

## Chronicle of the Manzinoja Family

residents and citizens of the town of Pontresina  
as recorded by Anna Huber –Sutter (Noni)

### **Nuot Andrea Manzinoja (1733-1794)**

married **Margretta Danz (1742-1792)** in 1769. Several children, who all died at an early age, were born to them. In 1772 their son

### **Andrea Nuot Manzinoja (1772-1850)**

was born. He married **Barbla Zamboni (1777-1841)**, daughter of Elias Zamboni, from Bever in 1800. As a young man, Andrea went to Rouen (France) and later returned as a married man and managed a tea room. His family stayed in Pontresina. Andrea Nuot Manzinoja and his wife Barbla had 4 children, their oldest boy died as a small child.

### **Mengia Manzinoja (1802-1855)**

married **Gudenz Stuppaun**.

### **Nuot Manzinoja (1805-1830)**

died 1830 in Bordeaux (France).

Our ancestor:

### **Elias Andrea Manzinoja (1811-1887)**

traveled at the age of 13 on foot and by stage-coach (see his letter from 1824) to Niort to help in his father's tea-room "Café Helvétique". He was not at all interested in a profession as a pastry confectioner and was said to have exclaimed: "I would rather blow my brains out than be a pastry confectioner all my life."

He returned home around 1830. Through personal studies he became well-versed in jurisprudence and held office as a lawyer and consultant and later as the canton's chief magistrate. He was sought after for legal advice in community and private matters. He won the confidence of his fellow citizens through his skillfulness in legal affairs and was elected chief magistrate of the Canton of Upper Engadine (the last person to hold this office). After election, he was allowed to mount a beautifully saddled horse and ride around the church square in Samedan. He represented the Upper Engadine in the Legislative Assembly several times, was a member of the District Court and the Court for the Protection of Wards. Because of his dedicated work for the public welfare and his interest in the development of Pontresina as a health resort, his death in 1887 was deplored throughout the region, as is stated in his obituary.

He married **Verena Meisser (1806-1848)** from Davos in 1830 at the age of 19.

The family lived in a lovely old house, typical of the region, in Unterdorf, built next to the Hotel Kronenhof. The house was sold to the Gredig vom Kronenhof family after Elias' death and when the big, new Hotel Kronenhof was built, the beautiful old house had to make way for it. The place where the house used to be is now the entrance to the hotel. The splendid wrought-iron grating was mounted between the doors of the house and the front windows.

There was a magnificent view of the Rosegg Valley to the southwest. An arbor led to the small sheltered garden.

Verena Manzinoja-Meisser was a loving and helpful companion. She was a solicitous mother and when she died at the age of only 42, her family was inconsolable. Her 4 young sons Andrea, Peter, Nuot and Elias and her 3 daughters Uorschla, Babigna and Victorina learned about grief at an early age and her husband was greatly afflicted by the death of his dear and thoughtful wife. Long after her death, he accompanied his 7 children every Sunday to the cemetery. The grave is still in the old cemetery near the church. Her eldest son, Andrea, who died at the age of 19, was laid to rest next to her.

Elias Manzinoja never remarried. His eldest daughter Uorschla, called Dutta, did her best to be a mother to her brothers and sister and a devoted housekeeper took care of the household until his death.

Elias Andrea Manzinoja attached great importance to the education of his children. Explanations are found in his book "Cudesch del infaunts", in which he listed for each child exactly what was spent on schooling and studies, as well as dowry and trousseau for his daughters, so that none of his children would feel disadvantaged. The daughters Uorschla, Babigna and Victorina were sent to finishing schools in Aarburg and Neuenburg.

### **Andrea Manzinoja (1830-1850)**

died at the age of 19, greatly mourned by his parents and siblings.

### **Uorschla Manzinoja (1831-1874)**

married with **Gian Fanconi** from Samedan, had 3 children Paul, Itta and Verena Fanconi.

Ancestor of the American branch of the family:

### **Peter Manzinoja (1832-1891)**

went to the Canton's School in Chur, became a fervent commissioned officer and studied jurisprudence. He married **Anna Nett** from Luzein when he was 50 years old. He was mayor of Pontresina and wrote articles for the newspaper "Engiadinais". He died in 1891. Following the advice of her siblings who all had good positions in America, his wife took her 5 children to St. Paul, Minnesota in 1892. Moving to America was not detrimental to the family. The 4 boys Andrea, Peter, Otto and Luzzi and the little girl Maria received a good education and later found good employment. Anna Manzinoja-Nett married a Swiss man named Stäheli, with whom she had 3 children, and died in 1918.

**Andrea Manzinoja (1880-?)** studied music and was married.

**Peter Manzinoja (1882-1967)** married with Rose

**Otto Manzinoja (1884-1931)**

**Luzzi (Louis) Manzinoja (1886-1917)**

**Maria (Mary) Manzinoja (1888-?)** married Arthur Godbout and had a son, Marlow Philipp Godbout. Her husband died early, she married again, a Mr. Quick, but was divorced from him several years later.

**Marlow Philipp Godbout (1907-1973)** married Frances Fox and had 5 children:

Terence (1945),

Dianne,

Ronald (1949),

Sheila

Vicki

### **Nuot Manzinoja (1836-1863)**

studied jurisprudence, moved to Milan and took his own life at the age of 27.

### **Babigna Manzinoja (1838-1917)**

married with **Francesco Moggi** from Samedan, had 2 children, Alfred and Victorina Moggi.

Ancestor of the Zollinger family:

### **Victorina Manzinoja (1841-1885)**

was married to **Caspar Mazolt Sutter** from Mathon, parson in Pontresina, and had a daughter **Anna Veronica Sutter (1880-1955)**.

Ancestor of the Buchli family:

### **Elias Andrea Manzinoja (1844-1883)**

studied law in Munich and Heidelberg. He married **Anna Jenny**, the granddaughter of Sar Nuot Lelly, in 1871. He died at the age of 39 from pneumonia and left behind 5 children:

### **Verena Manzinoja (1872-1889)**

died at the age of 17.

### **Nicolo Manzinoja (1874-1907)**

died as a single man at the age of 33 from a kidney disease.

### **Elias Manzinoja (1878-1937)**

lived to be 59 years old, he stayed single, but unfortunately had a drinking problem and was in debt.

### **Gian Carl Manzinoja (1882-1889)**

died the same year as his sister Verena at the age of only 7 years from meningitis.

### **Victorina Manzinoja (1877-1919)**

the daughter of Elias Andrea and Anna Manzinoja-Jenny and mother of Georg Buchli attended the Yalta boarding school for girls in Zürich when she was 15 and then went to secondary school in Lausanne. Later she worked as a governess in different first-class hotels at home and abroad. In 1904-06, together with her mother and 2 brothers, she built the Hotel Schweizerhof in Pontresina. The architect was Arnold Huber from Zürich, who later married her cousin and foster-sister Anna Sutter. Victorina fell in love with the overseer of the

building site, **Jeremias Buchli** from Versam. They married in 1906 and managed the Hotel Schweizerhof together. In 1907 their first son Nicolo was born and in 1913 their second son Georg. Unfortunately, after the outbreak of World War I, many guests (especially from England) no longer came and Jeremias had to report for active duty. He became very ill (probably with stomach cancer) and in spite of hospitalization in the Bircher-Klinik in Zürich he died at the age of 40 in 1919. That was a crushing blow for Victorina, alone with the hotel and 2 young boys, especially since she had also lost her mother shortly before in December 1916. In the winter of 1919 she fell very ill with influenza and never recovered, she died at the age of 42. What a terrible misfortune for her 2 boys, orphans at the age of 6 and 12 years.

#### **Nicolo Buchli (1907-1964)**

Found a place to stay with relatives in Versam. As a young man he emigrated to America. His goal in life was to earn enough money to be able to take over the Hotel Schweizerhof again someday. Times were hard in the Twenties, he managed to get by doing all sorts of jobs like farm worker, railroad worker, construction worker and waiter. Finally he worked as a painter in the Chicago railroad station. He married the daughter of Russian immigrants in 1932 and was the father of 2 sons. His first born son was killed in a tragic accident at about the age of 10 at a soccer game. Nicolo also fell ill, became blind and died at the age of 57 without ever seeing Switzerland again. His son Ronny died in 2001. His grandson Rick and the 2 granddaughters Robin and Amy still live in the United States in the state of Illinois with their families.

**Georg Buchli (1913-1982)** found a foster home with his mother's cousin Anni Huber-Sutter, who had grown up with Victorina, whose mother had died so early. He grew up with the daughters of the family in Zürich Wollishofen. He studied civil engineering and later worked for the Canton of Zürich and played a dominant role in the construction of the Milchbuck tunnel. He married Gertrude Köchli and had 2 sons, Andrea and Nicolo. Unfortunately the marriage didn't last. In 1950 he married Dora-Jane Rudolf, who had grown up in America as the daughter of Swiss emigrants. He was blessed with 2 other children, Susie and Jürg. The family lived in a lovely home in Erlenbach on the Lake of Zürich. Shortly after retiring, he fell ill and died in 1982 at the age of 69.

Translated into English by Wendy Hemelsdael-Hazen, Georg Buchli's niece from Vermont.