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# The Balli Family in Holland

Grietje Brouwer-IJsbrandy and Christian Balli

## Résumé

*Le Dictionnaire historique de la Suisse mentionne, entre autres, sous le nom «Balli» (famille du val Maggia): «Les B. émigrèrent très souvent: on les trouve dès le XVI<sup>e</sup> s. à Leitmeritz en Bohême, où ils sont architectes, à Rome au XVII<sup>e</sup> s. Valentino (1764-1825) fonda au XVIII<sup>e</sup> s. la maison de commerce Balli à Groningue (Hollande); ses descendants ... poursuivirent son activité avec succès». Cet article se propose de fournir une description de la vie aux Pays-Bas des différentes branches de la famille Balli qui ont émigré dans ce pays entre le 18<sup>e</sup> et le 19<sup>e</sup> siècle.*

## Zusammenfassung

*Das Historische Lexikon der Schweiz erwähnt u.a. unter dem Namen «Balli» (Familie aus dem Maggiatal): «Vom 16. Jh. an betätigten sich Angehörige der Fam., die sich durch eine bemerkenswerte Wandertradition auszeichnete, als Architekten im böhm. Leitmeritz; im 17. Jh. hielten sich Vertreter der B. aus dem Maggiatal in Rom auf. Im 18. Jh. begr. Valentino (1764-1825) in Groningen das Handelshaus Balli; sein Wirken wurde von einigen seiner Nachkommen erfolgreich fortgesetzt ...». In diesem Artikel soll das Leben der verschiedenen Zweige der Familie Balli, die zwischen dem 18. und 19. Jahrhundert in die Niederlande ausgewandert sind, beschrieben werden.*

## Riassunto

*Il Dizionario storico della Svizzera menziona, tra l'altro, sotto la voce «Balli» (famiglia valmaggese): «La fam. fu caratterizzata da una notevole tradizione migratoria. Sin dal XVI sec. suoi esponenti furono attivi come architetti a Leitmeritz in Boemia; nel Seicento i B. valmaggese erano presenti a Roma. Nel XVIII sec., a Groningen (Olanda), Valentino (1764-1825) fondò la casa commerciale Balli; la sua attività venne continuata con successo da alcuni suoi discendenti...». Il presente articolo si propone di fornire una descrizione della vita nei*

*Paesi Bassi dei vari rami della famiglia Balli che emigrarono in quel paese tra il 18° ed il 19° secolo.*

## Foreword

During the research of the Balli family in the Netherlands, we owe a lot to Christian Balli from Wabern near Bern. He is the one who brought the early history of the Balli family to our knowledge and made it possible to make the connection between the Balli family in the Netherlands and their Italian speaking ancestors in the canton of Ticino Switzerland.

Originally, the family lived in Valmaggia (Fusio). The presence of family in Fusio is described in detail in five documents preserved in the archives of the State of Ticino (Bellinzona). The first document is dated November 7, 1286. In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Balli family split up in the so-called Ramo Olanda, Ramo Fiandre, Ramo Locarno e Muralto and Ramo Locarnese and Caverigno. The Ramo Olanda originates also from the Ramo Locarno and Ramo Caverigno.

At the request of Christian, I will try to give a picture of the Balli family in the Netherlands. It is, however, not a complete one. Solid research takes years. Besides, little has been documented about the Italian chimney sweeps in the Netherlands from the 18<sup>th</sup> through the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Most of the immigrants didn't intend to stay here. The patrons stayed longer, but the chimney sweep's man usually stayed only a couple of years unless he married a Dutch woman.

So, what is the purpose of this all? Perhaps it is a first step towards giving a picture of the Balli family in the Netherlands and their relationship with the other chimney sweep families, like Tonini, Beltrami, Guglielmina, Solari, Selva and Benvenuti in Switzerland and the Netherlands. But there is still a lot of work to do. During my research I met Lorraine Castberg on the internet. She was willing to edit this article, for which I'm very grateful.

Grietje Brouwer-IJsbrandy

## Design

Zelda Balli-Peri (1899–1988), a cousin of Christian Balli made several “rami”. We know them as: the Ramo Balli (Primi antenati), Ramo Olanda (2), Ramo Fiandre (3), Ramo Locarno e Muralto (4), Ramo Locarnese (5) and Ramo Caverigno (5a). The ancestors of the Ramo Olanda are Antonio Maria Balli and Domenica Rame f. Giovanni. But ancestors of the Ramo Locarno e Muralto, Ramo Locarnese, the Primi Antenati and the Ramo Fiandre also stayed in the Nether-

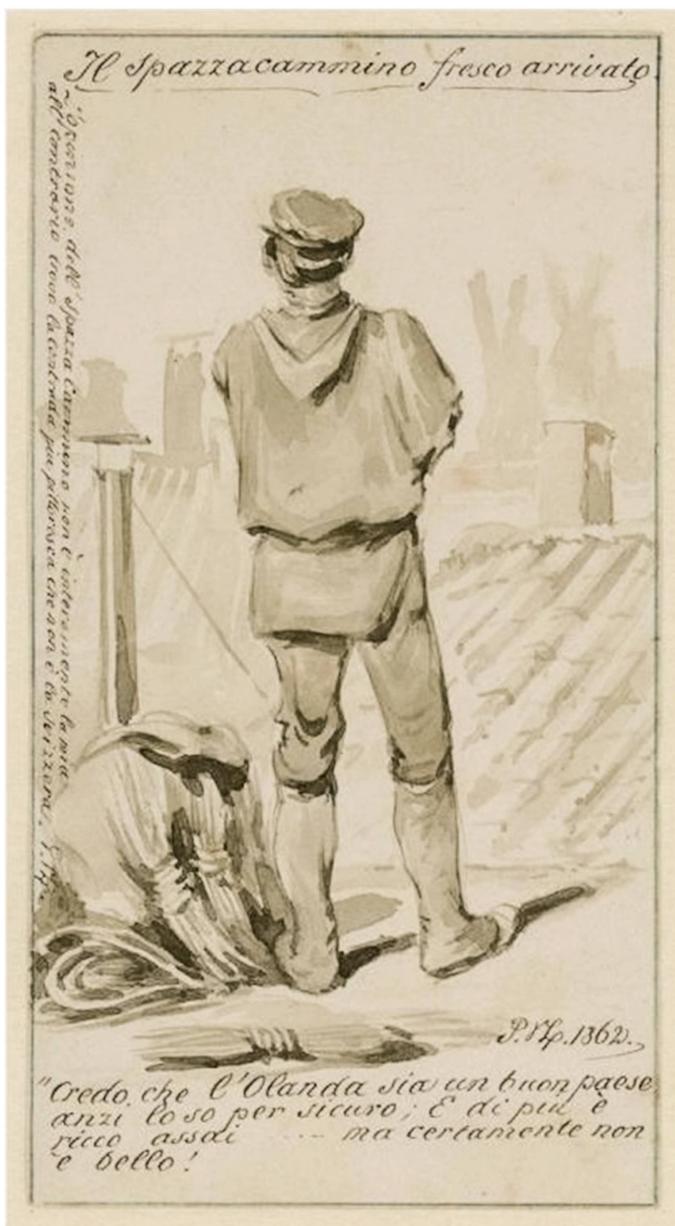
lands. We pay also attention to those family members. But only the Ramo Olanda is listed in detail at the end of the article. The numbers in the text are linked to the family tree. This counts only for the text concerning the Ramo Olanda.

## Ramo Olanda

### History

Until the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the houses in the Netherlands were built of wood. These single-storey houses had a fire pit in the middle of the room. The people

used peat as fuel. The smoke disappeared through a hole in the roof. Many roofs were made of reed. After a number of major fires, for example in the city of Amsterdam, the local governments required that newly built houses should be built of stone. It lasted until the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when it became more common to use bricks. The first houses made of bricks had a pipe through the wall. The smoke didn't disappear that well and stayed in the yards between the houses. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, multi-storey houses were built, with large chimneys. Initially these chimneys were wide and covered with wood inside. This was no problem as the people still used peat as fuel. Later on, as people became more prosperous, they were able to buy expensive furniture and plaster the ceilings of their houses. But the soot and the smoke could ruin it all. In short, people needed specialized



craftsmen who could clean the chimneys properly and repair the cracks in the chimneys. In the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century peat was no longer used as fuel but replaced with coal. It was necessary to redesign the chimneys. The inside wooden covering of the chimney had become dangerous because the heat from coal was much more intense. The chimneys became narrower. The chimney sweeps had to give notice to the local government when they still came across chimneys with a wooden covering.

Although there were Dutch chimney sweeps, it was eventually the Italian chimney sweeps who became more prominent. Many chimney sweeps came from Cavergho-Bignasco (Ticino). The craftsmen of Ticino, situated on the border between Italy and Switzerland, became specialists in cleaning chimneys. Although the 16<sup>th</sup> century Ticino belonged to Switzerland, the inhabitants considered themselves as an Italian minority. Every region in the Southern Alps had specialized craftsmen. You might wonder why chimney sweeps came from Ticino. Although there are several explanations for it, an interesting one is that Ticino was at that time of little importance, very poor and less developed compared to other regions. The status of a chimney sweep was low. It was dangerous, dirty work and suitable for the inhabitants of the poorest and less developed part of the Southern Alps.

The poverty and overpopulation of the valleys forced the men to earn their living elsewhere. In general, the chimney sweeps traveled by foot to Basel and eventually by boat over the lake of Lucerne (Vierwaldstättersee) to Rotterdam. The Swiss-Italian immigrants spread from Rotterdam to all the other large cities in the Netherlands. The Balli family settled in Rotterdam, The Hague, Amsterdam, Hertogenbosch, Groningen, Leeuwarden, Harlingen and Delft.

The Swiss-Italian immigrants who came to Groningen (around 1755) achieved, soon after their arrival, a dominant position in the chimney sweep business. In those days, craftsmen were united in guilds. The Italian chimney sweeps weren't. Instead, family ties formed the basis of commercial organization and social life: fathers and sons, brothers, cousins and sons-in-law. If no direct family link existed but was needed, business-wise, bonds were created. A business partner could act as Peter or be a witness at a christening or wedding. In his book "Van schoorsteenvegers en pizzabakkers" Aart Heering describes the quarrels and competition among the first Swiss-Italian chimney sweeps in Groningen. A beloved trick was to spread a rumor that a competitor chimney sweep had deceased.

At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century there were three to four competing Swiss-Italian firms in Groningen. The first Swiss-Italian chimney sweep in The Hague was Bartolomeus Maria Bertina and next to him Pieter Antoni Ravelli and Jacob Scudellaro in 1762 and 1764. In the second part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century there were five Swiss-Italian firms in The Hague.

The chimney sweeps had close ties with their families in Piemonte or Ticino. They visited their families on a regular basis, usually between June and September. They used these visits to hire their men. Most of the chimney sweeps came to the Netherlands at a young age and stayed for five years. In this period, they received free room and board and an amount of money once a year. In 1860 a chimney sweep's man earned f. 130,-- and an apprentice f. 20,-- per year. After five years of service, they received a golden watch on a chain. The apprentice earned very little compared to the cost of cleaning a chimney. The cost of cleaning a chimney was, in 1832, about f. 1,--. Hundred years later, the cost wasn't much more, about f. 1,75.

The Italian chimney sweeps and apprentices stayed in the house of their patron. The regimen was severe. Frank Bovenkerk wrote an interesting book named "Ice cream men and chimney-sweepers". In this book an old man, who lived all his life in Leeuwarden, described the Swiss-Italian household in the Sint Jacobstraat. It was, according to this man, a closed community with an Italian atmosphere. The patrons smoked Swiss cigars and read Italian newspapers while the boys were playing on the harmonica and zither. The boys stayed at home and only on Sunday they were allowed to visit the nearby Roman Catholic Church in Leeuwarden. There was very little opportunity to meet Dutch girls. They went only twice a year to a ball at a local dance school.



*Bonifatius Church*

In the early morning the patron and his chimney sweeps left home. The patron walked in the front with the apprentices 6 paces behind him. They wore white (!) clothing and the patron wore a high black hat. This hat had no function except for storing the addresses of the customers, bills and banknotes.

The chimney sweeps had a low status. On the one hand they fascinated people, but on the other hand they scared them a bit. Little children were especially frightened because the chimney sweeps looked like “Black Peter”. In the Netherlands, Black Peter is a figure who accompanies Santa Claus. Santa lives in Spain. Every year at the end of November, Santa and Black Peter travel to the Netherlands to celebrate Santa’s birthday on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. Santa rides a horse onto the roof and Black Peter throws presents down the chimney. Black Peter has a sack (for naughty children) and a wand with him. The celebration of Santa is a very old Dutch tradition.



Some of the patrons and chimney sweeps stayed the rest of their life in the Netherlands. But most of them kept their Swiss or Italian nationality and returned home. For instance, Valentino, Francesco Antonio and Benedetto Balli returned to Cavigno. In 1897 a gentleman named Franken visited a coffeehouse in Bignasco. He was very surprised that

a number of visitors spoke Dutch. They turned out to all be former chimney sweeps except the mayor, Gaudenzio Begnudini, who had an umbrella shop in Schiedam.<sup>1</sup>

The men who stayed in the Netherlands often married Dutch women. Because the chimney sweep had low status, the parents didn’t always appreciate the choice of their daughter. The story goes that Zanolli, a patron in Leeuwarden, had a chimney sweep called Filipponi. He asked a noble Lady by letter to marry him. Her family complained to Zanolli that, by this act, the Lady was humiliated and demanded Zanolli to fire Filipponi. The patron “fired” him by helping Filipponi to start an umbrella business in Sneek.



*A picture for a magic lantern precisely shows the low status of chimney sweeps.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Algemeen Handelsblad 26-10-1897.

<sup>2</sup> Museum Rotterdam.

The first hat is the hat of a gentleman, the second is of his working man, the third is of a chimney sweep and the fourth is of a scarecrow! The pictures are dated between 1880 and 1910. In the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the chimney business declined gradually. Aart Heering mentions in his book three reasons. The first reason is the mass migration from the Southern Alps region to America and Australia, which made it more difficult to find apprentices. Second, the new Dutch legislation which forbid child labor and third, the altered design of the chimneys. The chimneys became narrower and the young boys could not be lowered into the chimney any longer.

As mentioned before Zelda Balli-Peri made several “rami”. We know them as: the Ramo Balli (Primi antenati), Ramo Olanda (2), Ramo Fiandre (3), Ramo Locarno e Muralto (4), Ramo Locarnese (5) and Ramo Caverigno (5a). The ancestor of the Ramo Olanda is Antonio Maria Balli married to Domenica Rame f. Giovanni. Two of their grandchildren went to the Netherlands. Namely: Giovanni Giuseppe Balli, born 1788 and Petrus Antonius Joostinus Anastasius Balli, baptized June 29, 1797.<sup>3</sup> Giovanni Giuseppe lived in Groningen and Petrus in Harlingen. Petrus stayed the rest of his life in Harlingen. All his children were born in the Netherlands. Giovanni Giuseppe stayed for a great part of his life in the Netherlands but died in Caverigno. His children were born in Caverigno. But if we look more closely at the Balli family we discover that ancestors of the Ramo Locarno e Muralto, the Primi antenati and the Ramo Fiandre also moved to the Netherlands. The Balli family and in-laws were spread all over the country.

## A) The Hague ('s Gravenhage)

### **Giuseppe Maria Giovannini or Josephus Maria Swanino (Ramo Primi antenati)**

Giuseppe Maria Giovannini (in Dutch, Josephus Maria Swanino) was born September 5, 1751 in Carverigno. His parents, Anna Maria Balli and Giuseppe Giovannini married in 1750. We come across Giuseppe for the first time in the Dutch registers as he marries January 8, 1776 to Maria Judith Janson. Maria, born around 1737, was 14 years older than Giuseppe. She was the widow of Jacob (Giacomino) Scudellaro. Maria married Jacob in The Hague September 8, 1763, a year before Jacob received a temporary residence permit. At that time Jacob served as a chimney sweep for Michel Comaita (from Piemonte).

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<sup>3</sup> Ramo II.6 and II.8.

Her second husband, Giuseppe, belonged (along with Jacob Scudellaro, Bartholomeus Maria Bertina, Pieter Antonie Maria Ravelli, Jacob and Pieter Scudellaro, Joannes Michael Ferrari, Franciscus Consul, Joseph Maria Togni and Jacobus Maria Faustinus Beltrami) to the first generation of chimney sweeps in The Hague who married Dutch women. Maria Judith Janson died after a marriage of 42 years and three months at the age of 79. In the obituary Giuseppe asked not to send letters of condolences to him as those letters would make his suffering even more severe! We can assume Giuseppe and Maria had no children as they were not mentioned in the obituary.<sup>4</sup> Giuseppe remarried April 15, 1818 at the age of 61 to Maria Cornelia Booms. The bride was 54 years old. Maria's father Nicolaus Booms passed away in 1783 while her mother died in 1788.

Four years later Josephus died at the age of 66 years and four months.<sup>5</sup> The obituary notified that Joseph's business partner, Joseph Andreoli, continued the business. Joseph Andreoli was born August 15, 1774 in Albogno (Vigevano Valley, Piemonte). Of all chimney sweeps in The Hague, Joseph (Giuseppe) Andreoli became the most successful and wealthy one. He married Beatrix in 1774. Their first child was buried in 1801 by charity. But by his death in 1842, Joseph Andreoli owned three houses in The Hague and one in Albogno. One of these houses was the house, situated at Gevulde Gracht, district R number 415, which Joseph bought in 1827 from the heirs of Giuseppe Maria Giovannini and Maria Cornelia Booms. The Gevulde Gracht (or Voldersgracht) was the traditional "chimney sweep street". The names of the inheritors are unknown.

Maria Cornelia died December 14, 1824. An advertisement notified that July 12, and 13, 1826, nearly two years after the death of Cornelia, the belongings of her and her husband Joseph Swanino would be auctioned at their house on the Vulgersgracht. It concerned only movables as chairs, two golden watches, a golden necklace, and porcelain, tin, copper.<sup>6</sup>

## **Pietro Giacomini or Pieter Giacomino (Ramo Olanda)**

Pietro (Pieter) Giacomino, son of Maria Maddalena (Magdalena) Balli and Giovanni Giacomini also lived in The Hague. He was baptized November 8, 1811 in Carvergnò. Godparents were Alexius Dadò and Margaretha Giacomini (a sister of Giovanni?).

It is not known when Pieter arrived in The Netherlands. Pieter married April 1, 1835 in The Hague to Suzanne Louisa van Wijngaarden, daughter of Alexander Louis van Wijngaarden and Johanna Maria Cramer. Suzanne was born No-

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<sup>4</sup> 's Gravenhaagsche Courant 16-12-1816.

<sup>5</sup> 's Gravenhaagsche Courant 16-01-1822.

<sup>6</sup> 's Gravenhaagsche Courant 30-06-1826.

vember 29, 1811 in The Hague. Maria Maddalena Balli and Giovanni Giacomini were, by then, deceased. Magdalena died June 15, 1828 and Giovanni passed away May 31, 1828. Pieter was employed as chimney sweep. Possibly he worked for A. Giacomini who lived in The Hague at the same time and had a chimney sweep business. But there is no proof of that. In fact, there is little known about Pieter. He had, with Suzanne, two boys and a daughter. Pieter died February 20, 1852. Suzanne remarried August 6, 1862.

## **The Hague and Dutch East Indies**

Although Amsterdam is the capital city of the Netherlands, The Hague is the residential city of the Netherlands. The Hague had in former days strong bonds with the Dutch East Indies, the archipelago that came under Dutch colonial rule and subsequently achieved independence as Indonesia in 1945 (although not recognized as such by the Dutch government until December 1949). The Hague, which housed in former days the Ministry of Colonies, was the favorite city for soldiers and civil servants on furlough from the Dutch East Indies. The city offered facilities for families on leave, including shops with colonial goods and boarding houses. The famous Hotel Des Indes on the Lange Voorhout in The Hague used to accommodate many of these travelers. But what is the importance of this for the Balli family?

During the research of the Balli family we came across Fulgenzio Balli, son of Notaio (notary) Giuseppe Antonio Balli and Caterina Varena (Ramo Locarnese). The Central Bureau of Genealogy in The Hague has a large collection of newspaper cuttings on births, marriages and deaths but unfortunately without the names of the newspapers.

Retired sergeant gun maker L.H. Deij gave notice of the marriage of his daughter Johanna Wilhelmina Antoinette Deij and Fulgenzio Balli. The announcement is dated July 1879. Apart from this announcement there is so far no trace found in the Dutch civil registers of Fulgenzio Balli and Johanna Deij. Possible Johanna was born in Dutch East Indies. It is not known how and when Fulgenzio arrived in Java, an island of the archipelago. The marriage of Fulgenzio and Johanna is mentioned in Soerabaijas Handelsblad of June 12, 1779. Perhaps they married in Japara one or two days earlier. Fulengenzio died November 1, 1889 in Magalang (Java).

## B) Rotterdam and 's Hertogenbosch

### Giovanni and Antonius Giacomino

More children of Maria Maddalena Balli and Giovanni Giacomini lived in the Netherlands. Giovanni, probably the eldest son of Maria Magdalena and Giovanni Giacomini, was born September 12, 1791 in Caveragno. According to the wedding certificate, Giovanni Jr. lived in Rotterdam since 1815. This can be also a little earlier. He started to work as an apprentice at the age of 14 for A. Zanino en J. Lopedro. They started their chimney sweep business in 1786 in Rotterdam at the Nieuwesteeg. This business had, since 1906, a beautiful sign which belongs now to the collection of Museum Rotterdam.



In 1820, Giovanni Giacomini left Zanino and Lopedro to start his own business in 's Hertogenbosch. The wish to start a business of his own probably had something to do with the fact that on August 9, 1820, Giovanni married Eva Riget, daughter of Petri Riget and Johanna Heijligers. Eva was baptized in Rotterdam September 7, 1799. Giovanni married the girl next door as they both lived in the Nieuwstraat at the time of their wedding.

Giovanni chose 's Hertogenbosch for a reason. His younger brother Antonius Giacomini lived and worked in this town. Antonius never married. The two brothers lived next door to each other, Giovanni and his family the address H Snellestraat number 61 and Antonius on number 62. We know this because of the death certificates. Giovanni died at the age of 38 (February 17, 1830). Between the deaths of Giovanni and Antonio are 22 years. So, it is also possible that the address was renumbered, and Antonio and Giovanni and his family lived all the time in the same house. Giovanni and Eva had three daughters: Dina, Johanna Maria Magdalena and Maria. The last one was born June 25, 1830 (after the death of her father). Eva died September 28, 1864 in 's Hertogenbosch at the age of 70 years. On her death certificate she is called Rigette. Eva lived at the time of her death at the Kruisstraat.



*Snellestraat 's Hertogenbosch*



*Nieuwstraat The Hague*

The assumption is that the brothers Giovanni and Antonio started a business of their own in 's Hertogenbosch. When Giovanni died at an early age, Antonio continued the business. After his death in 1852, Antonio's successor, J. Togni, continued the business according to an announcement. The name Giacomini is also spelled as Giacomino. Pieter used Giacomini while Antonio and Giovanni named themselves Giacomino.

**J. TOGNI,**  
 (OPVOLGER VAN A. GIACOMINO.)  
 Mr. SCHOORSTEENVEGER, in de *Minderbroeder-*  
*straat*, in den geleerden Man, Lt. A.  
 n<sup>o</sup>. 181, verzoekt de gunst en recommandatie,  
 behooft eene prompte en civiele bediening.

## C) Leeuwarden

For a good understanding of the relationship between the Balli family and other families (like the Beltrami, Martini and Solari) it is necessary to tell more about the history of those families in the Netherlands. But even knowing this, it will be difficult to imagine the complete picture, because some relationships are assumed and not proven.

### **The connection between the Beltrami family and the Balli family**

Ticino belongs to Switzerland since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. As indicated earlier, the people of this area considered themselves as an Italian minority. This was also the case in the Netherlands. There was a strong bond among the Swiss-Italian families who immigrated to the Netherlands. Generally, they married within their own communities.

An exception was Johannes Petrus Beltrami. He was a son of Giacomo Maria Beltrami and Maria Domenica Scudellari, and born around 1788 in Cavigno. He married September 4, 1822 to a Dutch woman named Agatha Paulina Henstra, daughter of Fredericus Line Henstra and Juliana Anna Gerlofsma. Agatha was born in Leeuwarden in 1802 and 20 years younger than Johannes Petrus. Agatha and Johannes were both chimney sweeps. At the end of 1819, Johannes Petrus Beltrami founded, with Alexius (Alessio) Martini, a chimney sweep business and a shop situated at the Sint Jacobstraat number 62. In September 1820 Beltrami and Martini still had enough space to offer for rent a cellar suitable to store potatoes. In 1821 the company was selling hats, bird cages, umbrellas and barometers.<sup>7</sup> It was a shop where one could buy nearly everything.

In February 1822, however, the firm Martini and Beltrami was closed down.<sup>8</sup> Throughout the month they asked, by public announcement, for creditors to contact them. What happened is not known. At first there seemed to be no trouble within the firm. In an announcement at the end of March, Martini and Beltrami announced that they wanted to move to a coffeehouse called the "Hopzak", which was situated at the corner of the Peperstraat (nearby Sint Jacobstraat). In the same advertisement they gave notice of the fact that their chimney sweep business had already existed three years. Further on, they recommend themselves by telling the readers that they served Antonio Solaro well before starting their own business, Martini for 14 years and Beltrami for 18 years! If they didn't exaggerate, it holds too that Joannes came to the Neth-

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<sup>7</sup> Leeuwarder Courant 25-05-1821.

<sup>8</sup> Leeuwarder Courant 29-03-1822.

erlands around 1801. But their plans didn't work out<sup>9</sup> after all, and Martini and Beltrami split up. In April 1822 Beltrami made it publicly known that he would continue the chimney sweep business at the Sint Jacobstraat 62. Martini moved to the Hopzak and started, at the same time, his own business.

Johannes and Agatha Beltrami's first son, Fredericus Jacobus Beltrami, was born in 1823. He was followed by two girls: namely Voctina Juliana and Juliana Maria Beltrami. Juliana Voctina died very young, while Juliana Maria reached the age of 24 years. Johannes Petrus Beltrami died on January 6, 1828 in Leeuwarden. He reached just the age of 40 years. Agatha stayed behind with two young children. She continued the business. One can imagine that this was a hard time for her. This is possibly one of the reasons why Agatha married just one and a half years later, on June 19, 1829 to Joannes Baptista Beltrami, son of Antonius Beltrami and Margartha Scudellari.<sup>10</sup>

The surname of the mother of Joannes Petrus and Joannes Baptista is Scudellari. Presumably Margaret Scudellari and Maria Domenica Scudellari were sisters. Although the family Scudellari, also called Scudellaro and Schudellaro, hasn't been researched there is a good possibility that Jacob Scudellaro, who came to The Hague, is related to Margareta and Domenica Scudellari. As mentioned earlier, Jacob Scudellaro married Maria Judith Janson in 1770 in The Hague. After his death, Maria was remarried to Joseph Maria Swanino (Giovannini), son of Anna Maria Balli and Giuseppe Giovannini.

Joannes Baptista and Agatha had two children: Antonius Johannes Beltrami, born in 1829, and Johannes Eugene Beltrami, born in 1831. Johannes died at the age of four. Agatha had little luck in love. After a short marriage of nearly five years, Joannes Baptista died on March 23, 1833 at the age of about 32 years<sup>11</sup>. On October 18, 1835 Agatha gave birth to a son, named Leonardus Alexander Christoffel Johannes. Although his surname is Henstra, it's likely that his father is Antoni Beltrami. Antoni born in 1804 in Caveragno, was a brother of Joannes Baptista Beltrami. In 1836 another child was born named Margaret Beltrami. Antoni Beltrami acknowledged her as his daughter. If Anthony and Agatha had the intention to marry, there was no further time to carry out their plans. Antoni Beltrami died three days after the birth of Margaret on October 1, 1836.<sup>12</sup> In the obituary Agatha wasn't named, just friends and acquaintances. Agatha Henstra died at the age of 73 years on December 16, 1875 in Leeuwarden.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Leeuwarder Courant 05-04-1822.

<sup>10</sup> Leeuwarder Courant 23-06-1829.

<sup>11</sup> Leeuwarder Courant 23-03-1833.

<sup>12</sup> Leeuwarder Courant 04-10-1836.

<sup>13</sup> Prayer card Archief en documentatiecentrum voor Friesland.



Antonius Johannes Beltrami, born out of the marriage of Agatha Henstra and Johannes Batista Beltrami was married May 21, 1857 to Agatha Francisca Doodkorte. The marriage took place in Leeuwarden. Agatha, daughter of Johannes Doodkorte (dyer) and Maria Tjepkema, was born August 3, 1838 in Leeuwarden. Antonius worked as a chimney sweep in the company of her deceased father. Antonius Beltrami and Agatha Doodkorte had a lot of children. Maria Margaretha Beltrami, born November 13, 1859, was one of them. She married Julien Jean Josephus Balli. We will return to him later on.

## The connection between the Martini family and Balli family

Alexius (Alessio) Martini, son of Guglielmo Martini and Helena Solaro was born in Caveragno. He arrived at the age of ten in Leeuwarden. We know already that Alexius Martini worked as a chimney sweep for Antonio Solaro. Although there is no proof of it there is a good chance that Alexius Martini was a relative of Giovanni Martini, who married Marianne Anastasia Balli in 1803. Family ties were important, certainly in business. We will discover later on that Giovanni Martini also lived and worked for the Balli family.

In 1822 the Beltrami & Martini Company split up, and Alexius Martini started his own business at the corner Peperstraat and Waagplein (Hopzak). Until then, the estate was used as a coffeehouse. According to an advertisement in 1822, Alexius intended to hold on to the coffeehouse (with snooker). But probably he changed his mind. Next to the chimney sweep business he had a shop with the usual "Italian" merchandise. Alexius had, between 1848 and

1859, about 15 chimney sweeps and shop assistants.<sup>14</sup> Among them was Benedictus (Benedetto) Balli, born October 15, 1842. It is not known when he arrived. He left in 1860 for Haarlem.

The second family member was Joseph Caspar Balli, who came in 1826 from Caveragno to Leeuwarden. Joseph Caspar Balli, born January 6, 1807, was a son of Giuseppe Maria Faustino Balli and Giovanna M. Zanini (Ramo Locarnese). In 1840 Joseph Caspar married to Elena Giacomini. His wife stayed in Caveragno while Joseph Caspar lived and worked in Leeuwarden. Joseph Bignudini also served Alexius Martini. First as a chimney sweep and later as a shop assistant. Joseph came to Leeuwarden in 1848. Alexius Martini died February 28, 1861. Shortly after his death, Joseph Bignudini and Joseph Caspar Balli started their own business. They took over the inventory of Alexius Martini.<sup>15</sup> Their shop was located at the Sint Jacobstraat number 100. This location was opposite the former shop of Alexius Martini and Beltrami Sint Jacobstraat number 28.

In an advertisement dated February 29, the estate Sint Jacobstraat 100 was put for sale. The property was rented at that time by Joseph Caspar Balli for f. 250,-- a year. The rental contract term was until May 12, 1865. In 1863 Joseph Caspar and Bignudini borrowed f. 1.800,-- for the purchase of the property. On February 1868 Joseph Caspar and Bignudini recommend Gaudenzo Guglielmina as a chimney sweep. Gaudenzo worked for their firm for five years, and



then started his own business in Sneek. In 1873 Joseph Caspar Balli sold his share of the property to Joseph Bignudini, probably a son or cousin of Joseph Bignudini Sr. Joseph Caspar retired

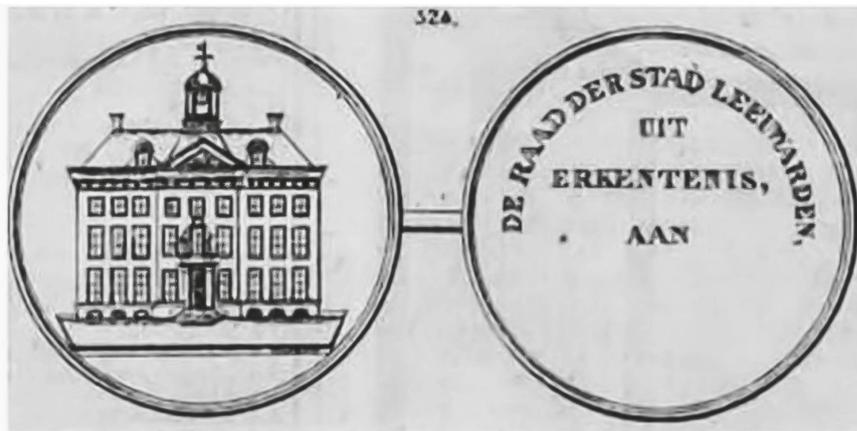
at that time and returned to Caveragno. The property Sint Jacobstraat 100 and Sint Jacobstraat 28 accommodated, for many decades, other Swiss-Italian chimney sweep businesses.

### Medal of Honor

Between 1839 and 1950 the city of Leeuwarden had the Medal of Honor. This was a very special medal which was rarely granted. In 111 years, only 39 people were honored. And 4 of them were Swiss-Italian chimney sweeps, namely Joseph Caspar Balli, Joseph Bignudini, Alexius Martini and J.G. Beltrami.

<sup>14</sup> Register of Population.

<sup>15</sup> Leeuwarder Courant.



*Medal of Honor*

In 1848 Joseph Caspar Balli received a bronze medal of honor and Alexius Martini a silver one for their assistance in putting out a dangerous fire in a spinning and weaving mill. He also received an amount of money. The fire took place in November 1847. A lot of people lost their jobs because of this fire.<sup>16</sup> In 1858 Joseph Bignudini received, by the local government, the same bronze medal for his assistance at several fires. Joseph Caspar was also mentioned. As he already had a medal, he was only financial rewarded.<sup>17</sup> On February 16, 1860 Antonio Johannes Beltrami received the silver medal because of his work as a chimney sweep.

## D) Groningen

### Valentino Maria Balli (1763)

At first we thought that Valentino Balli was the first member of the Balli family who lived and worked in the Netherlands. We know now that this wasn't true. Valentino, the youngest child of Giacomo Maria Francesco Balli and Maria Solaro was born in 1763 and belongs to the Ramo Locarno e Muralto. Valentino started his career as a chimney sweep's man working for Jan Solaro. Jan Solaro was the first chimney sweep in Groningen and had a monopoly. The situation changed when his brother-in-law and former worker, Jan Zanino, started his own business in 1770. Jan Solaro wasn't very pleased with this and announced in the local newspaper that he was the one and only Italian chimney sweep. Everyone who claimed to be an Italian chimney sweep didn't belong to his company. Besides that, he mentioned in his advertisement that he had apprentices of different sizes to clean chimneys.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Leeuwarder Courant.

<sup>17</sup> Leeuwarder Courant.

<sup>18</sup> Opregte Groninger Courant 16-02-1770.

Valentino, also mentioned in the registers as Walentine and Welentine, obtained, in 1784, the citizenship of Groningen. This citizenship was only possible if one had stayed at least 10 years in town. The young Valentino, probably not afraid of a little lie, pretended that he lived in Groningen for 16 years! (We don't know when Valentino arrived). Valentino gained, with the citizenship, his civic rights, and it enabled him to become a freeman of a guild. He needed this to start with Jan Jelmina and Pieter Benvenuti (former partners of Jan Solaro) his own chimney sweep and drapery business in the Stoeldraaiersstreet. They sold, among other things, silk, lace, taffeta, stockings and ornaments. In addition, tinctures were sold to make black teeth white again, to cure toothache, scorbutic and even cancer.<sup>19</sup> Of course, Jan Solaro wasn't (again) pleased by this initiative. He asked the local government to grant him the exclusive right to clean the chimneys in Groningen. This right was denied.<sup>20</sup> Although the Swiss-Italian community had strong bonds, they were also severe competitors. Jan Solaro, probably still angry, used a trick to send Joseph Bertina (a chimney sweep's man of Benvenuti) to his cousin Antonio Solaro in Leeuwarden. Of course, without the knowledge of Pieter Benvenuti. Benvenuti complained about this to the local government but without success.

The newspapers refer to the firm of Jan Jelmina, Pieter Benvenuti and Valentio Balli as W. Balli & Company. We can assume that Valentino was the most important associate. In 1808 Valentino bought a former guesthouse "De Daniel" for f. 6.600.--, a large amount of money in that time. This former guesthouse existed already in 1693 and was situated behind the city hall. More precisely in the alley called "Het Kleine Koude Gat" (second parcel). This alley is nowadays called "Tussen de Markten" and means Between the Markets.

Without doubt Valentino Balli was, in the Netherlands, the most successful member of the Balli family. Valentino was a real businessman who didn't hesitate to supply Napoleon with fabrics for uniforms. Napoleon occupied the Netherlands between 1806 and 1813. A family announcement of 1809 shows us something else. On January 27, 1809, Alexius Solaro (Alessio Solari) announced the death of his brother-in-law and associate Johannes Martyn (Giovanni Martini). Giovanni left Groningen on November 22, 1808 for Caveragno. But he died on the way (December 15, 1808) in Arborg (Aarburg? in Switzerland). He suffered from pneumonia.

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<sup>19</sup> Groninger Courant 05-11-1784.

<sup>20</sup> Request Jan Solaro.



*Second house on the left*

Alexius Solaro was married to Maria Balli, daughter of Giacomo Maria Balli and Costanza Gagliardi. Giovanni Martini was married to Maria her sister Marianna Anastasia Balli. Maria Balli and Marianna Balli were nieces of Valentino.<sup>21</sup> Did Alexius Solaro and Giovanni Martini also work for Valentino, and in what capacity? The ancient Dutch word “canteerende” means “established under the name of” Balli & Compagny. It is likely that Giovanni Martini and Alessio Solaro used the trade name Balli but were operating separately from the firm of Valentino. The announcement tells us too that the date on which the price of bread will be determined didn’t change. The price and weight of bread was protected by government because bread was important food for the common people. The result of this was that the price was adjusted from time to time. It isn't clear which role the firm of Alexander Solaro and Giovanni Martini played in it.

Although Jan Solaro and Pieter Benvenuti had their disagreements, they stood by each other when there was need to. Pieter Benvenuti was married to Maria Magdalena Dadò, daughter of Pieter Dadò and Helena Capelori. Their son, Giacomo (Jacob) Benvenuti, married in 1803 in Caverigno to Giovanna Maria Balli, daughter of Giovanni Michele Balli and Maria Guglielmoni. Giovanna was a sister of Francesco Antonio Balli. He was one of the persons who succeeded the old Valentino. Giacomo Benvenuti died October 17, 1814. It was Jan Solaro, together with Valentino Balli, who gave notice of the death of Giacomo to the local authorities. It must have been a sad year for Pieter Benvenuti as his wife died some month before Giacomo.

In 1820 Valentino moved to the Vismarkt 7. This house was situated near “Het Grote Koude Gat”. In an official document Valentino’s property is de-

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<sup>21</sup> Groninger Courant 31-01-1809.

scribed as situated to Koude Gat F 7. Grote Koude Gat and Kleine Koude Gat mean “Great Cold Drafty Alley” and “Small Cold Drafty Alley”. To make it even more complicated: the Small Cold Drafty Alley (also called Tussen de Markten) was actually a larger alley than the one called “Great”. Both alleys connect the squares Grote Markt (Great Market) and the Vismarkt (Fishmarket) with each other. In 1823 Valentino returned to Caveragno. Valentino died in 1825. The local community inherited a large amount.

## **Successors of Valentino Balli**

Valentino, who belonged to the Ramo Locarno e Muralto, didn’t marry and had therefore no children. When he left the Netherlands, he was succeeded by his grand-nephew Giovanni Giuseppe Balli. His grandfather, Antonio Maria Balli was a brother to Giacomo M. Francesco Balli, the father of Valentino. Other successors were Francesco Antonio (Frans Anton) Balli and his brother Valentino M. Alessandro, nephews of Valentino. Besides them Valentino’s nephew Benedetto M. Faustino Balli (in the Netherlands registered as Benedictus) worked also in the Netherlands. But we continue first with Giovanni Giuseppe Balli.

### **II.6 Giovanni Giuseppe Balli (Jan Joseph)**

Valentino’s grand-nephew Giovanni Giuseppe Balli, son of Guglielmo M. Antonio and Maria Margaretha Solari, was born in Caveragno in 1788. He was married in Carveragno (1821) to Giovanna Maria Tonini (in Dutch: Johanna Maria Tonini). According to Aart Heering and Christian Balli, Giovanni Giuseppe (in Dutch: Jan Joseph) was, from 1817 on, the patron of the chimney sweep business located at the Kromme Elleboog. After the death of Valentino, he moved to the Vismarkt 7. He specialized himself as glazier and dyer of fabrics. According to the register of population 1830, Giovanni Giuseppe had six men or apprentices: Antonio Tognio, 48 years, place of birth Bignasco; Jacob Carveragno, 15 years, Caveragno; Pieter Antoni Benvennuti, 12 years, Caveragno; Joseph Dallessy, 11 years, Caveragno and Pieterella Swart, 21 years and born in Groningen. They were all employed as chimney sweeps. During his stay he returned home regularly. Giovanni Giuseppe and Giovanna Maria Tonini had three children. They were all born in Caveragno. Guglielmo Antonio Balli was born in 1823, followed by Maria Domenica Balli in 1824 and last but not least Giovanni Guglielmo Balli in 1826.

The life of chimney sweeps abroad wasn’t easy but what about the wives who stayed home most of time in Switzerland? They had to raise the children and cope alone with the poverty and the daily life problems. Besides that, they had to keep in mind the possibility that their children had to leave the family at

a young age to earn their living elsewhere. It is certain that Giovanna Maria Tonini must have had difficult times too. Her eldest son, Guglielmo Antonio Balli, stayed at home. But her youngest child followed in the footsteps of his father Giovanni Giuseppe Balli. At what age isn't known. Probably Giovanni Guglielmo Balli arrived in Groningen sometime between 1840-1850. His father Giovanni Giuseppe returned around that time home as he isn't mentioned any more in the registers of population 1840-1850. Giovanni Giuseppe died January 20, 1850 and was buried January 22, 1850 in the cemetery of Carvergno. The day of death of Giovanna Maria Tonini is unknown.

The research of our ancestors became a lot easier since the internet and leads sometimes to renewed contact between distant family members! This is what happened when I met Lorraine Castberg on the internet and read the family story written by her uncle Lewis Guglielmina. Although this article is about the Balli family in the Netherlands, it is too hard to resist paying no further attention to Maria Domenica Balli. She was the only daughter of Giovanni Giuseppe Balli and Giovanna Maria Tonini and sister of Guglielmo Antonio Balli.



*Maria Domenica and Giovanni Guglielmina*



*The Four Guglielmina Brothers  
Fedele, Guiseppe, Carlo and Antone*

## **II.6.2 Maria Domenica Balli and Giovanni Guglielmina**

Maria Domenica was born 1824 in Caveragno. She married in 1851 Giovanni Guglielmina. They had four boys: Giuseppe, Carlo, Antonio and Fedele and a girl called Maria. She died at the age of eight of spinal meningitis. In 1884 all

four boys left for America. Maria Domenica, in tears, handed each of her children a red apple at the train station. We know this because Lewis Guglielmina wrote a beautiful article about his great grandparents and the early family history (as told to him by his father, Henry Guglielmina). Lewis' niece, Lorraine Castberg, continued the work of her uncle, and is webmaster of the family website. Lorraine Castberg was willing to send some nice pictures and cards but couldn't give us much more information about the early family history. So we have to lean on Lewis' article. Because it gives us a good view into the life of the family of Maria Domenica Balli in Caveragno, a part of the text is quoted.

*The family eked out a meager living raising sheep and goats, selling milk, butter and cheese. The growing boys consumed a goodly share of the small farm's production. Sons Antone and Carlo, being of small stature, earned a few coins in their boyhood by being Spazzacaminos (chimney sweeps). This was considered a terrible job for children, being lowered into the huge chimneys on a rope. There, with a brush and scraper, they loosened up the black soot all around them. They tied a kerchief over their nose and mouth to somewhat try to filter out the carbon. Grandpa, during his adult lifetime, was troubled with asthma, pneumonia, and weak lungs in general. He contributed this entirely to those awful years trying to earn a few cents in the filthy chimneys.*

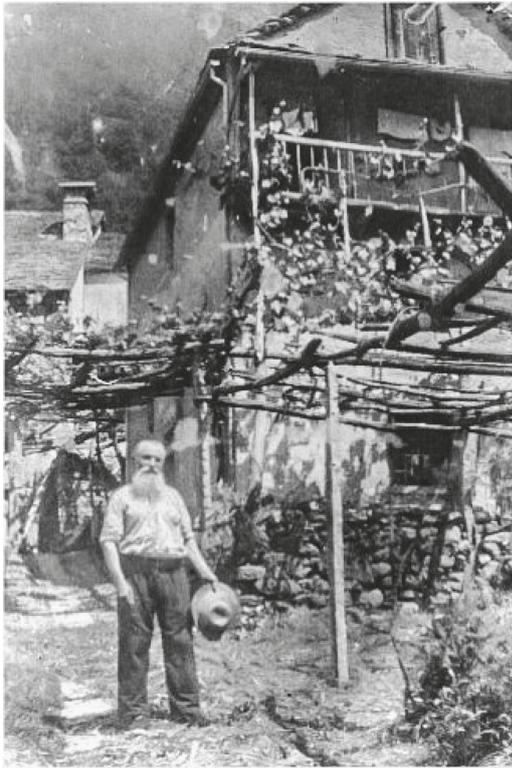
*The simple meals at home were prepared in black pots that swung on a bracket over the open fireplace fires. The two main staples were minestrone soup or Polenta, a coarse type of cornmeal mixed with small pieces of cut up and boiled goat meat. Grandpa said the family loved his mother's polenta and often told me of its good taste. Hard bread was baked in a side oven.*

*The home (still standing and being lived in) was two story, the lower floor living quarters having an earth floor at the time. Beds were upstairs, straw mattresses with warm woolen blankets.*

The Guglielmina family, like the Balli family, was associated with the Tonini family. Antonio, the third son of Maria Domenica and Giovanni, was married first to Giacomina Tonini and, after her death in 1896, to her sister Josephine Tonini. They were both daughters of Luigi Tonini and Rosa Tonini. It isn't known if Luigi is related to Giovanna Maria Tonini, but there is a good chance they are. They kept in touch with the Tonini family for a long time, at least till 1943. Although life in America wasn't very easy either, the family succeeded very well. Before wandering too far away from the Balli family in the Netherlands, a few last notes and photos.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Provided by Lorraine Castberg.



*Giuseppe in the garden of his house in Caveragno.*

*He was the only son who returned home after spending some time in America.*



*Antone and Giacomina Tonini*



*Antone and Josephine Tonini*



*Veronica and husband Giuseppe, Antone Guglielmina; Maria Domenica Balli, Paola (daughter of Veronica and Giuseppe), Giovanni Guglielmina.*



*Probably mother of Giovanni Guglielmina and mother-in-law of Maria Domenica Balli; cards send by Erminia Tonini (as sister of Giacomina and Josephina Tonini).*



*Church of Bignasco*

### **III.3 Giovanni Guglielmo Balli (Joannes Willem Balli)**

For now we return to Giovanni Guglielmo Balli, son of Giovanni Giuseppe Balli and Giovanna Maria Tonini. The official Dutch documents refer to him as Joannes Willem Balli. He was registered for the first time in the books of population 1840–1850.

#### **The barometer factory**

Giovanni took over the business of his father Giovanni Giuseppe at the Vismarkt 7. Giovanni Guglielmo worked, like his father, in the shop. He became especially known by his barometers. Although on the façade of the building Vismarkt 7 was stated “barometer factory”, dyeing, chimney sweeping and the fabric of umbrellas, optics and glass were still a part of the business.

In the official registers the barometer factory is recalled as Koude Gat 7, Vismarkt 7 or Vismarkt 8. In 1856 it was still indicated as Vismarkt 7. In the night of October 28, 1856, a fire took place. The property burned down, and the chimney sweeps lost their gear. An advertisement shows us money was raised for the men. One wonders why a fundraising was necessary. Couldn't



<b>Lotnr:</b>	315
<b>Omschrijving:</b>	Een wijzerbarometer met wielkwikstelsel door Balli, Groningen
	Ca. 1860
	Banjomodel, wortelnotenhouten kast, wit geëmailleerde schaalplaat 21 cm., thermometer, hygrometer, zwanehalskuif. H. 101 cm. NB: Johannes Willem Balli Caverno 1826 - ca. 1896 was werkzaam aan de Vismarkt zuidzijde
	€ 600,00 - 800,00
<b>Opbrengst (ex. opgeld)</b>	€ 300,00

*Giovanni is still known for his beautiful barometers. Occasionally, a barometer is auctioned.*



Giovanni Guglielmo Balli provides his own men with new gear and some money? On November 12, 1856 Giovanni asked the local authority's permission to rebuild his property.<sup>23</sup> The building was restored June 13, 1857.<sup>24</sup> In 1906, however, the address of the factory was Vismarkt 8. In a letter dated May 26, Giovanni Guglielmo Balli requested the local authority's permission to build a dormer. The mayor and the aldermen agreed to this June 19, 1906. The picture shows a dormer and was therefore taken after June 21, 1906. Nowadays students live in the former house of Giovanni Guglielmo Balli.

<sup>23</sup> Regionaal Historisch Archief Groningen; bouwvergunning herbouw behuizing Koude Gat F 7, 1856-11-12.

<sup>24</sup> Groninger Courant 14-06-1857.



## The family life

Giovanni married October 12, 1854 Josephina Rosina Pierret de Cornillon, daughter of Julien Philippus Pierret de Cornillon and Johanna Petronella Delcourt. Her father was a staff-musician. This explains perhaps why her parents moved a lot before settling down in Groningen; the city where Rosina was born. Julien Philippus was born around 1771 in Versailles near Paris. The maiden name of Rosina's mother is French. It is not known yet where Johanna Petronella was born and in which place or country Julien Philippus and Johanna

Petronella married. Giovanni Guglielmo was the first Balli in Groningen who married a Dutch woman. But before the marriage could take place Giovanni needed official written permission from his mother to marry. In the notarial act it is also mentioned that Josephine was known for her modest behavior! Besides Giovanna Maria Tonini the certificate is also signed by two witnesses: Giovanni Giuseppe Gugliemina, son of Josephus, and Caspar Spaletta, son of Joannes Antonius. Giovanni and Rosina had four children. The eldest girl, Joanna Maria Petronella Josephina Balli, died short after birth. The third son, Josephus Joannes Wilhelmus Franciscus Balli, lived two years. Julien Jean Josephus Balli and the youngest son, Giuseppe Guglielmo Balli, survived their childhood. Rosina died at the age of 75 years on February 13, 1902. Giovanni died on July 29, 1903. It is not known where they were buried in Groningen.

## **IV.2 Julien Jean Josephus Balli and III.2 Giuseppe Guglielmo Balli**

About the sons of Giovanni not much is known. We can assume that they both assisted their father. Julien was a dyer; the occupation of Giuseppe is not known.

Julien, born in 1857, was married January 27, 1883 in Leeuwarden to Maria Margaretha Beltrami daughter of Antonius Johannes Beltrami and Agatha Francisca Doodkorte. Their son, Johannes Willem Balli, was already born September 22, 1882 in The Hague. Why Maria gave birth to her son in The Hague isn't clear. Perhaps it seemed suitable. Her departure to The Hague isn't registered in the register of population in Leeuwarden. According to this register, Maria did not leave Leeuwarden immediately after her marriage. In June 1883 she moved to Groningen. Daughter Emilie Pauline Maria Balli was born in Groningen on September 19, 1886. Nearly three years later Julien died on May 5, 1889 at the age of 32 years old. The widow stayed in Groningen. In 1903 the property of the family Beltrami in Leeuwarden was auctioned. Maria Margaretha Beltrami acted as guardian over Johannes Willem and Emilie Paulina Maria Balli. Giuseppe Guglielmo Balli was second guardian over the children. We can assume that at that time there was nothing mentally wrong with Giuseppe, otherwise he couldn't have functioned as second guardian. Maria Margaretha Beltrami had drawn up her will in 1916. She died 71 years old in The Hague March 18, 1931.

Giuseppe Guglielmo Balli, born in 1862, moved May 5, 1914 to The Hague. He lived in the Trompstraat 22. Six years later on May 8, 1922 he was admitted to a mental institution in Delft: the Sint Joris Gasthuis. Giuseppe died here on July 5, 1923 at the age of 61 years old. It is not known where he was buried.

#### IV.2.1 Johan Willem Balli and Johanna Maria Ten Berge

Johan Willem, born in 1882 in The Hague, moved with his parents Julien Balli and Margaretha Beltrami to Groningen. His grandfather, after whom he was named, still worked in the "barometer factory" at the Vismarkt. Johan Willem worked as a chimney sweep. He was married June 20, 1912 in Groningen to Johanna Maria ten Berge. It is not clear if his mother was present at the wedding ceremony. She gave written permission for this marriage. Johanna Maria ten Berge, daughter of Henricus Gerardus ten Berge and Berdina Ettema, was born in Leens August 28, 1878. Her father traded in wine and was present at the marriage. Johan Willem Balli and Maria ten Berge stayed childless.

✠

Heden overleed. voorzien van de H. H. Sacramenten der stervenden. na een kortstondig lijden. in innig geliefde Echtgenoot

**JOHAN WILLEM BALLI,**  
in den ouderdom van 45 jaar.  
Groningen. 15 Mei 1928.  
Vischmarkt 8.  
J. M. BALLI—TEN BERGE.

De Uitvaart zal gehouden worden Vrijdag a.s. te 9 uur, in de St. Martinuskerk.

Heden overleed. na een kortstondig lijden onze innig geliefde Zoon. Broeder en Behuwdbroeder

**JOHAN WILLEM BALLI,**  
in den ouderdom van 45 jaar.  
Groningen. 15 Mei 1928.  
Den Haag:  
Wed. M. M. BALLI—  
BELTRAMI.  
Amsterdam:  
E. P. M. DRENTHEN-BALLI

**Wed. J. W. BALLI**  
SCHOORSTEENVEGEN  
EN ROOKVERDRIJVEN  
voorheen KOUDE GAT thans  
**Munnekeholm 6a**  
t.o. de Klok v h. Postkantoor  
**Telef. 5006**

De reeds 35 jaren bestaande  
compagnonszaak, de  
**Firma J. W. BALLI**  
voorheen Koude Gal, is reeds  
jaren door de eenige en oudste  
firmant overgeplaatst naar  
**Coehoornsingel 12a.**  
Firma J. W. BALLI.  
Tel. als van ouds no. **3362.**

**FIRMA BALLI**  
maakt bekend, geen bediende  
te kennen, die 18 jaar bij de  
**FIRMA BALLI** is geweest.  
G. KUNST, die telkens den  
naam BALLI gebruikt, is door  
de Rechtbank veroordeeld en  
gevonnis. Hij mag den naam  
BALLI niet gebruiken.  
**FIRMA J. W. BALLI.**

According to Aart Heering, Johan Willem stayed during World War I in Switzerland and returned to Groningen in 1919, and then left again around 1921 while his uncle F. J. Beltrami continued the business. This is not the case. Johan Willem died in Groningen May 15, 1928.<sup>25</sup> His widow continued the business (at least in name). According to an advertisement, she moved around 1932 to the address Munneholm 6a. In 1933 her name is unsubscribed in the register of trade. Beltrami continued the business and moved to the address Coehoornsingel 12a. At that time another man called G. Kunst misused the name Balli for his own business (of course without the consent of the family). In his announcements he claimed that he had been a chimney sweep's man in the service of Giovanni Guglielmo Balli. Which wasn't true. It even came to court. Johanna Maria remarried on July 6, 1933 to Peter Joannes Hubertus Giesen. She reached the age of 92 year.

#### **IV.2.2 Emilie Pauline Balli and Justinus Drenthen**

Emilie, daughter of Julien Balli and Maria Beltrami, was married at the age of 26 years to Justinus Drenthen. His parents, Justinus Drenthen sr. and Janna Gesina Hooijerink, lived for a long time in Dordrecht, but their youngest children were born in Zutphen. Justinus was born there June 10, 1890. Emilie and Justinus married in The Hague and stayed childless. Justinus had a nice career. At first, he was chief of the radio service and later on adjunct director of the PTT, fully named Staatsbedrijf der Posterijen, Telegrafie en Telefonie. In those days a state company for Post, Telegraphy and Telephony. On October 18, 1937 they moved from The Hague to Amsterdam. They lived in the Krammerstraat 32. Justinus died February 6, 1950. Emilie Pauline moved nearly 16 years later to Hilversum and died one year later in 1967.

#### **The other successors of Valentino Balli**

We return to the year 1823; the year in which the old Valentino Balli retired and went back to Cavergho. While Giovanni Giuseppe Balli continued the business located at the Vismarkt, Valentino Maria Alessandro Balli and Francesco Antonio Balli (nephews of the old Valentino) continued their drapery business. They named the firm "Fa. Valentinus Balli". Valentino Maria Alessandro and Francesco Antonio (in Dutch Frans Anton) were the two youngest children of Giovanni Michele and Maria Guglielmoni.

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<sup>25</sup> Nieuwsblad van het Noorden 16-05-1928.



*Benedetto Balli*

Later on Benedetto Maria Faustino Balli and his brother in law Giovanni Antonio Maria Anastasius Selva took part in the firm of the two brothers. The name of the firm changed to Balli, Selva & Co. Besides the usual business the firm also functioned as a bank by lending money. Valentino Maria Alessandro was born October 9, 1796 in Caveragno. His father Giovanni Michele Balli was a brother of the old Valentino. Between 1816 and 1818 Valentino Maria Alessandro stayed in Freiburg and was occupied in the fabric trade. After a short stay in Paris, he came to Groningen in 1821. This was two years before Valentino handed over the business. In 1829 Valentino bought cash Heerstraat 23, a townhouse with warehouse for f. 6376,--.

Valentino Maria Alessandro stayed in Groningen till 1839. In 1848 he retired which enabled him to spend more time on politics in Switzerland. He died September 8, 1863. As we already know Giovanni Antonio Maria Anastasius Selva was married to Maria Innocenta Balli, a younger sister of Benedetto. Giovanni was a son of Guglielmo Selva and Joamina Maria Jacobi. Maria Innocenta died March 20, 1835 at the age of 34 years old in Caveragno. Giovanni then was remarried to Agnes Susanne Domica ter Horst. Francesco Antonio Balli returned to Caveragno February 14, 1852, two days after his housekeeper died. Perhaps a naughty thought but: was she a little bit more than just a housekeeper? Giovanni Antonio Selva stayed behind in Groningen and died there April 21, 1863.

## **E) Harlingen**

### **II.8 Petrus Antonius Joostinus Anastasius Balli and his two wives**

Petrus Antonius Joostinus Anastasius Balli was born July 29, 1797 in Caveragno. His father Guglielmo Maria Antonio Balli married twice. He married for the first time in 1771 Maria Margherita Solari. After her death he married Elena M. Tonini, the mother of Petrus Antonius. Antonio Balli and Helena Solari were the godparents of Petrus Balli. Antonio and Helena were his uncle and aunt. Giovanni Giuseppe Balli, one of the successors of the old Valentino, was his half-brother and nearly ten years older.

We do not know when Peter Antonius left Caveragno, nor do we know why he went to Harlingen. But perhaps we can make a good guess if we assume that Peter Antonius used his family relations to find a place to work and stay. Petrus must have heard the stories of his great-uncle, his half-brother and nephews who lived already in the Netherlands and earned a good living there. It is assumed Petrus arrived in the Netherlands somewhere between 1818 and 1824. There is no sign in the archives of Groningen that Petrus stayed in this city. As Petrus was one of the last pioneers of the Balli family who moved to Holland, it is possible that Groningen was a little “crowded” and there was, within the family in Groningen, no work available.

Knowing Helena Solari was the aunt of Petrus and assuming a relationship between Antonio Solaro/Solari and Helena Solari, one can imagine that Petrus used his connection in Leeuwarden. The Solaro family had a large influence in Leeuwarden as well in Harlingen. In 1756 Antonio Solaro gained his citizenship of Leeuwarden. At the same time the local government appointed him as the chimney sweep of the governmental buildings. By doing this he earned, in 1764, f. 30 guilders a year. Antonio Solaro was a nephew of Jan Solaro, who had a chimney sweep business in Groningen. Valentino Maria Balli started in Groningen as a chimney sweep’s man of Jan Solaro.

Antonio Solaro, married Helena M. Zanino, lived since 1761 in a house at the Nieuwstad in Leeuwarden. Their children were born and raised in Leeuwarden. They were all baptized in the Roman Catholic Church. In the certificates of baptism of his children, Joannes Tonini, Joannes Solaro and Joannes Antonius Guglielmino appeared to be godfather or witness. The eldest son, Antonio Solaro, became a woodcarver. He traveled in Italy and France but came home in 1788. In an advertisement of February 16, 1788, he announced his establishment as a woodcarver and sculptor in his father’s shop in umbrellas, thermometers, optics and so on. Antonio worked on a beautiful organ in the church of Bozum.

The second son of Antonio and Helena, Gulielmus Maria Solaro became priest in Leeuwarden, and the third son, Joseph Maria Solaro, succeeded his father in 1790 in the chimney sweep business. Besides chimney sweep in Leeuwarden, Joseph Solaro was also, till November 1798, the governmental chimney sweep of the town Harlingen. His successor was Antonio Delgrosso. In a letter of thanks<sup>26</sup> the government of Harlingen praised Joseph’s work as a chimney sweep. The government chose Delgrosso as he lived in Harlingen (Joseph lived in Leeuwarden) and they appointed Delgrosso as one of the superintendents of the fire department.

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<sup>26</sup> November 27, 1798.

We do not find any record of Petrus Antonius in Leeuwarden. It is not unthinkable that Petrus Antonius went straight to Harlingen on recommendation of Joseph Maria Solaro and became the chimney sweep's man of Delgrosso. However, until now there is no evidence for it. Interesting is that in 1838 Pieter van Asbeek, brother in law of Petrus Antonius, married a daughter of Antonio Delgrosso. Petrus Antonius showed up in the archives of Harlingen when he married Tjetske van Asbeek, daughter of Jan Nollis van Asbeek and Catharina Maria van Dijk. Tjetske was raised in Makkum, a small village near to the Middle See (nowadays IJsselmeer). In this town she was baptized May 14, 1794. Her father was the landlord of the inn "het Schippershuis" in Makkum. He died in 1799 and the inn was sold within three weeks. Tjetske's mother Catharina was born and raised in Harlingen. After the death of her husband, the family returned to Harlingen.

Petrus Antonius and Tjetske lasted just three years. Within these years Petrus and Tjetske had 3 children. The eldest child, Anna Catharina, was born out of wedlock January 17, 1825. The surname of Anna Catharina changed from Asbeek to Balli when she was recognized by the marriage of Tjetske and Petrus. When the two youngest children were not older than just one year, Tjetske died at the age of 32 years old.

In 1832 Petrus Antonius remarried Aukje Jans Groen. She was 13 years younger than Petrus Antonius. At this very point, where the Balli family and the IJsbrandy family come together, we have to tell more about the family of Aukje Jans Groen. Aukje was born as one of the five daughters of Jan Johannes Groen and Jantje Meilis Faber. Jan Johannes, born September 5, 1773, earned his living as a weaver. He was married May 8, 1796 to Jantje Meilis Groen. They were both Dutch Reformed.

Their eldest daughter, Eltje Jans Groen, was married May 19, 1822 to Hans Coenraads IJsbrandij, tile baker of profession and later on shoemaker. Her younger sister, Aukje Jans Groen, was married ten years later to Petrus Antonius Balli. Aukje Jans Groen gave birth to 11 children in just over 17 years! Petrus Antonius had in total 14 children. Eltje Jans Groen and Hans Coenraads had seven children. Their third child, Jan Hansas IJsbrandy married his niece Joanna Wilhelmina Balli, the eldest daughter of Petrus Antoni. Petrus Antonius died September 10, 1856. Aukje Jans Groen died 23 years later March 11, 1880. Petrus Antonius never owned a chimney sweep business.

### **II.8.1 Anna Catharina Balli and Gerrit Bouman(s)**

Daughter Anna Catharina married Gerrit Boumans, widower of Marijke Jans Panbakker. His first wife died in 1843 and owned the house Karremanstraat 12 in Harlingen. Gerrits Boumans had the usufruct for this property. Gerrit Boumans, son of Cornelis Bouman(s) and Johanna Riva, married Catharina Novem-

ber 7, 1844. Gerrit worked as a shoemaker. He and Anna Catharina stayed all their life in Harlingen. They had 6 children: Johanna, Anthony, Petrus Anthony, Cornelis, Tjietske and a stillborn daughter. Unfortunately, nearly all their children died very young. Johanna reached the age of 13, Anthony and Tjietske lived both to ten months and Cornelis died at the age of one year.

Petrus Anthony Boumans, the youngest child, is still a riddle. He was born July 31, 1848. We do not find any trace of Petrus Anthony Boumans in the registers. Except that a certain Antonie, born on the same date as Petrus Anthony Boumans, is mentioned in the register of population living at the address of Willem Petrus Balli and described as nephew of Willem Petrus Balli. Antonie and Petrus Anthony Boumans must be the same person. Probably Petrus Anthony was called in daily life Antonie. Antonie was a chimney sweep. Gerrit Boumans died on November 25, 1856 and Catharina January 18, 1869.

#### **II.8.4 Joanna Maria Wilhelmina Balli and Jan Haneses IJsbrandy**

Jan Haneses IJsbrandy, son of Hans Coenraads IJsbrandy and Eltje Jans Groen, married his niece Joanna Wilhelmina Balli. The marriage took place February 1, 1857. Johanna was born in Franeker and nearly five years younger. Originally the IJsbrandy family was Mennonite. They were well off. Most of the family members were merchants. In some ways it was a “closed” family. They solved their own problems their own way. This wasn’t always according to the law. A nice example of this habit was the abduction of a son-in-law who became (temporarily) psychotic. He was an important man in the local government. There was some gossip, so his father-in-law and brother-in-law organized a plan that he would be sent away for some weeks. Of course, this was totally against the will of the kidnapped man. But the family also took good care of each other. They even looked after distant family.

Besides that, the family was liberal concerning the religious aspect of life. It was, within the family, common to marry a partner with a different religion. The children raised in this mixed family were allowed to choose for themselves whether they became Mennonite, Dutch Reformed or Roman Catholic. Hans Coenraads IJsbrandy was a Mennonite, while Eltje Jans Groen and Aukje Jans Groen were raised Dutch Reformed. Johanna Wilhelmina was Roman Catholic and Jans Haneses Dutch Reformed.

At the time of Jan Haneses IJsbrandy and Joanna Maria Wilhelmina Balli there was nothing left of the family capital. At least not in that part of the family. They had ended up as a family of laborers. Hans Coenraads IJsbrandij, father of Jan Haneses, earned his living as a tile maker and shoemaker. Jans Haneses was a carpenter and Joanna Maria a maid. The couple had three children. Aukje, born in 1857, and Hans, born in 1860, both died within two years. Their youngest child, Hans Jans IJsbrandij, born in 1862, reached the age of 63. He

married Christina Norberhuis and they had seven children. The oldest was named after Joanna Maria Wilhelmina Balli.



*Hans*  
*(my grandfather)*

*Father Hans*

*Jan*

*Feike*

*Johanna*

*mother*  
*Christina*  
*Hendrik*

*Petrus*

*Anna*

### II.8.9 Elisabeth Balli and Johannes Lambertus Schoenmakers

Elisabeth Balli born January 9, 1841 was married at the age of 21 to Johannes Lambertus Schoenmakers. He was a son of Jacobus Schoenmakers and Martha Meulman. Johannes, born in Groningen, was raised Roman Catholic. Aukje Jans Groen didn't sign the wedding certificate as she declared not to be able to write. Johannes Lambertus died in 1897 in Groningen. Helena was at that time alive. It is unknown when and where Elisabeth Helena died. The couple had 10 children. They were all born in Groningen. One of their sons, Lambertus Harmanus Schoenmakers was also chimney sweep. In April 1890 he lived with his aunt and uncle, Wilhelmus Petrus Balli, in Harlingen. In October of the same year he returned to Groningen.

## II.8.14 Johanna Balli and Uldrikus Johannes Keyzer

Johanna Balli the youngest daughter of Petrus Antonius and Aukje Jans Groen was born in 1848. She was married to Uldrikus Johannes Keyzer, son of Paulus Keyzer and Catharina Panbakker. Uldrikus was born in Leeuwarden. His parents raised him Roman Catholic.

Uldrikus was a shoemaker. They married May 25, 1876 in Harlingen. Johanna and Uldriks were poor as they received the documents for their marriage for free. After their marriage Johanna and Uldrikus stayed in Harlingen. In the beginning of their marriage they lived in the Drooghestraat (nowadays Achterstraat). In 1877 Uldrikus was unemployed, but only for a short while. The next year a daughter was born and in her birth certificate it is mentioned that Uldrikus was a shoemaker. Johanna and Uldrikus had a large family. Johanna gave birth to ten children in just over 14 years. Five of the children died within or just over one year. Uldrikus reached the age of 71 one while Johanna became 81 years old.<sup>27</sup>



<sup>27</sup> Prayer card Archief en documentatiecentrum voor Friesland.

### III.9 Wilhelmus Petrus Balli and Wilhelmina Straatsma

Wilhelmus Petrus Balli, born December 21, 1834, was the only son of Petrus Antonius who survived his childhood. He was married in 1860 to Wilhelmina Straatsma, daughter of Nicolaas Straatsma and Teetske Jacobs Ringnalda. Three of their five children died very young. Only Anna Tekela Balli, born in 1860, and Petrus Antonius Balli, born in 1865 survived childhood. According to the register of population, the family lived in the Kleine Kerstraat. In February 1867 Wilhelmus bought a house situated in the Klaverbladstraat. Five years later he acquired another house situated in Gedempte Heiligerweg, nowadays Heiligerweg. In December 1882 Wilhelmus bought a house and a shop situated on the corner of the Schritsen and the Spekmarkt in Harlingen. This house remained in the family for over fifty years.



Probably Wilhelmus started his own chimney sweep business shortly after he bought the house and the shop at the Schritsen. He mortgaged the house and the shop in February 1883 for f. 2000,--. The mortgager was Petrus Pieter Bisschop, the father of his son-in-law. In the Leeuwarder Courant of May 11, 1885 we find the first advertisement. In this advertisement Mr. D. Harmens announces that W.P. Balli restored the chimney of the Baptist Church so well that during the winter of 1884 there had been no further problems. Wilhelmus succeeded in repairing the chimney while others (carpenters, blacksmith and bricklayers) had failed. Therefore, the deacons of the Baptist Church recommended W.P. Balli as chimney sweep. After this announcement we find that on regular basis advertisements he offers soot for sale. Besides a chimney sweep Wilhelmus was also an umbrella maker. He had, similar to other Swiss-Italian

chimney sweeps, a shop where umbrellas, canes and luxury leather bags were sold. Between 1860 and 1880 a nephew Johannes Rendel (?) and Antonie Boumans lived within the family. Wilhelmus Balli, his son Petrus Antonius and his nephew were all chimney sweeps.

In 1891 Wilhelmus was in need of money and mortgaged the house Heilige-rweg for f. 600,--. And once again in 1899, Wilhemus mortgaged the house and shop Schritsen/Spekmarkt and the house at the Klaverbladstraat for f. 1.900,--. It is likely that Wilhelmus wished that his son Wilhelmus Petrus Antonius would succeed him. In his will<sup>28</sup> his sons inherited the house and the shop Schitsen/Spekmarkt under usufruct by Wilhelmina Straatsma. Wilhelmus died in 1899. By that time his son lived in Kampen and wasn't interested in continuing his father's business. His sister, Anna Tekela, and her husband Petrus Veltman, bought the house and the shop in an auction.

### **III.9.1 Anna Tekela Balli and Petrus Veltman**

Anna Tekela was married October 26, 1891 to Petrus Veltman, son of Hielke Veltman and Houkje van der Velde. Petrus, born in Harlingen, was, like Anna, raised Roman Catholic. Petrus Veltman worked first as a chimney sweep. When Anna's brother wasn't interested in the business of their father Wilhelmus, the couple bought the house and the shop at the Schritsen corner Spekmarkt. There were a lot of shops situated at the Spekmarkt. Their shop existed for a long time. Probably till the death of Petrus Veltman but at least till 1932.<sup>29</sup> Anna Tekela and Petrus had three children. Hermanus Josephus Veltman was born in 1892. There is little known about him. Their second son, Wilhelmus Petrus Veltman, was born in 1885 and was married to Catharina Agatha Oldenburg. He died in 1979. They had a least one son: Wilhelmus J.P. Veltman, born in 1927 in Bergen. The third son, Petrus Antonius Veltman, was born in 1897. We find no further records of him. Anna Tekela died November 2, 1927.<sup>30</sup>

### **III.9.4 Petrus Antonius Balli and Juliana Petronella Bisschop**

Petrus Antonius Balli, the only surviving son of Wilhelmus Petrus and Wilhelmina Straatsma, didn't succeed his father. In 1893 he married Juliana Petronella Bisschop, daughter of Petrus Pieters Bisschop, skipper, and Hendrika Hoppe. The couple moved to Kampen, a little town in Overijssel, near the Zui-derzee (nowadays IJsselmeer). In Harlingen Petrus Antonius was a chimney sweep. We don't know if he also worked as a chimney sweep in Kampen. But

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<sup>28</sup> September 3, 1894.

<sup>29</sup> Elsinga.

<sup>30</sup> Prayer card Archief en documentatiecentrum voor Friesland.

he certainly had a shop. Juliana's father died in 1898. In the description of the costs and benefits we come across the mortgage of Wilhelmus Petrus Balli. The heirs were Juliana and her mother. There is little known about the life of Petrus and Juliana. As far as known they stayed childless. Petrus Antonius and his wife had a socially active life. Petrus was a member of the church council and the catholic orphan home. Both died during the Second World War: Petrus in 1942 and Juliana in 1944.

### **III.10 Anna Maria Balli and Sieger Toeter**

Anna Maria Balli, daughter of Petrus Antonius Joostinus Anastasius Balli and Aukje Jans Groen was born in 1836. Anna had three children out of wedlock. Her life unfolded in Harlingen, Leeuwarden and Sneek. Her first son, Sikke Balli, was born in 1860. Anna was at that time 25 years old. The name Sikke is unknown in the Balli family and in the family of Sieger Toeter, the man she married much later. In 1860 Anna Maria was a maid. According to the birth certificate Anna Maria gave birth in a house De Lanen number 79.

Her second child was born in 1861. Son Petrus Antonius Balli was named after his grandfather Petrus Antonius. In the birth certificate no address is mentioned. Anna Maria lived for a while in Harlingen on the address the Klaverbladstraat. But she wasn't very sedentary. After probably a short stay in IJlst she moved on June 30, to Leeuwarden. At that time, she was pregnant again. The delivery on November 5, 1868 took place in the house of Elisabeth Helena Balli, her sister. According to the register of population Anna Maria lived during that period at the address of the Bakker family.

On June 17, 1870 Anna Maria moved officially to Sneek. But this must have been earlier unofficially as her last-born son Hendrikus Balli died in Sneek May 9, 1870. July 9, 1871 Anna Maria married in Sneek to Sieger Toeter, son of Hendrikus Toeter and Albertje Annes van der Heide. We can assume that Hendrikus Balli was a son of Sieger Toeter and named after Sieger his father. On October 5, 1870 Anna Maria delivered another son, also called Hendrikus. But as the child was born in wedlock his surname was Toeter. In July 1871 the family returned to Leeuwarden. How was the relationship between Anna Maria and her two oldest children, Sikke Balli and Petrus Antonius Balli? From the day Anna Maria moved out of Harlingen there was no sign of these children in the registers of population. They did not live with their mother and stepfather. But where else? They were, even to the standards of those days, much too young to stay on their own.

Anna Maria died in 1873. Stijntje Fockens, wife of Hendrik de Jonge, became the housekeeper of Sieger Toeter. In 1875 Stijntje gave birth to Sieger de Jonge. According to the birth certificate the father "Hendrik de Jonge" was not able to give notice of the birth of "his" son. In 1876 Stijntje is official registered

on the address of Sieger. The couple married in 1882 after the death of Stijntje her first husband Hendrik de Jonge.

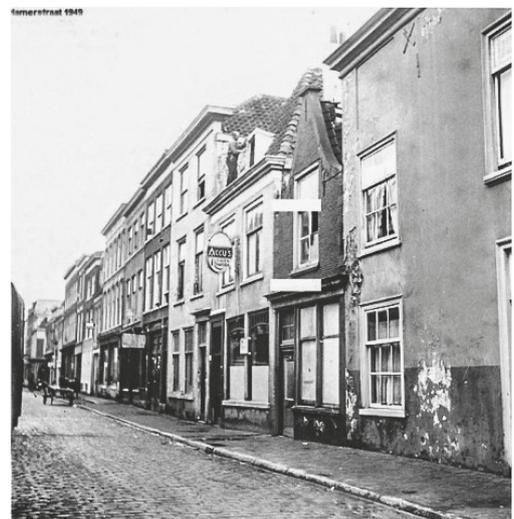
#### IV.10 Sikke Balli and Frouwkje Krakou

We do not know anything about the youth of Sikke and his brother Petrus Antonius. Although a judgment about the motherhood of Anna Maria is quickly made (but who knows the circumstances of her situation?) it is certain that the brothers had a strong bond. One can assume that this bond originates from their youth. Sikke Balli married in 1883 in Harlingen to Frouwkje Krakou daughter of Johannes Krakou and Mietje Brandy. She was the widow of Jan de Vries. Her first husband died in March 1881. Frouwkje had two children with her first husband, Maria and Willem de Vries.

Sikke and Frouwkje were distant relatives of each other. Here meet the IJsbrandy and Balli family again. In the same year of their marriage they moved to Amsterdam (February 16, 1883). Anna Maria, Marten and Augustina Maria Balli were born in Amsterdam. According to the register of population Sikke worked as a foreman of a tram company. Petrus Antonius Balli, Sikkes youngest brother, moved also to Amsterdam. On August 15, 1888 the whole family, including Petrus Antonius Balli, moved to Leeuwarden. In this place they lived in the Tweede Korte Houtstraat 20 Z. Sikke was registered as labourer while Antonius Petrus was a gas fitter.



*Korte Houtstraat*



*Hamerstraat 1942 Den Haag*

Compared to our standards the houses were very small. The family (eight people!) lived on number 20 south side. One and a half years later the whole family, including Petrus Antonius, moved to Utrecht (May 8, 1890). Sikke worked in Utrecht again for the tram company. On November 13, 1891 son

Petrus Antonius Balli was born. He died in February 1892. In March 1896 the family moved again, this time to The Hague. They lived in this city in the Hamerstraat. This street doesn't exist anymore. Frouwkje Krakou died in this city April 14, 1909. Sikke died 14 years later January 21, 1923.

#### **IV.10.1 Anna Maria Balli and Gerard August Mulder**

Anna Maria Balli, daughter of Sikke Balli and Frouwkje Krakou, was born in Amsterdam. After a short stay in Leeuwarden and Utrecht she moved with her parents to The Hague. In this place she stayed the rest of her life. On July 3, 1907 she married Gerard August Mulder, son of Willem Albert Mulder and Catharina Johanna van Paassen. Gerard was born October 15, 1883 in The Hague. Anna Maria and Gerard had five children: Sikke (1907), Catharina Johanna (1908), Gerard August (1912), Leo (1914) and Derk Mulder (1922). Sikke died at the age of 19 years. Catharina Johanna was married April 24, 1935 to Hendricus Philipsen. Their daughter Anna Maria Philipsen, born August 30, 1938, was named after her grandmother. Gerard August Mulder died August 12, 1952. Anna Maria Balli died 12 years later in 1964.

#### **IV.10.3 Augustina Maria Balli and Johannes van der Hout**

Augustina Maria Balli, youngest daughter of Sikke Balli and Frouwkje Krakou, was married May 15, 1912 in the Hague to Johannes van der Hout, son of Cornelis van der Hout and Jannetje Woest. Johannes was born June 30, 1888 in Naaldwijk. Augustina and Johannes lived in The Hague. Johannes was, at that time, a plasterer. They had two children: Cornelis Johannes van der Hout, born February 1, 1913 and Sikke Johannes van der Hout, born September 14, 1914. Sikke Johannes died in 't Zand. There is further no information about the children. Augustina Maria died May 19, 1950 and Johannes 27 years later June 6, 1977. They are both buried on the cemetery Kranenburg in Zwolle.

#### **IV.11 Petrus Antonius Balli and Sara van der Veen**

As we know Petrus Antonius, son of Anna Maria Balli, moved with his brother Sikke to Amsterdam but returned in 1888 to Leeuwarden. A month after he came back to Leeuwarden he married (in August) Sara van der Veen. Sara was born in Leeuwarden July 9, 1866 and was a daughter of Andrianus van der Veen and Maria Snijder. Sara was Dutch reformed and Petrus Roman Catholic. The couple settled in the Spanjaardslaan and later on in the Keetbuurt. On December 21, 1889 their daughter Johanna Maria Elisabeth was born. Probably due to the delivery, Sara died a month later.

After Sara's death Petrus Antonius moved together again with his brother and his family to Utrecht and The Hague. On November 18, 1896 Petrus mar-

ried Wilhelmina Johanna van Zonsbeek, daughter of Michiel van Zonsbeek and Joanna Klij. Wilhelmina was born in Rossum July 29, 1865. She died November 30, 1921 in The Hague. Petrus Antonius Balli died December 21, 1932 in Voorburg.

## V.4 Marten Balli and Maartje van der Graaf

Marten Balli, son of Sikke Balli and Frouwkje Krakou was born in Amsterdam, but moved with his parents to The Hague. Before his marriage Marten lived in IJsselmonde. He married Maartje van der Graaf, daughter of Pieter van der Graaf and Cornelia Schouten and born April 27, 1893 in Dordrecht. The marriage took place February 12, 1913 in The Hague. At that time Marten lived in Scheveningen, a small place by the coast near The Hague. It is not known how and where Marten met his Maartje. The family history of Maartje shows that her father Pieter de Graaf sailed July 11, 1902 from Rotterdam to Ellis Island.



*1925 Second left Marten Balli, seated first left Maartje van der Graaf*

According to the ship manifest he sailed on his own with the “S.S. Maasdam”. Pieter was 42 years old. His wife and daughter must have followed him on a

later date. Perhaps he wanted to settle down first. At the time of the wedding Pieter and Cornelia van der Graaf still lived in New York. Maartje her parents gave written permission for the marriage. New York was according to the wedding certificate also the residence of Maartje. Mother Cornelia returned at some point to The Hague. What happened to her father is unknown. Marten worked in 1913 as a fitter while Maartje worked as an ironer. Later on, Marten worked for a long time for Enkes. This factory for screws and ball bearings was founded in January 1912 and was situated on the Westvlietstraat in Voorburg. They worked also for the Ministry of Defense. Marten died in 1968 and Maartje 5 years later in 1973. Marten and Maartje had four children: Marjtte Froukje, Pieter, Cornelia and Marten Sikke Balli.

#### **V.4.1 Martje Froukje Balli**

Martje Froukje, born November 4, 1911 in Voorburg, married in 1940 Maurits Johannes de Kleermaeker, son of Willem Frederik de Kleermaeker and Johanna Helena Maas. As far we know the couple had no children.

#### **V.4.2 Pieter Balli**

Pieter Balli was born May 3, 1913 in The Hague. He married Susanne Catharina Klein. As far as we know they had two children: Martha Alida and Susanne Catharina Balli.

#### **V.4.3 Cornelia Balli**

Cornelia Balli was born March 24, 1916 in The Hague. She married twice. In 1940 she divorced her first husband Louis Antonius Kemper. In 1947 she married Maurits Alexander Raasveldt. As far as we know, Cornelia had one married daughter and four grandchildren. Cornelia died July 31, 1997.

#### **V.4.4 Marten Sikke Balli**

Marten Sikke Balli, born on November 13, 1923 in The Hague, immigrated to Australia. He was married to Jenneke Krijtenberg. As far as we know the couple had one son, Ferdinand Balli. Jenneke Krijtenberg died September 24, 1995 while Marten Sikke passed away September 16, 2008 in Tweed Heads.

# RAMO OLANDA<sup>31</sup>

## GENERATION I

**I. GUGLIELMO MARIA ANTONIO BALLI**, son of Antonio M. Balli and Domenica Rame f. Giovanni,  
Roman Catholic

\* 00-00-1748  
x 00-00-1771  
x 00-00-1793  
† 00-00-1807 Caveragno

1<sup>st</sup> x to **MARIA MARGHERITA SOLARI**, daughter of

\* 00-00-1751  
† 00-00-1790

### Children:

**1. MARIA DOMENICA BALLI (1)**

\* 00-00-1772  
† 00-00-1773

**2. DOMENICA BALLI (2)**

\* 00-00-1774  
x 00-00-0000  
† 00-00-0000

x to **ANTONIO FALIMELLA**

**3. ELENA AGUSTINA BALLI (3)**

\* 00-00-1778  
† 00-00-1782

**4. N.N. BALLI (4)**

\* 00-00-1783  
† 00-00-1783

**5. ANTONIO MARIA ANASTASIO BALLI (5)**

\* 00-00-1785  
† 00-00-1792

**6. GIOVANNI GIUSEPPE BALLI (JAN JOSEPH)**

II.6

2<sup>nd</sup> x to **ELENA MARIA TONINI**, daughter of

\* 00-00-1767  
† 00-00-1829

### Children:

**1. ELENA MARIA ANASTASIA BALLI (7)**

\* 00-00-1793  
† 00-00-1793

**2. PETRUS ANTONIUS JOOSTINUS ANASTASIUS BALLI**

II.8

**3. GUGLIEMO M. ANASTASIO BALLI (9)**

\* 00-00-1801  
x 00-00-1825  
† 00-00-1853

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<sup>31</sup> Sources for Caveragno: Zelda Balli - Peri, *Albero genealogico della famiglia Balli*, Locarno 1985.

x to **ANG. ANTOGNETTI**, daughter of  
\* 00-00-1800  
† 00-00-1881

One adopted daughter Maria Balli \* 1841 † 1870

**4. N.N. BALLI (10)**

\* 00-00-1804  
† 00-00-1804

**5. GIOVANNA MARIA DOMENICA INNOCENTA ANASTASIA BALLI (11)**

\* 00-00-1805  
† 00-00-1879

## GENERATION II

**II.6 GIOVANNI GIUSEPPE BALLI**, son of Guglielmo Maria Antonio Balli and Maria Margherita Solari, Roman Catholic

\* 00-00-1788  
x 00-00-1821 Caverigno  
† 20-01-1850 Caverigno

x to **GIOVANNA MARIA TONINI**, daughter of

\* 00-00-1795  
† 00-00-0000

### Children:

**1. GUGLIELMINO ANTONIO BALLI (1)**

\* 00-00-1823  
x 00-00-0000  
† 00-00-0000

x to **MARIA ANGELA TONINI**

\* 00-00-0000  
x 00-00-0000  
† 00-00-0000

One daughter Elena \* 1841

**2. MARIA DOMENICA BALLI (2)**

\* 00-00-1824  
x 00-00-1851  
† 00-00-1906

x to **GIOVANNI GIUSEPPE GUGLIELMINA**, son of Gregorio Guglielmina and unknown

\* 00-00-0000  
† 00-00-1909

### Children:

**1. GIUSEPPE GUGLIELMINA**

\* 00-00-1851  
x 00-00-1896 Caverigno  
† 00-00-0000 Caverigno

x to **VERONICA N.N.**, daughter of

\* 00-00-1852  
† 00-00-1924

Two daughters: Maria and Paolina Guglielmina

**2. CARLO GUGLIELMINA**  
\* 00-11-1862  
x 00-00-0000  
† 00-00-1932 Ferndale (USA)

**3. ANTONE GUGLIELMINA**  
\* 13-06-1864 Caveragno  
x 00-00-1893  
x 00-00-1896  
† 24-02-1945 Ferndale (USA)

1<sup>st</sup> x to **GIACOMINA TONINI**, daughter of Luigi Tonini and Rosa Peruvini  
\* 00-00-0000  
† 00-00-1896 Colma (USA)

2<sup>nd</sup> x to **JOSEPHINE TONINI**, daughter of Luigi Tonini and Rosa Peruvini  
\* 17-04-1865  
† 03-12-1939 Ferndale (USA)

One son Henry James Guglielmina

**4. FEDELE GUGLIELMINA**  
\* 10-12-1865 Caveragno  
x 00-00-0000  
† 00-00-0000

x to **JOSEPHINA BELTRAMI**, daughter of  
\* 00-00-1877  
† 30-12-1913 Petrolia (USA)

Three children: Silvio Joseph, Albert Clemerde and Lena Helena Guglielmina

**5. MARIA GUGLIELMINA**  
\* 00-00-0000  
† 00-00-0000

### 3. GIOVANNI GUGLIELMO BALLI

### III.3

**II.8 PETRUS ANTONIUS JOOSTINUS ANASTASIUS BALLI**, son of Guglielmo Maria Antonio Balli and Elena Tonini, Roman Catholic

\* 00-00-1797 Caveragno  
~ 29-06-1797 Caveragno  
x 21-04- 1825 Harlingen  
x 01-06-1832 Harlingen  
† 10-09-1857 Harlingen

1<sup>st</sup> x to **TJETSKE VAN ASBEEK**, daughter of Jan Nollis Asbeek, landlord and Catharina Maria van Dijk, Roman Catholic

\* 00-00-1794 Makkum  
~ 14-05-1794 Makkum  
† 14-01-1828 Harlingen

#### Children:

**1. ANNA CATHARINA BALLI**, Roman Catholic (4)

\* 17-01-1825 Harlingen  
x 07-11-1844 Harlingen  
† 18-01-1869 Harlingen

x to **GERRIT BOUMAN(S)**, son of Cornelis Bouman(s) and Johanna Riva/Rieva

\* 12-04-1815 Harlingen

† 25-11-1856 Harlingen

Six children.

**2. WILHELMUS PETRUS BALLI (5)**

\* 14-02-1826 Harlingen

† 27-07-1826 Harlingen

**3. PETRUS WILLEM BALLI (6)**

\* 15-05-1827 Harlingen

† 03-06-1827 Harlingen

2<sup>nd</sup> x to **AUKJE JANS GROEN**, daughter of Jan Johannes Groen and Jantje Meiles Faber, maid, Dutch Reformed

\* 25-01-1810 Harlingen

~ 11-02-1810 Harlingen

† 11-03-1880 Harlingen

**Children:**

**4. JOHANNA M. WILHELMINA BALLI**, maid, Roman Catholic **(7)**

\* 22-01-1832 Harlingen

x 01-02-1857 Franeker

† 11-08-1900 Franeker

x to **JAN HANSES IJSBRANDIJ**, son of Hans Coenraads Ijsbrandy, peat cutter, shoemaker and Eltje Jans Groen, carpenter

\* 20-03-1827 Franeker

† 03-03-1881 Franeker

Three children

**5. ANNA MARIA HELENA BALLI**, Roman Catholic **(8)**

\* 12-11-1833 Harlingen

† 03-07-1834 Harlingen

**6. WILHELMUS PETRUS BALLI**

III.9

**7. ANNA MARIA BALLI**

III.10

**8. JOHANNES JOSEPHUS BALLI**, Roman Catholic **(11)**

\* 07-10-1838 Harlingen

† 13-06-1839 Harlingen

**9. ELISABETH HELENA BALLI**, Roman Catholic **(12)**

\* 09-01-1841 Harlingen

x 19-06-1862 Harlingen

† 06-01-1901

x to **JOHANNES LAMBERTUS SCHOENMAKERS**, son of Jacobus Schoenmakers, brass founder and Martha Meulman, blacksmith, gas fitter, Roman Catholic

\* 10-05-1833 Groningen

† 30-12-1897 Groningen

Ten children

**10. HELENA BALLI**, maid, Roman Catholic **(13)**

\* 15-10-1842 Harlingen

x 28-05-1871 Harlingen

† 31-12-1904 Franeker

x to **HARMEN DE VRIES**, son of Pieter de Vries and Knierke Pieters Vlassinga, craftsman

- \* 08-09-1845 Franeker
- † 01-06-1921 Franeker

Probably no children.

**11. JOHANNA ALBERTA BALLI (14)**

- \* 11-01-1845 Harlingen
- † 22-04-1845 Harlingen

**12. REGINA BALLI, Roman Catholic (15)**

- \* 14-06-1846 Harlingen
- † 16-07-1846 Harlingen

**13. MARIA BALLI, Roman Catholic (16)**

- \* 30-07-1847 Harlingen
- † 02-11-1847 Harlingen

**14. JOHANNA BALLI, Roman Catholic (17)**

- \* 11-11-1848 Harlingen
- x 25-05-1876 Harlingen
- † 16-01-1930 Harlingen

x to **ULDRIKUS JOHANNES KEYZER**, son of Paulus Keyzer, dyer and Catharina Panbakker, shoemaker, Roman Catholic

- \* 11-10-1851 Harlingen
- † 24-05-1922 Harlingen

**GENERATION III**

**III.3 GIOVANNI GUGLIELMO BALLI**, son of Giovanni Giuseppe and Giovanna Maria Tonini, shopowner, dyer, Roman Catholic

- \* 12-10-1826 Caverano
- x 10-08-1854 Groningen
- † 29-07-1903 Groningen

x to **JOSEPHINA ROSINA PIERRET DE CORNILLON**, daughter of Julius Philippus Pierret de Cornillon, musician, and Joanna Petronella Delcourt, Roman Catholic

- \* 31-08-1826 Groningen
- † 13-02-1902 Groningen

**Children:**

**1. JOANNA MARIA PETRONELLA JOSEPHINA BALLI (1)**

- \* 13-05-1855 Groningen
- † 17-05-1855 Groningen

**2. JULIEN JEAN JOSEPH BALLI**

**IV.2**

**3. JOSEPHUS JOANNES WILHELMUS FRANCISCUS BALLI (3)**

- \* 18-12-1859 Groningen
- † 20-02-1861 Groningen

**4. GIUSEPPE GUGLIELMO BALLI (4)**

- \* 17-03-1862 Groningen
- † 05-07-1923 Delft

**III.9. WILHELMUS PETRUS BALLI**, son of Petrus Antonius Anastasius Balli and Aukje Jans Groen, chimney sweep, shop owner, umbrella maker, Roman Catholic

- \* 21-12-1834 Harlingen
- x 21-06-1860 Harlingen
- † 25-12-1899 Harlingen

x to **WILHELMINA STRAATSMA**, daughter of Nicolaas Straatsma, blacksmith and Teetske Jacobs Ringnalda, Roman Catholic

\* 14-03-1831 Harlingen  
† 06-08-1908 Harlingen

**Children:**

**1. ANNA TEKELA BALLI**, Roman Catholic (5)

\* 31-12-1860 Harlingen  
x 26-10-1891 Harlingen  
† 02-11-1927 Harlingen

x to **PETRUS VELTMAN**, son of Hielke Veltman, carpenter and Houkje van der Velde, chimney sweep, shopkeeper, Roman Catholic

\* 13-08-1865 Harlingen  
† 22-12-1937 Harlingen

Three children

**2. PETRUS ANTONIE BALLI**, Roman Catholic (6)

\* 22-02-1862 Harlingen  
† 18-12-1863 Harlingen

**3. NICOLAAS BALLI**, Roman Catholic (7)

\* 31-10-1863 Harlingen  
† 09-01-1864 Harlingen

**4. PETRUS ANTONIE BALLI**, shopkeeper, Roman Catholic (8)

\* 15-03-1865 Harlingen  
x 03-07-1894 Harlingen  
† 02-05-1942 Kampen

x to **JULIANA PETRONELLA BISSCHOP**, daughter of Petrus Pieter Bisschop, skipper, and Hendrika Hoppe

\* 30-04-1873 Harlingen  
† 13-12-1944 Kampen

No children

**5. NICOLAAS BALLI**, Roman Catholic (9)

\* 02-11-1866 Harlingen  
† 16-11-1866 Harlingen

**III.10 ANNA MARIA BALLI**, daughter of Petrus Antonius Anastasius Balli and Aukje Jans Groen, maid, Roman Catholic

\* 09-09-1836 Harlingen  
x 09-07-1871 Sneek  
† 09-02-1873 Harlingen

x to **SIEGER TOETER**, son of Hendrikus Toeter, skipper, and Albertje Annes van der Heide, bricklayer, chimney sweep

\* 22-06-1846 Bolsward  
† 24-08-1906 Leeuwarden

**Extramarital children:**

**1. SIKKE BALLI**

**IV.10**

**2. PETRUS ANTONIUS BALLI**

**IV.11**

**3. HENDRIKUS BALLI**, Roman Catholic (12)

\* 05-11-1868 Leeuwarden  
† 09-05-1870 Sneek

**4. HENDRIK HENDRIKUS TOETER, Roman Catholic (13)**

\* 05-10-1870 Sneek  
x 29-09-1894 Meppel  
† 17-01-1954 Zwolle

x to **BERENDINA LAVET**, daughter of Jan Lavet and Woltertien Brandligt

\* 18-06-1869 Meppel  
† 17-02-1946 Zwolle

One daughter Anna Maria Toeter \* 1895

## GENERATION IV

**IV.2 JULIEN JEAN BALLI**, son of Johannes Willem Balli and Josphina Rosina Pierret de Cornillon, dyer, Roman Catholic

\* 28-01-1857 Groningen  
x 27-01-1883 Leeuwarden  
† 05-05-1889 Groningen

x to **MARIA MARGARETHA BELTRAMI**, daughter of Antonius Johannes Beltrami, chimney sweep and shopkeeper and Agatha Francisca Doodkorte

\* 13-11-1859 Leeuwarden  
† 00-00-1932

### Children:

**1. JOHAN WILLEM BALLI (1)**

\* 22-09-1882 's Gravenhage  
x 20-06-1912 Groningen  
† 15-05-1928 Groningen

x to **JOHANNA MARIA TEN BERGE**, daughter of Henricus Gerardus ten Berge, wine merchant and Bernardina Ettema, Roman Catholic

\* 28-08-1878 Leens  
† 27-01-1971 Groningen

**2. EMILIE PAULINE MARIE BALLI (2)**

\* 19-09-1886 Groningen  
x 16-02-1918 's Gravenhage  
† 00-00-1967 Hilversum

x to **JUSTINUS DRENTHEN**, son of Justinus Drenthen, chief conductor and Janna Gesina Hooijerink

\* 10-06-1890 Zutphen  
† 06-02-1950 Amsterdam

No children

**IV.10 SIKKE BALLI**, son of Anna Maria Balli

\* 09-03-1860 Harlingen  
x 05-07-1883 Harlingen  
† 21-01-1923 's Gravenhage

x to **FROUWKJE KRAKOU**, daughter of Johannes Krakou, labourer and Mietje Brandij, widow of Jan de Vries

\* 22-03-1855 Harlingen  
† 14-04-1909 's Gravenhage

**Children:**

**1. ANNA MARIA BALLI (3)**

- \* 02-09-1884 Amsterdam
- x 03-07-1907 's Gravenhage
- † 00-00-1964 's Gravenhage

x to **GERARD AUGUST MULDER**, blacksmith, son of Willem Albert Mulder, carpenter and Catharina Johanna van Paassen

- \* 15-10-1883 's Gravenhage
- † 12-08-1952 's Gravenhage

**2. MARTEN BALLI**

**V.4**

**3. AUGUSTINA MARIA BALLI (5)**

- \* 14-05-1888 Amsterdam
- x 15-05-1912 's Gravenhage
- † 19-05-1950 Zwolle

x to **JOHANNES VAN DER HOUT**, son of Cornelis van der Hout and Jannetje Woest

- \* 30-06-1888 Naaldwijk
- † 06-06-1977 Zwolle

Two children

**4. PETRUS ANTONIUS BALLI (6)**

- \* 13-11-1891 Harlingen
- † 18-02-1892 Utrecht

**IV.11 PETRUS ANTONIUS BALLI**, son of Anna Maria Balli

- \* 07-09-1861 Harlingen
- x 24-11-1888 Leeuwarden
- x 00-00-0000
- † 21-12-1932 Voorburg

x to **SARA VAN DER VEEN**, daughter of Adrianus van der Veen en Johanna Maria Snijder

- \* 09-07-1866 Leeuwarden
- † 19-01-1890 Leeuwarden

**Children:**

**1. JOHANNA MARIA ELISABETH BALLI**, dressmaker **(7)**

- \* 21-12-1889 Leeuwarden
- x 24-11-1888 's Gravenhage
- † 00-00-0000

x to **JAN HUURMAN**, son of Hendrik Teunis Hurman and Mechelina van Meerten, shoemaker

- \* 18-07-1887 's Gravenhage
- † 19-02-1954 's Gravenhage

At least 3 children

x to **WILHELMINA JOHANNA VAN ZONSBEEK**, daughter of Michiel van Zonsbeek and Johanna Klij

- \* 29-07-1865 Rossum
- † 30-11-1921 Gravenhage

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## **C) Archives**

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Groninger Archieven  
Haags Gemeentearchief  
Historisch Centrum Leeuwarden  
Regionaal Archief Nijmegen  
Rijksarchief Utrecht  
Stadsarchief Amsterdam  
Stadsarchief Breda  
Stadsarchief Den Bosch  
Tresoar – Fries Historisch en Letterkundig Centrum, Leeuwarden

Grietje Brouwer-Ijsbrandy was born in 1954 and raised in Leeuwarden (Netherlands). She worked as a legal assistant at the Social Service of the Municipality of Súdwest Fryslân. With her family she lived in Akkrum (Friesland). For over 35 years she has been doing genealogical research on her parents and grandparents. On the whole, these were the Dutch families Ijsbrandy, Hollander and Raadsveld. Grietje Brouwer-Ijsbrandy died in 2016 in Leeuwarden.

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Christian Balli was born in Zurich in 1951 and grew up in Ticino. At the University of Fribourg he graduated in economics (1974) and law (1979). As a lawyer in the service of the Federal Government he worked in the field of national and international water law. With his family he lives in Wabern (BE). Citizen of Cavigno (now Cevio, TI), he has described in various publications the origin and spread of his family in Europe and overseas. He is a member of the Swiss Genealogical Society (SGS) and the Società Genealogica della Svizzera Italiana (SGSI) and in this field maintains contacts in Switzerland and abroad.

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