestors were from.

### Basilica di San Biagio

San Blas in Spanish, Saint Blaise in English, and San Biagio in Italian. Juan Pluma's translated baptismal record in the Cuban Archives indicated that he was baptized in the

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44 This meant that: Juan Andres Blas Pluma Berta was the legitimate son [his parents were married] of Mariano Pluma and Rosa Berta, both of whom were neighbors of Finale Ligure for many years. Paternal grandfather Domingo Pluma, a native of the city of Savona. Maternal grandfather, Pedro Berta.

45 To this point, this was a literal transcription of the baptism of Juan Andres Blas Pluma Berta, made in Finale Ligure, on 8 November 1803.

46 "I"

47 His Catholic Majesty [S.M.C]. In 1803 he was King of Spain Carlos IV.

48 Here there was a contradiction of the date. This certification of the signature of Annibal Carenzi must have been after 8 November 1803 and not before, like the 6th. It may be an error in the transcription and literal translation made in 1818.

church of San Blas in Finale Ligure, Savona, Italy. His records were translated from Latin and Italian in 1818 upon his marriage in Cuba to Maria Josefa Sanchez. The translation of San Blas as listed in the Cuban transcription was San Biagio in Italian.

The Basilica or Collegiate Church of San Biagio was a Catholic place of worship located in Piazza San Biagio in the hamlet of Finalborgo in Finale Ligure, in the province of Savona.<sup>49</sup>



*Basilica Di San Biagio*<sup>50</sup>

### Baptism of Maria Josefa del la Ascensión Sanchez Otero

Maria Josefa de la Ascensión was born 11 May 1792 and was baptized on Friday, 18 May at La Iglesia del Espíritu Santo in Old Havana, Cuba. She was the legitimate child of Don Fernando Sanchez, native of Gijón, Asturias, Spain. Her mother was Maria Isadora de la Luz Otero, native of Havana.<sup>51</sup> Her paternal grandparents were Don Manuel Francisco Sanchez and Doña

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<sup>49</sup> Wikipedia Italy (<https://it.wikipedia.org> : accessed 2 February 2021) "Basilica di San Biagio (Finale Ligure)," rev. 12:17, 7 March 2021.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Iglesia del Espíritu Santo (Havana, Cuba), "Libros de Bautizos," Maria Josefa de la Ascensión Sanchez Otero (1792), Libro #16, Folio 214 vuelto; Archivo del Arzobispado de La Havana.

Francisca Garcia Jove. Her maternal grandparents were Don Bartolome Otero and Doña Juana Teresa Sendon [Cendon]. Her godfather was Don Vicente de la Huerta.<sup>52</sup>

*Spanish Transcription:*

D. Jacinto Beltran y Baquero Prebistero Sacristan Mayor coadjutor con cuna de almas de esta Parroquia del Espíritu Santo de La Havana. Certifico que en el Libro 16 de Bautismos de Españoles 214 vuelta esta la siguiente.

Viernes diez y ocho de mayo de mil setecientos noventa y dos años; yo Doctor Don Lorenzo Estevan de Oramas Teniente Cura Bendecido de esta Parroquia del Espíritu Santo de esta ciudad de La Havana; bautize y puse los santos oleos a una niña que nació á once del corriente hija legitima de Don Fernando Sanchez, natural de Gijón del Principado de Asturias, el que es hijo legitimo de Don Manuel Francisco y de Doña Francisca Garcia Jove; y de Doña Maria Isidora de la Luz Otero, natural de esta ciudad, la que es hija legitima de Don Bartolome Otero y de Doña Juana Teresa Sendon <sup>53</sup> ; en las que exercí las sacras ceremonias y preses, y puse por nombre María Josefa de la Ascensión: fue su Padrino Don Vicente de la Huerta á quien advertí el parentesco espiritual que contrajo y lo firmé= Don Lorenzo Estevan de Oramas conforme a su original. Havana junio 1 de 1818.

Jacinto Robau [ rúbrica original]<sup>54</sup>

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52 Iglesia del Espíritu Santo (Havana, Cuba), Maria Josefa de la Ascensión Sanchez Otero (1792).

53 Last name likely CENDÓN.

54 Iglesia del Espíritu Santo (Havana, Cuba), Maria Josefa de la Ascensión Sanchez Otero (1792).





*Iglesia del Espíritu Santo, Havana<sup>55</sup>*

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<sup>55</sup> *Wikimedia Common* ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Iglesia_del_Esp%C3%ADritu_Santo,_Havana,_Cuba.jpg) : accessed 2 February 2021), "File:Iglesia del Espíritu Santo, Havana, Cuba.jpg," taken 20 May 1961, rev. 00:42, 14 October 2020.

DOCUMENTS PROVIDED:

Document 1: Death Record Federico Merlo

City of New York, a permit for the transportation of the remains of deceased persons shall be granted and issued by the Register of Records.

The Physician who attended any person in a last illness is responsible for the presentation of this Certificate, accurately filled out, to the BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS, within 86 HOURS after said person's death. (Sec. 161 of Sanitary Code.)

NO PERMIT FOR BURIAL CAN BE OBTAINED WITHOUT A PROPER CERTIFICATE.

All physicians practicing in New York City (including those in public institutions) are required to register their names in the Bureau of Vital Statistics. (Sec. 5 of Sanitary Code.)

336666

### CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.

1. Full Name of Deceased, Write legibly and spell correctly. If in infant's case, give parent's names. Federico Merlo

2. Age, 58 years, \_\_\_\_\_ months, \_\_\_\_\_ days. Color, white

3. Single, Married, Widower or Widowed, (Cross out the words not required in this case) Occupation, Cigar Maker

5. Birthplace, (State) Cuba (How long in the United States, if of foreign birth) 4 years 8 months 15 days

6. How long resident in this city, 4 years 3 months 13 days

7. Father's Birthplace, (State) Cuba

8. Mother's Birthplace, (State) Cuba

9. Place of Death, (If an Institution, please state the name) No. 233 W. 27<sup>th</sup> Street Street, 20 Ward

10. If a Dwelling, by how many families, living separately, occupied, 15 Floor 10<sup>th</sup> floor

11. I hereby certify, that I attended deceased from December 2<sup>o</sup>, 1879 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1879, that I last saw him alive on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 1879, that he died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December 1879, about 12 o'clock, A. M. or P. M., and that the Cause of his death was: /

First (Primary), Apoplexy

Second (Immediate), Apoplexy

At the place of burial, the following information should be furnished by the Physician.

Place of Burial, Cassary

Date of Burial, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1880

Undertaker, J. Roth & Sons

Place of Business, 395 7<sup>th</sup> Ave

Time from Attack till Death: Two days

Signature, E. Argente, M.D. Medical Attendant.

Address, 21<sup>st</sup> St 56<sup>th</sup> Ave

Remember the graving burial permits, No. 48. Hours from 7 A. M. to 5 P. M. on week days; from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. on Sundays.

It is the duty of the person in charge of the burial to deposit the body in a vault with the grave of the street adjoining, the basement to be below the level of the adjoining street.

It is the duty of the person in charge of the burial to deposit the body in a vault with the grave of the street adjoining.

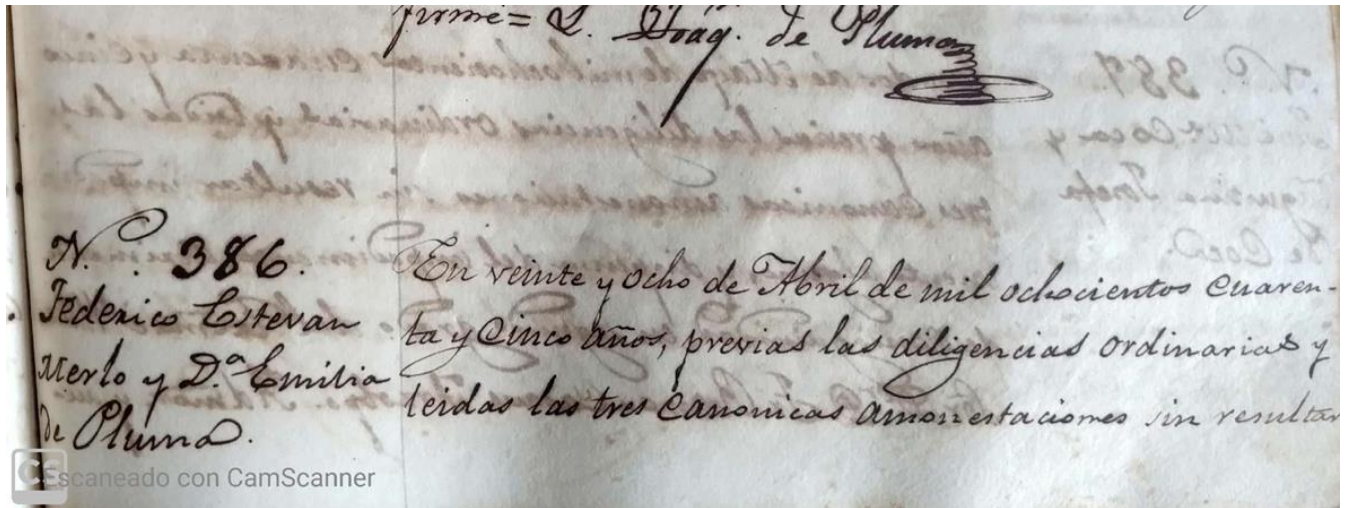
Law regulating Cremators' licenses in the County of New York, Chapter 100, Sec. 100, of 1877.

Whenever, when in the City and County of New York, any person shall die from criminal violence, or when unattended by a physician, or in any institution or public place, the Coroner shall cause the body of such deceased person externally, or make an autopsy thereon, as may be required (pursuant to an order)

When the signature of a physician is required, the signature of the physician, who shall

“New York City Municipal Deaths, 1795-1949,” database with images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org : accessed 25 February 2021), certificate image, Federico Merlo, 31 December 1879, no. 33666; citing New York Municipal Archives, New York.

Document 2A: Marriage Record for Federico Merlo and Emilia Pluma



Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje (La Havana, Cuba), Marriage Records, entry no. 386, Merlo-Pluma marriage (1845).

Document 2B: Marriage Record for Federico Merlo and Emilia Pluma

impedimento alguno. Yo el Ldo D. Joa<sup>n</sup>. de Pluma  
Cura por S. N. de la Yg. aux. ar del Sto. Cristo delo  
Buen viaje de esta siempre fidelisima Ciudad de  
la Habana, despoie por palabras de presentes y  
vele segun orden de Ntra. Sta. Madre Yg. a D.  
Federico Estevan Merlo y a D.<sup>a</sup> Emilia de Pluma  
ambos solteros, naturales de esta Ciudad y ve-  
cinos de esta felig.<sup>a</sup> el primero hijo legitimo de D.  
Nicolas Merlo y D.<sup>a</sup> Rosario de Medina, y la segun-  
da tambien legitima de D. Juan Bta. Pluma y de  
D.<sup>a</sup> Josefa Sanchez, los que preguntados en debida  
forma tube por respuesta su mutuo Consentimien-  
to siendo testigos D. Pedro Durazo y D. Silverio -  
Ariza y padrinos D. Jose Mes y D.<sup>a</sup> Berzona Car-  
bajal, manifestaron haberse conferado y lo firmé=  
D. Joa<sup>n</sup>. de Pluma

Escaneado con CamScanner

Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje (La Havana, Cuba), Marriage Records, entry no. 386, Merlo-Pluma marriage (1845).

Document 3A: *Manifiesto Segundo – Letter from Jose Nicolas Merlo*

(48)

á los enfermos, y que en los conocimientos que se fraguaban en la casa de S. S. se ponian ochenta y tantas gallinas, ciento y mas pollos, con otra porcion de articulos que solo se escribian para tomar su respectivo contingente, el cual se recolectaba por la despensa, entregándose despues al referido señor inspector. Espero tambien diga vd. si le consta que ese mismo señor en una postura demasiado humilde rogó á vd. y á los demas sus compañeros, que si no podia contener el juicio que le amagaba, dijesen ser cierto el exceso que se suplantaba en los conocimientos, considerándolo como consumido en los enfermos, ofreciéndoles, si asi lo ejecutaban, su decidida proteccion y amparo. Ultimamente, espero me dirá tambien lo que le ha pasado con respecto al dinero que le importaron las respectivas plazas de cabo de sala y enfermero mayor á sus hermanos don Domingo y don Juan. Para que con mayor libertad y franqueza, pueda vd. darme la debida contestacion á los particulares que le he insinuado, debo decirle, que ya no soy contralor de hospital, que estoy separado de él por decreto de S. E. y por consecuencia nada puede ni debe temer de mi con respecto al mando que tenia y á la influencia que le era anexa. Soy de V. su mas atento S. S. Q. B. S. M.—Abraham Marrero.—Agosto 2 de 1837.—Señor don Abraham Marrero.—Consecuente con lo que vd. se sirve manifestarme, y muy agradecido al concepto que de mi se ha formado, debo decirle. Que todo es preferible para mi, antes de faltar á la verdad de las cosas. Partiendo de tal principio empiezo á contestar á vd. en el mismo orden con que me hace las preguntas. A la primera digo, que es cierto el hecho que vd. refiere del año 29, y agregó yó que me quedé admirado de la llegada de dicho señor asesor y escribano y el como no se continuó el procedimiento, pues aunque el señor inspector nos lloró porque encubriésemos sus faltas, estábamos decididos á decir la verdad, por la ofensa que nos hacia en el público el concepto de ladrones con que nos regalaba S. S., cuando él era el que se tomaba tantas y tan gruesas cantidades. Del mismo modo es una verdad notoria la venta que hizo di-

Abraham Marrero, *Manifiesto Segundo a Que se Acompaña un Testimonio de Lo Mas Sustancial de La Causa Del Hospital Militar de S. Ambrosio de la Ciudad de la Havana, Seguido Contra el Coronel Graduado de Milicias Don Mariano Romay* (Imprenta de Don Ignacio: Madrid, 1839), 48-49, digital images, *Google Books* (<http://books.Google.com> : accessed 1 March 2021).

( 49 )

cho inspector de las plazas, de cabos de sala y enfermero mayor á mis hermanos D. Juan y D. Domingo. De D. Juan no recuerdo lo que me dijo, mas de D. Domingo, me consta que fueron treinta onzas en oro. Como V. ha olvidado las cuarenta onzas de oro que se le dieron á dicho señor inspector á su pedimento y á los ocho dias de haber tomado posesion de su plaza, y á las quince mas que se le entregaban todos los meses, se lo recuerdo para que obre sus efectos. Con lo cual concluyo, manifestando á V. que estoy pronto á declarar esto mismo ante cualesquiera autoridad. Soy de V. su afectisimo servidor Q. B. S. M. — José Nicolas Merlo. — Señor de Lopez. — Teniendo una urgente necesidad de hacer uso legal de la contestaciou que espero de V. á las siguientes preguntas; le ruego, que en honor y conciencia lo ejecute V. de un modo catégorico, añadiendo lo demas que supiere y yo no he alcanzado, pues V. mas que nadie, por su egercicio de gefe de las cocinas, deberá estar mas al corriente y recordar mejor que yo los manejos que en ella pasaron desde el año de 26 hasta el de 29. En tal concepto paso á preguntarle primeramente, si sabe que en ese último año se presentaron en el hospital el Sr. asesor de la intendencia con su escribano para proceder á la averiguacion sumaria de la denuncia que dió al señor intendente el capitan Don Narciso Salas, en la que le manifestó que despues de una larga y constante serie, habia observado, que en los calderos de consumo no habian entrado mas que una ó dos gallinas y tres ó cuatro pollos, único alimento de esta clase que se repartia á los enfermos; el mismo que V. cocinaba y entregaba con tal objeto á los cabos de sala, y que los documentos que se hacian en la casa del señor inspector D. Mariano Romay, se ponian ochenta y mas gallinas, ciento y mas pollos etc., etc. cuyo importe reducido á métrico se recolectaba por el despensero del poder de los contratistas para entregarlo al mismo inspector. Que descubierto este fraude por dicho capitan, al referido Romay se arrodilló ante V. y de los cabos de salas para que no le perdiesen, cuya humillante súplica pasó en la cocina general. Tambien espero me diga V. si oyó á los cabos de salas D. Domingo Merlo y Don Juan su hermano que sus plazas les habian costado una su-

Abraham Marrero, *Manifiesto Segundo a Que se Acompaña un Testimonio de Lo Mas Sustancial de La Causa Del Hospital Militar de S. Ambrosio de la Ciudad de la Havana, Seguido Contra el Coronel Graduado de Milicias Don Mariano Romay* (Imprenta de Don Ignacio: Madrid, 1839), 48-49, digital images, *Google Books* (<http://books.Google.com> : accessed 1 March 2021).

Document 4: Directory of the City of Havana

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| APPELLIDOS Y NOMBRES. | OFIC. Y TITULOS.  | CALLE DE RESID. | NUM.  | ESTAD?     |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|-------|------------|
| Moreno D. Estéban     | .....   | Dolicias        | 18    | .....      |
| Molina José           | .....   | Amistad         | 68    | .....      |
| Morejon José          | .....   | Consulado       | 70    | .....      |
| Moya Francisco        | albañil   | San Lázaro      | 2     | .....      |
| Mores Miguel          | .....   | Carrada Sitios  | 7     | .....      |
| Moya Manuel           | cap. de J. M.   | Farruco         | ..... | .....      |
| Morejon M. de la Cruz | vendedora   | Sombreros       | ..... | .....      |
| Monter Cristóbal      | abogado   | Cerr. del Ara.  | ..... | .....      |
| Moreno Cristóbal      | .....   | Farruco         | 26    | .....      |
| Mora Isabel           | .....   | Gloria          | ..... | .....      |
| Molina José María     | hacendado   | S. L. Gonzaga   | 7     | .....      |
| Moreno Antonio        | comercio  | Malinja         | 27    | .....      |
| Moreno Dolores        | .....   | Lealtad         | 29    | .....      |
| Morejon José María    | .....   | Lealtad         | 19    | .....      |
| Moreno José           | albañil   | Tejadillo       | 23    | .....      |
| Morejon Clara         | costurera   | Tejadillo       | 23    | .....      |
| Momplet Mariano       | .....   | Muralla         | 78    | .....      |
| Moreno Eusebia        | .....   | Escobar         | 70    | .....      |
| Monte Ramon           | .....   | Salud           | ..... | .....      |
| Mora Dolores          | hacendado   | Compostela      | 140   | escritorio |
| Morrisam y Comp.      | comercio  | Obispo          | 9     | .....      |
| Moreno Juan           | Aud. gen. hon.  | Jesus Maria     | 38    | .....      |
| Mora Lugarda          | .....   | Merced          | 44    | .....      |
| Molina Manuel         | dependiente   | Merced          | 73    | .....      |
| Moran Manuel          | cocinero  | Jesus Maria     | 66    | .....      |
| Moreno Andres         | contador judicial   | Jesus Maria     | 51    | .....      |
| Morejon José          | .....   | Picota          | 75    | .....      |
| Moreno Clara          | lavandera   | Acosta          | 59    | .....      |
| Montalvo Sra. condesa | .....   | Habana          | 133   | .....      |
| Molote Braulio        | dependiente   | Muralla         | 54    | .....      |
| Mora Benito           | .....   | S. Lázaro       | 319   | .....      |
| Montero Manuel        | bachiller   | S. Lázaro       | 222   | .....      |
| Moro Agustín          | dependiente   | S. Lázaro       | 243   | .....      |
| Monte Leonardo        | ofc. de la contad.  | Salud           | 16    | .....      |
| Morejon Manuel        | cadete  | S. L. Gonzaga   | 128   | .....      |
| Morejon Modesto       | .....   | San Miguel      | 58    | .....      |
| Montalvo Juan         | zapatero  | Escobar         | 35    | .....      |
| Montalles Mariano     | .....   | Morro           | 13    | .....      |
| Mojo José             | zapatero  | Refugio         | 46    | .....      |
| Montivaro José        | carpintero  | Prado           | 13    | .....      |
| Molina Carlota        | enfermera   | Neptuno         | 12    | .....      |
| Montero Josefa        | viuda   | Zauja           | 26    | .....      |
| Montero Pedro         | farmacutico   | Rayo            | 40    | botica     |
| Merlo José Nicolas    | cabo de la sala de S. Ambrosio.                                   | R. de Jesus M.  | ..... | .....      |
| Merlo Ramon           | Br. en derecho  | R. de Jesus M.  | ..... | .....      |
| Mora Encarnacion      | viuda   | Suarez          | 24    | .....      |
| Moutana Pablo         | profesor de música  | Vives           | 29    | .....      |
| Montosinos Faustina   | lavandera   | Palomar         | 12    | .....      |
| Montero Juan Bautista | carpintero  | Vives           | 22    | .....      |
| Mongi Juan            | hortelano   | Prado           | 58    | .....      |
| Montalvo José Jesus   | propiet., Gentil II. de C. de S. M. Cab. de la U. M. de Calatrava | .....           | ..... | .....      |
| Mcoyer German         | Cons. gl. de Hus.   | Compostela      | 177   | .....      |
|                       |   | Cuba            | 119   | Consulado  |

Eduardo Jones, *Directorio de La Ciudad de la Havana* (Madrid: Imprenta de R. Oliva, 1840) page 144

*Document 5: La Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje*



Cesar Ojeda, "Cuba Pintoresca," 12 August 2011 *ODISEA2008*  
(<http://www.odisea2008.com/2011/08/cuba-pintoresca.html> : accessed 26 February 2021), La Iglesia de Cristo Santo del Buen Viaje.



Document 6: Ship Manifest for Federico Merlo and Emilia de Pluma

District of New York—Port of New York.

I, E. C. Reed Master of the St Ship Columbus do solemnly, sincerely and truly swear that the following List or Manifest, subscribed by me, and now delivered by me to the Collector of Customs of the Collection District of New York, is a full and perfect list of all the passengers taken on board the said St Ship Columbus at Havana has now arrived; and that on said list is truly designated the age, the sex, and the occupation of each of said passengers, the part of the vessel occupied by each during the passage, the country to which each belongs, and also the country of which it is intended by each to become an inhabitant; and that said List or Manifest truly sets forth the number of said passengers who have died on said voyage, and the names and ages of those who died.

Sworn to this 15th day of Sept 1875. So help me God.

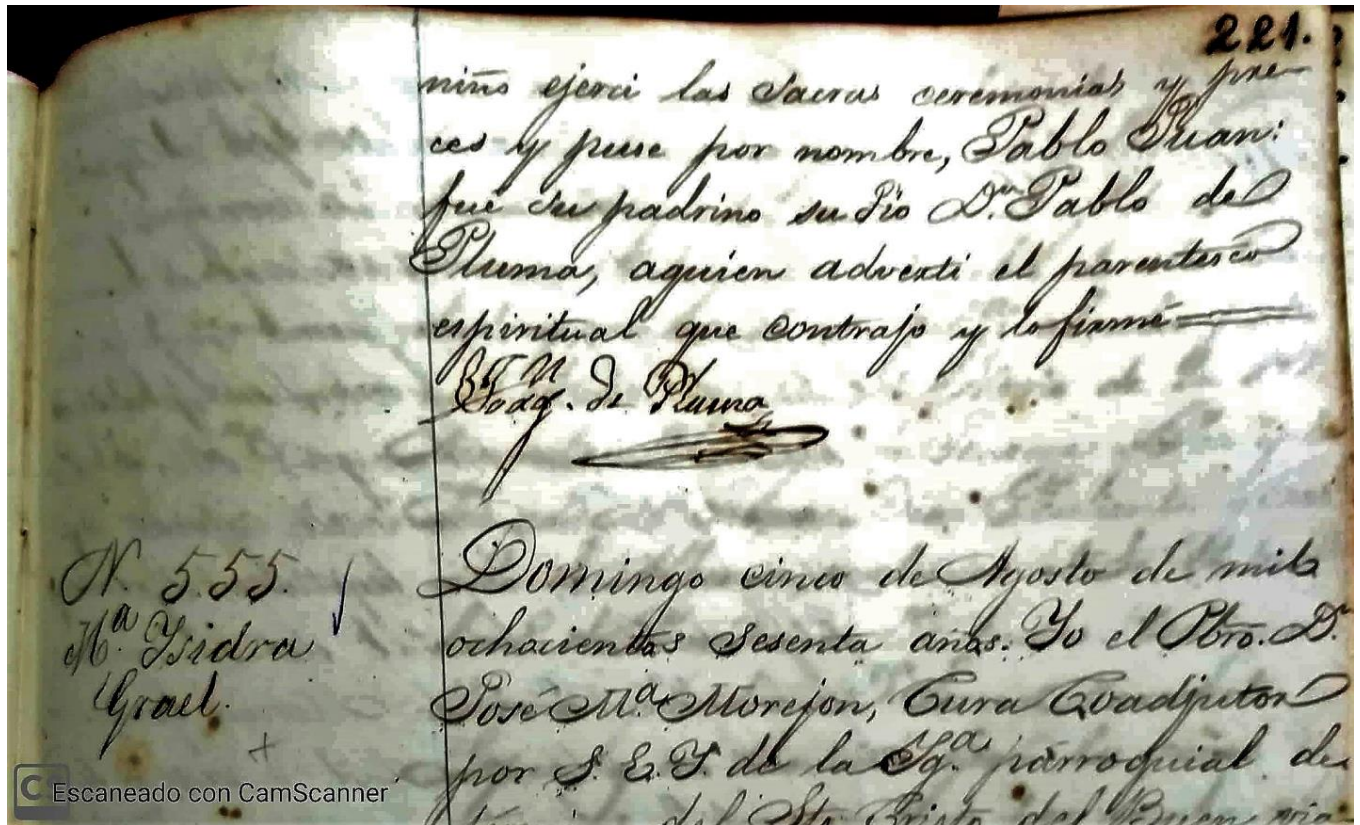
Before me, Wm. State Notary Public in and for the State of New York.

List or Manifest of ALL THE PASSENGERS taken on board the St Ship Columbus is Master, from Havana burthen 1588 tons, whereof 43 700

| NAME                         | Age | SEX    | OCCUPATION | The country to which they severally belong. | The country to which they intend to become inhabitants. | Died on the voyage. | Part of the vessel occupied by each passenger during the voyage. |
|------------------------------|-----|--------|------------|---|---|---------------------|--|
| Chas. Bollinger              | 27  | Male   | Clerk      | Germany                                     | Germany   |                     | Cabin  |
| B. de la Riva                | 34  | do     | Merchant   | U. S.                                       | U. S.   |                     | do   |
| Edw. & Kennedy               | 27  | do     | Merchant   | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Manuel F. Garcia             | 21  | do     | Clerk      | Cuba  | Cuba  |                     | do   |
| D. Garcia y Carbaya          | 35  | do     | Merchant   | U. S.                                       | U. S.   |                     | do   |
| Mrs S. Garcia                | 32  | Female | Lady       | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Bernardo Manguallo           | 14  | Male   | Boy        | Mexico                                      | Mexico  |                     | do   |
| Charles Manguallo            | 16  | do     | do         | do  | 2-0 Mexico  |                     | do   |
| Federico Merlo               | 50  | do     | Merchant   | Cuba  | Cuba  |                     | do   |
| Mrs Emilia Merlo             | 48  | Female | Lady       | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Samuel Merlo                 | 21  | Male   | Clerk      | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Lorenzo Merlo                | 26  | do     | do         | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Emiguelita Merlo             | 24  | Female | Lady       | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Federico Merlo               | 14  | Male   | Boy        | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Emilia Merlo                 | 11  | Female | Girl       | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Rafael Merlo                 | 10  | do     | do         | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Thomas Gutierrez             | 63  | Male   | Merchant   | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Adolfo H. Reed               | 52  | do     | Eng. Agent | Great Britain                               | Great Britain   |                     | do   |
| Alex & Reed                  | 17  | do     | Clerk      | do  | 2-0 do  |                     | do   |
| Mrs Louisa Suarez del Villar | 24  | Female | Lady       | Cuba  | Cuba  |                     | do   |
| Jos. R. Suarez del Villar    | 19  | Male   | Clerk      | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Jos. M. Delgado              | 24  | do     | do         | U. S.                                       | U. S.   |                     | do   |
| Mrs M. L. Hernandez          | 22  | Female | Lady       | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Tomando G. Ruiz              | 25  | Male   | Clerk      | Cuba  | Cuba  |                     | do   |
| Chas. Napier                 | 48  | do     | Merchant   | do  | 9-5 do  |                     | 14 Message   |
| Francisco S. Laine           | 57  | do     | do         | France                                      | France  |                     | Cabin  |
| Mrs J. D. Laine              | 47  | Female | Lady       | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Conrado Laine                | 10  | do     | Girl       | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Domingo Laine                | 9   | Male   | Boy        | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Maria Laine                  | 8   | Female | Girl       | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| José Laine                   | 7   | Male   | Boy        | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Alberto Laine                | 3   | do     | do         | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Mrs Maria Schepers           | 25  | Female | Maund      | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Mrs Isabel Veiner            | 29  | do     | do         | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| Mrs Isabel Laine             | 26  | do     | do         | do  | do  |                     | do   |
| N. M. Carpenter              | 35  | Male   | Merchant   | U. S.                                       | U. S.   |                     | do   |
| P. A. Bossier                | 38  | do     | do         | France                                      | 5-France  |                     | 11 do  |
| Paul M. Hellas               | 45  | do     | do         | U. S.                                       | U. S.   |                     | do   |
| L. Kung                      | 34  | do     | Chinese    | China                                       | China   |                     | Storage  |
| A. Pio Arguain               | 36  | do     | do         | do  | 2-Okey  |                     | do   |
| Chas. Pico                   | 14  | do     | Boy        | U. S.                                       | U. S.   | 21-11               | Cabin  |
| Mrs B. Rodriguez             | 24  | Female | Lady       | do  | do  | 8-4                 | do   |
| Chas. Arguain                | 26  | Male   | Boy        | do  | do  | 29-15               | do   |
| Mrs Lulu Arguain             | 11  | Female | Girl       | do  | 5-11  | do                  | 12-22  |

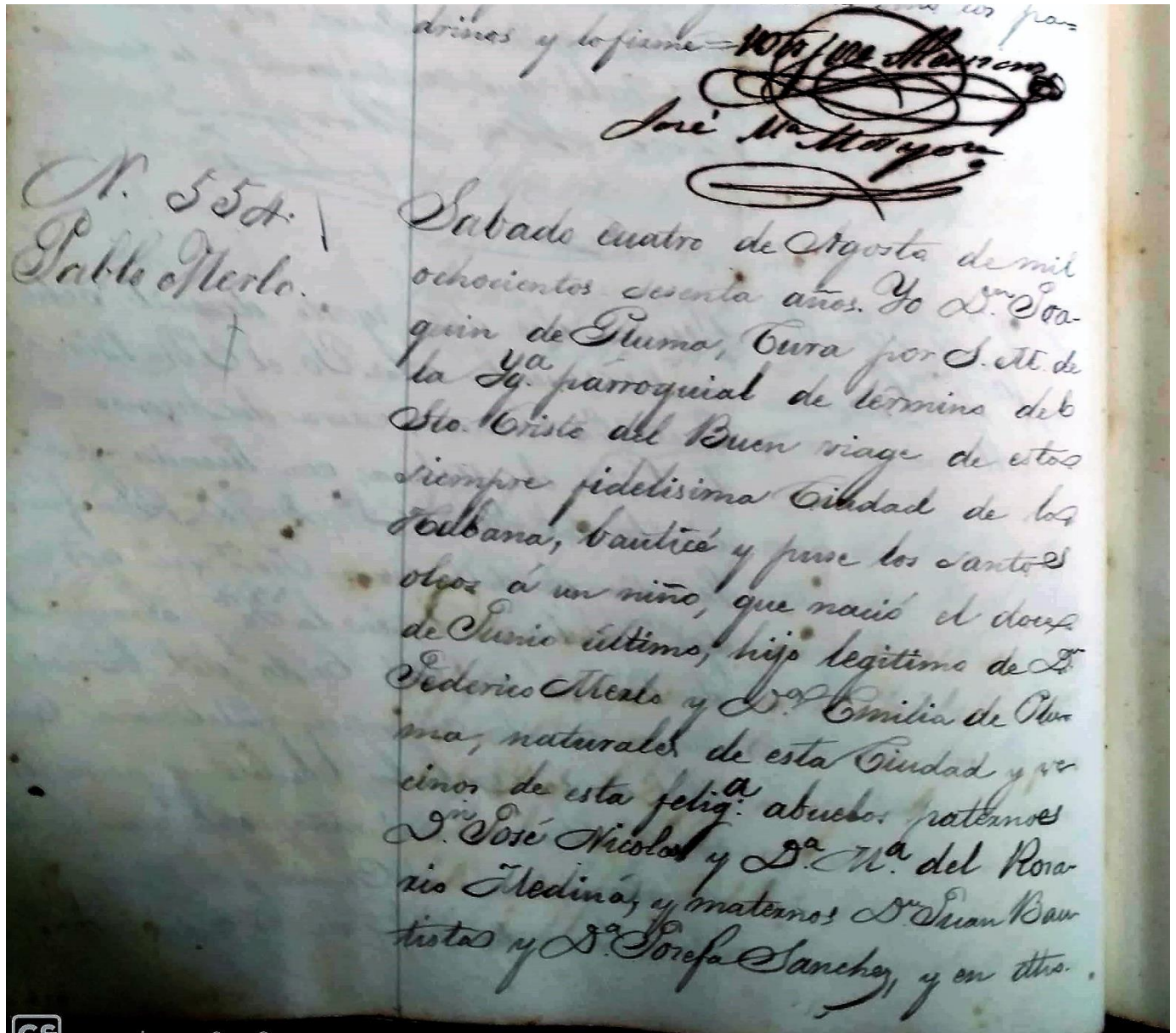
"New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957," database with images, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 February 2021) entry for Federico Merlo, 15 September 1875, SS Columbus.

Document 7A: Baptismal Record for Pablo Juan Merlo



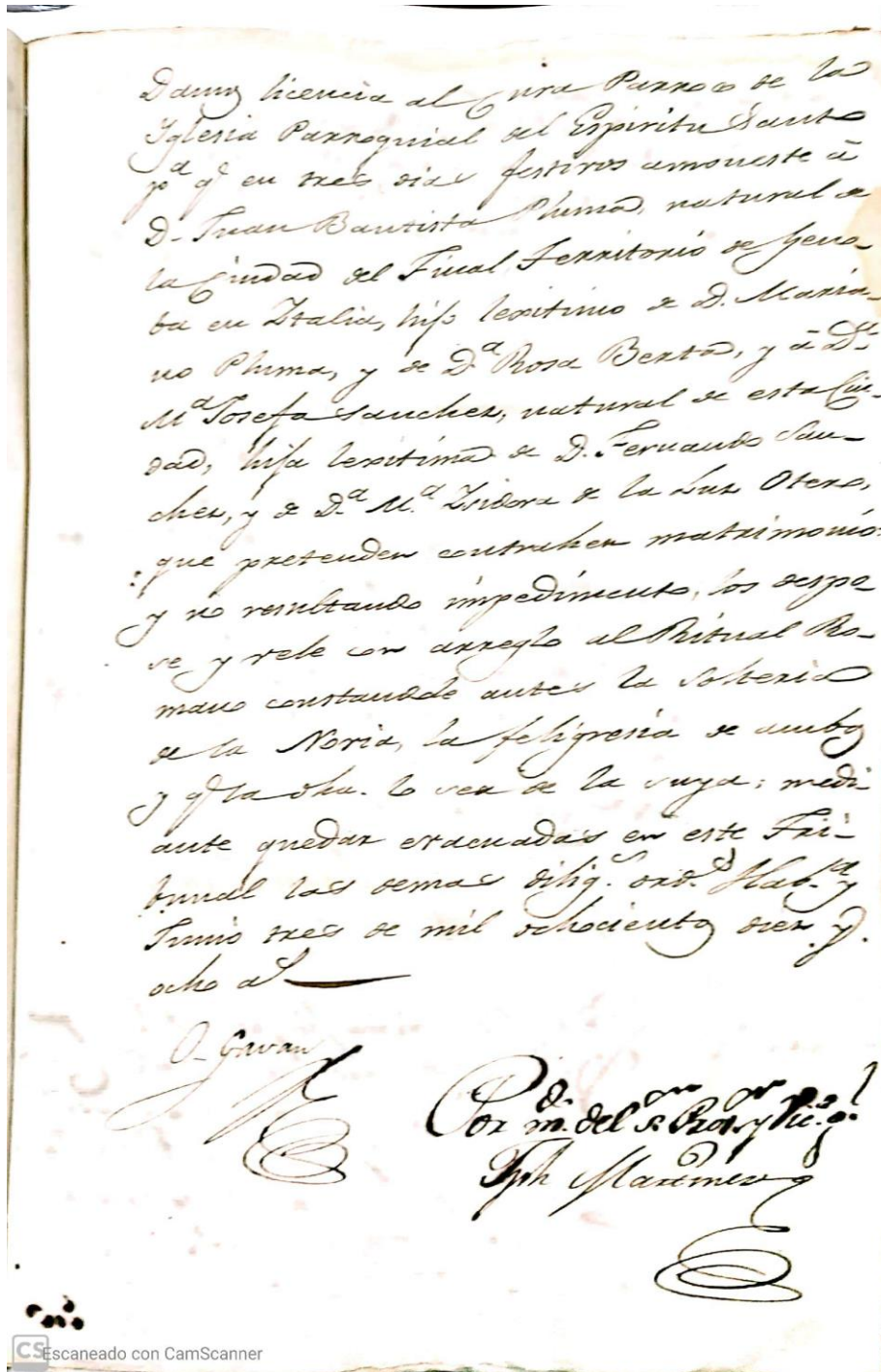
Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje (La Havana, Cuba), Baptismal Records, no. 554, entry for Pablo Juan Merlo, 12 July 1860.

Document 7B: Baptismal Record for Pablo Juan Merlo



Iglesia de Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje (La Havana, Cuba), Baptismal Records, no. 554, entry for Pablo Juan Merlo, 12 July 1860.

Document 8: Marriage License Juan Bautista Pluma and Maria Josefa Sanchez



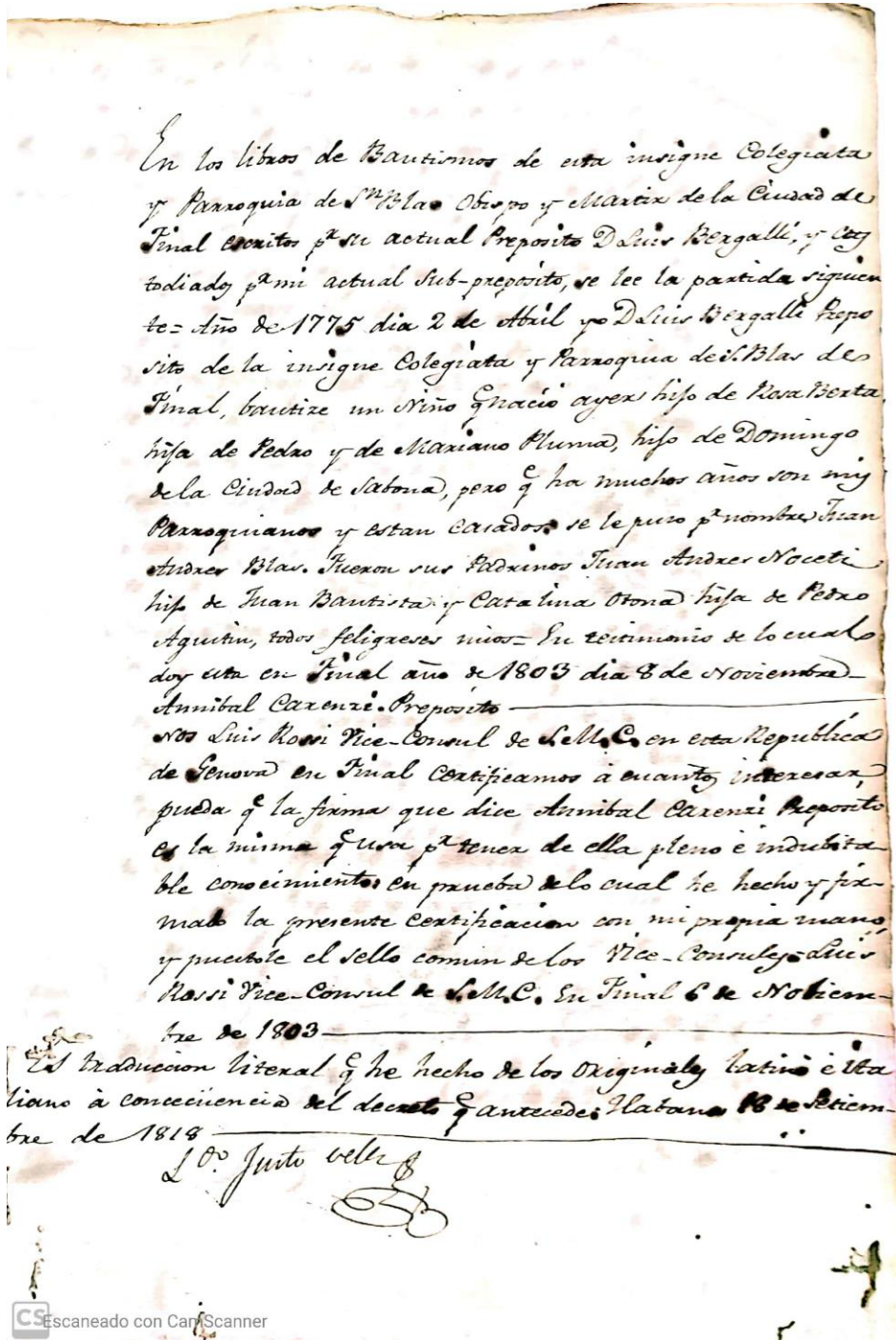
Iglesia del Espíritu Santo (Havana, Cuba), "Libros de Bautizos," Pluma-Sanchez (1818), Libro #16, Folio 214 vuelto; Archivo del Arzobispado de La Havana.

*Document 9: Iglesia del Espíritu Santo, Havana, Cuba*



Jipe7, "Iglesia del Espíritu Santo," digital image, *Flicker.com* ([www.flicker.com](http://www.flicker.com) : accessed 2 March 2021), Havana, Cuba, 12 June 2015.

Document 10: Oversees Identify Documents For Juan Bautista Pluma



Parroquia de San Blas (San Biagio) (Finale Ligure, Savona, Italy), "Expedientes Matrimoniales, Fondo de Ultramar," entry Juan Adres Blas Pluma Berta (1803), translation of original document (1818); Archivo del Arzobispado de La Havana.

*Document 11: Basilica Di San Biagio, Finale Ligure, Savona, Italy*



*Wikipedia Italy* (<https://it.wikipedia.org> : accessed 2 February 2021) “Basilica di San Biagio (Finale Ligure),” rev. 12:17, 7 March 2021.

Document 12: Baptism Maria Josefa Sanchez Otero

D Jacinto Meltran, y Paquena Gertr. Sai<sup>na</sup> Mayor Co-  
 adjuvata con cura de Almas de esta Parroq<sup>ia</sup> del Esp<sup>iritu</sup>  
 Santo de la Habana. Certifico q<sup>ue</sup> en el Libro 16<sup>to</sup>  
 bautismos de Españoles al 214 vuelta esta la sig<sup>ta</sup>

Diez y ocho de Mayo de 1792 a mil se-  
 tecientos noventa y dos años; Yo D<sup>n</sup> Lorenzo  
 Estevan de Oreamun P<sup>ro</sup>curador de Casa Ben<sup>efic</sup>  
 de esta Parroq<sup>ia</sup> del Esp<sup>iritu</sup> Santo de esta Ciudad  
 de la Habana; bautize y puse los Santos M<sup>ag</sup>  
 a una Niña que nació a once del cora<sup>te</sup> hija  
 legítima de D<sup>n</sup> Fernando Sanchez, natural de  
 Sison en el Principado de Asturias, el que  
 es hijo legítimo de D<sup>n</sup> Man<sup>uel</sup> Juan<sup>co</sup> y de D<sup>ña</sup> Juan  
 Francisca Toro; y de D<sup>ña</sup> Maria Ysidora de la Cruz  
 Otero, natural de esta Ciudad, la que es hija  
 legítima de D<sup>n</sup> Bartolomeo Otero, y de D<sup>ña</sup> Juana  
 Francisca Sendon; en la qual ezeasi las debidas  
 ceremonias y puse, y puse por nombre  
 Maria Josefa de la Ascension: fue su ta-  
 vuno D<sup>n</sup> Vicente de la Huerta a quien  
 adverti el parentesco Espirit<sup>ual</sup> que contra  
 yo, y lo firmé = D<sup>n</sup> Lorenzo Estevan de Oreamun

Conforme a su orig<sup>inal</sup>. Habana y Junio 1.º de 1792

Jacinto Meltran

Gertrudis

Iglesia del Espíritu Santo (Havana, Cuba), "Libros de Bautizos," Maria Josefa de la Ascension Sanchez Otero (1792), Libro #16, Folio 214 vuelto; Archivo del Arzobispado de La Havana.



*Document 13: Iglesia del Espíritu Santo, La Havana, Cuba*



*Wikimedia Common* (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/> : accessed 2 February 2021), “File:Iglesia del Espíritu Santo, Havana, Cuba.jpg,” taken 20 May 1961, rev. 00:42, 14 October 2020.