

## **History of the Planitzer Hof**

### **The Planitzer Hof and the Chapel of St. Cosmas and St. Damian in Glen**

#### **1677 - 1695**

The first records are to be found in old land registers starting in 1677, where there is an entry for the property of Johann Franz Jeremias, the priest in Fleims, comprising a cellar, a house and a plot of land in “luogo alle Caneve” or “dalle Canipe di Glen de Montagna”. It was perhaps at this time that St. Cosmas’ and St. Damian’s Chapel was built in Glen; the oldest votive painting there dates back to 1691, the year in which the priest died. On his death, the property passed to Cavaliere Geremia de Montfort of Trent, who later became archpriest of Fleims in Cavalese.

The chapel is mentioned in a document written in 1695: Maria Teissin, the wife of a clerk of the court by the name of Nikolaus Prenner, prayed for recovery from a serious illness and vowed to travel to the chapel of the two holy physicians in Glen. St. Cosmas’ and St. Damian’s Chapel thus became a place of pilgrimage.

#### **1717**

The priest of Montan, Alexander Giovanelli, was the owner of the “Maso alle Caneve” i.e. “House with the Cellars” on the Rigl Fields in Glen. On 26 May 1717, he sold the property, which was in very poor condition, to Franz Anton Riccabona, a notary public and for a time also mayor of the community of Fleims, for 3569 gilders. Riccabona thus became the owner of the chapel, the lower house (at the time simply a cellar with a small superstructure that also served as living quarters), the upper house with its outbuildings and four plots of land: the Planitzer, comprising a garden, vineyard, field and meadow, a plot “in der Plankleiten” below the chapel, a vineyard “in Loch” and a meadow with trees “in Loch”. The property was encumbered with the following dues: 13 “Pazeiden” a year (a volumetric measure) of must for Sonnenburg Monastery, which also had the right to build on one of the plots of land, and approximately the same amount, namely an „Yhrn“ (a volumetric measure), for the church in Montan, 28 kreutzers for the church in Pinzon, 18 kreutzers for the church in Truden and eight “Pazeiden” of must for the sexton in Truden.

#### **1720 - 1725**

On 8 March 1720, Maria Elisabeth von Winkelhofen, Abbess of Sonnenburg near St. Lorenzen in the Puster Valley, granted the Fleims Valley notary public Franz Anton Riccabona rights of use to one of the plots of land which he had bought from Father Giovanelli in 1717 and was part of the seignory of the monastery.

In 1722 Riccabona received from Rome relics of St. Cosmas, St. Damian and St. Dominikus and a year later a relic of “the veil of the Virgin”.

On 27 April 1725, the notary public purchased from Martin Simmerle in Glen a meadow with trees adjoining the Planitzer. This meadow was also part of the seignory of Sonnenburg and an annual rent of half an “Yhrn” of must had to be paid. On 12 January 1647, the Abbess Anna Leonora von Spaur issued Jakob Simmerle with a deed of tenure for a plot of land called “Stubla”.

According to the earliest Sonnenburg urbarium (register of the rights and benefits of a seignory), a certain Jordan von Glen paid the Puster Valley monastery an annual rent of one “Yhrn” of must back in 1296.



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### **1749 - 1759**

Many years after the purchase made in 1725, Franz Anton Riccabona again appeared on the scene: From the bankruptcy assets of Georg Simerle, he acquired a meadow near the Simerle house called "Leitn" on 22 April 1749. The land was freehold and unencumbered, i.e. independent of any seignory. It is clear from a lease agreement that the meadow was the Leitwies. For registration of the transaction at the court in Neumarkt, Riccabona sent his lawyer son Kaspar Anton to represent him, presumably because he was in poor health. When he died a few years later, the notary public's property in Glen passed jointly to his sons Kaspar Anton and Josef Alexander, a physician. On 11 February 1759, the two brothers signed an agreement to the effect that Josef Alexander should purchase his brother's share, which he did.

### **1764 - 1802**

On 26 September 1764 in Neumarkt, in the presence of the judge Anton Longo zu Liebenstein, Abraham Lochmann and Peter Zwerger of Altrei, guardians of the children of the deceased couple Georg von Hanspeter and Magdalena Lochmann, sold to Josef Alexander Riccabona a freehold plot of land "in the Rigl" comprising a meadow and vineyard: the Runggà. Apart from the deed of sale, the plot is still called Runggò to this day. The transaction made Josef Alexander Riccabona the sole owner of the Glen property. It comprised seven plots of land located around the two houses and the chapel, which – with one exception – were listed in Empress Maria-Theresa's tax register for the community of Montan, as shown in a legally certified copy made in 1793. On 11 November 1802, St. Martin's Day, the "Planggen Hof", also known as "Planken", was added to the property. It was acquired from Simon Hilber by Vinzenz Riccabona, the son of the physician, for 430 gilders.

In 1811 the Stations of the Cross were installed in the Chapel of St. Cosmas and St. Damian.

### **1839 - 1918**

In 1839 Pietro Mutinelli of Trent bought the property in Glen. The lower house was converted into a manor house and used as a country home according to the inscription on a marble plaque in the chapel.

In 1844 another relic was added to the collection in the chapel: a piece of a veil that had touched the Miraculous Image of the Virgin Mary in Loreto. In 1852 the chapel, with Mary Help of Christians and St. Cosmas and St. Damian as patrons, was restored as indicated by the year and the initials PM inscribed on the pediment. One of Mutinelli's daughters, who married a son of the Bersi family, took over the property. They had two children, Ruggero and Ricciarda. At the beginning of the First World War, the Italian family withdrew to their residence in Rome. From 1916 to 1918, the Austro-Hungarian army occupied the two houses of the property and used them to accommodate up to 500 prisoners of war, who worked on the construction of the Fleims Valley railway. In 1918 the property was seized by the Austro-Hungarian state.



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## **1919 – 2001**

In 1919 the property was returned to the Mutinelli-Bersi family. Ruggero and Ricciarda, who had both trained as lawyers in Rome in the meantime, lived unmarried in the manor house with their housekeeper Rosina, who served them for over fifty years. In the 1960s, the “Bersi Hof” employed two farm workers: Karl Terleth and Hans Weissensteiner. In 1970 Hans, who later served Ruggero and Ricciarda Bersi as caretaker and chauffeur, moved into the upper house with his newly wed wife Doris Gruber.

In 1971 fire broke out in the north wing of the manor house. The damage caused by the fire and the water used to extinguish it was enormous, the task of renovation daunting.

In the following years, both Hans Weissensteiner and his wife Doris worked on the Bersi Hof. She helped out in the manor house and the fields and later looked after not only the elderly proprietors but also their housekeeper Rosina. When Ruggero Bersi died in 1977, he left his half of the “closed holding” to Rosina, who died one year later. Five brothers and sisters from the Fleims Valley inherited. Ricciarda, the last of the Bersi, died in 1979, leaving her share of the property to the Weissensteiner family. After decades of negotiations with the housekeeper’s relatives, the Weissensteiner family and their son-in-law Christian Ainhauser managed to reunite the holding. Christian had married Judith, one of the three daughters of Hans and Doris, in 1995.

In 2001 work started on re-establishing the farm.

## **2007 - 2014**

On 17 July 2007, Christian Ainhauser and Judith Weissensteiner became joint owners of the holding, where the fields, litter meadows, maize fields and pergolas have since given way to modern vineyards. The grape varieties now grown at the Planitzer Hof comprise Pinot Noir, Gewürztraminer, Sauvignon and some Schiava. The name of the property derives from one of the first plots of land to be found in the records called Planitzer, which originally extended from the upper building to today’s railway viaduct and was cut in two by the construction of the railway. The property now comprises the upper house, the lower house or manor house with the attached Chapel of St. Cosmas and St. Damian, about three and a half hectares of vineyard and over four hectares of forest and meadow. Interestingly enough, the names of the buildings and chapel have remained unchanged over the centuries and are still used today.

The upper house is currently being renovated within the terms of a conservation order placed on the ensemble.

In March 2014, the Planitzer Tavern will open to the public.



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