

0-General Introduction	3
1-Rombs-Kessler Family	7
2-Ahnentafel (Ancestor) Reports	11
3-Family Group Chart	15
4-Fan (pedigree)	19
5-19th-century-russian-relations	21
6-JRstory-abbreviated	135
7-Johannes-and-Barbara-sourcedata	147
8-30Years-Rombs	273
9.0-Early Rombs Family History	275
9.1-Teachers-RombsFamilies-in-Alsace	279

281Connections:
The Family History Work
of
Craig Rhombs

South Dakota Roots: Rhombs/Kessler Ancestors

281Connections

First published in 2023

Plymouth, MN

by Craig Rhombs
craig@281connections.us

This work is available under the Creative Commons cc by-SA license



<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>

281Connections

Foreword

This is a snapshot of the results of my family history research. Organizationally it is based on my website at <https://281connections.us> as it exists at revision 36. As explained there, it starts with eight pairs of great grandparents for my wife and myself and works backward in time. There are seven volumes, which are listed below. The most up to date version of the material will always be the website.

Volumes:

- General Introduction
- South Dakota Roots: Bates/Moodie Ancestors
- South Dakota Roots: Loy/Allen Ancestors
- **South Dakota Roots: Rhombs/Kessler Ancestors ←This volume**
- South Dakota Roots: Thompson/Olsen Ancestors
- South Dakota Roots: Memorials and Mysteries
- Texas Roots: Kosub/Kokott, Long/Gill, Marsch/Fincke, Mihalski/Kosub

In many ways this is a record of one of the ways in which I have spent 9+ years of my retirement. I certainly owe thanks to many people, most of whom are mentioned in the volumes that follow. Any mistakes are mine, and I hope to be corrected.

281Connections

South Dakota Roots: Rhombs/Kessler Ancestors

- Introduction of the Rhombs/Kessler Family
- Ahnentafel Reports
- Family Group Report
- Fan Chart
- 19th Century Russian Relations
- A Story about Johannes Rombs
- Source Information about Johannes and Barbara (Kessler) Rombs
- A Timeline for Barbara and Johannes
- Early Rhombs Family History
 - Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808



281connections Wiki

About

Copyright(left)

Education

Privacy

South Dakota Families

Bates-Moodie

Loy-Allen

Memorials

Mysteries

Rombs-Kessler

Ahnentafel

AncestralCollapsible

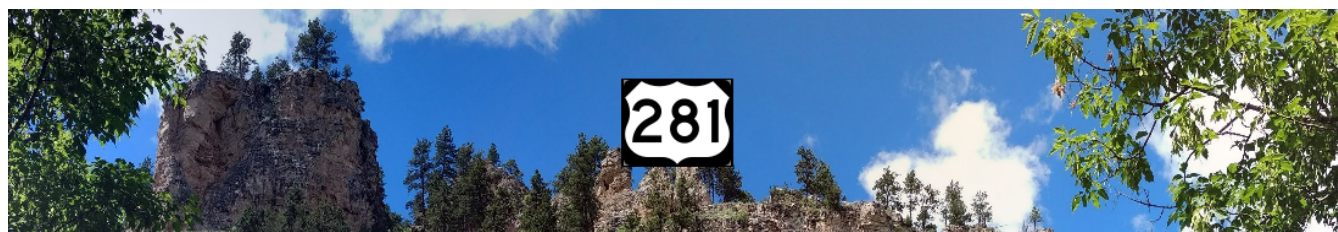
Early Rombs Family History

FamilyGroup

Fan

Thompson-Olsen

Texas Families



Rombs-Kessler Family

Barbara (Kessler), Johannes Rombs, and their children immigrated to the USA late in 1884. They settled about mid-way between Ipswich, SD, and Faulkton, SD. Barbara survived until 1896, and Johannes died in 1914. [Here](#) is a time-line that shows major events in their lives during the approximately thirty years of their time in South Dakota. The events surrounding Barbara's death have resulted in a family story about the transfer of the family from Catholic to Lutheran churches. You can read more about this in the [attached document](#).

[Here](#) is a family group description for the family of Barbara and Johannes. [Here](#) are Ahnentafel reports for Barbara and Johannes. These reports show the ancestors that I have identified. If you follow this [link](#), you will find a fan chart showing the pedigree for a child of Barbara and Johannes. This effectively shows the pedigrees for both people at a high level. It is much the same information found in the reports, just in graphical form. A more traditional pedigree chart centered on one of their children is [here](#). I have also assembled more detailed information regarding Johannes and Barbara in a fairly lengthy document that includes source descriptions and photos. You can find it [here](#). I hope that you will [contact](#) me to comment or add information.

Barbara Kessler and Johannes Rombs were both born in Selz, South Russia, in the middle of the 19th century. They were a part of an ethnic group referred to as German-

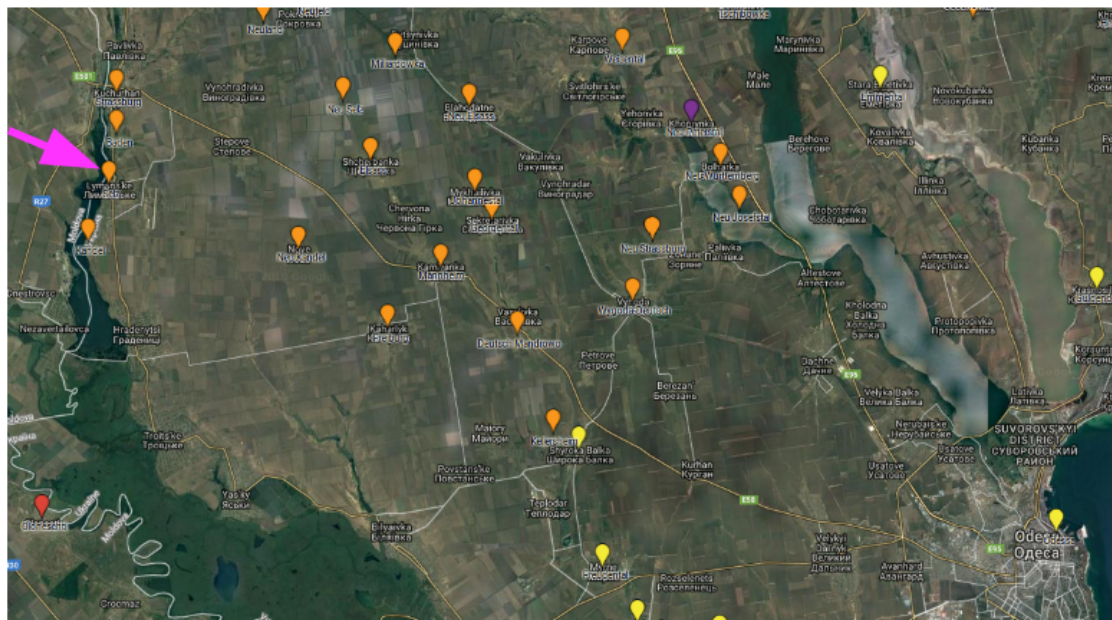
Russians since their ancestors migrated from Germanic areas near the Rhine River to southern Russia in the first decade of the 19th century. Johannes' grandfather came from the town of Kesseldorf in Alsace/Elsass to help found the colony of Selz. Barbara's grandfather came from Leimersheim in Pfalz, just a little north of Kesseldorf. The old map that follows shows the direction of their travel from southwest and northwest of Karlsruhe to Selz in South Russia.

These families (and thousands like them) were invited / encouraged by the Russian government to help settle agricultural land recently taken from the Turks near the Black Sea. Much has been written about this group, so I won't say more here.



From The Public Schools Historical Atlas edited by C. Colbeck, published by Longmans, Green, and Co. 1905.

The pink arrow in the image below points to the Selz colony just northwest of Odessa. This is the community that their grandparents helped found in the first decade of the 19th century. This is taken from a mapping project that shows German-Russian colony locations superimposed on a current map. See <https://www.germansfromrussiassettlementlocations.org/2016/12/selz-kutschurgan.html>



The starting points for these ancestors are well portrayed in the Meyers Gazetteer. (<https://www.meyersgaz.org/>) Images of the places of origin for the Rombs and Kessler founders are shown roughly in the images that follow.

Below: Barbara's ancestors came from this area in the late 18th century.

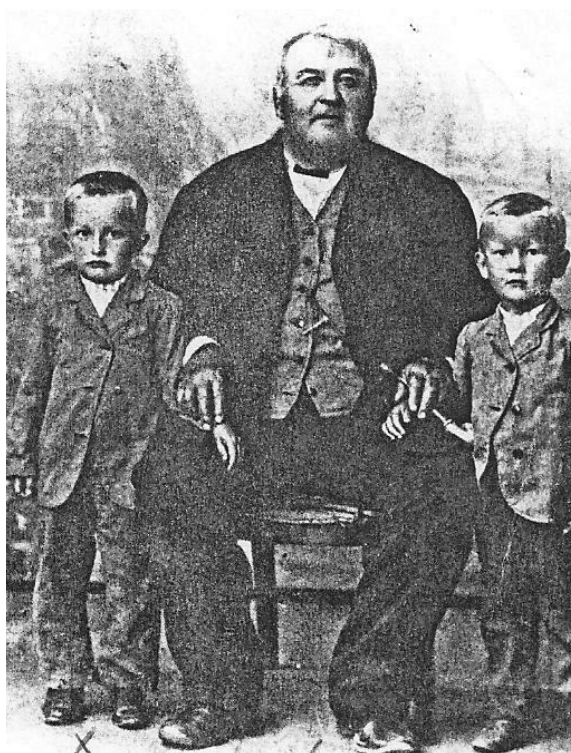


Below: Johannes' ancestors came from this area in the late 18th century.



You can discover much more about Rhombs and Kessler families in Russia in the document entitled [19th Century Russian Relations](#) . Deeper research into origins of the Rombs family along the Rhein has also been very fruitful. You will find summary research information in a [section](#) devoted to that topic alone.

The picture that appears below has previously been identified as my great grandfather, Johannes. However, while the man pictured was named Johannes Rombs, he was not my great grandfather. Rather, he was my great grandfather's uncle by the same name. To my knowledge, no picture exists that shows either Johannes Rombs (b.1845) or his wife Barbara Kessler (b.1848). We do, however, now know that we have a photo of Johannes Rombs (b.1826) and two of his grandchildren taken in Russia as follows.





281connections Wiki

About

Copyright(left)

Education

Privacy

South Dakota Families

Bates-Moodie

Loy-Allen

Memorials

Mysteries

Rombs-Kessler

Ahnentafel

AncestralCollapsible

Early Rombs Family History

FamilyGroup

Fan

Thompson-Olsen

Texas Families



Ahnentafel (Ancestor) Reports

--

Ahnentafel Report for Rombs, Johannes

Generation 1

1. **Rombs, Johannes.** Johannes was born on 1845-07-01 in Selz, Russia. He was baptized on 1845-08-02 in Selz, Russia. He died on 1914-08-08 in South Dakota, USA. He was buried on 1914-08-11 in Wecota, Faulk, Sotuh Dakota, USA.

Generation 2

2. **Rombs, Franz Joseph.** Franz Joseph was born in 1811 in Selz, Russia. He died on 1879-07-12 in Selz, Russia.
3. **Usselmann, Katherina.** Katherina was born on 1815-03-12 in Selz, Russia. She died on 1852-07-18 in Selz, Russia.

Generation 3

4. **Rombs, Franz.** Franz was born in 1789 in Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace. He died on 1836-02-13 in Selz, Russia.
5. **Sennhauser, Katharina.** Katharina was born on 1791-09-02 in Neewiller, Alsace. She died on 1870-09-27 in Selz, Russia.
6. **Usselmann, Christian.** Christian was born on 1793-03-19 in Niederseebach, Weissburg, Elsass, Germany. He died on 1853-05-14 in Selz, Russia.
7. **Merse Mersè Mersé, Catharina.** Catharina was born on 1786-04-17 in Salmbach, Alsace. She died in 1864 in Selz, Russia.

Generation 4

8. **Rombs, Franz Ludwig.** Franz Ludwig was born on 1763-04-11 in Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. He died on 1836-04-22 in Selz, Russia.
9. **Werner, Margaretha.** Margaretha was born on 1761-10-14 in Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace. She died on 1823-03-16.
10. **Sennhauser, Johann Georg.** Johann Georg was born on 1757-05-24 in Neewiller, Alsace. He died on 1794-10-31 in Neewiller, Alsace.
11. **Kah, Catherine Elizabeth.** Catherine Elizabeth was born in 1758 in Schaidt, Pfalz, Germany. She died on 1806-11-14 in Neewiller, Alsace.
12. **Usselmann, Johann Martin.** Johann Martin was born on 1756-01-02 in Niederseebach, Weissburg, Elsass, Germany. He died on 1804-03-02 in Niederseebach, Weissburg, Elsass, Germany.
13. **Graff, Elisabetha.** Elisabetha was born on 1763-01-06 in Oberseebach, Bas Rhin, Alsace, France. She died in 1810 in Selz, Russia.
14. **Merse, Franz Anton.** Franz Anton was born in 1748.
15. **Gladinier, Maria Barbara.**

Generation 5

16. **Rombs, Johannes.** Johannes was born on 1712-03-11 in Zeutern, Baden, Germany. He died on 1786-11-27 in Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace.
17. **Schickel, Marie Barbe.** Marie Barbe was born on 1726-01-30 in Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. She died on 1783-09-20 in Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace.
18. **Werner, Franz.** Franz was born in 1731 in Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace. He died on 1797-09-09 in Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace.
19. **Bimber Bember, Barbara.** Barbara was born in 1737.
20. **Sennhauser, Franz Joseph.** He died in Neewiller, Alsace.
21. **Scheer Scherr, Margaretha.**
22. **Kah, Jean Adam.**
23. **Eckert, Madeleine.** She died in 1780.
24. **Usselmann, Pierre.** Pierre was born in 1733 in Niederseebach, Weissburg, Elsass, Germany. He died on 1776-09-19.
25. **Adolff, Catherine.** Catherine was born in 1726 in Alsace. She died on 1805-04-23 in Alsace.
26. **Graff, Andre.** Andre was born on 1725-11-01 in Oberseebach, Bas Rhin, Alsace, France. He died on 1785-02-15 in Niederseebach, Bas Rhin, Alsace, France.
27. **Schneider, Marie Barbara.** Marie Barbara was born on 1728-07-02 in Aschbach, Bas Rhin, Alsace, France. She died on 1765-05-30 in Oberseebach, Bas Rhin, Alsace, France.
28. **Merse, Jean.**
29. **Scharneck, Dorothee.**
30. **Gladinier, Nicolas.**
31. **Gerber, Marie Ursule.**

Generation 6

32. **Rombs, Johann Michael.** Johann Michael was born in 1676 in Neibsheim, Bretten, Karlsruhe, Germany. He died on 1756-02-19 in Neibsheim, Bretten, Karlsruhe, Germany.
33. **Kritzer Gritzer, Katharina.** Katharina was born in 1670 in Nebsheim, Karkruhe, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany. She died on 1770-09-02 in Neibsheim, Bretten, Karlsruhe, Germany.
34. **Schickel, Johann.** Johann was born in 1689. He died on 1746-08-10 in Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France.
35. **Zilliox Zilliox, Catherine.** Catherine was born in 1689. She died on 1758-12-13 in Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. She was buried on 1758-12-14 in Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France.
36. **Werner, Jean.** Jean was born in 1699. He died on 1768-06-19 in Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace.
40. **Sennhauser, Peregrin.**
41. **Grimm, Anne.** She died on 1755-03-28 in Neewiller, Alsace.
48. **Usselmann, Christian.** Christian was born in 1710 in Niederseebach, Weissburg, Elsass, Germany. He died in 1755 in

Niederseebach, Weissburg, Elsass, Germany.

49. **Stein, Elizabeth.** Elizabeth was born in 1710. She died in 1755 in Niederseebach, Bas Rhin, Alsace, France.
50. **Adolff, Nicolas.**
51. **Wald, Gertrude.**
52. **Graff, Henri.**
53. **unknown, Barbe.**
54. **Schneider, Balthazar.** Balthazar was born in 1694. He died in 1744.
55. **Lorentz, Anne Catherine.** Anne Catherine was born in 1692. She died in 1751.

Generation 7

64. **Rombs, Nikolaus.** Nikolaus was born in Franconia, Germany. He died on 1712-06-26 in Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany.
65. **unknown, unknown.**
68. **Schickel, Jean.** Jean was born in 1659. He died on 1755-09-28 in Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France.
69. **Hanselmann, Eve.** She died on 1746-05-10 in Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France.
82. **Grimm, Balthasar.** He died on 1730-08-12 in Neewiller, Alsace.
83. **unknown, Salome.**
96. **Usselmann, Michael.**
97. **unknown, Catherine (wife of Michael Usselmann).**

Ahnentafel Report for Kessler, Barbara

Generation 1

1. **Kessler, Barbara.** Barbara was born on 1848-06-26 in Selz, Russia. She was baptized on 1848-06-26 in Selz, Russia. She died on 1896-03-10 in Wecota, Faulk, Sotuh Dakota, USA. She was buried on 1896-03-13.

Generation 2

2. **Kessler, Johannes.** Johannes was born in 1821 in Selz, Russia. He died in 1886.
3. **Schumacher, Elizabeth.** Elizabeth was born in 1822 in Selz, Russia. She died on 1862-10-29 in Selz, Russia.

Generation 3

4. **Kessler, Josef.** Josef was born on 1780-07-27 in Rot, Wiesloch, Baden, Germany. He died in Selz, Russia.
5. **Heger Haeger, Maria Barbara.** Maria Barbara was born in 1781. She was baptized in 1781 in Bellheim, Pfalz, Germany. She died on 1857-09-07 in Selz, Russia.
6. **Schumacher, Adam.** Adam was born in 1792. He died in 1852.
7. **Geg, Barbara.** Barbara was born in 1794.

Generation 4

8. **Kessler, Johannes.**
9. **Sonta, Elisabeth.**
10. **Heger Haeger, Franz.**
11. **Culmann, Eva Catharina.**

Backlinks:

[281connections Wiki:South Dakota Families:Rombs-Kessler](#)



281connections Wiki

About

Copyright(left)

Education

Privacy

South Dakota Families

Bates-Moodie

Loy-Allen

Memorials

Mysteries

Rombs-Kessler

Ahnentafel

AncestralCollapsible

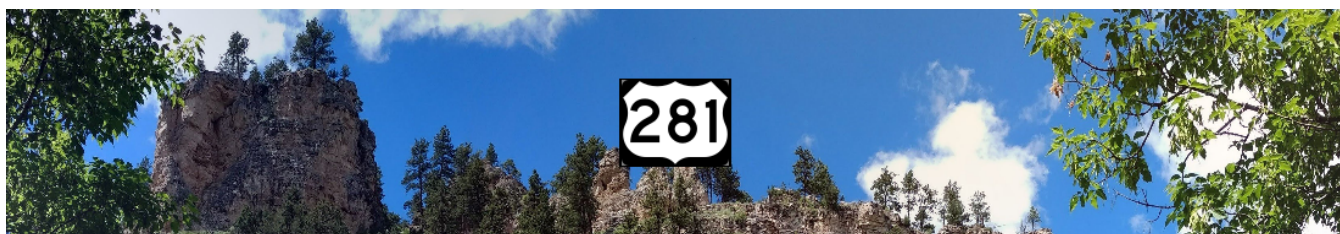
Early Rombs Family History

FamilyGroup

Fan

Thompson-Olsen

Texas Families



Family Group Chart

--

Family Group Report

Husband: Rombs, Johannes (I0014)

Birth	1845-07-01	Selz, Russia
Death	1914-08-08	South Dakota, USA
Father	Rombs, Franz Joseph (I0269)	
Mother	Usselmann, Katherina (I0270)	

Marriage (F0004):

Marriage	20151231 email from Dennis Roth - reportin on Saratov Archives of Selz Church	
	1866-11-07	Selz, Russia
Immigration	1884-11-22	New York

Wife: Kessler, Barbara (I0015)

Birth	1848-06-26	Selz, Russia
Death	1896-03-10	Wecota, Faulk, Sotuh Dakota, USA
Father	Kessler, Johannes (I0409)	
Mother	Schumacher, Elizabeth (I0774)	

Children

1F	Rombs, Lulu (I0160)		
	Birth	1866-07-02 Selz, Russia	
	Death	1953-04-17 Faulk, South Dakota, US	
	Spouse	House, Reuben H. (I0188) (F0036)	
	Marriage	1886	
2M	Rombs, Johann (I0941)		
	Birth	1868 Selz, Russia	
	Death	1872-06-18 Selz, Russia	
3M	Rombs, Andreas (I0942)		
	Birth	1872-03-14 Selz, Russia	
	Death	1873-06-23 Selz, Russia	
4F	Rombs, Caroline B. (I0018)		
	Birth	1875 Selz, Russia	
	Death	1917-02-03 Faulk, South Dakota, US	
	Spouse	Austin, Bert W. (I0191) (F0037)	
Marriage	1899		
5M	Rombs, Nicholas (I0016)		
	Birth	1877 Selz, Russia	
	Death	1945-09-01 Mechanicsburg, Cumberland, PA, USA	
	Spouse	Nelson, Mary C. (I0168) (F0033)	
	Marriage	1906-08-15 Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US	
6M	Rombs, Peter (I0943)		
	Birth	1881 Selz, Russia	
	Death	1882-07-03 Selz, Russia	
7F	Rombs, Esther Elizabeth (I0017)		
	Birth	1883-06-26 Selz, Russia	
	Death	1957-08-15 Aberdeen, Brown, South Dakota, US	
	Spouse	Thornburg, Clyde (I0398) (F0105)	
	Marriage	1903	
	Spouse	Cranage, Matt (I0403) (F0106)	
	Marriage	1916-03-31 Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA	
8M	Rhombs, Joseph (I0004)		
	Birth	1885-11-03 Faulk, South Dakota, US	
	Death	1940-09-03 Pierre, South Dakota, US	
	Spouse	Thompson, Tena A. (I0003) (F0000)	
	Marriage	1910-12-24 Potter, South Dakota	
9F	Rombs, Kathryn (I0161)		
	Birth	1887-03-00	

Death	1970-12-22	Jefferson, Montana
Spouse	Vinton, Alva J. (I0241) (F0054)	

Backlinks:

[281connections Wiki:South Dakota Families:Rombs-Kessler](#)

Created with [Zim-wiki](#) & the [Ecodiv-responsive template](#)



281connections Wiki

About

Copyright(left)

Education

Privacy

South Dakota Families

Bates-Moodie

Loy-Allen

Memorials

Mysteries

Rombs-Kessler

Ahnentafel

AncestralCollapsible

Early Rombs Family History

FamilyGroup

Fan

DynamicFan

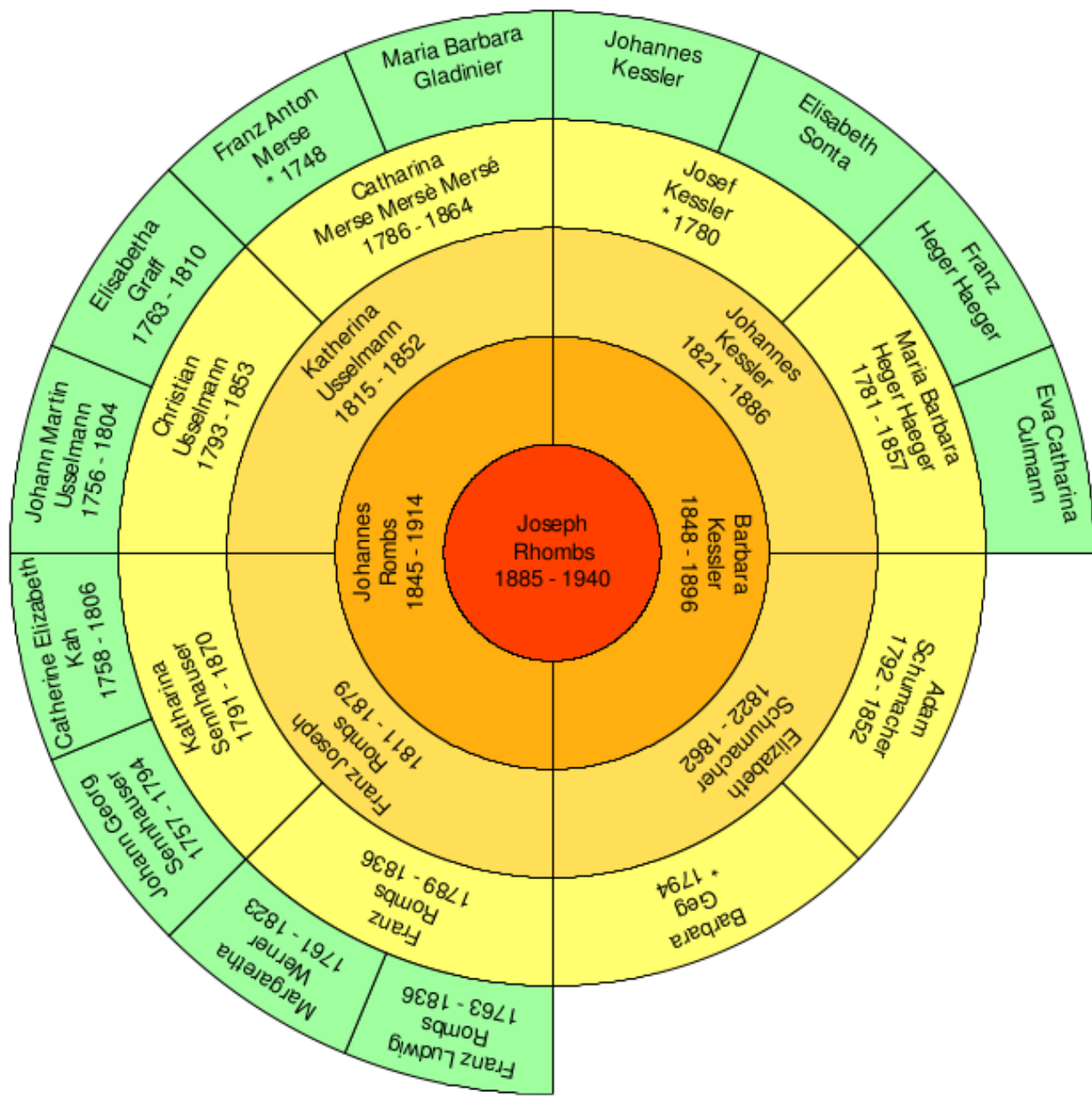
Thompson-Olsen

Texas Families



Fan (pedigree)

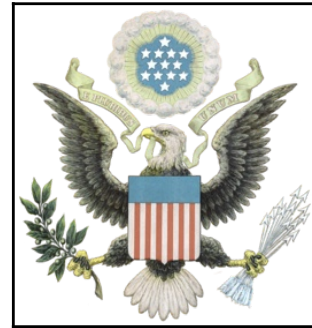
Following is a static representation of a fan pedigree for one of the children of Johannes and Barbara. Follow this [link](#) to see a dynamic version.



Backlinks:

[281connections Wiki:South Dakota Families:Rombs-Kessler](https://281connections.us/281connections_Wiki/South_Dakota_Families:Rombs-Kessler)

Created with Zim-wiki & the Ecodiv-responsive template



19th Century Russian Relations

by Craig Rhombs

04/15/21

19th Century Russian Relations



Table of Contents

Preamble.....	3
Introduction.....	4
Brief History - Alsace.....	5
Brief History – Travel to Russia.....	8
The Early Days of the Kutschurgan Colonies.....	13
Generalities Based on Selz Church Records.....	13
Surnames of Neighbors.....	17
Four Specific Family Lines of Settlers.....	18
Families.....	20
Family of Barbara Kessler and Johannes Rombs.....	21
Barbara: Brothers, Sisters, Nieces, & Nephews.....	23
Barbara: Aunts, Uncles, & Cousins.....	30
Johannes: Brothers, Sisters, Nieces, & Nephews.....	38
Johannes: Aunts, Uncles, & Cousins.....	44
Emigration/Immigration.....	55
Final Destinations.....	65
A Parting Note.....	66
Further Research.....	67
Appendix – Surnames Organized by Village.....	69
Appendix – Descendant Lines of Four Settler Families.....	94
Descendants of Josef Kessler and Barbara Geiger.....	94
Descendants of Franz Ludwig Rombs and Margaretha Werner.....	99
Descendants of Adam Schumacher and Barbara Geg.....	104
Descendants of Christian Usselman and Katharina Mertz.....	109



19th Century Russian Relations



Preamble

This is the third document that I have written about my great grandparents, Barbara Kessler and Johannes Rombs. The first was mostly devoted to their lives in the USA, and it explained where some of my family history source information originated. See *Johannes and Barbara (Kessler) Rombs, A Compilation of Information About Their Lives*. The second document provided a plausible explanation for the transfer of the family from a Catholic Church to a Lutheran Church in South Dakota. See *Corroborating a Family Story*. The first two documents can be accessed at <https://281connections.us>, where this document will also reside.

One objective in writing this document is to summarize what I have learned about the contingent of my ancestors who spent much of the 19th century in South Russia, just northwest of Odessa. My intention is also to provide a superficial understanding my Russian ancestors with enough references to allow more detailed study if desired by those who follow me. (There is still much that could be done.)

I explore findings about relationships of Johannes and Barbara with their ancestors and with some of their contemporary relatives in Russia. This is my way of familiarizing myself as much as time and money allow with the 35+ years of their lives in Russia.

I am solely responsible for what is written here – especially mistakes. But, I do want to thank the following people for their research help as I assembled the basic facts and tried to interpret them – Tom Schumacher, Sharold Hipfner, Dennis Roth, David Kessler, Niko Heinz, Geri Heilman, Robert Heilman, and Phyllis Jansen. And please be aware that new facts may change conclusions.

If you would like to communicate with me, please use email – genealogist@281connections.us.

I ask that you respect the Creative Commons [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) 4.0 license.



Revision History:

- Rev. 0, April 2021
- Rev. 1, April 15, 2021, Corrections to Schumacher line information, added a couple of images.
- Rev. 2, May 19, 2021, updates based on new knowledge associated with an old photo that had ms-identified as Johannes Rombs (b.1845). In fact it was of his uncle Johannes (b.1826).



19th Century Russian Relations



Introduction

“My Russians” were actually a small part of a fairly large migration of people who spoke a German dialect, who originated in parts of western Europe, and who established colonies in Russia. The migrants were invited by the Russian government starting in the late 18th century to help establish effective agricultural practices near the Black Sea and along the Volga River.

My research has focused on the relatives of my great grandparents Barbara Kessler and Johannes Rombs. Their family names figure prominently, but the names Schumacher and Usselmann are also important as they pertain to two important maternal lines of Barbara and Johannes, respectively. From Barbara and Johannes I have fanned out in time to discover the interactions with many lines in addition to the four mentioned above.

Surnames mentioned here include the following.

Adolf	Hoffart	Thornburg
Austin	House	Usselmann
Bimber	Kah	Vetsch
Blank	Kessler	Vinton
Cranage	Kiefel	Wald
Evans	Mertz	Werner
Fetsch	Peasnall	Zentner
Fought	Rhombs	Zilliox
Geg	Rombs	
Geiger	Schall	
Hohren	Schatz	
Graff	Schickel	
Gritzer	Schmidt	
Hansen	Schumacher	
Harris	Schwab	
Heinz	Sennhauser	
Hipfner	Sieberg	
Hirsch	Silbernagel	
Hoepfner	Stein	

19th Century Russian Relations



Brief History - Alsace

The migrants that I focus on here were uniformly from Catholic areas of the regions currently known as Alsace (France) and Pfalz (Germany). They shared a common Germanic language in spite of the fact that they were from areas that alternated between French and “German” governmental/administrative control. (At the time that they lived near the Rhein River, there was no unified German nation, just a confederation of “states.”) Geographic areas were traded around according to who won one of many disputes. In general, the people that I describe are typically considered Germanic in terms of ethnicity.

Here is a contemporary map of the northeast corner of France and parts of Germany that shows the area from which my ancestors originated. The red pin marks the location of a town named Selz, which is near the point of origin for my Rombs migrants. This name will appear later in a Russian context.

Downstream on the Rhein River from there (upward on the map), about 70% of the way to Germersheim (upper right on the map), is the village of Leimersheim on the west side of the Rhein, not far from the river itself. This town is the point of origin for my Kessler migrants.

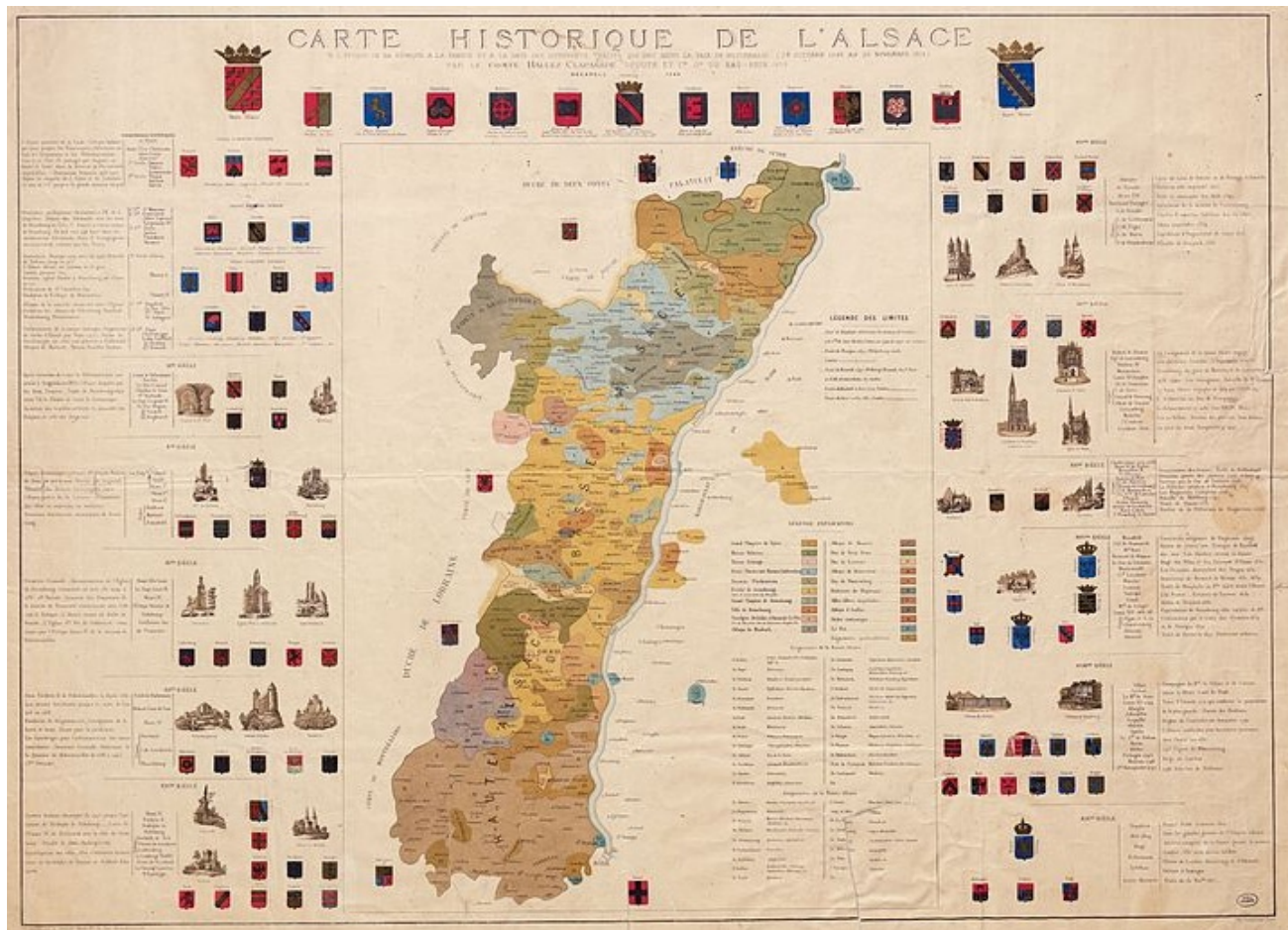
These two towns are only about 40 km apart.



That the departure areas for the migrants had complicated and interwoven histories can be seen on this map - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:L%C3%A9once_Hallez-Clapar%C3%A8de_-_Alsace_1648-1815_-_001.jpg . (Léonce Hallez-Claparède (1813-1870), Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons) The map gives a century by century account of how Alsace changed.



19th Century Russian Relations



Rather than go through the details, suffice it to say that from 1648-1871, this rather narrow area on the west bank of the Rhein was ruled by France. Both French and German languages were present. See the following references for more details.

<http://dgmweb.net/Ancillary/Geog/Europe/Alsace-Lorraine.html>

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Elsass-Lothringen_Timeline

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Alsace#Timeline

The shortest history of Germany : from Julius Caesar to Angela Merkel : a retelling for our times, by J. M. Hawes, ISBN 9781615195695 1615195696.



19th Century Russian Relations



In the following expanded excerpt from the map I have shown the locations from which Rombs, Kessler, Schumacher, and Usselmann families departed for Russia.



19th Century Russian Relations



Brief History – Travel to Russia

There are many sources of information about how the migrants traveled to Russia. I will not repeat the details here. You can find descriptions in the following source materials.

- The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763 to 1862, by Karl Stumpp; available from the AHGSR online store (<https://www.ahsgr.org/>).
- Books by Joseph S. Height. For example, Paradise on the Steppe, c.1973; available from the online store of the Germans from Russia heritage Collection at NDSU in Fargo, ND (<https://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/>).
- There is another fine series of overview articles by Johannes Brendel from the 1979 time-frame. They were entitled *The German Colonies in the Kutschurgan Region*. They were published in the GRHS Heritage Review, a periodical published by the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (<https://www.grhs.org/pages/home>), which has other publications that may be of interest.
- An extensive mapping project entitled *Germans from Russia Settlement Locations* can be found at <https://www.germansfromrussiasettlementlocations.org/>.
- NDSU collection mentioned above also has a website that provides much information. <https://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/research-history/germans-russia/german-villages-maps>
- The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (<https://www.ahsgr.org/>) can also be a useful source of information in some cases.
- The Black Sea German Research site (<http://blackseagr.org/>) is significant for providing very accessible information shared by people with an interest in Germans from Russia.

The summary goes like this. - Russian agents came to Alsace and offered attractive “package deals” to South Russia. The deals included items/promises like travel to Russia, land on arrival, freedom of worship, and freedom from conscription. This was a kind of all expenses paid (by the Russian government) permanent relocation plan. (Apparently in most cases there were loans involved as well.) Given the fact that the Alsatians had recently dealt with the Revolution and Napoleon, they probably were very receptive/vulnerable to the sales pitch that would lead to selling possessions and enduring a long journey to establish colonies in Russia. They were to start the colonies in an area called the Kutschurgan region, which had recently been obtained from Turkey as a part of war settlement. I encourage you to read some of the more detailed accounts of all of this. These had to be strong, desperate, hopeful, enterprising people. Lots of adjectives could be applied.

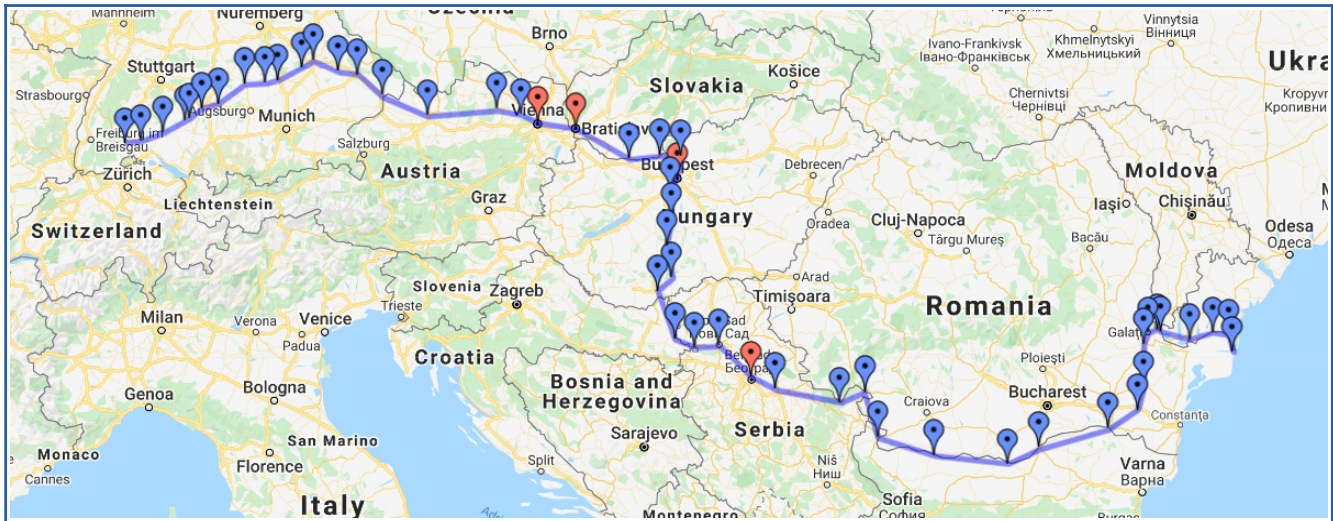
My ancestors were part of a group that founded the colony known as Selz (after the town in Alsace). They arrived at their destination in June, 1808, after a difficult trip according to Height in Paradise on the Steppe. (The full list of settlers can be found in this reference.) Family lore has it that my ancestors traveled through Strasbourg and then mostly by river (the Danube) to Odessa and thence to their final destination. Height offers various estimates of the duration of a trip like this, and a duration of about six weeks seems to be a good guess.

Following is a contemporary map that illustrates the path of the Danube River. I suspect that the journey from Strasbourg began as an overland route and continued by boat/barge beginning at roughly Ulm. Once near the Danube delta, probably the trip returned to an overland one again.

19th Century Russian Relations



Map source: https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=16ih_QoK8-IKJoeqfx4bGlE2DGBc&ll=46.0552045295188%2C18.165000673808827&z=6 .



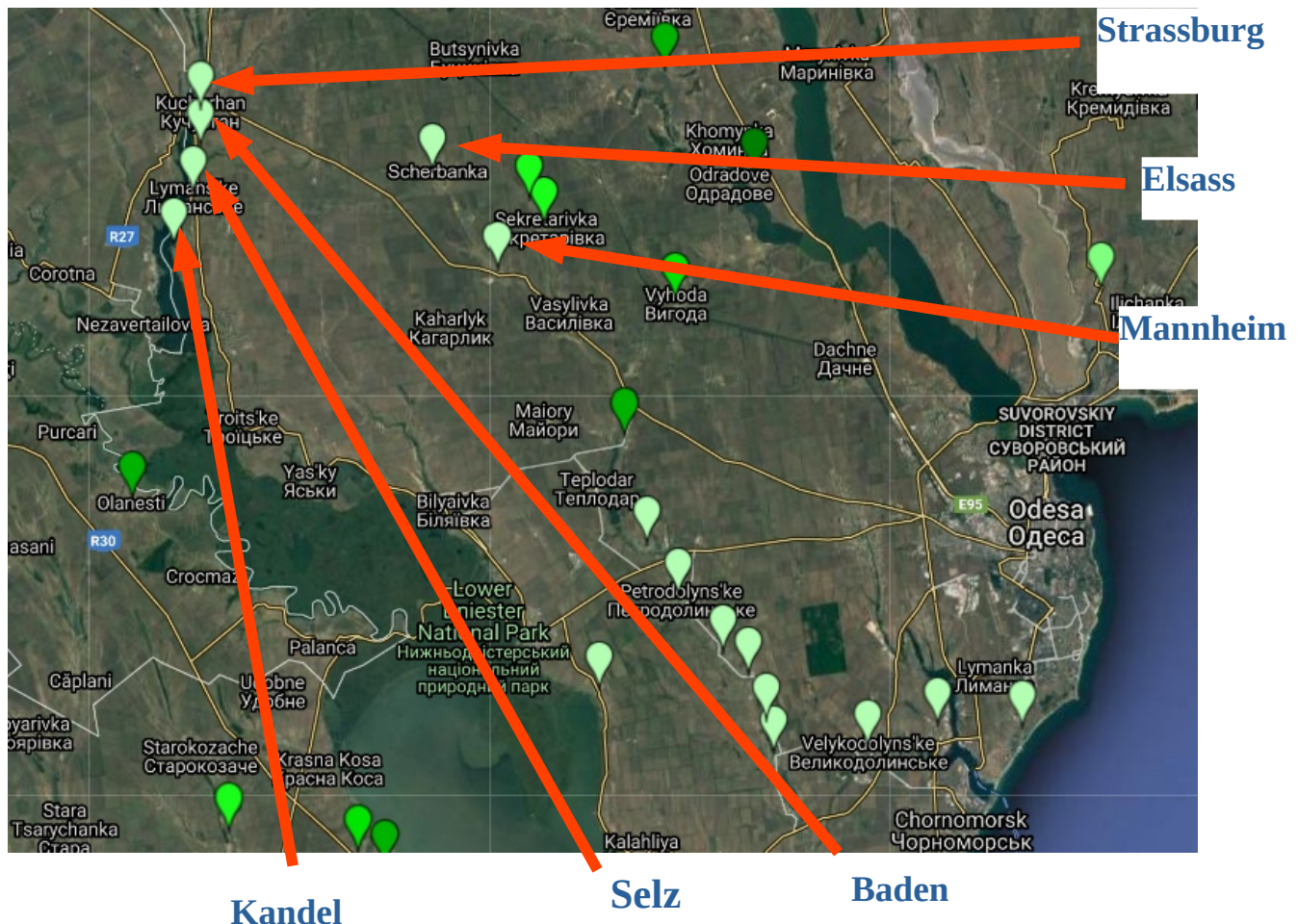
Some way-points are listed below. They may have seen some pretty prominent/historic places, just not under leisurely/touristic conditions.

- Ulm, Germany (beginning of river journey?)
- Vienna, Austria
- Budapest, Hungary
- Belgrade, Serbia
- Galati, Romania (end of river journey?)

19th Century Russian Relations



The Kutschurgan Colonies that they founded initially consisted of five villages in addition to the village of Selz. These were Strassburg, Baden, Kandel, Elsass, and Mannheim. Selz was a major community, with a church that initially served all villages except for Mannheim. Their locations are illustrated on the following contemporary map. Source: https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1zLV9hXtN249P7S5PD9D_L_iT6eI&ll=46.61313430405937%2C30.295446162997894&z=10



So, what was their destination area like? What was its recent history? To understand the answers to such questions, I provide some brief explanations as well as references that can provide considerably more detail. For example, a Wikipedia page provides a long time-line of Russian history, part of which is important for the Kutschurgan region. See . . .

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Russian_history .

The story usually starts with Catherine II (Catherine the Great) taking power from her husband in 1762. Catherine is a colorful character to say the least. She had Germanic roots and has been portrayed in a very interesting way in an historical serial drama entitled *Ekaterina*. See

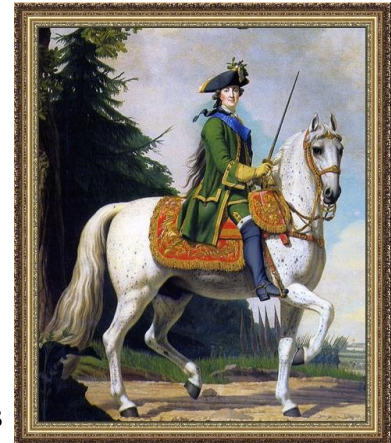
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ekaterina_\(TV_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ekaterina_(TV_series)) .



19th Century Russian Relations



Catherine directed Russian armies to engage other nations in successful efforts to expand Russian influence, and she began a period in which she called upon the skills of people from western (Germanic) areas to improve Russia. In the period 1768-1795, Russia took over part of Poland, and challenged the Ottoman Empire in wars that resulted in Russia acquiring the land on which the Kutschurgan Colonies were established. The final acquisition of the Kutschurgan land took place in January, 1792, with the [Treaty of Jassy](#) .



Catherine the Great of Russia (1729-1796)
in Life Guard Uniform on the Horse Brillante;
Vigilius Eriksen, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

The region acquired from the Ottomans was known as [Yedisan/Jedisan](#) and is pictured in the following map.



Map source: Franz Johann Joseph von Reilly, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons;
<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f7/Yedisan.jpg>



19th Century Russian Relations



Once under Russian control, the region was administered from two cities, Tiraspol and Cherson. Administratively, it was known as the [Cherson/Kherson](#) region. As illustrated in the 1817 map that follows. This map does not show the Kutschurgan Colonies, but they were approximately where the call-out box indicates. [Odessa](#) was formally established in 1794, but it is not shown on the map. During the 19th century, this was primarily an agricultural area, which is why our Alsatian ancestors were invited. (That is, to make it a stronger agricultural area.)



Source: <https://www.darvillsrareprints.com/images/Antique%20maps%20of%20Russia%20Russian%20Empire/russia-in-europe-map-1817.jpg>

After Catherine's death in 1796, her grandson Alexander took power and continued her Black Sea settlement policies. Alexander died in 1825 and was succeeded by his brother Nicholas, who died in 1855 and was succeeded by his son Alexander (Alexander II). It was under Alexander II's control that the original agreements with the colonists began to be abrogated. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_II_of_Russia.

19th Century Russian Relations



The Early Days of the Kutschurgan Colonies

If you have an interest in the early history of the Kutschurgan Colonies, I suggest that you refer to references provided previously. What I provide here is a view of the activity in some of the colonies as seen through the filter of the records of the Selz church. After that there are sections devoted to four groups of early settlers with emphasis on people with surnames of Rombs and Kessler..

Generalities Based on Selz Church Records

In Paradise on the Steppe, (page 100), Joseph Height provides a table like the following to show how the Kutschurgan Colonies progressed during roughly the first 50 years. From just the population estimates, it is apparent that the villages expanded by a factor of at least 3 over the 43 intervening years between enumerations

Village	“crownland” (acres)	Founding Families	Population in 1816	Population in 1859	Number of Houses	Number of Pupils
Selz	16019	118	477	1523	192	194
Kandel	16108	120	522	1583	193	213
Strassburg	9615	67	310	1023	148	175
Baden	9615	61	234	1034	149	206
Mannheim	9615	69	320	1035	117	162
Elsass	9615	68	326	1175	151	144

He mentions that, because of the successful growth of the colonies, some families could purchase an isolated farm (a khutor), and it became possible to establish satellite (daughter) colonies.

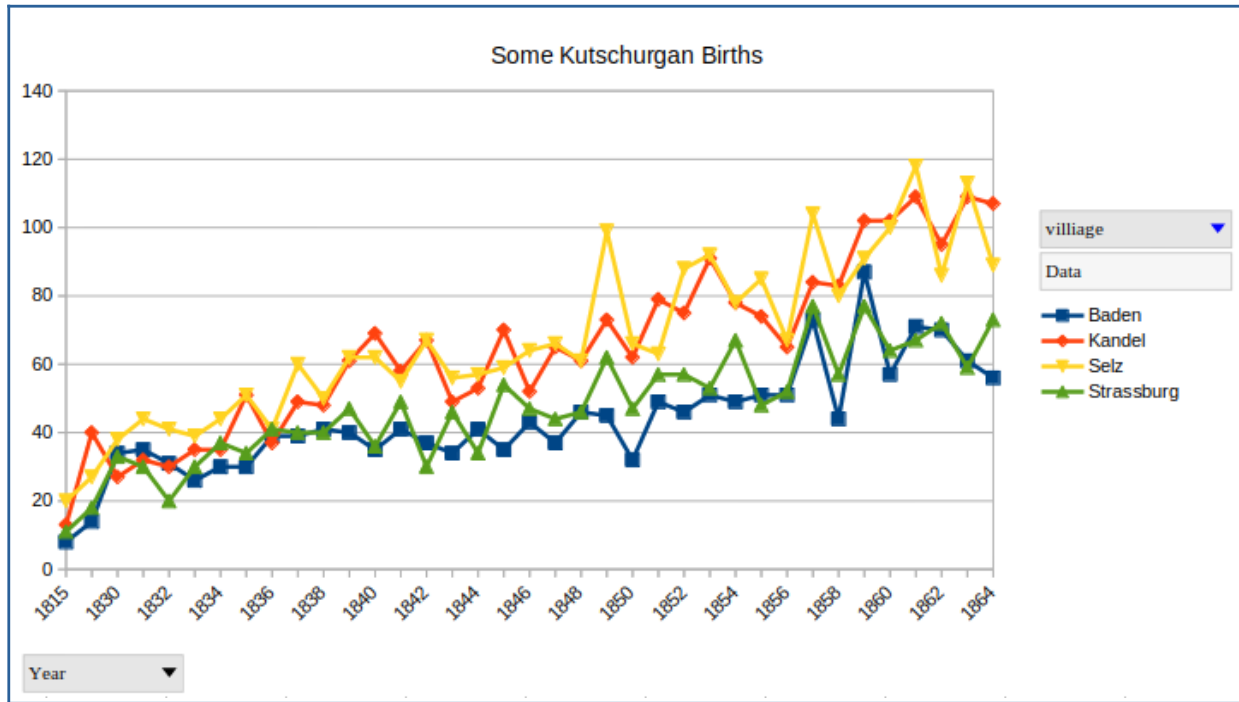
To reinforce these facts, following are some statistical summaries based on the records of the Selz Church as documented in the transcribed archive data from Saratov by the Germans from Russian Heritage Society (<https://www.grhs.org/pages/home>). The summaries are only for the four villages near the Kutschurgan Liman (i.e., Selz, Kandel, Strassburg, and Baden).



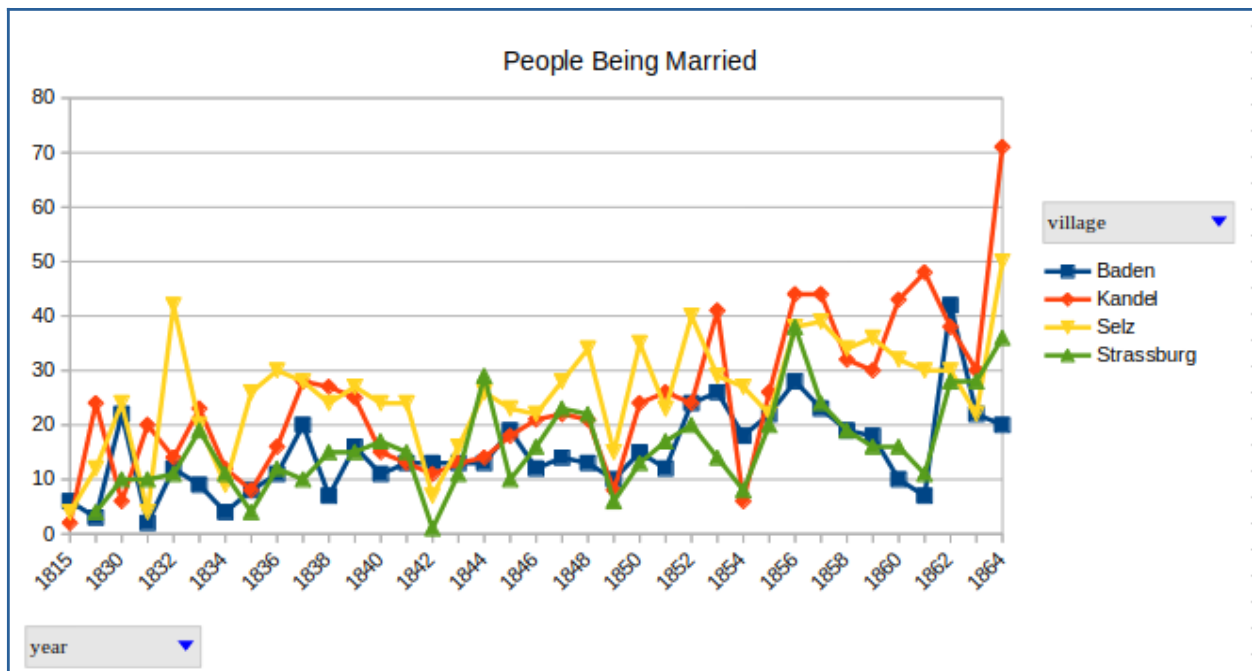


19th Century Russian Relations

Here is a summary of births by year for each village for the years 1815-1864.



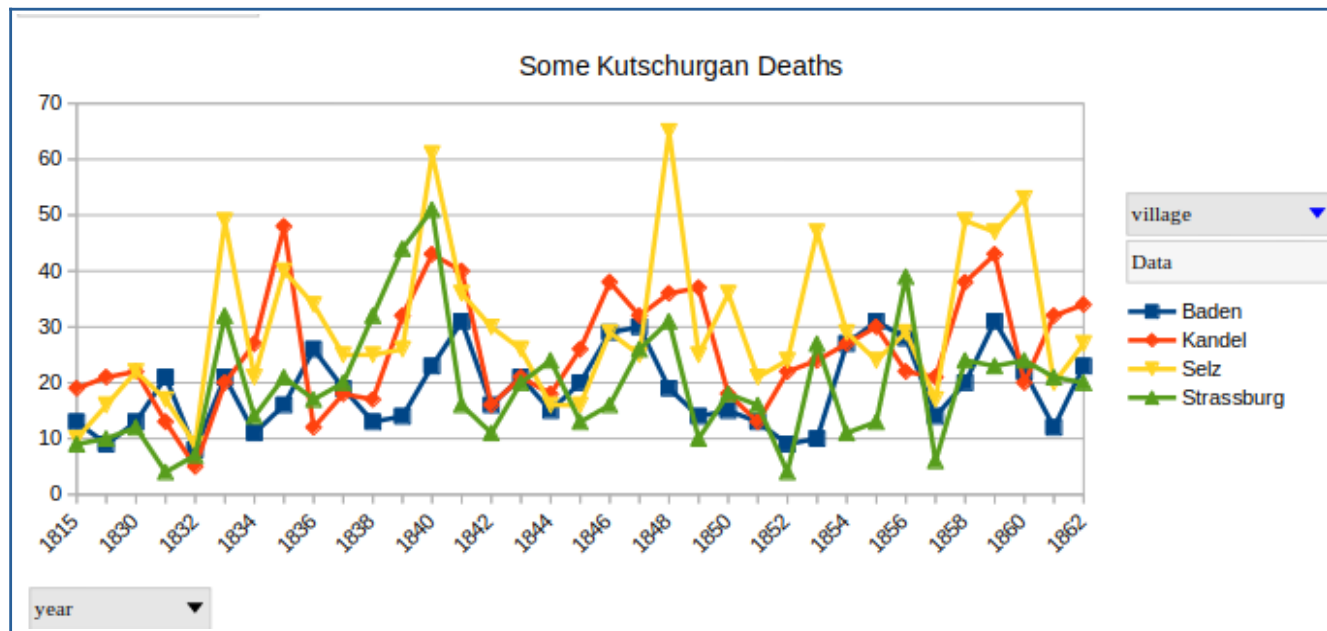
Next is a summary of marriages for roughly the same period of time. It shows people counts, not marriage counts.



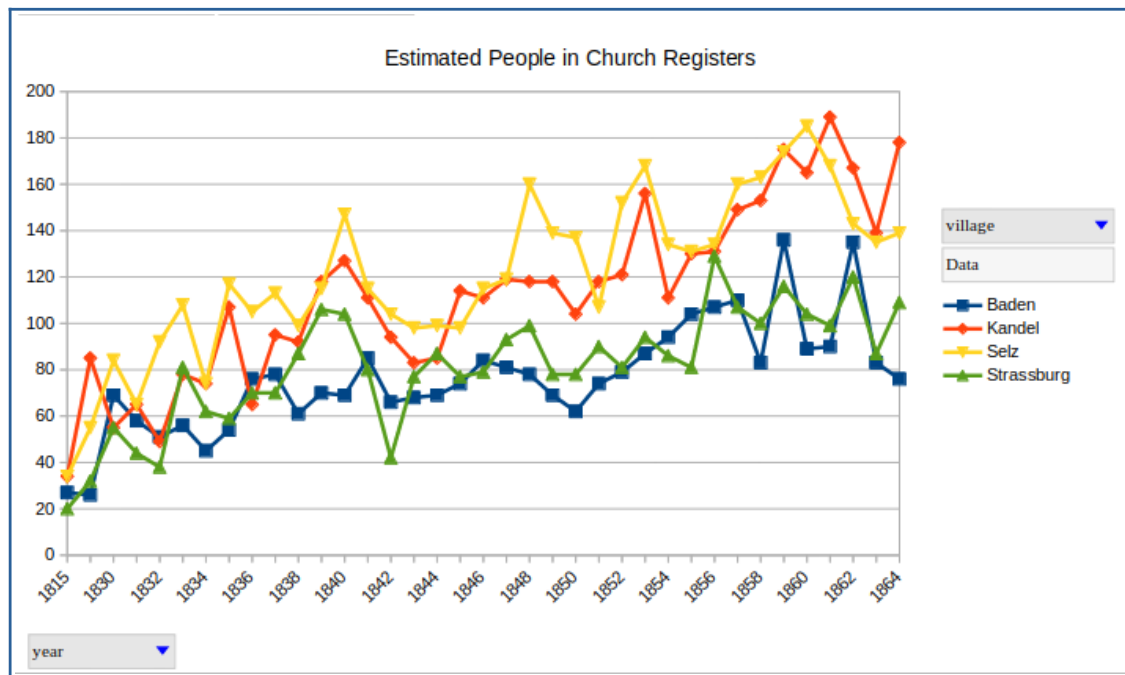


19th Century Russian Relations

Then there is a count of deaths by village and year.



As an indirect measure of the level of activity at the Selz Church, here is a plot showing the number of primary names recorded in the registers.



19th Century Russian Relations



The point of all of these graphs is to illustrate that these four villages were succeeding – one could even say flourishing. And, to illustrate further the activity at the Selz church and the fact that the four villages were not isolated, here is a list of all the locations mentioned in the records transcribed for the Selz Church thus far. It is not hard to imagine that there was enough activity to warrant opening a new church in Strassburg in 1867.

village			
Data			
Akermann	AngelindoiokaEstate	Baden	Badn
BendenEstate	Bender	Bergdorf	Blumenfeld
Bohachevo	ChutorNikolowska	ChutorPonjatowka	ChutorSchlosser
CityOfTyraspol	Czernishovski	Derevna	Derevni
DerevniSochi	Derevno	DorovniKurpino	Ednogradz
Elenovka	Elsass	EstateStobodzieie	Franzfeld
Germany	Gluckstal	Grossiebental	Holoneszt
Johannestal	Josephstal	Kandel	Kardamisch
Kassel	Kleinliebenstal	Kleinliebental	Klementinowka
Kosinka	Kuczurbanka	Kurtina	Landau
Lublin	Lustdorf	Malchanov	Mannheim
Mariental	Marienthal	Marjowka	MilzaninCherson
Mochikviens	Munchen	Nikolausthal	null
Odessa	OstrowskiEstate	Parkansy	Parkany
Podola	Podolia	Podulia	Ponjatowka
Ponjayovka	PradoLeondief	Saratov	Schlessel
Selz	Stakosova	Stetin	Stobodzieje
Strassburg	Teraspol	Tiraspol	Tirospol
Tumanov	Tumanova	Tyraspol	Viktor
VillaAndrianszowo	VillaAntonowka	VillaBobykow	VillaChadurowka
VillaCzerpina	VillaFutorowski	VillaIwanowka	VillaKatharinowka
VillaKlementinowka	VillaKlementonowka	VillaKorsinow	VillaKurpinow
VillaKursinow	VillaMajor	VillaNikolki	VillaParkanski
VillaSamokraki	VillaSczerbina	VillaSerekowka	VillaStobodzieje
VillaStobodzui	VillaWoynowa	Vilna	Wesota
Witebacensi	Woliski	Wotonensk	Zalesieski



19th Century Russian Relations



Surnames of Neighbors

In an appendix is a rather long list of the surnames of the “primary actors” in the church records. The most common names in the village of Selz, where Barbara and Johannes lived are shown below. My guess is that these are the surnames of the people with whom they were most likely to have interacted on a daily basis.

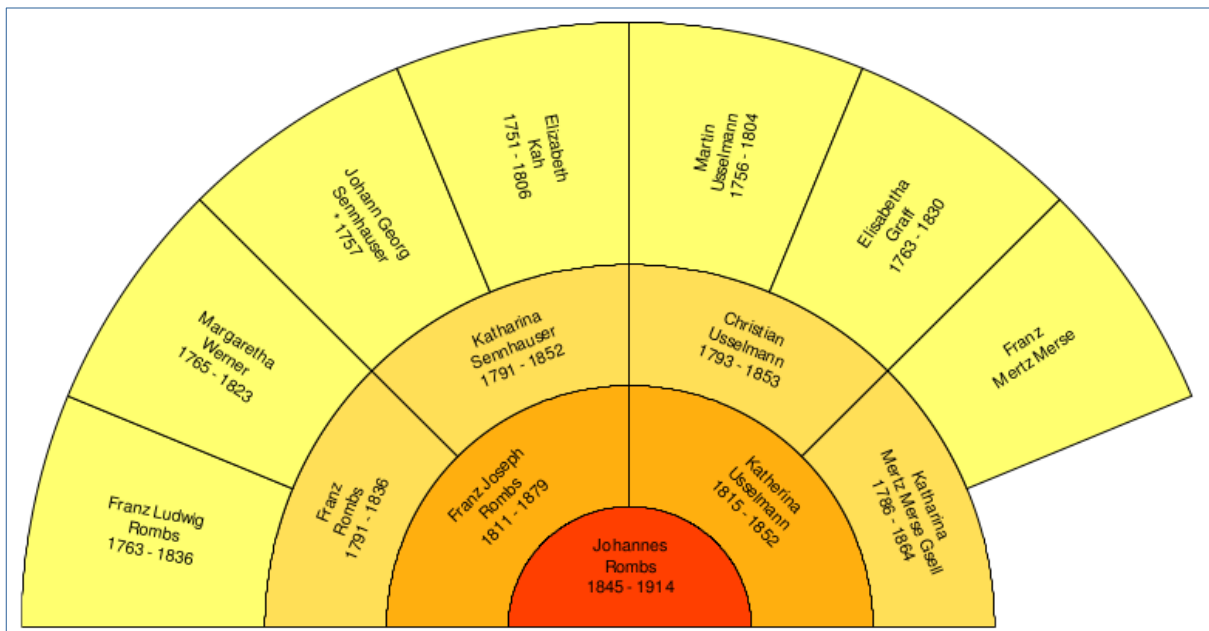
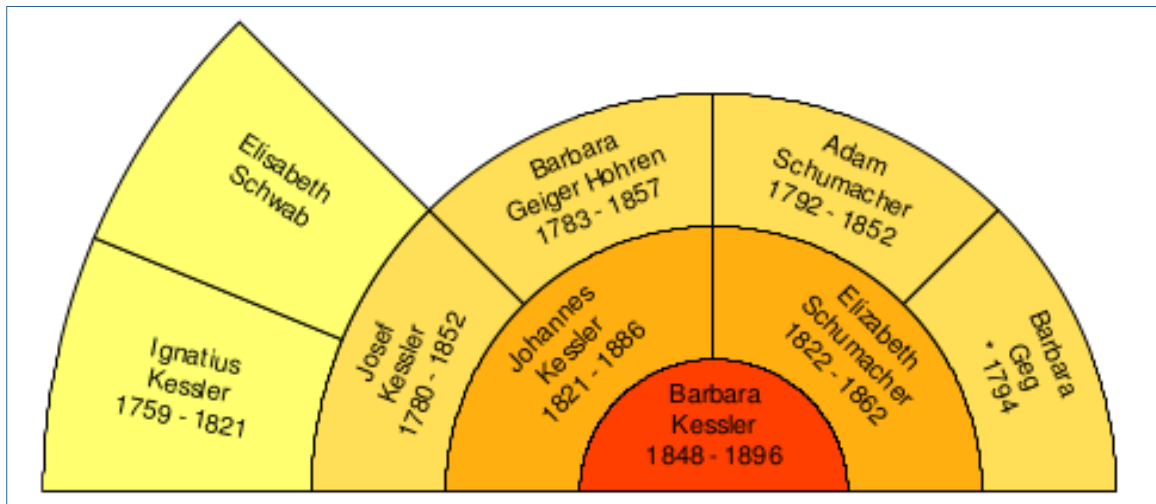
■ ANKER	■ ARTH	■ BARTLE	■ BÄTSCH	■ BAUMSTARK
■ BECHT	■ BECKER	■ BERTSCH	■ BRAUN	■ BRENDDEL
■ BROSSART	■ DEIBERT	■ DEMELET	■ DITTOR	■ DOSCH
■ EICHENLAUB	■ EISENZIMMER	■ FAHN	■ FETSCH	■ FISCHER
■ FRANK	■ FRISON	■ FUHRMANN	■ FUNK	■ GELSENLICHTER
■ GLATT	■ GOLDATE	■ GROSS	■ HARTMANN	■ HELMER
■ HERRLE	■ HIRSCH	■ HOFFART	■ HOPFINGER	■ HUBER
■ HUCK	■ HULM	■ JAKOB	■ JERGER	■ JUNDT
■ JUNG	■ KELLER	■ KESSLER	■ KIEFEL	■ KLEIN
■ KÖHLER	■ KÖSSLER	■ KRAFT	■ LEIBHAM	■ LINDEMANN
■ LOCHERT	■ MANGOLD	■ MARBACH	■ MASTIO	■ MEIER
■ MITZEL	■ MÜLLER	■ NOEL	■ OTTMANN	■ RAPPOLD
■ REISS	■ REITMEIER	■ ROMBS	■ SAHLI	■ SALVEY
■ SANDER	■ SCHALL	■ SCHERR	■ SCHLEPPE	■ SCHMIDT
■ SCHMUKEL	■ SCHNEIDER	■ SCHUMACHER	■ SITTER	■ STACHOWSKI
■ STOLZ	■ SWIDERSKI	■ THOMAS	■ USELMANN	■ USSELMANN
■ VETSCH	■ VETTER	■ VÖLLER	■ VOLZ	■ WAGNER
■ WALD	■ WEIGEL	■ WEISS	■ WEISSBECK	■ WEISSENBURGER
■ WELK	■ WENINGER	■ WERLINGER	■ WERNER	■ ZAHN
■ ZERR	■ ZINGER			



19th Century Russian Relations

Four Specific Family Lines of Settlers

My great grandfather, Johannes, was himself a great grandchild of original settlers of Selz. Franz Ludwig Rombs/Margaretha Werner and Martin Usselmann/Elisabetha Graff were two pairs of great grandparents of Johannes. Barbara was a grandchild of Josef Kessler/Barbara Geiger and Adam Schumacher/Barbara Geg. They represent the second generation of children born on Russian soil after colonization. Both Barbara and Johannes were thus native Russians, and they had no direct knowledge of Alsace. What ever they knew of their roots must have been handed down by their parents. Following are fan charts that illustrate their heritage.



19th Century Russian Relations



An appendix shows detailed listings of the descendants for each of these lines. However, in the interest of staying focused, I next want to concentrate on the family members that Barbara and Johannes would have likely been able to interact with while in Russia. The next section describes their children, aunts/uncles/parents, cousins, and nieces/nephews.

19th Century Russian Relations

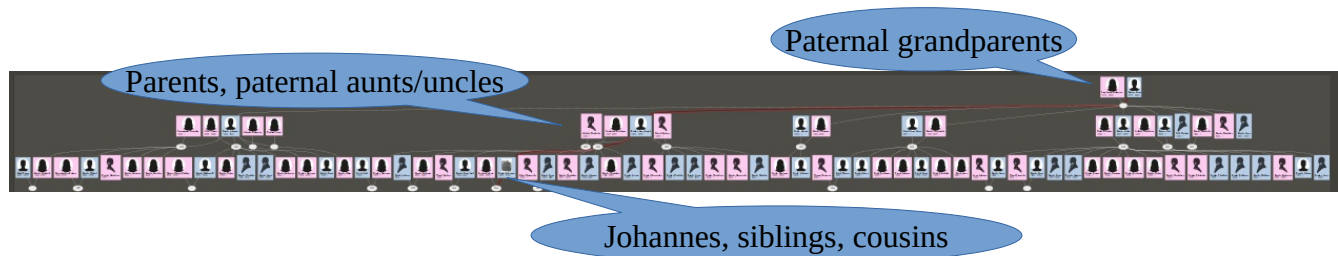


Families

Here are some details of the families of Barbara and Johannes and their contemporary relatives. The purpose is to provide a more specific way of visualizing the family members with whom they could have interacted.

I think that this is important in understanding their lives in Russia since families clearly stuck together. This is apparent in the 1852 census, where it is easy to see multiple generations living in one household. Brothers and their families are frequently seen in the same household as paternal parents. This is not always the case, but it is frequent enough to be a hint regarding the importance of family ties. See for example the Fetsch household #107, the Kessler household #49, the Rombs household #29, the Usselman household #28, and the Schumacher household #24.

In addition, families tended to be large – 8 to 10 children per couple over the course of about 20 years. This means that the number of contemporary brothers, sister, cousins, nieces, and nephews could be large. In just the case of Johannes, I have identified at least 64 brothers, sisters, and paternal line cousins that were roughly his contemporaries.



So, it is not a simple task to enumerate all, but the next sections are devoted to systematically estimating what family members they might have encountered.

As I created this section, it became apparent to me that Barbara and Johannes had many opportunities for interaction with relatives in Russia, where large families lived fairly close to each other in close, relatively insular communities. However, upon arrival in the USA, I think that this situation changed significantly for them. Johannes had no close family members nearby. His physically nearest relative was Sylvester Usselman, a maternal second cousin living in Ipswich (SD). There were other second/distant cousins in Aberdeen (SD), near Devils Lake (ND), in south Texas, and in Canada. There was probably even a distant Rombs cousin in Michigan, who migrated directly from Baden to the USA. (See the Further Research section for this document.) Barbara, however, had brothers (Josef and Rochus and Wendelin) fairly close by. Another brother, Franz, was at least for a while in ND, where her older sister, Margaretha, lived with a cousin of Johannes as well. Two half brothers (Thomas & Stefan) were temporarily in the Ipswich (SD) area. Barbara also had some maternal second cousins in Edmunds and Brown counties (SD).

You can see the details in the sections that follow.



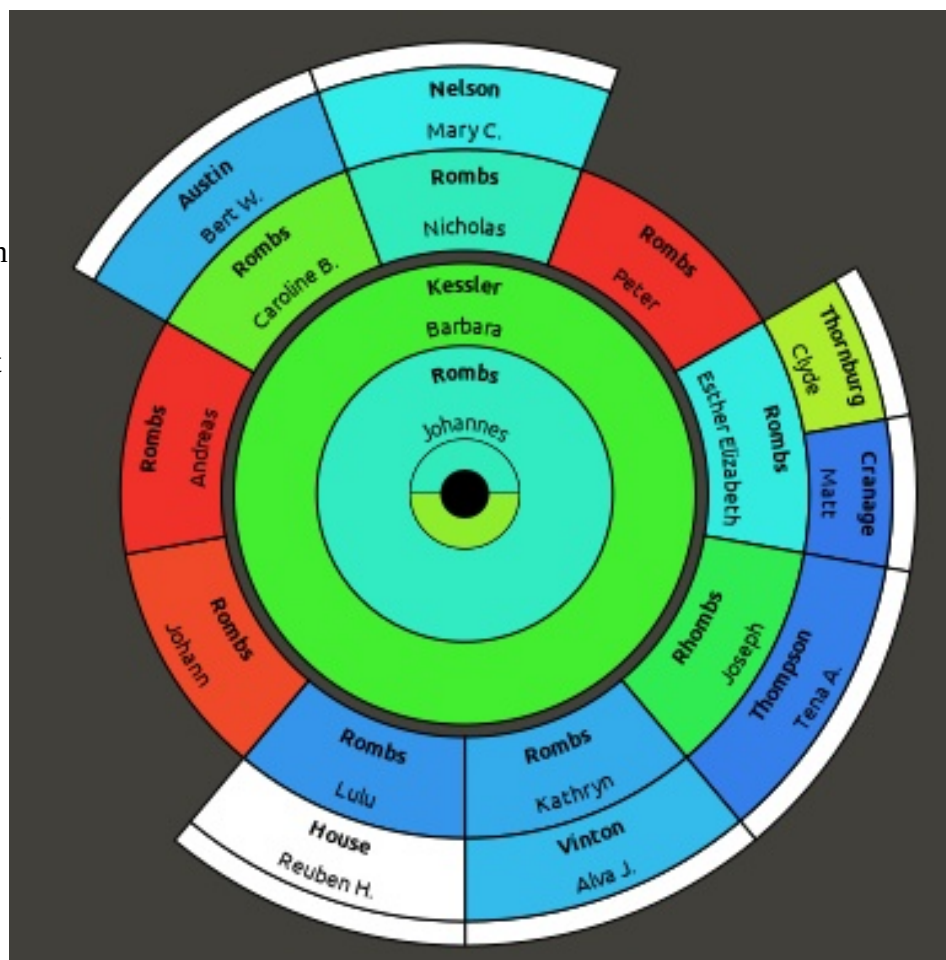


19th Century Russian Relations

Family of Barbara Kessler and Johannes Rombs

First, here is a summary of their own family, including all of their children. Note that they had seven children in Russia, four who survived to travel to the USA. Two additional children were born in South Dakota.

The descendant chart at right shows their children and spouses. The table below is a standard family group presentation showing somewhat more detail.



Family Group Report – marriage 11/7/1866

Husband: Rombs, Johannes		
Birth	1845-07-01	Selz, Russia
Death	1914-08-08	South Dakota, USA
Father	Rombs, Franz Joseph	
Mother	Usselmann, Katherina	

Wife: Kessler, Barbara		
Birth	1848-06-26	Selz, Russia
Death	1896-03-10	Wecota, Faulk, Sotuh Dakota, USA
Father	Kessler, Johannes	
Mother	Schumacher, Elizabeth	

19th Century Russian Relations



Children				
1F	Rombs, Lulu			
	Birth	1866-07-02	Selz, Russia	
	Death	1953-04-17	Faulk, South Dakota, US	
	Spouse	House, Reuben H.		
	Marriage	1886		
2M	Rombs, Johann			
	Birth	1868	Selz, Russia	
	Death	1872-06-18	Selz, Russia	
3M	Rombs, Andreas			
	Birth	1872-03-14	Selz, Russia	
	Death	1873-06-23	Selz, Russia	
4F	Rombs, Caroline B.			
	Birth	1875	Selz, Russia	
	Death	1917-02-03	Faulk, South Dakota, US	
	Spouse	Austin, Bert W.		
	Marriage	1899		
5M	Rombs, Nicholas			
	Birth	1877	Selz, Russia	
	Death	1945-09-01	Mechanicsburg, Cumberland, PA, USA	
	Spouse	Nelson, Mary C.		
	Marriage	1906-08-15	Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US	
6M	Rombs, Peter			
	Birth	1881	Selz, Russia	
	Death	1882-07-03	Selz, Russia	
7F	Rombs, Esther Elizabeth			
	Birth	1883-06-26	Selz, Russia	
	Death	1957	Aberdeen, Brown, South Dakota, US	
	Spouse	Thornburg, Clyde		
		Marriage	1903	
		Spouse	Cranage, Matt	
	Marriage	1916-03-31	Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA	
8M	Rhombs, Joseph			
	Birth	1885-11-03	Faulk, South Dakota, US	
	Death	1940-09-03	Pierre, South Dakota, US	
	Spouse	Thompson, Tena A.		
	Marriage	1910-12-24	Potter, South Dakota	
9F	Rombs, Kathryn			
	Birth	1887-03-00		
	Death	1970-12-22	Jefferson, Montana	
	Spouse	Vinton, Alva J.		



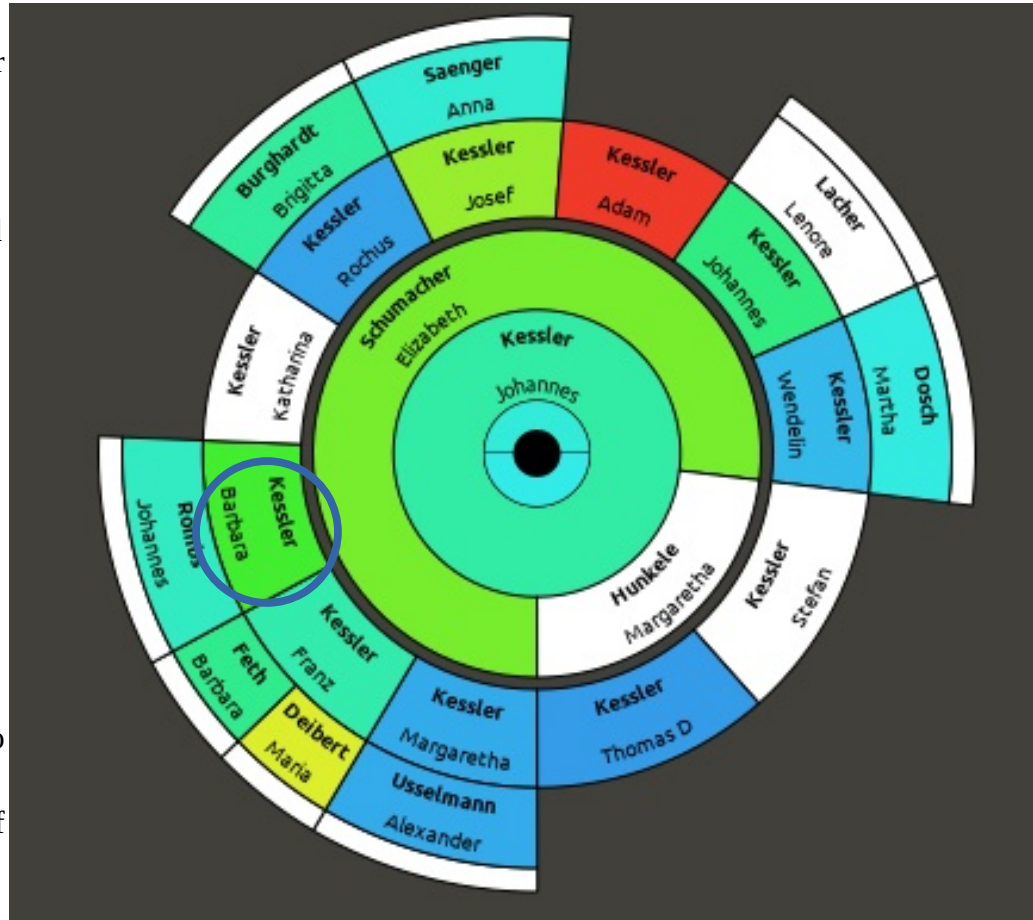
19th Century Russian Relations



Barbara: Brothers, Sisters, Nieces, & Nephews

Here is some more information about Barbara's siblings and their families. There are at least two dozen nieces and nephews. I am guessing that she did not send out birthday cards to them all!

Regarding Barbara's immediate family prior to her marriage in 1866, she had eight full brothers and sisters. One (Adam) died at the age of about 2 years, and another (Katharina) is so far unaccounted for. Of the remaining six, it appears that one stayed in Russia and the remaining emigrated to the USA. So, for at least part of her life, she was fairly close geographically to some immediate family members. Two half siblings from the marriage of her father to



Margaretha Hunkele after his first wife, Elizabeth, died are shown in the fan chart. They are not shown in the family group form below, however.

Family Group Report

Husband: Kessler, Johannes	
Birth	1852 census
	1821 Selz, Russia
Death	1886
Father	Kessler, Josef
Mother	Geiger Hohren, Barbara



19th Century Russian Relations



Marriage:		
Marriage		
	1844-11-05	Selz, Russia

Wife: Schumacher, Elizabeth		
Birth	1852 census	
	1822	Selz, Russia
Death	1862-10-29	Selz, Russia
Father	Schumacher, Adam	
Mother	Geg, Barbara	

Children		
1F	Kessler, Margaretha	
	Birth	1845-08-04 Selz, Russia
	Death	1928-10-25 McLean, North Dakota
	Spouse	Usselmann, Alexander
	Marriage	1865-11-08 Selz, Russia
2M	Kessler, Franz	
	Birth	1846-09-26 Selz, Russia
	Death	1913-04-20 Oregon
	Spouse	Deibert, Maria Anna
	Marriage	1870-10-26 Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Feth, Barbara
3F	Kessler, Barbara	
	Birth	1848-06-26 Selz, Russia
	Death	1896-03-10 Wecota, Faulk, Sotuh Dakota, USA
	Spouse	Rombs, Johannes
	Marriage	1866-11-07 Selz, Russia
4F	Kessler, Katharina	
	Birth	1850-11-25 Selz, Russia
	Death	
5M	Kessler, Rochus	
	Birth	1854-03-18 Selz, Russia
	Death	1939 South Dakota
	Spouse	Burghardt, Brigitta
	Marriage	1881-11-09 Strassburg, Russia
6M	Kessler, Josef	
	Birth	1856-03-18 Selz, Russia
	Death	1893
	Spouse	Saenger, Anna
	Marriage	1881
7M	Kessler, Adam	
	Birth	1859-01-02 Selz, Russia
	Death	1861-10-29 Selz, Russia
8M	Kessler, Johannes	



19th Century Russian Relations



	Birth	1860-11-08	Selz, Russia
	Death	1921	Kandel, Russia
	Spouse	Lacher, Lenore	
9M	Kessler, Wendelin		
	Birth	1862-10-24	Selz, Russia
	Death	1944-03-26	Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
	Spouse	Dosch, Martha	

Barbara certainly knew her older sister, **Margaretha** pictured here with her husband. Margaretha married into the Usselmann line, which was Johannes Rombs' maternal line. Margaretha and husband Alexander Usselmann (Johannes' cousin) moved their family to North Dakota, arriving in April, 1889, so it is possible that Barbara could have seen her sister in the USA before her death in 1896.



3. Kessler, Margaretha (b. 1845-08-04 - Selz, Russia, d. 1928-10-25 - McLean, North Dakota)
 - sp. Usselmann, Alexander (b. 1844 - Selz, Russia, d. 1927-06-28 - Hazen, Mercer, North Dakota), m. 1865-11-08 - Selz, Russia
 4. Usselmann, Valentine (b. 1866 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Usselmann, John (b. 1867-10-15 - Selz, Russia, d. 1944-10-07 - Calgary, Alberta, Canada)
 - sp. Detling, Marianna, m. 1894-10-11
 4. Usselmann, Anna (b. 1869-05-18 - Selz, Russia, d. 1927-05-09 - Hazen, Mercer, North Dakota)
 4. Usselmann, Margareta (b. 1872-09-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1955-02-19 - Dickenson, Stark, North Dakota)
 - sp. Geisinger, Konstantin (b. 1870-09-15 - Russia, d. 1942-02-06 - North Dakota)
 4. Usselmann, Anton (b. 1874 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Usselmann, Julianna (b. 1877-09-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1949-01-26 - Mercer, North Dakota)
 - sp. Hoepfner, Jacob (b. 1874-09-29 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1949-10-02 - Bismark, North Dakota), m. 1896-11-13 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
 5. Hipfner, Joseph (b. 1901-04-20 - Morton, North Dakota, d. 1987-10-26 - Morton, North Dakota)
 4. Usselmann, Josef (b. 1882 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Usselmann, Adam (b. 1886-06-20 - Selz, Russia, d. 1947-03-12)

19th Century Russian Relations



Franz married twice in Russia, migrated with his family to Edmunds Co., South Dakota, in 1885, then went to ND, and finally to Oregon, where he and his wife died. He was slightly older than Barbara, so they certainly played together as children. When he and his family immigrated (only about a year after Barbara and Johannes), he was close enough geographically so that the families could have interacted.

3. Kessler, Franz (b. 1846-09-26 - Selz, Russia, d. 1913-04-20 - Oregon)
sp. Deibert, Maria Anna (b. 1850 - Selz, Russia, d. 1877 - Selz, Russia), m. 1870-10-26 - Selz, Russia
 4. Kessler, Margaret Katherine (b. 1877, d. 1960)
- sp. Feth, Barbara (b. 1854, d. 1916-08-28 - Oregon)
 4. Kessler, Michael (b. 1883-07-27 - Selz, Russia, d. 1982-04-08 - Oregon)
 4. Kessler, Elizabeth Anna (b. 1886-01-18 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1950-06-22 - Oregon)

Katharina was a sister, who was slightly younger than Barbara. I have not been able to determine any details of her life.

3. Kessler, Katharina (b. 1850-11-25 - Selz, Russia)

Rochus is a (younger) brother of Barbara. He and his family came to Edmunds Co., South Dakota, in the Fall of 1888, about four years after Barbara. Once again, they were geographically close at that time, so their families probably had some interactions.



3. Kessler, Rochus (b. 1854-03-18 - Selz, Russia, d. 1939 - South Dakota)
sp. Burghardt, Brigitta (b. 1862, d. 1926 - South Dakota), m. 1881-11-09 - Strassburg, Russia
 4. Kessler, Agnesia (b. 1884)
 4. Kessler, Felix V. (b. 1888 - Russia)
 4. Kessler, John (b. 1891 - South Dakota)
 4. Kessler, Anna (b. 1896 - South Dakota)
 4. Kessler, Anton (b. 1899 - South Dakota)
 4. Kessler, Sebastian (b. 1901-11-25 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1982-02-02 - Montana)

Following is a transcription of an obituary for Rochus that appeared in the *Aberdeen American News*.

Rochus Kessler, 216 N. Jay, died Sunday, April 16, 1939, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. James Frison. He was 85 years old. Born in Odessa, Russia, on March 19, 1854, Mr. Kessler settled at Ipswich in 1888, farming there for many years. In 1902, he moved to Leola and in 1909, when he retired, he moved to Aberdeen. Surviving are five children, Felix Kessler, Anoka, Minn.; John Kessler, Leola; Anton Kessler, LaCrosse, Wis.; Mrs. James Frison, Aberdeen; Sebastian Kessler, Great Falls, Mont.; three brothers, Wendlin, of Ipswich; Tom, Tigard, Ore.; Steve, Portland, Ore.; 17 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. His wife and one daughter died previously.

19th Century Russian Relations



Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's church with the Rev. Fr. H. Hoerner officiating. Burial will be at St. Mary's cemetery. Rosary will be said at the family home Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Josef married Anna Saenger/Senger, who stayed in Ipswich after Josef's death in 1893. I have researched this family, but I have never found out where or how Josef died. They immigrated to Edmunds Co. in 1885, and there is no question (based on family notes) that the Rombs and Senger families visited each other. The picture of the family at right was taken around 1900 in South Dakota.



3. Kessler, Josef (b. 1856-03-18 - Selz, Russia, d. 1893)
sp. Saenger, Anna (b. 1858-11-29 - Strassburg, Russia, d. 1930 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA), m. 1881
 4. Kessler, Edith (b. 1882-07-22 - Russia, d. 1974-04-00 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
 4. Kessler, Frances (b. 1884-12-00, d. 1963 - Aberdeen, Brown, South Dakota)
sp. Silbernagel, Leonard L. (b. 1884-12-20, d. 1953), m. 1909-11-10 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
 4. Kessler, Lizzie (b. 1887-02-17 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1901-12-17 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
 4. Kessler, Joseph (b. 1889-01-06 - Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 1983-01-21 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
 4. Kessler, Anna (b. 1891-02-00 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1926)
sp. Blank, Martin L. (b. 1883-10-07, d. 1971-10-00), m. 1914-02-10 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
 4. Kessler, Katie (b. 1894-05-00 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1960 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
sp. Blank, Carl R. (b. 1886, d. 1987 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA), m. 1919-11-27 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA

Barbara's brother **Adam** was born in Russia and died there, just shy of 2 years old.

3. Kessler, Adam (b. 1859-01-02 - Selz, Russia, d. 1861-10-29 - Selz, Russia)

19th Century Russian Relations



Johannes married in Selz to a Lenore Lacher. They stayed and died in Russia, but I believe that a son, Andreas, made it to Emmons Co., ND in 1904.

3. Kessler, Johannes (b. 1860-11-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1921 - Kandel, Russia)
sp. Lacher, Lenore
4. Kessler, Andreas (b. 1886-04-15 - Kandel, Russia, d. 1934-12-28)

Pictured below is part of Andreas' application for citizenship in 1906 in Emmons Co., ND.

I arrived at the port of New York, in the State of New York, on or about the 24th day of July, anno Domini 1904; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein:
SO HELP ME GOD.

Andreas Kessler
(Original signature of declarant.)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27th day of October, anno Domini 1906.

[SEAL.]

Wendelin made it to Edmunds Co., SD, with Rochus in 1888. Most of his children that survived were born after Barbara's death, but she still could have interacted with Wendelin and his wife Martha in South Dakota.

3. Kessler, Wendelin (b. 1862-10-24 - Selz, Russia, d. 1944-03-26 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
sp. Dosch, Martha (b. 1875-05-05 - Kandel, Russia, d. 1949-02-16 - Aberdeen, Brown, South Dakota)
 4. Kessler, Margaret (b. 1896-01-08, d. 1896-03-16)
 4. Kessler, Stephen (b. 1897-07-26, d. 1897-08-20)
 4. Kessler, Katherine M. (b. 1899-07-29 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1997-11-05)
 4. Kessler, John (b. 1901-09-27 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1977-03-03)
 4. Kessler, Michael (b. 1903-06-08 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
 4. Kessler, Regina (b. 1905-09-28, d. 1906-02-04)
 4. Kessler, Bernard (b. 1907-08-19 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1992-09-19 - Brown, South Dakota)
 4. Kessler, Sylvester (b. 1911-08-10, d. 1916-01-14)
 4. Kessler, Anna Marie (b. 1915-01-14 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 2004-06-26)
 4. Kessler, Wendelin (b. 1917-12-08 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1991-12-08)

19th Century Russian Relations



Stefan (a half brother) came to Edmunds Co. with Rochus in 1888. He traveled to Oregon like his brothers Thomas and Franz. His wife's name was Anna.

3. Kessler, Stefan (b. 1868 - Selz, Russia)

Thomas (another half brother) also traveled with Rochus to the US in 1888. He married a lady named Anna Ochs in 1896, and they settled in Oregon, but I have not followed any of the details. (The photo at right is from an ancestry.com account owned by "lesengle.")



3. Kessler, Thomas D (b. 1870-02-20 - Selz, Russia, d. 1956-01-31 - Oregon)

So, a conclusion to be drawn from all of this is that Barbara had many siblings fairly close to her before and after coming to South Dakota. Some did not stay long in the Dakotas and moved to Oregon. I think that this knowledge has been lost over time. Wouldn't it be interesting to discover correspondence that explained their thoughts and showed what they shared with siblings?

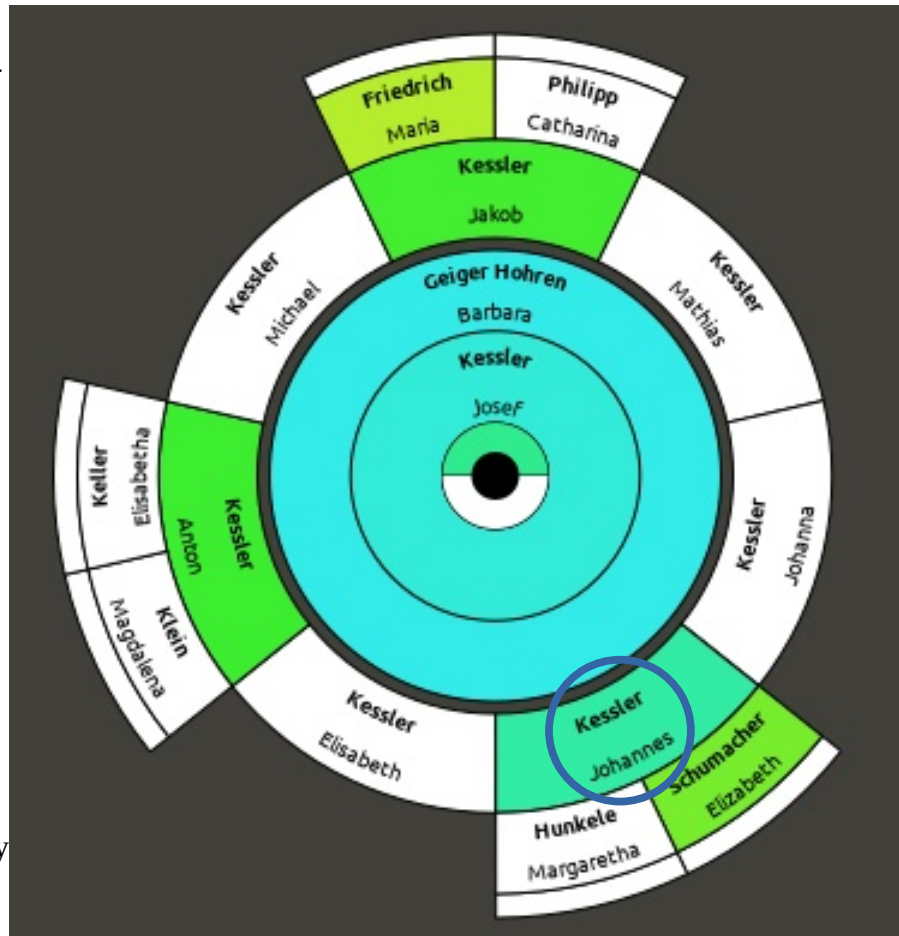
19th Century Russian Relations



Barbara: Aunts, Uncles, & Cousins

The next tables show some information about the families of Barbara's parents. The purpose is to identify aunts, uncles, and cousins that she might have known during her life in Russia (i.e., 1848-1884).

At the right is a descendant fan chart. The ring that includes Barbara's father (Johannes Kessler) includes her paternal aunts and uncles. The inner blue rings represent her paternal grandparents.



Next is a form showing the family of her paternal grandparents.

Family Group Report

Husband: Kessler, Josef	
Birth	1813 census
	1780
Death	pg. 23 of "Kesslers and Sahlis" by Sister Ann Kessler
	1852 Selz, Russia
Father	Kessler, Ignatius
Mother	Schwab, Elisabeth



19th Century Russian Relations



Marriage:		
Marriage		

Wife: Geiger Hohen, Barbara		
Birth	1813 census	
	1783	
Death	1857-09-07	Selz, Russia
Father		
Mother		

Children		
1F	Kessler, Elisabeth	
	Birth	1801
	Death	
2M	Kessler, Anton	
	Birth	1805 Leimersheim, Germany, Pfalz, Germany
	Death	1853 Kandel, Russia
	Spouse	Klein, Magdalena
	Marriage	1831-11-23 Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Keller, Elisabetha
3M	Kessler, Michael	
	Birth	1807
	Death	
4M	Kessler, Jakob	
	Birth	1810
	Death	1857-02-28
	Spouse	Friedrich, Maria Elisabetha
	Marriage	1841-11-16 Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Philipp, Catharina Marriage 1853-05-11 Selz, Russia
5M	Kessler, Mathias	
	Birth	1812
	Death	
6F	Kessler, Johanna	
	Birth	1815-02-17 Selz, Russia
	Death	
7M	Kessler, Johannes	
	Birth	1821 Selz, Russia
	Death	1886
	Spouse	Schumacher, Elizabeth
	Marriage	1844-11-05 Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Hunkele, Margaretha Marriage 1866-01-24 Selz, Russia



19th Century Russian Relations



Barbara had four uncles and two aunts on her paternal side. How many of these she actually knew and interacted with is really unknown, partly because records are incomplete or undiscovered. You could speculate that she knew some paternal cousins. Here is a list of her paternal aunts and uncles and some of their offspring. It is clear that Barbara had many first-order paternal cousins, at least some of whom made the journey to Canada and the USA. Her uncle Jakob's line is the most promising in this regard.

2. Kessler, Elisabeth (b. 1801)
2. Kessler, Anton (b. 1805 - Leimersheim, Germany, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1853 - Kandel, Russia)
 - sp. Klein, Magdalena (d. 1846), m. 1831-11-23 - Selz, Russia
 3. Kessler, Franz (b. 1835)
 - sp. Ott, Elisabetha (b. 1831 - Kleinliebental, Russia), m. 1854-09-20 - Selz, Russia
 4. Kessler, Johannes (b. 1866 - Kandel, Russia)
 - sp. Schwengler, Eleonora (b. 1865 - Kandel, Russia), m. 1886-01-26 - Selz, Russia
 3. Kessler, Gertruda (b. 1838)
 3. Kessler, Barbara (b. 1841)
 3. Kessler, Georg (b. 1843)
- sp. Keller, Elisabetha (b. 1822)
 3. Kessler, Daria (b. 1849)
 3. Kessler, Johannes (b. 1854 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Gelsenlicht, Magdalena (b. 1854), m. 1876-11-21 - Selz, Russia
2. Kessler, Michael (b. 1807)
2. Kessler, Jakob (b. 1810, d. 1857-02-28)
 - sp. Friedrich, Maria Elisabetha (b. 1821 - Mannheim, Russia, d. 1853-02-11 - Selz, Russia), m. 1841-11-16 - Selz, Russia
 3. Kessler, Genoveva (b. 1842-08-05 - Selz, Russia, d. 1924-04-15 - Canada)
 - sp. Hoepfner, Johannes (b. 1841-03-25 - Russia, d. 1922-07-01 - Canada), m. 1863-10-14 - Selz, Russia
 4. Hoepfner, Regina (b. 1868)
 4. Hoepfner, Jacob (b. 1874-09-29 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1949-10-02 - Bismark, North Dakota)
 - sp. Usselmann, Julianna (b. 1877-09-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1949-01-26 - Mercer, North Dakota), m. 1896-11-13 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
 5. Hipfner, Joseph (b. 1901-04-20 - Morton, North Dakota, d. 1987-10-26 - Morton, North Dakota)
 4. Hoepfner, Helena (b. 1881)
 4. Hoepfner, Anton
 3. Kessler, Ignatz (b. 1844)
 3. Kessler, Marianna (b. 1846)
 3. Kessler, Josef (b. 1847-12-12 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Kessler, Ludwig (b. 1849-09-22 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Fischer, Elisabetha (b. 1853-03-15 - Selz, Russia), m. 1872-10-18 - Selz, Russia
 3. Kessler, Nicholas (b. 1851-07-06 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Schwartz, Mary
 4. Kesler, John Nicholas (b. 1872, d. 1951)
 - sp. Hoffart, Mary Ann (b. 1881, d. 1947)
 5. Kesler, Wilhem (b. 1900, d. 1927)
 5. Kesler, John (b. 1901, d. 1952)
 5. Kesler, Elizabeth (b. 1903, d. 1984)
 5. Kesler, Mary (b. 1905, d. 1927)
 5. Kesler, Frank (b. 1907, d. 1958)
 5. Kesler, Joseph (b. 1909, d. 1984)
 5. Kesler, Herman (b. 1911, d. 1987)
 5. Kesler, Edward (b. 1914, d. 1972)
 5. Kesler, Nicholas (b. 1918, d. 1978)



19th Century Russian Relations



3. Kessler, Wendelin (b. 1852-09-12 - Selz, Russia)
3. Kessler, Sebastian (b. 1853-02-01 - Selz, Russia)
- sp. Philipp, Catharina (b. 1833), m. 1853-05-11 - Selz, Russia
3. Kessler, Catharina (b. 1855-05-03 - Selz, Russia)
3. Kessler, Gertruda (b. 1857-03-19 - Selz, Russia)
2. Kessler, Mathias (b. 1812)
2. Kessler, Johanna (b. 1815-02-17 - Selz, Russia)

19th Century Russian Relations



Here is the family of Barbara's maternal grandparents. She eight aunts and uncles and LOTS of cousins on her maternal side.



Family Group Report

Husband: Schumacher, Adam	
Birth	1816 census
	1792
Death	?? Selz Church records??
	1852
Father	
Mother	

Marriage:	
Marriage	1813?
	Selz, Russia

Wife: Geg, Barbara	
Birth	1816 census
	1794
Death	
Father	
Mother	



19th Century Russian Relations



Children			
1M	Schumacher, Jakob		
	Birth	1814	Selz, Russia
	Death		
2M	Schumacher, Philipp		
	Birth	1817 or 1814 (preferred)	
	Death	1872-12-30	Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Hartmann, Magdalena	
3M	Schumacher, Theodor		
	Birth	1816	Selz, Russia
	Death	1816	Selz, Russia
4M	Schumacher, Theodor		
	Birth	1818	
	Death	1864	
	Spouse	Braun, Marianna	
5F	Schumacher, Elizabeth		
	Birth	1822	Selz, Russia
	Death	1862-10-29	Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Kessler, Johannes	
	Marriage	1844-11-05	Selz, Russia
6M	Schumacher, Sebastian		
	Birth	<u>1827 or 1828</u>	
	Death	1903	Russia
7F	Schumacher, Margaretha		
	Birth	1829	Selz, Russia
	Death	<u>1862</u>	
8M	Schumacher, Anton		
	Birth	1831	Selz, Russia
	Death	1834	Selz, Russia
9M	Schumacher, Adam		
	Birth	1834-10-10	Selz, Russia
	Death	1900-12-30	Zeeland, McIntosh, North Dakota

From this information it appears that Barbara had seven maternal uncles and one maternal aunt. Following is a list of maternal aunts, uncles, and some cousins. Many of Barbara's maternal uncles and aunts are interesting as people that she would have known in Russia and possibly the Dakotas. Some notes are embedded in the list in ***bold italics***.

2. Schumacher, Jakob (b. 1814 - Selz, Russia)
2. Schumacher, Philipp (b. 1817, d. 1872-12-30 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Hartmann, Magdalena (b. 1817, d. 1888 - Mannheim, Russia)
 - 3. Schumacher, Franz – ***NOTE: A son (Andreas) made it to Rugby, ND. Married Catharina Volk.***
 - 3. Schumacher, Maria Ann (b. 1839, d. 1840)
 - 3. Schumacher, Johannes (b. 1841 - Selz, Russia, d. 1898 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Schumacher, Thomas (b. 1843 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Schumacher, Anton (b. 1846 - Selz, Russia)

19th Century Russian Relations



3. Schumacher, Philipp (b. 1847 - Selz, Russia, d. 1907 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Mack, Elizabeth (b. 1848, d. 1935) – **Note: Elizabeth died in Brown Co., SD.**
 4. Schumacher, Josephine
 4. Schumacher, Johannes
 4. Schumacher, Anna Maria
 4. Schumacher, Anton – **Note: He and his families made it to Brown Co., SD.**
 4. Schumacher, Marianna
 4. Schumacher, Franz – **Note: He and his family made it to Brown Co., SD.**
 4. Schumacher, Magdalena - **Note: She and her family made it to McHenry Co., ND.**
 4. Schumacher, Margaretha (b. 1887, d. 1968) - **Note: She and her family made it to WA.**
 - sp. Weninger, George (b. 1882, d. 1958)
 4. Schumacher, Josephine
 4. Schumacher, Martina- **Note: She and her family made it to McHenry Co., ND.**
- sp. Weninger, Helena
 4. Schumacher, Philipp (b. 1868)
 - sp. Usselmann, Theresa (b. 1876)
3. Schumacher, Margaretha (b. 1853 - Selz, Russia)
3. Schumacher, Martha Josefa (b. 1855 - Selz, Russia, d. 1927 – Russia) – **Note: Some of her children made it to WA and ND.**
2. Schumacher, Theodor (b. 1816 - Selz, Russia, d. 1816 - Selz, Russia)
2. Schumacher, Theodor (b. 1818, d. 1864)
 - sp. Braun, Marianna (b. 1817, d. 1864)
 3. Schumacher, Jakob (b. 1840) – **Note: Daughter Elisabetha and family made it to ND and SD.**
 3. Schumacher, Elisabetha (b. 1843)
 3. Schumacher, Klara (b. 1845) – **Note: Some of Klara’s children made it to SD and ND.**
 3. Schumacher, Barbara (b. 1848) – **Note: Barbara and husband made it to ND.**
 3. Schumacher, Joseph Theodor (b. 1850) – **Note: His wife and family made it to ND and WA.**
 3. Schumacher, Sebastian (b. 1853) – **Note: His wife and family made it to ND and SD.**
 3. Schumacher, Paul (b. 1856) **Note: His wife and family made it to ND and SD.**
 3. Schumacher, Adam (b. 1858, d. 1920 - Strasburg, North Dakota)
 - sp. Wolf, Marianna (b. 1863, d. 1894) **Note: His wives and families made it to ND, SD, and MN.**
 4. Schumacher, John J. (b. 1884-03-19 - Selz, Russia, d. 1944-08-06 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
 - sp. Biegler, Theresa (b. 1889, d. 1971 - Aberdeen, Brown, South Dakota), m. 1910-05-10 - Leola, McPherson, North Dakota
 5. Schumacher, Adam P.
 5. Schumacher, Mary Elizabeth
 5. Schumacher, Kathryn Margaret
 5. Schumacher, Michael P. - tom’s dad
 5. Schumacher, Paul
 5. Schumacher, Anna
 5. Schumacher, John P.
 5. Schumacher, Elizabeth
 5. Schumacher, Lydia k.
 5. Schumacher, Joseph John
 5. Schumacher, Delores
 5. Schumacher, Celestine Albert
 5. Schumacher, Theresa
 5. Schumacher, Andrew
 - sp. Wolf, Marianna (b. 1867, d. 1951)
 5. Schumacher, Mary
 5. Schumacher, Veronica
 5. Schumacher, Elizabeth Ann

19th Century Russian Relations



4. Schumacher, Joseph (b. 1887, d. 1982 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
4. Schumacher, Anna (b. 1889, d. 1982 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
2. Schumacher, Sebastian (b. 1827, d. 1903 - Russia)
2. Schumacher, Margaretha (b. 1829 - Selz, Russia) – **Note: A child (*Markus Werner*) made it to SD.**
2. Schumacher, Anton (b. 1831 - Selz, Russia, d. 1834 - Selz, Russia)
2. Schumacher, Adam (b. 1834-10-10 - Selz, Russia, d. 1900-12-30 - Zeeland, McIntosh, North Dakota) – **Note: He and his family made it to the Dakotas and WA.**

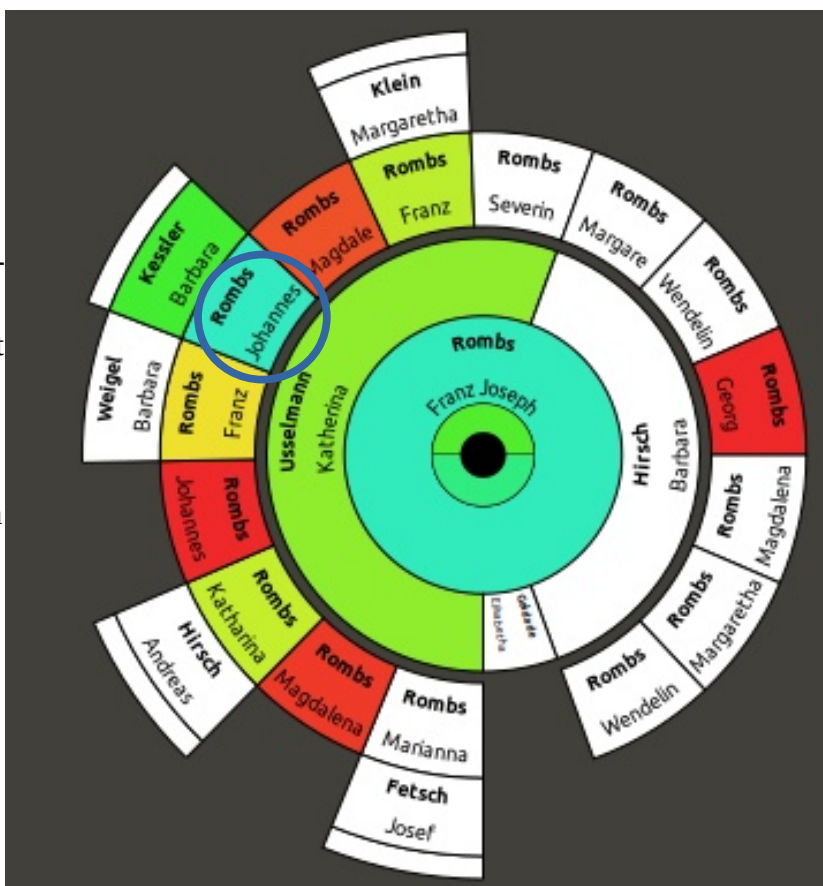


19th Century Russian Relations

Johannes: Brothers, Sisters, Nieces, & Nephews

Johannes' father (Franz Joseph) was married three times. As a result Johannes had some half-siblings.

Here is his father's first family (of which Johannes was a part). In this family alone, Johannes had nine brothers and sisters. Not all survived long enough for him to have known them at all or well. A first "Magdalena" child and a first "Johannes" child died before the next Johannes was born in 1845. A second Magdalena died when Johannes was just about eight years old. Lastly, I have found no information about the fate of a younger brother named Severin.



Family Group Report

Husband: Rombs, Franz Joseph		
Birth	1816 census	
	1811	Selz, Russia
Death	1879-07-12	Selz, Russia
Father	Rombs, Franz	
Mother	Sennhauser, Katharina	

Marriage:		
Marriage	1834-10-21	Selz, Russia

Wife: Usselmann, Katherina		
Birth	1815-03-12	Selz, Russia
Death	1852-07-18	Selz, Russia
Father	Usselmann, Christian	
Mother	Mertz Merse Gsell, Katharina	



19th Century Russian Relations



Children			
1F	Rombs, Marianna		
	Birth	1835-09-17	Selz, Russia
	Death		
	Spouse	Fetsch, Josef	
	Marriage	1854-10-18	
2F	Rombs, Magdalena		
	Birth	1837-03-18	Selz, Russia
	Death	1839-06-17	Selz, Russia
3F	Rombs, Katharina		
	Birth	1838-09-23	Selz, Russia
	Death	1869-04-22	Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Hirsch, Andreas	
	Marriage	1858-10-13	Selz, Russia
4M	Rombs, Johannes		
	Birth	1840-02-08	Selz, Russia
	Death	1840-12-04	Selz, Russia
5M	Rombs, Franz Josef		
	Birth	1842-03-19	Selz, Russia
	Death	1865-12-10	Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Weigel, Barbara	
	Marriage	1864-10-19	Selz, Russia
6M	Rombs, Johannes		
	Birth	1845-07-01	Selz, Russia
	Death	1914-08-08	South Dakota, USA
	Spouse	Kessler, Barbara	
	Marriage	1866-11-07	Selz, Russia
7F	Rombs, Magdalena		
	Birth	1848-02-17	Selz, Russia
	Death	1853-10-15	Selz, Russia
8M	Rombs, Franz		
	Birth	1849-08-16	Selz, Russia
	Death	1880-12-07	Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Klein, Margaretha	
	Marriage	1874-10-27	Selz, Russia
9M	Rombs, Severin		
	Birth	1852-05-21	Selz, Russia
	Death		



19th Century Russian Relations



Regarding siblings that Johannes could have known. -

His older sister, **Marianna** married Josef Fetsch in 1854. Their daughter, Margaretha, (Johannes' niece) married Jakob Goldade in 1877 and eventually moved to the USA (ND), dying in 1951 in Beulah, ND. I have not tracked the other nieces and nephews to determine if they emigrated.

2. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1835-09-17 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Fetsch, Josef (b. 1831), m. 1854-10-18
 3. Fetsch, Katharina (b. 1855)
 3. Fetsch, Michael (b. 1858)
 3. Fetsch, Bernhard (b. 1859)
 3. Fetsch, Magdalena (b. 1860)
 3. Fetsch, Josef (b. 1864)
 3. Fetsch, Margaretha (b. 1856-11-01 - Selz, Russia)

Sister **Katharina** married Andreas Hirsch in 1858, when Johannes was young. Katharina died in 1869 in Russia, but I have not done enough research to determine what became of her children.

2. Rombs, Katharina (b. 1838-09-23 - Selz, Russia, d. 1869-04-22 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Hirsch, Andreas (b. 1836 - Selz, Russia), m. 1858-10-13 - Selz, Russia
 3. Hirsch, Anna
 3. Hirsch, Pilomena

Brother **Franz Joseph** did not survive long (dying just about a year after his marriage), but Johannes could have known him in Russia when Johannes was young.

2. Rombs, Franz Josef (b. 1842-03-19 - Selz, Russia, d. 1865-12-10 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Weigel, Barbara (b. 1843 - Selz, Russia), m. 1864-10-19 - Selz, Russia

Lastly, there is a younger brother **Franz**, who was about four years younger. Again, I presume that they knew each other well. However, brother Franz died about four years before Johannes and his family emigrated. I have not tracked Franz' offspring to determine what became of them.

2. Rombs, Franz (b. 1849-08-16 - Selz, Russia, d. 1880-12-07 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Klein, Margaretha (b. 1854 - Selz, Russia), m. 1874-10-27 - Selz, Russia
 3. Rombs, Ferdinand (b. 1875)
 3. Rombs, Elisabetha (b. 1877)
 3. Rombs, Katharina

19th Century Russian Relations



With just circumstantial evidence I presume that Johannes' mother Katherina died shortly after the birth of the child named Severin noted above. (Her death in July, 1852, followed his birth by just two months.) In just over a year (on 10/12/1853) Johannes' father Franz Joseph married a much younger Barbara Hirsch. Together they had a family consisting of six half siblings to Johannes. They are shown below.

Family Group Report

Husband: Rombs, Franz Joseph		
Birth	1816 census	
	1811	Selz, Russia
Death	1879-07-12	Selz, Russia
Father	Rombs, Franz	
Mother	Sennhauser, Katharina	

Marriage:		
Marriage	1853-10-12	Selz, Russia

Wife: Hirsch, Barbara		
Birth	est. from marriage doc.	
	1833	Selz, Russia
Death		
Father	Hirsch, Andreas	
Mother	Rappold, Magdalena	

Children		
1F	Rombs, Margaretha	
	Birth	1856-11-28 Selz, Russia
	Death	
2M	Rombs, Wendelin	
	Birth	1858-02-23 Selz, Russia
	Death	
3M	Rombs, Georg	
	Birth	1859-09-16 Selz, Russia
	Death	1859-10-14 Selz, Russia
4F	Rombs, Magdalena	
	Birth	1860-11-19 Selz, Russia
	Death	
5F	Rombs, Margaretha	
	Birth	1862-06-14 Selz, Russia
	Death	
6M	Rombs, Wendelin	
	Birth	1863-09-18 Selz, Russia
	Death	



19th Century Russian Relations



Of all of these, the only one that I have been able to trace is **Magdalena**, who married Xavieri Senger b. 1858 of Strassburg. Their children are thought to be . . .

- Mary Magdalena Senger, who stayed in and died in Russia.
- Joseph Senger, who emigrated and ended up in Alberta, dying there in 1953.
- Johannes Senger, who also emigrated and ended up in Los Angeles, dying there in 1962.
- Barbara Senger, who may have married Joseph Schmaltz b.1896.

19th Century Russian Relations



Franz Joseph's second wife (Barbara Hirsch) must have died time time after 1863, after which he married as indicated as follows. Thus ended the long line of 16 children attributable to Franz Joseph Rombs!

Family Group Report – Third Marriage 4/24/1877

Husband: Rombs, Franz Joseph	
Birth	1816 census
	1811 Selz, Russia
Death	1879-07-12 Selz, Russia
Father	Rombs, Franz
Mother	Sennhauser, Katharina

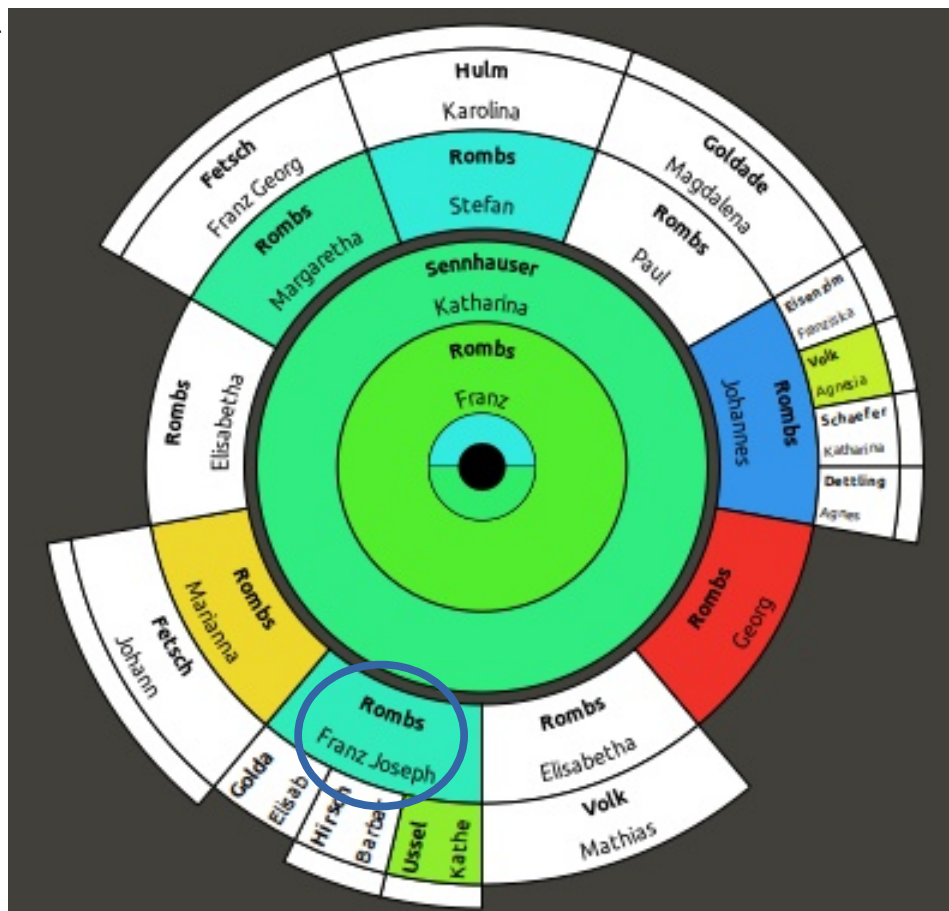
Wife: Goldade, Elisabetha	
Birth	est. based on marriage doc. (w/FranzJoseph Rombs)
	1817
Death	
Father	
Mother	

19th Century Russian Relations



Johannes: Aunts, Uncles, & Cousins

Johannes had quite a few paternal aunts, uncles, and cousins but relatively few maternal ones. Here are paternal aunts, uncles, and cousins.



Family Group Report

Husband: Rombs, Franz	
Birth	kaidenburg, alsace; https://www.meyersgaz.org/place/10912020 ??
	1791
Death	1836-02-13 Selz, Russia
Father	Rombs, Franz Ludwig
Mother	Werner, Margaretha

Marriage:	
Marriage	
Immigration	20151231 email from Dennis Roth conveying info from the Saratov Archives (from Kessel-dorf, Elsass)
	1808-06-22 Selz, Russia

Wife: Sennhauser, Katharina	
Birth	1791-02-09



19th Century Russian Relations



Death	1852	Selz, Russia
Father	Sennhauser, Johann Georg	
Mother	Kah, Elizabeth	

Children		
1M	Rombs, Franz Joseph	
	Birth	1811 Selz, Russia
	Death	1879-07-12 Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Usselmann, Katherina
	Marriage	1834-10-21 Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Hirsch, Barbara
	Marriage	1853-10-12 Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Goldade, Elisabetha
2F	Rombs, Marianna	
	Birth	1812 Selz, Russia
	Death	1834-09-11 Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Fetsch, Johann
3F	Rombs, Elisabetha	
	Birth	1814 Selz, Russia
4F	Rombs, Margaretha	
	Birth	1815-09-25 Selz, Russia
	Death	1879-12-29 Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Fetsch, Franz Georg
5M	Rombs, Stefan	
	Birth	1819 Selz, Russia
	Death	1891 Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Hulm, Karolina
6M	Rombs, Paul	
	Birth	1825 Selz, Russia
	Death	
	Spouse	Goldade, Magdalena
7M	Rombs, Johannes	
	Birth	1826 Selz, Russia
	Death	1913 Blumenfeld, Russia
	Spouse	Eisenzimmer, Franziska
	Marriage	1858-10-06 Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Volk, Agnesia
	Marriage	1845-09-16 Selz, Russia



19th Century Russian Relations



	Spouse	Schaefer, Katharina	
	Spouse	Dettling, Agnes	
8M	Rombs, Georg		
	Birth	1832-02-02	Selz, Russia
	Death	1833-09-03	Selz, Russia
9F	Rombs, Elisabetha		
	Birth	1834-04-25	Selz, Russia
	Death		
	Spouse	Volk, Mathias	
	Marriage	1855-01-17	Selz, Russia

I believe that it is true that none of the following aunts and uncles emigrated. However, it is likely that at least some of Johannes' paternal cousins did.

His father's sister, Marianna married into the Fetsch family (as did one of Johannes' sisters). I have not followed this family in detail.

2. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1812 - Selz, Russia, d. 1834-09-11 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Fetsch, Johann (b. 1812), m. 1833-11-05
 3. Fetsch, Marianna (b. 1833-11-14 - Selz, Russia, d. 1833)
 3. Fetsch, Johannes (b. 1834-09-03 - Selz, Russia)

Aunt Margaretha had a number of children with another Fetsch family member (a son of the first mayor of Selz if I have my information correct). The children could have interacted with Johannes as some were of about the same age as Johannes.

2. Rombs, Margaretha (b. 1815-09-25 - Selz, Russia, d. 1879-12-29 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Fetsch, Franz Georg (b. 1813 - Selz, Russia), m. 1838-11-06 - Selz, Russia
 3. Fetsch, Johann (b. 1839)
 3. Fetsch, Katharina (b. 1842-05-24 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Fetsch, Thomas (b. 1844-12-21 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Wagner, Marianna (b. 1848), m. 1866-11-07
 3. Fetsch, Julianna (b. 1847-05-03 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Fetsch, Franz (b. 1850 - Selz, Russia, d. 1911-04-25 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Fetsch, Elizabetha (b. 1852 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Fetsch, Anna (b. 1854-03-27 - Selz, Russia)

Stefan is an uncle that had many children and who stayed in Russia. At least some of his children emigrated, however. Georg immigrated to North Dakota (near Devils Lake). And, I believe that Anton's son Walter b. 1874 immigrated to Brown Co., South Dakota.

2. Rombs, Stefan (b. 1819 - Selz, Russia, d. 1891 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Hulm, Karolina (b. 1822), m. 1838-11-06 - Selz, Russia
 3. Rombs, Franz (b. 1839, d. 1840)
 3. Rombs, Anton (b. 1840)
sp. Jung, Julianna (b. 1845)
 3. Rombs, Georg (b. 1843, d. 1916 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Weigel, Franziska (b. 1844-10-24 - Selz, Russia)

19th Century Russian Relations

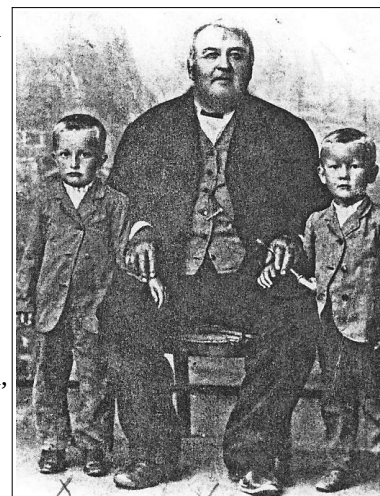


- 3. Rombs, Andreas (b. 1845, d. 1845)
- 3. Rombs, Rosina (b. 1846)
- 3. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1848 - Selz, Russia)
- 3. Rombs, Katharina (b. 1850)
- 3. Rombs, Helena (b. 1852 - Selz, Russia)
- 3. Rombs, Magdalena (b. 1854)
- 3. Rombs, Elisabetha (b. 1857)
- 3. Rombs, Thaddeus (b. 1859)
- 3. Rombs, Balthazar (b. 1860)
- 3. Rombs, Thaddeus (b. 1863)

I have limited information about about the family of Paul Rombs.

- 2. Rombs, Paul (b. 1825 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Goldade, Magdalena (b. 1827 - Selz, Russia), m. 1847-10-12
 - 3. Rombs, Katharina (b. 1849 - Selz, Russia, d. 1850-05-08 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Johann (b. 1851 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Georg (d. 1858 - Selz, Russia)

Next there is an uncle also named Johannes, who stayed behind in Russia and married four times. His picture has been confused by my family for some time as a picture of his nephew (my great grandfather) Johannes. Here is the picture, taken about 1900 in Russia with a couple grandchildren.



- 2. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1826 - Selz, Russia, d. 1913 - Blumenfeld, Russia)
 - sp. Eisenzimmer, Franziska (b. 1837 - Selz, Russia), m. 1858-10-06 - Selz, Russia
 - 3. Rombs, Magdalena (b. 1859-11-07 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Elizabeth (b. 1861-12-03 - Selz, Russia, d. 1945 - Blumenfeld, Russia)
 - sp. Kiefel, Eugen (b. 1854 - Franzfeld, Russia, d. 1929 - Blumenfeld, Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Michael (b. 1864-04-20 - Blumenfeld, Russia, d. 1920 - Neu-Petersburg, Russia)
 - sp. Hatzenbuehler, Barbara (b. 1871-09-11 - Neu-Baden, Russia, d. 1933-12-20 - Neu-Petersburg, Russia), m. 1891
 - 3. Rombs, Christina (b. 1866-04-28 - Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Dorothea (b. 1868-07-10 - Russia)
 - sp. Volk, Agnesia (b. 1828 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1858-05-09 - Selz, Russia), m. 1845-09-16 - Selz, Russia
 - 3. Rombs, Katharina (b. 1846 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1850-02-01 - Selz, Russia, d. 1852-12-26 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Balthazar R. (b. 1853-05-23 - Selz, Russia, d. 1926-05-11)
 - sp. Wagner, Helena (Halaline) (b. 1854-05-28 - Franzfeld, Russia, d. 1932-09-14)
 - 3. Rombs, Helena (b. 1855 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Wendelin (b. 1856-09-02 - Selz, Russia, d. 1856-09-10 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Anton (b. 1858-04-20 - Selz, Russia, d. 1858-08-14 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Schaefer, Katharina
 - 3. Rombs, Franz (b. 1870)
 - sp. Dettling, Agnes
 - 3. Rombs, Albina (b. 1877-04-06)

19th Century Russian Relations



One of these cousins listed above, Balthazar, immigrated with his family to south Texas in 1886. This family is well documented elsewhere. They lived so far from my Rombs family that they likely did not interact in the USA. However, in Selz they could have interacted. A picture of Balthazar and his wife is shown here.



Other cousins that were descendants of Uncle Johannes remained in Russia. Some descendants along this line (like Niko Heinz, mentioned earlier) have moved from Russia to Germany. Because of his knowledge, Niko has been very helpful by correcting my mistakes.

Uncle Georg did not survive long enough for him to be known to my great grandfather.

2. Rombs, Georg (b. 1832-02-02 - Selz, Russia, d. 1833-09-03 - Selz, Russia)

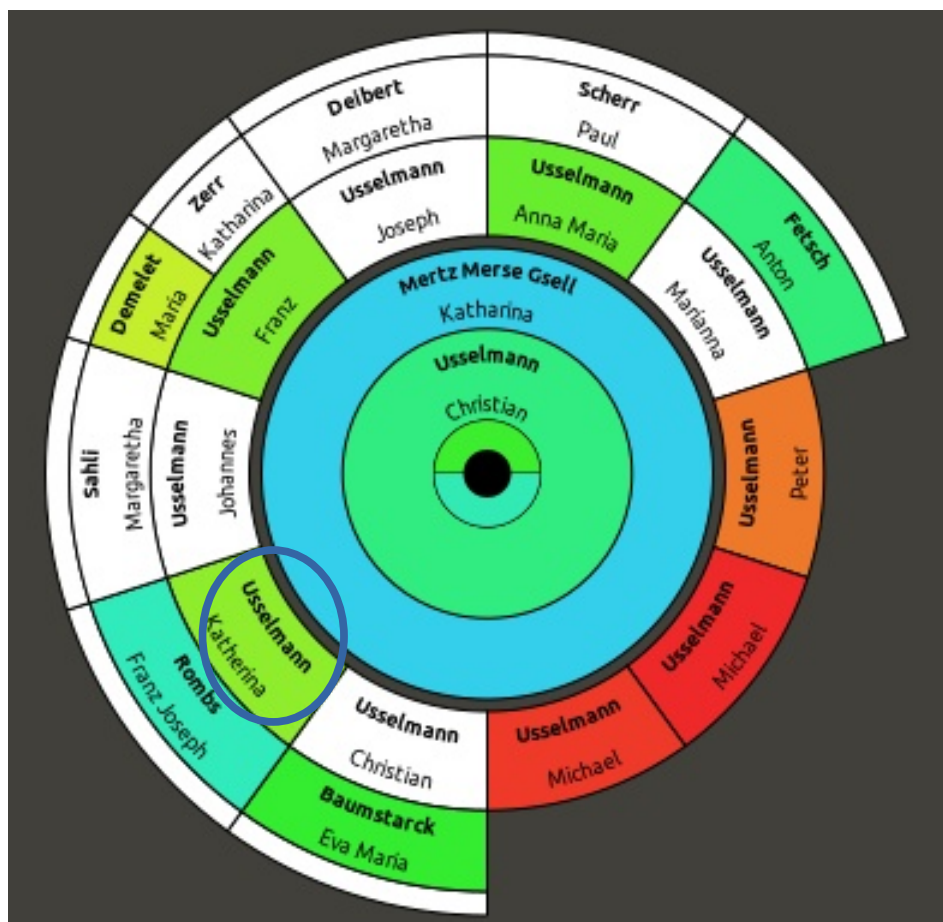
An Aunt Elizabeth married Mathias Volk. I have not followed this Volk/Rombs family in detail.

2. Rombs, Elizabetha (b. 1834-04-25 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Volk, Mathias (b. 1833 - Selz, Russia), m. 1855-01-17 - Selz, Russia



19th Century Russian Relations

Here is Johannes' maternal side – the family of his mother, Katharina Usselmann.



Family Group Report

Husband: Usselmann, Christian		
Birth	1813 census	
	1793-03-19	Niederseebach, Weissburg, Elsass, Germany
Death	1853-05-14	Selz, Russia
Father	Usselmann, Martin	
Mother	Graff, Elisabetha	

Marriage:		
Marriage	Kutschurgan	
	1813-12-22	

Wife: Mertz Merse Gsell, Katharina		
Birth	1813 census	
	1786	Salmbach, Weiss, Elsass, Germany
Death	1864	Selz, Russia
Father	Mertz Merse, Franz	
Mother		

19th Century Russian Relations



Children			
1M	Usselmann, Christian		
	Birth	1814	
	Death		
	Spouse	Baumstarck, Eva Maria	
	Marriage	1835-11-17	Selz, Russia
2F	Usselmann, Katherina		
	Birth	1815-03-12	Selz, Russia
	Death	1852-07-18	Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Rombs, Franz Joseph	
	Marriage	1834-10-21	Selz, Russia
3M	Usselmann, Johannes		
	Birth	1817	Selz, Russia
	Death		
	Spouse	Sahli, Margaretha	
	Marriage	1837	Selz, Russia
4M	Usselmann, Franz		
	Birth	1819	Selz, Russia
	Death	1858	Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Demelet, Maria Anna	
	Marriage	1840	Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Zerr, Katharina	
	Marriage	1852	Selz, Russia
5M	Usselmann, Joseph		
	Birth	1822	Selz, Russia
	Death		
	Spouse	Deibert, Margaretha	
	Marriage	1841	Selz, Russia
6F	Usselmann, Anna Maria		
	Birth	1821	Selz, Russia
	Death	1863	Kandel, Russia
	Spouse	Scherr, Paul	
	Marriage	1840-11-10	Selz, Russia
7F	Usselmann, Marianna		
	Birth	1824	Selz, Russia
	Death		
	Spouse	Fetsch, Anton	
	Marriage	1843-10-24	Selz, Russia
8M	Usselmann, Peter		
	Birth	1828	Selz, Russia
	Death	1838-02-24	Selz, Russia
9M	Usselmann, Michael		
	Birth	1830-05-10	Selz, Russia



19th Century Russian Relations



	Death	1831	Selz, Russia
10M	Usselmann, Michael		
	Birth	1832-03-31	Selz, Russia
	Death	1835	Selz, Russia

Here is some information that I have discovered about Johannes' maternal aunts, uncles, and cousins. There are many! I have not traced very many, but it is clear that some of Johannes' maternal cousins made it to SD, ND, and Canada.

Uncle Christian and Aunt Eva Maria produced some children that were of about the same age as Johannes. Some descendants lived in SD.

2. Usselmann, Christian (b. 1814)
 - sp. Baumstarck, Eva Maria (b. 1816, d. 1865), m. 1835-11-17 - Selz, Russia
 3. Usselmann, Margaretha (b. 1836 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Valentin (b. 1838 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Wagner, Christina (b. 1840)
 4. Usselmann, Franz (b. 1880)
 - sp. Rombs, Barbara (b. 1880)
 5. Usselmann, Sylvester (b. 1910)
 5. Usselmann, Pius (b. 1912)
 5. Usselmann, Franz (b. 1916)
 4. Usselmann, Bernhard (b. 1883)
 3. Usselmann, Peter (b. 1841) – *Note: A child named Christian married a daughter of Barbara's sister Margaretha and Johannes' first cousin Alexander. They lived in Mercer Co., ND, and McPherson Co., SD.*
 3. Usselmann, Anton (b. 1843, d. 1891)
 3. Usselmann, Josef (b. 1845 - Selz, Russia, d. 1847 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Catharina (b. 1848 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Johann (b. 1850)
 3. Usselmann, Josef (b. 1852 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Wendelin (b. 1854, d. - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Schumacher, Catharina (b. 1861), m. 1880-04-20
 4. Usselmann, Helena (b. 1881 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Schatz, Baltazar
 5. Schatz, Ambrosius
 - sp. unknown, unknown wife of Ambrosius Schatz
 5. Schatz, Gabriel
 5. Schatz, Angelica
 5. Schatz, Wendelin
 4. Usselmann, Eva
 4. Usselmann, Helene's sibling 1
 4. Usselmann, Helene's sibling 2
 3. Usselmann, Franz (b. 1856 - Selz, Russia, d. 1858 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Marianna (b. 1858 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Bernhard (b. 1861)

I have not traced the children of this uncle, but there were clearly cousins that Johannes could have known in Russia.

2. Usselmann, Johannes (b. 1817 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Sahli, Margaretha (b. 1816 - Selz, Russia), m. 1837 - Selz, Russia



19th Century Russian Relations



3. Usselmann, Carolina (b. 1837 - Selz, Russia, d. 1837 - Selz, Russia)
3. Usselmann, Karolina (b. 1838 - Selz, Russia)
3. Usselmann, Katharina (b. 1841 - Selz, Russia)
3. Usselmann, Nicolaus (b. 1845 - Selz, Russia, d. 1848 - Selz, Russia)
3. Usselmann, Anna (b. 1847 - Selz, Russia)
3. Usselmann, Johannes (b. 1849 - Selz, Russia)
3. Usselmann, Georg (b. 1852 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Voeller, Helen (b. 1852)
 4. Usselmann, Theresa (b. 1876)
 - sp. Schumacher, Philipp (b. 1868)
3. Usselmann, Lucia (b. 1855 - Selz, Russia)
3. Usselmann, Elisabetha (b. 1860 - Selz, Russia)
3. Usselmann, Franz Joseph (b. 1860 - Selz, Russia)
3. Usselmann, Kasimir (b. 1861 - Selz, Russia)
3. Usselmann, Johannes (b. 1863 - Selz, Russia)

I have not traced the children of this uncle, but there were clearly cousins that Johannes could have known in Russia.

2. Usselmann, Franz (b. 1819 - Selz, Russia, d. 1858 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Demelet, Maria Anna (b. 1822, d. 1852 - Selz, Russia), m. 1840 - Selz, Russia
 3. Usselmann, Anton (b. 1842 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Anna (b. 1843 - Selz, Russia, d. 1844 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Josef (b. 1846 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Franz (b. 1849 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Christian (b. 1851 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Zerr, Katharina, m. 1852 - Selz, Russia
 3. Usselmann, Marianna (b. 1853 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Christina (b. 1854 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Marianna (b. 1857 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Margaretha (b. 1860 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Catharina (b. 1861 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Helena (b. 1864 - Selz, Russia)

I have not traced the children of Josef Usselmann, but there were clearly cousins that Johannes could have known in Russia and some along this line made it to ND and CA.

2. Usselmann, Joseph (b. 1822 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Deibert, Margaretha (b. 1825 - Selz, Russia), m. 1841 - Selz, Russia
 3. Usselmann, Ludwig (b. 1842 - Selz, Russia, d. 1849 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Alexander (b. 1844 - Selz, Russia, d. 1927-06-28 - Hazen, Mercer, North Dakota)
 - sp. Kessler, Margaretha (b. 1845-08-04 - Selz, Russia, d. 1928-10-25 - McLean, North Dakota), m. 1865-11-08 - Selz, Russia
 4. Usselmann, Valentine (b. 1866 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Usselmann, John (b. 1867-10-15 - Selz, Russia, d. 1944-10-07 - Calgary, Alberta, Canada)
 - sp. Detling, Marianna, m. 1894-10-11
 4. Usselmann, Anna (b. 1869-05-18 - Selz, Russia, d. 1927-05-09 - Hazen, Mercer, North Dakota)
 4. Usselmann, Margareta (b. 1872-09-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1955-02-19 - Dickenson, Stark, North Dakota)
 - sp. Geisinger, Konstantin (b. 1870-09-15 - Russia, d. 1942-02-06 - North Dakota)
 4. Usselmann, Anton (b. 1874 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Usselmann, Julianna (b. 1877-09-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1949-01-26 - Mercer, North Dakota)

19th Century Russian Relations



- sp. Hoepfner, Jacob (b. 1874-09-29 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1949-10-02 - Bismark, North Dakota), m. 1896-11-13 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
 - 5. Hipfner, Joseph (b. 1901-04-20 - Morton, North Dakota, d. 1987-10-26 - Morton, North Dakota)
- 4. Usselmann, Josef (b. 1882 - Selz, Russia)
- 4. Usselmann, Adam (b. 1886-06-20 - Selz, Russia, d. 1947-03-12)
- 3. Usselmann, Joseph (b. 1846)
- 3. Usselmann, Johannes (b. 1849)
- 3. Usselmann, Anton (b. 1851)
- 3. Usselmann, Katherine (b. 1853, d. 1937)
 - sp. Hoffart, Balthasar (b. 1853, d. 1926)
 - 4. Hoffart, Alexander
 - 4. Hoffart, Margaret
 - 4. Hoffart, Mary Ann (b. 1881, d. 1947)
 - sp. Kesler, John Nicholas (b. 1872, d. 1951)
 - 5. Kesler, Wilhem (b. 1900, d. 1927)
 - 5. Kesler, John (b. 1901, d. 1952)
 - 5. Kesler, Elizabeth (b. 1903, d. 1984)
 - 5. Kesler, Mary (b. 1905, d. 1927)
 - 5. Kesler, Frank (b. 1907, d. 1958)
 - 5. Kesler, Joseph (b. 1909, d. 1984)
 - 5. Kesler, Herman (b. 1911, d. 1987)
 - 5. Kesler, Edward (b. 1914, d. 1972)
 - 5. Kesler, Nicholas (b. 1918, d. 1978)
 - 4. Hoffart, Josef
 - 4. Hoffart, Michael
 - 4. Hoffart, Rochus
 - 4. Hoffart, Elizabeth
 - 4. Hoffart, Martha
- 3. Usselmann, Anna (b. 1855 - Selz, North Dakota)
- 3. Usselmann, Magdalena (b. 1857 - Selz, Russia)
- 3. Usselmann, Margaretha (b. 1859 - Selz, Russia)
- 3. Usselmann, Elisabetha (b. 1862 - Selz, Russia)

I have not traced the children of this aunt, but there were clearly cousins that Johannes could have known in Russia.

- 2. Usselmann, Anna Maria (b. 1821 - Selz, Russia, d. 1863 - Kandel, Russia)
 - sp. Scherr, Paul (b. 1815 - Selz, Russia), m. 1840-11-10 - Selz, Russia
 - 3. Scherr, Johann (b. 1840 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Scherr, Margaretha (b. 1843 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Scherr, Franz (b. 1848 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Scherr, Magdalena (b. 1851 - Kandel, Russia)
 - 3. Scherr, Marianna (b. 1854 - Kandel, Russia)
 - 3. Scherr, Peter (b. 1856 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Scherr, Michael (b. 1859 - Kandel, Russia)
 - 3. Scherr, Magdalena (b. 1862 - Kandel, Russia)
 - 3. Scherr, Gertruda (b. 1863 - Kandel, Russia)

I have not traced the children of this aunt, but there were clearly cousins that Johannes could have known in Russia.

- 2. Usselmann, Marianna (b. 1824 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Fetsch, Anton (b. 1820, d. 1879 - Selz, Russia), m. 1843-10-24 - Selz, Russia



19th Century Russian Relations



3. Fetsch, Serafina (b. 1844, d. 1846 - Selz, Russia)
3. Fetsch, Franz (b. 1846)
3. Fetsch, Marrianna (b. 1848, d. 1928)
3. Fetsch, Anton (b. 1849 - Selz, Russia)
3. Fetsch, Katharina (b. 1850, d. 1870)
3. Fetsch, Apolonia (b. 1852)
3. Fetsch, Helena (b. 1854 - Selz, Russia)
3. Fetsch, Anna (b. 1858 - Selz, Russia, d. 1858 - Selz, Russia)
3. Fetsch, Margaretha (b. 1859, d. 1860 - Selz, Russia)
3. Fetsch, Regina (b. 1861)
3. Fetsch, Bernhard (b. 1865, d. 1866-04-16 - Selz, Russia)

The following three uncles sis not survive long enough for Johannes to have known them.

2. Usselmann, Peter (b. 1828 - Selz, Russia, d. 1838-02-24 - Selz, Russia)
2. Usselmann, Michael (b. 1830-05-10 - Selz, Russia, d. 1831 - Selz, Russia)
2. Usselmann, Michael (b. 1832-03-31 - Selz, Russia, d. 1835 - Selz, Russia)

I have not traced the children of this uncle (Josef) very effective;y, but there were clearly cousins that Johannes could have known in Russia. At least one cousin, Alexander Usselmann, married Barbara's sister, and they lived in ND. (Noted earlier.)

2. Usselmann, Joseph (b. 1822 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Deibert, Margaretha (b. 1825 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Alexander (b. 1845-07-05, d. 1927-06-28 - Hazen, Mercer, North Dakota)
 - sp. Kessler, Margaretha (b. 1845-08-04 - Selz, Russia, d. 1928-10-05 - McLean, North Dakota), m. 1865-11-08 - Selz, Russia
 3. Usselmann, Joseph (b. 1846)
 3. Usselmann, Johann (b. 1849)
 3. Usselmann, Anton (b. 1851)
 3. Usselmann, Katherine (b. 1853, d. 1937)
 - sp. Hoffart, Balthasar (b. 1853, d. 1926)



19th Century Russian Relations



Emigration/Immigration

As mentioned earlier, Alexander II's rule started in 1855. He was assassinated in 1881, but around 1871 he took actions that started a general abrogation of the favorable policies toward the German Russians. (The photo of him at the right is in the public domain -

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_II_of_Russia .)

So, it is little wonder that my relatives began to consider how to deal with increased taxes and forced conscription. And, it can not be an accident that "travel agents" started selling package deals to travel to the USA. I have not seen their sales materials nor heard their pitch, but I am sure that the agents greatly over sold the benefits of settling new land in the Americas.



Johannes and Barbara were some of the first Kutschugan people that decided to sell what they could and make the trip with their family to Dakota territory in 1884.

Their journey probably started by rail in either Tiraspol or Odessa. Railroad service had been completed to the region in the early 1860s, and it connected them to the rest of Western Europe. Bremerhaven was their first destination, from which they embarked on an ocean voyage to the USA. Following is an extract from a map (<http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/cat/bib/8623828>) to illustrate the rail system in south Russia. (Red lines are rail lines.)





19th Century Russian Relations

The familysearch.org website has devoted a page to emigration through Bremen. See https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Bremen_Emigration/Immigration for information about what records exist. There are also contemporary German websites that explain much of the Bremerhaven experience. See <https://www.deutsche-auswanderer-datenbank.de/index.php?id=275> and <https://www.historisches-museum-bremerhaven.de/>. There is a gallery of pictures that help to illustrate the emigrant experience. Here is an example showing a Bremerhaven dock scene in 1880, four years before Johannes and Barbara and family were there.



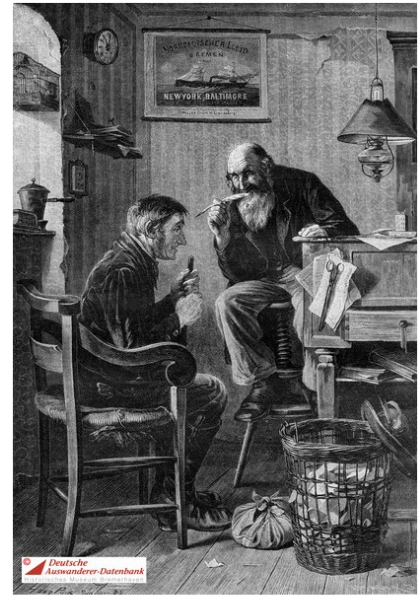
Auswanderer in Bremerhaven, Holzstich von 1880
Bild 2 von 6



19th Century Russian Relations



Here is an engraving illustrating an emigrant interacting with an agent of the North German Lloyd Line (Norddeutscher Lloyd).



At the emigration agent, wood engraving from 1883
Bild 3 von 6



Barbara and Johannes and their family traveled on a ship named the Oder. They arrived at the Castle Garden disembarkation site late in November, 1884. For information about the history of the ship, see http://www.norwayheritage.com/p_ship.asp?sh=oder2. The route of travel was from Bremen to Southampton, England, to New York. Capacity was about 90 first-class, 126 second-class, and 650 third-class (steerage) passengers, with a crew of crew of 103.

For information about Castle Garden, see <http://www.castlegarden.org/>.

A copy of the ship manifest showing the family can be found here <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVSV-3FB5>.

191 Johannes Adams	39	m	farmer	✓	✓
192 Barbara — a —	3	f	none	✓	✓
193 Lucada — a —	14	f	—	✓	✓
194 Caroline — a —	5 1/2	f	—	✓	✓
195 Nicholas — a —	4	m	—	✓	✓
196 Elisabeth — a —	9	f	—	✓	✓

19th Century Russian Relations



There is also information available about the ship (The Elbe) on which Barbara's brothers Franz and Josef Kessler traveled with their families in the Fall of 1885. See <https://www.deutsche-auswanderer-datenbank.de/index.php?id=563> . A model of the ship is shown here. There is also a cut away section that shows the various levels of the ship – the third below the main deck being where the families spent about three weeks in passage to their destination – Castle Garden at the Port of NY.



A copy of the ship manifest can be found here <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVRS-LXYD> . Here is the section showing Franz, his family along with one B. Dorsch (probably Dosch), who probably is related to people by the same name in Selz and Edmunds Co.

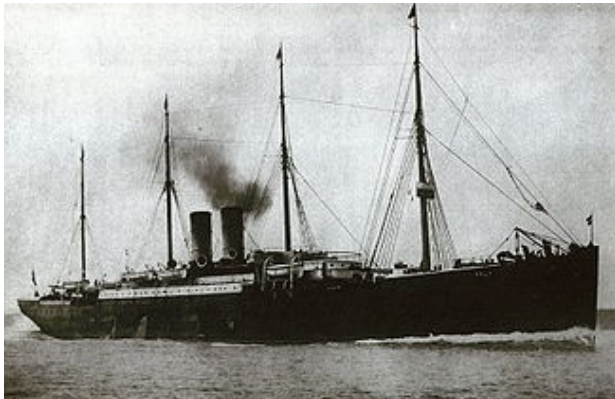
Franz Kessler	31	m	farmer ✓
Barbara	31	f	wife ✓
Maria	8	f	child ✓
Michael	2	m	✓
B. Dorsch	21	,	workman ✓

19th Century Russian Relations



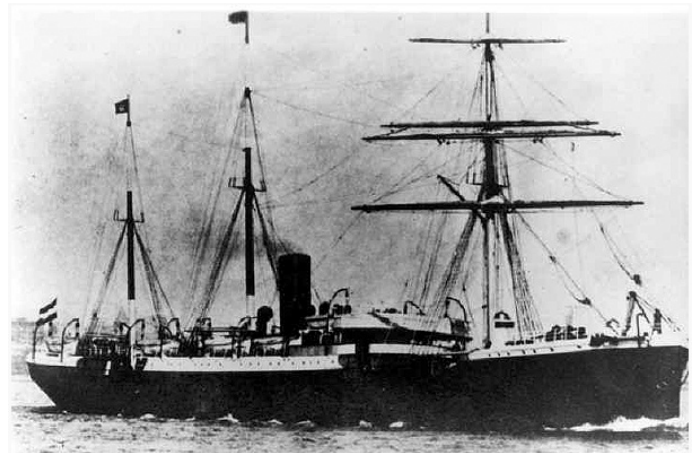
Next is the section that shows the family of Josef Kessler, including wife Anna and daughters Edith and Frances.

Josef Kessler	30	m	farmer	✓
Anna	28	f	wife	✓
Edith	2	m	child	✓
Frances	8	f	child	✓



For more information about the Elbe, see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Elbe_\(1881\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Elbe_(1881)).

Barbara's brother Rochus and his family must have traveled much the same route, arriving in Castle Garden in the Fall of 1888. Their ship was the Rhaetia (Hamburg America Line). See http://www.norwayheritage.com/p_ship.asp?sh=rhaet for more information about the ship.



Their immigration is recorded at <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVSL-87XJ>.

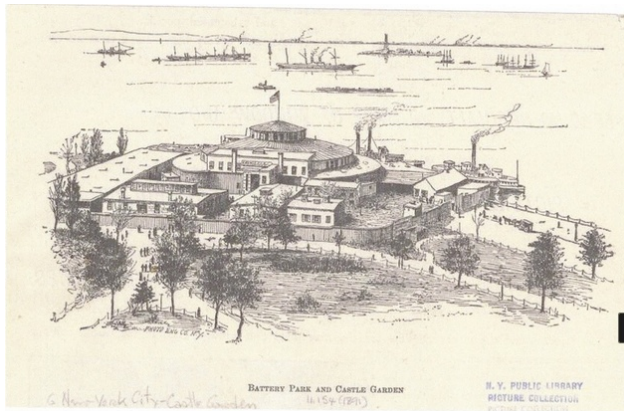


19th Century Russian Relations

A copy of the ship manifest follows to show the family members.

4.	Rocheus Kessler	33		u	
5.	Bregita	26		few.	wife
6.	Felia		9.	m.	Relig.
7.	Agnesia	4.		few.	daughter
8.	Sofia	20.		m.	sumer
9.	Dominik	17		"	"
330.	Wendelin	22		"	"

The Castle Garden experience is well documented elsewhere. See for example the book [A Day in Castle Garden](#), by Louis Bagger (https://www.worldcat.org/title/day-in-castle-garden/oclc/70890575&referer=brief_results). The site is now managed by the National Park Service (<https://www.nps.gov/media/photo/gallery.htm?id=CA595716-155D-451F-675EBBAD8A6BA3FC>), which provides images like the following..



Immigrants were screened and held over if unwell. After successfully passing this hurdle, then there must have been agent-supplied transportation to a local train station for the next leg of the journey (to Dakota Territory).

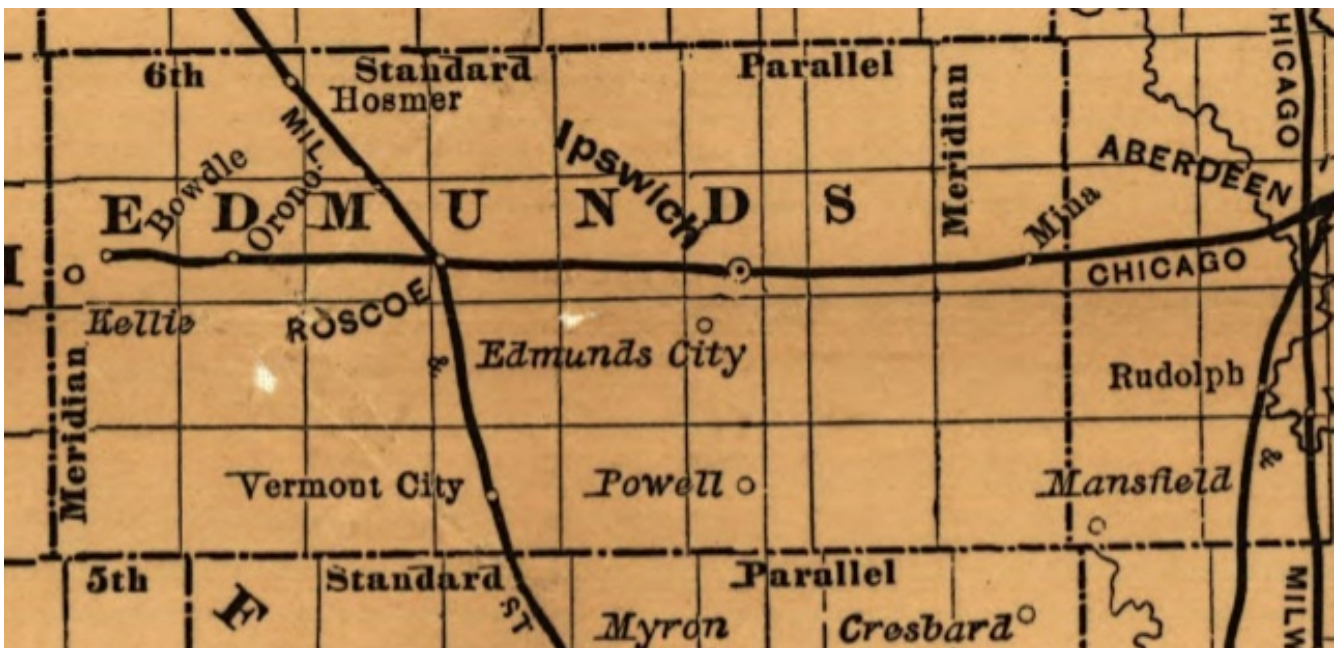
19th Century Russian Relations



In 1883, there was no railroad access to their destination west of the James River. The railroad only reached Ipswich, their ultimate destination in 1884. Here is a railroad map from 1883 from the Library of Congress. (<https://lccn.loc.gov/98688749>)



By 1886, rail service reached to Bowdle. See <https://lccn.loc.gov/98688534> .



19th Century Russian Relations



In fact, the railroad reached Ipswich in November, 1883, according to a 100th anniversary book for the town in a museum in Ipswich.



19th Century Russian Relations



More evidence that the town was just in its infancy when the Rombs family arrived is found in a 75th anniversary book for the town, an excerpt of which follows.

by a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners appointed by Governor Ordway consisting of Louis F. Diefendorf, Loren A. Barbour and Charles N. Skillman at the Skillman House on the townsite of Edmunds. The Board after organizing adjourned until the next day when the county seat was located at Edmunds by a vote of two for Edmunds and one for Freeport. At this meeting C. L. Pratt was appointed Register of Deeds, and the Board adjourned to meet August 13th. At this meeting W. R. Ruggles, who had been appointed Clerk of Courts by the district judge, qualified. The board appointed John Hughes of Powell City, Sheriff; A. B. Allen of Freeport, Treasurer; John Sweet of Georgetown, Assessor; J. A. Rice of Roscoe County Judge; and adjourned to August 27th, when J. W. Parmley was appointed Superintendent of Schools; and C. L. Seabright, Coroner; also justices and constables were appointed and the organization was completed.

The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway extended its line from Aberdeen west 26 miles to the center of a triangle formed by the towns of Freeport, Edmunds and Georgetown. On October 2, 1883, a town was platted on Section 27 and 28 town 123 range 68, and was given the name of

Ipswich. Lots were sold at auction to the amount of over \$5,000 the first day and at once the moving of the three disappointed boom towns to Ipswich was commenced.

Within three weeks a large town had sprung up. On November 1, 1883, the Board of County Commissioners met in the one remaining building at Edmunds and by resolution changed the county seat from Edmunds to Ipswich at which it was later permanently located by a vote of the people of the county.

In 1886, the road was extended from Ipswich west to section 21, town 123, range 73, where the town of Bowdle was established.

The territorial legislature in 1885 changed the boundaries of Edmunds County by annexing range 66, thus making the county 48 miles long by 24 wide.

The first homestead entry was made October 2, 1882 by Milton Bliss and the first pre-emption filing by John Ackley, September 20, 1882.

Olga Herrick

19th Century Russian Relations



This is what Ipswich looked like in the spring of 1884, about 6 months before the Rombs family arrived. Note the railroad tracks.



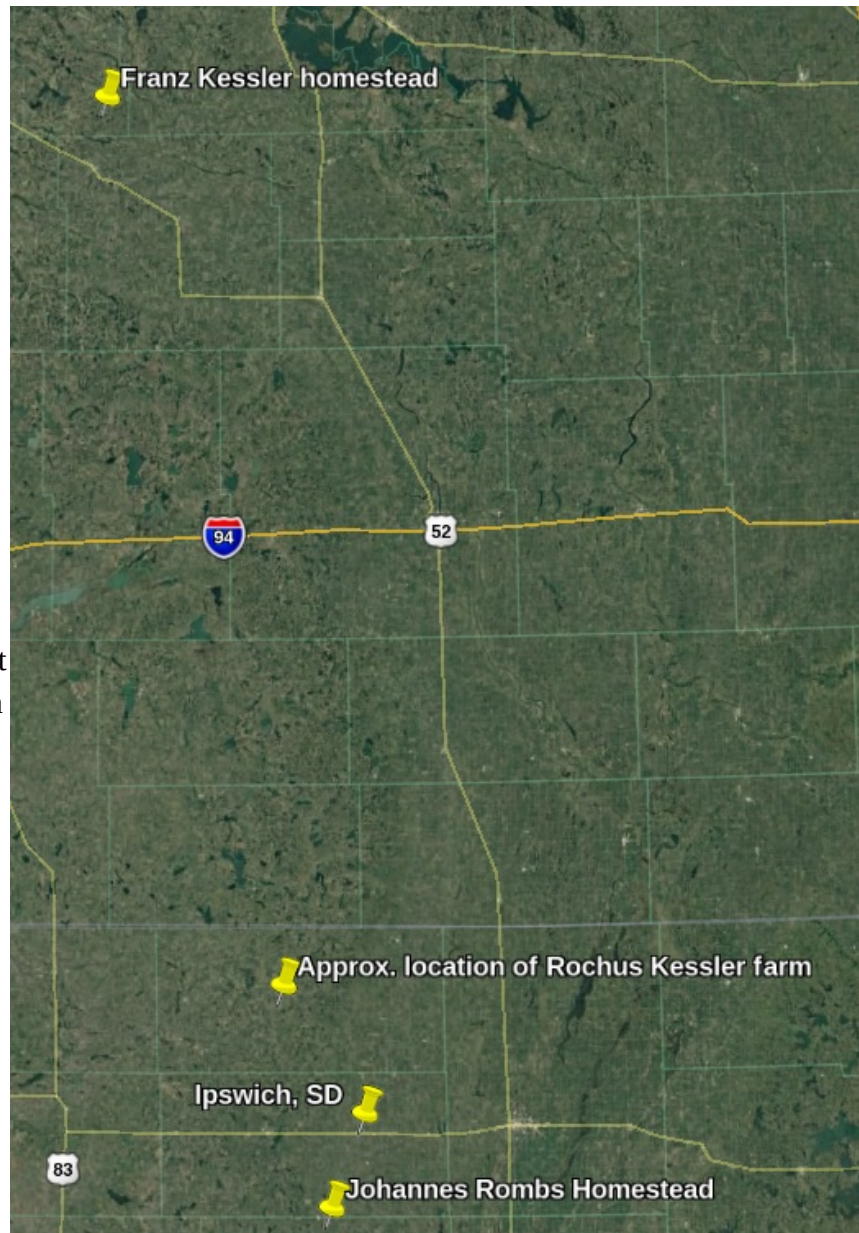
19th Century Russian Relations



Final Destinations

So, the next steps once arriving in Dakota territory must have been to (1) locate temporary housing, (2) procure land, (3) procure materials to establish the homestead. This had to be a busy period for a family in foreign environs, where the native language is not yours. Latter arrivals may have had it a little easier if people that they already knew were present at the destination.

Ultimately, all the families mentioned in the previous section found homes. I believe that the only one that stayed in the town of Ipswich was the family of Joseph and Anna (Saenger) Kessler. Franz and family stayed long enough to have a child and move north to what would become Pierce Co., ND. Rochus and his family eventually established themselves just to the north of Ipswich in what would become McPherson Co., SD. The Rombs family started a homestead about 10 miles due south of Ipswich (in what would become Faulk Co., SD), about half way to Faulkton. Following is a contemporary map that shows estimated locations these four families.



Thus ends the Russian part of the part of the story of my ancestors.

19th Century Russian Relations



A Parting Note

The story of my Russian ancestors is in many ways one of change and adaptation. For many years they were able to establish a stable environment in which they could flourish, but before long events beyond their control spoiled what they had. As the stable environment started to disintegrate, many of my relatives were able to relocate to avoid the coming trouble.

Although their journey could not have been easy, it resulted in experiences quite unlike those of their relatives that stayed in Russia. Those that did not emigrate dealt with numerous significant hardships including loss of special status, the Russian Revolution, WWII, state sponsored execution and relocation to places like Kazakhstan, “escape” to Nazi Germany, etc. As difficult as the journey to the USA was and as difficult as life in the Dakotas was, my relatives had an arguably easier time than their relatives that did not emigrate.

To read more about those who stayed in Russia, there are references like [Our Relatives The Persecuted](#), by Peter Goldade, c.2006, www.xlibris.com.



19th Century Russian Relations



Further Research

- **Disconnected.** - Who were the ancestors of Marianna (Rombs) Zentner b.1772 – see <http://www.blackseagr.org/blksea-db/getperson.php?personID=I10389&tree=111> . She was married to Zentner in Kessledorf, which makes a suspect to be the sister of Franz Ludwig. I have temporarily assigned her to be a sister of Franz Ludwig / daughter of Johannes Rombs & Barbara Schickel m. 1744 in Oberlauterbach.
- **Disconnected.** - Who were the ancestors of Maria Josepha Rombs b.1783 (Georg Baumgartner's wife)? – see Gramps. See also <http://www.blackseagr.org/blksea-db/getperson.php?personID=I00297&tree=111> . She is a candidate to be the first daughter of Franz Ludwig She died in the same year as Barbara Shickel.
- **Disconnected.** - Who were the ancestors of Katharina Rombs b.1791 (Anton Halter's wife) – see Gramps. Probably a daughter of Franz Ludwig. See also <http://www.blackseagr.org/blksea-db/getperson.php?personID=I31784&tree=125> .
- **Disconnected.** - Who were the ancestors of Katherina Rombs who may have married Josef Schmalz in the 1870s and lost the following children? – see Gramps. Could be a daughter of Stefan or Johannes? Was she the single Magdalena Rombs that married single Joseph Schmalz in 1879?
 - See https://www.blackseagr.org/pdfs/weiss/SELZ%20deaths%201865-1880_bsg.pdf .
 - Karolina d.12/9/1878; death 211
 - Marianna d.8/22/1879; death 99
- What became of Katharia Kessler b. Nov., 1850, to Kessler/Schumacher? See Gramps.
- What became of Johannes Kessler b. Nov., 1860, to Kessler/Schumacher? See Gramps.
- Resolve details of Paul Rombs b.1785 and wife Elisabetha Schell b. 1794 and their family.
- There is much research that could be done on Usselman cousins!
- There is another Rombs family in Michigan that may have spread to Ohio. It would be interesting to see if their origin can be traced backward to see if it intersects with the Rombs folks that went to Russia. There may be a connection to Baden that may tie in nicely. Superficially, based on geography, I would expect to find a connection in the 17th or 18th century. See . . .
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MW3R-TBQ> and
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XZ18-M7D> and
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X8L1-CF1> and
<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/landscape/971F-SV3> and
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVPV-YDH9> and
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KFHH-PP7> and
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X792-CGQ> and
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q15H-8LPZ> and
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q1VX-3ZT2> and
<https://www.meyersgaz.org/place/21224062> and
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q154-416Z> and
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QP3F-9RG1> and
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q154-QC2M> and
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q15W-J2W2> and
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q15H-8LT2> and

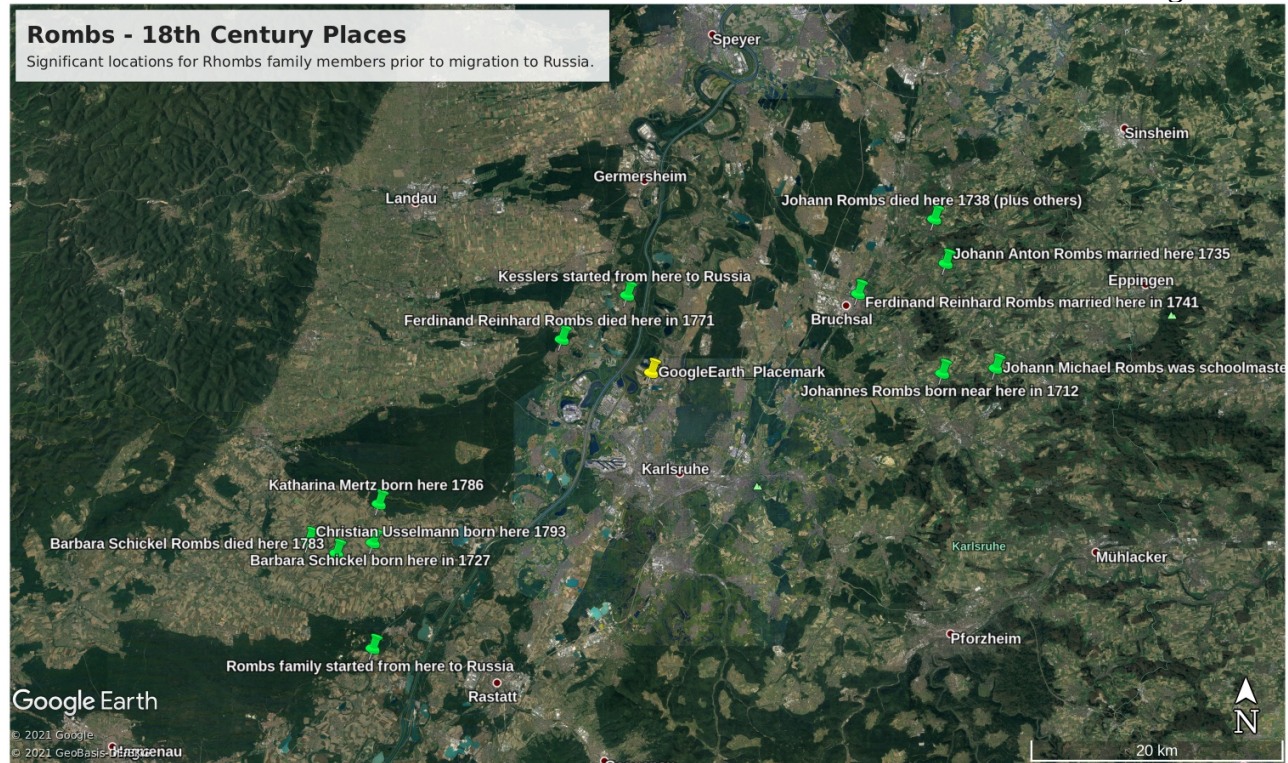


19th Century Russian Relations



<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q1W3-J26Z> and
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:7M3Q-VHZM> and
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q1WM-XG6Z> and
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QP3J-ZNFR> and
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QP3J-DZK4> and
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QP3J-DLHG>

- Researching the Michigan connection is probably best conducted as a part of a general exploration of life in the 17th and 18th centuries in Alsace and Baden. Could lead to exciting research!



19th Century Russian Relations



Appendix – Surnames Organized by Village

Here is a rather long list of the surnames of the “primary actors” in the church records. These are surnames associated with the people born (1814-1864), being married (1815-1892), and dying (1815-1862), not associated people like witnesses, parents, etc. The number by each name indicates how many entries include the surname broken down by village for the four primary villages. Names are exactly as transcribed, including recording errors made by Selz church personnel. Corrective hints can sometime be found with the transcribed records, available from the GRHS organization (<https://www.grhs.org/pages/home>). There are slightly over 1100 surnames and surname variations in the list. The names, particularly the Selz names, are ones that Barbara and Johannes would have recognized. They represent the people that they might have encountered in a church setting.

Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
ABEL	3	31	1	1
ABERLACH				1
ABERLE	1		4	9
ACKERMANN	1			
ADAM		1	2	22
ADAMS				1
ANDREAS	1			
ANHELGER	1	4	2	6
ANKER			20	
ANTON	1			
APPEL		6		
APPELL		1		
ARTH	3		28	
ASBERGER			2	
ASCHNEBRENNER			1	
AXTMAN		1		
AXTMANN	75	2	3	14
BÄCHEL			3	
BACHMANN		1		
BACHMEIER	1			
BÄCKER	1	2	11	
BÄKER		1		
BALL	1		1	
BALSAM				1
BARTLE			47	17
BÄRTSCH			2	2
BÄTSCH			13	4
BATZER				1
BAUAMSTARK			1	
BAUMANN	6	48	3	48
BAUMGARTNER			1	15
BAUMGÄRTNER				6

19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
BÄUMGARTNER				2
BAUMSTARK	1	2	77	
BAUNSTEIN	1			
BECHE			1	
BEHEL			9	
BECHT	2		33	
BECK	19	1		
BECKER	5	47	75	
BECKT			1	
BEGER		1		
BEHLER	2	1	1	
BELLER	1			
BEREGOWICZ			1	
BERTHOLD		1		
BERTOLD	1	1		
BERTRAM			6	
BERTRAND		1	1	
BERTSCH		2	50	32
BETSCH			4	
BEZ	2	15	1	2
BEZ/BÖSS	1			
BEZS		1		
BIATZ				1
BIATZER				1
BIAZER				1
BICHEL			1	
BICKO		1		
BIEGLER		1	1	
BIENFAIT			2	1
BIENFET			2	
BIKO	2	20		
BILLER				1
BILLMANN	11	3	1	
BIRKENSTOCK		1		
BISCHOF	2	23	1	
BISCHOFF		7	2	
BITERMANN			1	
BITON				1
BITZ		70	5	
BLANDO		2	4	14
BLEIGER			1	
BLEILE	2	70	4	
BLIELE		1		
BLIGER			1	
BÖCK	4	3		
BOCKENMEIER		1		
BOCKMEIER		1		

19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
BOGART			1	
BOHL		11		
BOHN	35	3	2	
BOHNN	1			
BÖK	2			
BÖKER			1	
BOOS		1		
BORSCHNECK	1	40	1	1
BOSCH		40	8	3
BOSLER		1		
BOSS		1		
BÖSS		7	1	
BOSSART	20		1	
BOSSERT	16	1		
BOSSERT/BOSSART	1			
BRANDEL	2			
BRAUN	3	13	67	20
BRAUNAGEL	25	2	1	6
BRAUNNAGEL	13	1		
BRAUNSTEIN	12			
BRENDEL	15		79	1
BRIGARDEN			4	
BRIGARDIN			2	
BRIGARTEN			3	
BRIMM	1			
BRINSTER		38	1	
BROSAR			1	
BROSARD			1	
BROSSARD			6	
BROSSART	1	5	41	
BROSSARTH			2	
BROSSERT	1		1	
BRUCK			4	
BRUGARD				1
BRUNSTER		1		
BRÜNSTER		5		
BTOSZCZYNSKA			1	
BUCHMANN	1			
BUCKAMEIER		1		
BUCKEMEIER		1	1	
BUCKENMEIER	2	7		1
BULACH	1	5		
BULINGER		1		
BULLACH		46	1	
BULLINGER		2		
BURCHKART				1
BURCKHARD				10



19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
BURCKHART				4
BURCKHARTSMEIER				4
BURGARD				21
BURGARDSMEIER				1
BURGARDT				1
BURGART	1			10
BURGART(SMEIER)				1
BURGARTMEIER				1
BURGARTSMEIER				2
BURGHARD	1	3	5	56
BURGHARDSMEIER				2
BURGHART				9
BURGHARTSMEIER	1			2
BURKHARD				2
BURKHART	1			1
BURKHARTSMEIER				1
BUSCH	1	5	1	
BUSCHEL				1
CAMBEIS		1		
CANN			1	
CIRN			1	
CIRN/ZERN			1	
CLAUSS		1		
DALMANN		1		
DECK			2	
DEGENSTEIN		1		
DEIBERT	3	98	67	1
DEIGEL			1	
DEIS	1	41	2	
DEISS		11		1
DEMELET			13	
DENIG	15	5		
DENING	1			
DENIS	10	3		
DERAZPF			1	
DERES		1	1	23
DERESS				2
DERIAN	1	19	5	
DERINGER		1		
DERSAM		1		
DERSCHNER	1			
DERZAPF			7	
DETLING	1		2	1
DEXHEIMER	1			
DIERINGER		1		
DIETZ	38	3	2	1
DIKMANN			1	

19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
DILLMANN		41		
DIRREIN				1
DITTER			1	
DITTOR		2	33	
DITZ	1			
DOBERSZANSKA	1			
DOBROWOLSKI		1		
DOLL		34	1	
DORSCHER	56	3	1	
DOSCH	2	100	18	1
DOSCHER	1			
DREI		5	1	
DREY		1		
DUTENBERGER				1
DUTENHEEFER	1			
DUTENHEFER	3	30	3	
DUTENHEFNER	2	49		
DUTENHÖFER	6	16	1	
DUTENHÖFFER		1		
DUTENHOFFNER		1		
DUTENHOFNER		3		
DUTENHÖFNER		14		
DUTTENHEFER		2		
DUTTENHOFER		2		
DUTTENHÖFER	2	6	1	
DUTTENHOFNER		1		
DUTTÖNHEFFER		1		
EBERHARDT				1
EBERLE		2	2	
EBERTZ	2			
ECKSTADT		1		
EGER				1
EHRENWEIN		1		
EHRESMANN	1	41	6	
EICHENLAUB		1	24	
EICHNELAUB			1	
EINGELAUB			1	
EISENMENGER	1	49	5	1
EISENZIMMER	11	15	61	46
ELL	41	1	2	1
ELTER	1			
EMETER		1		
ENGELAUB			1	
ENGELHARD		14		
ENGELHARDT	1	37	2	
ENGELHART		16		
ENGLER		21		

19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
EPPELE				1
ERCK		1	1	51
ERESMANN		2		
ERHESMANN		1		
ERICH				1
ERK				1
ERNST			1	
FAHN	1	9	88	2
FAUST	1			2
FEETT		1		
FEIST	1	2	1	116
FELDMANN		1		29
FELIX	22		1	
FELLER			5	3
FELLGER			2	
FELZ		1		
FESST		1		
FETH		42	3	
FETSCH	19	6	131	3
FETSCH/VETSCH	1		6	
FETTICH			1	
FETTIG	2	4	9	114
FETTING				3
FIEDER		1		
FIEGER		34	2	1
FIEGERER		1		
FIGEL		1		
FILIPP			1	
FIRAN			1	
FISCHER	64	5	71	77
FIX	23	1	6	
FLEI	1			
FLEICH	1			
FLEIG	3			
FLEISCHMANN		1		
FLEIT	1			
FLEY	2			
FÖLCHER			1	
FORTMEIER	2	1		
FÖTH		1		
FRANK	4	3	64	
FRANZ	2			
FREI	1		2	
FREIDEL	1			
FREY		1	5	
FREÿ			1	
FRIDEL	1			



19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
FRIEDEL	9		2	
FRIEDRICH	1	5	1	
FRIGER	1			
FRISCHER			1	
FRISON	48	10	73	
FRITZ	4	2	7	1
FROHLICH		1		
FRÖHLICH		1		
FRUH	1			
FRÜH	2			
FUCHS	1			
FUCHS/FIX				1
FÜGER		2		
FUHRMANN		2	13	
FUNK	1	3	52	
FURMANN			1	
FUSCHER		1		
GAGNE			1	
GAMBE		5		
GANJE				3
GANTZER		2		
GANZER		4		
GANZERT		5	1	
GAUER	3	42		
GECK			1	
GEFERE				10
GEFERI				2
GEFFER				1
GEFRE	2		1	22
GEFRI	1	2	1	9
GEFROH				4
GEGER		1	1	1
GEIGER				5
GEILFUSS	45	1	2	
GELSENLICHT			3	
GELSENLICHTER		2	23	
GELZENLICHTER			3	
GELZENLICHTER			1	
GEREIN			1	
GERGER			1	2
GERHARDT			1	
GERMANN		2	2	
GEST				1
GIESINGER	1	1	3	1
GISCHOFF		1		
GLASS	21	1	1	1
GLATT	1	8	24	1



19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
GÖCK			1	
GOETZ	1			
GÖFRI				1
GÖHFRI				1
GOLDADE			11	
GOLDATE		4	28	
GOLDATHA			1	
GOLDE		1	3	
GÖLSENLICHTER			2	
GOLTHE			1	
GÖLTZENLICHTER		1	12	
GOLZENLICHTER			4	
GÖLZENLICHTER			2	
GOTTE		1		
GÖTTE		3		
GOTZ	1			
GÖTZ	68	26	3	8
GOTZENLICHTER			1	
GRABOWSKI				1
GRAF	3			
GRAU		3	1	1
GRESS		1		
GRIEL		1		
GRIMM	14		1	
GRISMER	1			
GROCH		1		
GROH		4		
GROSJEAN		1		
GROSS		2	22	
GROT		1		
GRUBER	1			
GRUENSTEIN				7
GRUENSTEINER				2
GRUENSTIEN				1
GRUNSTEIN				6
GRÜNSTEIN				11
GRUNSTEINER				3
GRÜNSTEINER				7
GSELL	9	4	3	33
GUTENBERG				6
GUTENBERGER			4	20
GUTFREUND		1		
GUTTENBERG				8
GUTTENBERGER				3
HAAR	2			1
HAAS	1		2	35
HAASS				1



19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
HABER				1
HABERLACH	1	62	4	
HAFFNER	1	13	1	
HAFNER	2	8		
HAGEL			1	2
HAGER	1	2		24
HAHN			1	
HALTER	44	35	2	1
HAMANN		24	1	4
HARI			1	
HARLE			1	
HARR	3			
HARTMANN	1	6	61	3
HASTMANN			1	
HATZ	1			
HATZENBEHLER			8	
HATZENBEUHLER			1	
HATZENBÖHLER			8	
HATZENBUHLER			2	
HATZENBÜHLER	1		4	
HAUER	61	3		1
HECK	1			
HEFER	1			
HEFFNER	1			1
HEFNER	1	1		
HEGEL		1		
HEGELE		1		
HEIDT		1		
HEILMANN		1		
HEINRICH			1	
HEINTZ	2	53	1	1
HEINZ	1	52	2	1
HEIS				1
HEISEL	3			
HEISLER	1			
HEISNER	1			
HEISSEL	10			
HEISSELL	1			
HEISSLER	20	1	2	
HELD		7	8	28
HELMANN			1	
HELMER		1	14	
HELTMANN				1
HEMMERLING	1			
HENGELHARDT		1		
HENIGER			3	
HENINGER			3	



19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
HENKENBELDER			1	
HENTZLER	2			
HENZ		1		
HEPFNER	19	1		
HERMANN	1	35	1	
HERRLE	1	13	29	
HERRMAN		1		
HERRMANN		7	1	
HERRSCHAFT				12
HERSLMANN		1		
HERTNER				1
HESLER	1			
HETTEL	2	1		
HETTLER	1			
HETZ		1		
HEÜSSEL	1			
HILDEBRAND				1
HILSENDEGEN	32			
HILSENDEGER	32	3	1	1
HILZENDEGER	6			
HIPFNER	1			
HIRSCH		3	43	1
HIRT		29	1	
HIRTH		3		
HOCHMUTH		1	1	
HOCK			1	
HOFFART	86	10	68	2
HOFFARTH	1	1	1	
HOFFMANN	1	23	5	1
HOFFNER		1		
HÖFFNER	1			
HÖGELE			1	
HOGER				1
HOLETZ	1			
HOLZER	2	2	1	33
HOLZMANN			1	
HONECKER	3			
HOPFINGER	2	4	60	
HOPFNER	2	1		
HÖPFNER	8	6		
HORNSTEIN	1	1		
HOTMANN			1	
HOZENBOLER			1	
HOZLER				1
HRISCH			1	
HUBER		1	23	
HUBERT			9	

19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
HUCK			39	
HUHN	37	6		1
HULM	2	9	68	1
HULMER			1	
HUMMEL	2	25	1	
HUNECKER	28	2	1	
HUNKELE	1	79	3	
HUNN	1			
IBACH	75	1	1	1
IBALER		1		
IBERGER		1		
IHLE	22	1		
IHLI	17	1		
IHLLE	1			
ILHE	1			
ILLI	1			
ISEMANN	1	3		
IVAN				1
JACHMANN			1	
JACOB			5	
JAEGER			1	6
JAHNER		70	2	
JAKOB	1	2	165	4
JAKOBS			3	
JAZELZ			1	
JERGER	3	1	16	2
JESEL		1		2
JESELL				2
JESSE				1
JESSEL				14
JOACHIM		1		
JOCHIM	16	70	5	1
JÖRGER			3	
JOSEL				1
JUND			10	
JUNDT	2	1	42	1
JUNG	38	2	47	
JUNGER			1	
JUNK	1			
JUNT			2	
KACZYN			1	
KAHN	1			
KAISER	6			
KAIZYN			1	
KAMBEIS		1		
KAMBEITZ	4	50		
KANZERT		1		

19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
KAUER	1			
KECK			1	
KEFERE				1
KEFRE				1
KEHLER			1	
KEIFEL			1	
KELIN	1	1		
KELLER	5	5	163	8
KERNER		2		1
KESCHNER	1			
KESL	1			
KESSLER	1	16	40	
KIEFEL		2	37	1
KIEFLED			1	
KIESCHTNER		1		
KIN	1			
KINS	1			
KIRCHNER	1			
KIRSCHNECK	1			
KIRSCHNER	41	2	1	
KISCHNER	3	1		
KISTNER	45	26	1	
KITEL		1		
KLAUS		12		
KLAUSS		5		
KLEIN	3	27	107	39
KLEIST		1		
KLOETZEL		3	1	
KNOLL	2			
KOBELT				1
KOBLE			1	
KOCHERT			3	
KOHLER			1	
KÖHLER			16	1
KOHM	31			
KOKERT			12	
KÖLLER			1	
KOMM	4			
KONANZ			2	
KOPP	2			
KÖRN		1		
KOSMOVSKA	1			
KOSSAN			1	
KOSSLER			1	
KÖSSLER			14	
KRACH				1
KRAFT	128	40	16	91

19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
KRAMER	1	21	1	
KRÄMER	1	9		1
KRÄMMER		1		1
KRAUS				2
KRAUSS		1		
KREMMER		2		
KREZ		1		
KRIM	2			
KRIMM	6			
KROH	1	8	1	
KUBI		3		
KÜHFEL			11	
KUHM	2			
KÜHM	1			
KUHN	21	1	1	
KÜHN	4			
KUMM	1			
KUNANZ		1	1	
KUNDACUS		1		
KUNSLER			1	
KUNTZ	3	40	1	
KUNZ	1	18		
KUNZLER			3	
KÜNZLER			2	
KUPI		37		
KUPPI		6		
KUPSER	2	40	6	2
KÜRSCHNER	1			
KURSER		1		
KURTZ		31	2	
KURZ		16		
KÜSTNER	9	2		
LACHER		41	5	
LACHERT		10	1	
LÄMER		2		
LANG	1		2	
LAPUCZKI		1		
LATURNUS		6	5	2
LAUBER		1	2	
LAUINGER	2	1	1	55
LAUT			1	14
LAUTH				1
LEBOLDUS	12	4		
LEHLE	23	1	1	
LEIB			1	
LEIBEL			2	
LEIBHAM	1	1	52	

19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
LEIBHANN			2	
LEIBSTEIN			1	
LEIDCHAM			1	
LEIER		3	1	
LEINGANG		1		
LEISMEISTER		17		
LEISSMEISTER		6		
LEISTMEISTER		47		1
LEMAIRE	1	14	1	
LEMER	1	43		
LEMMER		3		
LEOBOLDLUS	1			
LEOBOLDUS	2			
LEONHARD		1		
LEOPOL	1			
LEOPOLD	10			
LEOPOLDUS	17	2		1
LEPOLDUS	4			
LEPPERT			1	
LESMEISTER		1		
LINCHOR		1		
LINDEMANN			21	
LINGHOR		1		
LINGOR	1	40		
LINKOHR		1		
LINKOR		2		
LINNIG		1		
LIPP			2	
LITZINGER	58	2		
LOCHER			2	
LOCHERT	2	3	58	
LOINGER				1
LOTER		1		
LTIZINGER	1			
LUBANSKI				1
LUBINSKI				1
LUKAS		1		
MACH				1
MACK	1	46	5	17
MAIER		1		
MAKSISZOWICZ				1
MALD				1
MALER			1	
MALLIOR	1			
MALSAM	1	1		9
MANGOLD	8	4	45	30
MANN			1	

19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
MARBACH		1	34	
MARDIAN	17	6	1	
Maria	1			
MARNEVICH				1
MARQUARDT		7		
MARQUART	1	65	4	3
MARTEL		2	1	1
MARTIAN	28	7	6	1
MARTINA	1			
MASER				2
MASINI	7			
MASSET			2	45
MASSETH				9
MASSINA	12	1		5
MASSINER			1	
MASSINI	16	1	1	1
MASTEL	4		3	47
MASTIO	3		21	
MASTIO.			1	
MATAM		1		
MATANN	1			
MATERI			2	
MATERN		1		
MATIAN				1
MATKAM	1			
MATTERN		1		
MATUL		1		
MATZ		4		
MAUMANN				1
MAURAT		1		
MEIER	1	67	36	8
MEIGEL	1			
MEIS				1
MEISCHNER		1		
MEISLER		1		
MEISNER		1	1	1
MELLE		8	1	
MENSIA			1	
MENZIA	1	4		
MER		1		
MERDIAN	1	3		1
MERK	2			
MERTIAN			1	
MESNER			1	
MESSIMER			1	
MESSMER			1	
METTERNICH		1		



19th Century Russian Relations

Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
MEYER		2	2	2
MEYER		1		
MILDENBERG				6
MILDENBERGER		1	1	14
MILDENBURGER				1
MILLER			2	1
MILTENBERGER			1	
MINKA		1		
MIREZINSKA	1			
MITZEL	1	5	20	70
MITZLE				1
MIZEL				1
MÖHR		1		
MORLAB		1		
MORLACH		1		
MORLOCH			1	
MORLOK		1		
MOSER	2	94	6	5
MUCHERT				1
MULLER			2	2
MÜLLER	12	10	68	29
MÜNZIA			1	
MÜTZEL			1	3
NAGEL	15			
NAUERTZ			1	
NEISS	5		1	34
NENNINGER		1		1
NEYHZ	1			
NIKOLAS	1			
NOCHIM		1		
NOEL	1	1	19	
NOLD		2	1	
OCHS	28	1	2	
OLMANN		1		
OSTERMEIER		2		
OSTERMEYER		1		
OTT	1			
OTTMANN		2	24	3
PÄCHEL			1	
PÄTSCH				1
PAZER				1
PECH			1	
PECHEL		1	1	
PEKER		1		
PETER	34	3	1	2
PETERS				1
PETSCH			2	

19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
PFEIFER	63	7	3	1
PFEIFFER	32	2		
PFEIFGER	1			
PFLEIG	15		1	
PFLIEGER			1	1
PFLÜGER				1
PHILIPP		2	9	
PHILIPPS			1	
PHILIPS			1	
PIATZ				1
PICHLER	1			
PIETROVSKI			1	
PIKO		1		
PLESKI			1	
PLOVSKI				1
POHUL		1		
PRINSTER		2		
PROTZEL			1	
PRÜNSTER		1		
RAPPOLD			14	
REICHART		1		
REICHERT	2	57	1	
REIF			1	
REINBOLD	28	12	1	
REINBOLT	1			
REINHARD	1			6
REINHARDT				8
REINHART				6
REINHOLD		3		
REIS	2		1	
REISS	1	8	62	
REITER		26	3	
REITMEIER	1		19	
REITMEISTER	1			
REITMEYER		1	1	
REITTER		3		
RENERT		1		
RENGERT		12		
RERICH				35
RERIG				2
RHEINBOLD	12	5		
RHEINHARD				1
RHEINHART				2
RIBBLER		1		
RICHER		1		
RICHERT		1		
RICHTER	1	53	12	46

19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
RIDINGER	1			
RIEDEL		1		
RIEDER		17	1	
RIEDINGER	1			
RIEGER	1	65	1	
RIEGERT		1		
RIEHER		1		
RIEHL	1	24	1	
RIESLING			3	
RIESSLING			1	
RIETER		1		
RIFELD		1		
RIFFEL	4	26	3	
RIGER		1		
RIL		1		
RILL		1	1	
RINDER		1		
RING	2		1	
RINGEL	1			
RINK	1			
RINTZ	1			
RIPPEL		1	1	
RIPPLINGER			2	
RISSLING	1	1	9	
RITER		1		
RITTINGER	1			
RODER		1		
RODIGER				1
ROHRICH				6
RÖHRICH		1		14
RÖHRIG			1	30
ROJER				2
ROMBS	2	1	91	1
ROSHAU		1		
RÖSSLER			1	
ROTDECKER		1		
ROTECK		1		
ROTECKER		45	4	
ROTGER		1		
ROTH	2	126	1	
ROTHDECKER		6		
ROTHECKER		2		
ROTIGER		7		1
ROTTINGER		2		
ROYER				1
RUFF	1			
RÜHLL		1		

19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
SACK		1		
SADLER				1
SAHL			1	
SAHLI	1	50	25	
SAKRECZSKI	1			
SALI			1	
SALVAY			8	
SALVEY		1	15	
SALVINSKI			1	
SALWAY			7	
SALWEI			1	
SALWEY			4	
SAMOYTOWA			1	
SANDER	1	2	94	
SANGER			1	
SATTLER				26
SCHAAF				4
SCHAAN			1	
SCHAANN			1	
SCHAFER	2	22	1	
SCHÄFER		38	5	
SCHAFF				3
SCHÄFFER		2		
SCHAFRINSKI		1		
SCHALL			42	
SCHAM	1			
SCHAN	1			
SCHÄR				1
SCHARTZINGER	2			
SCHÄRTZINGER	2			
SCHARZINGER	2			
SCHÄRZINGER	2			
SCHATZ	1	1	6	3
SCHATZINGER	4			
SCHAUMLAUFEL		1		
SCHAUMLEFEL		1		
SCHAUMLOFEL	1	9	2	
SCHAUMLÖFEL		21	1	
SCHEER			1	
SCHEFFER		2		
SCHEHR			7	1
SCHEHRER		1		1
SCHELL			2	1
SCHELMANN			1	
SCHEP				1
SCHERER	6	7	3	6
SCHERR	6	19	34	28



19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
SCHERRER				1
SCHICK		1		
SCHIELE		1	1	
SCHIFF	1		6	
SCHIFFMACHER		1	1	
SCHLABE		1	1	
SCHLÄBE		2	2	
SCHLÄBIE			1	
SCHLEPPE	1		13	
SCHLICH				1
SCHLICK		2		
SCHLOSS	1		2	
SCHLOSSEL				1
SCHLOSSER	74	5	9	60
SCHMALTZ	1	1		
SCHMALZ	29	94	3	1
SCHMIDT	97	229	26	9
SCHMIDTHEISLER	1	1		
SCHMIDTHEISSLER		1		
SCHMIT		2		
SCHMITT	5	12		
SCHMUKEL			18	1
SCHNALL	1		6	1
SCHNEIDER	45	14	34	121
SCHNUKEL			1	
SCHNUR			1	
SCHÖFER		1		
SCHOFF				2
SCHÖLLHAMMER				1
SCHOOFF				1
SCHÖPFER	1			
SCHOSTACHOWSKI				1
SCHOSTAKOVSKI				1
SCHOSTAKOWSKI			2	1
SCHREIDER	1			
SCHREITZINGER	1			
SCHROETER			1	
SCHUCK		1		1
SCHUH	1	2	1	
SCHUHMACHER			11	14
SCHUMACHER		4	41	17
SCHÜTZINGER	1			
SCHWAB		2	5	1
SCHWAHN	1	6		43
SCHWALBE		1		
SCHWAN	2	31	6	102
SCHWANN				2

19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
SCHWARTZ		11	12	
SCHWARZ		2	3	
SCHWEITZER	12	1	11	68
SCHWEIZ				1
SCHWEIZER	2		1	10
SCHWENGLER	2	61		2
SCOFF				1
SEILER	1			5
SELTZLER				1
SELZLER		1	1	39
SENER		1		
SENGER	4	58	9	142
SERR				1
SICHINGER	37		3	
SICKINGER	5		1	
SIEBLE		1		
SILBERNAGEL		4	1	2
SINGER			1	
SITTER	1	108	13	
SIZINGER	1			
SLAVINSKI			1	
SLEPE			1	
SLIWINSKI			6	
SOLVAY	1		5	
SPITZNAGEL	3			
SPRINGER		1		
STABLER				1
STACHOVSKA			1	
STACHOVSKI			1	
STACHOWSKI	4		20	
STAHL			1	3
STALGER		1		
STAMMER		33	1	
STAPLER				1
STAPPLER		1		1
STARK	1			
STAUS	24		2	
STAUSS	39	2	3	
STEFAN		2	2	
STEFKO		1		
STEHLE		3	1	
STEIER		2		
STEIGMANN		1		
STEINER	2			
STEPHA	1			
STEPHAN		21		
STOLPEL				1



19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
STOLZ			44	1
STRAUS			1	
STRAUSS			1	
STREIFEL	1	1		40
STRICHFADEN				2
STRICKFADEN	2			
STRITZINGER	7			
STRIZINGER	1			
STROH	10	91	4	2
STRUBEL	1			
STURM			1	
SVOBODA	1			
SWIDERSKI			19	1
THOMAS	3	16	139	45
TIEGER		2		
TOMAS				1
TOMCHIK		1		
TORSCHER	3			
TÖSELL				1
TREFS		1		
TSCHAN	1			
TUCHSCHERER	5	9	3	
TUSCHER	1	3		
TUTENHEFER	1	4		
TUTENHÖFER	1	1		
UBELHOR	1	18	1	
UHLM		2	4	
ULM		9	1	
ULMEIN		1		
UNKNOWN		1	2	
UNSER	36			1
USELMANN	2	2	132	1
USLEMANN			1	
USNER	1			
USSELMANN			33	
VASIL			1	
VEIST				1
VELLER				1
VERON			1	
VETSCH	10		83	
VETT		1	1	
VETTER		55	39	1
VETTIG				4
VINCENT				1
VIRON			1	
VOGEL		34	1	1
VOLK	142	20	11	3





19th Century Russian Relations

Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
VOLKZ		1		
VÖLLER	2	3	114	39
VOLZ	53	24	13	
VÖLZ			2	
VONHOFER			1	
VonHOFFEN			2	
VONHOFFEN			1	
VP;Z	1			
WACK	14		1	
WAG	2			
WAGLER	1			
WAGMANN	2	4		
WAGNER	32	5	20	1
WALD	3	2	65	67
WALIJOR	4			
WALIOR	10			
WALJIOR	5			
WALLIOR	6			
WALTER	1	32	1	
WALTZ		1		
WANGLER	65	4	2	1
WASSER	2	1	9	
WEBER	6	1	4	1
WECKER		1		
WEGMANN	52	3	1	
WEIBECK			1	
WEICHMANN	1		1	
WEIDEMANN				1
WEIGEL	3	4	99	8
WEIMER	1			4
WEININGER			2	
WEISBER			1	
WEISBURG			1	
WEISBURGER			1	
WEISENBERGER			2	
WEISMAN	1			
WEISS		2	25	4
WEISSBECK		4	80	
WEISSBURGER			1	
WEISSEBURGER			3	
WEISSENBERGER			6	
WEISSENBURG			1	
WEISSENBURGER	3	2	22	1
WEISSGERBER				1
WEISSMANN	1			
WELCK			5	1
WELICK			3	1

19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
WELIK			5	2
WELINGER			2	
WELK	3	4	90	21
WELKER		1		
WELTER		2		1
WELZLER				1
WENGLER	1			
WENINGER		1	18	49
WENNINGER			1	1
WERLING			5	
WERLINGER	1	1	45	1
WERNER		2	43	10
WERO		1	4	
WERON		1		
WERRON		1		
WICHENHÄUSER	1			
WICHENHEISER				2
WICKENHAUSER	1	1		
WICKENHÄUSER	1			
WICKENHÄUSER	18		1	
WICKENHÄUSSER	9			
WICKENHEISER	43	1	2	
WICKENHEISLER	1			
WICKENHEISSER	1			
WICKENHEUSER	2			
WIELAND		1		
WIESSBECK			1	
WIEST	1	2		
WIKENHEISER	1			
WILDEMANN	1			
WILHELM		7	1	
WINGERTER			2	
WINTER		1		
WINTERHALT		19		
WINTERHALTER		12	1	
WOLD				1
WOLF	14	8	1	38
ZAHN	8	54	48	2
ZEER			1	
ZEIGEN			1	
ZEILER			1	
ZELLER		1		
ZENTNER			2	14
ZERR	3	2	39	5
ZIEGLER			6	4
ZIGNER		1		
ZIMMER		1		



19th Century Russian Relations



Surname	Baden	Kandel	Selz	Strassburg
ZINGER			26	
ZINGNER		1	3	1
ZINK			1	
ZITTER		1		
ZWELIK				1
ZWIZLER	1			

19th Century Russian Relations



Appendix – Descendant Lines of Four Settler Families.

Details of 4 settler lines follow. They are lines starting with the grandparents or great grandparents of Barbara Kessler and Johannes Rombs.

There are many names, dates, and places mentioned below with out supporting references. I have chosen to do this in order to make the size of this document more manageable. Please contact me for specific source information.

Descendants of Josef Kessler and Barbara Geiger

1. Kessler, Josef (b. 1780, d. 1852 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Geiger Hohren, Barbara (b. 1783, d. 1857-09-07 - Selz, Russia)
 2. Kessler, Elisabeth (b. 1801)
 2. Kessler, Anton (b. 1805 - Leimersheim, Germany, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1853 - Kandel, Russia)
sp. Klein, Magdalena (d. 1846), m. 1831-11-23 - Selz, Russia
 3. Kessler, Franz (b. 1835)
sp. Ott, Elisabetha (b. 1831 - Kleinliebental, Russia), m. 1854-09-20 - Selz, Russia
 4. Kessler, Johannes (b. 1866 - Kandel, Russia)
sp. Schwengler, Eleonora (b. 1865 - Kandel, Russia), m. 1886-01-26 - Selz, Russia
 3. Kessler, Gertruda (b. 1838)
 3. Kessler, Barbara (b. 1841)
 3. Kessler, Georg (b. 1843)
 - sp. Keller, Elisabetha (b. 1822)
 3. Kessler, Daria (b. 1849)
 3. Kessler, Johannes (b. 1854 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Gelsenlicht, Magdalena (b. 1854), m. 1876-11-21 - Selz, Russia
2. Kessler, Michael (b. 1807)
2. Kessler, Jakob (b. 1810, d. 1857-02-28)
sp. Friedrich, Maria Elisabetha (b. 1821 - Mannheim, Russia, d. 1853-02-11 - Selz, Russia), m. 1841-11-16 - Selz, Russia
 3. Kessler, Genoveva (b. 1842-08-05 - Selz, Russia, d. 1924-04-15 - Canada)
sp. Hoepfner, Johannes (b. 1841-03-25 - Russia, d. 1922-07-01 - Canada), m. 1863-10-14 - Selz, Russia
 4. Hoepfner, Regina (b. 1868)
 4. Hoepfner, Jacob (b. 1874-09-29 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1949-10-02 - Bismark, North Dakota)
sp. Usselmann, Julianna (b. 1877-09-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1949-01-26 - Mercer, North Dakota), m. 1896-11-13 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
 5. Hipfner, Joseph (b. 1901-04-20 - Morton, North Dakota, d. 1987-10-26 - Morton, North Dakota)
 4. Hoepfner, Helena (b. 1881)
 4. Hoepfner, Anton
 3. Kessler, Ignatz (b. 1844)
 3. Kessler, Marianna (b. 1846)
 3. Kessler, Josef (b. 1847-12-12 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Kessler, Ludwig (b. 1849-09-22 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Fischer, Elisabetha (b. 1853-03-15 - Selz, Russia), m. 1872-10-18 - Selz, Russia
 3. Kessler, Nicholas (b. 1851-07-06 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Schwartz, Mary
 4. Kesler, John Nicholas (b. 1872, d. 1951)
sp. Hoffart, Mary Ann (b. 1881, d. 1947)



19th Century Russian Relations



5. Kesler, Wilhem (b. 1900, d. 1927)
5. Kesler, John (b. 1901, d. 1952)
5. Kesler, Elizabeth (b. 1903, d. 1984)
5. Kesler, Mary (b. 1905, d. 1927)
5. Kesler, Frank (b. 1907, d. 1958)
5. Kesler, Joseph (b. 1909, d. 1984)
5. Kesler, Herman (b. 1911, d. 1987)
5. Kesler, Edward (b. 1914, d. 1972)
5. Kesler, Nicholas (b. 1918, d. 1978)
3. Kessler, Wendelin (b. 1852-09-12 - Selz, Russia)
3. Kessler, Sebastian (b. 1853-02-01 - Selz, Russia)
- sp. Philipp, Catharina (b. 1833), m. 1853-05-11 - Selz, Russia
3. Kessler, Catharina (b. 1855-05-03 - Selz, Russia)
3. Kessler, Gertruda (b. 1857-03-19 - Selz, Russia)
2. Kessler, Mathias (b. 1812)
2. Kessler, Johanna (b. 1815-02-17 - Selz, Russia)
2. Kessler, Johannes (b. 1821 - Selz, Russia, d. 1886)
- sp. Schumacher, Elizabeth (b. 1822 - Selz, Russia, d. 1862-10-29 - Selz, Russia), m. 1844-11-05 - Selz, Russia
3. Kessler, Margaretha (b. 1845-08-04 - Selz, Russia, d. 1928-10-25 - McLean, North Dakota)
- sp. Usselmann, Alexander (b. 1844 - Selz, Russia, d. 1927-06-28 - Hazen, Mercer, North Dakota), m. 1865-11-08 - Selz, Russia
4. Usselmann, Valentine (b. 1866 - Selz, Russia)
4. Usselmann, John (b. 1867-10-15 - Selz, Russia, d. 1944-10-07 - Calgary, Alberta, Canada)
- sp. Detling, Marianna, m. 1894-10-11
4. Usselmann, Anna (b. 1869-05-18 - Selz, Russia, d. 1927-05-09 - Hazen, Mercer, North Dakota)
4. Usselmann, Margareta (b. 1872-09-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1955-02-19 - Dickenson, Stark, North Dakota)
- sp. Geisinger, Konstantin (b. 1870-09-15 - Russia, d. 1942-02-06 - North Dakota)
4. Usselmann, Anton (b. 1874 - Selz, Russia)
4. Usselmann, Julianna (b. 1877-09-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1949-01-26 - Mercer, North Dakota)
- sp. Hoepfner, Jacob (b. 1874-09-29 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1949-10-02 - Bismark, North Dakota), m. 1896-11-13 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
5. Hipfner, Joseph (b. 1901-04-20 - Morton, North Dakota, d. 1987-10-26 - Morton, North Dakota)
4. Usselmann, Josef (b. 1882 - Selz, Russia)
4. Usselmann, Adam (b. 1886-06-20 - Selz, Russia, d. 1947-03-12)
3. Kessler, Franz (b. 1846-09-26 - Selz, Russia, d. 1913-04-20 - Oregon)
- sp. Deibert, Maria Anna (b. 1850 - Selz, Russia, d. 1877 - Selz, Russia), m. 1870-10-26 - Selz, Russia
4. Kessler, Margaret Katherine (b. 1877, d. 1960)
- sp. Feth, Barbara (b. 1854, d. 1916-08-28 - Oregon)
4. Kessler, Michael (b. 1883-07-27 - Selz, Russia, d. 1982-04-08 - Oregon)
4. Kessler, Elizabeth Anna (b. 1886-01-18 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1950-06-22 - Oregon)
3. Kessler, Barbara (b. 1848-06-26 - Selz, Russia, d. 1896-03-10 - Wecota, Faulk, Sotuh Dakota, USA)
- sp. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1845-07-01 - Selz, Russia, d. 1914-08-08 - South Dakota, USA), m. 1866-11-07 - Selz, Russia
4. Rombs, Lulu (b. 1866-07-02 - Selz, Russia, d. 1953-04-17 - Faulk, South Dakota, US)
- sp. House, Reuben H. (b. 1858 - Canada), m. 1886
5. House, James W. (b. 1888-08-05, d. 1928-07-08 - Montana)
5. House, Anna C. (b. 1890 - South Dakota, d. 1973)
- sp. Hansen, Fred
5. House, Bertha J. (b. 1892 - South Dakota)
- sp. Magnuson, Earl

19th Century Russian Relations



5. House, Charles Edward (b. 1893-07-22 - Watertown, South Dakota, USA, d. 1966-11-15 - Riverside, California)
sp. unknown, Nina
5. House, Chester Ira (b. 1897-07-22 - South Dakota, d. 1972-06-04 - Swift, Minnesota)
sp. Rieger, Rose M. (b. 1903 - North Dakota)
5. House, Esther Alta (b. 1900-02-25 - Sparta, Monroe, Wisconsin, US)
sp. Soderquist, Clarence
5. House, Helen (b. 1902-07-22 - Wisconsin, d. 1982)
sp. Hansen, Edward (b. 1896-06-17 - South Dakota, d. 1982-01-31)
5. House, William Theodore (b. 1904-03-30 - Sparta, Monroe, Wisconsin, US)
sp. Rieger, Ethel
5. House, Joseph Franklin (b. 1906-05-14 - Sparta, Monroe, Wisconsin, US, d. 1988-05-10 - Hawthorne, California, USA)
sp. unknown, Virginia
5. House, Vera Muriel (b. 1908-08-03 - South Dakota, d. 1980-04-04 - Sacramento, California, USA)
4. Rombs, Johann (b. 1868 - Selz, Russia, d. 1872-06-18 - Selz, Russia)
4. Rombs, Andreas (b. 1872-03-14 - Selz, Russia, d. 1873-06-23 - Selz, Russia)
4. Rombs, Caroline B. (b. 1875 - Selz, Russia, d. 1917-02-03 - Faulk, South Dakota, US)
sp. Austin, Bert W. (b. 1870-02-10 - Illinois, USA, d. 1953-01-02 - San Diego, San Diego, California), m. 1899
 5. Austin, Mildred B. (b. 1900, d. 1918-11-07 - Brown, South Dakota, USA)
sp. Mayer, R. G.
 5. Austin, Dorothy E. (b. 1901-01-27 - Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 1979-12-20 - Los Angeles, California, US)
sp. Sieberg, Roland
 5. Austin, Muriel Veva (b. 1904-11-15 - South Dakota, d. 1986-01-24 - Lakeport, Lake, California, USA)
sp. Hill, Harry
sp. Evans, Charles Dineen (b. 1895, d. 1950)
4. Rombs, Nicholas (b. 1877 - Selz, Russia, d. 1945-09-01 - Mechanicsburg, Cumberland, PA, USA)
sp. Nelson, Mary C. (b. 1885-11-04 - Kandota, Todd, Minnesota, d. 1960-01-02 - Torrance, California), m. 1906-08-15 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US
 5. Rombs, Walter J. (b. 1907-04-21 - South Dakota, d. 1993-01-05 - Central Point, Oregon, USA)
sp. Carlson, Edith
 5. Rombs, Evelyn Agnes (b. 1912-05-01 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 2006-01-27 - Newton, Iowa, USA)
sp. Schmidt, Harold F. (b. 1905-04-07 - Iowa, USA, d. 1988-12-17 - Newton, Iowa, USA), m. 1930-06-02 - Napoleon, North Dakota, USA
 5. Rombs, Hazel Elizabeth (b. 1915-06-02 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 1996-12-09)
sp. Fought, Vance R. (b. 1911), m. 1934-07-03 - Belle Fourche, Butte, South Dakota, US
 5. Rombs, Lucille Eileen (b. 1919-06-08 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 2012-03-16 - Minnesota, US)
sp. Harris, Keneth R., m. 1937-11-09 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US
 5. Rombs, Katherine A. (b. 1924 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US)
sp. Steele, Robert G.
 5. Rombs, Marie I. (b. 1926 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 2010-01-08)
sp. Schmidt, August E., m. 1972-12-02 - Los Angeles, California, US
sp. Peasnell, James Oliver (b. 1920-05-13 - Utah, USA, d. 2004-08-26 - Redondo Beach, CA, USA), m. 1945 - Tooele, Utah, USA
4. Rombs, Peter (b. 1881 - Selz, Russia, d. 1882-07-03 - Selz, Russia)



19th Century Russian Relations



4. Rombs, Esther Elizabeth (b. 1883-06-26 - Selz, Russia, d. 1957 - Aberdeen, Brown, South Dakota, US)
 - sp. Thornburg, Clyde (b. 1879 - Indiana, USA, d. 1912), m. 1903
 5. Thornburg, Harold Arlo (b. 1904 - North Dakota)
 5. Thornburg, Ambrose Clayton (b. 1906 - North Dakota)
 5. Thornburg, Mabel Evelyn (b. 1908 - Canada)
 5. Thornburg, Clyde Alva (b. 1910-10-28 - Montana, USA, bur. 1972-12-17 - Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA)
 - sp. Cranage, Matt (b. 1875 - Wisconsin, d. 1965), m. 1916-03-31 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
 5. Cranage, Ralph (b. 1917 - South Dakota)
 5. Cranage, Loren (b. 1919 - South Dakota)
 5. Cranage, Everett (b. 1921 - South Dakota)
 5. Cranage, Maynard (b. 1922 - South Dakota)
 5. Cranage, Elizabeth (b. 1927 - South Dakota)
4. Rhombs, Joseph (b. 1885-11-03 - Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 1940-09-03 - Pierre, South Dakota, US)
 - sp. Thompson, Tena A. (b. 1890-03-17 - Potter, South Dakota, d. 1979-05-18 - Potter, South Dakota, US), m. 1910-12-24 - Potter, South Dakota
 5. Rhombs, Anna V. (b. 1911 - Potter, South Dakota, d. 2002 - Potter, South Dakota)
 - sp. Comeau, Leo (b. 1906, d. 1972)
 5. Rhombs, Vern J. (b. 1917-12-28 - Potter, South Dakota, d. 1970-08-13 - Lebanon, South Dakota)
 5. Rhombs, Robert Earl (b. 1920-02-20 - Lebanon, South Dakota, d. 2005-08-31 - Sarasota, Florida)
 - sp. Bates, Velma (b. 1921-12-22 - Bowman, North Dakota, United States, d. 2019-11-07 - Port Charlotte, Charlotte, Florida), m. 1945-07-24 - Pierre, South Dakota, US
4. Rombs, Kathryn (b. 1887-03-00, d. 1970-12-22 - Jefferson, Montana)
 - sp. Vinton, Alva J. (b. 1878 - Tama, Iowa, USA, d. 1959-04-16 - Meagher, Montana, USA)
 5. Vinton, Fern C. (b. 1911 - South Dakota, d. 1993-03-13 - Meagher, Montana, USA)
 - sp. Campbell, Clarice A. (b. 1919), m. 1937-10-16 - Lewiston, Fergus, Montana, USA
3. Kessler, Katharina (b. 1850-11-25 - Selz, Russia)
3. Kessler, Rochus (b. 1854-03-18 - Selz, Russia, d. 1939 - South Dakota)
 - sp. Burghardt, Brigitta (b. 1862, d. 1926 - South Dakota), m. 1881-11-09 - Strassburg, Russia
 4. Kessler, Agnesia (b. 1884)
 4. Kessler, Felix V. (b. 1888 - Russia)
 4. Kessler, John (b. 1891 - South Dakota)
 4. Kessler, Anna (b. 1896 - South Dakota)
 4. Kessler, Anton (b. 1899 - South Dakota)
 4. Kessler, Sebastian (b. 1901-11-25 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1982-02-02 - Montana)
3. Kessler, Josef (b. 1856-03-18 - Selz, Russia, d. 1893)
 - sp. Saenger, Anna (b. 1858-11-29 - Strassburg, Russia, d. 1930 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA), m. 1881
 4. Kessler, Edith (b. 1882-07-22 - Russia, d. 1974-04-00 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
 4. Kessler, Frances (b. 1884-12-00, d. 1963 - Aberdeen, Brown, South Dakota)
 - sp. Silbernagel, Leonard L. (b. 1884-12-20, d. 1953), m. 1909-11-10 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
 5. Silbernagel, Marie (b. 1910-05-05 - Brown, South Dakota, US)
 5. Silbernagel, Monie
 5. Silbernagel, Joseph
 5. Silbernagel, Virgil
 5. Silbernagel, Lorraine (b. 1923, d. 2011)

19th Century Russian Relations



4. Kessler, Lizzie (b. 1887-02-17 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1901-12-17 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
4. Kessler, Joseph (b. 1889-01-06 - Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 1983-01-21 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
4. Kessler, Anna (b. 1891-02-00 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1926)
sp. Blank, Martin L. (b. 1883-10-07, d. 1971-10-00), m. 1914-02-10 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
4. Kessler, Katie (b. 1894-05-00 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1960 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
sp. Blank, Carl R. (b. 1886, d. 1987 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA), m. 1919-11-27 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
 5. Blank, Jerome (b. 1921)
 5. Blank, Angela (b. 1923-07-19 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1993-10-26 - Colorado)
 5. Blank, Deloris (b. 1925)
 5. Blank, Carl Robert (b. 1926, d. 2010)
 5. Blank, Mary (b. 1930-09-05, d. 1984-03-21)
sp. Horst, Herbert Harold (b. 1931-10-19, d. 1957-12-02)
3. Kessler, Adam (b. 1859-01-02 - Selz, Russia, d. 1861-10-29 - Selz, Russia)
3. Kessler, Johannes (b. 1860-11-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1921 - Kandel, Russia)
sp. Lacher, Lenore
 4. Kessler, Andreas (b. 1886-04-15 - Kandel, Russia, d. 1934-12-28)
3. Kessler, Wendelin (b. 1862-10-24 - Selz, Russia, d. 1944-03-26 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
sp. Dosch, Martha (b. 1875-05-05 - Kandel, Russia, d. 1949-02-16 - Aberdeen, Brown, South Dakota)
 4. Kessler, Margaret (b. 1896-01-08, d. 1896-03-16)
 4. Kessler, Stephen (b. 1897-07-26, d. 1897-08-20)
 4. Kessler, Katherine M. (b. 1899-07-29 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1997-11-05)
 4. Kessler, John (b. 1901-09-27 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1977-03-03)
 4. Kessler, Michael (b. 1903-06-08 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
 4. Kessler, Regina (b. 1905-09-28, d. 1906-02-04)
 4. Kessler, Bernard (b. 1907-08-19 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1992-09-19 - Brown, South Dakota)
 4. Kessler, Sylvester (b. 1911-08-10, d. 1916-01-14)
 4. Kessler, Anna Marie (b. 1915-01-14 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 2004-06-26)
 4. Kessler, Wendelin (b. 1917-12-08 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1991-12-08)
- sp. Hunkele, Margaretha (b. 1835 - Selz, Russia), m. 1866-01-24 - Selz, Russia
 3. Kessler, Stefan (b. 1868 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Kessler, Thomas D (b. 1870-02-20 - Selz, Russia, d. 1956-01-31 - Oregon)

19th Century Russian Relations



Descendants of Franz Ludwig Rombs and Margaretha Werner

Note that Franz Ludwig is one of the few people whose profession is specifically called out. In Paradise on the Steppe, page 61, he is identified as one of two teachers among the Selz colonists. The other teacher was Simon Rostisher.

1. Rombs, Franz Ludwig (b. 1763-04-11 - Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France, d. 1836-04-22 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Werner, Margaretha (b. 1765-11-03 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, Germany, d. 1823-03-16), m. 1784-05-03
 2. Rombs, Elisabetha (b. 1795 - Alsace, d. 1831 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Schall, Johann (b. 1795, d. 1833), m. 1814
 3. Schall, Jacob (b. 1813, d. 1814)
 3. Schall, Marianna (b. 1815, d. 1815)
 3. Schall, Nicholas (b. 1828-10-27 - Selz, Russia, d. 1897-03-19 - McIntosh, North Dakota)
sp. Faehn, Marianna (b. 1826, d. 1897)
 4. Schall, Wendelin (b. 1862, d. 1950)
sp. Duchscherer, Phillipina (b. 1877, d. 1966)
 5. Schall, Barbara
 5. Schall, Nicholas
 5. Schall, Raymond
 5. Schall, August
 5. Schall, Margaret
 5. Schall, Wendell
 5. Schall, Michael
 5. Schall, Simon
 5. Schall, Ned (b. 1916-06-01, d. 2003-06-14)
2. Rombs, Franz (b. 1791, d. 1836-02-13 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Sennhauser, Katharina (b. 1791-02-09, d. 1852 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Rombs, Franz Joseph (b. 1811 - Selz, Russia, d. 1879-07-12 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Usselmann, Katherina (b. 1815-03-12 - Selz, Russia, d. 1852-07-18 - Selz, Russia), m. 1834-10-21 - Selz, Russia
 4. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1835-09-17 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Fetsch, Josef (b. 1831), m. 1854-10-18
 5. Fetsch, Katharina (b. 1855)
 5. Fetsch, Michael (b. 1858)
 5. Fetsch, Bernhard (b. 1859)
 5. Fetsch, Magdalena (b. 1860)
 5. Fetsch, Josef (b. 1864)
 5. Fetsch, Margaretha (b. 1856-11-01 - Selz, Russia, d. 1951-08-08 - North Dakota)
 4. Rombs, Magdalena (b. 1837-03-18 - Selz, Russia, d. 1839-06-17 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Rombs, Katharina (b. 1838-09-23 - Selz, Russia, d. 1869-04-22 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Hirsch, Andreas (b. 1836 - Selz, Russia), m. 1858-10-13 - Selz, Russia
 5. Hirsch, Anna
 5. Hirsch, Pilomena
 4. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1840-02-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1840-12-04 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Rombs, Franz Josef (b. 1842-03-19 - Selz, Russia, d. 1865-12-10 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Weigel, Barbara (b. 1843 - Selz, Russia), m. 1864-10-19 - Selz, Russia
 4. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1845-07-01 - Selz, Russia, d. 1914-08-08 - South Dakota, USA)
sp. Kessler, Barbara (b. 1848-06-26 - Selz, Russia, d. 1896-03-10 - Wecota, Faulk, Sotuh Dakota, USA), m. 1866-11-07 - Selz, Russia
 5. Rombs, Lulu (b. 1866-07-02 - Selz, Russia, d. 1953-04-17 - Faulk, South Dakota, US)
sp. House, Reuben H. (b. 1858 - Canada), m. 1886



19th Century Russian Relations



5. Rombs, Johann (b. 1868 - Selz, Russia, d. 1872-06-18 - Selz, Russia)
5. Rombs, Andreas (b. 1872-03-14 - Selz, Russia, d. 1873-06-23 - Selz, Russia)
5. Rombs, Caroline B. (b. 1875 - Selz, Russia, d. 1917-02-03 - Faulk, South Dakota, US)
sp. Austin, Bert W. (b. 1870-02-10 - Illinois, USA, d. 1953-01-02 - San Diego, San Diego, California), m. 1899
5. Rombs, Nicholas (b. 1877 - Selz, Russia, d. 1945-09-01 - Mechanicsburg, Cumberland, PA, USA)
sp. Nelson, Mary C. (b. 1885-11-04 - Kandota, Todd, Minnesota, d. 1960-01-02 - Torrance, California), m. 1906-08-15 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US
5. Rombs, Peter (b. 1881 - Selz, Russia, d. 1882-07-03 - Selz, Russia)
5. Rombs, Esther Elizabeth (b. 1883-06-26 - Selz, Russia, d. 1957 - Aberdeen, Brown, South Dakota, US)
sp. Thornburg, Clyde (b. 1879 - Indiana, USA, d. 1912), m. 1903
sp. Cranage, Matt (b. 1875 - Wisconsin, d. 1965), m. 1916-03-31 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
5. Rhombs, Joseph (b. 1885-11-03 - Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 1940-09-03 - Pierre, South Dakota, US)
sp. Thompson, Tena A. (b. 1890-03-17 - Potter, South Dakota, d. 1979-05-18 - Potter, South Dakota, US), m. 1910-12-24 - Potter, South Dakota
5. Rombs, Kathryn (b. 1887-03-00, d. 1970-12-22 - Jefferson, Montana)
sp. Vinton, Alva J. (b. 1878 - Tama, Iowa, USA, d. 1959-04-16 - Meagher, Montana, USA)
4. Rombs, Magdalena (b. 1848-02-17 - Selz, Russia, d. 1853-10-15 - Selz, Russia)
4. Rombs, Franz (b. 1849-08-16 - Selz, Russia, d. 1880-12-07 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Klein, Margaretha (b. 1854 - Selz, Russia), m. 1874-10-27 - Selz, Russia
 5. Rombs, Ferdinand (b. 1875)
 5. Rombs, Elisabetha (b. 1877)
 5. Rombs, Katharina
4. Rombs, Severin (b. 1852-05-21 - Selz, Russia)
- sp. Hirsch, Barbara (b. 1833 - Selz, Russia), m. 1853-10-12 - Selz, Russia
 4. Rombs, Margaretha (b. 1856-11-28 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Rombs, Wendelin (b. 1858-02-23 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Rombs, Georg (b. 1859-09-16 - Selz, Russia, d. 1859-10-14 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Rombs, Magdalena (b. 1860-11-19 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Rombs, Margaretha (b. 1862-06-14 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Rombs, Wendelin (b. 1863-09-18 - Selz, Russia)sp. Goldade, Elisabetha (b. 1817), m. 1877-04-24 - Selz, Russia
3. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1812 - Selz, Russia, d. 1834-09-11 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Fetsch, Johann (b. 1812), m. 1833-11-05
 4. Fetsch, Marianna (b. 1833-11-14 - Selz, Russia, d. 1833)
 4. Fetsch, Johannes (b. 1834-09-03 - Selz, Russia)
3. Rombs, Elisabetha (b. 1814 - Selz, Russia)
3. Rombs, Margaretha (b. 1815-09-25 - Selz, Russia, d. 1879-12-29 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Fetsch, Franz Georg (b. 1813 - Selz, Russia), m. 1838-11-06 - Selz, Russia
 4. Fetsch, Johann (b. 1839)
 4. Fetsch, Katharina (b. 1842-05-24 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Fetsch, Thomas (b. 1844-12-21 - Selz, Russia)sp. Wagner, Marianna (b. 1848), m. 1866-11-07
 5. Fetsch, Georg (b. 1871)
 5. Fetsch, Anton (b. 1875)
 5. Fetsch, Margarethe (b. 1879)
 5. Fetsch, Franz (b. 1882, d. 1947)
4. Fetsch, Julianna (b. 1847-05-03 - Selz, Russia)
4. Fetsch, Franz (b. 1850 - Selz, Russia, d. 1911-04-25 - Selz, Russia)

19th Century Russian Relations



4. Fetsch, Elizabetha (b. 1852 - Selz, Russia)
4. Fetsch, Anna (b. 1854-03-27 - Selz, Russia)
3. Rombs, Stefan (b. 1819 - Selz, Russia, d. 1891 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Hulm, Karolina (b. 1822), m. 1838-11-06 - Selz, Russia
 4. Rombs, Franz (b. 1839, d. 1840)
 4. Rombs, Anton (b. 1840)
 - sp. Jung, Julianna (b. 1845)
 5. Rombs, Karolina (b. 1867, d. 1868-12-12 - Selz, Russia)
 5. Rombs, Walter (b. 1874-03-15 - Selz, Russia, d. 1946-07-10 - Brown, South Dakota)
 5. Rombs, Stefan (b. 1877 - Selz, Russia, d. 1878-03-17 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Rombs, Georg (b. 1843, d. 1916 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Weigel, Franziska (b. 1844-10-24 - Selz, Russia)
 5. Rombs, Josef (b. 1867 - Selz, Russia, d. 1870-01-15 - Selz, Russia)
 5. Rombs, Barbara (b. 1868-07-06 - Selz, Russia, d. 1945 - Russia)
 5. Rombs, Joseph (b. 1874-01-06 - Russia, d. 1962-10-22 - Ramsey, North Dakota)
 - sp. Frank, Angelika (b. 1879-11-01 - Russia, d. 1967-05-22 - Ramsey, North Dakota)
 4. Rombs, Andreas (b. 1845, d. 1845)
 4. Rombs, Rosina (b. 1846)
 4. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1848 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Rombs, Katharina (b. 1850)
 4. Rombs, Helena (b. 1852 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Rombs, Magdalena (b. 1854)
 4. Rombs, Elisabetha (b. 1857)
 4. Rombs, Thaddeus (b. 1859)
 4. Rombs, Balthazar (b. 1860)
 4. Rombs, Thaddeus (b. 1863)
 3. Rombs, Paul (b. 1825 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Goldade, Magdalena (b. 1827 - Selz, Russia), m. 1847-10-12
 4. Rombs, Katharina (b. 1849 - Selz, Russia, d. 1850-05-08 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Rombs, Johann (b. 1851 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Rombs, Georg (d. 1858 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1826 - Selz, Russia, d. 1912 - Neu-Petersburg, Russia)
 - sp. Eisenzimmer, Franziska (b. 1837 - Selz, Russia), m. 1858-10-06 - Selz, Russia
 4. Rombs, Magdalena (b. 1859-11-07 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Rombs, Elizabeth (b. 1861-12-03 - Selz, Russia, d. 1945 - Blumenfeld, Ukraine)
 - sp. Kiefel, Eugen (b. 1854 - Franzfeld, Russia, d. 1929 - Blumenfeld, Russia)
 5. Kiefel, Johann (b. 1882)
 5. Kiefel, Jakob (b. 1888 - Blumenfeld, Russia, d. 1938-07-13)
 5. Kiefel, Martin (b. 1891-11-11 - Blumenfeld, Russia, d. 1937-11-05)
 5. Kiefel, Rosa (b. 1893 - Blumenfeld, Russia)
 5. Kiefel, Theresia (b. 1898-09-13 - Blumenfeld, Russia)
 5. Kiefel, Klemens (b. 1903-11-23 - Blumenfeld, Russia)
 4. Rombs, Michael (b. 1864-04-20 - Blumenfeld, Russia, d. 1920 - Neu-Petersburg, Russia)
 - sp. Hatzenbuehler, Barbara (b. 1871-09-11 - Neu-Baden, Russia, d. 1933-12-20 - Neu-Petersburg, Russia), m. 1891
 5. Rombs, Daniel
 5. Rombs, Angelina (b. 1893, d. 1963)
 5. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1895, d. 1955)
 5. Rombs, Markus (b. 1896 - Neu-Petersburg, Russia, d. 1964 - Russia)
 5. Rombs, Valentin (b. 1900 - Neu Petersburg, Russia, d. 1955 - Ulm, Germany)
 - sp. Detling, Magdalena (b. 1906 - Blumenfeld, Russia, d. 1966 - Karaganda, Russia), m. 1925-11-26
 5. Rombs, Michail (b. 1903, d. 1946)

19th Century Russian Relations



5. Rombs, Nikodemus (b. 1906, d. 1977)
5. Rombs, Josef (b. 1909, d. 1947)
4. Rombs, Christina (b. 1866-04-28 - Russia)
4. Rombs, Dorothea (b. 1868-07-10 - Russia)
- sp. Volk, Agnesia (b. 1828 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1858-05-09 - Selz, Russia), m. 1845-09-16 - Selz, Russia
4. Rombs, Katharina (b. 1846 - Selz, Russia)
4. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1850-02-01 - Selz, Russia, d. 1852-12-26 - Selz, Russia)
4. Rombs, Balthazar R. (b. 1853-05-23 - Selz, Russia, d. 1926-05-11)
- sp. Wagner, Helena (Halaline) (b. 1854-05-28 - Franzfeld, Russia, d. 1932-09-14)
5. Rombs, Francis (b. 1875, d. 1927)
5. Rombs, Agnes Dorothy (b. 1876, d. 1943)
5. Rombs, Jakob B. (b. 1878-06-00 - Franzfeld, Russia, d. 1945)
5. Rombs, John Balthasar (b. 1880-06-01 - Blumenfeld, Ukraine, d. 1953-01-30 - Alberta, Canada)
5. Rombs, Elisabeth (b. 1882, d. 1968)
5. Rombs, Anna (b. 1884-05-28 - Franzfeld, Russia, d. 1966)
5. Rombs, Audenia (Lena?) (b. 1887-02-07 - Grimes, Texas, US, d. 1967)
5. Rombs, Daniel Leon (b. 1889-02-21 - Grimes, Texas, US, d. 1970)
5. Rombs, Teckla (Carrie R.?) (b. 1891-05-00 - Grimes, Texas, US, d. 1965)
5. Rombs, Helen Ellie (b. 1894 - Grimes, Texas, US, d. 1964)
4. Rombs, Helena (b. 1855 - Selz, Russia)
4. Rombs, Wendelin (b. 1856-09-02 - Selz, Russia, d. 1856-09-10 - Selz, Russia)
4. Rombs, Anton (b. 1858-04-20 - Selz, Russia, d. 1858-08-14 - Selz, Russia)
- sp. Schaefer, Katharina
4. Rombs, Franz (b. 1870)
- sp. Dettling, Agnes
4. Rombs, Albina (b. 1877-04-06)
3. Rombs, Georg (b. 1832-02-02 - Selz, Russia, d. 1833-09-03 - Selz, Russia)
3. Rombs, Elisabetha (b. 1834-04-25 - Selz, Russia)
- sp. Volk, Mathias (b. 1833 - Selz, Russia, m. 1855-01-17 - Selz, Russia)
2. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1801 - Alsace)
- sp. Usselmann, Jakob (b. 1799, d. 1862 - Selz, Russia)
3. Usselmann, Adam (b. 1823 - Selz, Russia)
- sp. Arth, Margareta (b. 1825, d. 1862 - Selz, Russia), m. 1845 - Selz, Russia
4. Usselmann, Magdalena (b. 1857 - Selz, Russia)
4. Usselmann, Katharina (b. 1861 - Selz, Russia)
- sp. Eisenzimmer, Helen (b. 1843 - Selz, Russia), m. 1862 - Selz, Russia
4. Usselmann, Sylvester John (b. 1868-06-28 - Selz, Russia, d. 1937 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
- sp. Dosch, Regina (b. 1868-09-29 - Kandel, Russia), m. 1890-11-18
5. Usselmann, Helena (b. 1891-07-21 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1981 - Emmons, North Dakota, US)
- sp. Schumacher, Michael Andrew (b. 1886 - Strassburg, Russia, d. 1954 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
4. Usselmann, Anna Maria (b. 1869 - Selz, Russia)
4. Usselmann, Eva (b. 1870 - Selz, Russia)
4. Usselmann, Marianna (b. 1874 - Selz, Russia)
4. Usselmann, Margaretha (b. 1877 - Selz, Russia)
3. Usselmann, Lorenz (b. 1825 - Selz, Russia)
- sp. Hopfinger, Lugwiga (b. 1825), m. 1848 - Selz, Russia
4. Usselmann, Martin (b. 1849)
4. Usselmann, Katharina (b. 1851)
4. Usselmann, Magdalena (b. 1860 - Selz, Russia, d. 1941-05-19 - Cass, North Dakota)

19th Century Russian Relations



3. Usselmann, Kasimir (b. 1827 - Selz, Russia, d. 1857 - Selz, Russia)
sp. unknown, Johanna (b. 1831)
 4. Usselmann, Joseph (b. 1851)
 3. Usselmann, Georg (b. 1832 - Selz, Russia, d. 1835 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Marianna (b. 1835)
 3. Usselmann, Johann (b. 1837 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Margaretha (b. 1840 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Martin (b. 1842 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Elisabetha (d. 1848 - Selz, Russia)
- sp. unknown
3. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1833-11-10 - Selz, Russia, d. 1833-11-19 - Selz, Russia)

19th Century Russian Relations



Descendants of Adam Schumacher and Barbara Geg

Note that the descendants of Adam Schumacher below do NOT include the two Schumacher families that appear in the 1852 census in the Strassburg colony. The heads of those households are Josef and Thomas, both of whom descend from Mathias Schumacher and Elisabetha Hirsch from a Black Forest town called Epfendorf. See <http://epfendorf.com/> and <https://www.meyersgaz.org/place/10444033>. Some people that settled in the Edmunds Co., SD, area can be traced to this line.

1. Schumacher, Adam (b. 1792, d. 1852)
 - sp. Geg, Barbara (b. 1794), m. - Selz, Russia
 - 2. Schumacher, Jakob (b. 1814 - Selz, Russia)
 - 2. Schumacher, Philipp (b. 1817, d. 1872-12-30 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Hartmann, Magdalena (b. 1817, d. 1888 - Mannheim, Russia)
 - 3. Schumacher, Franz
 - 3. Schumacher, Maria Ann (b. 1839, d. 1840)
 - 3. Schumacher, Johannes (b. 1841 - Selz, Russia, d. 1898 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Schumacher, Thomas (b. 1843 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Schumacher, Anton (b. 1846 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Schumacher, Philipp (b. 1847 - Selz, Russia, d. 1907 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Mack, Elizabeth (b. 1848, d. 1935)
 - 4. Schumacher, Josephine
 - 4. Schumacher, Johannes
 - 4. Schumacher, Anna Maria
 - 4. Schumacher, Anton
 - 4. Schumacher, Marianna
 - 4. Schumacher, Franz
 - 4. Schumacher, Magdalena
 - 4. Schumacher, Margaretha (b. 1887, d. 1968)
 - sp. Weninger, George (b. 1882, d. 1958)
 - 4. Schumacher, Josephine
 - 4. Schumacher, Martina
 - sp. Weninger, Helena
 - 4. Schumacher, Philipp (b. 1868)
 - sp. Usselmann, Theresa (b. 1876)
 - 3. Schumacher, Margaretha (b. 1853 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Schumacher, Martha Josefa (b. 1855 - Selz, Russia, d. 1927 - Russia)
 - 2. Schumacher, Theodor (b. 1816 - Selz, Russia, d. 1816 - Selz, Russia)
 - 2. Schumacher, Theodor (b. 1818, d. 1864)
 - sp. Braun, Marianna (b. 1817, d. 1864)
 - 3. Schumacher, Jakob (b. 1840)
 - 3. Schumacher, Elisabetha (b. 1843)
 - 3. Schumacher, Klara (b. 1845)
 - 3. Schumacher, Barbara (b. 1848)
 - 3. Schumacher, Joseph Theodor (b. 1850)
 - 3. Schumacher, Sebastian (b. 1853)
 - 3. Schumacher, Paul (b. 1856)
 - 3. Schumacher, Adam (b. 1858, d. 1920 - Strasburg, North Dakota)
 - sp. Wolf, Marianna (b. 1864, d. 1894)
 - 4. Schumacher, John J. (b. 1884-03-19 - Selz, Russia, d. 1944-08-06 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)



19th Century Russian Relations



- sp. Biegler, Theresa (b. 1889, d. 1971 - Aberdeen, Brown, South Dakota), m. 1910-05-10 - Leola, McPherson, North Dakota
- 5. Schumacher, Charles
 - 5. Schumacher, Adam P.
 - 5. Schumacher, Mary Elizabeth
 - 5. Schumacher, Kathryn Margaret
 - 5. Schumacher, Michael P.
 - 5. Schumacher, Paul Ames
 - 5. Schumacher, Anna
 - 5. Schumacher, John P.
 - 5. Schumacher, Elizabeth
 - 5. Schumacher, Joseph John
 - 5. Schumacher, Delores
 - 5. Schumacher, Theresa
 - 5. Schumacher, Andrew
4. Schumacher, Joseph (b. 1888, d. 1982 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
4. Schumacher, Anna (b. 1889, d. 1982 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
4. Schumacher, Andrew (b. 1892)
2. Schumacher, Elizabeth (b. 1822 - Selz, Russia, d. 1862-10-29 - Selz, Russia)
- sp. Kessler, Johannes (b. 1821 - Selz, Russia, d. 1886), m. 1844-11-05 - Selz, Russia
3. Kessler, Margaretha (b. 1845-08-04 - Selz, Russia, d. 1928-10-25 - McLean, North Dakota)
- sp. Usselmann, Alexander (b. 1844 - Selz, Russia, d. 1927-06-28 - Hazen, Mercer, North Dakota), m. 1865-11-08 - Selz, Russia
- 4. Usselmann, Valentine (b. 1866 - Selz, Russia)
 - 4. Usselmann, John (b. 1867-10-15 - Selz, Russia, d. 1944-10-07 - Calgary, Alberta, Canada)
- sp. Detling, Marianna, m. 1894-10-11
- 4. Usselmann, Anna (b. 1869-05-18 - Selz, Russia, d. 1927-05-09 - Hazen, Mercer, North Dakota)
 - 4. Usselmann, Margareta (b. 1872-09-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1955-02-19 - Dickenson, Stark, North Dakota)
- sp. Geisinger, Konstantin (b. 1870-09-15 - Russia, d. 1942-02-06 - North Dakota)
- 4. Usselmann, Anton (b. 1874 - Selz, Russia)
 - 4. Usselmann, Julianna (b. 1877-09-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1949-01-26 - Mercer, North Dakota)
- sp. Hoepfner, Jacob (b. 1874-09-29 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1949-10-02 - Bismark, North Dakota), m. 1896-11-13 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
- 5. Hipfner, Joseph (b. 1901-04-20 - Morton, North Dakota, d. 1987-10-26 - Morton, North Dakota)
- 4. Usselmann, Josef (b. 1882 - Selz, Russia)
 - 4. Usselmann, Adam (b. 1886-06-20 - Selz, Russia, d. 1947-03-12)
3. Kessler, Franz (b. 1846-09-26 - Selz, Russia, d. 1913-04-20 - Oregon)
- sp. Deibert, Maria Anna (b. 1850 - Selz, Russia, d. 1877 - Selz, Russia), m. 1870-10-26 - Selz, Russia
- 4. Kessler, Margaret Katherine (b. 1877, d. 1960)
- sp. Feth, Barbara (b. 1854, d. 1916-08-28 - Oregon)
- 4. Kessler, Michael (b. 1883-07-27 - Selz, Russia, d. 1982-04-08 - Oregon)
 - 4. Kessler, Elizabeth Anna (b. 1886-01-18 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1950-06-22 - Oregon)
3. Kessler, Barbara (b. 1848-06-26 - Selz, Russia, d. 1896-03-10 - Wecota, Faulk, Sotuh Dakota, USA)
- sp. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1845-07-01 - Selz, Russia, d. 1914-08-08 - South Dakota, USA), m. 1866-11-07 - Selz, Russia
- 4. Rombs, Lulu (b. 1866-07-02 - Selz, Russia, d. 1953-04-17 - Faulk, South Dakota, US)
- sp. House, Reuben H. (b. 1858 - Canada), m. 1886
- 5. House, James W. (b. 1888-08-05, d. 1928-07-08 - Montana)
 - 5. House, Anna C. (b. 1890 - South Dakota, d. 1973)
- sp. Hansen, Fred
- 5. House, Bertha J. (b. 1892 - South Dakota)

19th Century Russian Relations



- sp. Magnuson, Earl
- 5. House, Charles Edward (b. 1893-07-22 - Watertown, South Dakota, USA, d. 1966-11-15 - Riverside, California)
sp. unknown, Nina
- 5. House, Chester Ira (b. 1897-07-22 - South Dakota, d. 1972-06-04 - Swift, Minnesota)
sp. Rieger, Rose M. (b. 1903 - North Dakota)
- 5. House, Esther Alta (b. 1900-02-25 - Sparta, Monroe, Wisconsin, US)
sp. Soderquist, Clarence
- 5. House, Helen (b. 1902-07-22 - Wisconsin, d. 1982)
sp. Hansen, Edward (b. 1896-06-17 - South Dakota, d. 1982-01-31)
- 5. House, William Theodore (b. 1904-03-30 - Sparta, Monroe, Wisconsin, US)
sp. Rieger, Ethel
- 5. House, Joseph Franklin (b. 1906-05-14 - Sparta, Monroe, Wisconsin, US, d. 1988-05-10 - Hawthorne, California, USA)
sp. unknown, Virginia
- 5. House, Vera Muriel (b. 1908-08-03 - South Dakota, d. 1980-04-04 - Sacramento, California, USA)
- 4. Rombs, Johann (b. 1868 - Selz, Russia, d. 1872-06-18 - Selz, Russia)
- 4. Rombs, Andreas (b. 1872-03-14 - Selz, Russia, d. 1873-06-23 - Selz, Russia)
- 4. Rombs, Caroline B. (b. 1875 - Selz, Russia, d. 1917-02-03 - Faulk, South Dakota, US)
sp. Austin, Bert W. (b. 1870-02-10 - Illinois, USA, d. 1953-01-02 - San Diego, San Diego, California), m. 1899
 - 5. Austin, Mildred B. (b. 1900, d. 1918-11-07 - Brown, South Dakota, USA)
sp. Mayer, R. G.
 - 5. Austin, Dorothy E. (b. 1901-01-27 - Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 1979-12-20 - Los Angeles, California, US)
sp. Sieberg, Roland
 - 5. Austin, Muriel Veva (b. 1904-11-15 - South Dakota, d. 1986-01-24 - Lakeport, Lake, California, USA)
sp. Hill, Harry
sp. Evans, Charles Dineen (b. 1895, d. 1950)
- 4. Rombs, Nicholas (b. 1877 - Selz, Russia, d. 1945-09-01 - Mechanicsburg, Cumberland, PA, USA)
sp. Nelson, Mary C. (b. 1885-11-04 - Kandota, Todd, Minnesota, d. 1960-01-02 - Torrance, California), m. 1906-08-15 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US
 - 5. Rombs, Walter J. (b. 1907-04-21 - South Dakota, d. 1993-01-05 - Central Point, Oregon, USA)
sp. Carlson, Edith
 - 5. Rombs, Evelyn Agnes (b. 1912-05-01 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 2006-01-27 - Newton, Iowa, USA)
sp. Schmidt, Harold F. (b. 1905-04-07 - Iowa, USA, d. 1988-12-17 - Newton, Iowa, USA), m. 1930-06-02 - Napoleon, North Dakota, USA
 - 5. Rombs, Hazel Elizabeth (b. 1915-06-02 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 1996-12-09)
sp. Fought, Vance R. (b. 1911), m. 1934-07-03 - Belle Fourche, Butte, South Dakota, US
 - 5. Rombs, Lucille Eileen (b. 1919-06-08 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 2012-03-16 - Minnesota, US)
sp. Harris, Keneth R., m. 1937-11-09 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US
 - 5. Rombs, Katherine A. (b. 1924 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US)
sp. Steele, Robert G.
 - 5. Rombs, Marie I. (b. 1926 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 2010-01-08)
sp. Schmidt, August E., m. 1972-12-02 - Los Angeles, California, US
sp. Peasnell, James Oliver (b. 1920-05-13 - Utah, USA, d. 2004-08-26 - Redondo Beach, CA, USA), m. 1945 - Tooele, Utah, USA

19th Century Russian Relations



4. Rombs, Peter (b. 1881 - Selz, Russia, d. 1882-07-03 - Selz, Russia)
4. Rombs, Esther Elizabeth (b. 1883-06-26 - Selz, Russia, d. 1957 - Aberdeen, Brown, South Dakota, US)
 - sp. Thornburg, Clyde (b. 1879 - Indiana, USA, d. 1912), m. 1903
 5. Thornburg, Harold Arlo (b. 1904 - North Dakota)
 5. Thornburg, Ambrose Clayton (b. 1906 - North Dakota)
 5. Thornburg, Mabel Evelyn (b. 1908 - Canada)
 5. Thornburg, Clyde Alva (b. 1910-10-28 - Montana, USA, bur. 1972-12-17 - Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA)
 - sp. Cranage, Matt (b. 1875 - Wisconsin, d. 1965), m. 1916-03-31 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
 5. Cranage, Ralph (b. 1917 - South Dakota)
 5. Cranage, Loren (b. 1919 - South Dakota)
 5. Cranage, Everett (b. 1921 - South Dakota)
 5. Cranage, Maynard (b. 1922 - South Dakota)
 5. Cranage, Elizabeth (b. 1927 - South Dakota)
4. Rhombs, Joseph (b. 1885-11-03 - Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 1940-09-03 - Pierre, South Dakota, US)
 - sp. Thompson, Tena A. (b. 1890-03-17 - Potter, South Dakota, d. 1979-05-18 - Potter, South Dakota, US), m. 1910-12-24 - Potter, South Dakota
 5. Rhombs, Anna V. (b. 1911 - Potter, South Dakota, d. 2002 - Potter, South Dakota)
 - sp. Comeau, Leo (b. 1906, d. 1972)
 5. Rhombs, Vern J. (b. 1917-12-28 - Potter, South Dakota, d. 1970-08-13 - Lebanon, South Dakota)
 5. Rhombs, Robert Earl (b. 1920-02-20 - Lebanon, South Dakota, d. 2005-08-31 - Sarasota, Florida)
 - sp. Bates, Velma (b. 1921-12-22 - Bowman, North Dakota, United States, d. 2019-11-07 - Port Charlotte, Charlotte, Florida), m. 1945-07-24 - Pierre, South Dakota, US
 4. Rombs, Kathryn (b. 1887-03-00, d. 1970-12-22 - Jefferson, Montana)
 - sp. Vinton, Alva J. (b. 1878 - Tama, Iowa, USA, d. 1959-04-16 - Meagher, Montana, USA)
 5. Vinton, Fern C. (b. 1911 - South Dakota, d. 1993-03-13 - Meagher, Montana, USA)
 - sp. Campbell, Clarice A. (b. 1919), m. 1937-10-16 - Lewiston, Fergus, Montana, USA
 3. Kessler, Katharina (b. 1850-11-25 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Kessler, Rochus (b. 1854-03-18 - Selz, Russia, d. 1939 - South Dakota)
 - sp. Burghardt, Brigitta (b. 1862, d. 1926 - South Dakota), m. 1881-11-09 - Strassburg, Russia
 4. Kessler, Agnesia (b. 1884)
 4. Kessler, Felix V. (b. 1888 - Russia)
 4. Kessler, John (b. 1891 - South Dakota)
 4. Kessler, Anna (b. 1896 - South Dakota)
 4. Kessler, Anton (b. 1899 - South Dakota)
 4. Kessler, Sebastian (b. 1901-11-25 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1982-02-02 - Montana)
 3. Kessler, Josef (b. 1856-03-18 - Selz, Russia, d. 1893)
 - sp. Saenger, Anna (b. 1858-11-29 - Strassburg, Russia, d. 1930 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA), m. 1881
 4. Kessler, Edith (b. 1882-07-22 - Russia, d. 1974-04-00 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
 4. Kessler, Frances (b. 1884-12-00, d. 1963 - Aberdeen, Brown, South Dakota)
 - sp. Silbernagel, Leonard L. (b. 1884-12-20, d. 1953), m. 1909-11-10 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
 5. Silbernagel, Marie (b. 1910-05-05 - Brown, South Dakota, US)
 5. Silbernagel, Monie
 5. Silbernagel, Joseph
 5. Silbernagel, Virgil
 5. Silbernagel, Lorraine (b. 1923, d. 2011)

19th Century Russian Relations



4. Kessler, Lizzie (b. 1887-02-17 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1901-12-17 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
4. Kessler, Joseph (b. 1889-01-06 - Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 1983-01-21 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
4. Kessler, Anna (b. 1891-02-00 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1926)
sp. Blank, Martin L. (b. 1883-10-07, d. 1971-10-00), m. 1914-02-10 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
4. Kessler, Katie (b. 1894-05-00 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1960 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
sp. Blank, Carl R. (b. 1886, d. 1987 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA), m. 1919-11-27 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
 5. Blank, Jerome (b. 1921)
 5. Blank, Angela (b. 1923-07-19 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1993-10-26 - Colorado)
 5. Blank, Deloris (b. 1925)
 5. Blank, Carl Robert (b. 1926, d. 2010)
 5. Blank, Mary (b. 1930-09-05, d. 1984-03-21)
sp. Horst, Herbert Harold (b. 1931-10-19, d. 1957-12-02)
3. Kessler, Adam (b. 1859-01-02 - Selz, Russia, d. 1861-10-29 - Selz, Russia)
3. Kessler, Johannes (b. 1860-11-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1921 - Kandel, Russia)
sp. Lacher, Lenore
 4. Kessler, Andreas (b. 1886-04-15 - Kandel, Russia, d. 1934-12-28)
3. Kessler, Wendelin (b. 1862-10-24 - Selz, Russia, d. 1944-03-26 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
sp. Dosch, Martha (b. 1875-05-05 - Kandel, Russia, d. 1949-02-16 - Aberdeen, Brown, South Dakota)
 4. Kessler, Margaret (b. 1896-01-08, d. 1896-03-16)
 4. Kessler, Stephen (b. 1897-07-26, d. 1897-08-20)
 4. Kessler, Katherine M. (b. 1899-07-29 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1997-11-05)
 4. Kessler, John (b. 1901-09-27 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1977-03-03)
 4. Kessler, Michael (b. 1903-06-08 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
 4. Kessler, Regina (b. 1905-09-28, d. 1906-02-04)
 4. Kessler, Bernard (b. 1907-08-19 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1992-09-19 - Brown, South Dakota)
 4. Kessler, Sylvester (b. 1911-08-10, d. 1916-01-14)
 4. Kessler, Anna Marie (b. 1915-01-14 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 2004-06-26)
 4. Kessler, Wendelin (b. 1917-12-08 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA, d. 1991-12-08)
2. Schumacher, Sebastian (b. 1827, d. 1903 - Russia)
2. Schumacher, Margaretha (b. 1829 - Selz, Russia)
2. Schumacher, Anton (b. 1831 - Selz, Russia, d. 1834 - Selz, Russia)
2. Schumacher, Adam (b. 1834-10-10 - Selz, Russia, d. 1900-12-30 - Zeeland, McIntosh, North Dakota)

19th Century Russian Relations



Descendants of Christian Usselmann and Katharina Mertz

This line represents the maternal line for Johannes.

1. Usselmann, Christian (b. 1793-03-19 - Niederseebach, Weissburg, Elsass, Germany, d. 1853-05-14 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Mertz Merse Gsell, Katharina (b. 1786 - Salmbach, Weiss, Elsass, Germany, d. 1864 - Selz, Russia), m. 1813-12-22
 2. Usselmann, Christian (b. 1814)
sp. Baumstarck, Eva Maria (b. 1816, d. 1865), m. 1835-11-17 - Selz, Russia
 3. Usselmann, Margaretha (b. 1836 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Valentin (b. 1838 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Wagner, Christina (b. 1840)
 4. Usselmann, Franz (b. 1880)
sp. Rombs, Barbara (b. 1880)
 5. Usselmann, Sylvester (b. 1910)
 5. Usselmann, Pius (b. 1912)
 5. Usselmann, Franz (b. 1916)
 4. Usselmann, Bernhard (b. 1883)
 3. Usselmann, Peter (b. 1841)
 3. Usselmann, Anton (b. 1843, d. 1891)
 3. Usselmann, Josef (b. 1845 - Selz, Russia, d. 1847 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Catharina (b. 1848 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Johann (b. 1850)
 3. Usselmann, Josef (b. 1852 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Wendelin (b. 1854, d. - Selz, Russia)
sp. Schumacher, Catharina (b. 1861), m. 1880-04-20
 4. Usselmann, Helena (b. 1881 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Schatz, Baltazar
 5. Schatz, Ambrosius
sp. unknown, unknown wife of Ambrosius Schatz
 5. Schatz, Gabriel
 5. Schatz, Angelica
 5. Schatz, Wendelin
 4. Usselmann, Eva
 4. Usselmann, Helene's sibling 1
 4. Usselmann, Helene's sibling 2
 3. Usselmann, Franz (b. 1856 - Selz, Russia, d. 1858 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Marianna (b. 1858 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Bernhard (b. 1861)
2. Usselmann, Katherina (b. 1815-03-12 - Selz, Russia, d. 1852-07-18 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Rombs, Franz Joseph (b. 1811 - Selz, Russia, d. 1879-07-12 - Selz, Russia), m. 1834-10-21 - Selz, Russia
 3. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1835-09-17 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Fetsch, Josef (b. 1831), m. 1854-10-18
 4. Fetsch, Katharina (b. 1855)
 4. Fetsch, Michael (b. 1858)
 4. Fetsch, Bernhard (b. 1859)
 4. Fetsch, Magdalena (b. 1860)
 4. Fetsch, Josef (b. 1864)
 4. Fetsch, Margaretha (b. 1856-11-01 - Selz, Russia, d. 1951-08-08 - North Dakota)
 3. Rombs, Magdalena (b. 1837-03-18 - Selz, Russia, d. 1839-06-17 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Rombs, Katharina (b. 1838-09-23 - Selz, Russia, d. 1869-04-22 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Hirsch, Andreas (b. 1836 - Selz, Russia), m. 1858-10-13 - Selz, Russia
 4. Hirsch, Anna

19th Century Russian Relations



4. Hirsch, Pilomena

3. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1840-02-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1840-12-04 - Selz, Russia)
3. Rombs, Franz Josef (b. 1842-03-19 - Selz, Russia, d. 1865-12-10 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Weigel, Barbara (b. 1843 - Selz, Russia), m. 1864-10-19 - Selz, Russia
3. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1845-07-01 - Selz, Russia, d. 1914-08-08 - South Dakota, USA)
sp. Kessler, Barbara (b. 1848-06-26 - Selz, Russia, d. 1896-03-10 - Wecota, Faulk, Sotuh Dakota, USA),
m. 1866-11-07 - Selz, Russia
4. Rombs, Lulu (b. 1866-07-02 - Selz, Russia, d. 1953-04-17 - Faulk, South Dakota, US)
sp. House, Reuben H. (b. 1858 - Canada), m. 1886
 5. House, James W. (b. 1888-08-05, d. 1928-07-08 - Montana)
 5. House, Anna C. (b. 1890 - South Dakota, d. 1973)
sp. Hansen, Fred
 5. House, Bertha J. (b. 1892 - South Dakota)
sp. Magnuson, Earl
 5. House, Charles Edward (b. 1893-07-22 - Watertown, South Dakota, USA, d. 1966-11-15 -
Riverside, California)
sp. unknown, Nina
 5. House, Chester Ira (b. 1897-07-22 - South Dakota, d. 1972-06-04 - Swift, Minnesota)
sp. Rieger, Rose M. (b. 1903 - North Dakota)
 5. House, Esther Alta (b. 1900-02-25 - Sparta, Monroe, Wisconsin, US)
sp. Soderquist, Clarence
 5. House, Helen (b. 1902-07-22 - Wisconsin, d. 1982)
sp. Hansen, Edward (b. 1896-06-17 - South Dakota, d. 1982-01-31)
 5. House, William Theodore (b. 1904-03-30 - Sparta, Monroe, Wisconsin, US)
sp. Rieger, Ethel
 5. House, Joseph Franklin (b. 1906-05-14 - Sparta, Monroe, Wisconsin, US, d. 1988-05-10 -
Hawthorne, California, USA)
sp. unknown, Virginia
 5. House, Vera Muriel (b. 1908-08-03 - South Dakota, d. 1980-04-04 - Sacramento, California,
USA)
4. Rombs, Johann (b. 1868 - Selz, Russia, d. 1872-06-18 - Selz, Russia)
4. Rombs, Andreas (b. 1872-03-14 - Selz, Russia, d. 1873-06-23 - Selz, Russia)
4. Rombs, Caroline B. (b. 1875 - Selz, Russia, d. 1917-02-03 - Faulk, South Dakota, US)
sp. Austin, Bert W. (b. 1870-02-10 - Illinois, USA, d. 1953-01-02 - San Diego, San Diego, Califor-
nia), m. 1899
 5. Austin, Mildred B. (b. 1900, d. 1918-11-07 - Brown, South Dakota, USA)
sp. Mayer, R. G.
 5. Austin, Dorothy E. (b. 1901-01-27 - Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 1979-12-20 - Los Angeles,
California, US)
sp. Sieberg, Roland
 5. Austin, Muriel Veva (b. 1904-11-15 - South Dakota, d. 1986-01-24 - Lakeport, Lake, Cali-
fornia, USA)
sp. Hill, Harry
sp. Evans, Charles Dineen (b. 1895, d. 1950)
4. Rombs, Nicholas (b. 1877 - Selz, Russia, d. 1945-09-01 - Mechanicsburg, Cumberland, PA, USA)
sp. Nelson, Mary C. (b. 1885-11-04 - Kandota, Todd, Minnesota, d. 1960-01-02 - Torrance, Cali-
fornia), m. 1906-08-15 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US
 5. Rombs, Walter J. (b. 1907-04-21 - South Dakota, d. 1993-01-05 - Central Point, Oregon,
USA)
sp. Carlson, Edith
 5. Rombs, Evelyn Agnes (b. 1912-05-01 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 2006-01-27 -
Newton, Iowa, USA)



19th Century Russian Relations



- sp. Schmidt, Harold F. (b. 1905-04-07 - Iowa, USA, d. 1988-12-17 - Newton, Iowa, USA), m. 1930-06-02 - Napoleon, North Dakota, USA
5. Rombs, Hazel Elizabeth (b. 1915-06-02 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 1996-12-09)
- sp. Fought, Vance R. (b. 1911), m. 1934-07-03 - Belle Fourche, Butte, South Dakota, US
5. Rombs, Lucille Eileen (b. 1919-06-08 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 2012-03-16 - Minnesota, US)
- sp. Harris, Kenneth R., m. 1937-11-09 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US
5. Rombs, Katherine A. (b. 1924 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US)
- sp. Steele, Robert G.
5. Rombs, Marie I. (b. 1926 - Faulkton, Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 2010-01-08)
- sp. Schmidt, August E., m. 1972-12-02 - Los Angeles, California, US
- sp. Peasnell, James Oliver (b. 1920-05-13 - Utah, USA, d. 2004-08-26 - Redondo Beach, CA, USA), m. 1945 - Tooele, Utah, USA
4. Rombs, Peter (b. 1881 - Selz, Russia, d. 1882-07-03 - Selz, Russia)
4. Rombs, Esther Elizabeth (b. 1883-06-26 - Selz, Russia, d. 1957 - Aberdeen, Brown, South Dakota, US)
- sp. Thornburg, Clyde (b. 1879 - Indiana, USA, d. 1912), m. 1903
5. Thornburg, Harold Arlo (b. 1904 - North Dakota)
5. Thornburg, Ambrose Clayton (b. 1906 - North Dakota)
5. Thornburg, Mabel Evelyn (b. 1908 - Canada)
5. Thornburg, Clyde Alva (b. 1910-10-28 - Montana, USA, bur. 1972-12-17 - Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA)
- sp. Cranage, Matt (b. 1875 - Wisconsin, d. 1965), m. 1916-03-31 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
5. Cranage, Ralph (b. 1917 - South Dakota)
5. Cranage, Loren (b. 1919 - South Dakota)
5. Cranage, Everett (b. 1921 - South Dakota)
5. Cranage, Maynard (b. 1922 - South Dakota)
5. Cranage, Elizabeth (b. 1927 - South Dakota)
4. Rhombs, Joseph (b. 1885-11-03 - Faulk, South Dakota, US, d. 1940-09-03 - Pierre, South Dakota, US)
- sp. Thompson, Tena A. (b. 1890-03-17 - Potter, South Dakota, d. 1979-05-18 - Potter, South Dakota, US), m. 1910-12-24 - Potter, South Dakota
5. Rhombs, Anna V. (b. 1911 - Potter, South Dakota, d. 2002 - Potter, South Dakota)
- sp. Comeau, Leo (b. 1906, d. 1972)
5. Rhombs, Vern J. (b. 1917-12-28 - Potter, South Dakota, d. 1970-08-13 - Lebanon, South Dakota)
5. Rhombs, Robert Earl (b. 1920-02-20 - Lebanon, South Dakota, d. 2005-08-31 - Sarasota, Florida)
- sp. Bates, Velma (b. 1921-12-22 - Bowman, North Dakota, United States, d. 2019-11-07 - Port Charlotte, Charlotte, Florida), m. 1945-07-24 - Pierre, South Dakota, US
4. Rombs, Kathryn (b. 1887-03-00, d. 1970-12-22 - Jefferson, Montana)
- sp. Vinton, Alva J. (b. 1878 - Tama, Iowa, USA, d. 1959-04-16 - Meagher, Montana, USA)
5. Vinton, Fern C. (b. 1911 - South Dakota, d. 1993-03-13 - Meagher, Montana, USA)
- sp. Campbell, Clarice A. (b. 1919), m. 1937-10-16 - Lewiston, Fergus, Montana, USA
3. Rombs, Magdalena (b. 1848-02-17 - Selz, Russia, d. 1853-10-15 - Selz, Russia)
3. Rombs, Franz (b. 1849-08-16 - Selz, Russia, d. 1880-12-07 - Selz, Russia)
- sp. Klein, Margaretha (b. 1854 - Selz, Russia), m. 1874-10-27 - Selz, Russia
4. Rombs, Ferdinand (b. 1875)
4. Rombs, Elisabetha (b. 1877)
4. Rombs, Katharina
3. Rombs, Severin (b. 1852-05-21 - Selz, Russia)

19th Century Russian Relations



2. Usselmann, Johannes (b. 1817 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Sahli, Margaretha (b. 1816 - Selz, Russia), m. 1837 - Selz, Russia
 3. Usselmann, Carolina (b. 1837 - Selz, Russia, d. 1837 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Karolina (b. 1838 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Katharina (b. 1841 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Nicolaus (b. 1845 - Selz, Russia, d. 1848 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Anna (b. 1847 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Johannes (b. 1849 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Georg (b. 1852 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Voeller, Helen (b. 1852)
 4. Usselmann, Theresa (b. 1876)
 - sp. Schumacher, Philipp (b. 1868)
 3. Usselmann, Lucia (b. 1855 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Elisabetha (b. 1860 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Franz Joseph (b. 1860 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Kasimir (b. 1861 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Johannes (b. 1863 - Selz, Russia)
 2. Usselmann, Franz (b. 1819 - Selz, Russia, d. 1858 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Demelet, Maria Anna (b. 1822, d. 1852 - Selz, Russia), m. 1840 - Selz, Russia
 3. Usselmann, Anton (b. 1842 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Anna (b. 1843 - Selz, Russia, d. 1844 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Josef (b. 1846 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Franz (b. 1849 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Christian (b. 1851 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Zerr, Katharina, m. 1852 - Selz, Russia
 3. Usselmann, Marianna (b. 1853 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Christina (b. 1854 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Marianna (b. 1857 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Margaretha (b. 1860 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Catharina (b. 1861 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Helena (b. 1864 - Selz, Russia)
 2. Usselmann, Joseph (b. 1822 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Deibert, Margaretha (b. 1825 - Selz, Russia), m. 1841 - Selz, Russia
 3. Usselmann, Ludwig (b. 1842 - Selz, Russia, d. 1849 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Alexander (b. 1844 - Selz, Russia, d. 1927-06-28 - Hazen, Mercer, North Dakota)
 - sp. Kessler, Margaretha (b. 1845-08-04 - Selz, Russia, d. 1928-10-25 - McLean, North Dakota), m. 1865-11-08 - Selz, Russia
 4. Usselmann, Valentine (b. 1866 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Usselmann, John (b. 1867-10-15 - Selz, Russia, d. 1944-10-07 - Calgary, Alberta, Canada)
 - sp. Detling, Marianna, m. 1894-10-11
 4. Usselmann, Anna (b. 1869-05-18 - Selz, Russia, d. 1927-05-09 - Hazen, Mercer, North Dakota)
 4. Usselmann, Margareta (b. 1872-09-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1955-02-19 - Dickenson, Stark, North Dakota)
 - sp. Geisinger, Konstantin (b. 1870-09-15 - Russia, d. 1942-02-06 - North Dakota)
 4. Usselmann, Anton (b. 1874 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Usselmann, Julianna (b. 1877-09-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1949-01-26 - Mercer, North Dakota)
 - sp. Hoepfner, Jacob (b. 1874-09-29 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1949-10-02 - Bismark, North Dakota), m. 1896-11-13 - Ipswich, Edmunds, South Dakota, USA
 5. Hipfner, Joseph (b. 1901-04-20 - Morton, North Dakota, d. 1987-10-26 - Morton, North Dakota)
 4. Usselmann, Josef (b. 1882 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Usselmann, Adam (b. 1886-06-20 - Selz, Russia, d. 1947-03-12)
 3. Usselmann, Joseph (b. 1846)

19th Century Russian Relations



3. Usselmann, Johannes (b. 1849)
3. Usselmann, Anton (b. 1851)
3. Usselmann, Katherine (b. 1853, d. 1937)
 - sp. Hoffart, Balthasar (b. 1853, d. 1926)
 4. Hoffart, Alexander
 4. Hoffart, Margaret
 4. Hoffart, Mary Ann (b. 1881, d. 1947)
 - sp. Kesler, John Nicholas (b. 1872, d. 1951)
 5. Kesler, Wilhem (b. 1900, d. 1927)
 5. Kesler, John (b. 1901, d. 1952)
 5. Kesler, Elizabeth (b. 1903, d. 1984)
 5. Kesler, Mary (b. 1905, d. 1927)
 5. Kesler, Frank (b. 1907, d. 1958)
 5. Kesler, Joseph (b. 1909, d. 1984)
 5. Kesler, Herman (b. 1911, d. 1987)
 5. Kesler, Edward (b. 1914, d. 1972)
 5. Kesler, Nicholas (b. 1918, d. 1978)
 4. Hoffart, Josef
 4. Hoffart, Michael
 4. Hoffart, Rochus
 4. Hoffart, Elizabeth
 4. Hoffart, Martha
3. Usselmann, Anna (b. 1855 - Selz, North Dakota)
3. Usselmann, Magdalena (b. 1857 - Selz, Russia)
3. Usselmann, Margaretha (b. 1859 - Selz, Russia)
3. Usselmann, Elisabetha (b. 1862 - Selz, Russia)
2. Usselmann, Anna Maria (b. 1821 - Selz, Russia, d. 1863 - Kandel, Russia)
 - sp. Scherr, Paul (b. 1815 - Selz, Russia), m. 1840-11-10 - Selz, Russia
 3. Scherr, Johann (b. 1840 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Scherr, Margaretha (b. 1843 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Scherr, Franz (b. 1848 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Scherr, Magdalena (b. 1851 - Kandel, Russia)
 3. Scherr, Marianna (b. 1854 - Kandel, Russia)
 3. Scherr, Peter (b. 1856 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Scherr, Michael (b. 1859 - Kandel, Russia)
 3. Scherr, Magdalena (b. 1862 - Kandel, Russia)
 3. Scherr, Gertruda (b. 1863 - Kandel, Russia)
2. Usselmann, Marianna (b. 1824 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Fetsch, Anton (b. 1820, d. 1879 - Selz, Russia), m. 1843-10-24 - Selz, Russia
 3. Fetsch, Serafina (b. 1844, d. 1846 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Fetsch, Franz (b. 1846)
 3. Fetsch, Marrianna (b. 1848, d. 1928)
 3. Fetsch, Anton (b. 1849 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Fetsch, Katharina (b. 1850, d. 1870)
 3. Fetsch, Apolonia (b. 1852)
 3. Fetsch, Helena (b. 1854 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Fetsch, Anna (b. 1858 - Selz, Russia, d. 1858 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Fetsch, Margaretha (b. 1859, d. 1860 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Fetsch, Regina (b. 1861)
 3. Fetsch, Bernhard (b. 1865, d. 1866-04-16 - Selz, Russia)
2. Usselmann, Peter (b. 1828 - Selz, Russia, d. 1838-02-24 - Selz, Russia)
2. Usselmann, Michael (b. 1830-05-10 - Selz, Russia, d. 1831 - Selz, Russia)
2. Usselmann, Michael (b. 1832-03-31 - Selz, Russia, d. 1835 - Selz, Russia)

Corroborating a Family Story

(analysis using newspaper, oral, weather, and church data sources)

Craig Rhombs

<https://281connections.us>

Corroborating a Family Story

(analysis using newspaper, oral, weather, and church data sources)

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
The Story.....	3
Backdrop.....	4
Analysis.....	5
Newspaper Records.....	5
Cemetery (burial site).....	6
Church Records.....	6
Weather Data.....	8
Conclusion.....	9
About the Author.....	9
Appendix: Thirty Years in the USA – A Timeline for the Family of Johannes and Barbara (Kessler)	
Rombs.....	10



Corroborating a Family Story

(analysis using newspaper, oral, weather, and church data sources)

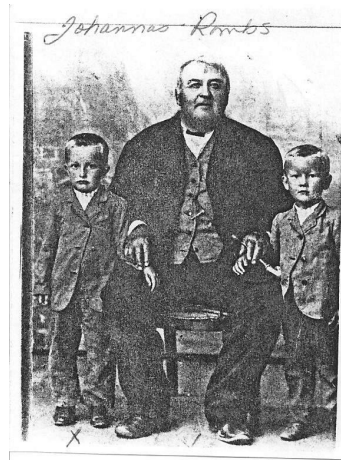
Introduction

In what follows I try to lend credence to a story about my great grandfather Johannes Rombs and his family. The setting is March, 1896, about midway between Faulkton and Ipswich, South Dakota. It is one of the few patrilineal stories that I have. I hope that others can benefit from understanding the analytic techniques that I have used.

Here is a picture that includes the people to whom I attribute the story. I believe that it shows a weekend jackrabbit hunting party. My father (Robert) is the “aviator” hat. His father (Joseph) is in the tilted beret. My father’s brother (Vern) is holding the rifle. Note that the local schoolmaster (named Gildersleeve) has a firm grip on my dad’s shoulder.



Here is a picture of which shows the uncle of Johannes Rombs. It is the only surviving photo that might show the appearance Rombs men around the last decade of the 1800s. Not surprisingly, this man’s name is Johannes Rombs. It was taken in Russia and has been confused for my great grandfather for some time.



The Story

Barbara (Kessler) Rombs was Johannes’ wife. She was dying and on the day of her death the Catholic priest refused to attend. This angered my great grandfather, who transferred the family to a local Lutheran church, in whose cemetery Johannes and Barbara are buried. So, this is a Catholic to Lutheran conversion story with few details as handed down to me from my father, who I assume must have received it from his father.

Corroborating a Family Story

(analysis using newspaper, oral, weather, and church data sources)

Backdrop

Barbara Kessler and Johannes Rombs were born in the village of Selz, a predominantly Catholic village in the Kutschurgan region of South Russia. Their grandparents helped found this village in the first decade of the 19th century. Barbara's ancestral family was from the Pfalz area in what is now Germany. Johannes' family was from Alsace/Elsass in the vicinity of Selz in what is now France. They were ethnically Germanic but must have had some French influence. Johannes and Barbara were German-Russians in current parlance. Much has been written about this group elsewhere. See for example the chapter devoted to the Kutschurgan Colonies in the book entitled Paradise on the Steppe by J. S. Height.

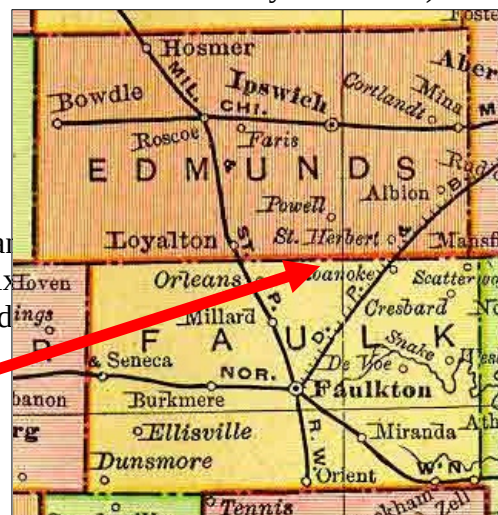
As best I can tell, Barbara was born in June of 1848 and Johannes was born in August of 1845. (There are multiple sources for the birth-dates, but these seem the most likely to me.) They were married in November of 1866, and they emigrated from South Russia in the Fall of 1884, along with their living children (Lulu, Caroline, Nicholas, Lizzie who was just over 1 year of age at the time). Sources of this information include the 1852 Selz Census, records with the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS), and a ship manifest from the SS Oder.

I do not have detailed corroboration, but it is likely that they traveled with cousins and arrived in Ipswich, SD, which at the time was the end of the line for the railroad. They must have stayed for a while in Ipswich until acquiring land in Freedom Township (twp 120N, rng 69 W, 5th meridian) about midway between Ipswich and Faulkton. This land is the setting for the story.

My grandfather, Joseph, was born about one year after arrival in the US, and a final child (Kathryn) was born in 1887. So, in March of 1896, the household consisted of the following people.

- Barbara, age 47
- Johannes age 50
- Lulu, age 29 (probably not present as she had married Reuben House about 10 years earlier)
- Carrie, age 19 (about 3 years from marrying Bert Austin)
- Nick, age 19
- Lizzie, age 14
- Joe, age 11
- Kathryn, age 9

The associated image is from an 1895 map that shows Edmunds and Faulkton. A red arrow indicates roughly where the Rombs household was. In an appendix timeline of events in Johannes' life between immigration and his death



Corroborating a Family Story

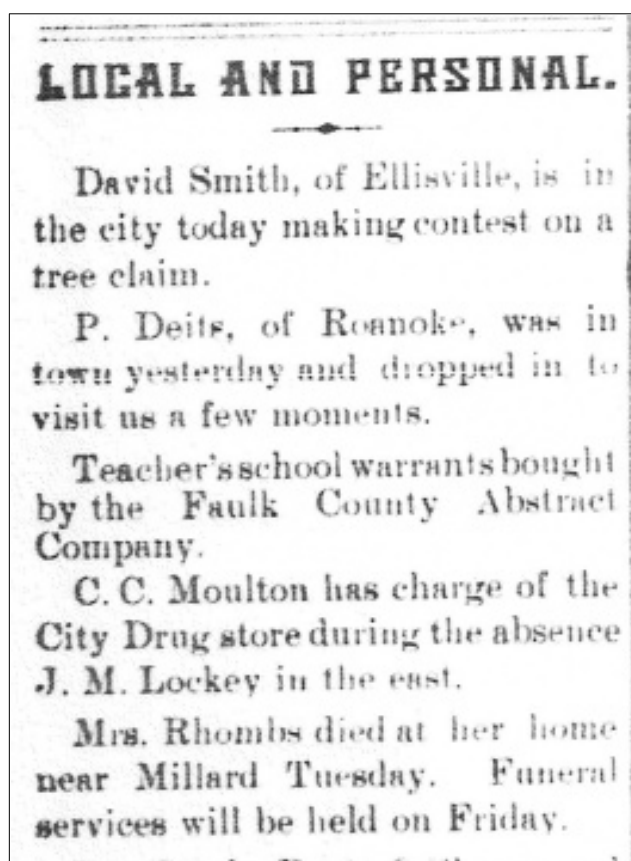
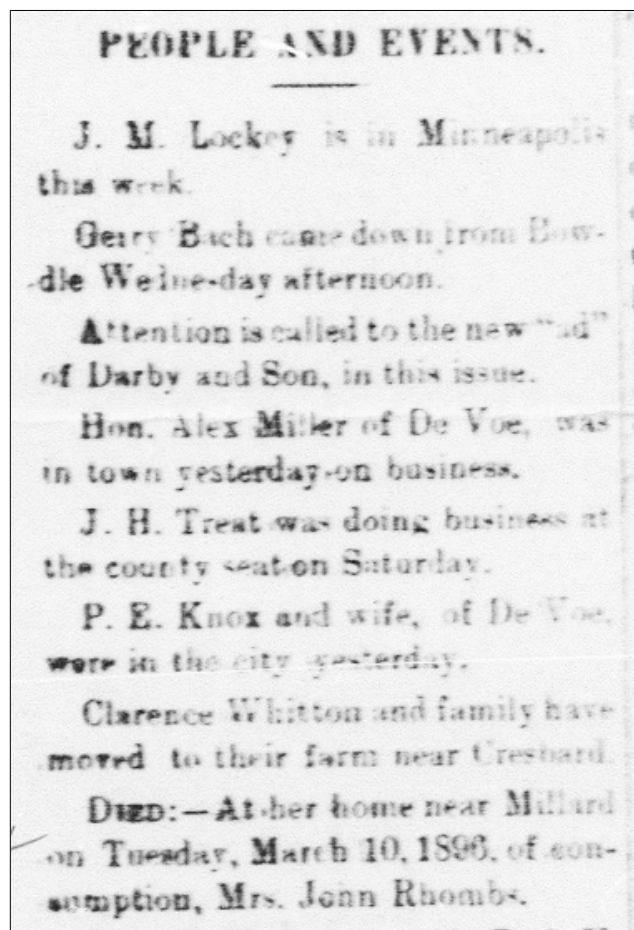
(analysis using newspaper, oral, weather, and church data sources)

Analysis

In the following sections, I present the facts that I have found that seem to have bearing on the story.

Newspaper Records

Barbara's death was noted in two local papers. The images that follow came from the South Dakota State Archives (specifically Virginia Hansen). The one on the left is from the "Faulk County Times," pg. 3, March 12, 1896. It indicates that she died of consumption on March 10, 1896. The right image is from the "Republican Record," pg. 8, March 12, 1896. This indicates that she was buried on Friday, March 13, 1896. These dates will become important later.



Corroborating a Family Story

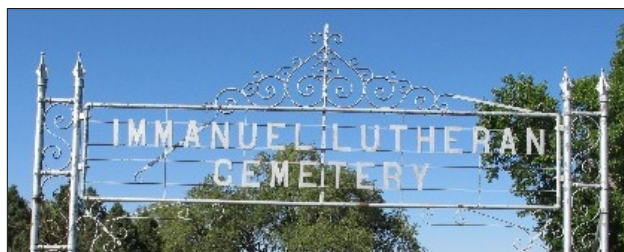
(analysis using newspaper, oral, weather, and church data sources)

Cemetery (burial site)

The burial site for Johannes and Barbara is in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery, near Wecota, South Dakota. In the image of their headstone here you will note that the years of birth for Johannes and Barbara is different than what I have stated above. I believe that the headstone dates are wrong based on other evidence.



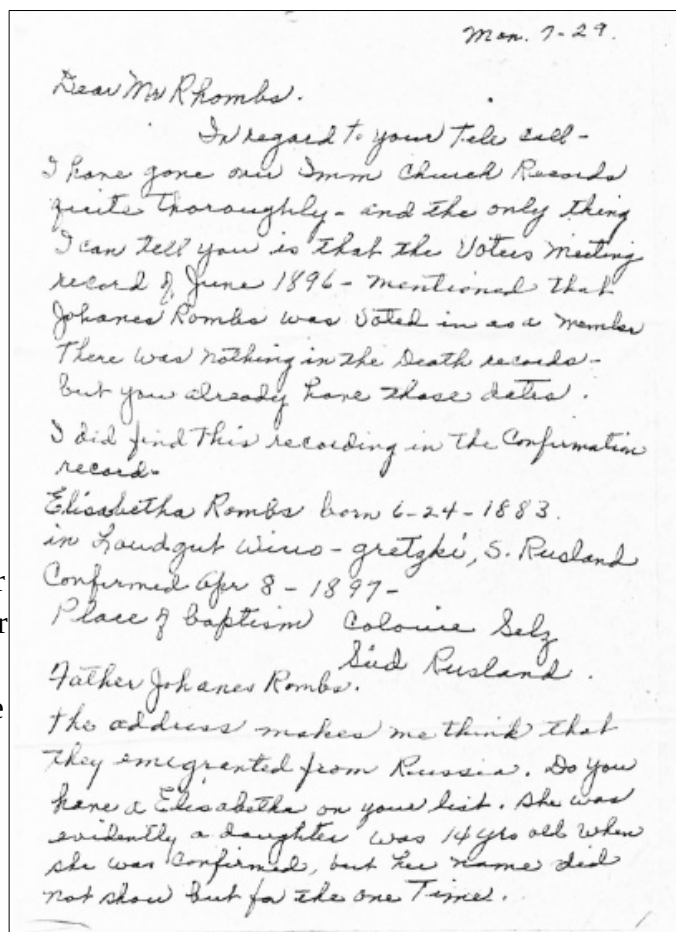
Church Records



My father and I visited the Wecota area one summer and attempted to discover Immanuel Lutheran Church records for the Rombs family. We were concerned that they might be lost since the original church had recently burned. We did not find the records on this trip, but we did make contact with a church member who forwarded our research interest to another member. That member (Anna White) responded with a nice letter that included the following text that confirms when the family joined the church (i.e., 1896).

Important items to note are the following.

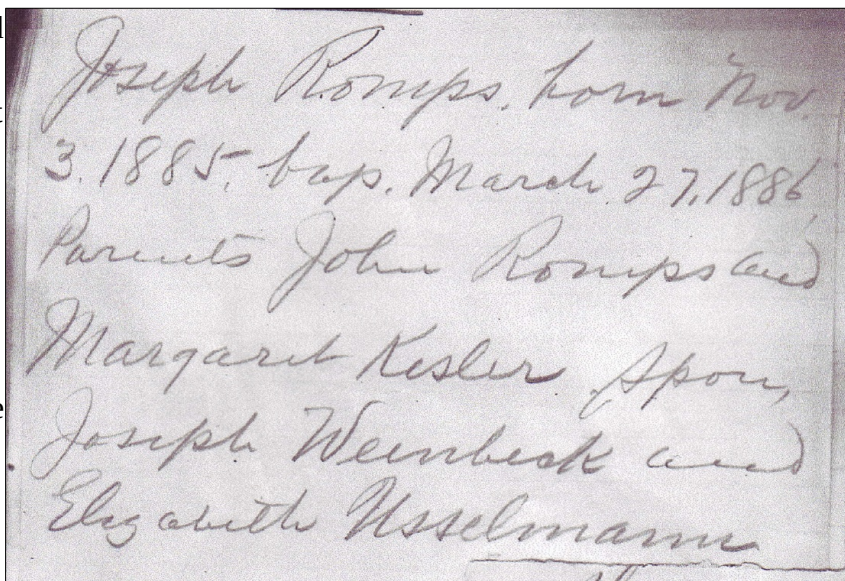
- Johannes was voted into the congregation in June, 1896.
- Immanuel Lutheran had a confirmation record for Lizzie (Elisabetha). It indicated that she was born on 6/24/1883 in Langut Wirro-Gretski, Sud Rusland, baptized in Colonie Selz, Sud Rusland, and confirmed on 4/8/1897.



Corroborating a Family Story

(analysis using newspaper, oral, weather, and church data sources)

Years later I was able to find a record of my grandfather's baptism at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Ipswich. It was written on a scrap of paper by the priest before he started making entries in the official book provided for recording such things. This establishes the family presence in Ipswich associated with the Catholic church and among cousins during the winter of 1885-6. It also indicates that Barbara's full name may have been Margaret Barbara Kessler, but that has not been established. It may simply be a mistake on the priest's part.



Joseph Romps, born Nov.
3. 1885. bap. March 27, 1886
Parents John Romps and
Margaret Kessler Spou,
Joseph Weinbeck and
Elizabeth Hesselmann

Corroborating a Family Story

(analysis using newspaper, oral, weather, and church data sources)

Weather Data

NOAA (noaa.gov) provides online access to historical weather data for many places in the US (and elsewhere). The nearest such place to the Rombs household in 1896 is Aberdeen. In this case there are records that date from 1893. They can be accessed using the following url.

<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/datasets/GHCND/stations/GHCND:USW00014929/detail>

Here is an excerpt from a report for March, 1896. On the tenth there was about a 1.8 inch snowfall and a clear

U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service Current Location: Elev: 1297 ft. Lat: 45.4433° N Lon: -98.4130° W Station: ABERDEEN REGIONAL AIRPORT, SD US USW00014929						Record of C Obs These data are quality be identical to the c Generated			
Year	Month	Day	Temperature (F)			Precipitation			
			24 Hrs. Ending at Observation Time		At O b s e r v a t i o n	24 Hour Amounts Ending at Observation Time			
			Max.	Min.		Rain, Melted Snow, Etc. (in)	Fl a g	Snow, Ice Pellets, Hail (in)	Fl a g
1896	03	01	3	-12		0.00		0.0	
1896	03	02	4	-10		0.00		0.0	
1896	03	03	11	-2		0.00		0.0	
1896	03	04	23	-12		0.18		1.0	
1896	03	05	36	0		0.75		3.0	
1896	03	06	18	3		0.60		2.5	
1896	03	07	15	-8		0.00		0.0	
1896	03	08	28	0		0.00		0.0	
1896	03	09	16	5		0.40		1.8	
1896	03	10	4	-15		0.00		0.0	
1896	03	11	3	-18		0.00		0.0	
1896	03	12	14	-28		0.48		2.0	
1896	03	13	28	-11		0.18		0.5	

transition to an abnormally cold period. On the day of her burial (the 13th), the low temperature was in fact -28 F. This is even extreme for South Dakota in March.

Global weather at this time can be investigated at the NOAA site as well. Using the tools there, you can find that the month of March, 1896, was in fact abnormally cold across much of the planet. See <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/global/mapping/189603> .



Corroborating a Family Story

(analysis using newspaper, oral, weather, and church data sources)

All of this weather and climate data may be showing why the priest that Johannes summoned was unable or unwilling to attend Barbara's death/burial.

Conclusion

Some things that we know about the family of Barbara and Johannes Rombs are as follows.

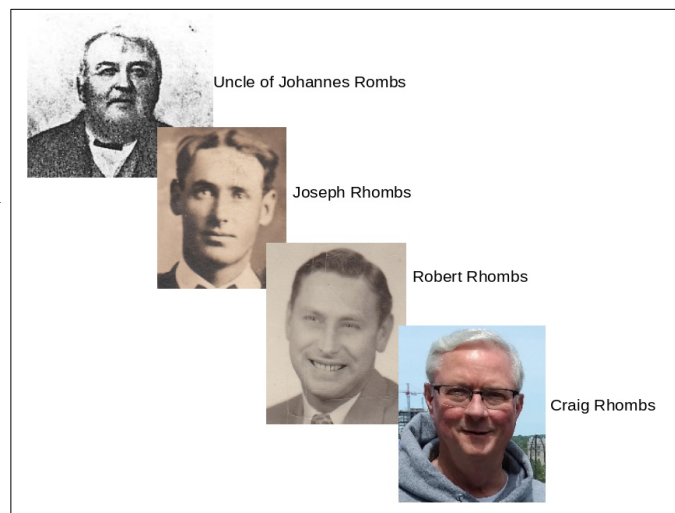
- The Rombs family was from a mostly Catholic community in South Russia before coming to the US in the Fall of 1884.
- The Rombs family was associated with Holy Cross Catholic Church (in Ipswich, SD) in the winter of 1885-6.
- Barbara (Kessler) Rombs died in March of 1896 in Faulk Co.
- Johannes was accepted into the Immanuel Lutheran Church, near Wecota, SD, in June 1896.
- The weather at the time of Barbara's death and burial was miserable, even by South Dakota standards.

None of this proves the veracity of the family story explaining the reason for the transfer from Catholic to Lutheran churches in 1896. Probably that can never be done. However, the evidence does support the story and gives it some believability.

Researching family history is only sometimes straightforward. Persistence is only sometimes rewarded with clear results. However, selective reinforcement can make us more ardent researchers.

About the Author

Craig Rhombs is a retired "software guy," who has worked off and on since 1973 to collect family history information about his ancestors. His ancestors consist of Colonial CT settlers and immigrants from Scotland, Baden, Norway, and Russia. He is consolidating what he has collected at a website: <https://281connections.us>.



Corroborating a Family Story

(analysis using newspaper, oral, weather, and church data sources)

Appendix: Thirty Years in the USA – A Timeline for the Family of Johannes and Barbara (Kessler) Rombs

Here is a sequence of events as best I can estimate from existing data sources. It was an eventful 30 years!

1. Late summer, 1884: sale of property in Russiaⁱ
2. October, 1884: travel to point of departure (Bremen) – parents and 4 children (Lulu (age 18), Caroline (age 9), Nickolas (age 7), and Elizabeth (less than 2 years old at the time))ⁱⁱ
3. early Nov, 1884: ship departure (assumes 2-3 week voyage. Bremen to Southampton to NY)ⁱⁱⁱ
4. 11/22/1884: ship arrival in NY^{iv}
5. late Nov, 1884: travel to Ipswich, SD (then Dakota Territory)^v
6. winter, 1884 -1885: in Ipswich presumably with friends (like the Fischers noted below) and cousins. Schumacher and Usselman cousins may have been present.^{vi}
7. May, 1885: work begins on pre-emption claim land in SE ¼ of section 9, twp 120N, rng 69W, 5th meridian (Freedom Township) See the 1885 Territorial Census for evidence that they had moved in 1885.^{vii}
8. November, 1885: Birth of son Joseph (11/3/1885)^{viii}
9. November, 1885: pre-emption claim filed with help of Karl & Martin Fischer, friends and neighbors in Selz and Freedom Township; naturalization first papers filed^{ix}
10. December, 1885: homestead claim filed on SW ¼ of section 10^x
11. 1885 +/- : Johannes takes out one or more loans against both quarter sections.^{xi}
12. March, 1886: improvements started and residence eventually shifted to SE ¼ of section 10 in accordance with homestead requirements^{xii}
13. March, 1887: Birth of daughter Kathryn^{xiii}
14. August, 1887 : daughter Lulu marries Reuben House^{xiv}
15. 1888 +/- : Johannes defaults on loan(s) and loses ownership of part (all) of the land to the loan company in Iowa.^{xv}
16. April, 1892: naturalization finalized (second papers)^{xvi}
17. April, 1892: homestead claim finalized – it is not clear who owns this land at this time.^{xvii}
18. March, 1896: Barbara dies; family subsequently changes church affiliations and Barbara is buried in the Emmanuel Lutheran Cemetery near Wecota^{xviii}
19. August, 1898: Johannes marries Mary Kastan. (a disastrous second marriage)^{xix}
20. 1890s : At some point Elizabeth moves away from the family in Freedom Township and ends up working for an “abstractor” named James Johnston and his wife Lizzie. (See 1900 Fed Census entry for Elizabeth Rhombs.)^{xx}
21. 1899 : daughter Caroline marries Bert Austin^{xxi}
22. October, 1900: Johannes files for a timber claim on a large part of section 9 in Freedom Township^{xxii}
23. 1900 Fed Census: Johannes still residing in Freedom Township with Joe, Kathryn, and Caroline (and her family).^{xxiii}
24. June, 1902: Johannes formally divorces Mary Kastan.^{xxiv}



Corroborating a Family Story

(analysis using newspaper, oral, weather, and church data sources)

25. 1903 : daughter Elizabeth marries Clyde Thornburg (est. from 1915 SD census) ^{xxv}
26. 1900 – 1910 +/- : at some point during this period, Johannes moves into Faulkton ^{xxvi}
27. Aug, 1906: son Nicholas marries Mary Nelson^{xxvii}
28. May, 1910: daughter Kathryn marries Alva Vinton ^{xxviii}
29. January, 1911: son Joseph marries Tena Thompson ^{xxix}
30. August, 1914: Johannes dies near Beebe and is buried in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery ^{xxx}



End notes

- i The time of sale of possessions in Russia is a guess.
- ii The details of travel from Russia to Bremen is speculation, except that ages of children are believed to be accurate based on “established” birth dates.
- iii The departure date for the SS Oder’s trip is an estimate. It is established that they were on the SS Oder from Southampton to NY. I have not been able to determine for sure that it actually started in Bremen or if they transferred from another ship in Southampton.
- iv Ship Manifest - <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVSV-3FB5>
- v Again, the details of travel from NY to Dakota territory are unknown. Train transportation certainly was used on at least the last leg of the journey. At the time of arrival, the railroad terminated in or near Ipswich.
- vi How they spent the winter of 1884-1885 is unknown.
- vii Land Entry Files (NARA – personally acquired copies) and 1885 territorial census (https://www.ancestry.com/sharing/18038310?h=bd811d&utm_campaign=bandido-webparts&utm_source=post-share-modal&utm_medium=copy-url)
- viii Baptismal Record for Joe Rombs (private, from Catholic church records in Ipswich, SD)
- ix Land Entry Files (NARA Entry Files No.13933 and 4709 – personally acquired copies)
- x Land Entry Files (NARA Entry Files No.13933 and 4709 – personally acquired copies)
- xi Probate Records from the Faulk County Courthouse (personal copies)
- xii Land Entry Files (NARA Entry Files No.13933 and 4709 – personally acquired copies)
- xiii 1900 Federal Census: "United States Census, 1900," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MMRQ-N4R> : accessed 1 December 2019), Mildred B Austin in household of John Rombs, Enterprise, Millard, Saratoga, Sherman, Freedom & Pulaski Townships & School, Faulk, South Dakota, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 370, sheet 9A, family 85, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,241,549.
- xiv From tree published at familysearch.org: <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LL7G-DF1>
- xv Probate Records from the Faulk County Couthouse (personal copies)
- xvi Land Entry Files (NARA Entry Files No.13933 and 4709 – personally acquired copies)
- xvii Land Entry Files (NARA Entry Files No.13933 and 4709 – personally acquired copies)
- xviii newspaper article (personal copy)
- xix Private copy of Marriage Record filed in the Faulk Co. Courthouse.
- xx 1900 Fed Census for the residence of James Johnston, showing Elizabeth Rhombs as “servant.”
- xxi Inferred from 1900 Federal Census: "United States Census, 1900," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MMRQ-N4R> : accessed 1 December 2019), Mildred B Austin in household of John Rombs, Enterprise, Millard, Saratoga, Sherman, Freedom & Pulaski Townships & School, Faulk, South Dakota, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 370, sheet 9A, family 85, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,241,549.
- xxii Land Entry Files (NARA Entry Files No.13933 and 4709 – personally acquired copies)
- xxiii 1900 Fed Census - <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MMRQ-N4R>
- xxiv Private copy of court records from Faulk Co. Courthouse.
- xxv 1915 SD Census: <https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/MMHR-QVN>
- xxvi The details of the move are unknown. That the move happened is shown by comparing 1900 and 1910 fed census records. - see <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MMRQ-N4R> and <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MPX4-NXD> .
- xxvii SD Marriages: Ancestry.com. *South Dakota, Marriages, 1905-2017* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.
- xxviii From Ancestry.com. *South Dakota, Marriages, 1905-2017* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.
- xxix Personal records and Ancestry.com. *South Dakota, Marriages, 1905-2017* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.
- xxx death certificate (personal copies)

Johannes and Barbara (Kessler) Rombs

A Compilation of Information About Their Lives

Craig Rhombs

May, 2015

Revised January, 2016



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Objective.....	3
Historical Background.....	3
Johannes Rombs.....	5
Birth.....	6
Death and Burial.....	6
Ancestors.....	9
Genetics.....	10
Family Tree for Johannes.....	11
Locations.....	13
Barbara Rombs.....	18
Birth.....	18
Death and Burial.....	18
Ancestors.....	19
Hints.....	19
Resolutions (reality).....	23
Family Tree for Barbara.....	30
Life Together.....	32
Introduction.....	32
Marriage.....	33
Immigration.....	34
Homestead Papers.....	36
Naturalization Papers.....	39
Neighbors.....	43
Loss of Land Ownership.....	49
Catholic or Lutheran?.....	53
Children.....	58
Lulu (Lukarda, Lucada).....	58
Carolina (Carrie).....	60
Nicholas (Nick).....	62
Elisabetha (Lizzie).....	64
Kathryn (Katie).....	65
Joseph (Joe).....	70
Short-lived Children Born in Russia.....	73
After Barbara's Death.....	74
Second Marriage.....	74
1900 Fed Census.....	83
1905 SD Census.....	83
1910 Fed Census.....	86
Settling the Estate of Johannes Rombs.....	87
Will Dated 1911.....	87
Katie Prods Nick to Settle Estate.....	92
Future Research.....	121

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Introduction

Objective

The purpose of this document is to be a repository of historical information pertaining to Johannes Rombs and his wife Barbara Kessler. I am doing this as a part of collecting genealogical information on all my ancestors. One of my grandfathers was Joe Rhombs, who is a son of Johannes and Barbara.

There is some sketchy information here, and it is my hope that some uncertainty can be eliminated by finding some new primary or secondary source information. Reasons for the sketchiness include the facts that most 1890 Federal census records burned, there appears to be no pertinent information in the 1895 SD census, and church and civil records for the Kutschurgan colonies between 1852 and 1884 are relatively hard to access in their location in Saratov, Russia. In December, 2015, Dennis Roth (GRHS) provided some information from the Saratov Archives that fills in some gaps, however. Future research possibilities are noted at the end of the document.

Most current published family tree information for my family can be found at <http://rhombs.myheritage.com>.

I wish that my dad could read all this, since he helped acquire much of the information and since he had a real interest in understanding the associated history.

Historical Background

The information that follows focuses on a period of time during which Barbara and Johannes lived – roughly the decades from 1840 to 1920. There is some information about their ancestors as well as some information about their children. So, the outer boundaries of the information extend back to the 18th century and forward to the very beginning of the 21st century.

Putting family events into a historical context can be very useful. So, I am going to present some superficial information that may help to understand their lives.

Evidence suggests that Barbara and Johannes came from the agrarian Germanic culture that existed just to the west of the Rhein in political regions known as Alsace and Pfalz. Their grand parents hail from this culture. These grand parents were basically displaced by political and economic events and moved to South Russia in the early years of the 19th century. Political events in Russia eventually encouraged Barbara and Johannes (as well as many of their cultural/ethnic comrades) to migrate to the Americas.

Consequently, it can help to consider political and economic events in three places – the Rheinland west of the Rhein, South Russia, and North America. These events are well documented, so I will only discuss a few highlights to set the scene before you read on.

Actually, events centered on France are significant to both the Rheinland and North America. These events start with the French revolution in the late 18th century. During this period, France was turned upside down, and Napoleon came to power. The resulting impacts on the area west of the Rhein were tremendous, and they resulted in displacements of large numbers of people from and back to the region. Johann von Goethe wrote

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

about this in his work Hermann and Dorothea. Even Beethoven was influenced by Napoleon's actions when he first dedicated his third symphony to him and then withdrew the dedication based on his disgust for Napoleon's power-grabbing actions. Given the turmoil in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, it is easy to understand why people would be willing to embark on a long journey to Russia to start new lives.

During this period, almost to intentionally set the stage for the latter years of Johannes' and Barbara's lives, France (Napoleon) sold territory held in North America to The United States in what is known as the Louisiana Purchase. Napoleon had acquired this land from Spain not too long before he sold it. The Lewis and Clark Expedition explored the vast area involved. That part of the purchase which became the Dakota Territory was initially occupied by Native Tribes. The region around what was to become Edmunds and Faulk Counties in South Dakota was little explored until not long before European settlers came there. The railroad did not come to Ipswich until about 1883 – the year before Johannes and Barbara arrived in the area from Russia.

Not long after their arrival, Dakota Territory was divided so as to create the new State of South Dakota, where they both lived out the remainder of their lives. There are various sources that describe what it was like to homestead in this part of the world (between current day Ipswich and Faulkton in South Dakota). The gist of things is that there were blizzards, droughts, grasshopper infestations, unscrupulous financiers, etc. Very few of the immigrants to this region from Russia were able to succeed on their homesteads.

Russia acquired the region north of the Black Sea by force from the Turks in the early 1790s. Catherine the Great was the Russian leader at the time, and her favorite general, Potemkin, was responsible for the successful execution of the war. These are two colorful characters about whom much has been written. In any event, Catherine encouraged Germanic immigration to the recently acquired area of South Russia. This was why our ancestors moved from the area near the Rhein to the Kutschurgan Colonies in the early 1800s.

Unfortunately, various promises that were made to the colonists were eventually rescinded, and it became attractive for Johannes and Barbara to make the long journey to the lands opening up in that part of the Louisiana Purchase that became the Dakota Territory. Many tens of thousands of Germanic colonists made similar journeys, but some remained behind. Those who stayed behind (including some who are clearly related to us) suffered under tightening controls, which culminated in many being executed or exiled to remote areas of Russia.

In summary, these were interesting times that were navigated by Barbara and Johannes and their relatives via long-distance migrations from the Rheinland to South Russia and then to Dakota territory. Over the course of three generations, families and cultures were moved over 10,000 miles.

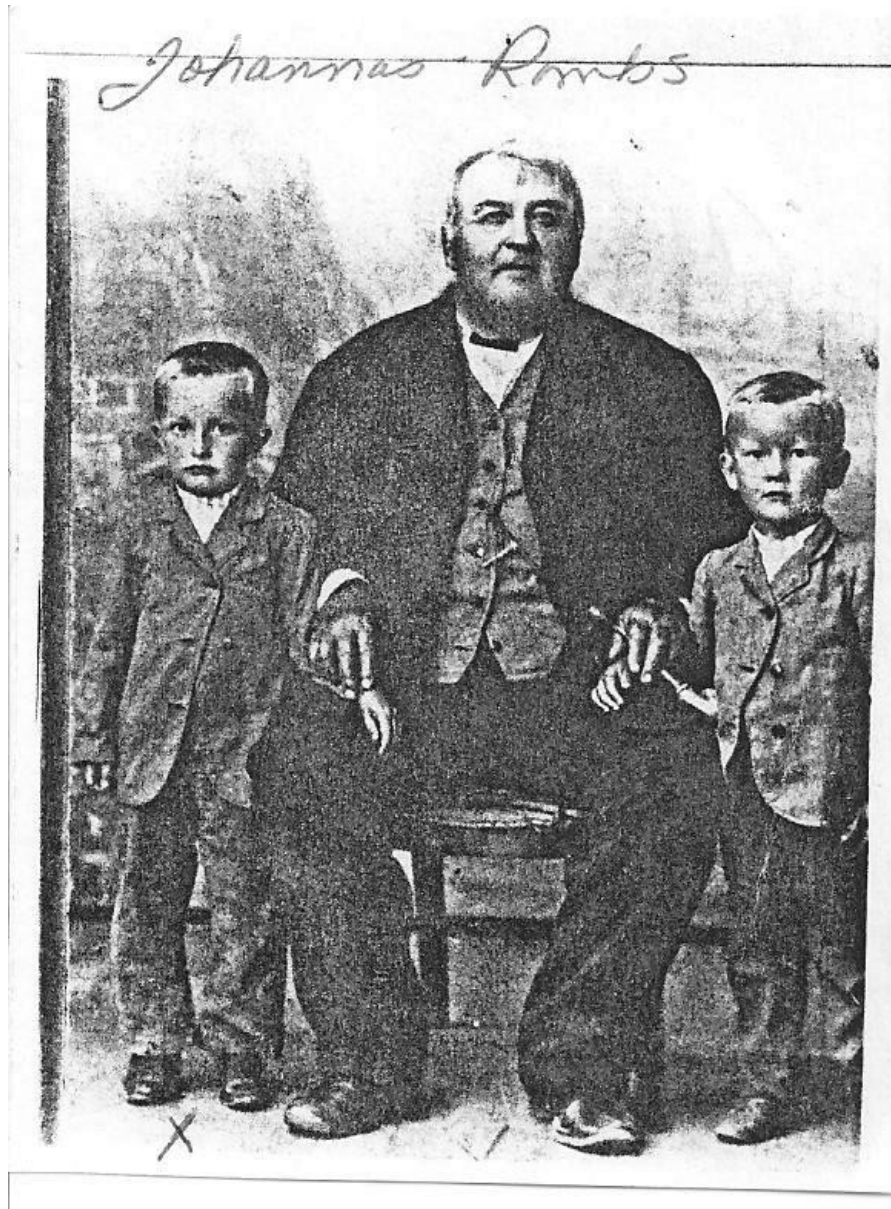
Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Johannes Rombs

Here is the only known picture of Johannes Rombs. Presumably he is with two children, who are related to him. At one point, I thought that it might be his sons, but their difference in ages makes this unlikely. Perhaps these are two grand children. My guess is that this picture may have been taken before 1910.

Johannes may have had blue eyes and stood about 63-64 inches in height.

The source of the photo is Betty Harris, another great grandchild of Johannes and Barbara.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Birth

I am assuming the date of 8/1/1845. This is consistent with Russian archives and most census data.

There are many conflicting sources for date of birth information. The first four sources below seem most consistent, which is why I have chosen 1845 as his birth year.

- Information from the Saratov Archives (Selz Church records) shows 8/1/1845 as the birth date.
- The Kutschurgan census of 1852 implies 1845 as his birth year
- Citizenship papers from 1885 indicate a birth year of 1845.
- Immigration records show 1845.
- The 1885 SD territorial census shows his age as 42, which implies a birth year of 1843
- The 1900 federal census shows June, 1846.
- The 1910 census lists no birth date.
- The 1905 SD census is not clear. The inferred date could be 1841 or 1851.
- His headstone shows a date of 6/29/1850. - In general, I think that this source of information is very unreliable.

Regarding his birth place was Selz in South Russia. This is one of the Kutschurgan Colonies near Odessa. I take this location based mainly on the 1852 census of the colonies that shows people with name Rombs only in Selz, not in any of the other colonies. Other evidence is the record of the birth of his daughter, Elisabetha. Her christening is shown as taking place in Selz, South Russia. And, the final confirmation comes from the Selz Church records in the Saratov Archives in a note from Dennis Roth (GRHS).

Death and Burial

This event is much more clearly documented. Johannes died near Beebe in Edmunds County, SD, on 8/8/1914, while cutting hay. The funeral was in Cresbard and burial was in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery, near Wecota, SD. He died of heart failure. It may be that his daughter, Carolina, who I believe was residing in Cresbard at the time, was responsible for organizing the funeral.

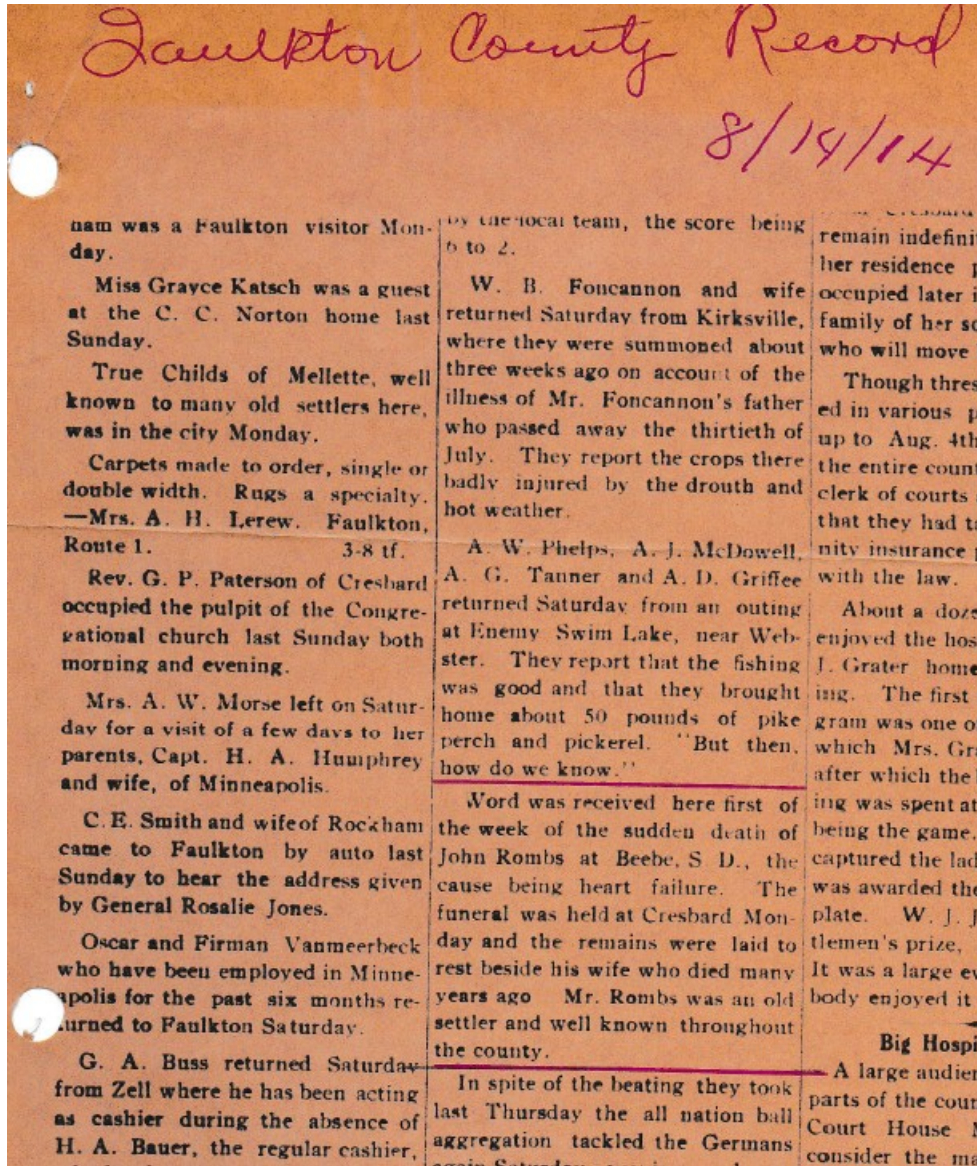
References are the Faulk County Record newspaper for 8/14/1914 and the death certificate filed in Edmunds County, SD, on 8/11/1914.

Here is a picture of his headstone in Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is a copy of the notice in the Faulk County Record.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is his death certificate.

PLACE OF DEATH		DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY	
County of <i>Edmunds</i>		Division of Census and Vital Statistics	
Township of		39768	
City of		Registered No. <i>241</i>	
(If death occurs away from USUAL RESIDENCE give facts called for under "Special information.")		(If death occurred in a hospital or institution give its NAME instead of street and number.)	
Full Name <i>John Rombs</i>		St. Ward)	
Personal and Statistical Particulars.		Medical Certificate of Death	
SEX <i>Male</i>	COLOR <i>White</i>	DATE OF DEATH <i>Aug 8 1914</i>	
DATE OF BIRTH <i>Not known</i>		I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I ATTENDED DECEASED FROM <i>Dead when seen</i>	
AGE <i>70</i> Years		190 to 190	
MARRIED, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED <i>Widowed</i>		that I last saw him alive on 190	
BIRTHPLACE (State or Country) <i>Russia</i>		and that death occurred on the date stated above, at <i>4 P.M.</i>	
NAME OF FATHER <i>Joseph Rombs</i>		The cause of death was as follows: <i>Heart disease; which family says he had for years.</i>	
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or Country) <i>Germany</i>		<i>died in field cutting hay.</i>	
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <i>Not known</i>		(Duration) Days	
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or Country) <i>Not known</i>		Contributory <i>over exertion.</i>	
OCCUPATION <i>Labourer</i>		(Duration) Days	
THE ABOVE STATED PERSONAL PARTICULARS ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF		(Signed) <i>Chas. E. Weidman M. D.</i>	
(Informant) <i>Carrie Euster</i>		<i>Aug 11 1914 (Address) <i>Chesham, Crested.</i></i>	
Address <i>Crested, SD</i>		SPECIAL INFORMATION, only for Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or recent residents.	
FILED 190		Former or Usual Residence How Long at Place of Death? Days	
Clerk of Courts		Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death?	
		PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <i>Neota</i> DATE OF BURIAL <i>Aug 11 1914</i>	
		UNDERTAKER <i>Kessel, Jewick SD</i>	

For what it is worth, on 8/8/1914 (a Saturday), the high temperature in Aberdeen was 94 degrees F (a hot day). The moon was a couple days past full. It was a cool day for the funeral three days later – a high temperature of 68 degrees F. You could ask why a nearly 70 year old man was out on a hot day in the hay fields, especially when it was known that he had heart issues.

Information about the Charles Weidman, who signed the certificate, can be found at Find A Grave Memorial 73307440 .



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Ancestors

So far I am led to conclude that Johannes and his ancestors originated in what is now Alsace in NE France. They were ethnic Germans living in this area, which changed hands many times over the years. In particular, during the period of time when the immigration to South Russia took place, the region had been destabilized by the French Revolution and then Napoleonic Wars.

I suspect that some of his ancestors were semi-subsistence farmers, typical for the region. If I am correct, then the poem Hermann and Dorothea by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe addresses the conditions in which Johannes's ancestors found themselves in the late 1700s. (Possibly this applies to Barbara's ancestors as well.)

Having said this, however, it is now also clear that the paternal line for Johannes includes teachers. In particular, Franz Ludwig Rombs (great grandfather to Johannes) and his father Johannes were teachers. The source for this information is a note from Dennis Roth (GRHS) quoted below.

“The 1811 Selz Census states Franz Ludwig Rombs was a school teacher.

RUMBS, Ludwig	Schoolteacher	47	--	Kasteldorf, Elsass					
Cath.	1	--	--	1	--	1		1	1 wagon
Rumbs, Margaretha	wife	49							
[Rumbs, Franz]	child	21							
Rumbs, Elisabeth	child	16							
Rumbs, Maria									

And another record, mostly for the village of Kesseldorf stated that Franz Ludwig Rombs was the son of Johannes Rombs, teacher, and Barbara Schickel from Kesseldorf.

”

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Genetics

I have had genetic tests done with Family Tree DNA and 23andMe. The results for my Y-DNA follow. It is likely that this information represents the results if the test had been run on Johannes Rombs. They are consistent with origins in what is now NE France.

23andme y-DNA results: y-DNA haplogroup = R1b1b2a1a2d

Family Tree y-DNA results: y-DNA haplogroup = R-M269 (This is another way of describing the haplogroup identified by 23andMe.)

The fact that autosomal DNA test results have led to Usselmann cousins with roots in Alsace further supports the proposed origins in Alsace. Refer to the pedigree information that follows for Johannes.

Note: In fact the Y-DNA type is the same as that inferred for George Washington, whose English ancestors may have roots back to ancient Gaul. It is probably the connection to Gaul that we share with George Washington. - It is plausible that people from Gaul who were auxiliaries to the Romans in the invasion of Britain are related to Johannes in his paternal line. - This also explains that the nearest matches to me on family tree DNA using y-DNA trace their roots back to Britain. According to the theory, then, if we were to trace farther back, we would find the common link from Gaul.

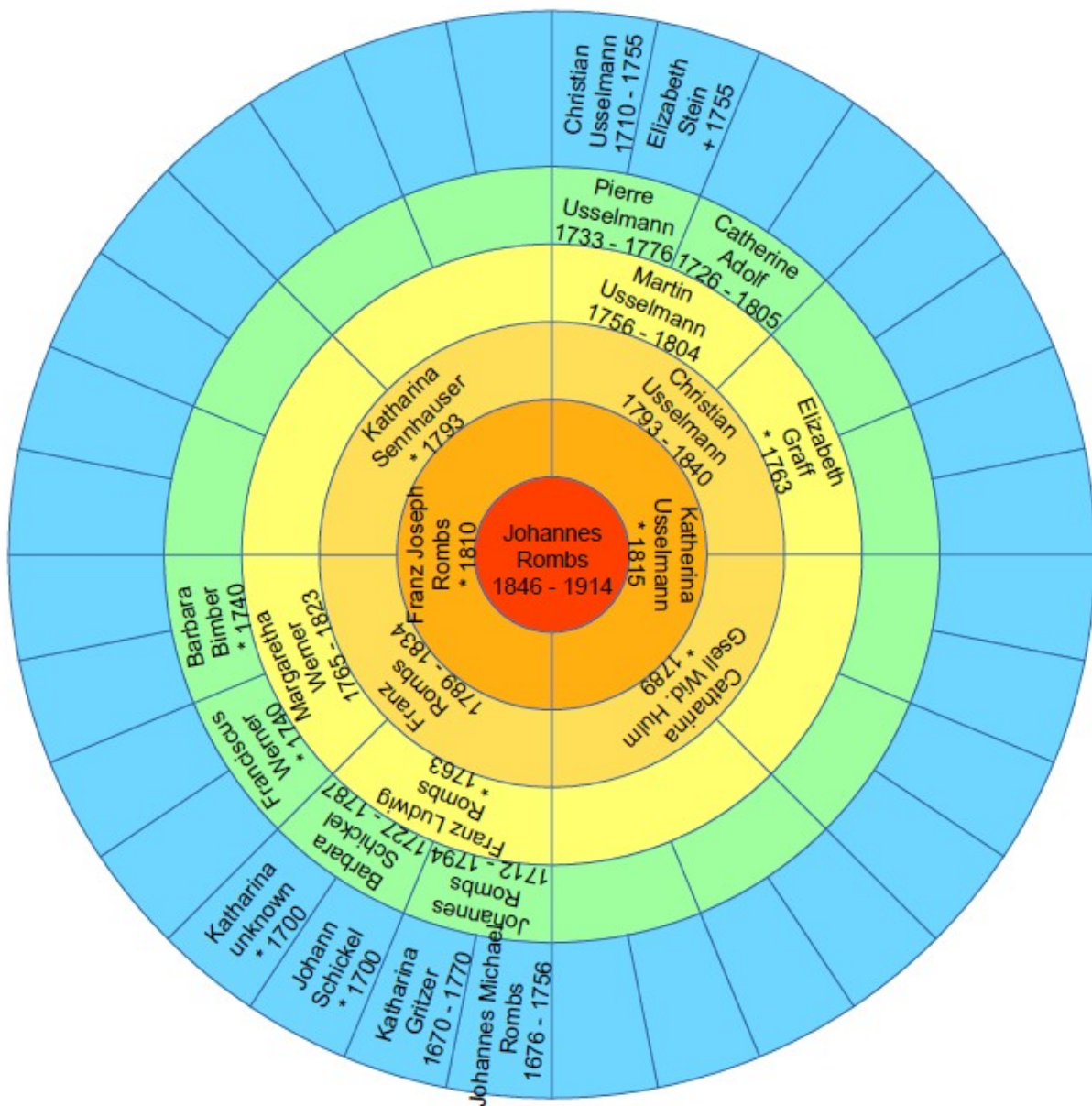
Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Family Tree for Johannes

I have derived the following proposed genealogy for Johannes based largely on information in family trees prepared by others. Even though this is suspect information, some information about his maternal line has been confirmed through genetic testing as noted above.

Franz Rombs and Christian Usselmann are the heads of families that originally immigrated to Selz, South Russia, in about 1809. It appears from census records that some Usselmanns did not survive the trip or expired shortly thereafter. Some of their children were adopted by Ludwig Strauss and his wife, Elisabetha. (See the 1816 Selz Census.)

First, a fan chart centered on Johannes.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Next, a corresponding Ahnentafel report shows some additional details.

Generation 1

1. Rombs, Johannes. Johannes was born on 1845-06-29 in Selz, Ukraine ?. He died on 1914-08-08 in Beebe (SD). He died on 1914-08-08 in Edmunds County, SD.

Generation 2

2. Rombs, Franz Joseph. Franz Joseph was born in 1810 in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine).
3. Usselmann, Katherina. Katherina was born in 1815 in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine).

Generation 3

4. Rombs, Franz. Franz was born in 1789 in Kesseldorf (Alsace). He died in 1834 in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine).
5. Sennhauser, Katharina. Katharina was born in 1793.
6. Usselmann, Christian. Christian was born in 1793 in Niederseebach (Alsace). He died in 1840 in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine).
7. Gsell, Catharina. Catharina was born in 1789 in Salmbach (Alsace). She died in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine). She was twice widowed before marrying Christian.

Generation 4

8. Rombs, Franz Ludwig. Franz Ludwig was born on 1763-04-30 in Oberlauterbach (Alsace).
9. Werner, Margaretha. Margaretha was born on 1765-11-03 in Germany. She died on 1823-03-16 in Germany.
12. Usselmann, Martin. Martin was born on 1756-01-02 in Niederseebach (Alsace). He died on 1804-03-02 in Niederseebach (Alsace).
13. Graff, Elizabeth. Elizabeth was born in 1763 in Niederlauterbach. She died in Schoenfeld (Ukraine).

Generation 5

16. Rombs, Johannes. Johannes was born on 1712-03-11 in Neibsheim. He died in 1794.
17. Schickel, Barbara. Barbara was born in 1727 in Germany. She died on 1787-06-06 in Oberlauterbach (Alsace).
18. Werner, Franciscus. Franciscus was born in 1740.
19. Bimber, Barbara. Barbara was born in 1740.
24. Usselmann, Pierre. Pierre was born in 1733 in Niederseebach (Alsace). He died on 1776-09-19.
25. Adolf, Catherine. Catherine was born in 1726 in Trimbach. She died in 1805 in Trimbach.

Generation 6

32. Rombs, Johannes Michael. Johannes Michael was born in 1676 in Neibsheim. He died on 1756-02-19 in Neibsheim.
33. Gritzer, Katharina. Katharina was born in 1670 in Neibsheim (Karlsruhe). She died in 1770 in Zeutern (Karlsruhe).
34. Schickel, Johann. Johann was born in 1700.
35. unknown, Katharina. Katharina was born in 1700.
48. Usselmann, Christian. Christian was born in 1710 in Niederseebach (Alsace). He died in 1755 in Niederseebach (Alsace).
49. Stein, Elizabeth. She died in 1755.

Generation 7

96. Usselmann, Michael.
97. unknown, Catherine (wife of Michael Usselmann).

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Locations

Karl Stumpf wrote a book about the migration of ethnic Germans to Russia. In this he lists the original settlers in the areas around Odessa. The name of the book is The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763 to 1862.

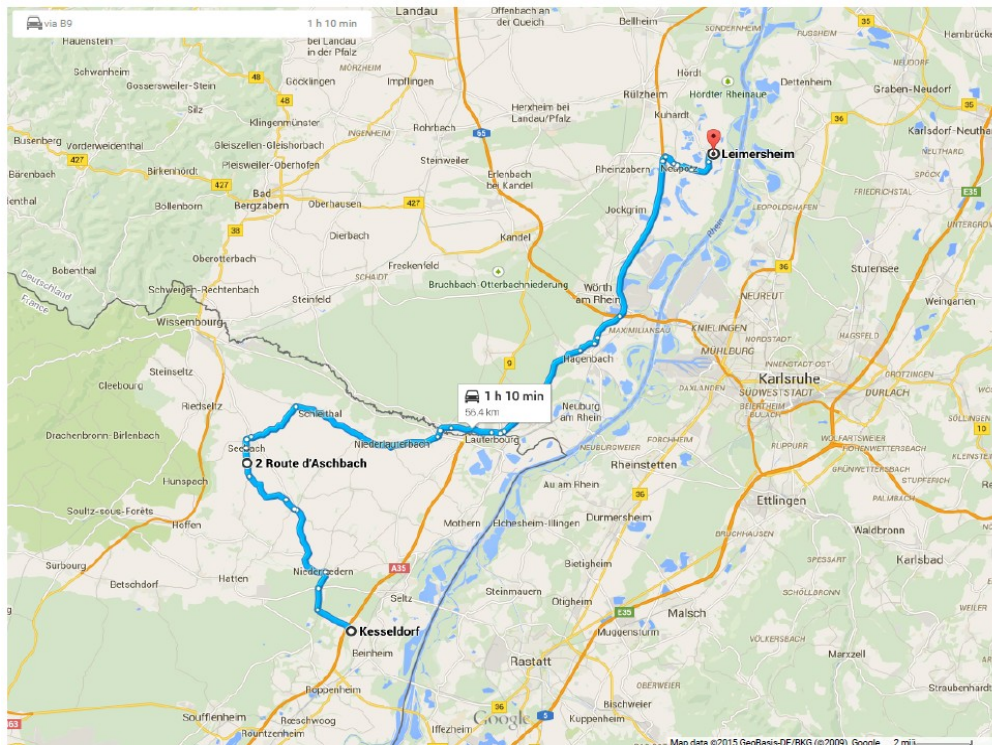
This list shows the following people in the family tree of Johannes who settled in South Russia. The first location in each entry of the list shows the origination location – town, locale, and “department”. “EL” stands for Elsass (Alsace), and “Pf” stands for Pfalz (Palatinate).

Rums, Franz	Kesseldorf/Weissenburg	El		Selz/Odessa
Rums, Ludwig	Kesseldorf/Weissenburg	El		Selz/Odessa
Usselmann, Christian	Niederseebach/Weissenburg	El	1809	Kandel/Odessa

Also of potential interest is an ancestor of Barbara from the Palatinate. I'll say more about this later.

Kessler, Joseph	Leimersheim/Germersheim	Pf	1809	Selz/Odessa
-----------------	-------------------------	----	------	-------------

If you plot the origination points for these people on a current day map, here is what you see. The blue line plots a course from Kesseldorf (where Franz Rombs started) to Niederseebach (where Christian Usselmann started) to Leimersheim (where Joseph Kessler started). The point is that these people all lived fairly close to each other, not too far from the Rhein River.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is a picture of the central part of Selz, France, as it existed in 1997. (I was able to visit the area one Saturday in 1997, while on a business trip.) It is the likely source of the name of “Colonie Selz” in “Sud Rusland,” that Franz Rombs helped found in about 1808. Based on the information above, the original Rombs settlers actually came from Kesseldorf, a short distance to the southwest of Selz, France.



In the 18th century Kesseldorf was not a large town. A well-known astronomer named Cassini was commissioned prior to the Revolution to map France. A French genealogy site hosts this map and provides associated information about places. Here is the link to the site.

<http://french-genealogy.typepad.com/genealogie/2009/06/the-cassini-map.html>

Here is a section of the map showing Kesseldorf and Selz. They are on the western edge of the Haguenau Forest and close to the Rhein River.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Population information for Kesseldorf from this same source shows the following.

From this you can see that, during the time of the Revolution (the 1790s), population declined. After that, population increased until 1851 when a peak was reached.

The point of this is to demonstrate that significant social changes were taking place just before Johannes' ancestors emigrated in 1808-1809.

Le nombre d'habitants [\(voir diagramme d'évolution\)](#)

Le recensement de 1826, qui ne serait qu'une réactualisation de celui de 1821, n'a pas été retenu.

Le recensement de 1871 a été, pour cause de guerre, repoussé à l'année 1872.

Le recensement de 1941, réalisé selon des instructions différentes, ne peut être qualifié de recensement général, et n'a donné lieu à aucune publication officielle.

Les résultats provisoires du recensement par sondage annuel réalisé en 2004, 2005 et 2006 selon les communes sont tous, par convention, affichés à 2006 (voir dossier Sources et site Insee).

Pour l'Alsace-Lorraine, les recensements de la période 1870-1919 ont eu lieu aux années 0 et 5 sauf 1871, et 1915 qui n'a pas été réalisé.

Pour Nice et la Savoie, les recensements de la période 1814-1860 ont eu lieu en 1815, 1822, 1838, 1848 et 1858.

autre	1841 490	1876 361	1911 356	1962 306
1793 268	1846 477	1881 384	1921 300	1968 307
1800 187	1851 496	1886 386	1926 333	1975 332
1806 313	1856 375	1891 388	1931 318	1982 320
1821 387	1861 378	1896 379	1936 313	1990 317
1831 463	1866 374	1901 369	1946 315	1999 331
1836 451	1872 347	1906 369	1954 321	2006 402

légende

- 0 hab. : commune inhabitée
- ... : commune n'existant pas à cette date
- adm. : commune recensée avec une autre
- lac. : commune oubliée sur la publication du recensement
- ill. : information illisible
- vide : information non disponible actuellement
- abs. : document (ou pages) disparu(es)

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is a map of the colonies in South Russia that seem to matter here. Note that Selz and Kandel are close together, and they were established in the same year (1808). (Kandel is where the Usselmann ancestors of Johannes initially settled.)



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

For further support, here is information from the 1852 census for Selz, South Russia. Details can be had in the GRHS publication, “1852 Kutschurgan Census”, c. 2002.

The following table shows by house number where people with the three surnames (Rombs, Kessler, and Usselman) were residing. All were in Selz in 1852. These names do not appear in the other Kutschurgan colonies. Kesslers were in one house, Rombs people were in two houses, and Usselman people were in four houses.

Name	House 13	House 14	House 28	House 29	House 49	House 51	House 126	Total Result
Kessler					1			1
Rombs				1			1	2
Usselman	1	1	1			1		4

The point of all of this information is that the (Usselman and Rombs) ancestors of Johannes Rombs started from what is now NE France. They settled in close proximity to each other in Russia, and they stayed there until many emigrated.

The Kessler family that is shown above (from Leimersheim) is associated with Barbara as explained in a section that follows.

Current day boundaries that separate Leimersheim (now in Germany) from Kesseldorf and Niederseebach (now in France) had significance in the early 19th century, but they may not indicate a significant difference in ethnicity. I say this because the region was unstable – see historical references that describe the French Revolution and the subsequent rise of Napoleon, who was opposed by assorted Germanic “states”.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Barbara Rombs

Birth

I am assuming a date of 6/16/1848.

I know of only four sources of a date for her birth.

- The 1852 Kutschurgan census implies 1848 as her birth date.
- Immigration records, which, although not very clear, seem to indicate a birth year of 1850
- The 1885 SD territorial census shows her age as 37, implying a birth year of 1848
- The date shown on her headstone is 6/16/1842. This makes me again wonder if the headstone years are reliable at all.

Her birth place was Russia based on the 1852 Kutschurgan Census and U.S. census data for her children that usually shows this as her origin. Sometimes, however, her birth place is shown as Germany or even France, which I believe to be errors.

Death and Burial

There are only two sources of information for Barbara's date of death – the infamous headstone and two newspaper articles. I adopt a date of 3/10/1896 for her death. (Later I will explain an interesting family story that may relate to Barbara's death.)

- The headstone shows 3/11/1896.
- The newspapers show death on 3/10/1896 (a Tuesday), with burial on 3/13/1896 (a Friday). Cause of death is shown as consumption (i.e., tuberculosis).

Copies of the newspaper text follow. The first is from the “Faulk Co. Times”, March 12, 1896, page 3. The second is from the “Faulk County Republican Record”, vol. 14, no. 14, March 12, 1896, page 8.

DIED:—At her home near Millard
on Tuesday, March 10, 1896, of con-
sumption, Mrs. John Rhombs.

Mrs. Rhombs died at her home
near Millard Tuesday. Funeral
services will be held on Friday.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Ancestors

Primary source information for Barbara's ancestors has been a little hard to come by, and some has been confusing. In spite of this I believe that it is reasonably clear who her ancestors were and where they lived.

Hints

First, to some confusing information. - My father had a phone conversation with a descendant of Lulu, one of Barbara's daughters. The descendant was Alta House Soderquist, who is a daughter of Reuben House and Lulu Rombs. I believe that Alta was living in Chicago at the time of the conversation. Here are dad's notes. I believe that they may provide a key role in discovering Barbara's ancestors./

1-4-76
Phoned Alta Soderquist -
great gal - I'd bet!
States:
Lulu remembers moving
from Strasburg (Gr.?) to the
W. Kyline, in Russia (Strasburg
is German) - spoke German & (?)
Barbara Kessler's brother
Robert Kessler, and wife Hannah
come to S. Dak - some time
as John Rombs and lived
in Ipswich, S. Dak. Lulu visited
at Robert Kessler's!
Also sure John had only one
wife - will tell me more
when I see her (maybe fun)

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Possible Questions

Concerning J.R. -

- ① When ^{where} was he born? (exact)
Stressburg (?)
- ② What were his professions?
Don't know
- ③ Parents: names, origins, professions, ...
- ④ Stories ...

Concerning Barbara -

- ① When & where born?
Some region
- ② Parents (as above)
Not known
- ③ Cause of death
F.T.B. probably femoral
fracture
- ④ Stories

Herbert
Ulta says
1881
Odessa -
New York

- ① Details of the immigration (exactly when, from where to where, did they know someone here, what steamship co., what rail co. ...)
- ② Was Elizabeth born during same year as the immigration? [3 yrs old]
- ③ Why did some of the kids put the "H" in the name?
- ④ What about Alfred & the will?

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Concerning Kate:

- ① Birth + death dates + places.
- ② Who had control of the original farm + what was done with it?
- ③ How was Cala's name spelled?
- ④ Do any old family documents exist?

Rumor - John Del. Cattle to
Spring City - married
Gal maybe about -

Twins in God House
79-85

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Jan 16, 1977
Send

1869
12
1881
Lulu says (12)
when entered -
18 when married!

940

Rokus Kersler

Edith daughter
Rokus
in home in
Spawick

Sauk County Record
Thursday April 22, 1976.

1907 - Alta come with parents
to S. Dak for Sparta Wis
(son three, emp. (Cuy))
Winona - La Crosse, Sparta,
then Saukton.
1912 Decatur, Minn.

kids
Anna
Frances
Joseph
Edith

John - Book Business -
5' 3" or 4" -

blue eyes
Barbara - Brown (?)

W
N
H



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is a summary of some points from the notes. By the way, I believe that dad actually visited Alta on one of his trips to Chicago.

- Lulu purportedly remembered the trip from Strasbourg to Russia. (I am very skeptical of this since primary source documents show that she was born in Russia.)
- Barbara had a brother named Ro(c)hus Kessler, whose wife was named Hanna. They came to SD at the same time as Johannes and Barbara. They lived in Ipswich.
- Alta disputes that Johannes had a second wife.
- Barbara may have died from “female” troubles.
- Did Johannes and Barbara have twins in a house?
- Alta references the Faulk County Record of Thursday, April 22, 1976.
- Alta recounts her travels with her parents to WI and then MN.
- She says that Johannes had blue eyes, was about 63-64 inches tall, and was a good businessman.
- Lastly, and probably most importantly, she describes the Kessler family in Ipswich, which Lulu visited at times.
 - Husband Rochus Kessler
 - wife Hannah Kessler
 - children: Anna, Francis, Joseph, Edith.

Resolutions (reality)

Here is what I believe reality actually is.

I have found a Rochus Kessler (b. 1854 – Find A Grave Memorial 155876844) family in Edmunds County at the right time. However, the family members do not look right, and they were living north of Ipswich. They were clearly Alsatian (German-Russian). I tracked down a direct male descendant, who kindly submitted to a genetic test. The results of this test are quite clear – we are not related. So, I am sure that this is the wrong family.

Furthermore, the 1852 census probably shows Barbara in the house numbered 49. She is the daughter of Johann and Elisabetha Kessler, and she has siblings named Franz, Margareta, and Katharina. There is no Rochus Kessler in the house at this time. (Perhaps more children were born after 1852, but I have no information about that.) A copy of the transcription follows.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Selz 1852 Census

HH#	#Males in Village	#Females in Village	Surname	Given (First) Name	Age of Male	Age of Female
		246		Barbara		38
	224			Valentin	5	
	225			Franz	1/2	
		247		Katharina		14
		248		Karolina		9
48	226		Thomas	Peter	26	
		249		Karolina		24
	227			Josef	6	
	228			Franz	2	
		250		Karolina		1/2
49	229		Kessler	Josef	73	
		251		Barbara		70
	230		Kessler	Anton	48	
		252		Elisabetha		30
	231			Franz	17	
	232			Georg	9	
		253		Gertruda		14
		254		Barbara		11
		255		Daria		3
	233		Kessler	Jakob	40	
		256		Elisabetha		31
	234			Ignatz	8	
	235		<i>Edwards Co. →</i>	Josef	4	
	236			Ludwig	2	
	237			Nikolaus	3/4	
		257		Genoveva		10
		258		Marianna		6
	238		Kessler	Johann	31	
		259		Elisabetha		30
	239			Franz	5	
		260		Margareta		6
		261	<i>Fault Co. →</i>	Barbara		4
		262		Katharina		1
50	240		Eisenzimmer	Johann	48	
		263		Maria Eva		39
	241			Valentin	1	
		264		Franziska		15
		265		Elisabetha		11
		266		Helena		9
		267		Margareta		6
	242		Philipps	Georg	39	
		268		Henrika		37
	243			Kosmos	6	
		269		Maria		17
		270		Katharina		13
		271		Marianna		9
		272		Elisabetha		3/4
51	244		Usselman	Christian	38	
		273		Eva		36
	245			Valentin	13	
	246			Peter	11	
	247			Anton	9	



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Interestingly, I have subsequently found another Kessler family in Ipswich at the right time, with many of the correct family members. The family was headed by a widow named Anna Kessler from Russia. She appears to have been born in 1859 in Russia, immigrated to the US in 1885, was widowed, and died in SD in 1930. I think that she was possibly married in 1881 (in Russia), and that her husband died some time during or after 1893. Their children are listed below, and a copy of the 1900 Federal Census page that shows them follows as well.

Edith b. 7/1882 (Russia)

Francis b.1884 (Russia)

Lizzie b. 1887 (SD)

Joseph b. 1889 (SD)

Anna b. 1891 (SD)

Katie b. 1894 (SD)

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES. B

State South Dakota } **SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.** { Supervisor's District No. 2 } Sheet No. 6
 County Edmunds } { Enumeration District No. 141 }

Township or other division of county Ipswich Township Name of Institution, X
(Type name of township, town, precinct, district, or other civil division in the case number. See instructions.)

Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, Ipswich Village Ward of city, X
(Type name of city, town, or village in the case number. See instructions.)

Enumerated by me on the 8th day of June, 1900, Arvid J. Barker, Enumerator.

Here is the bulk of the family living on Main Street.

Main Street	104 103	100 88	Rumbloom, Andrew	Boarder	r m	Janu.	1889	51	m	22
			Russell, Teller	Head	r m	Janu.	1848	52	m	32
	104	106	" Louis	Son	r m	June	1868	31	b.	
			" Gail	Son	r m	May	1881	19	p	
	107 87	101 87	Kessler, Anna	Head	r f.	Aug.	1859	40	m	20
			" Francis	Daughter	r f.	Dec.	1884	15	b.	
			" Lizzie	Daughter	r f.	Feby.	1887	13	v	
			" Joseph	Son	r m	Janu.	1889	11	v	
	105	107	" Anna	Daughter	r f.	Feby.	1891	9	v	
	101 102	102	" Katie	Daughter	r f.	May	1894	6	v	

859	40	m	20	6	6	Russia	Russia	Russia	1885	15	Wash woman
884	15	b.				"	"	"	1885	15	"at school"
887	13	v				South Dakota	"	"			"at school"
889	11	v				"	"	"			"at school"
891	9	v				"	"	"			"at school"
894	6	v				South Dakota	"	"			

Edith is just down the street, shown as a boarder.

Kessler, Edith	Servant	r f.	July	1882	17	b.	Russia
----------------	---------	------	------	------	----	----	--------



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Also, a quick search of arrivals to NY from Germany, revealed the following family on the SS Elbe, arriving from Bremen in NY on 10/31/1885. The people and the dates shown in the transcription that follows are all consistent with the 1900 census shown above. Person 484 may be Edith (wrong gender on the manifest), and person 485 maybe Francis.

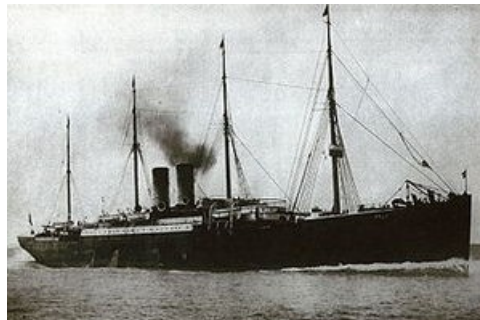
482	Jos Kessler	30	m	farmer	Germany	1-5
483	Anna Kessler	28	f	wife	Germany	1-
484	? Kessler	2	m	child	Germany	1-
485	Franziska Kessler	8m	f	child	Germany	1-

Here is a copy of the original manifest. It actually shows two groups of Kesslers close together, and this may be a clue. The first family looks like Franz and Barbara Kessler. The next family is Jos and Anna Kessler. It is this second family that I think may be the one that ended up in Ipswich. The first family may be that of Barbara Rombs' brother, Franz, and the second one the family of her cousin, Josef.



If this is the case, then Anna's husband (missing in the Ipswich family) was named Joseph, and he was about two years older than Anna. They then arrived in the year that Anna states in census records, about 11 months after Johannes and Barbara Rombs. His wife, Anna, may have been from one of the Senger families in Kandel at the time of the 1852 census. For what it is worth, Joseph Kessler is also the name of one of the original settlers of Selz as noted above.

Here is a picture of the SS Elbe. She was part of the North German Lloyd line.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Further evidence for Joseph being the name of the head of the Ipswich Kessler family comes from the birth record for Joseph Kessler b. 1889. This record from Edmunds County shows that the father was named Joseph Kessler and the mother was named Anna Saenger (a new piece of information).

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
 DELAYED CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

State File **621694**
 INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY
 LEGAL PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION
 Co. Reg. No. **6546**

Full Name at Birth: **Joseph Kessler** Date of Birth: **Jan. 6, 1889** Sex: **male**

Birthplace: **Faulkton** (City or Town) **Faulk** (County) **South Dakota** (State) Color: **white**

Father: Name: **Joseph Kessler** Age: **34** Birth-Place: **Russia** (State or Country)

Mother: Name: **Anna Saenger** Age: **29** Birth-Place: **Russia** (State or Country)

Affidavit: I hereby declare upon oath that the above statements are true.

Signature: *Edith Kessler* (Sister) Address: **Ipswich, S. D.**
 (To be signed by informant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this **14th** day of **December**, 19**42**

SEAL *Rev. J. Thomas* **Clerk of Courts, Edmunds County, S. D.**

ABSTRACT OF SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

I hereby certify that the abstract of evidence appended is to my knowledge true and correct.

Signature: _____ Date signed: _____
 (Title of Reviewing Official) Register: *Mason Chamberlin*

Date Filed: **Dec. 15, 1942**
Faulkton, S. D.

An obituary for Anna, published in the Ipswich Tribune on 11/27/1930, indicates that her husband died in 1893.

Funeral Services For Mrs. Kessler

Mrs. Anna Kessler was born November 29, 1858 in Russia and passed away November 19, 1930 at Ipswich, S. D.

In 1886, Mr. and Mrs. Kessler came to the United States, locating in Edmunds County. They lived in Bowdle a year and then moved to Ipswich. Mr. Kessler passed away thirty-seven years ago.

Mrs. Kessler has been ill the past six years, and has been confined to her bed since last April.

Those left to mourn are three daughters, Miss Edith Kessler, Mrs. Carl Blank and Mrs. L. L. Silvernail; one son, Joseph Kessler.

Funeral services were held Saturday morning at nine o'clock at nine o'clock from Holy Cross Church, with Rev. F. Bormann officiating. Interment was made in the Ipswich cemetery.

The pall bearers were: Adam Siller, Peter Pietz, Frank Archer, Will Deminck, F. E. Lass and Peter Geditz.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

So, based on all of this evidence, I propose that Barbara's cousin is the person named Jos Kessler in the ship manifest and that his family in Ipswich is the one that Alta Soderquist mentioned in her conversation with my father. I am trying to confirm this.

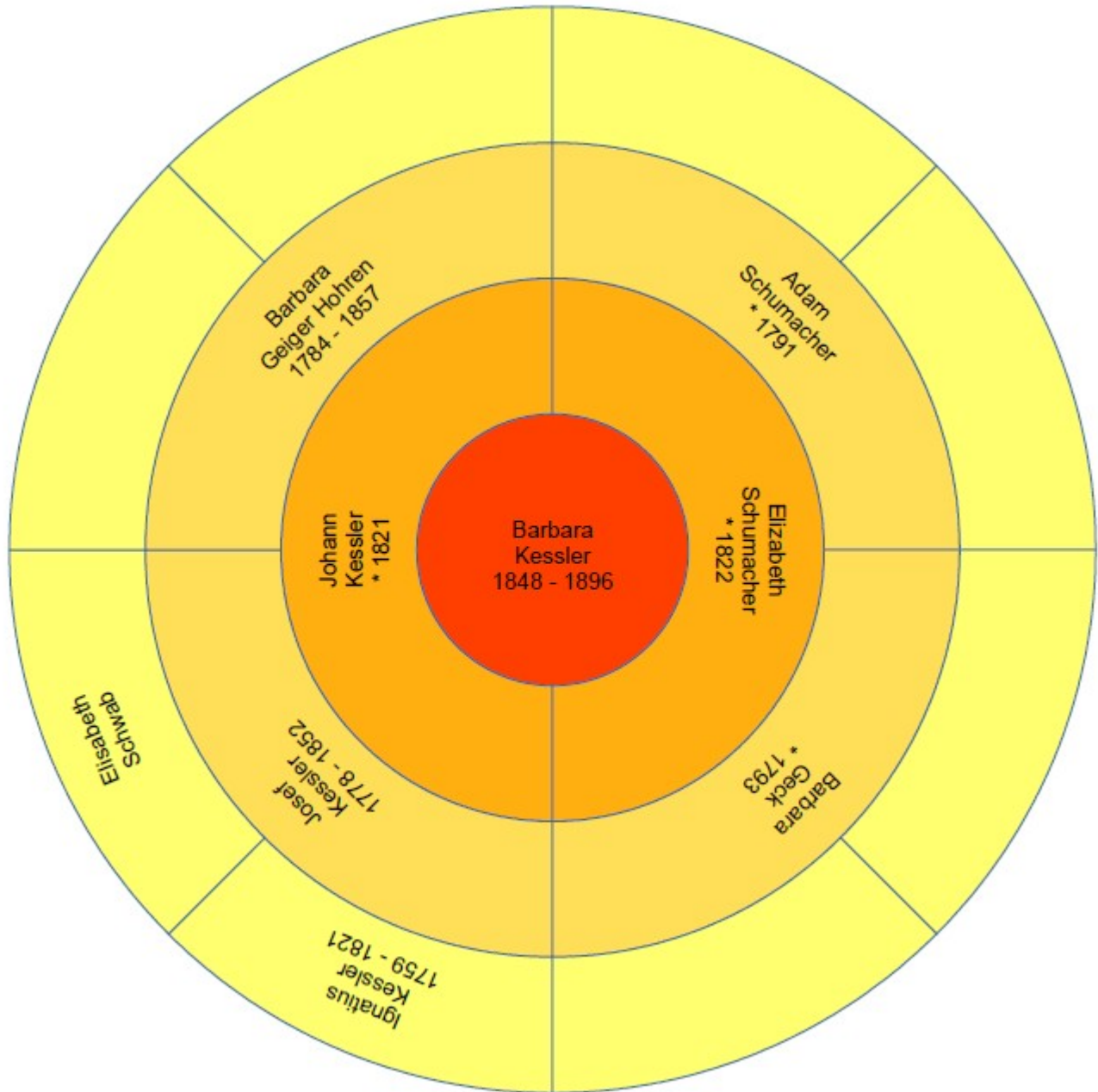
Associated with this is the proposal that Barbara's brother Franz, who shows up in the 1852 Kutschurgan census, should be found close by at about the same time. In fact there is a Frank Kessler, who once lived in ND and died in Washington state, that might be a good candidate for her brother.

The Rochus Kessler reference is still a mystery at this time.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Family Tree for Barbara

Adopting the proposed ancestry for Barbara mentioned above, the results depicted below are reasonable. First a fan chart.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Next an Ahnentafel report.

Generation 1

1. Kessler, Barbara. Barbara was born on 1848-06-16 in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine). She died on 1896-03-11 in Faulk County, SD.

Generation 2

2. Kessler, Johann. Johann was born in 1821 in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine).
3. Schumacher, Elizabeth. Elizabeth was born in 1822 in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine).

Generation 3

4. Kessler, Josef. Josef was born in 1778 in Leimersheim Pfalz. He died in 1852 in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine).
5. Geiger Hohen, Barbara. Barbara was born in 1784. She died in 1857.
6. Schumacher, Adam. Adam was born in 1791.
7. Geck, Barbara. Barbara was born in 1793.

Generation 4

8. Kessler, Ignatius. Ignatius was born in 1759 in Blumenberg Pfalz. He died in 1821 in Manneheim Germany.
9. Schwab, Elisabeth.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Life Together

Introduction

Before delving into more details of their life together, I thought that it would be useful to present a summary time-line to put everything in context. The table that follows summarizes what has been established or estimated. Events subsequent to the births of Barbara and Johannes are discussed in more detail in subsequent sections.

year	event	location
1808-1809	ancestors emigrate to South Russia	Russia
1845	Johannes born	Russia
1848	Barbara born	Russia
1866	marriage	Russia
1866	birth of Lucada	Russia
1868	Johannes born	Russia
1872	Andreas born	Russia
1875	birth of Caroline	Russia
1878	birth of Nicholas	Russia
1881	birth of Peter	Russia
1883	birth of Elizabeth	Russia
1884	immigration	NY
1885	naturalization started	SD
1885	birth of Joseph	SD
1885	land patent started	SD
1886	land first occupied	SD
1887	birth of Kathryn	SD
1888	loss of section 10 of homestead	SD
1892	land patent finished	SD
1892	naturalization finished	SD
1896	Barbara dies	SD
1896	Johannes joins Immanuel Lutheran	SD
1897	loss of section 9 of homestead	sd
1898	Johannes marries Mary Kastan	SD
1898	Johannes ships Mary back to Chicago	SD
1902	Johannes divorces Mary Kastan	SD
1914	Johannes dies	SD

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Marriage

The record of marriage comes in the form of a note from Dennis Roth (GRHS). He relates that the Saratov Archive information shows a date of 11/7/1866 in Selz.

Here is a recent photo of a house built by German settlers in South Russia. Johannes and Barbara might have known similar quarters. Source = <http://www.goldade.net/ukraine.htm> .



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Immigration

Johannes and Barbara immigrated to the US through New York City on November 22, 1884. Johannes is listed as a farmer. They traveled on the SS Oder of the North German Lloyd Line. Their last name is shown as “Rums”.

Here are the people in their family on the boat.

Johannes, age 39 years

Barbara, age 34? years

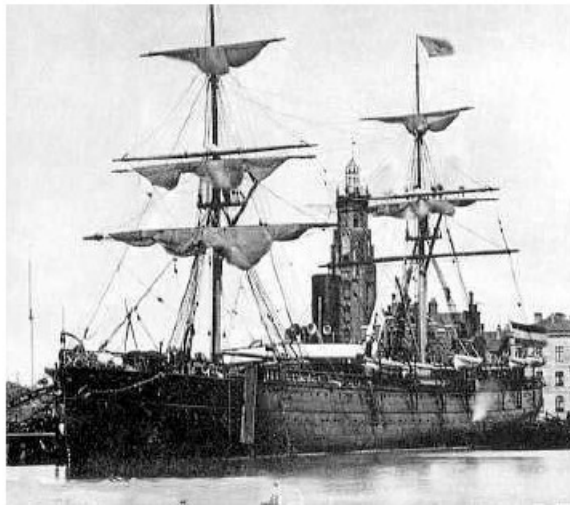
Lucada, age 14 years

Caroline, age 5 ½ years

Nicolas, age 4 years

Elizabeth, age 9 mo.

Here is a picture of the SS Oder. She carried passengers from Bremen to NY from 1873-1885.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

This is a picture of the ship's manifest that shows the "Rums" family. This is clearly the Rombs family.

The image shows an open, aged ship's manifest book with handwritten entries in multiple columns. The text is written in a cursive script, likely from the 18th or 19th century. The entries include names, ages, and other details, organized in a structured format. The paper is yellowed and shows signs of wear, with some ink bleed-through from the reverse side. The columns are separated by vertical lines, and the text is written in a consistent hand throughout.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Homestead Papers

Between immigration in late 1884 and filing the homestead papers described below, I believe that The family moved to Ipswich, Dakota Territory, along with cousins and other people that they knew from Selz. Ipswich was the end of the railroad at the time. (I'll present my reasoning in other data that follows about children and neighbors.)

On 12/2/1885, papers were filed in Huron by Johannes to start the homestead application process on one quarter section. The land is the southeast quarter of section 9, township 120 N, range 69 west, of the 5th principal meridian. There probably are other filings like this to be found.

There is also a note dated 11/27/1885 that “one year after landing in NY – is living on homestead property and have built buildings and dug well.”

In 1892, final papers were filed. These state that the homestead was occupied since March, 1886. This is later than the 1885 note indicates. Maybe there was a period of time when the family was living elsewhere (Ipswich?) while work progressed on the homestead.

In 1892, the following characteristics of the homestead property were noted.

- 12X20 house with 12X14 addition
- granary 10X14
- barn 20X100
- 3 wells
- breaking 140 acres

It seems like a lot of work was done in the time immediately after arriving!

Eventually, Johannes acquired more land. Here is a list of all tracts that he took on. This makes it look as if they started with land in section 10 and then acquired land in section 9.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PRIVATE CLAIMS

General Land Office Records

BLM

Search Documents

Reference Center

Support

Shopping Cart

[Search Documents](#) [Results List](#)

Printer Friendly

Patents

Note: An *Italic* entry denotes data that has not been indexed against the land patent document, and has no image.

Image	Accession	Names†	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
---	SDMTAA 038287	ROMBS, JOHANNES	7/13/1889	13933	SD	5th PM	120N - 069W	SW¼	10	Faulk
---	SDMTAA 038382	ROMBS, JOHANNES	10/18/1892	4709	SD	5th PM	120N - 069W	SE¼	9	Faulk
---	SDMTAA 038418	ROMBS, JOHANNES	10/4/1900	2620	SD	5th PM	120N - 069W	E½NW¼	9	Faulk
							120N - 069W	NW¼NW¼	9	Faulk
							120N - 069W	SW¼NW¼	9	Faulk



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

The US Land patents database also lists the following information for Johannes. It provides somewhat more detail that shown on the website above.

ROMBS JOHANNES	05	120 N	069 W	010	160	272002	PA	13933	07/13/1889
ROMBS JOHANNES	05	120 N	069 W	009	160	251101	PA	4709	10/18/1892
ROMBS JOHANNES	05	120 N	069 W	009	80	251105	PA	2620	10/04/1900
ROMBS JOHANNES	05	120 N	069 W	009	35	251105	PA	2620	10/04/1900
ROMBS JOHANNES	05	120 N	069 W	009	5	251105	PA	2620	10/04/1900
ROMBS JOHANNES	05	120 N	069 W	009	28.75	251105	PA	2620	10/04/1900
ROMBS JOHANNES	05	120 N	069 W	009	11.25	251105	PA	2620	10/04/1900

Here is the reference for this information. <http://www.usgwarchives.org/sd/sdfiles.htm>

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

If you actually look at the land, you will find that there are significant water features on the property. That is, there are streams and ponds. In the image below, the two full sections below the ones containing Hammok (Hamak) Lake are sections 9 and 10. (9 is on the left and 10 is on the right.) From the BLM records, Johannes had two contiguous quarters and then smaller parcels around the lake in section 9. Each of the “aliquots” is shown with an arrow below.

This land is just north and a little west of Wecota. Cresbard is to the east. It is slightly closer to Faulkton than Ipswich.

I don't see any lingering hints of original structures, which I assume were long ago demolished.

If you drive by the area today, you will see that the land is being used for livestock. I do not believe that the land was/is very suitable for small grains.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Naturalization Papers

Johannes filed first and second papers for citizenship as required in his land patent agreement.

- First papers will filed in Hutchinson County on 3/9/1885.
- Second papers were filed in Faulk County on 4/9/1892.

Here are images of these documents.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HUTCHINSON COUNTY,

Second Judicial District of Dakota Territory--85:

Johannes Rombs

... as a ... for the ... of the ... in and for said county of Hutchin-
son, Territory of Dakota, being a court of record, and made oath, that he was born in
Russia on or about the year
Eighteen Hundred and *Forty-five* that he landed at
the port of *New York* on or about the
month of *November* in the year Eighteen Hundred and
Eighty-four that it is his DONA FIDE INTENTION TO BECOME A CITIZEN OF
THE UNITED STATES and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any Foreign
Prince, Potestate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to *the Emperor*
Russia whereof he is a subject: AND THAT HE WILL SUPPORT
THE CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Johannes Rombs
Subscribed and sworn to before me this *9th* day of *March* 1885


James C. Boyle
Clerk of the District Court, Hutchinson County, Dakota.

TERRITORY OF DAKOTA. }
COUNTY OF HUTCHINSON. } ss:

I, *James C. Boyle* Clerk of the
District Court within and for the County of Hutchinson, certify the
above to be a true transcript of the record as the above remains in my
office.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the
seal of said court, at Olney, this *9th*
day of *March* 1885

James C. Boyle
Clerk.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

FINAL CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Charles
CHIEF COURT,

PAULK COUNTY,

SOUTH DAKOTA.

In 6th **JUDICIAL**
CIRCUIT

-9-

Be it Remembered, This on the 9th day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety two personally appeared before the Honorable H. H. Bailey, Presiding Judge of the County Court of Paulk County in the Circuit aforesaid Johannes Rombs an alien born, above the age of twenty-one years, and applied in open Court to be admitted to become a naturalized citizen of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, pursuant to the several acts of Congress heretofore passed on that subject. And the said Johannes Rombs having thereupon produced to the Court record testimony showing that he had heretofore reported himself and filed his declaration of his intention to become a citizen of the United States, according to the provisions of said several acts of Congress, and the Court being satisfied as well from the oath of the said Johannes Rombs as from the testimony of John P. Huggan and John M. Hottel who are known to be citizens of the United States, that the said Johannes Rombs has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States, for at least five years last past, and at least one year last past within the State of South Dakota, and that during the whole of that time he has behaved himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles contained in the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order, well being and happiness of the same, and two years and upwards having elapsed since the said Johannes Rombs reported himself and filed his declaration of intention as aforesaid.

IT WAS ORDERED, that the said Johannes Rombs be permitted to take the oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and the usual oath whereby he renounced all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and more particularly to the Emperor of Russia which he was heretofore a subject, which said oath having been administered to the said Johannes Rombs by the Clerk of said Court, it was ordered by the Court that the said Johannes Rombs be admitted to all and singular the rights, privileges and immunities of a naturalized citizen of the United States, and that the same be certified by the Clerk of this Court, under the seal of said Court, which is done accordingly.


C. H. DeWitt Judge.

Attest: H. M. Bailey Clerk.

IN TESTIMONY That the foregoing is a true copy of the proceedings, taken from the record of the proceedings of the Court aforesaid, I subscribe my name hereunto and affix the Seal of the Court, this ninth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety two

H. M. Bailey Clerk.

By _____ Deputy.




Johannes and Barbara Rombs

NATURALIZATION.—2159.—Fisk Meritt Company, Printers and Manufacturing Stationers, Chicago

State of South ~~OF~~ DAKOTA, } ss.
 County of Faulkton } *County*
 DISTRICT COURT, *April 9th* ~~TERM~~, 1892

In the matter of the application of *Johannes Rombs* to become a citizen of the United States,
 I, *John Krueger* and *John White* being severally sworn to
 depose and say each for himself, that he is well acquainted with the above named *Johannes Rombs* that he has
 resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for five years last past and for one year last past within the *State of S. D.*
Dakota; and that during the same period he has behaved himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution
 of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

Subscribed and sworn to in open Court, this *9th*
 day of *April* 1892
H. W. Bailey Clerk. } *John Krueger*
John White

State of South ~~OF~~ DAKOTA, } ss.
 County of *Faulk* } *County*
 DISTRICT COURT. *

I, *Johannes Rombs* do swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of
 America, and that I do absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure forever all allegiance and fidelity to every Foreign Power, Prince, Potentate,
 State or Sovereignty whatever; and particularly to the *Empire* of *Russia* whose subject I
 was. And further, that I never have borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the degrees of nobility of the country whereof I have been a subject,
 and that I have resided within the United States for five years last past, and in this ~~Country~~ *State* for one year last past.

Subscribed and sworn to in open Court, this *9th*
 day of *April* 1892
H. W. Bailey Clerk. } *Johannes Rombs*



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

United States of America.

County Faulk ss. In 6th Judicial District of Dakota

Be it Remembered That on the 9th day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety two personally appeared before the Honorable C.H. Derr Presiding Judge of the Faulk County Court of Faulk County for the District aforesaid Johannes Rombs an alien born, above the age of twenty-one years, and applied in open Court to be admitted to become a naturalized citizen of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, pursuant to the several acts of Congress heretofore passed on that subject. And the said Johannes Rombs having thereupon produced to the Court record testimony showing that he had heretofore reported himself and filed his declaration of his intention to become a citizen of the United States, according to the provisions of said several acts of Congress, and the Court being satisfied, as well from the oath of the said Johannes Rombs as from the testimony of John K. Kruger Johannes Rombs has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States, for at least five years last past, and at least one year last past, within the State of South of Dakota, and that during the whole of that time he has behaved himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles contained in the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order, well being and happiness of the same; and two years and upward having elapsed since the said Johannes Rombs reported himself and filed his declaration of intention as aforesaid.

IT WAS ORDERED, that the said Johannes Rombs be permitted to take the oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and the usual oath whereby he renounced all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and more particularly to The Emperor of Prussia whereof he was heretofore a subject, which said oath having been administered to the said Johannes Rombs by the Clerk of said Court, it was ordered by the Court that the said Johannes Rombs be admitted to all and singular the rights, privileges and immunities of a naturalized citizen of the United States, and that the same be certified by the Clerk of this Court, under the seal of said Court, which is done accordingly.

C.H. Derr Judge.

Attest St. B. Auler Clerk.

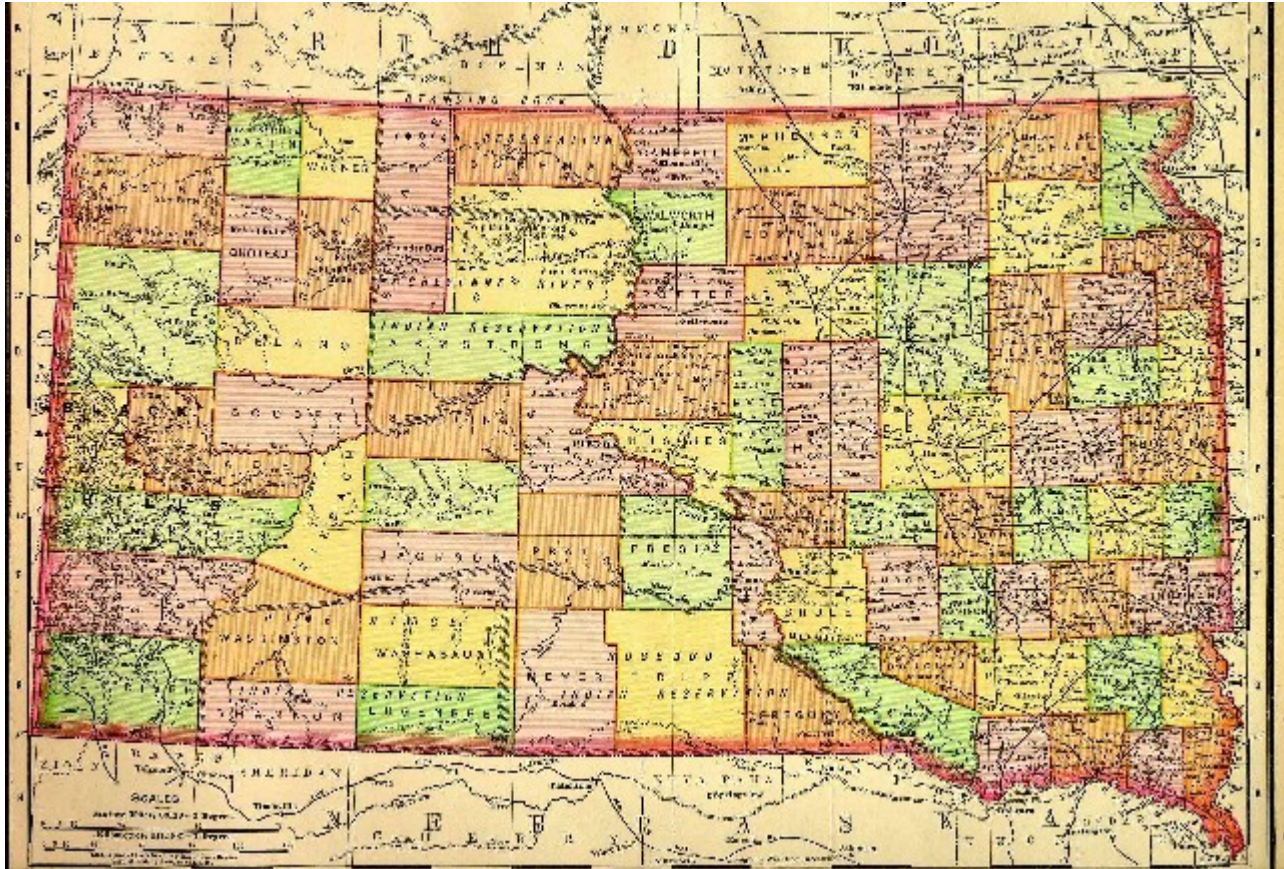
Note: Information about the judge, C.H. Derr can be found at Find A Grave Memorial 93230546 .



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Neighbors

Here is a map of South Dakota as it was in 1895. The purpose of showing this is to put locations into perspective. Johannes and Barbara lived just west of Cresbard, about midway between Ipswich and Faulkton in Faulk County. Note that the railroad went through Cresbard at that time. Another line to the west may have run through the now defunct town of Millard. At this time the counties east of the Mo. River had been established. The ones on the west side were in more flux – some were later consolidated.



Historical note from Kent A. Gebhard, a local historian and significant contributor to Find A Grave. (Kent added most of Millard to Findagrave.) -

“Cresbard at that time was the post office in the store of Cressy and Baird- who joined their names to create "Cresbard"- which was located north and east of the Howe farm, which is about 2 miles northwest of the current town site, which came into being after 1906 when the M & St.L railroad was constructed. Previous to that the mail arrived at the store by stage coach. Other new towns that sprang up on that line were Wecota . . . (post office opened 10 April 1907), Carlyle and Onaka. Norbeck was founded later, in 1920.

The ghost town of Millard was a very important hub for homesteaders, as the railroad through that part of Faulk was completed in late 1886; the first train arrived in Faulkton, I believe, October 26, 1886. Mail arriving by stage coach prior to that. Stage schedules are recorded in the early newspapers. Ironically, the only reminder of that early settlement is Millard cemetery.”

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

The following information is provided to give a feeling for people that lived close to Johannes and Barbara.

This table summarizes the number of land patents for Freedom Township by year and section number. It is very clear that most patents were taken out in the earlier years shown, particularly 1889. This is the time of a big land rush in this area. (There were about 125 people who took out patents during this time period for land just in this township.) Johannes and Barbara were there to participate in it.

By the way, the three 1967 patents in section 9, where Johannes originally owned land, are probably taken out by the Federal Government to protect the water feature that is on the west side of this section. (This is speculation.)

Count - Aliquid	year																	Total Result			
Sec. #	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1911	1967	Total Result
1		3	4					2													9
2		2	3														3				8
3		1			6	3							1								11
4	1	1			3			6													11
5	1	4									3										8
6		4				4											3				11
7		6			1		2														9
8		2			1			2													5
9	1		1		1								3							3	9
10		1										1	1	1							4
11		2	1								1										4
12		3															1				4
13		2			1								1								4
14		3																	1		4
15		3																	1		4
17		2													2						4
18		4													3					1	8
19				4	3						1										8
20		3													1						4
21		4																			4
22		3											1								4
23					2	1											1				4
24		1	1		1								1								4
25		1	1			1		2													5
26		3																		1	4
27	1	2						2													5
28		1			2							1									4
29		1			1						1						1				4
30		2			3				6								1				11
31	2	3								6											11
32		2	1												1						4
33		1	1		1											1					4
34		2											2								4
35		3																	1		4
Total Result	6	75	13	4	26	9	2	14	6	6	6	1	5	6	8	7	3	4	1	3	205



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

This table shows tracts and owners in the same township in the sections that were nearest to Johannes and Barbara, who owned parts of sections 9 and 10. These were their neighbors.

Obviously there are many neighbors with names that seem to hint of German ethnic background.

Some also show up in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery where Johannes and Barbara are buried. - Nolte, Fenske, Leppke, Holscher are example names of neighbors that show up in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery.

Perhaps others with “suggestive” names were Catholic. (Fischer, Voeller, Baumann, etc.) There will be more about this shortly.

Sec. #	Aliquots	name
2	Lot/Trct 1	RINER, JOHN H
	Lot/Trct 2	RINER, JOHN H
	Lot/Trct 3	CARDY, MARY
	Lot/Trct 4	CARDY, MARY
	S½NE¼	RINER, JOHN H
	S½NW¼	CARDY, MARY
	SE¼	KOASLER, JOSEPH
	SW¼	KOASLAR, FRANZ
3	Lot/Trct 1	KAY, HIRAM R
	Lot/Trct 2	KAY, HIRAM R
	Lot/Trct 3	KAY, JOHN
	Lot/Trct 4	KAY, JOHN
	S½NE¼	KAY, HIRAM R
	S½NW¼	KAY, JOHN
	SE¼	NOLTE, HENRY F
	SW¼	BERTSCH, STANISLAUS
4	Lot/Trct 1	FULLER, WILSON B
	Lot/Trct 2	FULLER, WILSON B
	Lot/Trct 3	POOL, GEORGE E
	Lot/Trct 4	POOL, GEORGE E
	S½NE¼	FULLER, WILSON B
	S½NW¼	POOL, GEORGE E
	SE¼	WEISBECK, JOSEPH
		SW¼	POOL, THEODORE
5	Lot/Trct 1	SNEARLY, EMMA A
	Lot/Trct 2	SNEARLY, EMMA A
	Lot/Trct 3	POOL, THEODORE
	Lot/Trct 4	POOL, THEODORE
	S½NE¼	SNEARLY, EMMA A
	S½NW¼	POOL, THEODORE
	SE¼	POOL, GEORGE E
	SW¼	WHITSEL, JOHN
8	NE¼	WHITSEL, JOHN
	NW¼	JONES, DAVID D
	SE¼	WHITSEL, JOHN
	SW¼	BAHNKE, MICHAEL
9	E½NW¼	ROMBS, JOHANNES USA
	NE¼	DAVIS, ANNA S
	NW¼NW¼	ROMBS, JOHANNES USA
	SE¼	ROMBS, JOHANNES
	SW¼	FENSKE, HERMANN
	SW¼NW¼	ROMBS, JOHANNES USA
10	NE¼	NOLTE, LIENA
	NW¼	DAVIES, DAVID M
	SE¼	HOLSCHER, WILHELM
	SW¼	ROMBS, JOHANNES
11	NE¼	ALDEN, SAMUEL E
	NW¼	FISCHER, MARTINO
	SE¼	WAKEFIELD, JASPER
	SW¼	FISCHER, FERDINAND
14	NE¼	VOELLER, JOHANNES
	NW¼	LINK, JOHN
	SE¼	VOELLER, ANTON
	SW¼	BERSCH, JOHANNES
15	NE¼	HOLSCHER, HERMAN H
	NW¼	BESHDOLT, FRIEDTRICH
	SE¼	FISCHER, KARL
	SW¼	BAUMANN, HENRY
17	NE¼	HIBBS, JAMES J
	NW¼	FISCHER, JAKOB
	SE¼	SOMERS, WILBER S
	SW¼	SWEENY, VERN

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is a picture of early land ownership in Freedom Township, where Johannes and Barbara settled. This is hard to read, but it reinforces the point about who their neighbors were. Source = <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sdfaulk/>

FREEDOM
HOMESTEAD TOWNSHIP MAP
 TOWNSHIP: 120 N. RANGE: 69 W.

Emilia Ranch	August Suman	Theodore Pool	Emma Stottary	George Pool	Wilma Tollin	John Key	Alam Key	Asy Cardey	John Rinn	John Beckl	George Adams
Richard Francis	John Zanger	John Whitel	George Pool	Theodore Pool	Joseph Wabeck	Stene Adene Bealich	Henry North	Frans Kraslon	Joseph Kosler	John Beckl	Raylon Adams
John Rahnke	John Aasper	David Sanka	John Whitel	Johanna Rombs	Anna Somas	David Davies	Lena Apelmann	Martin Fischer	Samuel Alden	Evansd Alden	V. Foxnest Somas
John Rahnke	John Rahnke	Michael Rahnke	John Whitel	Annmarie Fank	Johanna Rombs	Johanna Rombs	Wilhelm Holachen	Ferdinand Fischer	Joseph Wahfeld	Alice Kearny	Marie Hanson
Michael Feneber	Sebastian Gisoni	Jacob Fischer	Jonas Kobbe	School	Isidrich Beahdt	Isidrich Holachen	John Link	Johanna Vallin	Ephraim Cola	George Antenna	
Levi Nutz	Johannes Seng	Wen Seng	Dilba Somas	District	Henry Boumann	Karl Fischer	Johanna Bunach	Anton Vallin	John Smith	George Wahfeld	
Joshua Adams	Samuel Adams	Konrad Kilpatrik	Watson Philbrick	William Goss Budd	Gilbert Faink	Henry Wilkinson	Fred Bavon	Gottlieb Kieffmann	William Kieffmann	Wilhelm Kieffmann	Wilhelm Holzger
Samuel Adams	Edwin Adams	Ola Johnson	Franklin Bailey	Ann Van Voorst	George Wilkinson	Henry Bolscher	Emelia Patterson	Frank Patterson	William Patterson	Wilhelm Kieffmann	Minnie Saiten
John Stefferson	John Kisby	David Walker	Anna Bailey	Barlaon Bailey	Fred Auge	Henry Holachen	Joseph Smith	Louisa Baker	Fred Slark	Wilhelm Fiermann	Pauline
John Stefferson	Ole Corken	Andrew Slaw	Anna Bailey	Shraun Bailey	Fredrich Baudle	Asy Bemak	Christopher Bark	Andruat Salisbury	William Bower	Frank Coplan	Ruch Bahr
Jacob Kvalby	Joseph Raynton	Irving Knowles	Marie Rahn	John Pleas	George Ailax	Fredrich Balarke	Conellona Buhle	Kellie Salisbury	Albert Goslon		
Charles Anderson	Lucy Obasz	William Huff	Charlie John Tanner	Eva Chupman	Charlie Kullonen	Frank Rowell	George Kullott	Frank Doramus	Richard Gaalre		



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Further information about their neighbors comes from the South Dakota Territorial Census of 1885. This was taken in June, 1885, just about six months after the Rombs family arrived in the U.S. Here is a copy that shows the family, flanked by a families of Fischers and Sengers from Russia and Fenskes from Germany..

No.	Sex	Name	Age	Relationship	Origin	Marital Status	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other
13	-	Fischer, Isaac	42	Husband	Russia	1													
14	-	Fischer, Helen	41	Wife	Russia	1													
15	-	Fischer, William	16	Son	Russia	1													
16	-	Fischer, Margaret	13	Daughter	Russia	1													
17	-	Fischer, Elizabeth	12	Daughter	Russia	1													
18	-	Fischer, Catherine	8	Daughter	Russia	1													
19	-	Senger, William	28	Husband	Russia	1													
20	-	Senger, Margaret	26	Wife	Russia	1													
21	-	Senger, William	11	Son	Russia	1													
22	-	Rombs, Barbara	37	Wife	Russia	1													
23	-	Rombs, Elizabeth	16	Daughter	Russia	1													
24	-	Rombs, Catherine	9	Daughter	Russia	1													
25	-	Rombs, Nicholas	8	Son	Russia	1													
26	-	Rombs, Elizabeth	2	Daughter	Russia	1													
27	-	Fenske, Herman	26	Husband	Germany	1													
28	-	Fenske, Augusta	27	Wife	Germany	1													
29	-	Fenske, William	3	Daughter	Germany	1													
30	-	Fenske, Otto	1	Son	Germany	1													

This census showed that many of the people from Russia in this area were named Fischer. I have not tried to trace these families.

The name Senger is a variant of Saenger, which is the maiden name of Barbara's cousin in-law in Ipswich, mentioned earlier. Perhaps there is a connection.

The Fenskes have been mentioned as neighbors, who were buried in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Ned Schall, now deceased, a very distant cousin, and a skilled researcher actually gave a hint about this line of reasoning many years ago. I was just too ignorant to make good use of it. Here is his note to my father.

Dear Robert:

I just recently found the 1885 South Dakota State census, Faulk County. It lists the Carl Fischers, three sons and their families, also John Senger a son-in-law. I already knew a great deal about the Fischers. They all came from Selz, Russia and first settled near Orient and several years later moved to Emmons County, North Dakota. It is possible that they chose to settle at Orient because a catholic church with a pastor and School had already been established at Zell, by some Austrian emigrants.

I must confess that several years ago when I first came across the Rombs name I had certain doubts about them belonging to the kinship. Had I seen the census before; I would have had no such problem, in fact I would not at all be surprised to find that Carl Fischer's mother may have been a Rombs.

Sincerely,
Ned
Ned

RECEIVED MAY 17 1988

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Loss of Land Ownership

In today's world it can be difficult to imagine what early settlers experienced. More than one group came to this region and eventually failed. As an example, you can research the Welsh group that came to Ipswich about a year prior to Barbara and Johannes. They headed south, just like our ancestors, founded the town of Powell that was eventually ruined by a tornado nearly 30 years later.

Weather was certainly a factor. The SD blizzard of January, 1888, is a well-known event. See for example <http://genealogytrails.com/sdak/faulk/blizzardof1888.html>. I have not investigated the weather in the ten years after our ancestors arrived, but that could be done using historical records for Aberdeen.

It is also helpful to remember that the land that they homesteaded had never been farmed before. It was used by Native Tribes and bison.

Anyway, it appears that Johannes took out loans on both of the full quarter sections that he had patents on. According to records in the Faulk County courthouse, Johannes and Barbara defaulted on both. The land reverted to the lending agencies, and it was put up for sale.

I assume that Johannes was able to continue as a renter (tenant farmer) on one of these quarters. The details have escaped me. However, the loss of land ownership explains why the land does not appear in the probate documents (after Johannes died).



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is evidence that they lost one quarter (the quarter on section 10). The loan was taken out in November, 1885, - perhaps to help put buildings on the land, buy equipment, buy seed, and buy animals. At least some of what they did is documented in the homestead papers. The amount of the loan was \$23.00 (payable in 10 semi-annual payments) and the lender was E. S. Ormsby Graves & Co of Palo Alto, IA. The Sheriff's deed that follows is dated June, 1889, but the sale was on 5/26/1888. This means that the default occurred prior to the end of the term of the loan.

According to a map that I have found, the owner of this quarter in 1920 was R. E. Ormsby. I'm guessing that this is the same family that made and foreclosed on the original loan. I do not know if he actually used the land himself.

309

Sheriff's deed.

This Indenture, Made this 21st day of June A.D., 1889. between the D. Chamberlain Sheriff of the County of Faulk and Territory of Dakota of the first part and E. S. Ormsby Trustee of Palo Alto County in the State of Iowa of the second part, witnesseth: Whereas, by a certain Indenture of Mortgage, bearing date the 28th day of November A.D., 1885, Johannes Rombs and Barbara Rombs his wife, of the County of Faulk and Territory of Dakota, duly mortgaged to Ormsby Graves & Co. the land and real property hereinafter mentioned and described, with all the appurtenances and improvements thereto belonging, which said mortgage was intended as a security for the payment of a certain promissory note dated November 16th 1885 executed by said mortgagor to said Ormsby, Graves & Co. for Twenty three Dollars payable in installments described as follows, viz:

Two ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars December 1st 1890 - Two ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars June 1st 1890
Two ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars December 1st 1889 - Two ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars June 1st 1889
Two ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars December 1st 1888 - Two ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars June 1st 1888

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is evidence that he lost the other quarter (in section 9). In this case the loan was from W. J. Bowden for \$54.89 in 4/18/1892. The foreclosure sale occurred on 8/15/1896. It appears that someone from Brooklyn, NY, bought the land.

In the map mentioned above, the owner in 1910 was Jos. N. Brown.

227

DEED RECORD.

SHERIFF'S DEED.—FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT.

MINER & BACHOR, MANUFACTURERS, SIOUX FALLS, S. D. — 15110—2nd—214 DEB.

This Indenture, Made this 4th day of September, 1897 between Wm. Mac Sheriff of the County of Faulk, of the State of South Dakota, party of the first part, and William H. Male of the City of Brooklyn, State of New York part 2^d of the second part.

WITNESSETH, That whereas, default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made and executed by Johannes Rombs and Barbara Rombs Mortgagor s. to W. J. Bowden Mortgagee s. bearing date the 18th day of April, 1892, whereby the property hereinafter described was mortgaged to secure the payment of the sum of Fifty four and 89/100 Dollars, and interest, according to the conditions of the note...in said mortgage described, and which mortgage was duly recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of the County of Faulk, in the State of South Dakota, on the 23rd day of April, 1892, at 6³⁰ o'clock P. M., in Book 26 of Mortgages, on page 64 and 65

The said mortgage was duly assigned by an instrument in writing duly executed and delivered by the said _____ to _____ dated the _____ day of _____, A. D. 189____, and recorded in the said office of the Register of Deeds on the _____ day of _____, 189____, at _____ o'clock _____ M. in Book _____ of Mortgages, on page _____

and whereas The Sheriff of the County of Faulk, in said State, by virtue of the power of sale in said mortgage contained and at the direction of the owner of said mortgage, did on the fifteenth day of August, 1896 sell the said premises at public auction, at the front door of the Court House, _____ in the City of Faulkton, in said County, at two o'clock in the after noon, notice of the time and place of such sale having first been duly given by advertising the same according to law; at which sale the said premises were struck off and sold to William H. Male for the sum of seventy one and 14/100 Dollars, that being the highest sum bid, and the whole price paid for the same.

and whereas The said Sheriff, after receiving from said purchaser... the said sum of money bid as aforesaid, gave to said purchaser... a certificate of sale as is by law directed to be given and a duplicate of the same was duly filed, and said certificate was duly filed and recorded in the office of Register of Deeds of said Faulk County, on the fifteenth day of August, 1896 at five o'clock P. M., in Book 23 of Mortgages, on page 361

and whereas More than one year has expired since the date of sale, and no redemption of said premises has been made, ~~the said certificate was duly assigned by an instrument in writing duly executed and delivered by the said _____ to _____~~

dated the _____ day of _____, 189____

NOW, THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH, That Wm. Mac Sheriff as aforesaid, party of the first part, by virtue of the said mortgage, and in pursuance of the statute in such case made and provided, and for the purpose of completing said sale above mentioned, by these presents does hereby grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm unto the said part 2^d of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns, all the estate, right, title and interest which the said mortgagor had on the eighteenth day of April, 1892, or at any time thereafter, in and to all the following described premises in the County of Faulk and State of South Dakota, to-wit:

The South east quarter of Section None in Township One Hundred and Twenty North of Range sixty nine West of the 5th P. M., together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in anywise appertaining. To have and to hold the same, unto the said part 2^d of the second part, and his heirs and assigns ~~and assigns forever.~~

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said Sheriff has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year above written.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED IN PRESENCE OF

Frank Turner } Wm. Mac [SEAL]
George J. Jarvis } Sheriff of Faulk County, State of South Dakota.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, COUNTY OF FAULK, ss.

On this 4th day of September 1897, before me personally appeared Wm. Mac Sheriff of Faulk County, South Dakota, known to me to be the person who is described in and who executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same.

Frank Turner
Notary Public, South Dakota.

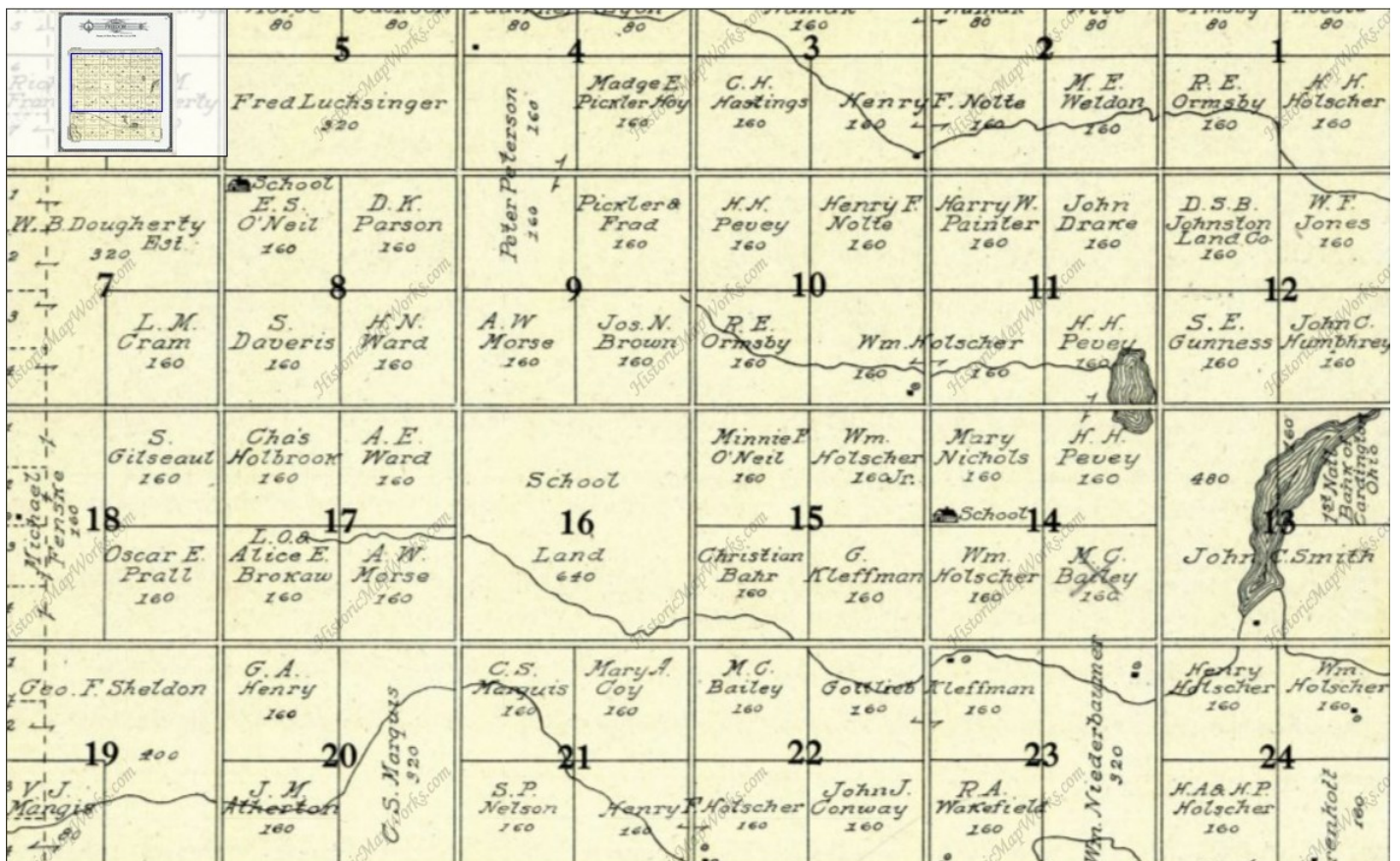
Ballou in and for Bowden

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

One last note – The map mentioned above that shows who owned what land in Freedom township in 1910 also reveals the following.

- Peter Peterson owned the remaining parcels in the NW ¼ of section 9 that Barbara and Johannes had homesteaded.
- If you compare the 1910 owner names to those of the original homesteaders, you will be hard pressed to find the same name in 1910 that existed in the late 1880s.
- You will find the Ormsby name more than once in 1910. My conclusion from this is that they foreclosed on a number of homesteaders.

In general, I suspect that the initial homesteaders were destined for failure by various factors. Lending agents were ready to step in to benefit from the failures. Here is an excerpt of the 1910 map that shows sections 9 & 10.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Catholic or Lutheran?

The colony from which Barbara and Johannes emigrated (Selz) was Catholic, except for a small Jewish population as evidenced by a small Jewish cemetery there. This is also true of the area of Alsace where they ultimately originated. So, why are they buried in a Lutheran cemetery?

I think that the answer can be found in an old family “legend”, which is corroborated by records from the Immanuel Lutheran Church. - The family legend is that Johannes summoned the priest when someone was very ill or dying, the priest refused to come out, this made Johannes mad, and so he moved from a local Catholic Church to Immanuel Lutheran Church.

For years I was skeptical about this legend, but here are some facts that make this a more credible story.

- Johannes joined the Lutheran community in June, 1896. See information from the letter that follows.
- This is about three months after Barbara died.
- The weather at the time of Barbara's death was miserable, which may have influenced the priest.

Here is a daily summary of weather at Aberdeen for March, 1896. Note the amount of snow and the large weather change between the 10th and 11th (when Barbara died). It looks like it snowed on the day when she was buried.

Elev: 1297 ft. Lat: 45.443° N Lon: 98.413° W
Station: ABERDEEN REGIONAL AIRPORT, SD US GHCND:USW00014929

Generated on 04/17/17

P r e l i m i n a r y	Y e a r	M o n t h	D a y	T e m p e r a t u r e (F)			P r e c i p i t a t i o n (see 1)		
				24 hrs. ending at observation time		a t O b s e r v a t i o n	24 Hour Amounts ending at observation time		
				Max.	Min.		Rain, melted snow, etc. (in)	F l a g	Snow, ice pellets, hail (in)
	1896	3	1	3	-12		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	2	4	-10		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	3	11	-2		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	4	23	-12		0.18		1.0
	1896	3	5	36	0		0.75		3.0
	1896	3	6	18	3		0.60		2.5
	1896	3	7	15	-8		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	8	28	0		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	9	18	4		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	10	16	5		0.40		1.8
	1896	3	11	4	-15		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	12	3	-18		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	13	14	-28		0.48		2.0
	1896	3	14	24	-15		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	15	28	-11		0.18		0.5
	1896	3	16	28	-4		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	17	28	10		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	18	40	12		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	19	41	11		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	20	42	12		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	21	28	25		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	22	30	4		0.45		2.0
	1896	3	23	35	6		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	24	58	28		0.10		0.0
	1896	3	25	38	34		0.02		0.1
	1896	3	26	52	24		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	27	55	36		0.02		0.0
	1896	3	28	51	35		1.24		0.0
	1896	3	29	50	28		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	30	48	29		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	31	34	28		0.00		0.0
			Summary	29.1	6.4		4.42		12.9



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Given the likelihood that the family was Catholic, I think that it is possible that the legend describes events surrounding the death of Barbara. If this is true, then the family probably attended some Catholic Church in the area prior to March, 1896.

Here is the evidence related to Immanuel Lutheran Church. It is in the form of a letter from Anna White in 1984. This letter is a result of a visit that dad and I made to the area that year. Incidentally, the church has since burned. According to a note from Kent Gebhard, I understand that the records in the church safe survived. A copy of the letter follows.

Important items to note are the following.

- Johannes was voted into the congregation in June, 1896.
- Immanuel Lutheran had a confirmation record for Lizzie (Elisabetha). It indicated that she was born on 6/24/1883 in Langut Wirro-Gretski, Sud Rusland, baptized in Colonie Selz, Sud Rusland, and confirmed on 4/8/1897. The location of her birth may describe the Russian estate where Selz was situated. This could be confirmed.

The final confirmation of the theory that the family was Catholic when they originally settled in South Dakota came when I visited Ipswich in the summer of 2015. While there I was able to review old records held at the Holy Cross Catholic Church. I was able to locate records for the baptisms of Joe and Katie, the last two children of Barbara and Johannes. This was a significant finding that I will say more about later, when I describe information about these children.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Mon. 7-29.

Dear Mrs Rombs.

In regard to your tele call -
I have gone over Imm Church Records
quite thoroughly - and the only thing
I can tell you is that the Voters Meeting
record of June 1896 - mentioned that
Johanes Rombs was voted in as a member
There was nothing in the death records -
but you already have those dates.
I did find this recording in the Confirmation
records.

Elisabetha Rombs born 6-24-1883.
in Landgut Wiers-gretzki, S. Russland
Confirmed Apr 8 - 1897 -

Place of baptism Colonie Sely
Died Russland.
Father Johannes Rombs.

The address makes me think that
they emigrated from Russia. Do you
have a Elisabetha on your list. She was
evidently a daughter was 14 yrs old when
she was confirmed, but her name did
not show but for the one time.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

This is all the information I can give you from the Imm. Church Records.

I would suggest you call or correspond with Hazel Fought Faulkton S. Dak. - 57438 - she was a Rombs and has more records and information ^{than} I could possibly give you. I did not find the name of Barbara Rombs at all.

Bonnie Halving tells me, that you had been at their house so evidently you went to the Imm. Cemetery and saw that they were buried there. That is where I got the birth and death dates.

I did inquire at the Faulk Co. Court House for information - was told you had already inquired, so I feel there isn't anything else that the Imm. Church Records can be of any help to you. I am 82 years old and the oldest member and have no recollection of those early years. Good luck in your research -

Sincerely
Anna White.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Finally, I will mention the results of a spot check of a few of the neighbors with Germanic names, who are also buried in the Lutheran Cemetery. These people seem to have originated in Germany based on census data. They do not appear to have been Russian-Germans. If this is true, then it is much more likely that they were Lutherans from the start. Having a number of close neighbors who were members of the Immanuel Lutheran congregation may have helped Johannes make the switch. - Here are pictures of a few of their headstones in Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery.

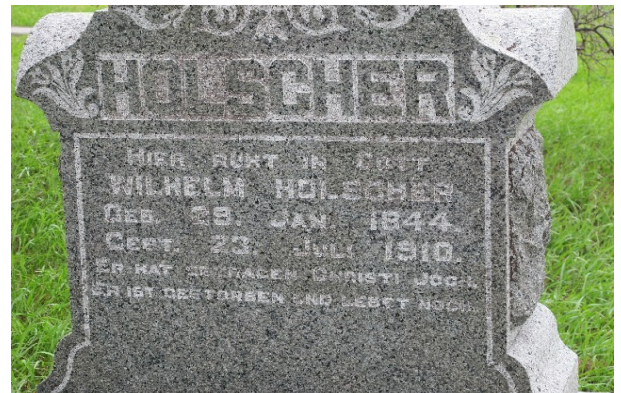
According to the 1920 census, Michael Fenske had Polish parents. His wife, Minna, had German parents. They immigrated to the US in about 1889. They were neighbors of Barbara and Johannes on section 9.



The Leppke family lived a few miles south (in Pulaski township) from the Rombs family. They appear to have German origins. The marker in the cemetery for Anna Kranz is probably for Amelia Kranz Leppke's mother.



The Holschers came to the area after the Rombs family. This is based on land ownership information. It appears that they were able to obtain land made available by failing original homesteaders.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Children

Johannes and Barbara had 9 children, seven that were born in South Russia and two that were born in South Dakota. Each section below explains a little bit about the descendants of each child. There is a list for each child that shows by generation the descendants of which I am aware. Here is the starting generation, Johannes and Barbara.

1. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1845-08-01 - Selz, Ukraine ?, d. 1914-08-08 - Beebe (SD))
sp. [Kessler], Barbara (b. 1848-06-16 - Germany, d. 1896-03-10 - Wecota)

The following sections first describe the children that survived and then those who did not.

Lulu (Lukarda, Lucada)

I know very little about Lulu, other than what her daughter, Alta, related to my dad. (See the note above.)

A list of her descendants follows, and then there is a picture of her with three sisters. There is some uncertainty about her actual birth date.

2. Rombs, Lulu (b. 1866-07-02 - Russia, d. 1953-04-17 - Faulk County (SD))
sp. House, Reuben H. (b. 1858 - Canada)
 3. House, Esther Alta (b. 1900-02-25 - Sparta (WI))
sp. Soderquist, Clarence
 3. House, Joseph Franklin (b. 1906-05-14 - Sparta (WI), d. 1988-05-10 - Hawthorne (CA))
sp. unknown, Virginia
 3. House, William Theodore (b. 1904-03-30 - Sparta (WI))
sp. Rieger, Ethel
 3. House, James R. (b. 1888 - South Dakota)
 3. House, Anna C. (b. 1890 - South Dakota, d. 1973)
sp. Hansen, Fred
 3. House, Bertha J. (b. 1892 - South Dakota)
sp. Magnuson, Earl
 4. Magnuson, Eleanor
 3. House, Chester Ira (b. 1897-07-22 - South Dakota, d. 1972-06-04 - Swift, MN)
sp. Rieger, Rose M. (b. 1903 - North Dakota)
 4. House, James
 4. House, Beverly
 3. House, Charles Edward (b. 1893-07-22 - Watertown, SD, d. 1966-11-15 - Riverside, CA)
sp. unknown, Nina
 4. House, Keith
 4. House, Bernice Joyce
 4. House, Myra Lee
 4. House, Phyllis
 4. House, Kenneth
 3. House, Vera Muriel (b. 1908-08-03 - South Dakota, d. 1980-04-04 - Sacramento (CA))
 3. House, Helen (b. 1903 - Wisconsin)
sp. Housen, Edward
 4. Housen, Byron

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Lulu is on the right.
Next to her is Kathryn.
Lizzie is on the left,
with crutches.

Thanks to Bruce
Wherry, we know that
the picture was taken
on the east side of the
home of Anna House
Hansen in Faulkton.
(The right door went to
the porch, the left to
the living room!) So,
Lulu was at the house
of one of her daughters.

My guess is that the
picture dates to around
1950. Carrie, the
remaining sister, had
died prior to this
picture.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

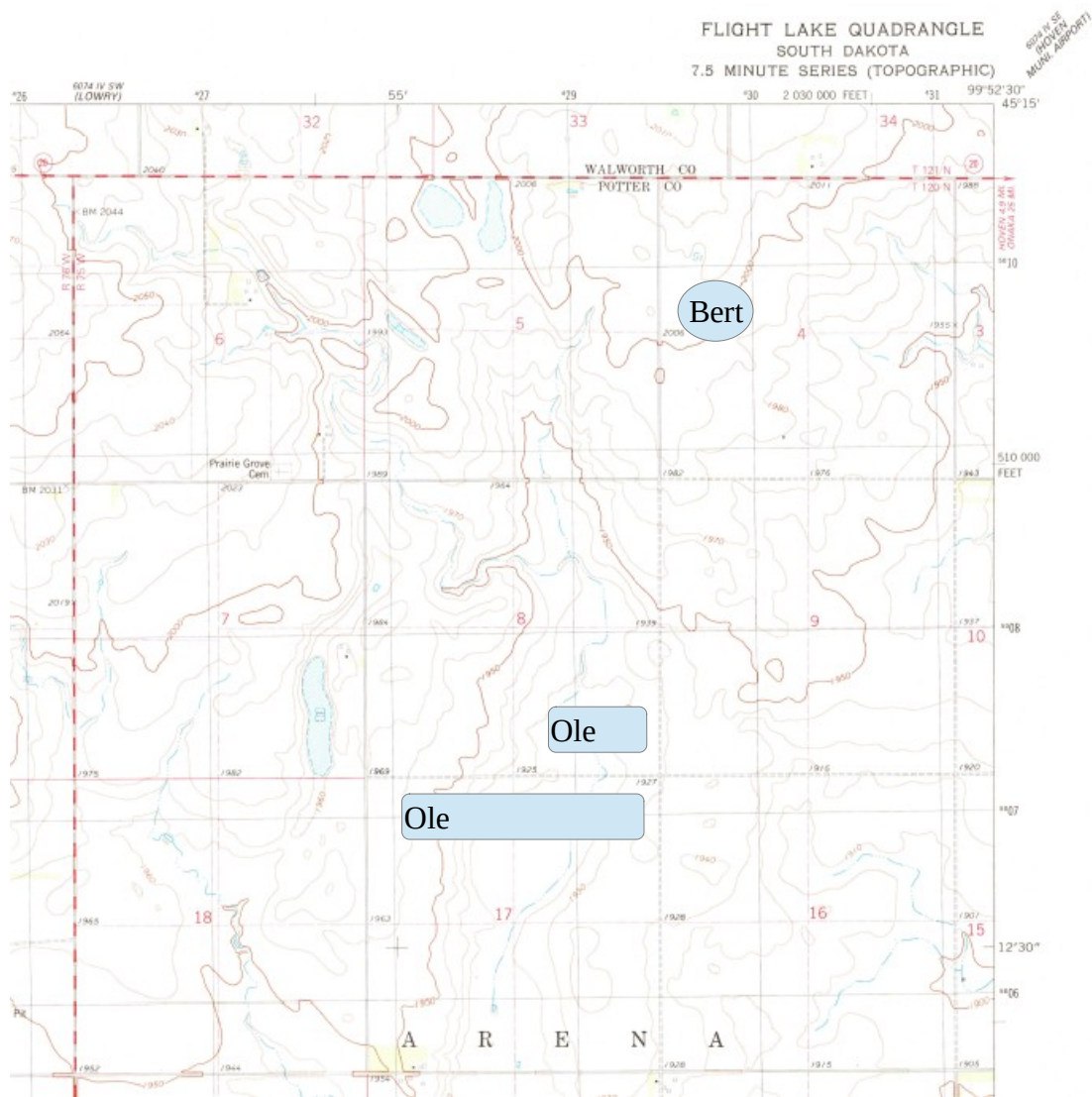
Carolina (Carrie)

Once again, I know very little about Carrie.

At the time of the 1900 census, she and Bert Austin and their daughter Mildred were living with Johannes in Freedom Township in Faulk County.

At the time of the 1910 census she and husband Bert were living in Arena Township in Potter County. They had 3 children – Mildred, Dorothy, and Muriel. At this same time, her brother Joe was working for Ole Thompson in the same township.

I have found that Bert homesteaded land in Arena Township in 1899, and that his land was within about a mile of Ole's. So, I believe that they were neighbors and knew each other. Perhaps this was what drew Joe Rombs to the area to work for Ole.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

I believe that Carrie also had a quarter section of land that she acquired later. This land was about mid-way between Arena Township (above) and Freedom Township where Barbara and Johannes lived.

The 1915 SD census shows them in Cresbard.

Carrie died two years later (1917) of burns suffered in an accident that occurred on about 12/21/1916, I believe. One year later (1918), her oldest daughter, Mildred died.

Bert had remarried by 1920. He married a lady named Grace, from Ohio, and they were living in Fairview Township in Faulk Township with his two remaining daughters.

Here is a list of her descendants.

1. Rombs, Caroline B. (b. 1875 - Selz (South Russia - Ukraine), d. 1917-02-03 - Faulk County (SD)
sp. Austin, Bert W. (b. 1870-02-10 - Illinois, d. 1953-01-02 - SanDiego (CA))
 2. Austin, Mildred B. (b. 1900, d. 1918-11-07 - Brown County (SD))
sp. Mayer, unknown
 2. Austin, Dorothy E. (b. 1901-01-27 - Faulk County (SD), d. 1979-12-20 - Los Angeles (CA))
sp. Sieberg, Roland
 3. Sieberg, Donald
 2. Austin, Muriel Veva (b. 1904-11-15 - South Dakota, d. 1986-01-24 - Lakeport (CA))
sp. Hill, Unknown
sp. Evans, Charles Dineen (b. 1895, d. 1950)
 3. Evans, Robert Charles (b. 1924, d. 1983)

This picture (from Betty Harris) shows Carrie with her nephew Walter, son of Nick Rombs.

A good guess for the date of this photo is 1910.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Nicholas (Nick)

Nick helped my grandfather, Joe, build his house and perhaps a granary south of Lebanon in Potter County. (It was completed in the winter of 1920, and it is still there.) I have been told that Nick was a good carpenter. He apparently was also quick to anger – pugnacious would probably be an apt description. Betty Harris, one of Nick's grandchildren, tracks the history of this branch of the family. I'm sure that she has more details.

Nick's daughter, Evelyn, lived just to the east of my family when we lived in Des Moines, IA. I was once left with her family when my parents took a trip. It was a great stay!

Nick's daughter, Marie, was something of a favorite of my dad's sister, Anna Comeau. My family was fortunate to meet Marie and her second husband, Gus, in a trip to SD one summer.

Here is a list of Nick's descendants.

1. Rombs, Nicholas (b. 1877 - Selz (South Russia), d. 1945-09-01 - Mechanicsburg (PA))
sp. Nelson, Mary C. (b. 1885-11-04 - Kandota (MN), d. 1960-01-02 - Torrance (CA))
 2. Rombs, Evelyn Agnes (b. 1912-05-01 - Faulkton (SD), d. 2006-01-27 - Newton (IA))
sp. Schmidt, Harold F. (b. 1905-04-07 - Iowa, d. 1988-12-17 - Newton (IA))
 3. Schmidt, Janice M. (b. 1931 - South Dakota)
 2. Rombs, Hazel Elizabeth (b. 1915-06-02 - Faulkton (SD), d. 1996-12-09)
sp. Fought, Vance R. (b. 1911)
 3. Fought, Marion Ann (b. 1936-08-18, d. 2009-04-04)
 3. Fought, Maynard Foster
 2. Rombs, Lucille Eileen (b. 1919-06-08 - Faulkton (SD), d. 2012-03-16 - Minnesota)
sp. Harris, Keneth R.
 3. Harris, Clayton Roger (b. 1938, d. 1972)
 3. Harris, Barbara Ann (b. 1939)
 3. Harris, Linda Lucille (b. 1947)
 3. Harris, June Marie (b. 1949)
 3. Harris, Richard Allen (b. 1951)
 3. Harris, Betty Kaye (b. 1959)
 2. Rombs, Katherine A. (b. 1924 - Faulkton (SD))
sp. Steele, Robert G.
 3. Steele, Kathryn Janell (b. 1947)
 2. Rombs, Marie I. (b. 1926 - Faulkton (SD), d. 2010-01-08)
sp. Schmidt, August E.
sp. Peasnell, James Oliver (b. 1920-05-13 - Utah, d. 2004-08-26 - Redondo Beach (CA))
 3. Peasnell, Marsha Marie (b. 1948)
 3. Peasnell, Jerald Owen (b. 1953)
 2. Rombs, Walter J. (b. 1907-04-21 - South Dakota, d. 1993-01-05 - Central Point (OR))
sp. Carlson, Edith

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is a picture of Nick, probably taken in the 1930s.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Elisabetha (Lizzie)

The details of Lizzie's life are unknown to me. Lizzie was the last child to be born in Russia. She was less than 2 years old when they mad the trip from Russia to the US. Following is a list of descendants that I have assembled.

2. Rombs, Elizabeth (b. 1883-06-00 - Russia, d. 1957 - Aberdeen (SD))
 - sp. Thornburg, unknown (b. 1879 - Indiana, d. 1912)
 3. Thornburg, Ambrose Clayton (b. 1906 - North Dakota)
 3. Thornburg, Harold Arlo (b. 1904 - North Dakota)
 3. Thornburg, Clyde Alva (b. 1910-10-28 - Montana, bur. 1972-12-17 - Ft. Snelling (MN))
 3. Thornburg, Mabel Evelyn (b. 1908 - Canada)
 - sp. Cranage, Matt (b. 1875 - Wisconsin)
 3. Cranage, Elizabeth (b. 1927 - South Dakota)
 3. Cranage, Everett (b. 1921 - South Dakota)
 3. Cranage, Loren (b. 1919 - South Dakota)
 3. Cranage, Maynard (b. 1922 - South Dakota)
 3. Cranage, Ralph (b. 1917 - South Dakota)

Here is a picture of Lizzie that my dad's sister, Annie, had. I do not know the location or date. The physical nature of the photograph makes me think that is may have been taken in the 1950s.

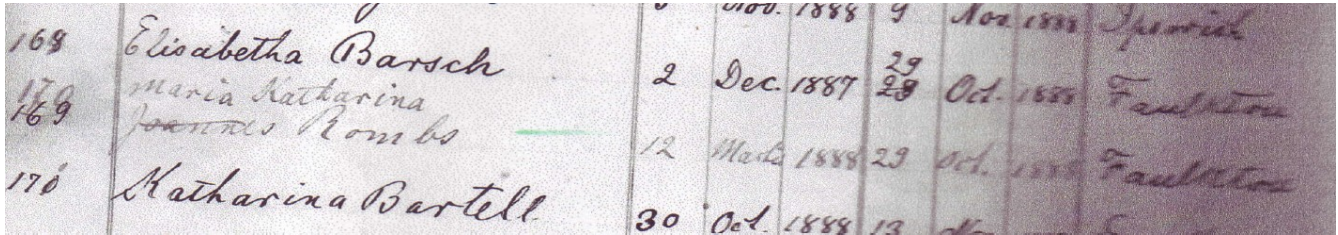


Johannes and Barbara Rombs

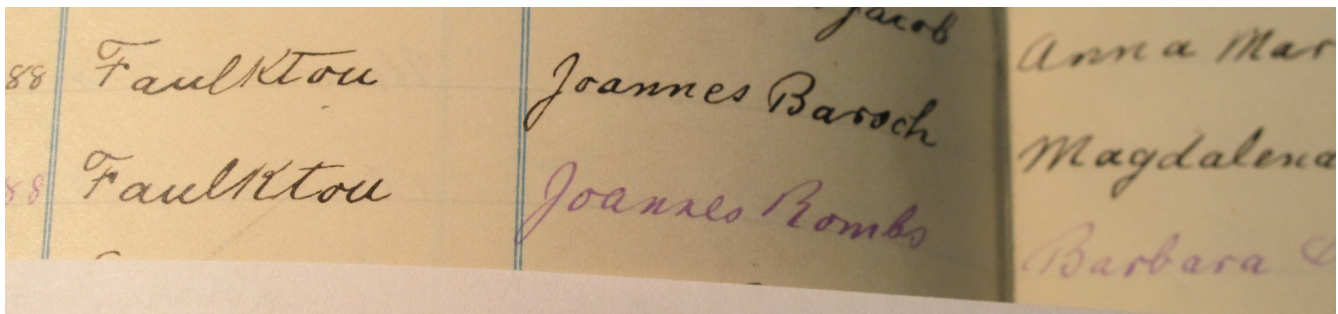
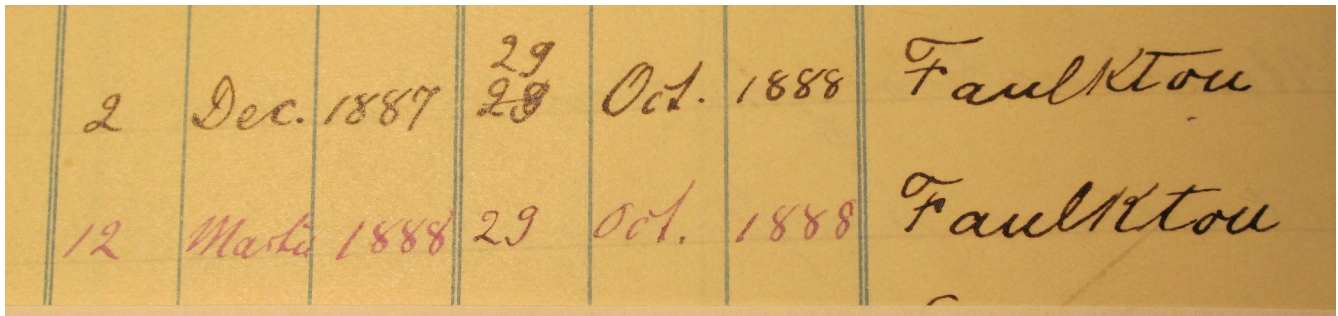
Kathryn (Katie)

I also know very little about Katie. Dad's sister has mentioned that Katie sometimes would stay with her when traveling to/from MT.

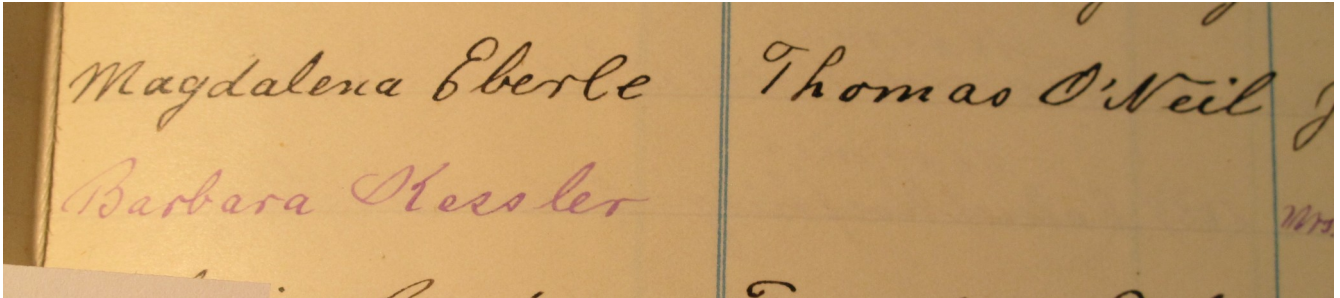
The information that I found regarding Katie's baptism in Ipswich at Holy Cross Church follows. The book recording baptisms has two facing pages for entries. Note that Katie's full name is Maria Katharina Rombs. (Her vorname = Maria and her rufname = Katharina.) In each image that follows you will see two full lines of information. Katie's is the second one. I will say more about the first (Barsch) line later.



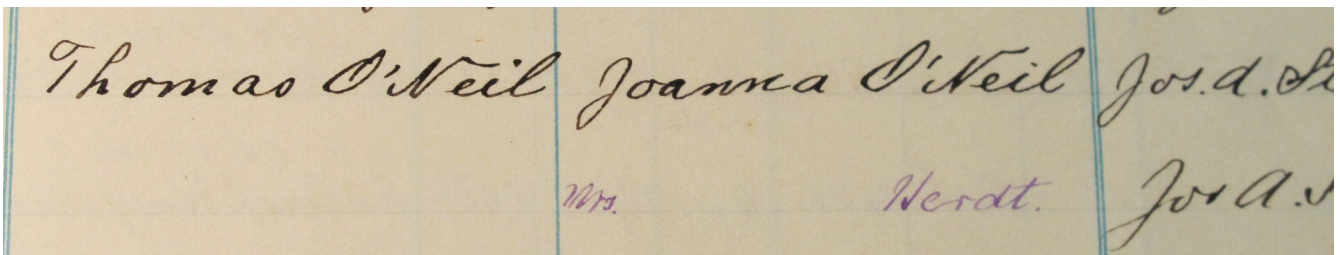
Here are sections of the same entry, progressing from left to right. The first date is the date of birth. The second is the baptism date.



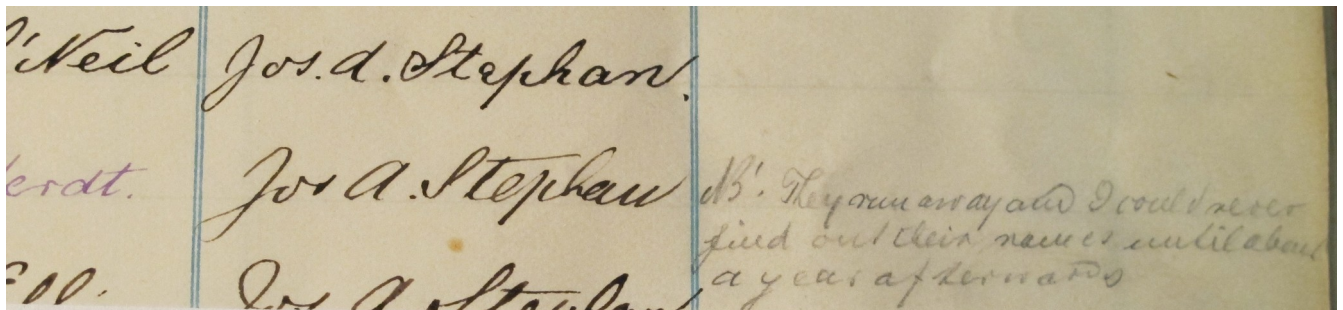
Johannes and Barbara Rombs



Note that the sponsor's name was "Herdt". I wonder if this was actually Hirt since there was such a family in Kandel in South Russia. (The Kandel colony was close to Selz, the town where Barbara and Johannes lived.)

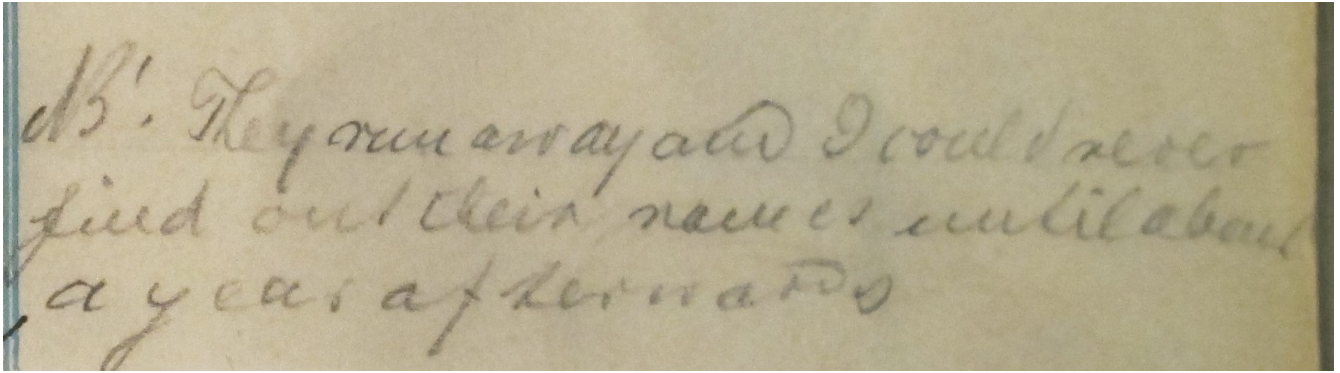


The priest's name was Joseph A. Stephan, and he left us a note.



I think that is says "They moved away and I could never find out their names until about a year afterwards." I wonder if shortly after October, 1888, they moved permanently to the homestead in Faulk County. Perhaps some or all of the family was living in Ipswich prior to this time while the homestead land was made habitable.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs



dB'. They run away and I could never
find out their names until about
a year afterwards

One further Note. -

On the same day (10/29/1888) another child from Faulk Co. was baptized. Her name was Elizabetha Barsch. I have purposely included the information in the images above. I wonder if this family knew Johannes and Barbara. It may be that the last name was actually Bertsch and that they were neighbors, residing on section 14 of Freedom Township. (There were Bertsch families in the Kutschurgan colonies, but none with the name of Barsch.)

I have tried to locate Magdalena Eberle without success. Since my faith in the priest's ability to deal with Germanic names is not high, it may be that Magdalena Eberle might actually be Magdalena Gebhard, not Eberle. If this is correct then this family might actually be represented by the findagrave.com memorial 115232469 . This is purely speculation, however. Perhaps Eberle was her maiden name, subsequently changed by a marriage.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is information about Katie's descendants.

2. Rombs, Kathryn (b. 1887-03-00, d. 1970-12-22 - Jefferson County (MT))
sp. Vinton, Alva J. (b. 1878 - Tama County Iowa, d. 1959-04-16 - Meagher MT)
3. Vinton, Fern C. (b. 1911 - South Dakota, d. 1993-03-13 - Meagher MT)
sp. Campbell, Clarice A. (b. 1919)
 4. Vinton, Charles Willard (b. 1939 - Meagher MT)
sp. Chriskie, Theresa Ida (b. 1940 - Townsend (MT))
 4. Vinton, Patricia (b. 1941)
 4. Vinton, Lewis (b. 1942)
 4. Vinton, Katie (b. 1944)
 4. Vinton, Carol (b. 1946)
 4. Vinton, Willard (b. 1949)
 4. Vinton, Robert (b. 1954)
 4. Vinton, Frank (b. 1955)
 4. Vinton, Paul (b. 1959)

Here is the picture of three Rombs sisters again. Katie is the middle person in this picture.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is a picture of Katie and her husband, Alva Vinton.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Joseph (Joe)

Joe is my grandfather.

As mentioned above, he was working for Ole Thompson in Arena Township (Potter County) in 1910. He must have really liked Ole's daughters. He eventually married Tena. He had been engaged to her sister, Anna, who died in 1909 of appendicitis.

He and the Thompsons lived near Carrie and Bert Austin for a while as noted above.

He had the flu during the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic.

In the spring of 1920, Joe and Tena and their children moved from Ole's house to a farm south of Lebanon. This is where he and Nick had constructed a house.

Joe used horses in farming all of his life. Apparently he loved working with horses. Dad has spoken often about how he trained them, was close to them, and was heartbroken when many were accidentally poisoned in the 1930s. Joe had a well-trained dog as well.

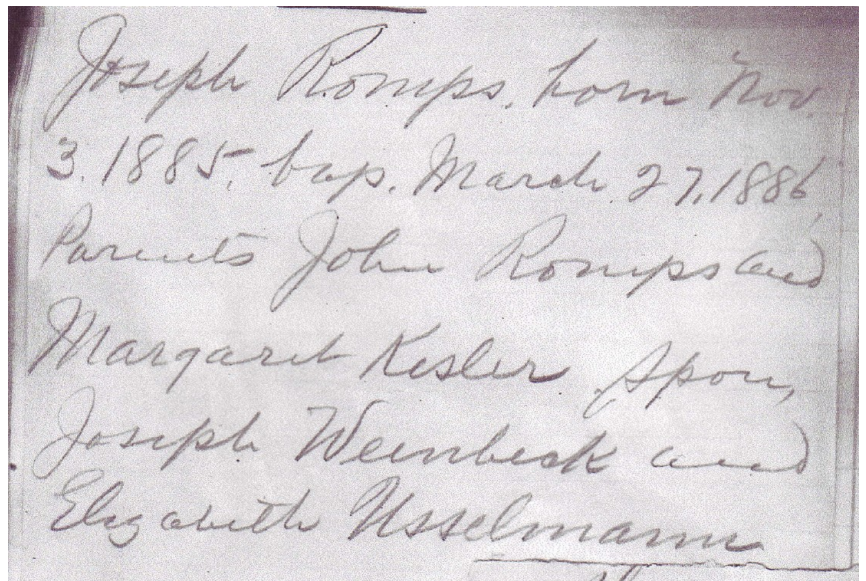
He was apparently a tall man. Served on the school board (Roy School), and he was a bouncer at some of the local dances.

He died of colon cancer in Pierre after a long struggle.

Baptismal information that I found in Ipswich at Holy Cross follows. This image is a copy of what the priest recorded on a slip of paper, which was later placed in the official record book. I am guessing that the Church had not provided him with the official book at the time of the baptism.

Here are some features of this record.

- The Rombs name is miss-spelled, perhaps due to the way the name was pronounced.
- Joe's mother's name is shown as Margaret. I wonder if this name is actually her vorname, so that her full name would be Margaretha Barbara Kessler. The use of the names would be consistent with common practice with Germanic names.
- One sponsor is Joseph Weissbeck. I wonder if this is their neighbor, who took out a patent on the SE1/4 of section 4 of Freedom Township (120N, 69W, 5th meridian).
- Elizabeth Usselman is the other sponsor. Her last name is intriguing, since this is the married name of Johannes' mother. Perhaps Elizabeth is a cousin of Johannes. Note that there are other Usselman families in the area. Further, it is interesting to note that there is an Elizabeth Usselman (b.1855, d.1838), who married Martin Fischer. (Martin Fischer, homesteading on section 11 of Freedom Township, was a neighbor of Barbara and Johannes.) And, if that is not enough coincidence,



Joseph Romps, born Nov
3, 1885, bap. March 27, 1886
Parents John Romps and
Margaret Kessler
Sponsors
Joseph Weissbeck and
Elizabeth Usselman

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Elizabeth Usselmann had a sister named Helen (b.1853, d.1940), who married John Weissbeck.

I hope that you understand now why I am getting the feeling that the area held a number of cousins and acquaintances. Surnames keep popping up that are familiar. In fact the more research that I do, the more I realize that there must have been a sense of community due to the fact that cousins and longtime acquaintances from Russia were living nearby. The area must have been much more populous then than now by at least a factor of 30.

Here is a list of Joe's descendants.

2. Rhombs, Joseph (b. 1885-11-03 - Faulk County (SD), d. 1940-09-03 - Pierre (SD))
sp. Thompson, Tena A. (b. 1890-03-17 - Potter County, South Dakota, d. 1979-05-18 - Annie's House)
3. Rhombs, Robert Earl (b. 1920-02-20 - Lebanon, South Dakota, d. 2005-08-31 - Sarasota, Florida)
sp. Bates, [Living] Blanche Velma (b. 1921-12-22 - Bowman, North Dakota)
 4. Rhombs, Pamela Ann (b. 1957-08-16)
sp. Carver, Mike (b. 1950-09-01, d. 2008-02-05)
 5. Carver, Ashley (b. 1986-06-16)
 4. Rhombs, Craig (b. 1949-09-30 - Des Moines, Iowa)
sp. Long, Edith Ann (b. 1951-02-22 - San Antonio, Texas)
 5. Rhombs, Christopher Scott (b. 1988-05-16 - Minneapolis, Minnesota)
3. Rhombs, Vern J. (b. 1917-12-28 - Potter County, South Dakota, d. 1970-08-13 - Lebanon, South Dakota)
3. Rhombs, Anna V. (b. 1911 - Potter County (SD), d. 2002 - Potter County (SD))
sp. Comeau, Leo
 4. Comeau, Phyllis Rae
sp. Rogers, Dale
 5. Rogers, Lori
 5. Rogers, Brad
 4. Comeau, Robert Lee
sp. Livengood, Joan
 5. Comeau, Brent Lee
 5. Comeau, Adrienne Rae



This is a picture of Joe from around 1910, when he was about 25 years old.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

This may be a picture of the school that Joe attended. He may be the second person from the left.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Short-lived Children Born in Russia

Information about these children comes in an email note from Dennis Roth (GRHS) and is based on information extracted from the Saratov Archive (Russia) thanks Joseph Rombs, who contracted with a Russian researcher.

Johannes: born 1868, died 6/18/1872

Andreas: born 3/14/1872, died 6/23/1873

Peter: born 1881, died 7/3/1882

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

After Barbara's Death

Imagine yourself at age 51 with three teenage children, no spouse, and a farm to run. I think that is the situation in which Johannes found himself after Barbara's death. What would you do? - It appears that Johannes looked for help in the form of an arranged marriage to a woman from Chicago.

Second Marriage

Here is an outline of what happened.

- In the summer of 1898, Johannes made arrangements through a man named Hoffman in Miranda to import a new wife from Chicago.
- The woman's name was Mary Kastan. (I have never been able to find out more about her.)
- Johannes picked her up in Roscoe.
- It appears that there was a three week courtship, followed by marriage.
- On 8/6/1898 he took out a marriage license, and on 8/13/1898 they are married.
- It turns out that this was a horrible decision. She was abusive to Johannes and the children. She set fire to the house. She “wandered” north to Edmunds County and south to Faulkton. Johannes retrieved her more than once. She called him a “lame, old bear.”
- Little wonder that he sent her home on 10/25/1898 via Miranda. (It took him two months of hell, but he got rid of her.)
- In June, 1902, he filed for divorce. He appeared along with corroborating witnesses before Judge Pickler.

You can read the details below.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

189

MARRIAGE RECORD.

Perkins Bros. Co., Printers and Binders, Sioux City.

Mr. *John Rombs* age *47* No. *189*
 M *Mary Kasten* age *32* IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FAULK CO.
 Faulkton, S. D., *Aug 6th* 189*8*

AFFIDAVIT.

I, *John Rombs* of *Faulk* County, State of *South Dakota*
 aged *47* years, do solemnly swear that I am acquainted with *John Rombs*
 and *Mary Kasten* who are the parties for the marriage of whom a License is applied
 for, that said *John Rombs* is of the age of *47* years and upwards, of sound contracting
 mind and unmarried; that said *Mary Kasten* is of the age of *32* years and unmarried;
 and that there is no legal impediment to said parties entering the marriage state, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief,
 and that I am ~~not~~ interested in the issue of said license.

John Rombs

Subscribed and sworn to by *John Rombs* before me *Aug 6th* 189*8*

C. A. Whitton
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT,
for and for Faulk Co., State of South Dakota.

aged *47* years, do solemnly swear that I am acquainted with
 and *Mary Kasten* who are the parties for the marriage of whom a License is applied
 for, that said *John Rombs* is of the age of *47* years and upwards, of sound contracting
 mind and unmarried; that said *Mary Kasten* is of the age of *32* years and unmarried;
 and that there is no legal impediment to said parties entering the marriage state, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief,
 and that I am ~~not~~ interested in the issue of said license.

John Rombs

Subscribed and sworn to by *John Rombs* before me *Aug 6th* 189*8*

C. A. Whitton
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT,
for and for Faulk Co., State of South Dakota.

Agatha S. M. Deussen Deft

ISSUE OF LICENSE.

Application being made this day by *John Rombs* for License for the Marriage of
 Mr. *John Rombs* aged *47* years, and M. *Mary Kasten*
 aged *32* years, it appearing by *the Affidavit of John Rombs*

(1) See Note Below.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

that the said parties are of competent age and condition to marry, License is therefore issued.

Ed E Whitten
Clerk of the Circuit Court.

By M S M^c Dearmon Deft

RECORD OF THE CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

To the Circuit Court of Faulk County:

This Certifies, That on the 13th day of August A. D. 1898, at Faulton
in said County, according to law and
by authority, I duly joined in Marriage John Rombs and Mary Neastan
WITNESS my hand this 13th day of August 1898
S J Brown
Pastor M C Church

Filed August 15th 1898
10 at Revere stop

Ed E Whitten
By M S M^c Dearmon Deft
Clerk.

(1) NOTE.—The record must show that the License issued either
1st—Upon the Personal Acquaintance of the Clerk with the competent age and condition of the parties; or
2d—Upon the Testimony of a Competent and Disinterested Witness as to their competent age and condition; or
3d—If either party is under age, the record must show that the written consent of parent or guardian of such party was filed, after being admitted by the said parent or guardian, or
proven to be genuine.

Note: You can find more about the Deputy Clerk named McDearmon at the Find A Grave Memorial 64473839.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

STATE OF SOUTHERN DAKOTA,
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT.

ss.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT,
IN AND FOR FAULK COUNTY.

Johannes Rombs,
-vs-
Maria Rombs,
Plaintiff.
Defendant.

BEFORE:

Hon. Loring E. Gaffy, Presiding Judge.

APPEARANCES:

J. A. Pickler/ Esq., Attorney for the Plaintiff.

(No appearance in behalf of the defendant.)

The above entitled action coming on for hearing before the court on this 17th day of June, 1902, at a regular term of the circuit court in and for said county and state, begun and holden in the town of Faulkton, county and state aforesaid, the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

Johannes Rombs, having been called and sworn in his own behalf, testified as follows:

By Mr. Pickler:

- Q- You may state your name?
- A- Johannes Rombs.
- Q- You are the plaintiff here are you?
- A- Yes.
- Q- When were you married to the defendant?
- A- The 13th of August.
- Q- What year?

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

A- 1898.

Q- How did you become acquainted with her?

A- Mr. Hoffman had her, he lived east of Miranda.

Q- Well how did he bring her here, how did he find her, where did he get her?

A- Well he had some relation in Chicago and he wrote to his relation and he wrote him back there is one here that he wanted to get married.

Q- He wrote for you did he?

A- Yes.

Q- Well what happened then?

A- Afterwards she come out.

Q- Did you meet her?

A- Yes.

Q- Where?

A- In Roscoe.

Q- Did you bring her down here to Paulkton?

A- Yes.

Q- Were you married?

A- Yes.

Q- How long after you brought her here did you marry her?

A- Three weeks about afterwards.

Q- Well where did you go when you were married--you had a farm up north did you?

A- Yes.

Q- Take her home there?

A- Yes.

Q- Well now tell the judge what happened after you got her there?

A- Well when we got married I brought her home and she commenced then to lick the children, I got an old girl and she take her down and lick her and she take the boy down and lick him and afterwards she pull me on the floor and kick me, I say this house belong to me, I take

-2-

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

everything as long as I can stand it, afterwards ^{he} I light out ~~for~~ ^{after} about
^{went} 7 or 8 weeks, I ~~put~~ away, pull right out, that I can't get any trouble
he cover up everything and put the girl out of the house, she speak
all the time from burning the house all up, she say she burn herself
when the house was afire and burn us all up too, so one night the
house he get afire, the fire burn through two 2 x 6 but I smell the
fire and put it out, so afterwards she say she wouldn't stay here, I
am too old for her she say it is too lonesome for her out here, she
want to go back to the city, that was right after we get married four
weeks she went, she went three times in the neighborhood and two times
in Edmunds county, when I find out where she was I hitch up and go
and get her back home, I don't know where she went but afterwards a
seller seen her up in Edmunds county and he say if I want my wife I
should go and ~~get~~ her down, I couldn't keep her to home.

Q- How many times did you go after her?

A- Well, I went two times to Edmunds county and one time to Faulkton that
I remember of, I couldn't keep her, she want to go away all the time.

Q- Where did she want to go?

A- Well she say she go to Chicago, she had better time there than out
here.

Q- Well did she abuse you in any way, how did she talk to you?

A- Oh, she call rough words and everything.

Q- Call you names did she?

A- Yes.

Q- What did she call you?

A- Well she call me a lame cripple, say I was an old bear.

Q- Well she left you did she finally?

A- Yes, she leave me.

Q- When did she leave you?

A- It must be the 25th or 26th of October, I guess the 25th of October.

Q- Where did she go?

-3-

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

A- She told me Chicago.

Q- Where did she take the train?

A- Miranda.

Q- That was in October, 1898?

A- Yes.

Q- Have you heard from her since?

A- No.

Q- Do you know anything about her?

A- No.

Q- Has anybody ever heard from her that you know of?

A- No, nobody ever heard from her.

Court:

Q- How did she go, did you give her the money?

A- I give her money for tickets.

Q- How long did you live together?

A- From the 13th of August till the 25th of October.

(Witness excused.)

Nick Brewer, having been called and sworn in behalf of the plaintiff, testified as follows:

By Mr. Pickler:

Q- Where do you live?

A- Near Borkmere.

Q- How long have you lived in Faulk county?

A- Since 1886.

Q- Did you know this Mrs. Rombs?

A- I wasn't acquainted with her but I have seen her several times.

Q- Where did you see her?

A- I seen her drive in town here.

Q- Where have you been engaged for several years last past.

A- Hoo's livery barn.

Q- You saw her when she drove in town here?

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

A- Yes sir.

Q- What do you know about their living together?

A- Why I never heard a great deal about them, I know when they got married and when they separated?

Q- You know she left him?

A- Yes.

Q- Well what do you know about their having trouble there and her going away at different times and him going after her?

A- Why that is what I have heard, I heard she left him once or twice or two or three times I guess.

Q- When did she leave him finally?

A- Well it was that fall I know.

Q- The fall after they were married?

A- Yes.

Q- Where did you see her here in Faulkton?

A- Yes that is where I seen her on the street here.

Q- Did you ever hear any disagreement or any controversy between them he and his wife?

A- No.

Q- Where did she go when she left him, where did you understand she went?

A- I don't know anything at all, I heard at different times that she had left him, but that is all I know about it is what I have heard

Court:

Q- Do you know what she left him for?

A- No.

(Witness excused.)

O. F. Judge, having been called and sworn in behalf of the plaintiff, testified as follows:

By Mr. Pickler:

Q- Where do you live?

A- Faulkton.

-5-

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

- Q- How long have you lived here?
A- 4 years and over.
Q- How long have you known Mr. Rombs?
A- Ever since I came here.
Q- Do you know of his marrying in August, 1898?
A- I know of the time he was married here.
Q- Did you see his wife at any time?
A- I seen her in the wagon, in a buggy with him, I knew who she was.
Q- What do you know about them having trouble and about her leaving him at any time?
A- Just what I heard other people talking about it, they didn't get along and she left him, he went and fetched her back several times.
Q- You were never there when he brought her back?
A- No.
Q- You were not there when she left?
A- No.
Q- What do you know about her leaving and about him having a wife since she left?
A- Well I know he hasn't had any wife since she left.
Q- Where did she leave from, do you know?
A- No.

(Witness excused.)

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing contains a full, true, correct and complete transcript of my notes of the oral evidence adduced on the trial of the before entitled action.

Dated July 22nd, 1902.

A. Little
Official Stenographer, Sixth Judicial Circuit, State of South Dakota.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

1900 Fed Census

The 1900 Federal Census shows Johannes still on the farm, with children (Joe and Katie), and Carrie and her husband Bert Austin. This makes me wonder if Carrie and Bert had moved in with Johannes partly to help with the teenage kids, Katie and Joe.

1	83	84	Rombs John	Head	W	Mar	June 1846	33	Pr					Russia
2			- Joseph	Son	Fr	Mo	Nov 1885	14	S					South
3			- Catherine	Daughter	Fr	F	Mar 1887	13	S					South
4			Austin Bert	W	W	Mo	Feb 1870	30	Mo	1				Illinoi
5			- Caroline B	Daughter	Fr	F	Nov 1875	24	Mo	1	1	1		Russia
6			- Mildred B	Daughter	Fr	F	Jan 1900	0	S					South

1905 SD Census

The 1905 SD census shows Johannes living in Faulkton.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	Name	John Rombs		Card No.	129
<input type="checkbox"/> Female	County	Faulk	P. O.	Faulkton	
<input type="checkbox"/> White	Township		Sec.	T.	R.
<input type="checkbox"/> Black	Ward	1	City	Faulkton	No.
<input type="checkbox"/> Red				St.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow				Av.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Married	Hotel or Institution				
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	Age	34	Occupation	Horseman	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Widowed	Place of Birth	Russia			
<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced	Years in South Dakota	21	Years in United States		
<input type="checkbox"/> Can Read	Birthplace of Father	Russia			
<input type="checkbox"/> Can't Read	Birthplace of Mother	Russia			
<input type="checkbox"/> Can Write	Signed	J. L. Swager		Enumerator	
<input type="checkbox"/> Can't Write					
<input type="checkbox"/> Blind					
<input type="checkbox"/> Deaf					
<input type="checkbox"/> Idiotic					
<input type="checkbox"/> Insane					

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Katie is found in Faulkton as well, doing domestic work.

<input type="checkbox"/> Male	Name <i>Katie Rombs</i> Card No. <i>130</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female	County <i>Faulk</i> P. O. <i>Faulkton</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White	Township..... Sec. T. R.
<input type="checkbox"/> Black	Ward..... City <i>Faulkton</i> No.
<input type="checkbox"/> Red	St.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow	Av.
<input type="checkbox"/> Married	Hotel or Institution.....
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single	Age <i>16</i> Occupation <i>Domestic</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Widowed	Place of Birth <i>S.D.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced	Years in South Dakota <i>16</i> Years in United States.....
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can Read	Birthplace of Father <i>Russia</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Can't Read	Birthplace of Mother <i>Russia</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can Write	Signed <i>J. L. Swartz</i> Enumerator
<input type="checkbox"/> Can't Write	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blind	
<input type="checkbox"/> Deaf	
<input type="checkbox"/> Idiotic	
<input type="checkbox"/> Insane	

Meanwhile, Joe has moved to Arena Township in Potter County, working as a farm hand. It must be at about this time that Joe began working for Ole Thompson.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	Name <i>Joseph Rombs</i> Card No. <i>18</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Female	County <i>Potter</i> P. O. <i>Pembroke</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White	Township <i>Arena</i> Sec. <i>3</i> T. <i>120</i> R. <i>75</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Black	Ward..... City..... No.
<input type="checkbox"/> Red	St.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow	Av.
<input type="checkbox"/> Married	Hotel or Institution.....
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single	Age <i>19</i> Occupation <i>Farm Hand</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Widowed	Place of Birth <i>Faulk Co. S.D.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced	Years in South Dakota <i>19</i> Years in United States <i>19</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can Read	Birthplace of Father <i>Germany</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Can't Read	Birthplace of Mother <i>Germany</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can Write	Signed <i>Wm Austin</i> Enumerator
<input type="checkbox"/> Can't Write	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blind	
<input type="checkbox"/> Deaf	
<input type="checkbox"/> Idiotic	
<input type="checkbox"/> Insane	



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Bert Austin (and presumably his family) can be found at the farm at Freedom Township.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	Name <i>Bert, W. Austin</i> Card No. <i>164</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Female	County <i>Faulk</i> P. O. <i>Orleans</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White	Township <i>Freedom</i> Sec. <i>9</i> T. <i>120</i> R. <i>69</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Black	Ward..... City..... No.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Red	} St..... Av.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Married	Hotel or Institution.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	Age <i>36</i> Occupation <i>Farmer</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Widowed	Place of Birth <i>Illinois</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced	Years in South Dakota <i>19</i> Years in United States.....
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can Read	Birthplace of Father <i>North Carolina</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Can't Read	Birthplace of Mother.....
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can Write	Signed <i>H. L. Salisbury</i> Enumerator
<input type="checkbox"/> Can't Write	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blind	
<input type="checkbox"/> Deaf	
<input type="checkbox"/> Idiotic	
<input type="checkbox"/> Insane	

When viewed this way, some time in 1904 or 1905, a decision must have been made to disperse the family. Joe going off to work in Potter County, Johannes going into Faulkton, Katie also moving to Faulkton and finding domestic work, and Carrie and Bert staying on the farm.

Since Carrie and Bert show up in Potter County in the 1910 Federal Census, I suspect that they must have moved there after what was left of the farm was sold.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

1910 Fed Census

The 1910 Federal Census shows Johannes still in Faulkton, just three residences away from son, Nick, and his family on Main Street.

1	1	Rombs, John	Head - X	M	W		Wd	
2	2	Krasch, George F	Head	M	W	56	M-1	20
3		Anna V.	Wife	M	W	49	M-1	20
4		Fred A	Son	M	W	19	S	
5		Georgiana	Daughter	F	W	16	S	
6	3	Nelson, Luther O	Head	M	W	36	M-1	12
7		Hilma A	Wife	M	W	33	M-1	12
8		Fred L.	Son	M	W	9	S	
9		Genevieve H	Daughter	F	W	6	S	
10		Ruby E	Daughter	F	W	4	S	
11		Hilma S	Daughter	F	W	2	S	
12		Miriam W	Daughter	F	W	2 1/2	S	
13	2	Rombs, Nicholas	Head	M	W	32	M-1	3
14	4	Mary C.	Wife	M	W	24	M-1	3
15		Walter J.	Son	M	W	2	S	

This makes me wonder even more what Johannes was doing in a hay field near Beebe on 8/8/1914.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Settling the Estate of Johannes Rombs

Will Dated 1911

Here is a copy of Johannes' will and the paperwork that was filed in association with it after his death.

Lastly, I make, constitute and appoint... son, Nicholas Rombs

to be Executor of this, my Last Will and Testament, hereby revoking all former Wills by me made.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal the 11th day of April in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eleven.

John Rombs [SEAL.]

This Instrument was, on the day of the date thereof, signed, published and declared by the said testator John Rombs to be his Last Will and Testament, in our presence, who, at his request, have subscribed our names thereto as witnesses, in his presence, and in the presence of each other.

W. Mathison residing at *Faulton, South Dakota*
Nellie Lathan residing at *Faulton, South Dakota*

463

Last Will and Testament
OF
JOHANN ROMBS
Dated APRIL 11 1911.

John D. Douglas
Clerk of the County Court
Denault.

Recorded in Court Journal no 8 Page 463

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT. 286 BROWN & BARNER, PRINTERS, SIOUX FALLS, S. D.

In the Name of God, Amen. I, John Rombs, of Faulkton, in the County of Faulk and State of South Dakota, being of sound mind and memory, and considering the uncertainty of this frail and transitory life, do therefore make, dain, publish and declare this to be my Last Will and Testament.

First, I order and direct that my execut^{or} hereinafter named, pay all my just debts and funeral expenses as soon after my decease as conveniently may be, And shall also erect a brick building for my grave, not to exceed in cost \$75.00.

Second, After the payment of such funeral expenses and debts, I give devise and bequeath to my sons Nicholas Rhombs and Joseph Rhombs the One Thousand Dollars to be received from my life insurance, Policy NO. 2638, in the Order of the Home Marauders and rewritten in the Leval Americans of the Republic Society Policy NO. 74517. The one half of the proceeds of the same of \$500.00, to go to each of said sons as per the directions in said Insurance Policies.

Third: I give, devise and bequeath all the balance and remainder of my property real and personal, of which I shall die seized or possessed or to which I shall be entitled at the time of my decease, in the manner following and to the following named persons, to-wit:

I give, devise, and bequeath the undivided one sixth of the same to my son Nicholas Rhombs.

I give, devise and bequeath the undivided one sixth of the same to my son Joseph Rhombs.

I give, devise and bequeath the undivided one sixth of the same to my daughter Kathryn M. Vinton.

I give, devise and bequeath the undivided one sixth of the same to the children of my daughter Carrie Austin, said children to hold the same in equal shares.

I give, devise and bequeath the undivided one sixth of the same to the children of my daughter Lizzie Thornbure, said children to hold the same in equal shares.

I give, devise and bequeath the undivided one sixth of the same to the children of my daughter Lulu House, said children to hold the same in equal shares.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA WITHIN AND
FOR FAULK COUNTY

: P
In The Matter of the Estate of: PETITION FOR LETTERS.
: JOHN ROMBS, deceased.
: -----

TO THE JUDGE OF THE COUNTY COURT WITHIN AND FOR SAID COUNTY:

the petition of Nicholas Rombs, of said County of Potter respectfully represents that John Rombs late of Faulkton, Faulk County, South Dakota, deceased, on the 8th day of August, 1914 at Edmunds County, South Dakota, died testate, as petitioner believes; that the instrument in writing herewith presented to this court is the last will and testament of said deceased as petitioner believes; and that Nicholas Rombs the said petitioner is the identical Nicholas Rombs named and appointed in and by said last will and testament as executor thereof and consents to act as such; that the heirs at law and devisees of said deceased with their names, ages and places of residence are as follows:

Carrie Austin, age 43, Cresbard, S. Dak.
Nicholas Rombs, age 37, Lebannon, S. Dak.
Joseph Rombs, age 29, Hoven, S. Dak.
Kathryn Vinton, age 27, White Sulphur Springs, Montana.
Mildred Austin, age 14, Cresbard, S. Dak.
Dorothy Austin, age 13, Cresbard, S. Dak.
Muriel Austin, age 9, Cresbard, S. Dak.
Harold Thornburg, age 10, Ipswich, S. Dak.
Clayton Thornburg, age 8, Ipswich, S. Dak.
Mabel Thornburg, age 6, Ipswich, S. Dak.
Clyde Thornburg, age 4, Ipswich, S. Dak.
Lizzie Thornburg, Age 25, Ipswich, S. Dak.
Lulu House, age 45, Milaca, Minn.
James H. House, age 26, East Dagan, Mont.
Mrs. Fred Hanson, age 25, Faulkton, S. Dak.
Mrs. C. A. Magnuson, age 23, Milaca, Minn.
Eddie House, age 21, Milaca, Minn.,
Ester House, age 17, Milaca, Minn.,
Alta House, age 15, Milaca, Minn.,
Willie House, age 10, Milaca, Minnesota.
Helen House, age 13, Milaca, Minn.
Joe House, age 8, Milaca, Minn.
Flora House, age 6, Milaca, Minn.

that the property of said estate consists of real and personal property and is of the probable value of Four Thousand dollars.

Your petition would further represent that the goods, chattels and personal estate of said deceased amounts to

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

about Fifteen Hundred dollars, and that the said deceased left no debts aside from funeral expenses.

Your petitioner would pray that a day be appointed for hearing the proofs of said last will and testament and that public notice thereof be given to all persons interested as this court shall direct; and that upon the proofs and allowance of said will and the approval of the bond of your petitioner letters testamentary be issued to him thereon, and appraisers appointed according to the rules and practice of this Court.

dated at Faulkton, S. D. August 12, 1914.

Nicholas Rombs

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
) ss
COUNTY OF FAULK)

On this 12th day of August, 1914, personally appeared before me Nicholas Rombs, the petitioner named in the foregoing petition who being duly sworn did depose and say that he had read the foregoing petition by him subscribed and knows the contents thereof and that the same is true of his own knowledge excepting as to matters therein stated on information and belief and as to those matters he believes it to be true.

Nicholas Rombs

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 12th., day of August, A.D. 1914.

John D. Douglas
Judge of the County Court.
By Marie Douglas, Deputy

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

It appears that part of the estate must have included a stallion. And it looks as if it is still being used in subsequent years (by Nick?).

165

STALLION RECORD

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
STALLION REGISTRATION BOARD

License Certificate Grade Stallion

Certificate No. 69

The Pedigree of the Stallion named James
Owned by John Rombs
Post Office Faulkton County Faulek
Age _____ years. Described as follows Star

Color Black Breed Percheron

Foaled in the year 1907 has been examined at the South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Division of Animal Husbandry, and it is hereby certified that the said stallion is a grade of his respective breed his sire being recorded in a stud book recognized by the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C. The above named stallion has been examined by Clint B. Reynolds, a duly licensed Veterinarian, is reported free from infectious, contagious or transmissible disease or unsoundness, and is licensed to stand for public service during the season of 1914 in the State of South Dakota.

Dated at Brookings, S. D., this _____ day of _____ 19____

Signed J. L. Barber Supt.
Prof. of Animal Husbandry and
Secretary Stallion Registration Board

Frank R. Cook
Simp. Secretary

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, } ss.
County of Faulek Filed for record in my office this 16 day
of March 1915, and recorded in Book No. 1 of Stallion Records on Page 165

By H. R. Hall Deputy. J. O. Shirk County Auditor.

Renewed <u>1915</u>	Renewed _____
Renewed <u>1916</u>	Renewed _____

TRANSFERRED TO _____
Postoffice _____ County _____

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Katie Prods Nick to Settle Estate

It is 1917 after all! Nick pleads poverty. The court says sell stuff and distribute the proceeds!

State of South Dakota, }
County of Faulk. } In County Court.

In the matter of the estate of)
John Rhombs, deceased.) Petition for order
show cause.

Your petitioner, Kathryn M. Vinton, respectfully shows to this court that she is a daughter of the above named deceased, whose will has heretofore been admitted to probate by the order of this court; that she is one of the beneficiaries under the will of deceased; that letters testamentary were issued herein to Nicholas Rhombs on November 21st, 1914; but that no inventory or appraisal has been filed herein; that no report of any kind has been filed herein; that no proof of the giving of notice to creditors is on file herein.

Wherefore, your petitioner prays that an order to show cause be entered herein requiring the said executor, Nicholas Rhombs, to show cause before this court at such time as may be designated by this court, why he, the said executor, should not make and file an inventory and appraisal herein, make a report as executor, and set forth what, if anything, has been done in the way of administering this estate.

Kathryn M. Vinton
State of South Dakota, County of Faulk.

Kathryn M. Vinton, being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says that she has heard read the foregoing petition, and that the same is true.

Kathryn M. Vinton

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 6th day of March, 1917.

Frank Turner
Notary Public. (SEAL)

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

State of South Dakota,)
County of Faulk.) SS. In County Court,
Hon. George J. Jarvis, Judge thereof.

In the Matter of the Estate of)
John Rombs, deceased.) P E T I T I O N .

To the Judge of said Court:

The petition of Kathryn M. Vinton respectfully represents that she is one of the devisees and legatees of the estate of John Rombs, deceased, under the last will and testament of said deceased heretofore duly admitted to probate in this Court; that said John Rombs died testate on or about the 8th day of August, 1914, in the County of Edmunds, State of South Dakota, being at the time of his death a resident of Faulk County, South Dakota; that he left an estate consisting of both real and personal property in said state;

That Nicholas Rombs was duly appointed and qualified as executor of said estate on the 21st day of November, 1914, and ever since and now continues to be the sole executor of said estate.

That on March 15th, 1917, said executor caused to be returned to this Court an inventory and appraisement of the estate of said deceased, all of which will more fully appear by the papers on file in the Clerk's office in the records of said Court in the matter of said estate, to which reference is hereby made.

That certain personal property, including one stallion and other personal property, still remains in the hands of the executor and has not been disposed of; that said deceased died seized of the following real estate situate and being in the County of Faulk and State of South Dakota, to-wit: Lot Fourteen (14) in Block Fifteen (15) and all of Block Fourteen (14) in the City of Faulkton.

That the only information your petitioner has as to the personal property belonging to said estate and the debts and expenses of said estate, is contained in the inventory, appraisement and report of the executor heretofore filed in said estate March 15th, 1917.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Both of said instruments are hereby referred to and are hereby made a part of this petition.

That the names of the legatees, devisees and heirs of said deceased are Nicholas Rombs, Joseph Rombs, Kathryn Vinton, Mildred Austin, Dorothy Austin, Muriel Austin, Harold Thornburg, Clayton Thornburg, Mabel Thornburg, Clyde Thornburg, Lizzie Thornburg, Lulu House, James H. House, Mrs. Fred Hansen, Mrs. E. A. Magnuson, Eddie House, Chester House, Alta House, Willie House, Helen House, Joe House and Vera House.

That affiant is informed and therefore alleges that the certain debts amounting to about the sum of Three hundred Dollars and the expense of the administration still remains to be paid and the executor has not funds in his hands sufficient to pay the same. That there are a large number of devisees and legatees and it is impossible to divide the estate among them without doing great injustice and depreciating the value of the property belonging to the estate. That a sale of all of the property, both real and personal, belonging to said estate is for the advantage, benefit and best interest of the estate and those interested therein.

WHEREFORE, petitioner prays for an order directing that all of the property of said estate, both real and personal of every character, be sold at public sale, and that only one sale be had.

Dated at Faulkton, South Dakota this 12th day of April, 1917.

Kathryn M. Vinton
Petitioner.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

State of South Dakota,)
County of Faulk.) SS.

Kathryn M. Vinton being duly sworn on her oath says:
That she is the party named in and who subscribed to the above petition,
that she has read the foregoing petition and knows the contents thereof
and that the same are true except as to those matters therein stated
on information and belief, and as to those she believes the same to
be true.

Kathryn M. Vinton

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of April, 1917.

(SEAL)

[Signature]
Notary Public, South Dakota.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

The sheriff does his job of notifying Nick.

Sheriff's Certificate and Return of Service.

-----VS-----

Plaintiff }
Defendant }

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, }
COUNTY OF FAULK. } SS. *J. H. Douglas* Sheriff in and for Faulk County, South Dakota,

do hereby certify and return that the annexed-----

and *subpoena*-----

----- in the above entitled action came into my hands for service
on the *5th* day of *Dec* 19*21*. I further certify and return, that I did on the *5th*
day of *Dec* 19*21*, at the County of Faulk and State of South Dakota, serve the annexed-----

subpoena-----

and-----

on the said defendant by delivering to and leaving with *Nicholas Rombs a certified*
copy of the attached subpoena-----

personally a true and correct copy of the said annexed papers and the papers so served by me as aforesaid, being known to me
to be *Nicholas Rombs*-----

who is named as defendant in the said annexed----- *subpoena*-----

and-----

J. H. Douglas
Sheriff Faulk County, South Dakota.

By----- Deputy.

Sheriff's Fees.

Service of Summons and Return	\$-----
Additional Defendants	\$-----
Service of Complaint	\$-----
<i>subpoena</i>	\$ <i>60</i>
Copies	\$ <i>25</i>
Travel <i>2</i>	\$ <i>40</i>
Total	\$ <i>125</i>



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Nick is removed from control of the estate.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA } COUNTY OF FAULK }	SS.	IN COUNTY COURT Hon. George J. Jarvis, Judge
In the matter of the estate of } JOHN RHOMBS, } Deceased.		<i>Petition for Letters of Administration</i> <i>With Will Annulled</i>
To the Honorable George J. Jarvis, Judge of the County Court in and for Faulk County, South Dakota.		
<p>The petition of W. J. Jacobs of Faulkton, in said County, respectfully shows that on February 16, 1922, an order revoking Letters Testamentary of Nicholas Rhombs was duly entered by the Court in said estate. That the probate of said estate has not been completed and property still remains in said estate to be administered, consisting of the following real property locate and being in said Faulk County, to-wit:</p>		
<p>All of Block Fourteen (14) in the City of Faulkton and Lot Fourteen (14) in Block Fifteen (15) of the City of Faulkton,</p>		
<p>and some personal property in the hands of said Nicholas Rhombs who was the former executor of said estate, the exact amount of which is unknown to affiant; that the personal property still belonging to said estate amounts to in the neighborhood of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and the annual rents, profits and issues of the real estate above described is about the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00); that the next of kin of said Deceased, and whom your petitioner is advised and believes, and therefore alleges to be the heirs at law of said Deceased are as follows:</p>		
Name	Age	Relationship Residence
Nicholas Rhombs	45	Son Faulkton, South Dakota
Joseph Rhombs	37	Son Hoven, South Dakota
Kathryn Vinton	35	Daughter White Sulphur Springs, Montana
 Robert Austin Mayer	 3	 Great grandson Cresbard, South Dakota
Dorothy Austin Siederz	21	Granddaughter Mitchell, South Dakota

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Name	Age	Relationship	Residence
Muriel Austin	17	Granddaughter	<i>East Bakusfield, Cal.</i>
Harold Thornburg	18	Grandson	Ipswich, South Dakota
Clayton Thornburg	16	Grandson	Ipswich, South Dakota
Mabel Thornburg	14	Granddaughter	Ipswich, South Dakota
Clyde Thornburg	12	Grandson	Ipswich, South Dakota
Lizzie Thornburg	43	Daughter	Ipswich, South Dakota
Lulu House	53	Daughter	Milaca, Minnesota
James H. House	34	Grandson	Fort Duggan, Montana
Mrs. Fred Hansen	33	Granddaughter	Faulkton, South Dakota
Mrs. E. A. Magnuson	31	Granddaughter	Milaca, Minnesota
Eddie House	29	Grandson	Faulkton, South Dakota
Chester House	25	Grandson	Faulkton, South Dakota
Alta House	23	Granddaughter	Milaca, Minnesota
Willie House	18	Grandson	Milaca, Minnesota
Helen House	20	Granddaughter	Milaca, Minnesota
Joe House	16	Grandson	Milaca, Minnesota
Vera House	14	Granddaughter	Milaca, Minnesota

That affiant is the attorney for and makes this petition for and on behalf of Kathryn Vinton, who was a daughter of said Deceased and asks that P. W. Loomis, of Faulkton, South Dakota, who is a fit and proper person, be appointed Administrator with Will Annexed of said estate.

Dated at Faulkton, South Dakota this 16th day of February, 1922.

[Signature]

 Petitioner

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA }
 COUNTY OF FAULK } SS.

W. J. JACOBS, the petitioner hereinbefore named being duly sworn says, that he has read the foregoing petition and knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true of his own knowledge, except as to the matters which are therein stated on information and belief and as to those matters he believes the same to be true.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
 this 16th day of February, 1922.

[Signature]

 Notary Public, South Dakota.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

792—ORDER FOR HEARING PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION News Ptg. Co., Aberdeen, S. D.

AT A COUNTY COURT Held in and for Faulk County, South Dakota,
at the office of the County Judge in City of Faulkton in said County,
on the 16th day of February, A. D. 1922.

Present: Hon. George J. Jarvis, County Judge.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, }
County of Faulk, } ss. IN COUNTY COURT

In the Matter of the Estate of }
John Rombs, }
Deceased }

On reading and filing the petition of W. J. Jacobs
of Faulk County, setting forth that Letters Testamentary of Nicholas
Rombs in the above estate ~~has~~ been by the Court revoked this day
~~annulled~~ the 15th day of January, 1922, and praying that
with Will Annexed
Letters of Administration of the estate of said deceased be issued to P. W. Loomis
of Faulkton, of Faulk County, State of
South Dakota,

It is Ordered, That said application and petition be heard by the County Judge in and for
Faulk County, South Dakota, at a special term to be held at his
office in Faulkton in said County of Faulk on the
15th day of March, A. D. 1922, at ten o'clock
A. M. of that day.

It is Further Ordered, That due notice thereof be given by publishing a notice of hearing for three succes-
sive weeks (once in each week), prior to said hearing, in the Faulkton Advocate
a newspaper published in said County, and that copies of said notice be addressed to the heirs of said
John Rombs deceased, resident in this State, at their places
of residence, and deposited in the postoffice, with the postage thereon prepaid, by the said petitioner at least ten
days before the time of said hearing.

Dated at Faulkton, South Dakota, this 16th day of
February, A. D. 1922.

[SEAL] By the Court: George J. Jarvis
Judge of the County Court

Attest: Elmer Dean
Clerk

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA }
COUNTY OF FAULK } SS.

JOSEPHINE TURNER being duly sworn on her oath says, that she is a duly qualified elector in and for said County and State, and not a party to or interested in the estate of John Rombs, Deceased; That on February 21, 1922, she served a copy of the attached Order Revoking Letters Testamentary upon Nicholas Rombs, by depositing such copy in the post-office at Faulkton, Faulk County, South Dakota directed to said Nicholas Rombs at the post-office above set opposite his name; that said copy was securely enclosed and directed to said named person as aforesaid, and the postage on said letter paid, and that there is postal communication between each of said named places.

Josephine Turner

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 21st day of February, 1922.

[Signature]

Notary Public, South Dakota.

In the office of Clerk of County
Court, Faulk County, State of South
Dakota this 1st day of Feb
1922 at _____
Edmer Durr
Clerk of the County Court.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA }
COUNTY OF FAULK } SS. IN COUNTY COURT
Hon. George J. Jarvis, Judge.

In the matter of the estate of }
JOHN ROMBS, Deceased. } ORDER REVOKING LETTERS
TESTAMENTARY.

Now on this 16th day of February, 1922, it appearing to the Court that Nicholas Rombs, executor of the Last Will and Testament of the above named decedent, has failed to render a statement of his accounts as such executor and has long continued and wrongfully neglected to perform the duties of such executor, the Judge of this Court, of his own motion, on November 30, 1921, having issued a citation to said Nicholas Rombs to appear before said Court on December 30, 1921, then and there to show cause why his Letters Executory should not be revoked for his long continued and wrongful neglect to perform the duties of such executor and to render a statement of his accounts as such executor and a certified copy of which said citation was duly and personally served upon said Nicholas Rombs on December 5, 1921, and said Nicholas Rombs never having made any appearance, never having filed any report of his duties as such executor in pursuance to said citation or made any appearance of any kind whatever; and the Court being satisfied that sufficient cause exists for his removal as such executor.

It is therefore ORDERED, by the Court that the said Nicholas Rombs be and is, hereby removed from the office of executor of the Last Will and Testament of said deceased in said estate, and the Letters Testamentary heretofore issued to him, by virtue of which he held said office, are hereby revoked.

By the Court George J. Jarvis
Judge of the County Court

Attest: Edmund Jensen
Clerk of the County Court

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here's an inventory of what was left.

INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, }
 County of Faulk. } ss. IN COUNTY COURT 19...
 In the Matter of the Estate of }
John Rombs, } ORDER APPOINTING APPRAISERS
 Deceased—Testate }

IT IS ORDERED by George J. Jarvis Judge of said County Court,
 That Irvin Allen Cornwell, S. S. Meier
Josephine Turner
 be and they are hereby authorized and appointed to appraise the goods, chattels and effects, real and personal
 (except the homestead), of the estate of John Rombs, deceased.

Attest: George J. Jarvis County Judge
Edmond Drumm Clerk of Courts

(SEAL) By _____ Deputy

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, }
 County of Faulk. } ss. OATH OF APPRAISERS

Irvin Allen Cornwell and
Josephine Turner being first duly sworn, each for himself, says, we will
 truly, honestly and impartially appraise the goods, chattels and effects, real and personal, of the estate of
John Rombs, deceased, that shall be exhibited to us, according to the
 best of our knowledge and ability.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31st
 day of May 1922.

Irvin Allen Cornwell
Josephine Turner

DESCRIPTION OF REAL ESTATE	VALUE	
	Dollars	Cts.
Lot 14 in Block 15 of Faulkton, Faulk County, S. D.	50	
Lots 21 and 22 in Block Fourteen (14) City of Faulkton <small>(lease)</small>	1250	
Lots 23 and 24 in Block Fourteen (14) City of Faulkton <small>(lease)</small>	1000	

Note: You can find more about Judge Irvin Allen Cornwell at Find A Grave Memorial 93213559.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

MONEY ON HAND AT TIME OF DECEASE \$ _____

NOTES AND ACCOUNTS	WHEN DUE			AMOUNT		NOTES AND ACCOUNTS	VALUE				
	Month	Day	Year	Dollars	Cts.		Month	Day	Year	Dollars	Cts.
<i>Names of Debtors</i>						<i>Names of Debtors</i>					
Anton Koeker	10	1	14	204.	80					-0-	
H. J. Reed	7	1	10	85.	00					-0-	
Will Wagner	10	1	14	68.	85					-0-	
Walter Wagner	7	27	12	40.	00					-0-	
<i>Money received from Nichols Rombs, ex claim against Nichols Rombs, former executor</i>										56.00	
<i>Total</i>						<i>Total</i>					

PERSONAL PROPERTY (NOT DEEMED ASSETS)

No.	ARTICLES	VALUE	
		Dollars	Cts.
	<i>All family pictures,</i>		
	<i>A pew or other sitting in any house of worship,</i>		
	<i>A lot or lots in any burial ground,</i>		
	<i>The family Bible,</i>		
	<i>All school books used by the family,</i>		
	<i>All other books used as a part of the family library,</i>		
	<i>All wearing apparel and clothing of decedent and his family,</i>		
	<i>The provisions for the family necessary for one year's supply, either provided or growing, or both,</i>		
	<i>Fuel necessary for one year,</i>		
	<i>Cook stoves, utensils and pipe,</i>		
	<i>Heating stoves and pipe,</i>		
	<i>Bedsteads,</i>		
	<i>Beds and bedding,</i>		
	<i>Sofas,</i>		
	<i>Chairs,</i>		
	<i>Tables,</i>		
	<i>Stands,</i>		
	<i>Kitchen safes (or cupboards) and dishes,</i>		
<i>Total</i>			



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

PERSONAL PROPERTY, ASSETS			
No.	ARTICLES	VALUE	
		Dollars	Cts.
	Total		
	Grand Total		

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, County of <u>Paulk.</u>	} ss.	EXECUTOR'S OR ADMINISTRATOR'S OATH
_____ P. W. Loomis		
by appointment of said County Court Administrator with Will Annexed _____ of the estate of		
John Rombs, _____ deceased as aforesaid, being first duly sworn,		
on his _____ oath says, that the above and foregoing is a full true and complete inventory of all the		
goods, chattels and effects, real and personal (except the homestead), of the estate of said decedent, so far as		
to come have come to the possession or knowledge of affiant, and of all money belonging to said decedent,		
and of all claims of the decedent against the said affiant.		
Subscribed and sworn to before me this <u>31st</u>		
day of <u>May</u> 19 <u>22</u> .		
_____ Notary Public, South Dakota.		_____ <i>P. W. Loomis</i>

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, County of <u>Paulk</u>	} ss.	_____
_____ <i>William Cornwall and Josephine Turner</i>		
by appointment of the Judge of said County Court appraisers of said estate, being first duly sworn, each for		
himself, says, that the above and foregoing is a just, true and fair appraisalment of each and every of the		
goods, chattels and estates therein enumerated, as he verily believes.		
Subscribed and sworn to before me this <u>31st</u>		
day of <u>May</u> 19 <u>22</u> .		
_____ Notary Public, South Dakota.		_____ <i>William Cornwall</i>
_____ Notary Public, South Dakota.		_____ <i>Josephine Turner</i>

01/31/20



104

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA }
COUNTY OF FAULK }SS.

JOSEPHINE TURNER being duly sworn on her oath says that she is a duly qualified elector in and for said County and State, and not a party to or interested in the estate of John Rombs, Deceased.

That on July 5, 1922 she posted true and correct copies of said Notice of Sale of Real Estate in three of the most public and conspicuous places in the City of Faulkton, Faulk County, South Dakota, to-wit: One on the bulletin board at the front door of the office of the County Judge in the Court House, one on the bulletin board at the front door of the Court House and one on the bulletin board in the lobby of the United States post-office, all in the City of Faulkton in said Faulk County.

Josephine Turner

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 5th day of July, 1922.

[Signature]
Notary Public, South Dakota.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
) SS.
COUNTY OF FAULK) IN COUNTY COURT
) HON GEORGE J. JARVIS, JUDGE.

In the matter of the estate of)
John Rombs) REPORT OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE
 Deceased.) AT PRIVATE SALE.

To the Judge of the County Court of the County of Faulk and State of South Dakota:

F. W. Loomis, the Administrator with Will annexed of the Estate of John Rombs, deceased, respectfully makes the following return of the proceedings under the order of this Court, dated the 3rd day of July, 1922, authorizing said Administrator to sell certain real estate, and report as follows to-wit:

That in pursuance of said order of sale he caused notice of the terms of such sale, the time when and place where bids would be received, to be posted in three of the most public places in the County of Faulk in which the land ordered to be sold is situated, and to be published in the Faulkton Advocate a newspaper printed and published in the City of Faulkton in said County of Faulk for three weeks successively next before such sale, in which notice the lands and tenements to be sold were described with common certainty; all of which will also and more fully appear by the affidavits herewith filed for record in this Court.

That said Administrator, pursuant to said order of sale and of the notice duly given, offered for sale, and on the 7th day of December, 1922, sold Lots Twenty-three and Twenty-four (24) in Block Fourteen (14) of the City of Faulkton in said FaulktCounty, in one parcel, judging it most beneficial to the estate, to the highest bidder, for cash, and subject to confirmation by this Court, ~~certain of the real estate described in said order of sale and in said notice, which said real estate is described as follows, to-wit:~~

~~lots Twenty-three (23) and Twenty-four (24) in Block Fourteen (14) of the City of Faulkton, County of Faulk and State of South Dakota~~

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

That at such sale Carl Smolnisky of the City of Faulkton, in the County of Faulk in the State of South Dakota, became the purchaser of the said real estate for the sum of Nine Hundred Dollars *cash,* he being the highest bidder, and the said sum being the highest and best sum bid.

That the said sale was legally conducted; that as said Administrator believes the sum bid is not disproportionate to the value of the property sold, and that a sum exceeding such bid at least ten per cent., exclusive of the expenses of a new sale, cannot be obtained; and that before making such sale, to-wit: On the 23rd day of October, 1922, said Administrator as required in and by said order of sale, duly executed an additional bond to the State of South Dakota, with sufficient surties, duly approved, to-wit: In the penal sum of Five Thousand Dollars conditioned, that the said Administrator shall faithfully execute the duties of the trust according to Law.

And said real estate not having been appraised within one year prior to such sale, the same was duly appraised by three competent, disinterested persons, appointed by said Court, which appraisement is on file and of record in said court.

Wherefore, said Administrator prays that the Honorable Judge of said Court make an order confirming the said sale and directing good and sufficient conveyance to be executed to the said purchaser, conveying all the right, title, interest and estate of said decedent in said premises at the time of his death, all the right, title and interest of said estate in the same, or that such other and further order may be made as is meet in the premises.

Dated this 7th day of December, 1922.

P. W. Loomis

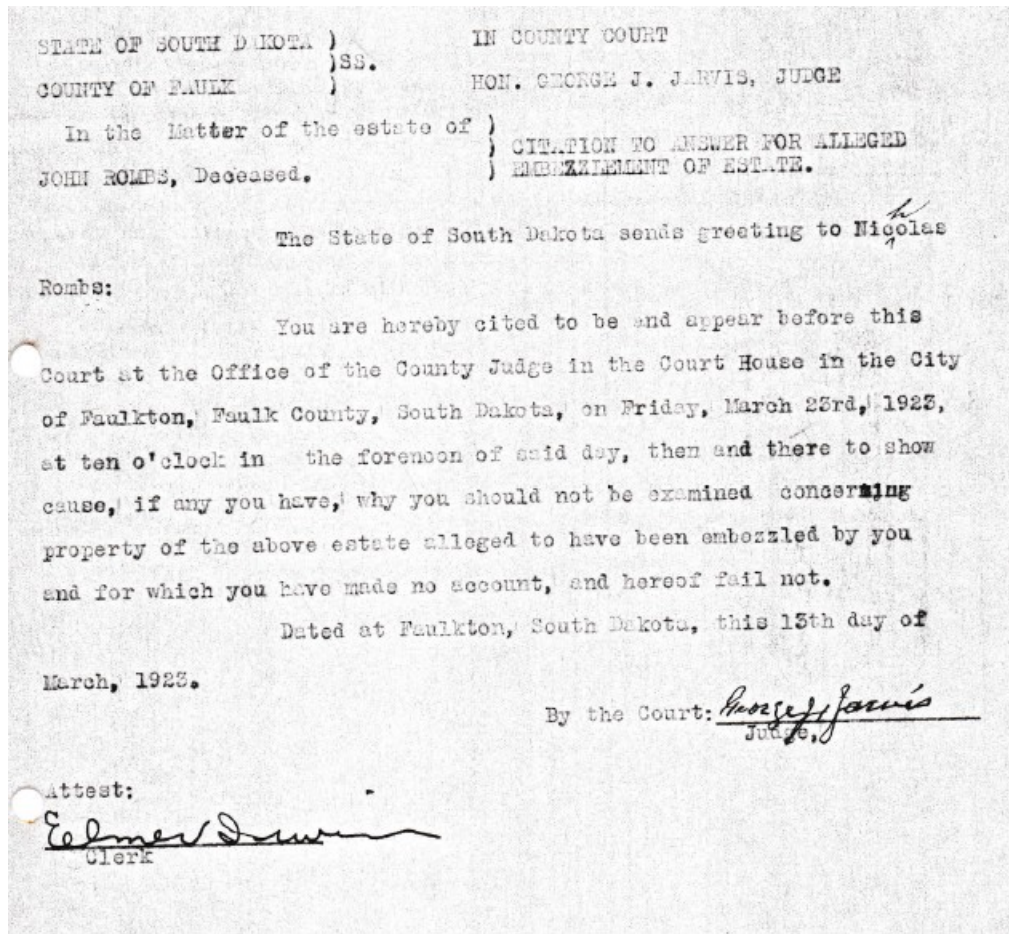
Administrator with will annexed of the
Estate of John Rombs, Deceased.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
) SS.
COUNTY OF FAULK)

P. W. Loomis, who, as the Administrator with will annexed of

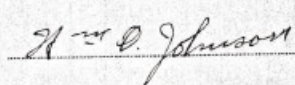
Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Embezzlement charges.



Note: more about Judge Jarvis can be found at Find A Grave Memorial 119171915.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,	}	IN _____ County _____ COURT
County of <u>Faulk</u>	} ss.	
<u>State of South Dakota</u>	vs.	Plaintiff
<u>Nicholas Rombs</u>		Defendant
<p>I hereby certify and return that the hereto attached SUMMONS <u>Citation to answer for</u> <u>alleged embezzlement of estate</u> came into my hands on the <u>13th</u> day of <u>March</u>, 19<u>23</u>, and that on the <u>13th</u> day of <u>March</u>, 19<u>23</u>, I served the same by delivering to and leaving with <u>Nicholas Rombs</u> the within named defendant, personally, a true copy of the hereto attached SUMMONS <u>Citation to</u> <u>answer for alleged embezzlement of estate</u></p>		
At <u>#7 Township</u> in <u>Faulk</u> County, South Dakota.		
SHERIFF'S FEES		
Service <u>Citation</u>	\$ <u>.60</u>	 Sheriff <u>Faulk</u> County, South Dakota By _____ Deputy
Copies	\$ <u>.20</u>	
Additional Defendant	\$ _____	
Travel <u>three miles</u>	\$ <u>.60</u>	
Total	\$ <u>1.45</u>	



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
)SS.
COUNTY OF FAULK)

) IN COUNTY COURT
) HON. GEORGE J. JARVIS, JUDGE

) In the Matter of the estate of)
John Rombs,) REPORT OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE
) Deceased.) AT PRIVATE SALE.

) To the Judge of the County Court of the County of
Faulk and State of South Dakota.

) P. W. Loomis administrator with Will annexed of the
estate of John Rombs, Deceased, respectfully makes the following return
of his proceedings under the orders of this Court dated July 3rd, 1922,
and July 12th, 1923, authorizing said administrator to sell certain real
estate, and reports as follows, to-wit: that in pursuance to the orders
of sale he caused notice of the time of sale and the time when and place
where bids would be received to be posted in three of the most public
and conspicuous places in the County of Faulk in which the land ordered
to be sold is situated, and to be published in the Faulkton Advocate,
a legal newspaper printed and published in the City of Faulkton, Faulk
County for three weeks successive^{ly} next before such sale, in which notice
the lands and tenements are described with common certainty; all of which
will more fully appear by the affidavits filed for record in this Court.

) That said administrator, pursuant to said orders of
sale and notice duly given, offered for sale and on the 30th day of July,
1923, duly sold Lots Twenty-one (21) and Twenty-two (22) in Block Fourteen
(14) of the City of Faulkton, in said Faulk County in one parcel, judging
it most beneficial to the estate, to Mary E. Crump, for the sum of One
Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) payable as follows, to-wit: the sum of Five
Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) cash, the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00)
on or before one year and the further sum of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars
(\$250.00) on or before two years with interest at the rate of Eight per cent
per annum, secured by a first mortgage back on said property.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

That at said sale Mary E. Grump of the City of Faulkton, in said County became the purchaser of said real estate for the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), she being the highest bidder, and said sum being the highest and best sum bid.

That pursuant to said orders and notice duly given, said administrator offered for sale, and on the same day duly sold Lot Fourteen (14) in Block Fifteen (15) of the City of Faulkton, in said Faulk County, in one parcel to *J. T. Bannerman* for the sum of ^{Twenty}~~Twenty-five~~ Dollars (\$~~35~~.00) cash, he being the highest bidder and the said sum being the highest and best sum bid for such lot.

That said sales were legally conducted, that as said administrator believes the sums bid are not disproportionate to the value of the property sold, and that sums exceeding such bids at least ten per cent exclusive of the expenses of a new sale cannot be obtained, and that before making such sale, to-wit: on the 23rd day of October, 1922, said administrator as required in and by said order of sale, duly executed and additional bond to the State of South Dakota, with sufficient sureties duly approved, in the penal sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) conditioned that the said administrator shall faithfully execute the duties of the trust according to law.

That said real estate not having been appraised within one year prior to such sale, the same was duly appraised by three competent disinterested persons appointed by this Court, which said appraisement is on file and of record in this Court.

WHEREFORE said administrator prays that the honorable Judge of this Court confirm said sale and direct good and sufficient conveyances to the said purchasers, conveying all right, title, interest and estate in said decedent in said premises at the time of his death and all right, title and interest of the estate of in the same, or that such other and further order may be made as is mete in the premises.

Dated at Faulkton, S. D. this 31st day of July, 1923.

J. W. Lounis
Administrator with Will Annexed of the estate of
John Rombs, deceased.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
)SS.
COUNTY OF FAULK)

P. W. LOOMIS, who as administrator with will annexed of the estate of John Rombs, Deceased, has subscribed the foregoing return and account of sale, being duly sworn, says that he has read the foregoing return and account of sale and knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true of his own knowledge except as to those matters therein stated on information and belief and as to those matters he believes the same to be true.

P. W. Loomis

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this 21st day of July, 1923.

[Signature]
Notary Public, S. D.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
 COUNTY OF FAULK)

SS.

IN COUNTY COURT
 HON. GEORGE J. JARVIS, JUDGE.

In the Matter of the estate of)
 John Rombs,)
 Deceased.)

FINAL REPORT AND PETITION FOR
 DISTRIBUTION.

Comes now P. W. Loomis, Administrator with Will annexed of the estate of John Rombs, Deceased, and respectfully reports and represents to the Court.

That letters of Administration with Will annexed were duly issued to your petitioner on March 13th, 1922, after a time when Nicholas Rombs, Executor of the Will of said Deceased, had been by the County Court in and for said Faulk County removed as such Executor and his Letters Letters Testamentary revoked.

That notice to creditors has been duly published in accordance with an order of this Court, and the time in which creditors might file claims against said estate has long expired. That all claims against said estate and all expenses of funeral and last sickness of said deceased, taxes and the costs of administration have been duly paid, and your petitioner knows of no outstanding claims of any kind against said estate. That said estate is exempt from inheritance taxation.

That the following is a statement of all claims and expenditures of any kind necessarily paid out by your petitioner during the administration of said estate.

1922	EXPENDITURES.	\$	
April 10,	Co. Treas. Taxes.	32.47	
April 15,	J. A. Kennedy, Water repairs	3.50	
April 25,	J. T. Mitchell, Insurance	9.36	
May 23,	Co. Treas. Taxes	6.32	
May 23,	Atlas Lumber Co., Shingles	7.70	
June 6,	Grace Douglas, Admx. Sheriff fee	1.25	



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

June 6, Faulkton Advocate Pub. fees	\$ 19.40
June 7, S. L. Thorn, labor	3.75
July 5, Leon Perdu, labor	1.00
July 29, George Zaelke, plumbing	4.00
September 18th, Advocate, Pub. fees,	18.40
November 13, Co. Treas. Taxes	32.47
December 14, Clerk of Courts fees	25.00
1923	
January 12, Reg. Of Deeds, Rec. Satisfaction	.60
January 12, W. J. Jacobs, postage, etc.	2.00
February 7, Reg. of Deeds Rec. deed	.60
April 11, Co. Treas., Taxes	29.61
May 3, Postmaster internal Revenue stamps	1.00
July 16, W. R. Garrick, Sheriff fees	1.25
July 31, Co. Treas., Taxes	27.50
August 8, W. J. Jacobs, Quieting Title Action, Services and Expenses	98.66
August 9, Faulk Co. Abstract Co. Abstract	44.90
August 15, Co. Treas. Taxes	2.11
August 16, J. P. Turner, Revenue Stamps	1.00
August 16, Register of Deeds, Recording	1.30
August 16, Faulk County Abst. Co. Abstract	20.60
August 17, J. T. Mitchell, Insurance	8.01
August 21, Reg. of Deeds Recording	1.00
September 17, Advocate Pub. fees	5.25
October 4, Wm. O. Johnson, sheriff fees	4.05
October 25, Western Surety Company bal. Premium Nicholas Rombs Executor bond	22.50
October 25, P. W. Loomis, Statutory Administrator fees	120.75
October 25, W. J. Jacobs, Attorney fees	150.00
Total expenditures	\$ 707.31

That the following is a statement of all receipts

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

of your administrator:

RECEIPTS.

1922

April 8, Nick Rombs, Executor for rents collected in 1922	56.00
April 8, Hazlett, rent to April 16	12.00
April 25th, Hazlett, rent to May 16	12.00
April 25, S. Thorn, Rent to May 22	8.00
April 26, Chris Prummer, rent to April 17	8.00
May 2, Chris Prummer, rent to May 17	8.00
May 24, Hazlett, rent to June 16	12.00
July 3, S. Thorn, rent to June 22	8.00
July 3, Hazlett, rent to July 16	12.00
July 26, S. Thorn, rent to July 22	8.00
August 8, Hazlett, rent to Aug. 16	12.00
August 26, Hazlett, rent to September 16	12.00
October 12, I. T. Branaman, rent	6.00
October 17, Chris Prummer, 3 mo. rent to August 17	24.00
October 23, Smolinisky, deposit on sale of property 1923.	90.00
July 9, Chris Prummer, rent to Jan. 17	40.00
July 14, Crump deposit on sale property	100.00
August 14, Smolinisky, balance sale lots 23 and 24 in block 14, of the City of Faulkton	810.00
August 14, Smolinisky, for taxes paid	18.33
August 17, I. T. Branaman, sale lot 14 in Block 15, of the City of Faulkton	50.00
August 17, Crump, per cash sale lots 21 and 22 Block 14 of Faulkton	400.00
August 17, Crump, for insurance	3.37
September 15, Nicholas Rombs, Executor	550.00
October 25, Chris Prummer, rent	48.00
October 25, sale Crump mortgage	500.00
Total receipts-----	\$2,587.70

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

and subtracting therefrom the amount of expenditures made by your petitioner, leaves a balance in cash in his hands of the sum of One Thousand eight Hundred eighty and 39/100 (\$1880.39).

That in addition thereto Nicholas Rombs, former Executor of the Will of said deceased, and one of the legatees of said estate, is still indebted to your administrator in the sum of Three Hundred forty-five and 74/100 Dollars (\$345.74) which leaves the total amount in the hands of your administrator for distribution, the sum of Two Thousand Two Hundred twenty-six and 15/100 Dollars (\$2226.15).

That when your petitioner qualified as such Administrator he found that the real property belonging to said estate was in a more or less run down condition. He had such repairs as was absolutely necessary to rent the property and proceeded with all diligence to sell the said real estate. That your petitioner has disposed of all the real property belonging to the said estate under the order and direction of this Court. That ever since the time of his qualification as such administrator, has been pursuing remedies to get an accounting from Nicholas Rombs, Executor of said estate, and he now reports that said accounting has been had and that the share of said estate going to the said Nicholas Rombs under the Will will be sufficient to take care of the indebtedness still due the estate from said Nicholas Rombs.

That all of the property belonging to such estate has been disposed of except several promissory notes which were outlawed at the time they came into the possession of your administrator and which said notes are of no value and uncollectable.

That said estate has been fully administered and the same is now in shape for final distribution. That John Rombs died testate at Edmonds County, in the State of South Dakota, on August 8th, 1914, and at the time of his death was a resident of Faulk County, South Dakota; that he left a Last Will and Testament dated April 11, 1911, which said Will was duly admitted to probate by this Court on September 15th, 1914.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

That said Will provided after the payment of funeral expenses and debts, that Joseph Rombs, Son, Kathryn Vinton, Daughter and Nicholas Rombs, Son each receive one sixth (1/6) therein. Said Will further provided that the Children of the Daughter Carrie Austin receive one sixth (1/6) interest therein in equal shares, and that the children of the daughter Lizzie Thornburg receive one sixth (1/6) interest therein in equal shares, and that the children of the daughter Lulu House receive one sixth (1/6) interest therein in equal shares.

That Dorothy Austin Siederz and Muriel Austin ^{granddaughters} and Robert Austin Mayer, Great Grandson, ~~XXX~~ the son of Mildred Austin, by right of representation, his mother being deceased, since the time of the death of decedent, are entitled on distribution to all of the share of said estate coming to said children of the said Carrie Austin, and each being entitled on distribution to one eighteenth (1/18) of said estate.

That Harold Thornburg, Clayton Thornburg and Clyde Thornburg, ^{grand-daughter} grand-sons and Mabel Thornburg constitute all of the children of the said Lizzie Thornburg and each on distribution is entitled to one twentyfourth (1/24) interest in said estate.

That James H. House, Eddie House, Chester House, Willie House and Joe House grand-sons Mrs. Fred Hanson, Mrs. E. A. Magnuson, Alta House, Helan House and Vera House, Grand-daughters, constitute all of the children of the daughter Lulu House and on distribution each thereof is entitled to one sixtieth (1/60) interest in the said estate.

That all of the above named legatees are of the age of majority except that Robert Austin Mayer, Mabel Thornburg, Clyde Thornburg, Joe House and Vera House are still minors.

WHEREFORE your administrator prays that said final account be approved, allowed and settled; that the Court determine the rights of all persons to said estate, and ^{their} interest therein and to whom distribution thereof should be made, and distribute the same to the persons entitled

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

thereto by law and for all other proper relief.

Dated this 29th day of October, 1923.

X P. W. Loomis
Administrator with Will annexed of the
Estate of John Rombs, Deceased.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA }
 } SS.
COUNTY OF PENNINGTON }

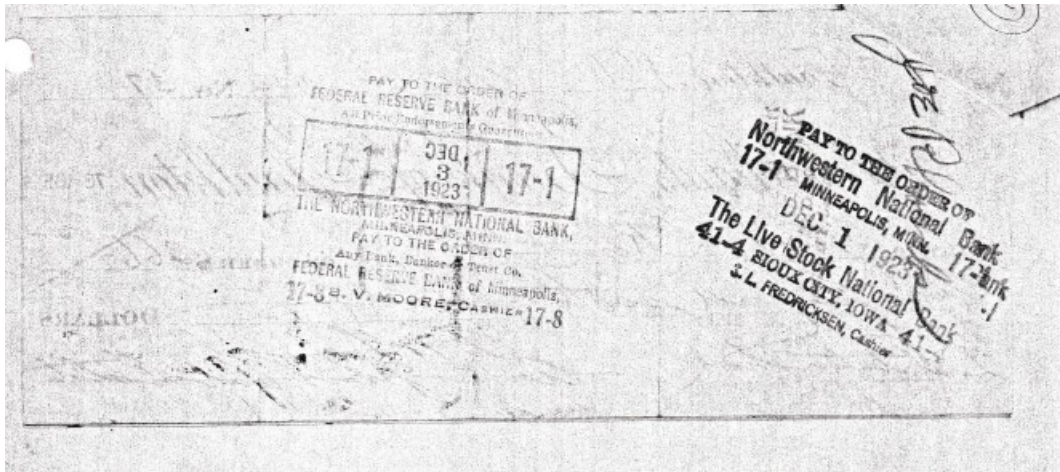
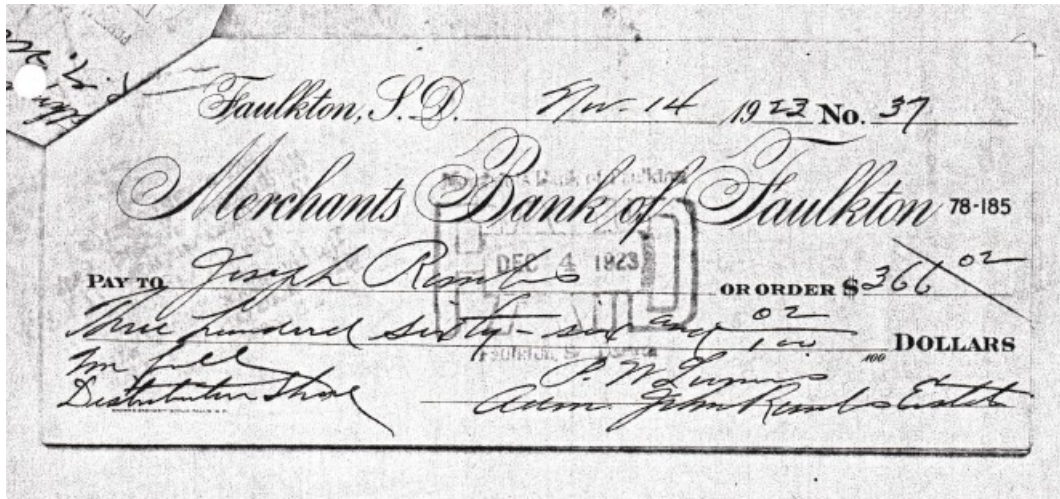
P. W. LOOMIS being duly sworn on his oath states that he is the duly qualified and acting administrator with Will Annexed of the Estate of John Rombs, Deceased, and is the party who made the foregoing report and petition and knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true. That the items of expenditures therein referred to have been actually and necessarily paid out and disbursed by your administrator and that the statement of receipts is a full statement of all receipts by your administrator in said estate of every nature and kind.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 28th day of October, 1923.

X George Williams
Notary Public, South Dakota

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Joe's check.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Future Research

So, there you have it. This is all that I know of to describe the lives of Johannes and Barbara on the Earth. The information leaves me with a general feeling of sadness, even though I know that there must have been good times. In balance it seems like there was a lot of struggle. I'm sure that this is common for people caught up in uncertain times.

Here is a list of items that I believe might still be pursued.

- Explore the whereabouts of Barbara's brother, Franz. Was he in Pierce Co., ND, in the 1900 census and then in Washington Co., Oregon, in the 1910 census?

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.
SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

State *North Dakota* County *Burke* Supervisor's District No. *R. H. Fisher* Sheet No. *11*
 Enumeration District No. *27*
 Name of Incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division. *Township No. 101 Range 100* Name of Institution. *Andrew St. Benedict* Ward of city. *X*
 Enumerated by me on the *24th* day of June, 1900. *Andrew St. Benedict* Enumerator.

LOCATION	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	BIRTH	CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION	EDUCATION	SPEECH BY SELF	SEX		AGE		MARRIAGE	
									Male	Female	Under 18	18 and over	Never	Once	Twice or more
1	Kelly, Thomas	Head	W m 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	1	0	1	1	1	1
2	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
37	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
38	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
39	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
41	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
42	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
43	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
46	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
47	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
48	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
49	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
50	Blanch	Wife	W f 1872 Jan 11 33 1900	Ireland	Foreign born	Farmer	12 1/2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0

Kater, Frank	Head	W m	Oct. 1842	57	m	18	Russia
Barbra	Wife	W f	Jan. 1854	45	m	10 9 2	Russia
Mikkel	Son	W m	July 1888	16	S.		Russia
Luge	Daughter	W f	Jan. 1886	14	S.		South Dakota

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
 THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910 - POPULATION

STATE: Illinois COUNTY: Washington TOWNSHIP: Washington NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE: Washington INDEXED BY: W. H. ... SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO.: 168 ENUMERATOR'S DISTRICT NO.: 168 WARD OR CITY: A ENUMERATOR: ...

HOUSEHOLD NO.	NAME	SEX	AGE	MARRIAGE	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	SOCIETY	RELIGION	ETHNICITY	MOTHER'S BIRTHPLACE	FATHER'S BIRTHPLACE	MARRIAGE		MARRIAGE		MARRIAGE		MARRIAGE	
												DATE	PLACE	DATE	PLACE	DATE	PLACE	DATE	PLACE
111	Shawney	John	38	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
112	Shawney	Barbara	35	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
113	Shawney	John	35	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
114	Shawney	Barbara	32	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115	Shawney	John	29	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
116	Shawney	Barbara	26	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
117	Shawney	John	23	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
118	Shawney	Barbara	20	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
119	Shawney	John	17	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
120	Shawney	Barbara	14	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Kessler Frank	Head #	m	w	65	m ²	29	Russia
Barbara	Wife	w	w	56	m	29	Russia



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

- Explore GRHS resources in Bismarck.
- Research location of Lizzie's birth as indicated in the church in SD.
- Track down what became of Johannes' uncles and aunts. Some information is known, but many details could be filled in.
- Do the same for Barbara's uncles and aunts.
- Determine the ancestors of Rochus Kessler (b. 1854).
- Do further research to determine relationships if any to other people with the Rombs surname – e.g., those living in Ohio, Texas, and ND, Aberdeen (descendants of Walter Rombs, who immigrated in the early 20th century?).
- A person named Alice I. Rhombs (b ~1886, d. 1909) is sometimes shown in family trees as a child of Johannes and Barbara. I have seen no evidence that this is accurate, however. Finding such evidence could be another research topic.
- Here is a 1976 note from Evelyn (Rombs) Schmidt to my dad. It contains some information that could be investigated. It appears to be based on a note from Fern Vinton in 1960.
 - From Fern Vinton in 1960: Johann Rombs was a professor of languages at St. Petersburg college near Odessa. (This may be information about one of Johannes' paternal ancestors.)
 - Johannes raised and imported horses after coming to the US.
- Evelyn had notes that hint at the possible existence of another child of Johannes and Barbara named George. No dates are provided for the birth of this child, but it is mentioned that he survived only for two years. I have never seen any corroborating information or evidence. Maybe this was an attempt to describe one of the children that lived only short lives in Russia.
- Find evidence to corroborate that some of the Rombs ancestors were teachers.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Dear Bob and family,

Am returning your paper
Time passed swiftly and my
memory isn't too exact so I
I'm afraid to put down too
many dates.

Fern Vinters writes me
in 1960 & said Professor Jakob
Rhombs was a professor of
Languages at St. Petersburg
College near Odessa Russia's
before coming to U.S.

Raised, educated & had
success after coming to U.S.
Some of me really know
very little about her
activities.

Would like a final
copy which you get this
all to be related.

Better yet. I require
some times and your way
to go from So. Dak.

We are pretty much stay
at home - We have a Sr.
Citizen Bldg. two blocks
from road, and we spend
time there near every
day. Harold is like Phil, &
so that gives him something
to do.

Our daughter & son in law

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

live on the farm + Luidas
is 3rd year in College
at Waurielly Dunes.

We Luidas had a real
nice fall, but need rains
badly. The crop were
good to fair, but if we
don't get moisture soon I
am afraid the crop will
suffer next year.

We are having Thanksgiving
with Janice + Luidas will
be home late tonight.

Where is Craig?

Hope that small bit of
information is helpful.

Best
Ever

Emely + Harold

12-24-76

They got lost in the shuffle.
We are going to Gemmill for
Xmas. May go South a couple
of weeks in Jan or Feb.
If you get a chance will
stop and see you.

Love
Emely.

Happy New Year

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

END



Thirty Years in the USA – A Timeline for the Family of Johannes and Barbara (Kessler) Rombs

Here is a sequence of events as best I can estimate from existing data sources. It was an eventful 30 years!

1. Late summer, 1884: sale of property in Russiaⁱ
2. October, 1884: travel to point of departure (Bremen) – parents and 4 children (Lulu (age 18), Caroline (age 9), Nickolas (age 7), and Elizabeth (less than 2 years old at the time))ⁱⁱ
3. early Nov, 1884: ship departure (assumes 2-3 week voyage. Bremen to Southampton to NY)ⁱⁱⁱ
4. 11/22/1884: ship arrival in NY^{iv}
5. late Nov, 1884: travel to Ipswich, SD (then Dakota Territory)^v
6. winter, 1884 -1885: in Ipswich presumably with friends (like the Fischers noted below) and cousins. Schumacher and Usselman cousins may have been present.^{vi}
7. May, 1885: work begins on pre-emption claim land in SE ¼ of section 9, twp 120N, rng 69W, 5th meridian (Freedom Township) See the 1885 Territorial Census for evidence that they had moved in 1885.^{vii}
8. November, 1885: Birth of son Joseph (11/3/1885)^{viii}
9. November, 1885: pre-emption claim filed with help of Karl & Martin Fischer, friends and neighbors in Selz and Freedom Township; naturalization first papers filed^{ix}
10. December, 1885: homestead claim filed on SW ¼ of section 10^x
11. 1885 +/- : Johannes takes out one or more loans against both quarter sections.^{xi}
12. March, 1886: improvements started and residence eventually shifted to SE ¼ of section 10 in accordance with homestead requirements^{xii}
13. March, 1887: Birth of daughter Kathryn^{xiii}
14. August, 1887 : daughter Lulu marries Reuben House^{xiv}
15. 1888 +/- : Johannes defaults on loan(s) and loses ownership of part (all) of the land to the loan company in Iowa.^{xv}
16. April, 1892: naturalization finalized (second papers)^{xvi}
17. April, 1892: homestead claim finalized – it is not clear who owns this land at this time.^{xvii}
18. March, 1896: Barbara dies; family subsequently changes church affiliations and Barbara is buried in the Emmanuel Lutheran Cemetery near Wecota^{xviii}
19. August, 1898: Johannes marries Mary Kastan. (a second disastrous marriage)^{xix}
20. 1890s : At some point Elizabeth moves away from the family in Freedom Township and ends up working for an “abstractor” named James Johnston and his wife Lizzie. (See 1900 Fed Census entry for Elizabeth Rhombs.)^{xx}
21. 1899 : daughter Caroline marries Bert Austin^{xxi}
22. October, 1900: Johannes files for a timber claim on a large part of section 9 in Freedom Township^{xxii}
23. 1900 Fed Census: Johannes still residing in Freedom Township with Joe, Kathryn, and Caroline (and her family).^{xxiii}
24. June, 1902: Johannes formally divorces Mary Kastan.^{xxiv}
25. 1903 : daughter Elizabeth marries Clyde Thornburg (est. from 1915 SD census)^{xxv}
26. 1900 – 1910 +/- : at some point during this period, Johannes moves into Faulkton^{xxvi}
27. Aug, 1906: son Nicholas marries Mary Nelson^{xxvii}
28. May, 1910: daughter Kathryn marries Alva Vinton^{xxviii}
29. January, 1911: son Joseph marries Tena Thompson^{xxix}
30. August, 1914: Johannes dies near Beebe and is buried in the Emmanuel Lutheran Cemetery^{xxx}

Notes - Thirty Years in the USA – A Timeline for the Family of Johannes and Barbara (Kessler) Rombs

- i The time of sale of possessions in Russia is a guess.
- ii The details of travel from Russia to Bremen is speculation, except that ages of children are believed to be accurate based on “established” birth dates.
- iii The departure date for the SS Oder’s trip is an estimate. It is established that they were on the SS Oder from Southampton to NY. I have not been able to determine for sure that it actually started in Bremen or if they transferred from another ship in Southampton.
- iv Ship Manifest - <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVSV-3FB5>
- v Again, the details of travel from NY to Dakota territory are unknown. Train transportation certainly was used on at least the last leg of the journey. At the time of arrival, the railroad terminated in or near Ipswich.
- vi How they spent the winter of 1884-1885 is unknown.
- vii Land Entry Files (NARA – personally acquired copies) and 1885 territorial census (https://www.ancestry.com/sharing/18038310?h=bd811d&utm_campaign=bandido-webparts&utm_source=post-share-modal&utm_medium=copy-url)
- viii Baptismal Record for Joe Rombs (private, from Catholic church records in Ipswich, SD)
- ix Land Entry Files (NARA Entry Files No.13933 and 4709 – personally acquired copies)
- x Land Entry Files (NARA Entry Files No.13933 and 4709 – personally acquired copies)
- xi Probate Records from the Faulk County Courthouse (personal copies)
- xii Land Entry Files (NARA Entry Files No.13933 and 4709 – personally acquired copies)
- xiii 1900 Federal Census: "United States Census, 1900," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MMRQ-N4R> : accessed 1 December 2019), Mildred B Austin in household of John Rombs, Enterprise, Millard, Saratoga, Sherman, Freedom & Pulaski Townships & School, Faulk, South Dakota, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 370, sheet 9A, family 85, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,241,549.
- xiv From tree published at familysearch.org: <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LL7G-DF1>
- xv Probate Records from the Faulk County Courthouse (personal copies)
- xvi Land Entry Files (NARA Entry Files No.13933 and 4709 – personally acquired copies)
- xvii Land Entry Files (NARA Entry Files No.13933 and 4709 – personally acquired copies)
- xviii newspaper article (personal copy)
- xix Private copy of Marriage Record filed in the Faulk Co. Courthouse.
- xx 1900 Fed Census for the residence of James Johnston, showing Elizabeth Rhombs as “servant.”
- xxi Inferred from 1900 Federal Census: "United States Census, 1900," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MMRQ-N4R> : accessed 1 December 2019), Mildred B Austin in household of John Rombs, Enterprise, Millard, Saratoga, Sherman, Freedom & Pulaski Townships & School, Faulk, South Dakota, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 370, sheet 9A, family 85, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,241,549.
- xxii Land Entry Files (NARA Entry Files No.13933 and 4709 – personally acquired copies)
- xxiii 1900 Fed Census - <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MMRQ-N4R>
- xxiv Private copy of court records from Faulk Co. Courthouse.
- xxv 1915 SD Census: <https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/MMHR-QVN>
- xxvi The details of the move are unknown. That the move happened is shown by comparing 1900 and 1910 fed census records. - see <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MMRQ-N4R> and <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MPX4-NXD> .
- xxvii SD Marriages: Ancestry.com. *South Dakota, Marriages, 1905-2017* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.
- xxviii From Ancestry.com. *South Dakota, Marriages, 1905-2017* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.
- xxix Personal records and Ancestry.com. *South Dakota, Marriages, 1905-2017* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.
- xxx death certificate (personal copies)



281connections Wiki

About

Copyright(left)

Education

Privacy

South Dakota Families

Bates-Moodie

Loy-Allen

Memorials

Mysteries

Rombs-Kessler

Ahnentafel

AncestralCollapsible

Early Rombs Family History

FamilyGroup

Fan

Thompson-Olsen

Texas Families

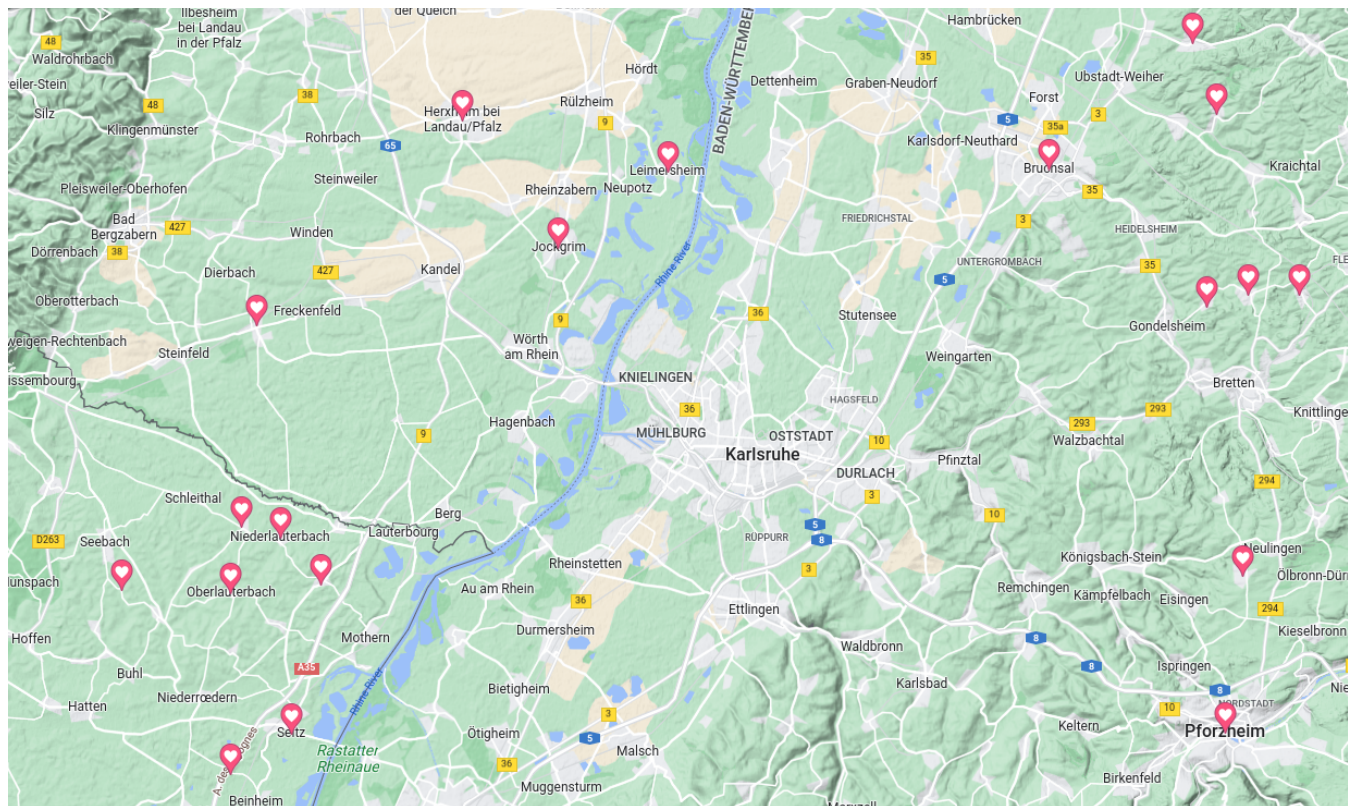


Early Rombs Family History

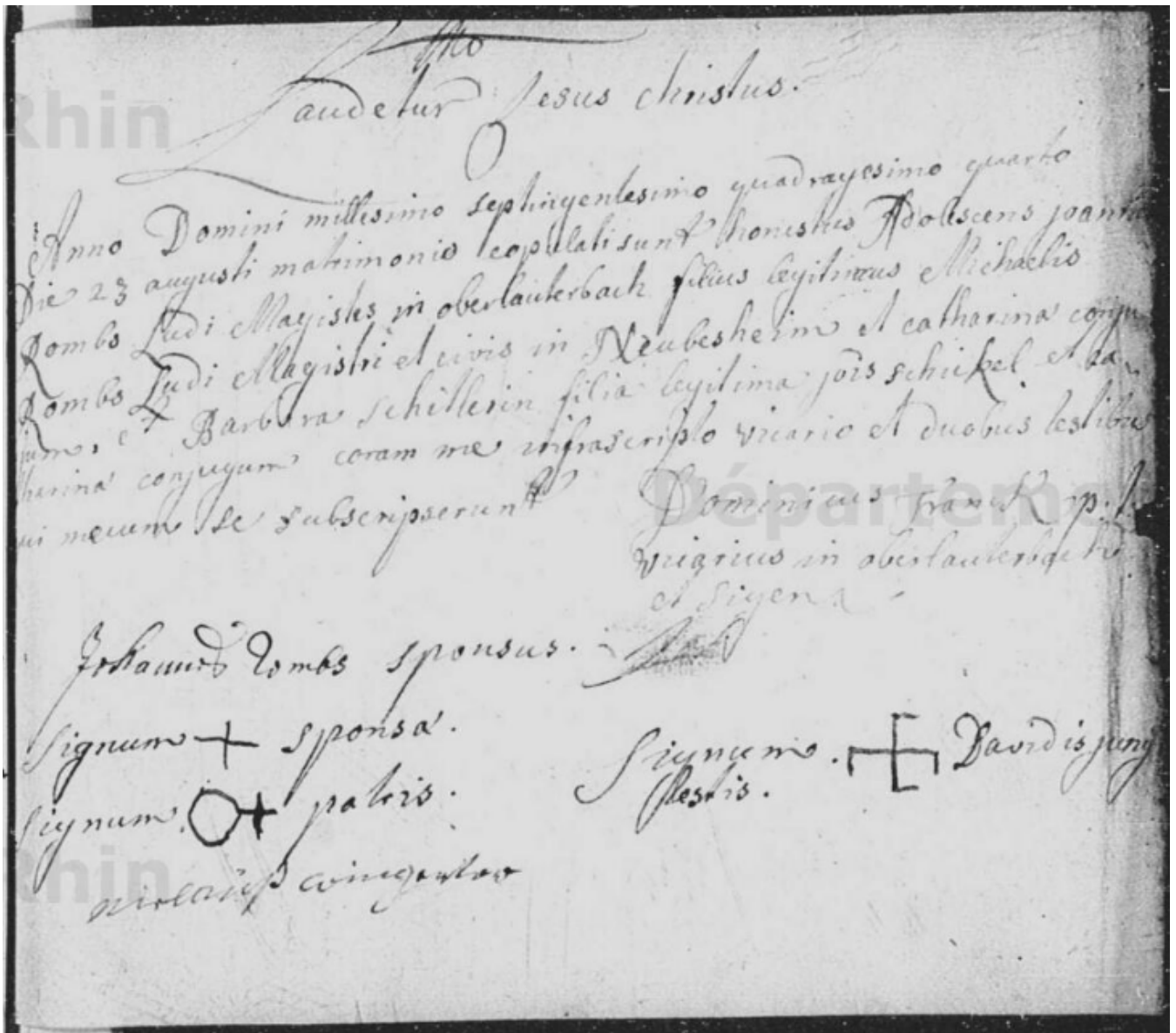


Research has revealed a rich history of Rombs people on both sides of the Rhein River within about 30 km of Karlsruhe from about 1800 backward until just after the Thirty Years War. Interestingly, the Rombs families during this period seem to have made it their specialty to teach at village schools in small, largely Catholic villages. A common connection to all of the villages is the Bishopric of Speyer, which had some supervisory authority.

Earliest records are from Jockgrim, Neibsheim, Buchig, Bauerbach, Oberwisheim, Zeutern, Bruchsal, Oberlauterbach, and Kesseldorf. The earliest records point to Franconian origins. The geographical area covered is represented below. See <https://goo.gl/maps/WzC4dAaFDb72Qg6g8>.



If you would like to learn more about the 17th and 18th century history of Rombs ancestors and teaching, use this [link](#). It contains some fascinatingly detailed information from current day Alsace and Baden and the Rhein Palatinate. An example is the following record of the marriage between (the teacher) Johannes Rombs and Barbara Schickel in 1744 in Oberlauterbach. (These are my 5th great-grandparents.) There is even some detailed information about the life of my 6th great-grandfather Johann Michael Rombs.



Backlinks:

[281connections Wiki>About](#)

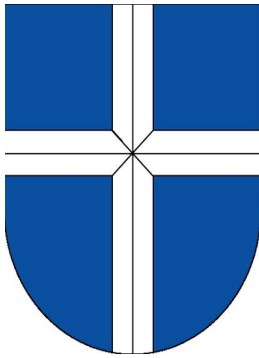
[281connections Wiki:South Dakota Families:Rombs-Kessler](#)

Created with Zim-wiki & the Ecodiv-responsive template

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

(life during multiple societal transitions)

Craig Rhombs



Bishopric of Speyer



Rheinland-Pfalz



Alsace

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Table of Contents

Revision History.....	4
Copyright.....	4
Introduction.....	5
Historical Backdrop of 17 th and 18 th Centuries.....	11
The Thirty Years War (1618-1648).....	13
Before the war.....	14
During the war.....	16
Immediately after the war.....	18
The Period 1648-1815.....	19
Rombs Family Details.....	27
Context.....	27
Neibsheim, Büchig, Bauerbach: The Family of Johann Michael and Katharina (Gritzer) Rhombs.....	31
Johann von Rhombs.....	34
Johann Anton von Rhombs.....	36
Ferdinand Reinhard von Rhombs.....	37
Maria Anna von Rhombs.....	39
The Parents of Johann Michael Rombs.....	41
The Parents of Katharina Gritzer.....	42
Zeutern and Oberöwisheim Families.....	43
The Family of Johann Anton and Maria Regina (Lengle/Lengele) Rombs.....	45
Descendants of Anton and Regina.....	48
Bruchsal, Herxheim, and Jockgrim Families.....	54
The Family of Ferdinand Reinhard and Eva Margaretha (Merz) Rombs.....	56
The Descendants of Ferdinand Reinhard and Eva Margaretha.....	63
Thomas Rombs.....	65
Oberlauterbach, Kesseldorf, Seltz Families.....	66
The Family of Johannes Rombs and Barbara Schickel.....	69
Barbara Schickel's Family.....	70
The Descendants of Johannes Rombs and Barbara Schickel.....	73
Johann Stephan Rombs.....	78
Charles Louis Rhombs (Karl Ludwig).....	79
Anne Marie Rombs.....	80
Elisabeth Rombs.....	82
Catherine Rombs.....	84
Marie Anne (Maria Anna).....	88
Margaretha Rombs.....	90
Johannes Rombs.....	93
Franz Ludwig Rombs.....	94



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Overview of the Family of Franz Ludwig Rombs and Margaretha Werner.....	97
The children of Franz Ludwig and Margaretha.....	98
Maria Josefa.....	98
Franz.....	99
Katherina.....	102
Maria Elisabetha.....	104
Marianna.....	105
Marianna Rombs.....	107
Summary Timeline for the Three Brothers.....	110
Salmbach, Niederlauterbach, Niederseebach, Neewiller Families.....	112
Usselmann / Merse Lines.....	113
Birth Family of Christian Usselmann.....	115
Birth Family of Catharina Merse.....	118
Marriage of Catharina's Parents.....	118
Birth of Catharina.....	119
Marriage of Catharina to Peter Christ.....	120
The Family of Christian Usselmann and Catharina Merse.....	122
Sennhauser Line.....	124
18 th Century Education & Life in These Regions.....	128
Generalities.....	128
Speyer.....	128
Neibsheim.....	132
Zeutern and Oberöwisheim.....	136
Jockgrim.....	139
Alsace.....	139
Further Analysis & References.....	142
Summary and Future Work.....	143
Nickolas Rombs.....	145
Agatha Schloss.....	145
Katharina Gritzer.....	145
Thomas Rombs.....	145
Hint from 1590 in Frankenthal, Pfalz.....	146
Hint from 1647 in the Rheinland-Pfalz (Cöln).....	147
Hint from 1656 in Vilich (Rheinland).....	148
Hint from 1690 in Anrath, Rheinland-Pfalz.....	149
Hint from 1732 in the Rheinland (Cöln).....	150
Hint from 1751 in Gemersheim, Pfalz.....	151
Hint from 1775 in Koblenz.....	152
Hints from 1614 & 1819 in Devon and York (England!).....	153
The Apocryphal Story.....	154

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Revision History

- rev 00, September, 2021: first rough draft
- rev. 01, March, 2022: this draft includes details about Rombs families
- rev. 02, May, 2022: Rhombs families section reflects reflects all sources and may be complete
- rev. 03, June, 2022: Completed sections on Werner and Sennhauser families. Added a number of hints to the “Future Work” section.
- rev. 04, July, 2022: Completed all sections. This is the first complete draft.
- rev. 05, August, 2022: Corrections & changes from first review.
- rev. 06, August, 2022: More corrections; added “The Apocryphal Story.”

Copyleft

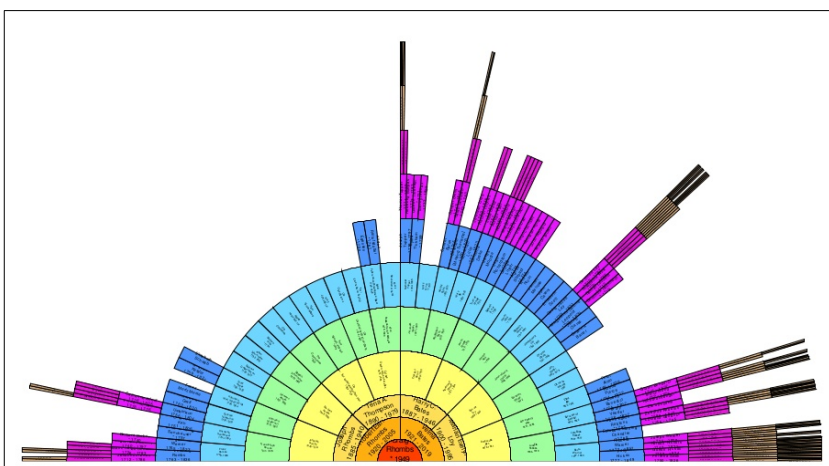
This work by Craig Rhombs is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Introduction

My paternal line (Rombs) ancestors arrived in South Russia in the summer of 1808. They ultimately started their journey from the village of Kesseldorf in Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. Catholic Church records from Russia have allowed me to piece together how this line grew in the 19th century as well as how some of my



direct ancestors eventually emigrated from there to Dakota Territory (USA) in the Fall of 1884. You can find information about the Russian period in a document at https://281connections.us/281connections_Wiki/South_Dakota_Families/Rombs-Kessler/19th-century-russian-relations.pdf .

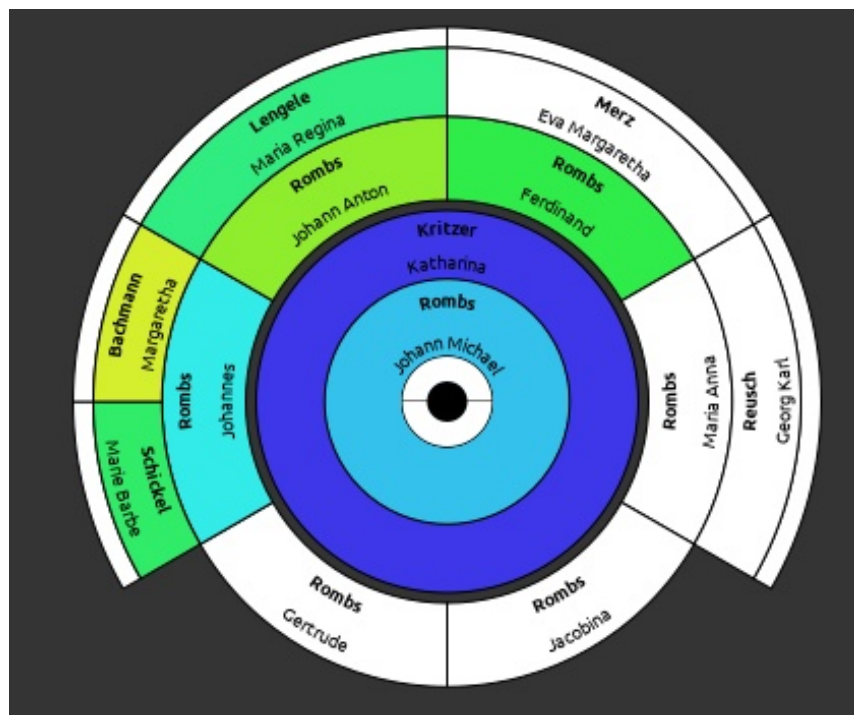
My purpose here is to summarize what I have found as I have explored records prior to the 1808 emigration from France. I have been fortunate to find surviving records in current-day Alsace, Baden, and Pfalz. These records make it clear that the men of the Rombs families specialized in teaching from just before 1700 until 1808. Their places of employment ranged from Neibsheim to Zeutern to Jockgrim to Oberlauterbach to Kesseldorf - that is, from what is now Baden to Rheinland-Pfalz to Bas-Rhin, Alsace.

This document is divided into four main sections. -

- (1) Historical Backdrop (page 11) – A very high-level summary of some of the things going on in the western world from about 1600-1810. You could choose to avoid this section if you do not want to read a summary by an amateur historian.
- (2) Rombs Family Details (page 27)– Contains a unique summary of the major events in the lives of Rombs family members during the period of about 1650-1808. As far as I know, this is original work.
- (3) 18th Century Education and Life in These Regions (page 128)– This section describes what I have found about the teaching activities of Rombs people in this era and in the areas of Rheinland-Pfalz and Alsace.
- (4) Summary & Future Work (page 143)– Here I describe future research possibilities that have suggested themselves to me during work on this document.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The propensity for teaching seems to originate with the family of my sixth great grandparents – Johann Michael and Katharina (Kritzer) Rombs. (The surname at that point in time is sometimes recorded as von Rhombs.) Following is an abbreviated descendency chart showing just this family.



In addition to the father (Johann Michael) who was a schoolmaster in Neibsheim, each son became a schoolmaster or teacher. Ferdinand's final destination was Jockgrim, Anton's was Zeutern, and Johannes (my fifth great grandfather) was Oberlauterbach (and then Kesseldorf).

I hope to provide a better understanding of the lives of the people in these families through analysis of extant records as well as more general historical/social contextual information. Emphasis is given to my direct line through Johannes Rombs (Oberlauterbach).

Along the way, I suggest that one of Anton Rombs' descendants emigrated directly to the USA, and I offer a possible explanation for the apocryphal story about one of my ancestors being multi-lingual and serving tea to the czar.

In some ways this is the re-creation of the story of a group of families that devoted much of their energy to teaching during the 18th century.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Geographically, the area that is involved is in the northeast corner of France on contemporary maps. The pink pins on the map that follows illustrate the places that are considered here. I believe that location played an important role in the lives of the people living near these places. The area includes agricultural land on both sides of the Rhine River and some significant larger urban centers (e.g., Karlsruhe, Speyer, Bretten, Pforzheim, Strasbourg, Wissembourg, . . .). The people whose lives are discussed here tended to live in or near smaller villages.



Reference: <https://goo.gl/maps/m38hq1w2RYFwkLYr8>

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

I have received considerable help from people and from an assortment of physical records. However, what I present here (which may include unintentional errors) is solely my responsibility. And, as new information is discovered, conclusions may need to be adjusted. A summary of select sources and acknowledgments follows. Other references are cited in subsequent sections.

- AGAWE - Atelier de Généalogie de l'Arrondissement de Wissembourg et Environs, section du CHAAN (<http://agawe-genealogie.com/>) Antoine Merkel deserves to be mentioned specially for providing information about Alsace and for conveying AGAWE publications to me.
 - Kesseldorf, Les naissances EC de 1794 à 1892
 - Kesseldorf, Les mariages EC de 1794 à 1892
 - Kesseldorf, Les décès EC de l'An III à 1892
 - Neewiller, Les familles de Neewiller
 - Trimbach & Niederseebach, Les mariages catholiques de 1731 à 1815
 - Trimbach & Niederseebach, Les sépultures catholiques de 1731 à 1825
 - Oberlauterbach, Les baptêmes catholiques de 1709 à 1808
 - Oberlauterbach, Les mariages catholiques de 1729 à 1813
 - Oberlauterbach, Les mariages EC de 1794 à 1892
 - Seltz, Les naissances EC de 1786 à 1812 livre n°1
- Private communications with contemporary researchers (GGSMN, AGAWE) For example, “The village schoolmaster in the 18th century in Alsace” by Claude Paul Schmitt in July, 2021. Assistance getting started with Ortssippenbucher from the Minnesota Germanic Genealogy Society (<https://ggsmn.org/>) helpline, especially Barbara.
- Online Bas-Rhin records (examples follow)
 - Bas-Rhin Archives: <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/rechercher/documents-numerises/registres-paroissiaux-et-documents-d-etat-civil/>
 - Family Search: <https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?q.anyPlace=bas-rhin&q.surname=rombs>
- Ortssippenbucher/Ortsfamilienbucher for Neibsheim (<https://ofb.genealogy.net/famreport.php?ofb=neibsheim&ID=I20498&nachname=Von%20Rhombs&lang=de>), Zeutern, Bruchsal, Jockgrim, & Oberöwisheim. Access for books provided with the help of libraries like the Harvard College Library, the Yale University Library, the St. Louis County (MO) Library, the



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Allen County (IN) Public Library Genealogy Center (<https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy>), the University of Michigan Library, the University of Pennsylvania Library, and the Hennepin County (MN) Library. I can not say enough about the helpfulness of librarians and research staff.

- Communications with the Statdarchiv for Neibsheim, located in Bretten. (<https://www.bretten.de/tourismus-kultur-freizeit/stadtarchiv>)
- The Heimatverein of Ubstadt-Weiher for information about Zeutern - <https://heimatverein-ubstadt-weiher.de/>.
- Translation assistance and inspiration from Mark A. Moseley.
- Articles written by Willi Hartmann about Neibsheim, especially in *Das Heimatbuch von Neibsheim*, published in 1970 by Walter-Verlag GmbH.
- A website (<https://www.sites.google.com/site/burckbuchler2/home>) and communications with Claude Burkbuchler regarding Schickel families in Alsace.
- Private communications from distant cousins Niko Heinz, Sharold Hipfner, and Bernard Duthu (husband of a distant cousin) as well as email from Dennis Roth.
- Data purchased from the GRHS organization in Bismarck, ND. <https://www.grhs.org/pages/home> (so-called Saratov Archive records for Selz, and parts of the Ned Schall collection)
- An assortment of books.
 - Salmbach: *Salmbach*, volumes 1 and 2, Editions Coprur
 - Seebach: *Seebach*, Editions Coprur
 - Neibsheim: *1200 Jahre Neibsheim*, Hartmann and Walter
 - Oberöwisheim: *1220 Jahre Oberöwisheim*, Heinz Erich Walter, et al, OCLC 3732527.
 - *Die Deutsche Auswanderung Nach Russland 1763-1862*, Stumpp (translated by E. Wise)
 - Zeutern: *ZEUTERN in SEINER I200 JÄHRIGEN GESCHICHTE*, Eugen Hollerbach; Franz Gehrig; Kurt Fay, OCLC 236219696.
 - *Economic and Social Conditions in France During the Eighteenth Century*, Henri Sèe, c.1968.
 - *Germany in the Eighteenth Century The Social Background of the Literary Revival*, W. H. Bruford, c.1971.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

- Books by Marc Forster – in particular: *The Counter-Reformation in the Villages – Religion and Reform in the Bishopric of Speyer, 1560-1720*, Marc R. Forster, Cornell University Press, Ithaca/London, c.1992 by Cornell University, ISBN 0-8014-2566-2.
- *Naître vivre et mourir dans l'Outre forêt 1648-1848 alsace*, Peter Daniel. (To Be Born, Live and Die in the “Beyond the Forest” 1648-1848). [France] : Cercle d'histoire et d'archéologie de l'Alsace du Nord, 1995, OCLC 490243137.

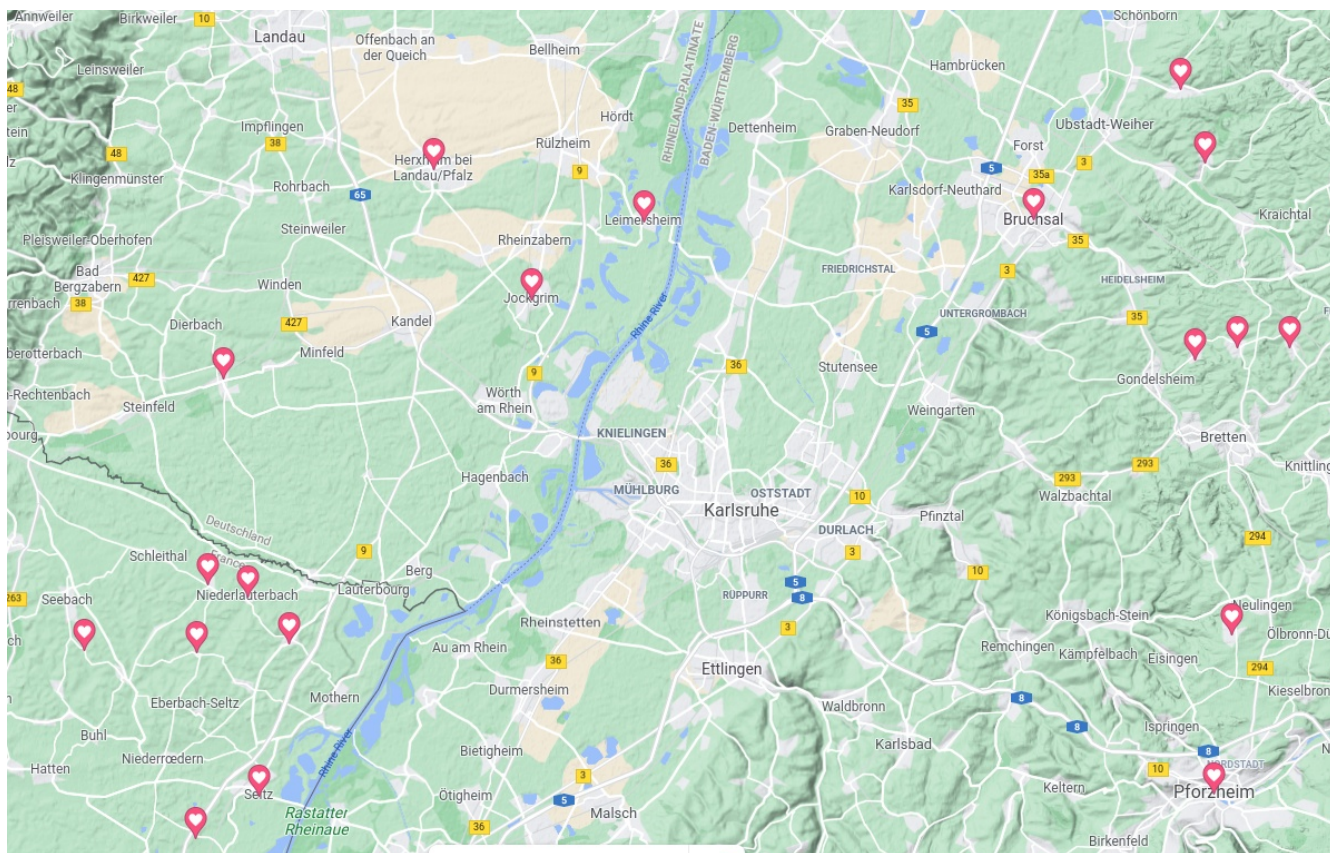


Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Historical Backdrop of 17th and 18th Centuries

My search for records about my paternal line ancestors has been surprisingly fruitful back to the second half of the 17th century. At that point, records seem to become elusive or non-existent. My suspicion is that this situation is largely due to events of the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) that significantly affected the region, which is depicted in the contemporary map that follows. (See

<https://goo.gl/maps/P5wbHKjN56EBnjy7>)



This region includes five locations of significance to my paternal ancestors. Each will be mentioned in more detail later: Zeutern (upper right), Neibsheim (below Zeutern, near Bretten), Jockgrim (in the center near Kandel), Oberlauterbach (on the left near Seebach), and Kesseldorf (southwest of Seltz in the lower left area of the map). Jockgrim and Neibsheim are the locations of the oldest records of the Rombs/Rhombs families. My 5th great grandfather was born in Neibsheim and moved to Oberlauterbach and then Kesseldorf. His brothers Anton and Ferdinand ultimately went to Zeutern and

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Jockgrim, respectively. Their paternal grandfather appears in (the oldest) Jockgrim records, and may have originated in Franconia.

I believe that to fully understand and appreciate the extant records it is important to study the social and political histories of the period from the Thirty Years War through Napoleonic times in the region shown above. Not being a student of history, I present a limited amount of summary information and references. This is a well studied and well documented period, and there are many sources of information that you can find for this region. Some have described it as the period of transition from “Absolutism to Napoleon.”

The region of interest here was commonly in some type of flux in terms of religious and civil governance. Regarding civil governance, at times France held sway, at other times it was the Holy Roman Empire (or at least one of the German states). Speyer and Strasbourg were regional religious control centers according to my understanding. France was a unified entity with strong central controls. Germany, however, was not a fully unified entity during the period considered here. It consisted of 300 or more “states” or principalities with rather strong local controls and very weak higher level coordination. There were even a number of free cities that operated independently.

Here are references that may be of use in understanding how the region was organized and experienced by its residents.

Germany in the Eighteenth Century, the Social Background of the Literary Revival, by W. H. Bruford, Cambridge University Press, first printed in 1915, ISBN 0521092590, LCC DD193.B7.

Economic and Social Conditions in France During the Eighteenth Century, by Henri Sée, translated by Edwin H. Zeydel, published by Batoche Books, first published in 1927, LCC HC275.S535 1968.

German history told using maps can be found here - <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e9cb1f0b7c9342498eebbfdc7bf5cf75> .

Historical maps of France can be found here - <https://www.edmaps.com/html/france.html> and <https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/france.html> .

A snapshot map of the region near Speyer in 1710 from the University of Utrecht can be accessed here - <https://uu.georeferencer.com/maps/e67534a0-5404-5926-a3fd-ed91c331fe05/> . The “georeferencer” allows you to overlay the old map on a current one. Note the Romberger Forest just east of Bretten. Significant??



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

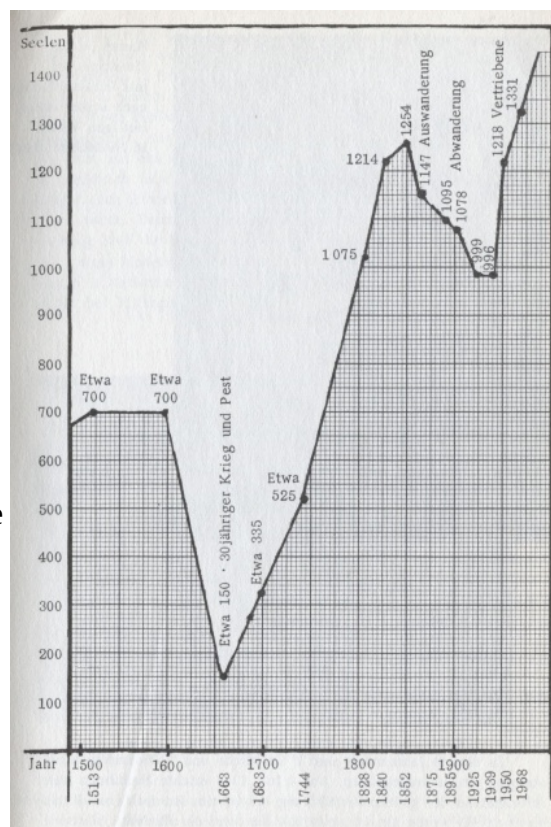
Following are brief, disconnected sections that describe some of the events and conditions that appear to be historically significant and that may have been felt by our ancestors that lived in this region and era.

The Thirty Years War (1618-1648)

The Thirty Years War was to me a senseless, brutal struggle among an assortment of entities that began over religion (Catholicism versus anti-Catholicism) and blossomed into something much larger. The areas occupied by my paternal ancestors seem to have been hit hard by the war, which was infamous for mercenary armies that plundered areas where they fought. Town and church records were destroyed and populations saw large decreases due to disease, famine, and emigration. A striking example is the following graph of the population of Neibsheim as a function of time. In this figure, you can see that there is an obvious drop in population to a low of about 150 people just after the war from approximately 700 before the war. And, it was nearly a hundred years later (about 1750) until the population returned to pre-war levels. The early 1740s, during this time of recovery happens to be when my 5th great grandfather moved from the area to take up a teaching job in Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin.

Chart Source: *Das Heimatbuch von Neibsheim*, page 225.

So, this war helps explain the lack of records found about my ancestors prior to about 1650. It also makes me wonder if my relatives were from the area of Neibsheim prior to the war or if they migrated to the village from elsewhere. At one point I thought that the fact that the name recorded as “von Rhombs” might be a clue that the family was from some place with Rhombs in the name. So far, this line of reasoning has yielded nothing. Perhaps the use of “von” was simply a sign of respect. For now, one can assume that the Rombs/Rhombs people lived in the vicinity of Jockgrim and Neibsheim after the war or that they had moved into the area from elsewhere along with others who filled the void left in the region after the war. A future researcher might resolve this puzzle.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Following is general information about the war. Because location is important to understanding its impact on my ancestors, the information relies significantly on maps.

- One good reference is a website titled “German History Maps I”, by Helmut Walser Smith, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e9cb1f0b7c9342498eebbfdc7bf5cf75> . Another recent reference is *The Thirty Years War* by Peter H. Wilson, published 2009 by Belknap press of Harvard University Press, LCC D258 .W55 2009 . Professor Wilson also has a website that should be of interest - <https://mappingtyw.web.ox.ac.uk/home> . The audio and video presentations found there are particularly interesting. If you prefer a recent podcast, try a BBC History Extra podcast from 2022 - <https://uk-podcasts.co.uk/podcast/history-extra-podcast/the-thirty-years-war-everything-you-wanted-to-know> .
- Yet another reference: <https://factsanddetails.com/world/cat55/sub392/entry-6438.html>
- Another good overview that focuses on Alsace is here - <https://aufildusavoir.fr/articles/la-guerre-de-trente-ans-en-alsace/> . This is a very clear description of the war – who fought where and when and even why.
- A book that describes the impact of the Thirty Years War on the northern area of Alsace: *Naître vivre et mourir dans l'Outre forêt 1648-1848 alsace*, by Peter Daniel.

Before the war

After the Reformation in the early 1500s, there had grown a significant amount of displeasure with the Catholic Church. This stemmed from a church leadership that tended to be arrogant and from parish priests who too often did not set good examples in the communities in which they lived. Drunkenness, fighting, not performing duties, and keeping concubines were all behaviors that were recorded at the time. As a consequence, more than half the population of places like the diocese administered by the prince-bishop of Speyer left the Catholic Church in favor of some form of Protestantism (Lutheran or Calvinist). The cities of Speyer and Strasbourg in fact became mostly Protestant in nature. I mention Speyer specifically because this diocese encompassed the communities where I can say with certainty that my Rombs ancestors lived just after the war.

During this period before the war, however, where people of multiple denominations lived in close proximity, there were serious efforts to coexist and cooperate.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The accompanying map depicts the confessional / denominational situation in 1610, not long before the war. I have cut out an area that roughly corresponds to that pertaining to my Rombs ancestors, but the entire map can be found here -

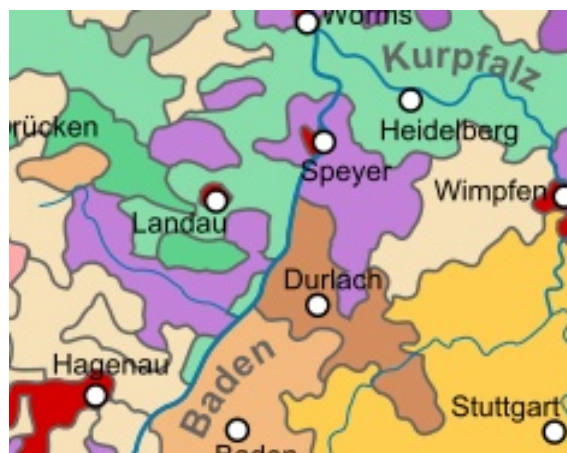
https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/ward_1912/germany_religious_1610.jpg .



Another map from 1618, the beginning year of the war, shows in more detail what a patchwork of denominational affiliations existed in the area. My / our ancestors were associated with (Catholic) areas in violet. See -

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_the_Holy_Roman_Empire_\(1618\)_-DE.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_the_Holy_Roman_Empire_(1618)_-DE.svg) .

(This file is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) license.)



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

During the war

The war itself was a disjointed collection of conflicts sponsored by an assortment of parties and frequently fought by hired mercenaries. The financing parties included Hapsburg, French, Spanish, Swedish, etc. governments across many arenas that were geographically separate. The following drawings illustrate the appearance of the soldiers of the time. And the following link takes you to video and audio content from Peter Wilson and Rory McCleery (the University of Oxford) that might also be helpful in understanding the war. <https://mappingtyw.web.ox.ac.uk/home#/>

"Newes Soldaten Buchlein", by Lucas Kilian, Augsburg, 1609, illustration, foot soldier with arquebus



"Newes Soldaten Buchlein", by Lucas Kilian, Augsburg, 1609, illustration, foot soldier with halberd



The war was not a continuous affair and can be imagined in phases in this region: Palatine (1618-1625), Danish intervention (1625-1629), Swedish intervention (1630-1635), and French intervention (1635-1648). In the Palatine phase, which has many parts, the Imperial forces (Spain, Austria, Lorraine, etc.) overcome the Protestant ones. The Danish

intervention, in which the King of Denmark came in on the Protestant side, ended in Protestant defeat. Next, the Swedish intervention saw Gustav Adolf's armies defeat the Catholic armies under Tilly and Wallenstein. However, Adolf is killed and the Catholic forces recover to continue the fight. This is a very complicated period. Lastly, the French intervene on the Protestant (!) side and seize Alsace.

Read <https://aufildusavoir.fr/articles/la-guerre-de-trente-ans-en-alsace/> for a better, more detailed description of the complicated events.

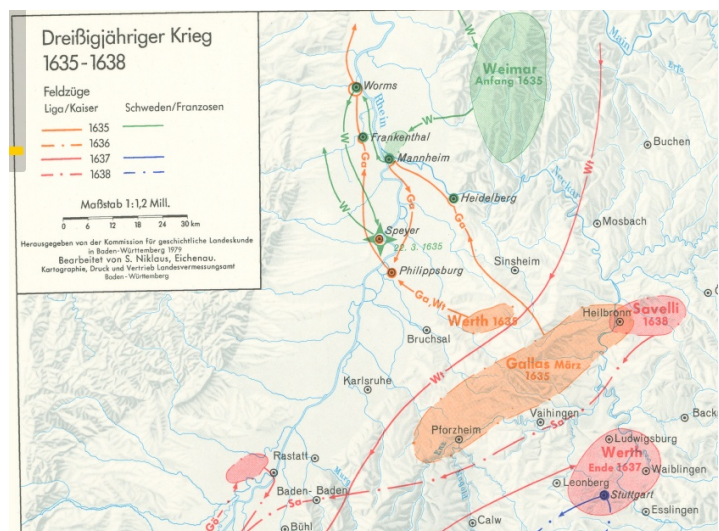
Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Assorted maps of the war can be found here:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Maps_of_the_Thirty_Years%27_War . Various phases of the war are described here: <https://militarymaps.rct.uk/thirty-years-war-1618-48> . The following example image depicts the crossing of the Rhein River north of Speyer by Swedish forces on 7 December 1631.



This map shows the campaigns in the period 1635-1638 in the region of interest. See . . .



https://www.leo-bw.de/web/guest/kartenbasierte-suche/-/gisviewer-expert/voll/HABW_06_11c/3513161,%205404175/1 .

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

And, this map tries to summarize the war activities in just one rendering -

<https://commons.princeton.edu/mg/the-thirty-years-war-1618-48/> . The following excerpt shows activities in the area around Speyer in the 1620s and the 1630s.



Immediately after the war

That this war was hard on this region is a gross understatement. Famine, disease, forced migration, etc. devastated the area as indicated earlier in the example population graph for Neibshheim. Recovering from the war took time and an influx of people from outside the region. This may be when Rombs people from Franconia entered the area. At least this would make sense in light of the information about Nikolas Rombs, father of Johann Michael.

Here are insights from the Zeutern 1200 Jahr book, page 85.

“Die Hausbesitzer 1667

Beet- und Schatzungbücher

Die für den Landesherrn erhobene Steuer hieß früher Schatzung. In den Schatzungsbüchern wurden die Hofstätten und Grundstücke der einzelnen Einwohner aufgezeichnet, um das Vermögen schätzen und schätzen zu können. In älterer Zeit ist auch der Ausdruck Beetbuch gebräuchlich, der vom lateinischen Wort petitio = Forderung abzuleiten ist. Unser ältestes Beetbuch stammt vom Jahr 1667 und bringt wertvolle Angaben über den Zustand der Häuser. Damals war der verheerende 30jährige Krieg seit 19 Jahren vorüber, aber noch immer wurden viele Hofstätten als verbrannt bezeichnet, ohne daß ein Hinweis auf einen späteren Ortsbrand zu finden ist. . . .

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

eine verbrannte Hofstatt”

Rough translation: The Homeowners 1667

Bed and estimate books

The tax levied on the sovereign used to be called an estimate. The farmsteads and properties of the individual residents were recorded in the appraisal books in order to be able to estimate and estimate the assets. In older times, the expression bed book is also used, which is derived from the Latin word *petitio* = demand. Our oldest bed book dates from 1667 and contains valuable information about the condition of the houses. At that time, the devastating 30-year war had been over for 19 years, but many farmsteads were still described as having burned down, with no indication of a subsequent local fire. . . .

a burned farmstead

A further example of extreme efforts taken to repopulate and invigorate the area is described in the following article, which describes the official encouragement of bigamy for a limited time. See <https://genealogiealsace.wordpress.com/2022/04/23/bigamie-dans-le-saint-empire-romain-germanique-apres-la-guerre-de-trente-ans/> where you will find the following quote.

“ . . . out of extreme necessity, in order to redress the “population” (men) of the Holy Roman Empire, decimated during these 30 bloody years by the sword, disease and hunger, it will be authorized and permitted for every man during the next 10 years of marrying two women. “

Many more references, including maps describe this period of recovery.

- From a protestant museum: <https://museeprotestant.org/en/notice/alsace-in-the-xviiith-century/>
- A 1648 map: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/83/HRR_1648.png
- More maps: <https://www.lbrowncollection.com/world-atlas-maior-frederik-de-wit-1670-part-1-a-2-37/>

The Period 1648-1815

The period starting after the 30 Years War and continuing up to the French Revolution and Napoleon are extraordinary years – the Counter-Reformation, the Age of Enlightenment, more wars (including in North America), plague, and so on.

Here is an abbreviated list of events that may have had significance to Rombs families around Speyer and in Alsace.

- 1672-1678 – Franco-Dutch War. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Dutch-War>

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

- 1678-1679 – The Treaties of Nijmegen (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaties_of_Nijmegen) set borders that increased the extent of France’s influence in the Rheinland. After the Peace of Nijmegen 1678/79 Herxheim fell with all communities south of the Queich to France. See



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pfaelzerwaldkarte_Flussgebiete_Queich.png .

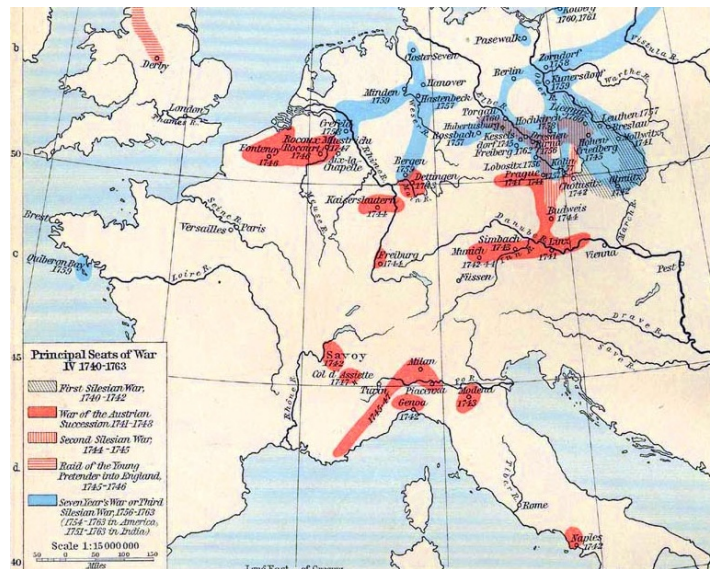
- 1688-1697 – Nine Years’ War – a war waged by Louis XIV that had an impact on the Rheinland (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nine_Years%27_War) The image depicts the siege of Philippsburg. From Wikimedia Commons. French troops work through the region of the diocese of Speyer and cause considerable damage.



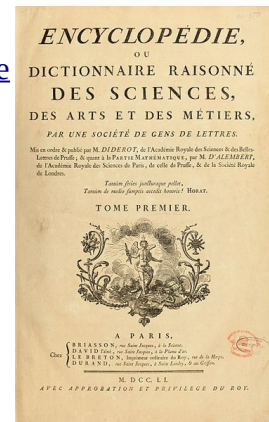
- 1701-1714 - War of the Spanish Succession – Triggered by the death of King Charles II (Spain) (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_the_Spanish_Succession#France)
- 1702-1715 – Camisard Rebellion – Reaction to Louis XIV’s edict making Protestantism illegal in France. For more about troubles for Huguenots, see <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/atd-herkimer-westerncivilization/chapter/louis-xiv-and-the-huguenots/> .
- 1720-1723 – The Great Plague – started in Marseilles and spread north. It is not clear to me that it made it north to Alsace. See also references like https://www.researchgate.net/publication/12575221_The_Retreat_of_Plague_from_Central_Europe_1640-1720_A_Geomedical_Approach .
- 1733-1735 – War of the Polish Succession - France acquired Lorraine by force. However, in the process various other areas like Karlsruhe and Philippsburg (very close to the Rombs families) were involved. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_the_Polish_Succession#Rhineland . The impact of the war on the village of Zeutern is described here - <https://heimatverein-ubstadt-weiher.de/zeutern/zeutern-chronik/> .

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

- 1740-1748 – War of the Austrian Succession – France and others against the Hapsburgs (and others). I believe that any impacts on the Rombs families may have been indirect. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_the_Austrian_Succession and http://www.emersonkent.com/map_archive/world_1740_seats_war.htm .



- 1751-1785 – Creation of the French Encyclopédie – A significant aspect of the Enlightenment. See <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Encyclop%C3%A9die> . It is interesting to speculate about whether it was well known to Rombs teachers, who were likely steeped in Catholic education in rural villages.
- 1759 – Voltaire writes *Candide*. Did our relatives read any literature of the Enlightenment?
- 1762 – Rousseau writes *Emile*. This was a significant work about education. Was it read by Rombs teachers? Rousseau also wrote *The Social Contract* in this year.
- 1754-1763 – French and Indian War – There is no direct impact of this event on ancestors in Europe, but it affects North America, to which many will be migrating. Can be considered part of the Seven Years' War.
- 1756-1763 – Seven Years' War – See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Years_War#North_America .



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

- 1762-1796 – Catherine the Great rules Russia and establishes conditions that will eventually lead to the migration of some Alsatians, including Rombs families, to South Russia in 1808. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catherine_the_Great .
- 1774 – Goethe writes *The Sorrows of Young Werther*.
- 1778 – One aspect of the American Revolutionary War - France became a partner against Britain. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franco-American_alliance .
- 1783 – Treaty of Paris – Ends the American Revolutionary War.
- 1788 – *Critique of Practical Reason* written by Immanuel Kant. This is a manifestation of the Age of Enlightenment that influenced thinking in philosophy, science, economics, politics, and religion. See for example https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Enlightenment#German_states.
- 1788 - Bankruptcy of the French government
- 1789 – 1799 – French Revolution, including wars that last from 1792-1802 and lead into the Napoleonic wars (1803-1815) See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Revolution and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_French_Revolution . If you wonder how chaotic this period was, the following abbreviated list of events should help.



- 1789 – Storming of the Bastille. Image above is in the public domain – from Wikimedia Commons. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anonymous_-_Prise_de_la_Bastille.jpg

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

- 1789 – Clergy lose their special status and must take an oath of allegiance. See for example https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Constitution_of_the_Clergy . The changes of the status of the Church and clergy must have had a significant impact on village churches and schools.
- 1790 - 1791 – Pope Pius VI condemns the revolutionary ideas.
- 1791 - Louis XVI tries to escape from France.
- 1792 – storming of the Tuileries Palace; the National Convention takes over and establishes the First French Republic. Meanwhile, the French army was fighting the Prussians (successfully). The parish register data at the Bas-Rhin online archives typically ends in this year. Data for subsequent years is replaced by civil registry data. See <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/> .
- 1793 – Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette are executed. War is declared with Spain and Britain and the Dutch Republic. The Reign of Terror begins. The French Republican calendar is instituted, with a beginning date of 22 September 1792. See <https://www.napoleon.org/en/history-of-the-two-empires/the-republican-calendar/> .
- 1794 – The Terror continues. Slavery is abolished in the colonies. Napoleon is promoted to general. Louis XVI's sister is executed. Robespierre elected president of the Convention. Robespierre is executed. The French Army occupies Cologne.
- 1795 – The French Army occupies Amsterdam and the Dutch fleet is captured. The Directory replaces the Convention. Louis XVII dies in prison.
- 1796 – Napoleon leads a part of the army in a defeat of Royalists in Vendée. Napoleon marries Josephine de Beauharnais.
- 1797 – Napoleon defeats Austrians in Italy. There was a purge of remaining royalists in position of authority.
- 1798 – Egypt is invaded. Further military actions take place in Italy and Switzerland. Money is authorized for an attack on England.
- 1799 – War in Italy and Germany. Coup of 18 Brumaire – Napoleon seizes power and ends the French Revolution. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coup_of_18_Brumaire and <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleon> . Napoleon becomes the First Consul.
- 1796-1797 – Goethe writes Hermann and Dorothea – a love story involving refugees from the French Revolutionary War near Mainz. This work explains some of the suffering that resulted

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

in the region as a result of the war. Did our ancestors read this? They certainly were in regions affected by the war. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermann_and_Dorothea .

- 1799 – 1815 – Napoleonic Rule. Refer to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_Napoleonic_era for details. Image at right of Napoleon from 1812 is in the public domain. See https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jacques-Louis_David_-_The_Emperor_Napoleon_in_His_Study_at_the_Tuileries_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg . This period is characterized by many conflicts. I have looked for involvement of our Rombs ancestors in Napoleon’s army unsuccessfully. See <https://en.geneanet.org/fonds/search-event/76/napoleon-soldiers> . I have, however, found a record of a person (Jean Schickel) from Oberlauterbach, who is likely related to Barbara Schickel, wife of Johannes Rombs. The record follows.



N: 10280, Schickel fils de Jean Adam et de Marie Louise né le 12 ^{bre} 1792 à Oberlauterbach canton de Seltz département de la Bas-Rhin	Arrivé au Corps le 2 Mai, 1812 enrôlé volontaire incorporé, venant d'Alsace conscrit de l'an 1812 remplaçant un conscrit de l'an du département de la Bas-Rhin	2 ^e de S ^e	fusilier	Capitaine de Rég. de Cav. N.° 10280 le 6 ^{bre} 1812
taille d'un mètre 66 centimètres, visage long front coudé yeux bleus nez moyen bouche moyenne menton long cheveux bruns sourcils bruns marques particulières teint bruni	compris sur la liste de désignation du canton de Seltz sous le N.° 12 son dernier domicile était à Oberlauterbach département de la Bas-Rhin profession - Marchand			

Refer to <https://www.memoiredeshommes.sga.defense.gouv.fr/fr/ark:/40699/e0052a9f26e63d1a/52a9f26fdc1fe> .

- 1800 – War in Italy against Austrian forces. Assassination attempt on Napoleon.
- 1801 – Treaty signed with Austria. Battles with British near Cadiz. Concordat signed with Pope Pius VII to allow exercise of Catholic religion in public and limited governance of the Church by the Pope. This reversed the subordination of the Church to the State in 1790.
- 1802 – Treaty signed with the British. Educational system restructured. New constitution that makes Napoleon First Consul for life. See https://www.napoleon-series.org/research/society/c_education.html and https://www.napoleon-series.org/faq/c_education.html . This certainly affected teaching performed by Franz Ludwig Rombs in Kesseldorf.
- 1803 – Sale of Louisiana Territory to the U.S. More war with Britain and Hanover.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

- 1804 – Introduction of the Civil Code regarding property and family rights. Napoleon proclaimed Emperor. (Crowns himself!)
- 1805 - Various battles: Ulm, Trafalgar, Caldiero, Austerlitz.
- 1806 – Confederation of the Rhein. Holy Roman Empire abolished.
- 1807 – More battles (Eylau, Friedland) and treaties (Tilsit, Fontainebleau).
- 1808 – Considerable activities in Spain by France. Many Alsatian families, including that of Franz Ludwig Rombs migrate to South Russia.
- 1809 - More battles, one of which Napoleon loses. Napoleon divorces Josephine.
- 1810 – Napoleon marries Marie Louise of Austria (Duchess of Parma).
- 1811 – Napoleon’s son is born.
- 1812 – More battles, including the foray into Russia by France, which is eventually repulsed. The map of the extent of French control in 1812 is shown below. Reference https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_administrative_divisions_of_the_First_French_Empire_1812-en.svg , licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

- 1813 – Lots more battles.
- 1814 – Forces opposing Napoleon close in and take Paris. Napoleon abdicates and Louis XVIII is established as king. Napoleon and family are exiled to Elba.
- 1815 – Napoleon escapes and tried a come-back but is defeated and sent to Saint Helena. (He dies there in 1821.)

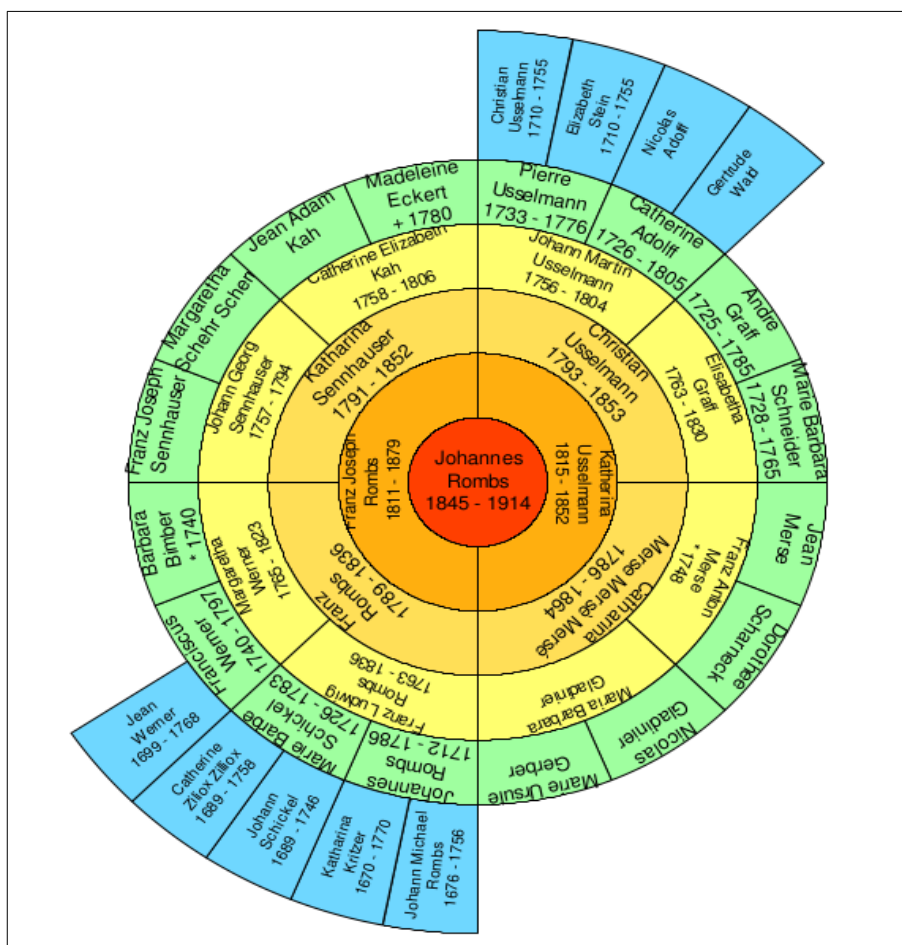
Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Rombs Family Details

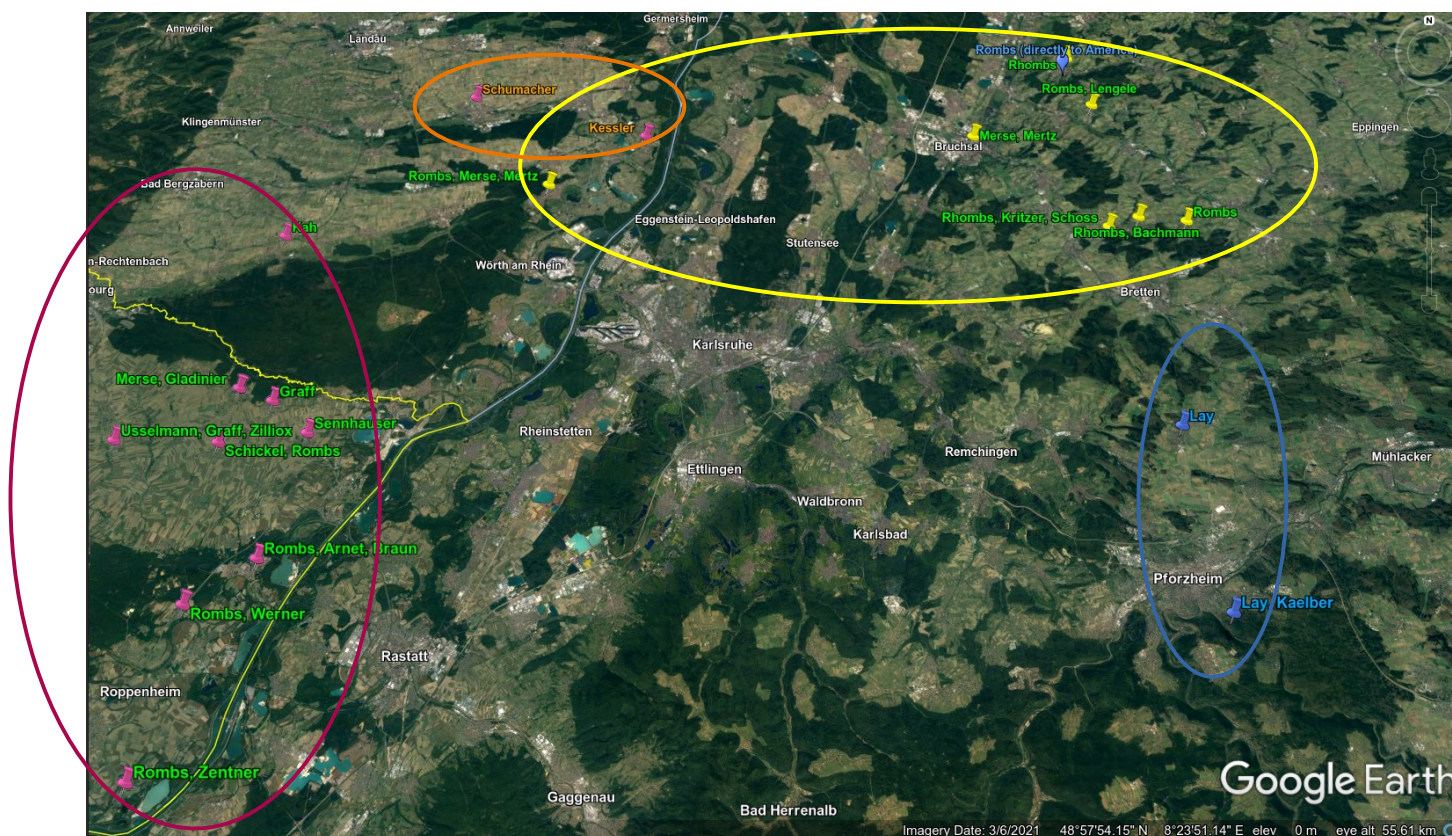
Context

During the process of assembling information for this document, I investigated many of the ancestors of my great grandfather, Johannes Rombs (b.1845 in Russia). I did this to make sure that I understood as much as possible about the areas and people that contributed to his paternal ancestry. Fortunately, many records on both sides of the Rhein River were available. I did exclude the ancestors of his wife, Barbara Kessler (b.1848). So, this is fundamentally a study of the paternal line of Johannes Rombs, with emphasis on families with the surname of Rombs/Rhombs. It includes some information about people who migrated to Russia and whose descendants interacted with my paternal line through marriage.

That there are probably many stories that could be told is illustrated by a recent version of his family tree that reaches back into the 17th century. This chart is followed by a map showing the geographic areas associated with many of the various surnames.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808



Above is a contemporary map (see <https://goo.gl/maps/AiDbCEJa8YveucGBA>) to illustrate locations of the ancestors that I have found living in this area prior to about 1808. One or more surnames label each pin, which is pink, yellow, or blue. The city of Karlsruhe is approximately in the center of the area pictured. The city of Speyer is just out of sight above Gemersheim at the top center of the area. Present day Alsace is in the lower left, Baden is to the right of the Rhein/Rhine/Rhin River, which flows from lower left to top center. Pfalz is left of the Rhein, above Alsace.

The yellow pins (and ellipse) across the top are associated with the places where the earliest records of Rhombs family members have been found. Villages identified include Jockgrim, Neibsheim, and Zeutern. In general, they show locations of family members prior to about 1740 as well as locations for family members that stayed in this area for some time.

Around 1740, my fifth great grandfather, Johannes Rhombs (b. 1712) left the vicinity of Neibsheim for Oberlauterbach in Alsace. The pink pins (and ellipse) and green surnames (on the left side) identify locations of people associated with his line that leads to my great grandfather, Johannes Rhombs (b.1845 in Russia). The pink pins with orange labels (and orange ellipse) identify locations of just a

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

couple of surnames for ancestors of my great grandfather's wife, Barbara. These include the villages of Leimersheim and Herxheim.

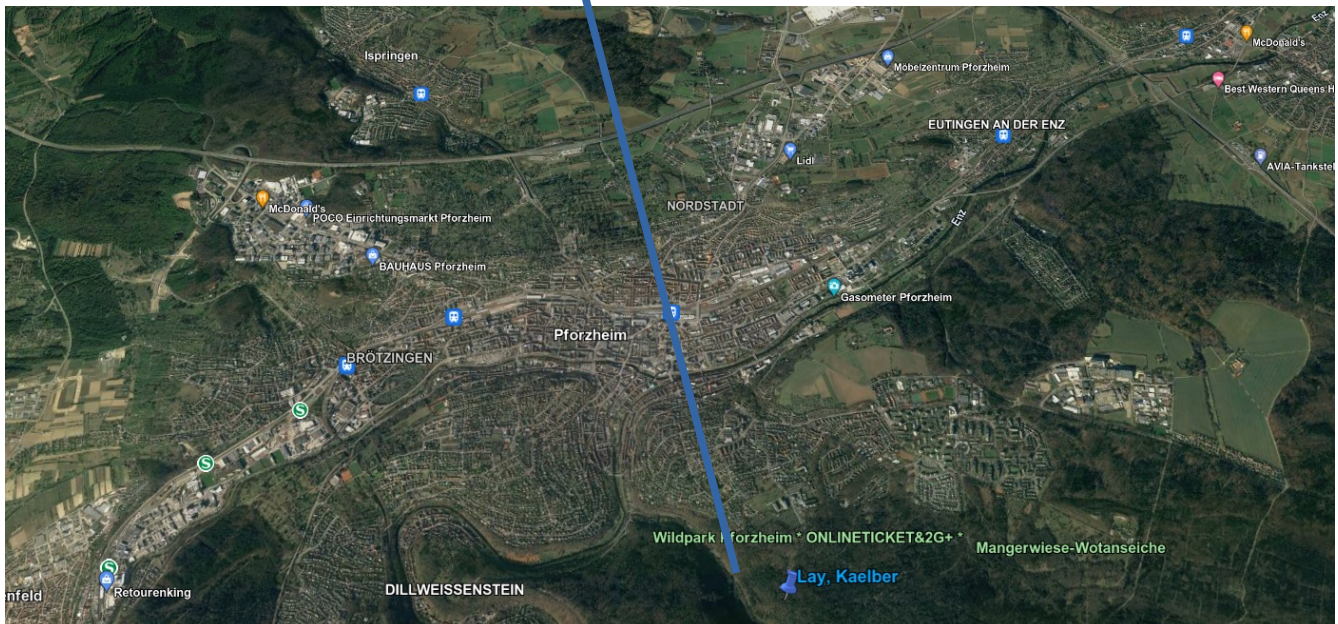
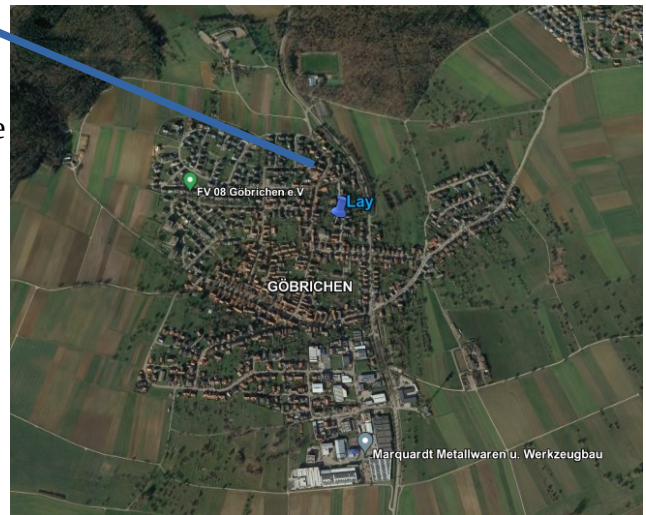
The two blue pins on the right above identify locations (Göbrichen and Würm) where some of my maternal ancestors happened to live at roughly the same time. They are unrelated to the Rhombs line, and I have included them only because their proximity may be of interest to some family members. These two pins also locate the only two Evangelical (non-Catholic) ancestors on the map.

At right, Göbrichen. See

<https://goo.gl/maps/5ggR6ByYJQGcngeB6> .

Below, the blue pin is meant to show the approximate location of Würm, near Pforzheim. See

<https://goo.gl/maps/Qy7vy7wmLge8iJDR8> .



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The following sections are organized by geography. For each geographic area, I explain how people from there fold into the tree shown in the fan chart above. Town crests are shown for places in which people with the name Rombs/Rhombs/von Rhombs lived and/or worked. These crests are from <https://www.heraldry-wiki.com/heraldrywiki/wiki/Europe> .

Many of the locations discussed below are mentioned in an historically significant document called the Lorsch Codex (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lorsch_codex). Places mentioned can be seen in this map - <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=161TYEK4Ry9CyxEwwFrkEYgxfwHU&ll=49.05612959228884%2C8.686757180056164&z=12> . This codex was created in the 12th century and it reveals the existence of many of the locations in the 8th century. These are places with considerable history! Unfortunately, not much written documentation exists prior to the 17th century.

The history of the Lorsch document is interesting in itself. If you have such an interest, you can start with references like the following.

<https://www.historyofinformation.com/detail.php?entryid=1818>

<https://www.facsimilefinder.com/facsimiles/lorsch-gospels-facsimile>

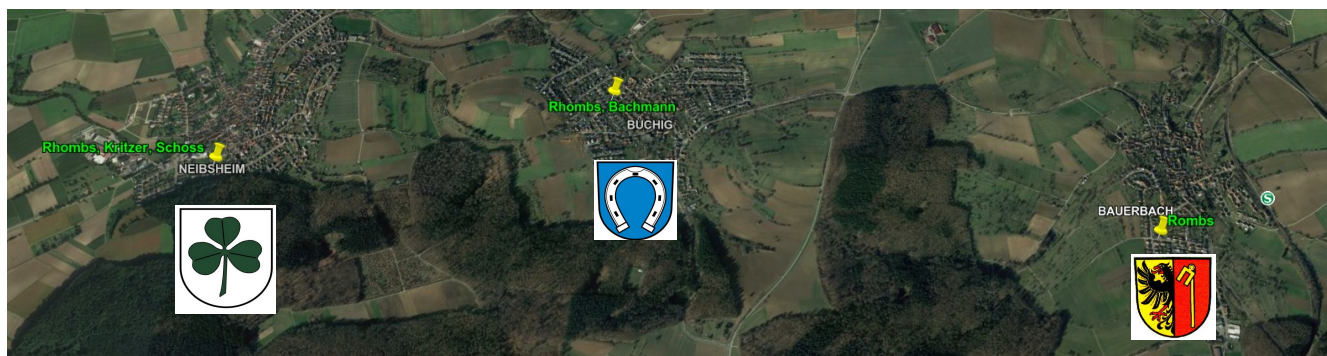
<https://www.bibliotheca-laureshamensis-digital.de/> ;

https://archivum-laureshamense-digital.de/view/saw_mainz72/0001/thumbs



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Neibsheim, Büchig, Bauerbach: The Family of Johann Michael and Katharina (Gritzer) Rhombs



In the Orstfamilienbuch (OFB) for Neibsheim (<https://ofb.genealogy.net/famreport.php?ofb=neibsheim&ID=I20498&nachname=Von%20Rhombs&lang=de>) I found what is so far the earliest record of a whole family unit with the surname Rhombs. It places one Johann Michael (von) Rhombs in Neibsheim with his family. He is a schoolmaster there and in Bauerbach, which is just to the east of Büchig and Neibsheim. See <https://goo.gl/maps/c7gCpV9uT2xY2bo18> for a version of the map above.

Here is an image of the OFB record.

Orstfamilienbuch Neibsheim Familienbericht	
♂ Johann Michael VON RHOMBS	
* 1676 † 19.02.1756 in Neibsheim,....	
Konfession:	
Beruf: Schulmeister von Neibsheim und Bauerbach OFB-Neibsheim-1444	
Ehen / Partnerschaften	Kinder
Ehegatte: ♀ Katharina KRITZER * 1670 † 02.09.1770 in Neibsheim,.... • 1697 in Neibsheim,....	♀ Gertrud VON RHOMBS † 30.03.1741 in Zeutern,.... ♂ Johann VON RHOMBS * 11.03.1712 in Zeutern,.... † 01.06.1738 in Zeutern,.... ♂ Johann Anton VON RHOMBS * 18.06.1714 in Neibsheim,.... † 15.05.1752 in Zeutern,.... ♂ Ferdinand Reinhard VON RHOMBS * 13.10.1717 in Neibsheim,.... † 11.04.1771 in Jockgrim,.... ♀ Maria Anna VON RHOMBS * 25.12.1719 in Neibsheim,.... ♀ Jakobina VON RHOMBS * 24.11.1722 in Neibsheim,....
Eltern	Geschwister
Vater: ♂ Nikolaus RHOMBS † 1680	Keine Geschwister gefunden!
Mutter: ♀ Agathe SCHLOSS	
letzte Änderung: 24.01.2016	

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Johann Michael's parents are indicated to be Nikolaus Rhombs and Agatha Schloss, both of undefined origins. You could speculate that these two people were born some time around the end of the 30 Years War in 1648.

No siblings are shown, but Michael's birth date is 1676, and he is married to Katharina Kritzer/Gritzer in 1697 in Neibsheim. Both are quite long lived, with Katharina reaching 100 years. Interestingly, their first two children are shown to be born in Zeutern, while the birth location for the remaining (4) children is Neibsheim. It is possible then that Michael and Katharina started in Neibsheim, moved to Zeutern, and then returned to Neibsheim. However, I have found no other evidence of their presence in Zeutern.

The list of children has at least one probable error, which I speculate is due to a misinterpretation of the records from which the OFB is built. Six children are listed as follows.

- Gertrude (?-1741)
- Johann (1712-1738)
- Johann Anton (1714-1752)
- Ferdinand Reinhard (1717-1771)
- Maria Anna (1719-?)
- Jakobina (1722-?)

The problem that I see is that the son, Johann, born in 1712 could not have died in 1738, since he is most likely my fifth great grandfather who moved to Oberlauterbach (Alsace). I suggest that the death date is actually the death date for Johann's son, also named Johann. I will explain this later as I follow his life and show that his date of death is 11/26/1786 in Kesseldorf (Alsace).

Turning to the OFB for Zeutern helps us understand the Rhombs/Gritzer family somewhat better. Here is an image of the representation of the family according to this OFB.

```
-----  
3902  ∞ 00.00.1697      in Neibsheim  
Rombs, Johann Michael von  
  * 00.00.1676          + 19.02.1756 , S.29; Nei, 80 J.  
Kritzer, Katharina  
  * 00.00.1670          + 00.00.1770 , S.84 Nei;ca 100  
K i n d e r:  
Gertrud von          *          + 30.03.1741  
Johann von           * 11.03.1712 + 01.06.1738  
∞ 04.02.1732 Neibsheim mit Margaretha Bachmann, S.34  
Johann Anton von    * 13.06.1714 + 15.05.1752  
∞ 03.05.1735 Oberöwisheim mit Regina Lengle, OSB 2270 <3904>  
Ferdinand Reinhard von * 13.10.1717 +  
Maria Anna von      * 25.12.1719 +  
∞ 14.10.1743 Neibsheim mit Georg Karl Reusch  
Jakonina von        * 24.11.1722 +  
-----
```

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Regarding daughter Gertrude, one could speculate that she did not marry and died rather early in life. (I have found nothing further about her.)

The record for Johann shows the same flaw mentioned above. (The OFBs for the two villages were composed by the same person, so this should not be surprising.) It does, however, show that Johann married Margaretha Bachmann in 1732 in Neibsheim.

Johann Anton is shown to have married Regina Lengele in Oberöwisheim in 1735, three years after brother Johann's marriage. They settled in Zeutern and will be discussed later.

No further information is shown for son Ferdinand, however, more will be said in the context of Jockgrim, which is his destination after a short period in Bruchsal.

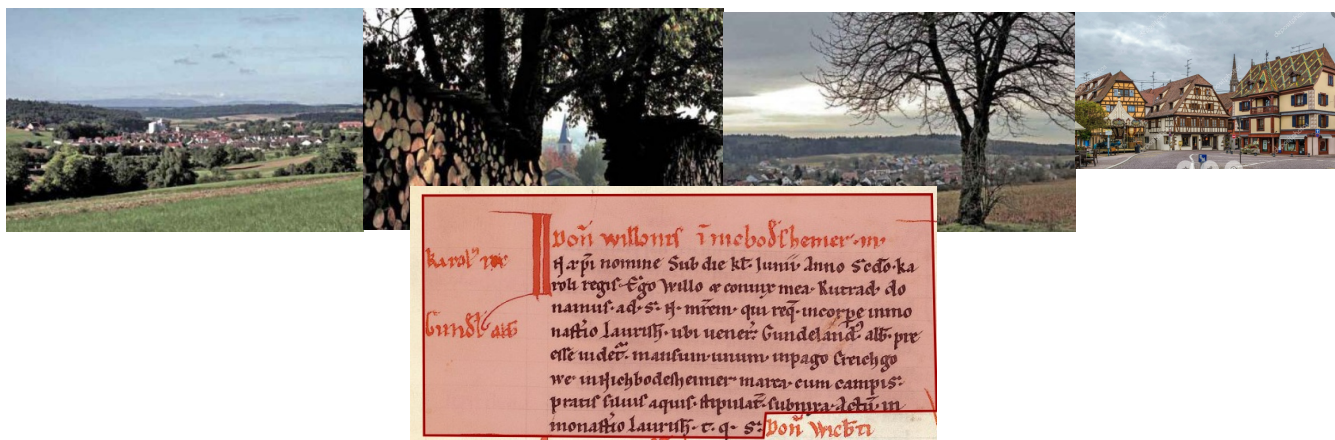
Details for Maria Anna are also missing, but more will be said regarding marriage to Karl Reusch in Neibsheim.

Likewise, this OFB offers nothing new about daughter Jakobina/Jakonina, and I have found nothing further in other sources.

From all of this, it seems safe to assume that Michael and Katharina were in Neibsheim in about 1713, that they lived fairly long lives, and that they must have experienced marriages of offspring as well as deaths. Luckily more details exist about Michael's work as a schoolmaster, and this will be discussed in a later section devoted to education.

Information about Neibsheim (whose existence is documented back to about 770 AD), Bauerbach, Büchig and other villages/districts that compose the "municipality" of Bretten can be found in various places, but the archive for the area is located in Bretten. See <https://www.bretten.de/tourismus-kultur-freizeit/stadtarchiv> . Church records for towns in the area might be found using this list.

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Germany_Baden_Archdiocese_of_Freiburg_im_Breisgau_Catholic_Church_Records_-_Inventory



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

More about individual children follows based on the OFB for Neibsheim. Hints about the Rombs and Schloss progenitors follows as well.

Johann von Rhombs

Here is an image of what is shown in the OFB for Neibsheim regarding my 5th great grandfather, Johann. (See <https://ofb.genealogy.net/famreport.php?ofb=neibsheim&ID=I20789&nachname=Von%20Rhombs&lang=de>)

Ortsfamilienbuch Neibsheim
Familienbericht

♂ **Johann VON RHOMBS**

* 11.03.1712 in Zeutern,,,,
† 01.06.1738 in Zeutern,,,,
Konfession:
OFB-Neibsheim-1445

Ehen / Partnerschaften	Kinder
Ehegatte: ♀ Margaretha BACHMANN † 06.02.1740 in Neibsheim,,,, • 04.02.1732 in Neibsheim,,,,	♂ Johann VON RHOMBS * 21.05.1738 in Neibsheim,,,,, † 01.06.1738 in Neibsheim,,,,

Ehegatte: ♀ Barbara SCHICKEL * 1727 in Oberlauterbach / Seitz / Frankreich,,,, † 20.09.1783 in Kaidenberg / Weisenburg / Seitz / Frankreich,,,, • 23.08.1744	♂ Ludwig ROMBS * 30.04.1763 in Oberlauterbach / Seitz / Frankreich,,,,, † 1814
---	---

Eltern	Geschwister
Vater: ♂ Johann Michael VON RHOMBS * 1676 † 19.02.1756 in Neibsheim,,,,	♀ Gertrud VON RHOMBS † 30.03.1741 in Zeutern,,,, ♂ Johann Anton VON RHOMBS * 18.06.1714 in Neibsheim,,,,, † 15.05.1752 in Zeutern,,,, ♂ Ferdinand Reinhard VON RHOMBS * 13.10.1717 in Neibsheim,,,,, † 11.04.1771 in Jockgrim,,,, ♀ Maria Anna VON RHOMBS * 25.12.1719 in Neibsheim,,,, ♀ Jakobina VON RHOMBS * 24.11.1722 in Neibsheim,,,,
Mutter: ♀ Katharina KRITZER * 1670 † 02.09.1770 in Neibsheim,,,,	

letzte Änderung: 24.01.2016

This record shows that Johann married Magaretha Bachmann in 1732, which is borne out by the following reference. "Deutschland, Baden, Erzbistum Freiburg, katholische Kirchenbücher, 1678-1930," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:WX5V-WSMM> : 17 September 2019), Margaretha Bachmann in entry for Joannes Thombs, 1732; citing Marriage, Neibsheim, Bretten, Baden, Deutschland, , Erzbischöfliches Archiv Freiburg (Archbishop's Archives), Germany.

The couple had a child also named Johann in 1738 who lived only a few days, dying 01-June-1738. It is this death date that I believe has been confused as the death date of his father. See "Deutschland, Baden, Erzbistum Freiburg, katholische Kirchenbücher, 1678-1930," database, *FamilySearch*

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QP3F-W1P2> : 14 May 2018), Joannis Rhombs, ; citing Burial, Neibsheim, Bretten, Baden, Deutschland, , Erzbischöfliches Archiv Freiburg (Archbishop's Archives), Germany.

Margaretha died in 1740, approximately two years after the death of her (first? only?) child. See "Deutschland, Baden, Erzbistum Freiburg, katholische Kirchenbücher, 1678-1930," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QP3F-7XYZ> : 14 May 2018), Joannis Rombs in entry for Margaretha Rombs, ; citing Burial, Neibsheim, Bretten, Baden, Deutschland, , Erzbischöfliches Archiv Freiburg (Archbishop's Archives), Germany.

Evidence provided in the OFB for Zeutern indicates that Johann was a teacher (“Iudimoderator”) in Büchig, not far from Neibsheim. Perhaps the family lived in Neibsheim and Johann made trips to Büchig to run the school. Remember that Johann’s father was schoolmaster at Neibsheim and Bauerbach.

Here is the record for the family in the OFB for Zeutern.

```
-----  
3903   = 04.02.1732   in Neibsheim  
Rombs, Johann von  
  Gamals „von Rhombs“. Ist auch in Büchig als Iudimod. genannt  
Eltern: Rombs                               Kritzer  
        Johannes, Bürger, Lehrer in Nei     Katharina  
        * 00.00.1676                          * 00.00.1670  
Bachmann, Margaretha  
        * . . . . .                          * 06.02.1740 , S. Nei; im Kb  
Eltern: Bachmann  
        Johannes Georg  
        * . . . . .                          * . . . . .  
K i n d e r :  
  N.N.                               * 21.05.1738 + 01.06.1738  
-----
```

This record also indicates that the family name was known alternately as “Rombs” and “von Rhombs.” The child is shown here with no given name.

It is tempting to suppose that Johann’s subsequent relocation to Oberlauterbach in Alsace some time prior to 1744 was at least partly based on the desire for a new beginning after the death of a child in 1738 and wife in 1740. His activities in Alsace are discussed later in a separate subsequent section.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Johann Anton von Rhombs

The OFB for Neibsheim shows the following for the family of Anton. (See <https://ofb.genealogy.net/famreport.php?ofb=neibsheim&ID=I20790&nachname=Von%20Rhombs&lang=de>)

Ortsfamilienbuch Neibsheim
Familienbericht

♂ **Johann Anton VON RHOMBS**

* 18.06.1714 in Neibsheim,,,,,
† 15.05.1752 in Zeutern,,,,,
Konfession:
Beruf: Schulmeister, Gerichtsschreiber 1736-1746
Oberöw-2270

Ehen / Partnerschaften	Kinder
Ehegatte: ♀ Maria Regina LENGELE * 10.08.1711 in Oberöwisheim,,,,, † 25.02.1772 in Zeutern,,,,, • 03.05.1735 in Oberöwisheim,,,,,	Keine Kinder gefunden!

Eltern	Geschwister
Vater: ♂ Johann Michael VON RHOMBS * 1676 † 19.02.1756 in Neibsheim,,,,, Mutter: ♀ Katharina KRITZER * 1670 † 02.09.1770 in Neibsheim,,,,,	♀ Gertrud VON RHOMBS † 30.03.1741 in Zeutern,,,,, ♂ Johann VON RHOMBS * 11.03.1712 in Zeutern,,,,, † 01.06.1738 in Zeutern,,,,, ♂ Ferdinand Reinhard VON RHOMBS * 13.10.1717 in Neibsheim,,,,, † 11.04.1771 in Jockgrim,,,,, ♀ Maria Anna VON RHOMBS * 25.12.1719 in Neibsheim,,,,, ♀ Jakobina VON RHOMBS * 24.11.1722 in Neibsheim,,,,,

letzte Änderung: 22.10.2003

Anton was about 2 years younger than his brother Johann, and he married in 1735 in Oberöwisheim to one Maria Regina Lengele from there. It appears that not long after the marriage, they relocated to Zeutern, where Anton served as schoolmaster and city clerk (from 1736-1746). Anton died in 1752 and Maria Regina died about twenty years later in 1772.

Although this OFB does not list children, the couple actually had a number of children who will be discussed in the section on Zeutern families.

Information about Maria Regina's birth family can be found using the citations that follow.

- "Deutschland, Baden, Erzbistum Freiburg, katholische Kirchenbücher, 1678-1930," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QP3F-XTNS> : 14 May 2018), Maria Regina Lengel, ; citing Baptism, Oberöwisheim, Bruchsal, Baden, Deutschland, , Erzbischöfliches Archiv Freiburg (Archbishop's Archives), Germany.
- <https://www.ortsfamilienbuecher.de/famreport.php?ofb=neibsheim&ID=I21127&nachname=HOLLER&lang=lt>

More will be said about this Rombs family in the section about Zeutern families.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Ferdinand Reinhard von Rhombs

The OFB for Neibsheim shows the following for the family of Ferdinand. (See <https://ofb.genealogy.net/famreport.php?ofb=neibsheim&ID=I20792&nachname=Von%20Rhombs&lang=de>)

Ortsfamilienbuch Neibsheim Familienbericht	
♂ Ferdinand Reinhard VON RHOMBS * 13.10.1717 in Neibsheim,,,, † 11.04.1771 in Jockgrim,,,, Konfession: rk Beruf: Lehrer OFB-Neibsheim-1446, OFB-Bruchsal-27828	
Ehen / Partnerschaften	Kinder
Ehegatte: ♀ Eva Margaretha MERZ * 01.05.1722 in Bruchsal / BW,,,, ◦ 07.02.1741 (kirchlich) in Bruchsal / BW,,,,	♀ Maria Ursula RHOMBS * 13.12.1740 in Bruchsal / BW,,,, ♀ Anna Katharina RHOMBS * 07.10.1745 in Neibsheim,,,, † 17.11.1745 in Neibsheim,,,, ♀ Katharina Agathe RHOMBS * um 1746 ♀ Maria Magdalena RHOMBS * 12.12.1747 in Jockgrim,,,, ♀ Maria Klara RHOMBS * 1748
Eltern	Geschwister
Vater: ♂ Johann Michael VON RHOMBS * 1676 † 19.02.1756 in Neibsheim,,,,	♀ Gertrud VON RHOMBS † 30.03.1741 in Zeutern,,,, ♂ Johann VON RHOMBS * 11.03.1712 in Zeutern,,,, † 01.06.1738 in Zeutern,,,, ♂ Johann Anton VON RHOMBS * 18.06.1714 in Neibsheim,,,, † 15.05.1752 in Zeutern,,,, ♀ Maria Anna VON RHOMBS * 25.12.1719 in Neibsheim,,,, ♀ Jakobina VON RHOMBS * 24.11.1722 in Neibsheim,,,,
Mutter: ♀ Katharina KRITZER * 1670 † 02.09.1770 in Neibsheim,,,,	

letzte Änderung: 28.07.2020

This record indicates that Ferdinand was also a teacher (lehrer), but it does not indicate a location.

When he was about 22 years old, he must have encountered Eva Margaretha Merz since they had a child (Maria Ursula) in 1740, a few months before marrying in Bruchsal in 1741. Subsequent daughters were born in Neibsheim and Jockgrim. Bruchsal was a somewhat larger place than Neibsheim so perhaps Ferdinand taught there for a while (4-5 years) before relocating to Neibsheim and then Jockgrim.

Eva Margaretha's parents were Sebastian and Maria. Supporting records follow.

- Birth: "Deutschland, Baden, Erzbistum Freiburg, katholische Kirchenbücher, 1678-1930," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QP3F-3TRS> : 14 May 2018), Eva Margaretha Mertz, ; citing Baptism, Bruchsal, Baden, Deutschland, , Erzbischöfliches Archiv Freiburg (Archbishop's Archives), Germany.
- Marriage: "Deutschland, Baden, Erzbistum Freiburg, katholische Kirchenbücher, 1678-1930," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:WXPP-62ZM> : 17 September 2019), Eva

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Margaretha Merz in entry for Ferdinandus Rombs, 7 Feb 1741; citing Marriage, Bruchsal, Bruchsal, Baden, Deutschland, , Erzbischöfliches Archiv Freiburg (Archbishop's Archives), Germany.

More will be said about this Rhombs family in the section devoted to Jockgrim.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Maria Anna von Rhombs

The OFB for Neibsheim shows the following information for Maria Anna. (See <https://ofb.genealogy.net/famreport.php?ofb=neibsheim&ID=I20792&nachname=Von%20Rhombs&lang=de>)

Ortsfamilienbuch Neibsheim
Familienbericht

♀ Maria Anna VON RHOMBS
* 25.12.1719 in Neibsheim,,,,
Konfession:
OFB-Neibsheim-1431

Ehen / Partnerschaften	Kinder
Ehegatte: ♂ Georg Karl REUSCH in Her...weiler,,,, • 14.10.1743 in Neibsheim,,,,	♂ Johann Michael REUSCH * 08.08.1744 in Neibsheim,,,,
Eltern	Geschwister
Vater: ♂ Johann Michael VON RHOMBS * 1676 † 19.02.1756 in Neibsheim,,,,	♀ Gertrud VON RHOMBS † 30.03.1741 in Zeutern,,,, ♂ Johann VON RHOMBS * 11.03.1712 in Zeutern,,,,, † 01.06.1738 in Zeutern,,,, ♂ Johann Anton VON RHOMBS * 18.06.1714 in Neibsheim,,,,, † 15.05.1752 in Zeutern,,,, ♂ Ferdinand Reinhard VON RHOMBS * 13.10.1717 in Neibsheim,,,,, † 11.04.1771 in Jockgrim,,,, ♀ Jakobina VON RHOMBS * 24.11.1722 in Neibsheim,,,,
Mutter: ♀ Katharina KRITZER * 1670 † 02.09.1770 in Neibsheim,,,,	

letzte Änderung: 24.01.2016

The OSB for Zeutern reveals somewhat more information regarding the Reusch family. -

```

-----
3813  = 00.00.1743    in Neibsheim
Reusch, Matthäus
*      aus Herxenweiler      +
PLZ 76853 Herxheimweyer ?
Rombs, Anna Maria von
* 25.12.1719 , S.460 Neibsheim +
damals „Rhombsin“
Eltern: Rombs                                Kritzer
        Johs Michael, Bürger in Nei        Katharina
        * 00.00.1676                        *
K i n d e r :
        Georg Karl                          *
        = 14.10.1743 in Neibsheim mit  <? 3814>
-----
  
```



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Other than the evidence shown so far, I have found nothing further regarding this (Reusch) family. The OFB for Neibsheim offers a few possible leads, but none look promising. -

There is (a) similar person(s) in the OFB Ulmer Land!
Georg REUSCH * around 1530

There is (a) similar person(s) in the OFB Beutelsbach!
Johann Georg REUSCH * April 17, 1824 in Neuhausen (Erms)

There is (a) similar person(s) in OFB Schriesheim!
(7814) Hans Georg REUSCH

There is (a) similar person(s) in the OFB Lang-Göns!
Conrad Karl REUSCH * July 8th, 1870 in Lang-Göns, † November 23rd, 1870 in Lang-Göns
Joh. Georg REUSCH * November 16, 1719 in Lang-Göns, † May 12, 1768 in Lang-Göns
Karl REUSCH * March 18, 1885 in Lang-Göns
Karl REUSCH * November 5th, 1902 in Lang-Göns, † April 19th, 1903 in Lang-Göns

There is (a) similar person(s) in OFB Hickengrund!
Georg REUSCH
Georg REUSCH * in Wehbach-Jungenthal
Georg Friedrich REUSCH * November 12, 1671 in Siegen
Georg Peter REUSCH * January 28, 1711 in Liebenscheid

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The Parents of Johann Michael Rombs

While searching the Jockgrim OFB, I was pleasantly surprised to discover additional information about Nikolaus and Agatha that was not in the Neibsheim OFB. The Jockgrim reference shows the following for the Rombs/Schloss family.

2570 **ROMBS (ROMBBER)**, Nikolaus, */~ in Franken. Beruf: Gehilfe und Bürger, † am 27.06.1712 in Jockgrim. Verbindung: oo am 10.02.1698 (sie Wwe Math. Brüllhart aus der Schweiz) in Jockgrim mit **SCHLOß (SCHLOßIN)**, Agatha, */~ ebd., Weitere Familie: (0349).

Here is a translation that reveals the additional hints the text provides.

“ROMBS (ROMBBER), Nicholas, */~ in Franconia. Profession: assistant and citizen, died on June 27th, 1712 in Jockgrim.

Connection: oo on February 10, 1698 (she Wwe Math. Brüllhart from Switzerland) in Jockgrim with SCHLOß (SCHLOßIN), Agatha, */~“ ibid., Further family: (0349).”

This information is doubtless based on some church record(s) that the Jockgrim OFB author has found and that escaped the author of the OFB reference for Neibsheim. It reveals a more complete story that includes a specific date of death for Nikolas (27-June-1712 in Jockgrim), a profession as an “assistant” and citizen of Jockgrim. And, the record also says that Nikolas was from Franconia! This is the only current instance of a hint at deeper origins of the Rombs name. However, this may not be of much help because Franconia is a large area that encompassed Jockgrim and Neibsheim and many locations to the north and east.



His marriage to Agatha (a widow) took place on 10-February-1698 in Jockgrim. She had been married (before 1692 in Jockgrim) to Mathias Brillhardt/Brüllhardt, who was from Switzerland and who died sometime before 1692. Their one son was born before 1692 as well. This means that Agatha was living in Jockgrim prior to her marriage to Mathias. The Schloss family name is well represented in Jockgrim, so she possibly is associated with one of those families. Also, her marriage to Nikolas appears to post-date the birth of Johann Michael Rombs in 1676 by many years. Perhaps Agatha was not Johann Michael’s mother, or perhaps the birth date for Johann Michael is incorrect. For now, my

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

proposal is that Johann Michael's birth date is correct (since it is consistent with that of his wife) and that he is the son of Nikolas and some other, as yet unidentified woman.









The scant information means that more extensive research is warranted. Having said this, however, there are some hints about the Rombs name from earlier times in places farther downstream in the Rhein River. These hints may lead to the origin of Nikolas. See the last section (page 143) of this document.

The Parents of Katharina Gritzer

Information about Katharina's parents is lacking. There are eight other Gritzers listed in the Neibsheim OFB, but it is not clear that she is related to any. Here is the list from the OFB. (See <https://ofb.genealogy.net/namelist.php?nachname=GRITZER&ofb=neibsheim&modus=&lang=de> .)

Ortsfamilienbuch Neibsheim Personenliste

Es sind 8 Personen mit dem Namen GRITZER in dieser Datenbank enthalten.

GRITZER, Christan * 1749 in Büchig/Bretten,,,,, † 10.04.1797 in Büchig/Bretten,,,,, 
GRITZER, Johann Martin ~ 01.03.1693 in Neibsheim,,,,, 
GRITZER, Margaretha ~ in Büchig,,,,, † 26.03.1790 in Neibsheim,,,,, 
GRITZER, Margaretha * 06.03.1789 in Neibsheim,,,,, † 02.12.1856 in Neibsheim,,,,, 
GRITZER, Maria Anna * 01.05.1775 in Neibsheim,,,,, † 27.02.1840 in Neibsheim,,,,, 
GRITZER, Maria Anna Elisabeth * 15.10.1776 in Neibsheim,,,,, † 14.09.1778 in Neibsheim,,,,, 
GRITZER, Matthae 
GRITZER, Nikolaus * in Büchig,,,,, 

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Zeutern and Oberöwisheim Families

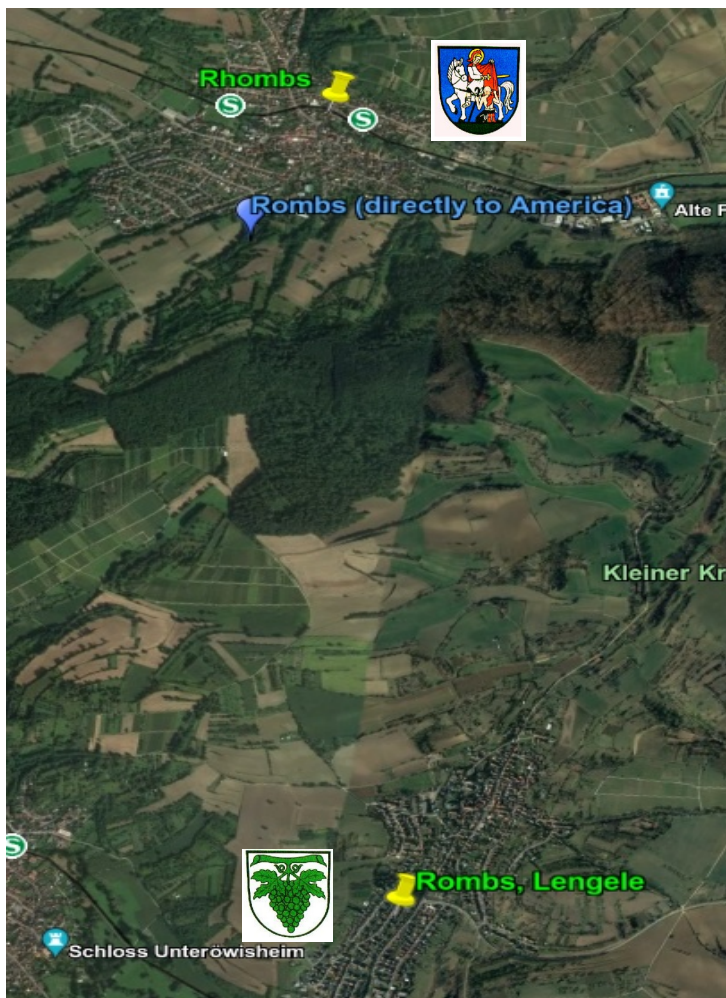
These towns form a loose cluster of towns just to the northwest of Neibsheim. Zeutern is about 20 km from Neibsheim by road.

From the OFB for Neibsheim it has previously been shown that, in spite of having been married in Neibsheim, Johannes and Katharina (Kritzer) Rombs may have spent some time in Zeutern, where their first son may have been born. There are apparent logical problems with this information, however, so the most that can be said now is that their family may have spent some time in Zeutern between 1697 (marriage in Neibsheim) and 1714 (when son Johann Anton was born in Neibsheim). I have found no evidence for the presence of the Rombs/Rhombs name in this area for a couple of hundred years prior to the early 1700s.

What is clear (from the OFB for Zeutern) is that one son (Johann Anton) married a lady from Oberöwisheim and ultimately took a job as schoolmaster and clerk in Zeutern after having a similar position in Oberöwisheim. This section is mainly devoted to their family and descendants, one of whom I believe emigrated to America.

Some interesting historical references exist for Zeutern. One can be found using the url that follows.

<https://heimatverein-ubstadt-weiher.de/zeutern/zeuterner-oelberg-ein-faszinierendes-kleinod-mit-500-jaehriger-geschichte/>



See <https://goo.gl/maps/VsSa1mvfAKrF5hZe9>.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

More about the village of Zeutern, which is part of the “municipality” of Ubstadt-Weiher, can be found at places like . . .

- https://www.ubstadt-weiher.de/site/Ubstadt-Weiher-2018/get/params_E-808276441/2129593/Ortsrundgang%20Zeutern.pdf
- <https://www.kirche-forst-ubstadt.de/ueber-uns/st-martin-zeutern/marienkapelle/>
- <https://www.ubstadt-weiher.de/Ubstadt-Weiher/startseite/familie+und+freizeit/tourismus.html>
- <https://heimatverein-ubstadt-weiher.de/>
- <https://heimatverein-ubstadt-weiher.de/zeutern/zeutern-chronik/>
- <https://memim.com/ubstadt-weiher.html>

Oberöwisheim is part (district) of the “municipality” of Kraichtal. Both Zeutern and Oberöwisheim are known for viticulture. Information about Oberöwisheim and Kraichtal can be found at places like the following.

- <https://www.kraichtal.de/gb/culture>
- <https://goo.gl/maps/96trfa8bXMXEwpCi7>



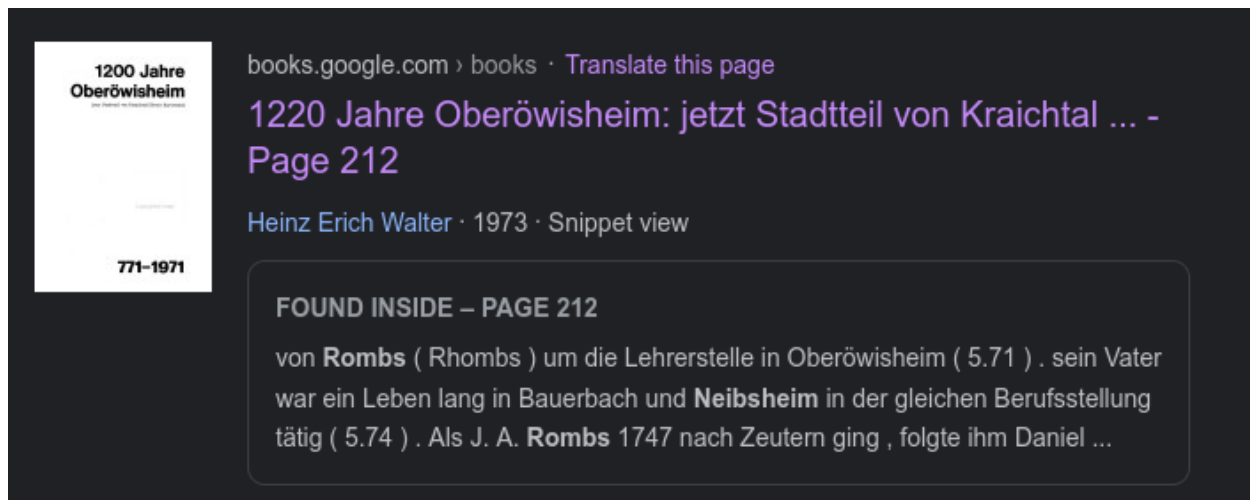
Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The Family of Johann Anton and Maria Regina (Lengle/Lengele) Rombs

The following reference mentions Anton in Oberöwisheim, and it indicates when he took a teaching position in Zeutern.

1220 Jahre Oberöwisheim: jetzt Stadtteil von Kraichtal (Kreis Karlsruhe) : das Ortsbuch von Oberöwisheim :771-1971, by Heinz Erich Walter

On page 212 of this book, Anton is mentioned as follows according to Google (https://www-google-com.translate.goog/books/edition/_/8FcbAAAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=neibsheim+rombs&bsq=neibsheim+rombs&x_tr_sl=de&x_tr_tl=en&x_tr_hl=en-US&x_tr_pto=sc).



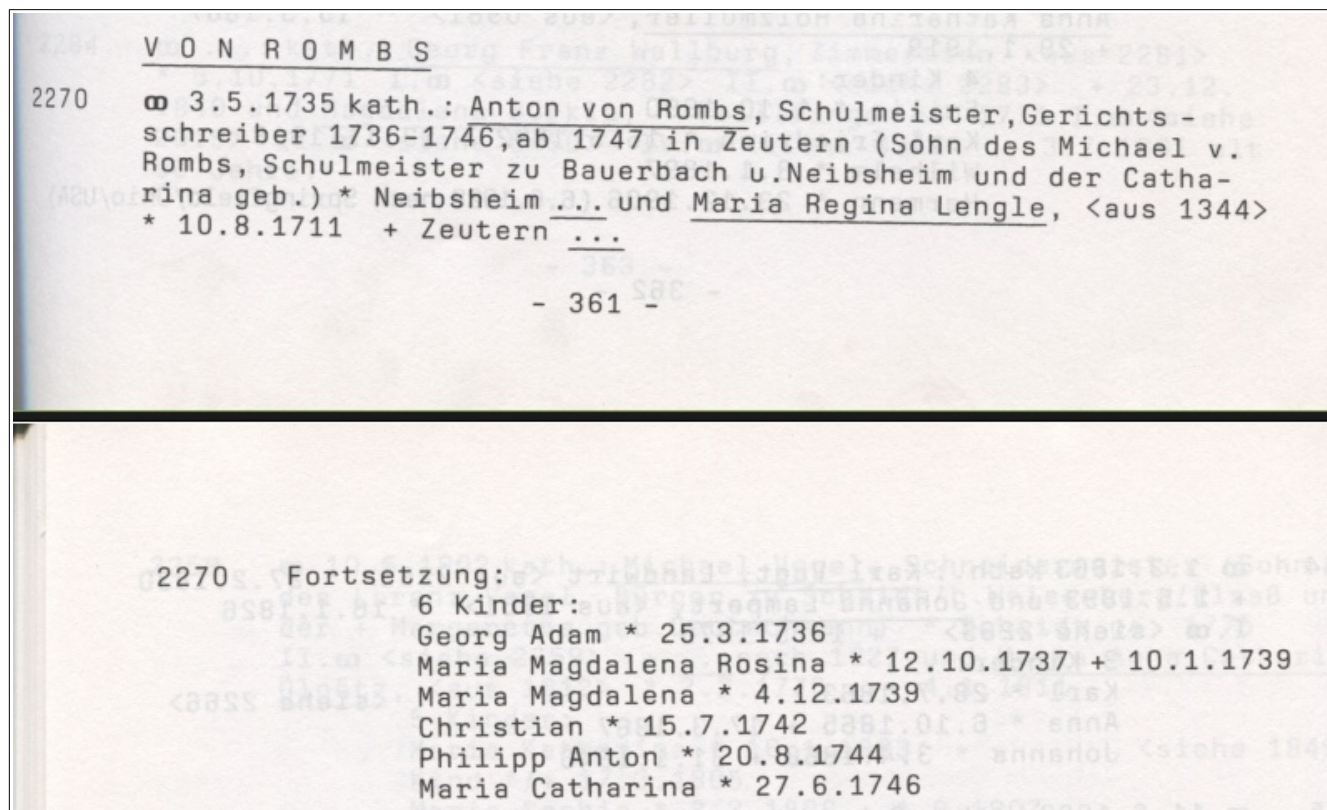
The image shows a screenshot of a Google Translate snippet from a book page. On the left is a book cover titled "1200 Jahre Oberöwisheim" with the subtitle "das Ortsbuch von Oberöwisheim :771-1971". The main text of the snippet reads: "books.google.com > books · Translate this page", "1220 Jahre Oberöwisheim: jetzt Stadtteil von Kraichtal ... - Page 212", "Heinz Erich Walter · 1973 · Snippet view", and "FOUND INSIDE – PAGE 212". The text continues: "von Rombs (Rhombs) um die Lehrerstelle in Oberöwisheim (5.71) . sein Vater war ein Leben lang in Bauerbach und Neibsheim in der gleichen Berufsstellung tätig (5.74) . Als J. A. Rombs 1747 nach Zeutern ging , folgte ihm Daniel ...".

Translated: “. . . von Rombs (Rhombs) for the teaching position in Oberöwisheim (5.71) . his father worked in the same job in Bauerbach and Neibsheim all his life (5.74). When J. A. Rombs went to Zeutern in 1747, he was followed by Daniel...”

So here we have a bit of a timeline for Anton. Namely, marriage in Oberöwisheim in 1735 at the age of 21, working there until 1747, at which time relocation to Zeutern takes place.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

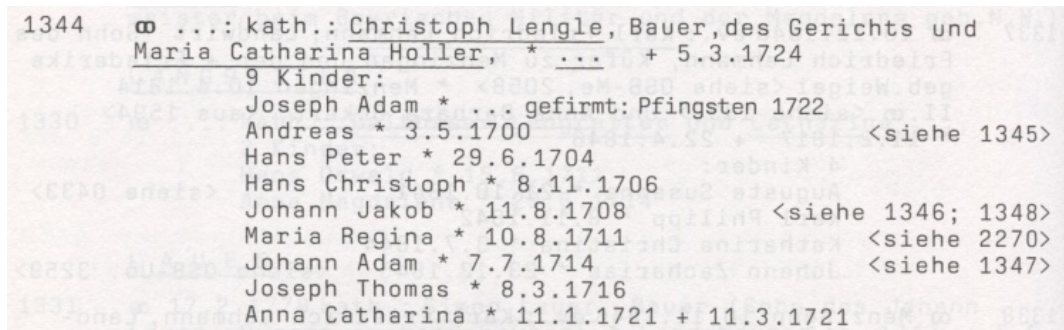
The somewhat newer OSB for Oberöwisheim holds the following entry for Anton and his family.



This reference tells much the same story – marriage in 1735 to Maria Regina Lengle and six subsequent children born in Oberöwisheim. It confirms that Anton was a schoolmaster as well as court clerk from 1736-1746 in Oberöwisheim until he moved on Zeutern in 1747.

Note that later I will present evidence that the fifth child (Phillip Anton) established a line that produced another Rombs person (Andreas b.1853) who relocated to America in 1872 and lived in Michigan and Ohio.

Regina's birth family is depicted below.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The OSB for Zeutern shows the following information for the family of Regina and Anton.

3904	∞	03.05.1735	in Oberöwisheim	
		Rombs, Anton von		Eltern: <3902>
		* 13.06.1714 , S.8 Neibsheim		+ 15.05.1752 , S.36,2; 36 J.
		damals „de Rombs“		
		Lengle, Regina		
		* 10.08.1711 , OSB 1344 O'öw.		+ 25.02.1772 , S.32,9; ca 50 J.
		damals „Längle“		
		Eltern: Lengle		Holler
		Christoph, Bauer, des Gerichts		Maria Catharina
		* . . . ,Oberöwisheim ?		* . . . , + 5.,3.1724 Oö

K i n d e r:				
		Georg Adam von		* 25.03.1736 + 20.09.1814
	∞	21.07.1766 in Zeutern mit Magdalena Götz, S.18,2	<? 3906>	
		Maria Magdalena Rosina von		* 12.10.1737 + 10.01.1739
		Maria Magdalena von		* 04.12.1739 +
		Christian von		* 15.07.1742 +
		Philipp Anton		* 20.08.1744 + 24.05.1825
	∞	16.04.1771 mit Clara Gripp (Grub ?), S.28,1	<? 3907,>	
		Maria Catharina von		* 27.06.1746 +
		Johann Franz Burcard Jacob von		* 19.02.1748 + 24.01.1829
	∞	00.00.1800 mit Maria Salome Obermajer	<3910>	
		Eva Elisabetha von		* 06.05.1749 + 22.10.1750
		Maria Elisabetha		* 07.11.1750 + 05.05.1753
		Maria Theresia		* 15.05.1752 + 19.08.1752

Ten children are listed, some (6) born in Oberöwisheim and the others in Zeutern. Anton was “Schulmeister, Gerichtsschreiber 1736-1746” (schoolmaster and court clerk) according to the OFB for Neibsheim. All of this confirms the information in the OSB mentioned above.

In Zeutern, Anton and Regina enlarged their family. Some details of the Rombs/Lengle family follow.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Descendants of Anton and Regina

Following is a five generation list of the descendants of Anton and Regina, showing the extent of what I have found thus far. Information for their great-great grandson, Andreas, noted above is highlighted.

1. Rombs, Johann Anton (bap. 1714-06-13 - Neibsheim, Bretten, Karlsruhe, Germany, d. 1752-05-15 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
sp. Lengele Lenge, Maria Regina (b. 1711-08-10 - Oberöwisheim, Baden, Germany, d. 1772-02-25 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany), m. 1735-05-13 - Oberöwisheim, Baden, Germany
 2. Rombs, Georg Adam (b. 1736-03-25 - Oberöwisheim, Baden, Germany, d. 1814-09-20 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
sp. Gaetz Götz Gätz, Magdalena (b. 1738, bur. 1805-02-15 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany), m. 1766-07-21 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany
 3. Rombs, Catharina Barbara Gertrude (b. 1766-11-15 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1769-02-27 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 3. Rombs, Johann Georg (b. 1769-11-18 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1779-09-03 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 3. Rombs, Maria Catharina (b. 1772-05-28 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1775-02-08 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 3. Rombs, Johann Georg Adam (b. 1775-02-16 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1814-12-23 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 3. Rombs, Anna Catharina (b. 1777-02-26 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1855-06-09 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
sp. Kunz, Johann Adam (b. 1777, d. 1839), m. 1802
 3. Rombs, Eva Margaretha (b. 1780-10-28 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1805-12-06 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
sp. Reiser, Johann Michael Rochus (b. 1778-08-27 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1839-12-05 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany), m. 1805-06-04 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany
 2. Rombs, Maria Magdalena Rosina (b. 1737-10-12 - Oberöwisheim, Baden, Germany, d. 1739-01-10 - Oberöwisheim, Baden, Germany)
 2. Rombs, Maria Magdalena (b. 1739-12-04 - Oberöwisheim, Baden, Germany)
 2. Rombs, Christian (b. 1742-07-15 - Oberöwisheim, Baden, Germany)
 2. Rombs, Philipp Anton (b. 1744-08-20 - Oberöwisheim, Baden, Germany, d. 1825-05-24 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
sp. Kripp Gripp, Maria Clara (b. 1746-01-31 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany), m. 1771-04-16 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany
 3. Rombs, Christoph Anton (b. 1772-01-17 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, bur. 1814-06-04 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
sp. Werner, Barbara (b. 1770 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, bur. 1828-04-03 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 4. Rombs, Franz Georg (bap. 1800-12-13 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1850-04-24 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 4. Rombs, Catharina Theresia (bap. 1805-04-08 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, bur. 1865-06-02 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 4. Rombs, Eva Catharina (b. 1808-06-18 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, bur. 1810-02-12 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

4. Rombs, Johann Anton (b. 1811-01-18 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1811-08-01 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
4. Rombs, Anna Eva (b. 1812-04-07 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, bur. 1813-01-12 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
4. Rombs, Franz (b. 1813-12-11 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1816-08-29 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
3. Rombs, Maria Anna (b. 1773-08-24 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, bur. 1773-09-05 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
3. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1774-11-10 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1813-12-30 - Odenheim, Baden, Germany)
sp. , Katharina Franziska (b. 1778-12-21 - Odenheim, Baden, Germany, d. 1815-04-22 - Odenheim, Baden, Germany), m. 1798-09-18 - Odenheim, Baden, Germany)
 4. Rombs, Franziska (b. 1799-07-05 - Odenheim, Baden, Germany, d. 1799-07-12 - Odenheim, Baden, Germany)
3. Rombs, Margaretha (b. 1776-11-28 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, bur. 1789-05-09 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
3. Rombs, Johann Anton (b. 1779-09-21 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1834-09-30 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
sp. Huber, Maria Anna (b. 1787-12-31 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, bur. 1852-05-01 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany), m. 1809 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 4. Rombs, Maria Francisca (b. 1809-01-28 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1848-10-25 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 4. Rombs, Johann Georg (b. 1811-05-31 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, bur. 1820-01-14 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 4. Rombs, Johann Adam (b. 1813-08-26 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, bur. 1820-01-20 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 4. Rombs, Georg Anton (b. 1815-12-29 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1852-10-21)
 4. Rombs, Johann Anton (b. 1816, bur. 1817-03-17 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 4. Rombs, Georg Anton (b. 1818-02-01 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1852-10-21 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 4. Rombs, Johann Georg (b. 1820-11-04 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1825-05-25 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 4. Rombs, Maria Theresia (b. 1822-12-09 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1896-04-15 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 4. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1826-06-17 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1888-06-13 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
sp. Reiser, Margaretha (b. 1824, d. 1898-02-19 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany), m. 1848-11-16 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 5. Rombs, Maria Anna (b. 1849-04-26 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1852-10-23 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 5. Rombs, Veronika (bap. 1850-11-09 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
 5. Rombs von Rombs, Andreas (b. 1853-04-14 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1933-01-13 - Detroit, Wayne, Michigan)
sp. Segowitz, Margaret (b. 1857-11-14 - Baden, Germany, d. 1928-04-05 - Ohio), m. 1878-05-26 - Wayne, Michigan

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

5. Rombs, Theresia (b. 1855-05-14 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1952-11-23 - Wayne, Michigan)
5. Rombs, Monika (bap. 1858-04-22 - Boxberg, Baden, Germany)
5. Rombs, Rosa (b. 1866-03-29 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1941-08-30)
4. Rombs, Katharina Barbara (b. 1829-05-15 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
3. Rombs, Johann Nicolaus (b. 1781-12-06 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
3. Rombs, Johann Jacob (b. 1785-01-28 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
2. Rombs, Maria Catharina (b. 1746-06-25 - Oberöwisheim, Baden, Germany)
2. Rombs, Johann Franz Burcard Jacob (b. 1749-02-19 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1829-01-24 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
sp. Obermeyer, Maria Salome (b. 1760-01-17 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1837-10-16 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
2. Rombs, Eva Elizabetha (b. 1749-05-06 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1750-10-22 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
2. Rombs, Maria Elizabetha (b. 1750-11-07 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1753-05-05 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)
2. Rombs, Maria Therisia (b. 1752-05-15 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1752-08-19 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany)

You can see that I have concentrated on the descendants of son Philipp Anton since it is his great grandson, Andreas, who emigrates to America. This solves a mystery that presented itself to me years ago when I first encountered records in the USA for Andreas. I wondered if he could be a relative, but none of the descendants that I was able to contact had enough information to shed any light on this. Furthermore, I have not found a male descendant of Andreas to confirm with certainty that I have represented this aspect of the Rombs lines correctly, For now, this is my best estimate.

Example records from the USA regarding Andreas can be found transcribed here.-

- "Michigan Death Certificates, 1921-1952," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KFHH-PP7> : 13 March 2018), Andrew Rumbs, 13 Jan 1933; citing Detroit, Wayne, Michigan, United States, Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics, Lansing; FHL microfilm 1,973,008. .
- "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X792-CGQ> : accessed 7 February 2022), Andrew Rumbs, Detroit (Districts 0251-0500), Wayne, Michigan, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 404, sheet 2A, line 14, family 24, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1048; FHL microfilm 2,340,783.
- "Michigan Marriages, 1822-1995", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FZ9C-HYJ> : 17 January 2020), Andrew Rumbs, 1901.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

- "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MLT2-PDJ> : accessed 8 February 2022), Andrew V Rombs, Detroit Ward 7, Wayne, Michigan, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 323, sheet 5B, family 94, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 683; FHL microfilm 1,374,696.
- "Michigan Marriages, 1822-1995", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FZ9C-HYJ> : 17 January 2020), Andrew Rombs, 1901.
- "United States Census, 1880," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MW3R-TBQ> : 13 January 2022), Andrew Romba, Detroit, Wayne, Michigan, United States; citing enumeration district , sheet , NARA microfilm publication T9 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), FHL microfilm .
- "Michigan Marriages, 1868-1925," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N3DL-N3X> : 8 February 2022), Andrew Van Romper and Margareta Legowitz, 26 May 1878; citing Marriage, Detroit, Wayne, Michigan, , Citing Secretary of State, Department of Vital Records, Lansing; FHL microfilm 4207607.

Here is the marriage of his sister, Veronica. -

- "Michigan Marriages, 1822-1995", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FCC6-3HC> : 18 February 2021), Veronica Rombs in entry for Wilhelm Wurze, 1880.

Here is the marriage of his daughter, Veronica. -

- "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2016", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XZ18-M7F> : 29 September 2021), Bernard Mertens and Veronica Rombs, 1904.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Returning to the OSB for Zeutern, here are the records of families that lead from Philipp Anton to great grandson Andreas.

3907 ∞ 16.04.1771
 Rombs, Philipp von
 * 20.08.1744 , OSB 2270 Oöw + 24.05.1825 , S.190,18
 Eltern: Rombs Lengle
 Johannes Anton von Regina
 * 13.06.1714 Neibsheim * 10.08.1711 O'öwisheim
 Eltern: <1464>
 Grub, Maria Clara +
 * 31.01.1746 , S.138,3
 damals „Grüb, Kripp“

K i n d e r:

Christoph Anton von * 17.01.1772 + 04.06.1814
 ∞ 00.00.1800 mit Barbara (Kath.) Werner <3909>
 Maria Anna von * 24.08.1773 + 27.09.1873
 Johannes von * 10.11.1774 + 30.12.1813

∞ 18.09.1798 Odenheim mit Katharina Franziska Wormer, OSB 4596 <3908>
 Eva Margaretha von * 28.11.1776 + 09.05.1789
 Johann Anton von * 21.09.1779 + 30.09.1834

∞ 00.00.1809 mit Maria Anna Huber <3911>
 Johannes Nicolaus von * 06.12.1781 +
 Johannes Jacobus von * 28.01.1785 +

1. ∞ 02.09.1810 Waibstadt mit Magdalena Conradt, Nr.5 <3912>
 2. ∞ 19.07.1812 „ „ Katharina Krehnin, Nr.9 <3913>



3911 ∞ 00.00.1809
 Rombs, Anton von Eltern: <3907>
 * 21.09.1779 , S.128,4 + 30.09.1834 , S.308,38
 zuvor „Roms“

Huber, Maria Anna Eltern: <2130>
 * 31.12.1787 , S.24,114 + 01.05.1852 , S.103,16

K i n d e r:

Maria Francisca von * 28.01.1809 + 25.10.1848
 ∞ 21.10.1830 mit Johann Martin Kunz, S.120,8 <2737>
 Johann Georg von * 31.05.1811 + 14.01.1820
 Johann Adam von * 26.08.1813 + 20.01.1820
 Georg Anton von * 29.12.1815 + 21.10.1852
 Georg Anton von * 11.02.1818 + 21.10.1852

∞ 30.1.1845 in Neuenbürg mit Helena Loes, S.232,3 <k.g.>
 Johann Georg von * 04.11.1820 + 25.05.1825
 Maria Theresia von * 09.12.1822 + 15.04.1896

∞ 05.10.1847 mit Jakob Reiser, S.248,11 <3758>
 Johannes von * 17.06.1826 + 13.06.1888

∞ 16.11.1848 mit Margaretha Reiser, S.253,9 <3920>
 Kath.Barbara von * 15.05.1829 +

∞ . . in ? mit Friedrich Stitz zu Mergentheim <k.g.>



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

3920	∞	16.11.1848			
		Rombs, Johannes		Eltern: <3911>	
		* 17.06.1826	, S.86,28	+ 13.06.1888	, S.287,21
		damals „Von Roms“			
		Reiser, Margaretha		Eltern: <3727>	
		* 03.02.1824	, S.48,4	+ 19.02.1898	, S.391,7
		K i n d e r:			
		Anna von		* 26.04.1849	+ 23.10.1852
		Veronika von		* 09.11.1850	+
		Andreas von		* 14.04.1853	+
		Theresia von		* 14.05.1855	+
		Monika von		* 22.04.1858	+
		Rosa von		* 29.03.1866	+ 30.08.1941
		1.∞ 29.05.1884	mit Ferdinand Schmitt, S.242,6	<? 4453,>	
		2.∞ 06.05.1902	mit Richard Fuchs	<k.g.>	



Interestingly, the Zeutern 1200 book lists another set of Rombs people who emigrated from Zeutern to America in the second half of the 19th century. These appear to be different than Andreas, so more research is required to sort out their true identities and destinations. Translated excerpts from pages 269 and 272 follow to illustrate the information provided.

In 1852 there were again nine Zeuterners who were drawn to North America. By Rombs, Florentine; Johann Reiser, Wilhelm Michenfelder, Andreas Ochs, Salome Schmitt, Dominik Schlichter (born April 16, 1832), Karl Meister, single, shoemaker, 20 years old. Andreas Schmitt, 20 1/2 years old, emigrated to North America on May 24, 1852, and in the same year Andreas Seithel wanted to make an experimental trip across the continent (North America).

...

Emigrated to America in the same year: Jakob von Rombs (unmarried), Ida Zimmerer (born November 2, 1844), Heinrich Zimmerer (born December 1, 1843), Georg Zimmerer (born August 3, 1842), Elisabeth Reiser and Lukas Michenfelder (born August 20, 1842), who left Zeutern on May 29, 1866.

Perhaps Jakob von Rombs is the son of Franz Georg von Rombs. He would have been about 22 in 1866.

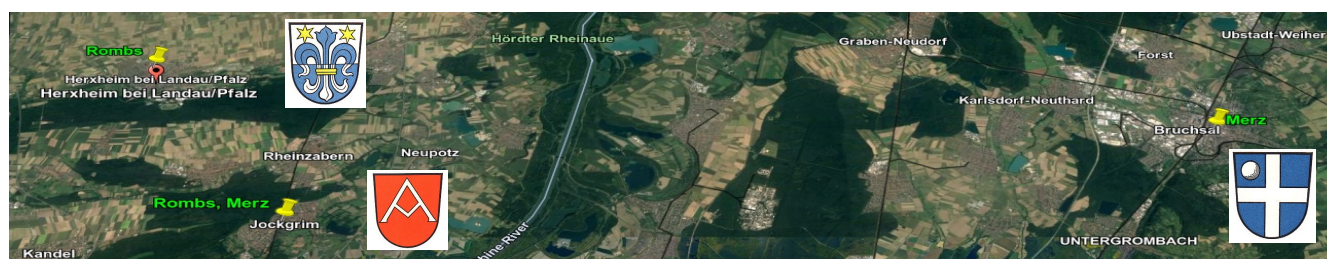
Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Bruchsal, Herxheim, and Jockgrim Families

Bruchsal is part of an administrative association that includes Büchenau, Heidelshiem, Helmsheim, Obergrombach and Untergrombach as well as Bruchsal.

Herxheim is west of Bruchsal, about mid-way between Jockgrim and Landau in an area known as the Hayna District.

Jockgrim is part of the “Verbandsgemeinde (VG) Jockgrim, Germersheim county, Rhineland-Palatinate”, which is a kind of administrative association of municipalities consisting of Hatzenbühl, Jockgrim, Neupotz, and Rheinzabern.



As far as I can tell, there is no relationship between Bruchsal and the villages west of the Rhein. I suspect that the whole area was “governed” from an ecclesiastical point of view from Speyer. That may be the only commonality. Somehow Ferdinand must have found a perceived better situation across the river, but there is also the possibility that his grandfather, Nikolas, retained some connections there. Use this link to bring up a map of the area - <https://goo.gl/maps/uyEnKjjUj4z7Xa8Q7> .

More information about Bruchsal can be found . . .

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Bruchsal>

<https://www.bruchsal.de/Home/Touristik+Kultur/Stadtportrait.html>

<https://www.bruchsal.de/Home/PolitikRathaus/stadtarchiv.html>

More information about Herxheim can be found as follows.

<https://archaeo3d.com/en/lide-z-dlouhych-domu/hroby-a-ritualy/herxheim---centrum-kultu--krvavych-ritualu-nebo-jinych-obradu-/index.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herxheim_bei_Landau/Pfalz

<https://www.vg-herxheim.de/>

<https://memim.com/herxheim-bei-landaupfalz.html>

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

<https://www.tourenplaner-rheinland-pfalz.de/en/point/historical-site/herxheim-mit-hayna/13353000/#dmdtab=oax-tab1>

More information about Jockgrim and Pfalz in general can be found at these locations.

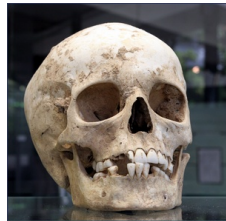
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jockgrim>

https://www.genealoger.com/german/ger_4_rheinlandpfalz.htm

<https://www.landeshauptarchiv.de/archivnutzung/gebuehren>

<https://www.prfk.org/datensammlungen/>

750 anniversary website: <http://www.jockgrim-750.de/>



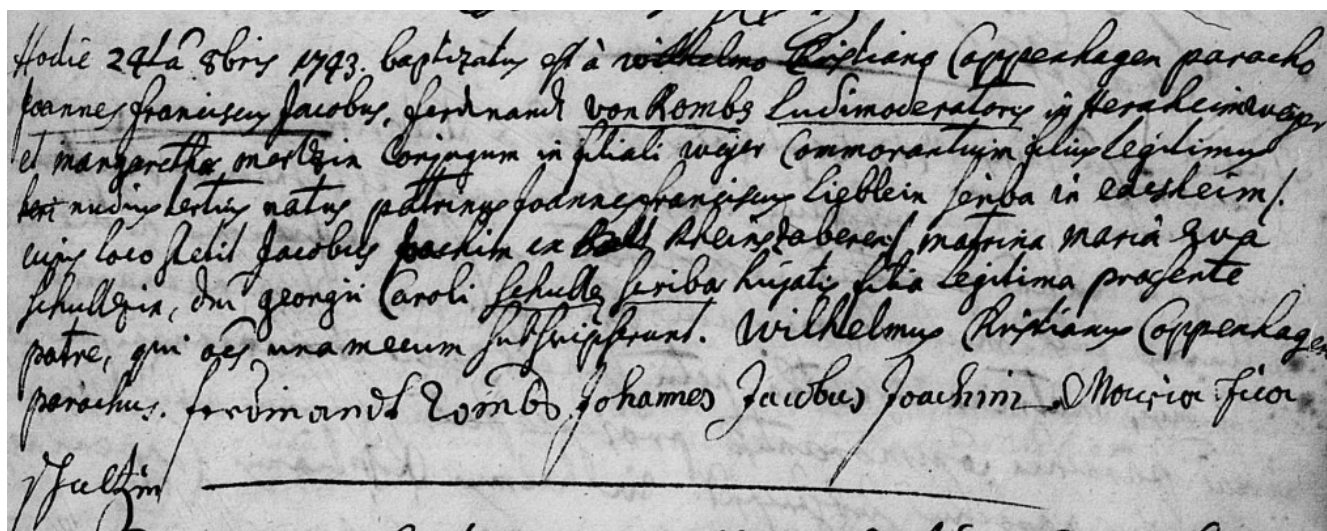
Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The Family of Ferdinand Reinhard and Eva Margaretha (Merz) Rombs

The OFB for Bruchsal indicates that Ferdinand and Margaretha were married 7-Feb-1741. However, based on the fact that they had a daughter slightly before this (13-December-1740), it seems likely that Ferdinand moved to Bruchsal from Neibsheim somewhat before the early part of 1740. He would have been about 22 years old at the time of the move, and Eva Margaretha would have been about 18 years old.

I don't want to make too much of this, but the OFB for Bruchsal indicates that Margaretha was a "demure virgin" in 1739 and that her first born (Maria Ursula) was legitimized by the marriage. I am sure that Margaretha's parents, Johann Sebastian and Maria Margaretha (Wolf) Merz, were relieved. However, maybe there was some lingering bad blood or other troubles that encouraged subsequent moves by the young family. Subsequent records for the family show that they made many moves, and their early years together seem a little confused to me.

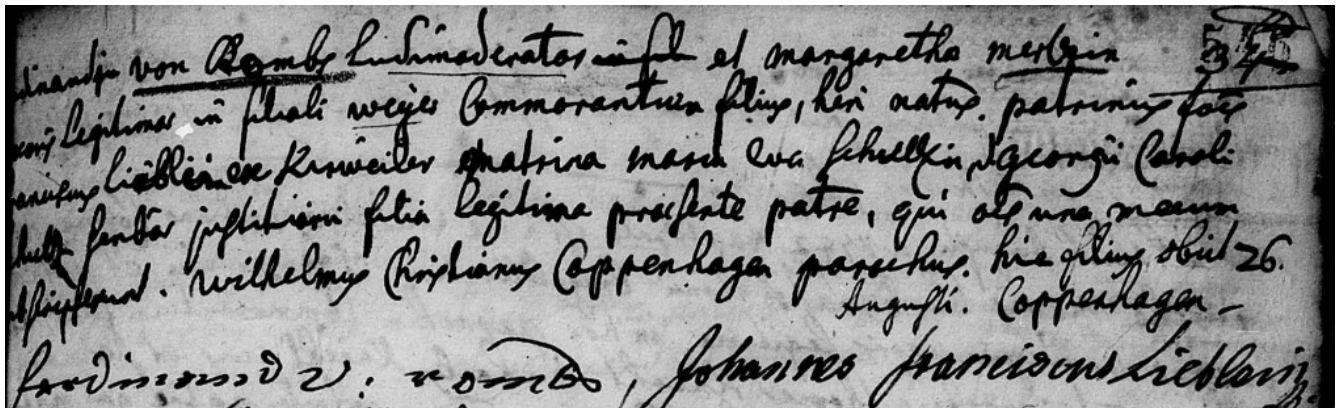
A church book from Herxheim records two births attributed to Ferdinand and Margaretha. First a son named Joseph (?) on 28-July-1742 and then another son named Johann Franz Jacob on 24-October-1743. In the birth/baptismal records, Ferdinand (von Rombs) is described as a "ludimoderator," so he must have had teaching work there. Here is an example record regarding the second birth/baptism.



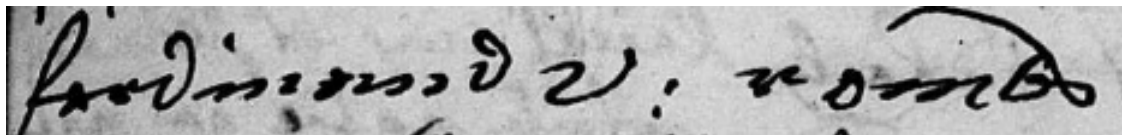
See image 352 in "Deutschland Geburten und Taufen, 1558-1898", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:ND43-D61> : 25 March 2020), Joannes Franciscus Jacobus von Rombs, 1743.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The other early baptism is recorded on image 346 of "Deutschland Geburten und Taufen, 1558-1898", database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NTMZ-KLR> : 25 March 2020), Joes. ... von Rombs, 1742. The image follows. The transcriber suggests that the child's name is Joseph.



Note that we now have an example signature from Ferdinand. -



It is not clear how long the family stayed in Herxheim because there is also the fact that Ferdinand and Margaretha had a short-lived child (Anna Catharina) in 1745 in Neibsheim, where Ferdinand's parents still lived. Perhaps they only stayed in Bruchsal for about a year and in Herxheim for about two years.

Also, the OFB for Jockgrim provides some additional evidence that makes it seem as if the couple was in Bruchsal in 1746 before moving to Jockgrim. Probably we will never know the reason(s) for the short period spent in Herxheim. Here is a translation from the OFB for Jockgrim pertaining to the family.

“ROMBS (BY RHOMBS), Ferdinand Reinhard, Parents: (2569.4)

*/" on 13 10 1717 n Nebshem (Bretten) Professions Player, school rector, † on 11 04 1771 (551) n Jockgrim

<In a letter dated February 1746, the Jockgrimer pastor Christoph Breun asked the Bschoflch-Gestliche Rat in Bruchsal to hurry Ferdinand Rombs, who had been asked by the Jockgrim community, to become a school teacher. in 1746 he became the successor of Franz Welzenbach>”

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Be all that as it may, by 1746 Ferdinand and his young family ultimately appear in Jockgrim where he is a teacher. It was there that Ferdinand and Margaretha had something like 9 additional children, most of whom did not survive long. In fact, I can only find evidence for the survival to adulthood for three offspring (all daughters) – Ursula (born in Bruchsal), Catharina Agatha (born in Jockgrim), and Maria Clara (born in Jockgrim). These daughters married Johannes Gebhard, Johann Georg Jäger, and Martin Roth, respectively. Some daughters followed in their mother’s footsteps by being midwives. Ferdinand survived only into 1771, but Margaretha remarried to one Simon Burck in 1781. The OFB for Jockgrim provides the following information for Margaretha’s second marriage.

“Burg (Burck), Simon Josef, parents: (0399.4), */" around 1703 in Jockgrim. Profession: Alderman, † on November 10th, 1787 (841.) ibid.,

Connection: oo on 11/22/1728 in Jockgrim with SCHLOSS (SCHLOSSEN), Maria Elisabeth, parents: (2736.3), */" around 1711 ibid., † on September 11th, 1780 (60 years old, wife of Simon Goldaté) ibid., <the age specification "60 years." does not appear correctly">.

II. Relationship: oo on January 7th, 1781 (both widowed) in Jockgrim with MERTZ from Bruchsal (MERZ), Maria Margaretha

*/N on May 1st, 1722 in Bruchsal. Profession: Midwife, died on February 25th, 1794 (Wwe Ferd. Romps) in Jockgrim.”

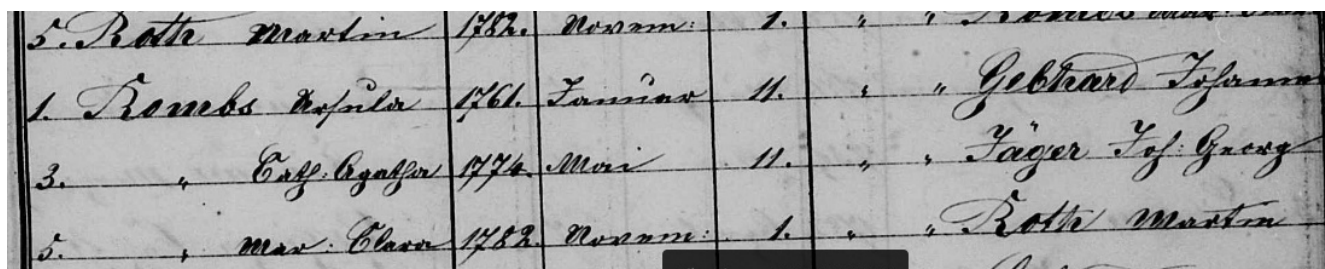
Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Following are some copies of the Catholic Church Book (1711-1970) for Jockgrim to illustrate the source information about births, marriages and deaths. The source is the “Alphabetisches Verzeichnis 1738-1790” , film 488312, image group 8232530, whose url is

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSP3-ZS79-Q?mode=g&cat=157241> .

Kirchenbuch, 1711-1970	
Authors:	Katholische Kirche Jockgrim (BA. Germersheim) (Main Author)
Format:	Manuscript/Manuscript on Film
Language:	German Latin
Publication:	Salt Lake City, Utah : Gefilmt durch The Genealogical Society of Utah, 1961, 1960
Physical:	7 Mikrofilmrollen ; 35 mm.
Notes	
Mikrofilme aufgenommen von Manuskripten im Stadtarchiv Speyer und im Staatsarchiv Speyer.	
Parish register baptisms, marriages, deaths, index, confirmations, etc.	

First are marriages of surviving offspring (i.e., three daughters mentioned above). See page 139 in the Church Book.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Next are the recorded births in Jockgrim. See pages 70-80.

No. in Altneu	Name	Sex Altneu			Date of Birth	Name		Sex	
		Male	Female	Age		Pat. Name	Mother's Name		
23.	Rombs	Male	Margdalena	1726	Neum.	1	Rombs	Leopold	Margaretha
17.				1727	Dozann	12.			
22.	Rombs	Male	Maria	1729	Neum.	27.	Rombs	Leopold	Margaretha
10.			Beckmann	1732	Dozann	30.			
24.			Carl Kozler	1734	Neum.	30.			
21.			Max. Caser	1737	Obster	11.			Kurz
19.			Beckmann	1737	Dozann	25.			
31.			Margaretha	1741	Obster				
7.			Beckmann	1744	Marz	25.			

Then, are the deaths. See page 198.

No. in Altneu	Name	Sex Altneu			Date of Death	Name		Sex	
		Male	Female	Age		Pat. Name	Mother's Name		
26.	Rombs	Male	Margdalena	1726	Neum.	1	Rombs	Leopold	Margaretha
3.				1727	Dozann	27.			
21.			Max. Kozler	1729		3.			
23.			Beckmann	1732	Leit.	11.			
9.			Dozann	1736	Leit.	20.			
16.			Joh. Beckmann	1740	Marz	25.			Kurz
19.			Margaretha	1741	Dozann	19.			Kurz
4.			Leopold	1744	Dozann	13.			
6.			Leopold	1747		11.			



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

If you look closely at the preceding Jockgrim records, you will see that there are 9 births and 8 deaths (excluding that of Ferdinand in 1771). However, matching up the children reveals that it must be the child named Franz and born in Herxheim that died in Jockgrim 20-June-1756 at the age of about 13.

So far, I have not found any subsequent records of the child named Joseph, born in Herxheim in 1742. Perhaps he died shortly after birth. Another thing that you may note is that the name of the child that died in 1764 in Jockgrim is not clear and perhaps is Sebastian, who was the child born in the spring of that year. No marriage for either person appears in the Jockgrim records so I suspect that neither son survived to adulthood.

The Catholic Church Book noted earlier includes birth and marriage records for three daughters, Ursula, Agatha, and Clara. See these pages for the Rombs/Gebhard family: 30-31, 165. (There were many Gebhard people in the area!) See these pages for the Rombs/Jäger family: 44, 175-176.

Following is information provided in the OFB for Jockgrim for the families of these three daughters.

Ursula: 0772 **GEBHART (GEBHARD)**, Johann, Eltern: **(0769.1)**, */~ am 10.07.1737 in Jockgrim.

Verbindung: oo am 11.01.1761 in Jockgrim mit

ROMBS (RUMSIN; ROMPS; RUMSS), Maria Ursula, Eltern: **(2571.1)**, */~ um 1741, † am 25.08.1796 ebd.,

Kinder:

1. Johann Jakob */~ am 05.11.1761 ebd., † am 27.11.1761 (3 Wo.) ebd.,
2. Anna Barbara */~ am 09.02.1763 ebd., † am 05.09.1765 (3 J.) ebd.,
3. Johann Michael */~ am 29.06.1764 ebd., (→ 0777).
4. Johann Jakob */~ am 18.05.1766 ebd., † am 29.07.1766 (4 Wo.) ebd.,
5. Katharina Barbara */~ am 21.09.1767 ebd., (→ 2553). (→ 2765). (→ 3458).
6. Philipp Jakob */~ am 30.07.1769 ebd., † am 29.01.1770 (1/2 J.) ebd.,
7. Margaretha */~ am 05.12.1770 ebd., (→ 2587).
8. Philipp Jakob */~ 1772 (kein Eintrag im Taufbuch Jockgrim), † am 15.09.1780 (9 J.) ebd.,
9. Franziska */~ 08.1773 (kein Eintrag im Taufbuch Jockgrim) in Jockgrim?, † am 25.09.1773 (4 Wo.) in Jockgrim.
10. Maria Katharina (GEBHARD) */~ am 18.09.1775 ebd., (→ 3457). (→ 2353).
11. Eva Rosina */~ am 12.03.1777 ebd., † am 31.08.1777 (1/2 J.) ebd.,
12. Anton */~ am 12.07.1778 ebd.,
13. Anna Barbara */~ am 06.05.1780 ebd., † am 08.08.1780 (3 Mte.) ebd.,
14. Anna Barbara */~ am 01.06.1782 ebd., † am 12.07.1782 (40 Tge.) ebd.

Ursula's life seems relatively normal for the times when compared to the lives of her sisters as described below.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Agatha:

1361 JÄGER, Johann Georg, Eltern: (1360.2)
*/~ am 13.03.1751 (Mutter: Elisabetha) in Jockgrim. Berufe: Tischler, Zimmermann, † am 14.05.1802 (52 J.) ebd.,
i. Verbindung: oo am 01.05.1774 in Jockgrim mit
ROMBS (RUMPS; RUMBS; RUMS), Katharina Agatha, Eltern: (2571.8)
*/~ am 30.11.1754 ebd., † am 19.02.1800 (ca. 48 J.) ebd.,
<Jäger Johann Georg gehörte zu den Unterzeichnern der Protestnote von 1791. Das Ehepaar emigrierte mit seiner
Tochter Regina am 23.12.1793 wegen der Besetzung der Südpfalz durch französische Revolutionstruppen, kehrte am
11.12.1795 zurück und wurde am 15.08.1796 vorläufig aus der Verfolgungsliste gestrichen>.
Kinder:
1. Margaretha */~ am 22.11.1775 ebd., † am 25.01.1784 (8 J.) ebd.,
2. Franz */~ am 13.03.1777 ebd., † am 17.07.1777 (4 Mte.) ebd.,
3. Franz Josef */~ am 03.07.1778 ebd., (→ 1362).
4. Johann */~ am 08.08.1780 ebd., † am 17.10.1784 (4 J.) ebd.,
5. Franz Anton */~ am 03.10.1782 ebd., † am 05.02.1784 (1 J.) ebd.,
6. Franz Anton */~ am 08.12.1784 ebd., † am 26.11.1787 (3 J.) ebd.,
7. Franz Michael */~ am 18.11.1786 ebd., † am 01.01.1788 (1 J.) ebd.,
8. Maria Regina */~ am 01.11.1788 ebd., (→ 2989). (→ 2369).
9. Margaretha */~ am 12.07.1791 ebd., † am 01.08.1791 (20 Tge.) ebd.,
10. Anton Josef */~ am 27.10.1792 ebd., */~ in Neupotz.
11. Franz Anton */~ am 06.09.1794 in Jockgrim (→ 1364).

The note above is instructive in terms of understanding the upheavals taking place at that time.
Translation follows. -

“<Jaeger Johann Georg was one of the signatories of the protest note of 1791. The couple emigrated with his daughter Regina on December 23, 1793 because of the occupation of the southern Palatinate by French revolutionary troops, returned on December 11, 1795 and were provisionally removed from the list of persecution on August 15, 1796> .”

Note that after Agatha’s death early in 1800, Georg remarried to Maria Eva Schloss. Perhaps she is related to Nikolas Rombs’ wife.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Clara: Clara seems to have had a somewhat complicated life. She had an illegitimate child with Anton Worden and then married Martin Roth as shown here in images from the OFB for Jockgrim. No surviving children are shown for either relationship.

3797 **WORDREN**, Anton, Eltern: (3796.1), */~ um 1750. Beruf: Oberjäger.
I. Verbindung: außerehelich mit
ROMBS, Maria Klara, Eltern: (2571.9), */~ am 11.10.1757 in Jockgrim.
Weitere Familie: (2575).
Kind:
1. Johann Josef Anton */~ am 05.03.1780 (illegitim geboren) ebd., † am 09.02.1784 (4 J.) ebd.,

2575 **ROTH**, Martin. Beruf: Lehrer in Rohrbach.
Verbindung: oo am 01.11.1782 (er Witwer) in Jockgrim mit
ROMBS, Maria Klara, Eltern: (2571.9), */~ am 11.10.1757 in Jockgrim.
Weitere Familie: (3797).

The Descendants of Ferdinand Reinhard and Eva Margaretha

Here is a summary list of the descendants of Ferdinand and Margaretha that I have discovered using the OFB of Bruchsal, the OFB for Jockgrim, and especially the church registers for Jockgrim and Herxheim.

Descendants of Rombs, Ferdinand Reinhard

1. Rombs, Ferdinand Reinhard (b. 1717-10-13 - Neibsheim, Bretten, Karlsruhe, Germany, d. 1771-04-11 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
sp. Merz, Eva Margaretha (b. 1722-05-01 - Bruchsal, Baden, Germany, d. 1794-02-25 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany), m. 1741-02-07 - Bruchsal, Baden, Germany
 2. Rombs, Maria Ursula (b. 1740-12-13 - Bruchsal, Baden, Germany, d. 1796-08-25 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
sp. Gebhard, Johannes, m. 1761-11-01 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany
 3. Gebhard, Catharina Barbara (b. 1767)
 3. Gebhard, Michael (b. 1764 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
 3. Gebhard, Johann Jacob (b. 1766 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
 3. Gebhard, Philipp Jacob (b. 1769)
 3. Gebhard, Margaretha (b. 1770)
 3. Gebhard, Philipp Jacob (b. 1772)
 3. Gebhard, Franziska (b. 1773)
 3. Gebhard, Maria Catharina (b. 1775)
 3. Gebhard, Eva Rosina (b. 1777)
 3. Gebhard, Anton (b. 1778)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

- 3. Gebhard, Anna Barbara (b. 1780)
- 3. Gebhard, Anna Barbara (b. 1782)
- 2. Rombs, Joseph (b. 1742-07-28 - Herxheim, Pfalz, Germany, d. - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
- 2. Rombs, Johannes Franz Jacob (bap. 1743-10-24 - Herxheim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1756 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
- 2. Rombs, Anna Katharina (bap. 1745-10-07 - Neibsheim, Bretten, Karlsruhe, Germany, d. 1745-11-17 - Neibsheim, Bretten, Karlsruhe, Germany)
- 2. Rombs, Maria Magdalena (b. 1746-11-01 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1746-11-01 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
- 2. Rombs, Maria Magdalena (b. 1747-12-12 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1747-12-27 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
- 2. Rombs, Maria Klara (b. 1749-11-27 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1749-12-05 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
- 2. Rombs, Sebastian (b. 1752-08-30 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1754-07-22 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
- 2. Rombs, Katharina Agatha (b. 1754-11-30 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1800-02-19 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
- sp. Jaeger, Johann Georg (b. 1751), m. 1774-05-11 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany
 - 3. Jaeger, Margaretha (b. 1775 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1784)
 - 3. Jaeger, Franz (b. 1777 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1777)
 - 3. Jaeger, Franz Joseph (b. 1778 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
 - 3. Jaeger, Johannes (b. 1780-08-05 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1884 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
 - 3. Jaeger, Franz Anton (b. 1782-12-08 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1784)
 - 3. Jaeger, Franz Anton (b. 1784 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1787)
 - 3. Jaeger, Franz Michael (b. 1786-11-18 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1788)
 - 3. Jaeger, Maria Regina (b. 1788-11-05 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
 - 3. Jaeger, Margaretha (b. 1791-07-12 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1791)
 - 3. Jaeger, Anton Joseph (b. 1792-10-27 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
- 2. Rombs, Maria Klara (b. 1757-10-11 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d.)
 - sp. Worden, Anton (b. 1750 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
 - 3. Worden, Johann Josef Anton (b. 1780-03-05 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1784-02-09 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
 - sp. Roth, Martin, m. 1782-11-01 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany
- 2. Rombs, Sebastian (b. 1759-12-28 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1760-05-24 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
- 2. Rombs, Margaretha (b. 1761-10-28 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1761-12-16 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
- 2. Rombs, unnamed boy (b. 1762-11-11 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1762-11-11 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany)
- 2. Rombs, Sebastian (b. 1764-03-28 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1764-04-13)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Thomas Rombs

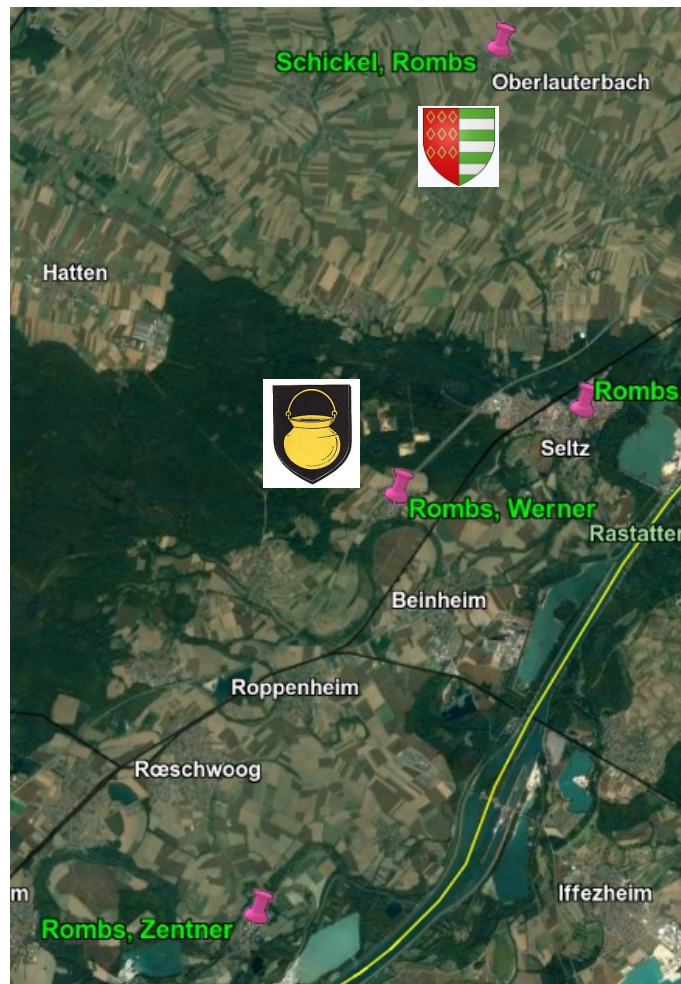
The Jockgrim OFB documents the existence of a person that I can not connect to a set of parents. His name is Thomas, born about 1750, and he married one Elizabeth Milz as shown below. He would conveniently fit into the family of Ferdinand and Margaretha, but I can not justify this. He does not fit into the family of his Ferdinand's brother Anton, and he certainly does not fit in either of the families of his brother Johannes. If he was indeed born in Neibsheim as the OFB for Jockgrim suggests, I do not know who his parents were.

2572 **ROMBS**, Thomas, */~ um 1750 in Neibsheim (Bretten)?, † vor 1829.
Verbindung: oo zwischen 1780 und 1800 in Jockgrim? mit
MILZ, Elisabeth, */~ um 1756 in Rheinzabern?, <ihre Eltern: Milz Peter und Schäfer (Schöffner) Eva Katharina>, † am 27.01.1829 (73 J.) in Jockgrim.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Oberlauterbach, Kesseldorf, Seltz Families

The rough geographic area encompassing these town is shown below. The Rhein River runs through the lower right of the image, and the agricultural areas associated with the Grand Est (<https://www.grandest.fr/en/>) are clear.



See <https://goo.gl/maps/JLkBdyNrdEY1FELq7> .

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Oberlauterbach is a village in the Bas-Rhin area of Alsace that is near the villages of Trimbach, Salmbach, Siegen, etc. It is close to Kesseldorf (about 10 km), which figures significantly in the lives of Johannes Rombs and the new family that he started in Alsace. I believe that Johannes came here in about 1742 +/- a year. Oberlauterbach is about 65 km from Johannes' "home town" of Neibsheim, so it is unlikely that he knew of the town through some random encounter from earlier travels in his life. It is a part of the area that is governed from Wissembourg. It appears to me to be the center of local agricultural activities, and, as the picture below shows, it is in a rather picturesque setting.



Image from <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Oberlauterbach-Kirche-Unserer-Lieben-Frau-Ortsansicht.jpg> .

Kesseldorf is another small village that is closer to the Rhein/Rhin River. A brief history can be found at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kesseldorf> . There you can find that the first recorded baptism dates to 1718 and that it at times took some direction from the Abbey at Seltz, Seltz being a larger community less than 4 km away to the northeast. Kesseldorf is the village to which the Johannes/Barbara Rombs family moved and spent a significant amount of time. It appears to have been the point of departure for the Rombs family members that emigrated in 1808. The image is from



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kesseldorf_3060.JPG .

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Seltz is a town with a significant and interesting history, which seems to be traceable to about 425 and Roman control. Its current city hall is shown here

(<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Seltz-10-Mairie-gje.jpg>), and the local Catholic church is famous for its Benedictine Abbey, founded by Saint Adelheid

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selz_Abbey). It has witnessed significant events, including floods and war in the form of invasion in 1793 in a conflict that involved the French Republic and Austria.

Some of the children of the Johannes/Barbara Rombs family were married here; the baptism of one (Marianna) was recorded there.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The Family of Johannes Rombs and Barbara Schickel

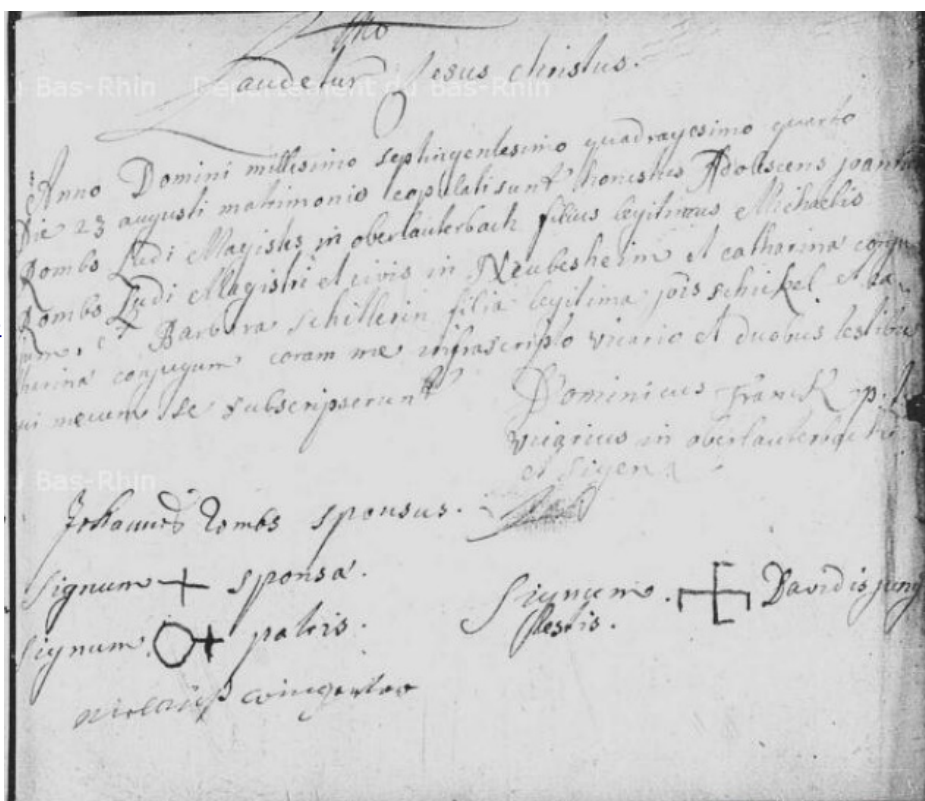
Johannes was the oldest of the three sons of Michael and Katharina, and as such some of life's common events happened to him before his brothers, Anton and Ferdinand. Johannes married first, and he took up teaching at Büchig at about the time of his marriage in 1732, approximately three years before brother Anton started teaching in Oberöwisheim and seven to eight years before brother Ferdinand took up teaching in Bruchsal. Unfortunately, Johannes was also the first to experience the losses of a son and spouse. (His wife Margaretha died in 1740, about two years after the death of their son.) It is not unreasonable to imagine that the events of 1738 & 1740 led Johannes to look elsewhere as had been done by then by both Anton and Ferdinand.

I propose then that sometime between 1741 and 1743 Johann left the vicinity of Neibsheim to take up a teaching job in Oberlauterbach in Alsace. How he decided on this destination is a mystery to me, but it is clear that he arrived there since he was married to a local Oberlauterbach woman named Barbara Schickel in 1744. Barbara was from a family that is well-documented in the Oberlauterbach area for decades prior to 1744.

Here is an image of the marriage record for Barbara and Johann. It mentions Neibsheim as Johann's place of origin, mentions his profession (~ludimagister), and shows an example of his signature.

See Archives Departmentales
Du Bas-Rhin: Oberlauterbach
- Registre de mariages 1729-
1813 - 3 E 346/4 - page 21;

<https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207435#visio/C343-P3-R207435#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207435-2321340>



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Barbara's father is identified as Johannes Schickel, but her mother's name (Catharine Zilliox) is lost in the binding/margin. Johannes and the pastor (David Jung) are the only ones present and able to sign a name in script. The date is August 23, 1744, presumably a warm summer day in Oberlauterbach. Thus begins their life together officially.

Barbara Schickel's Family

Before going further, I think it is worthwhile to explain what I have discovered about Barbara's predecessors. Here is a family group report for Barbara's birth family.

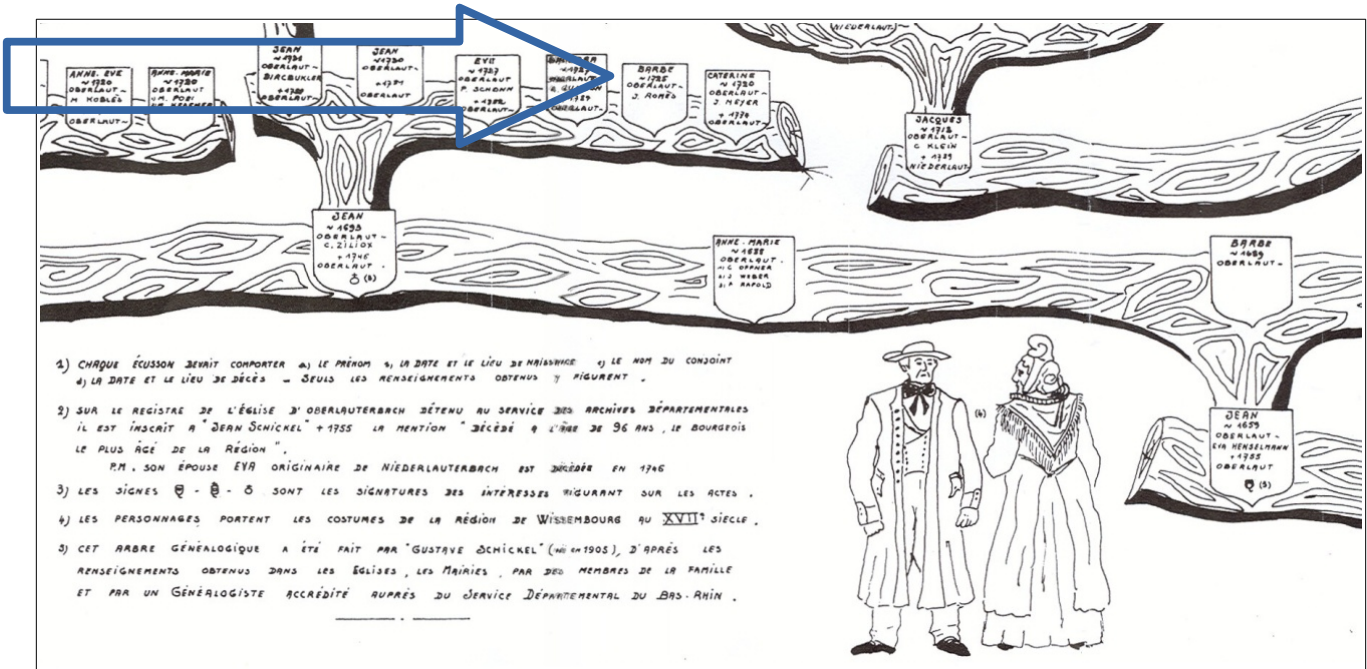
Family Group Report		
Husband: Schickel, Johann (I0337)		
Birth	est.	
	1689	
Death	1746-08-10	Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France
Father	Schickel, Jean (I3294)	
Mother	Hanselmann, Eve (I3295)	
Marriage (F0080):		
Marriage		
Wife: Zilliox Zilliox, Catherine (I0338)		
Birth	est. from death record	
	1689	
Death	1758-12-13	Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France
Father		
Mother		
Children		
1F	Schickel, Marie Barbe (I0283)	
	Birth	1726 Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France
	Death	1783-09-20 Kesseldorf, Alsace, Germany
	Spouse	Rombs, Johannes (I0282) (F0065)
	Marriage	1744-08-23
2F	Schickel, Marie Eve (I2956)	
	Birth	1727 Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France
	Death	1752-03-31 Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France
3M	Schickel, Jean (I2957)	
	Birth	1730 Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France
	Death	
4F	Schickel, Marie Marguerite (I2958)	
	Birth	1741-11-02 Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France
	Death	1747-03-23 Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The Schickel family line has been well-documented. An image of an example tree from 1905 by Gustave Schickel follows just to illustrate the number of people (mostly in France) that share common ancestors with Barbara. Barbara and Johannes are located by arrows.

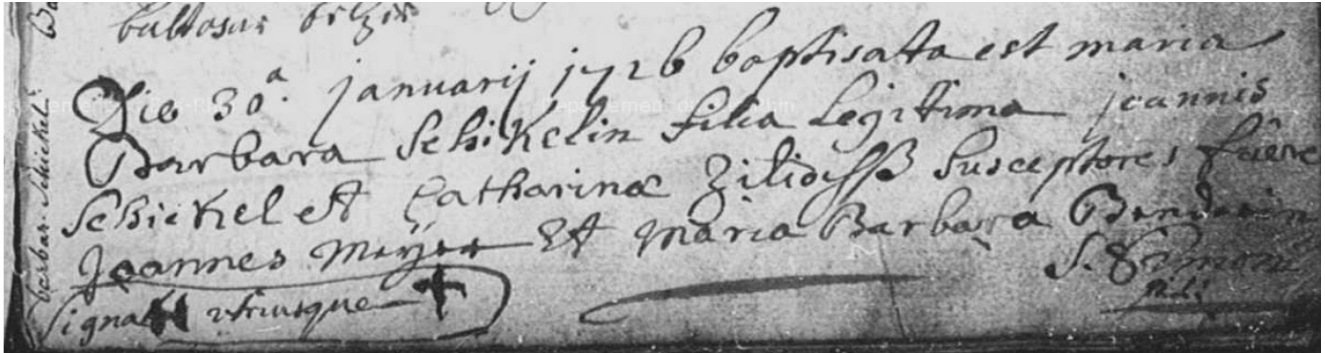


That part of the root of the tree that includes Barbara and her family follows.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Barbara's birth/baptism is documented (<https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432-2321095>) and the record is shown below.



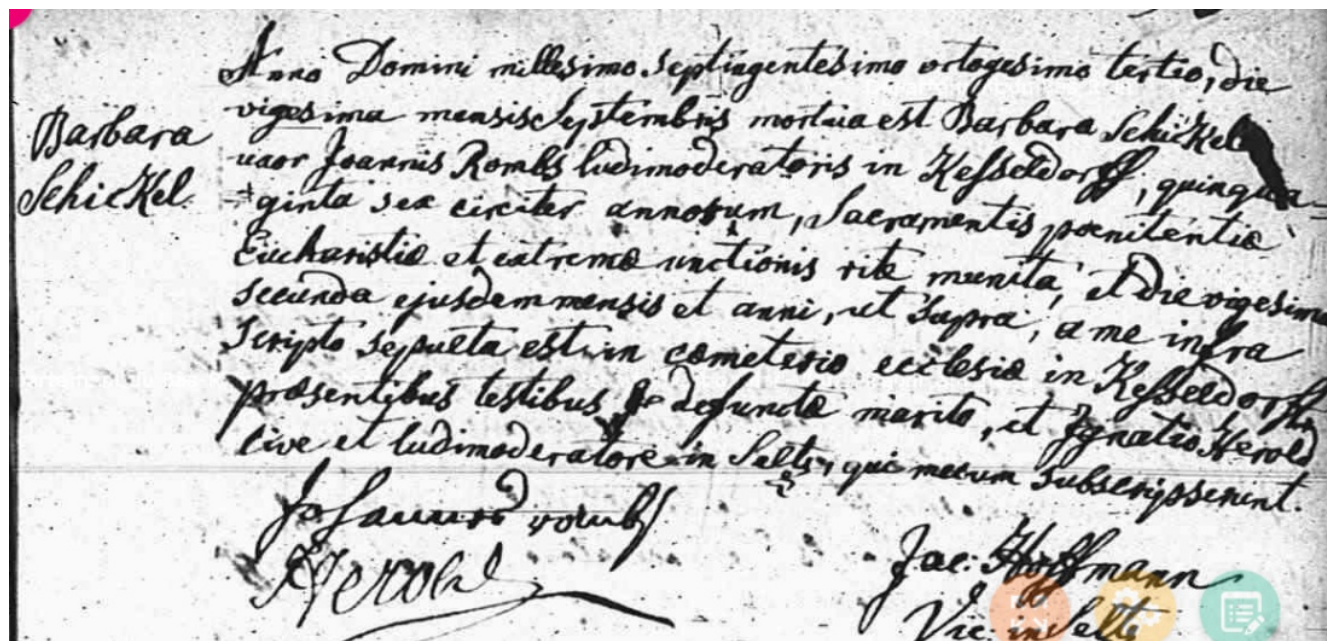
Existing records do not explicitly define a point of origin for Barbara's mother, Catherine Zilliox, but there are a number of people with the name of Zillion that appear in the archives in the vicinity of Weyersheim and Betschdorf. I would be inclined to see if links to any of the families in these locales exist. Barbara's father, Jean/Johann, appears to be from the Oberlauterbach area.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The Descendants of Johannes Rombs and Barbara Schickel

Barbara and Johannes had eleven children, and I believe that all but one were born in Oberlauterbach, where he worked as a schoolmaster. Johannes' signature is easy to find in the parish records of Oberlauterbach. The last child whose birth is documented in Oberlauterbach is that of Franz Ludwig (April, 1763). At some point between then and 1766, however, the family moves to Kesseldorf, in which or in whose vicinity, marriages of surviving children take place. In spite of his age (54 in 1766) he took up teaching duties as well as some civic ones. His signature can be found in Kesseldorf burial records. e.g., <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C234-P3-R154068#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C234-P3-R154068-1353142> and <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C234-P3-R154068#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C234-P3-R154068-1353114> .

Both Barbara and Johannes died in Kesseldorf. Barbara's death on 20-September-1783 is recorded as follows. Note that Johannes has signed the register entry. He is schoolmaster there. Barbara was about 57 years old at death. <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C234-P3-R154068#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C234-P3-R154068-1353146>



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Johannes' death on 27-November-1786 is recorded as follows. <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C234-P3-R154068#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C234-P3-R154068-1353152> If you look closely at the images associated with this url, you will see that Johannes was signing the death register up until early September of 1786.



The signature of Johannes' son, Franz Ludwig begins to appear in the same register at least by September of the following year (1787). This is an indication that Franz Ludwig took over teaching and related duties within the year after his father's death. He would have been about 24 years old at the time and recently married (in 1784), with a small daughter.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Following is a report showing the children of Johannes and Barbara as well as the families of their children as far as is known to me. Two of their children (Franz Ludwig and Marianna) were part of the migration to Russia that took place in 1808. This report defines the nature of the origins of the descendants of Johannes and Barbara who appear later in records in Russia and that are discussed in a separate document.

1. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1712-03-11 - Zeutern, Baden, Germany, d. 1786-11-27 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace)
sp. Schickel, Marie Barbe (b. 1726-01-30 - Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France, d. 1783-09-20 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace), m. 1744-08-23
 2. Rombs, Johann Stephan (b. 1745-07-02 - Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France)
 2. Rombs, Charles Louis (b. 1746-07-14 - Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France, d. 1749-12-13 - Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France)
 2. Rombs, Anne Marie (b. 1748-10-13 - Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France)
sp. Nanse Nansè, Francois Xavier, m. 1775-11-20 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace
 2. Rombs, Elisabeth (b. 1750-12-18 - Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France)
sp. Arnet, Jean, m. 1784-06-01 - Seltz, Alsace, France, Alsace
 2. Rombs, Catherine (b. 1753-05-05 - Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France, d. 1782-08-23 - Seltz, Alsace, France, Alsace)
sp. Braun, Paul (b. 1762 - Seltz, Alsace, France, Alsace), m. 1780-05-22 - Seltz, Alsace, France, Alsace
 2. Rombs, Marie Anne (b. 1755-09-14 - Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France, d. 1755-10-07 - Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France)
 2. Rombs, Margaretha (b. 1756-10-18 - Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France, d. 1812-05-08 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace)
sp. Staub, Francois Joseph, m. 1786-11-20 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace
 3. Staub, Marguerite (b. 1787 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace)
sp. Gerber, Christophe
 4. Gerber, Catherine
 4. Gerber, Ferdinand
 4. Gerber, Francois Joseph
 4. Gerber, Jean
 2. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1759-05-21 - Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France)
 2. Rombs, Franz Ludwig (b. 1763-04-11 - Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France, d. 1836-04-22 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Werner, Margaretha (b. 1761-10-14 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace, d. 1823-03-16), m. 1784-05-03 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace
 3. Rombs, Maria Josepha (b. 1783, d. 1840-11-01 - Strassburg, Russia)
sp. Baumgartner, Georg (b. 1774-10-08 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1853 - Strassburg, Russia)
 4. Baumgartner, Franz (b. 1810 - Strassburg, Russia, d. 1840 - Strassburg, Russia)
 4. Baumgartner, Marianna (b. 1811-10-18 - Strassburg, Russia)
 4. Baumgartner, Rosina (b. 1814 - Strassburg, Russia, d. 1816 - Strassburg, Russia)
 4. Baumgartner, Barbara (b. 1816)
 4. Baumgartner, Anton (b. 1821)
 4. Baumgartner, Johannes
 4. Baumgartner, Maria Anna

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

4. Baumgartner, Catharina
3. Rombs, Franz (b. 1789 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace, d. 1836-02-13 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Sennhauser, Katharina (b. 1791-09-02 - Neewiller, Alsace, d. 1852 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Rombs, Franz Joseph (b. 1811 - Selz, Russia, d. 1879-07-12 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Usselmann, Katherina (b. 1815-03-12 - Selz, Russia, d. 1852-07-18 - Selz, Russia), m. 1834-10-21 - Selz, Russia
sp. Hirsch, Barbara (b. 1833 - Selz, Russia), m. 1853-10-12 - Selz, Russia
sp. Goldade, Elisabetha (b. 1817), m. 1877-04-24 - Selz, Russia
 4. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1812 - Selz, Russia, d. 1834-09-11 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Fetsch, Johann (b. 1812), m. 1833-11-05
 4. Rombs, Elisabetha (b. 1814 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Rombs, Margaretha (b. 1815-09-25 - Selz, Russia, d. 1879-12-29 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Fetsch, Franz Georg (b. 1813 - Selz, Russia), m. 1838-11-06 - Selz, Russia
 4. Rombs, Stefan (b. 1819 - Selz, Russia, d. 1891 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Hulm, Karolina (b. 1822, d. 1864 - Selz, Russia), m. 1838-11-06 - Selz, Russia
 4. Rombs, Paul (b. 1825 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Goldade, Magdalena (b. 1827 - Selz, Russia), m. 1847-10-12
 4. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1826 - Selz, Russia, d. 1913-12-29)
sp. Eisenzimmer, Franziska (b. 1837 - Selz, Russia), m. 1858-10-06 - Selz, Russia
sp. Volk, Agnesia (b. 1828 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1858-05-09 - Selz, Russia), m. 1845-09-16 - Selz, Russia
sp. Dettling, Agnes
 4. Rombs, Georg (b. 1832-02-02 - Selz, Russia, d. 1833-09-03 - Selz, Russia)
 4. Rombs, Elisabetha (b. 1834-04-25 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Volk, Mathias (b. 1833 - Selz, Russia), m. 1855-01-17 - Selz, Russia
3. Rombs, Katherina (b. 1791, d. 1836-07-28 - Baden, Kutschurgan)
sp. Mitzel, Franz Karl (b. 1783-10-12 - Beinheim, Alsace, France, Alsace, d. 1827 - Strassburg, Russia), m. 1811 - Strassburg, Russia
 4. Mitzel, Joseph (b. 1812, d. 1831)
 4. Mitzel, Anton (b. 1814 - Strassburg, Russia, d. 1880 - Strassburg, Russia)
 4. Mitzel, Marianna (b. 1816, d. 1901-01-14)
 4. Mitzel, Christian (b. 1820, d. 1912)
 4. Mitzel, Katharina (b. 1822, d. 1904)
 4. Mitzel, Regina (b. 1825, d. 1841)
 4. Mitzel, Franz (b. 1827, d. 1867)
sp. Halter, Anton (b. 1789, d. 1855), m. 1830-02-17 - Baden, Kutschurgan
 4. Halter, Magdalena (b. 1831-11-04 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1908)
sp. Burghardt, Andreas, m. 1850
 4. Halter, Catharina (b. 1833-05-28 - Baden, Kutschurgan)
sp. Hunecker, Sebastian (b. 1830 - Baden, Kutschurgan), m. 1853
 4. Halter, Margaretha (b. 1836-07-28 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1836-07-31 - Baden, Kutschurgan)
3. Rombs, Maria Elisabetha (b. 1795-09-30 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace, d. 1831 - Selz, Russia)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

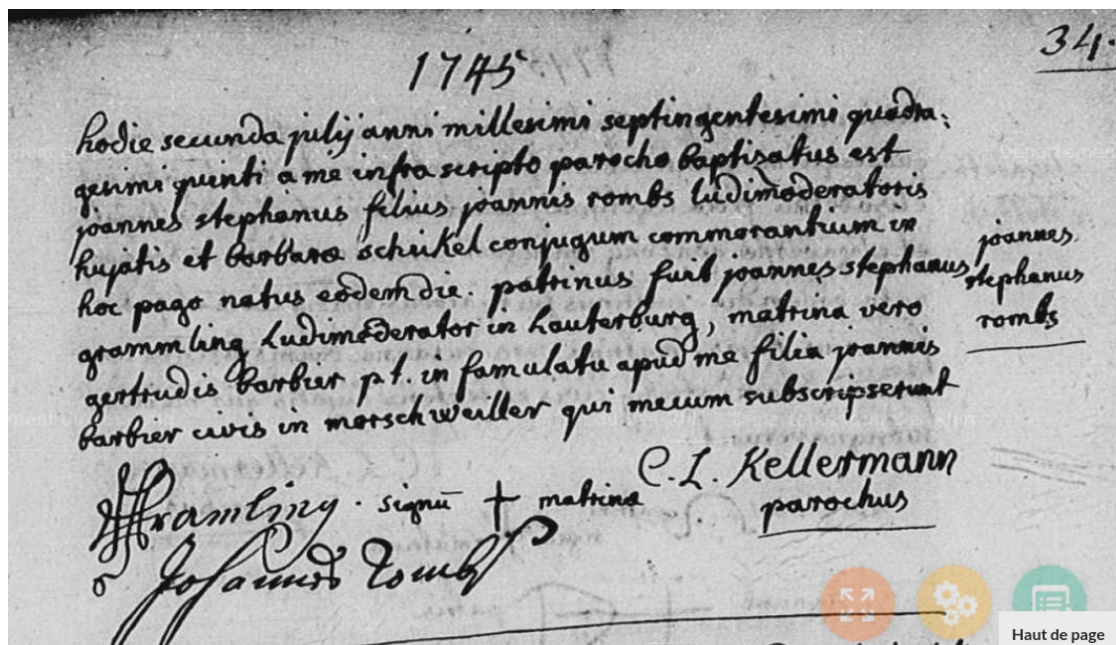
- sp. Schall, Johann (b. 1795, d. 1833), m. 1814
 - 4. Schall, Jacob (b. 1813, d. 1814)
 - 4. Schall, Marianna (b. 1815, d. 1815)
 - 4. Schall, Nicholas (b. 1828-10-27 - Selz, Russia, d. 1897-03-19 - McIntosh, North Dakota)
 - sp. Faehn, Marianna (b. 1826, d. 1897)
- 3. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1801 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace)
 - sp. Usselmann, Jakob (b. 1799, d. 1862 - Selz, Russia)
 - 4. Usselmann, Adam (b. 1823 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Arth, Magaretha (b. 1825, d. 1862 - Selz, Russia), m. 1845 - Selz, Russia
 - sp. Eisenzimmer, Helen (b. 1843 - Selz, Russia), m. 1862 - Selz, Russia
 - 4. Usselmann, Lorenz (b. 1825 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Hopfinger, Lugwiga (b. 1825), m. 1848 - Selz, Russia
 - 4. Usselmann, Kasimir (b. 1827 - Selz, Russia, d. 1857 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. unknown, Johanna (b. 1831)
 - 4. Usselmann, Georg (b. 1832 - Selz, Russia, d. 1835 - Selz, Russia)
 - 4. Usselmann, Marianna (b. 1835)
 - 4. Usselmann, Johann (b. 1837 - Selz, Russia)
 - 4. Usselmann, Margaretha (b. 1840 - Selz, Russia)
 - 4. Usselmann, Martin (b. 1842 - Selz, Russia)
 - 4. Usselmann, Elisabetha (d. 1848 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. unknown
 - 4. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1833-11-10 - Selz, Russia, d. 1833-11-19 - Selz, Russia)
- 2. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1771-07-28 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace, d. 1835 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Zentner, Christian (b. 1747 - Alsace, d. 1838 - Selz, Russia), m. 1794-12-14 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, Alsace
 - 3. Zentner, Maria (b. 1811 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Mitzel, Franz Karl (b. 1804-01-21 - Beinheim, Alsace, France, Alsace, d. 1855 - Strassburg, Russia), m. 1830
 - 4. Mitzel, Barbara (b. 1830, d. 1893)
 - 4. Mitzel, Magdalena (b. 1836, d. 1895)
 - 4. Mitzel, Johannes (b. 1838-06-05, d. 1928)
 - 4. Mitzel, Anton (b. 1840-10-21, d. 1930)
 - 4. Mitzel, Marianna (b. 1843-10-20, d. 1889-11-06)
 - 4. Mitzel, Margaretha (b. 1846)
 - 4. Mitzel, Wendelin (b. 1848-09-16, d. 1920-04-10)
- sp. Bachmann, Margaretha (b. 1707, d. 1740-02-06 - Neibsheim, Bretten, Karlsruhe, Germany), m. 1732-02-04 - Neibsheim, Bretten, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2. Rombs, Johann (b. 1738-05-21 - Neibsheim, Bretten, Karlsruhe, Germany, d. 1738-05-22)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Some evidence regarding each of the children follows. In some cases I use the French version of a name, and in other cases I use the German version of a name. For example, Charles/Karl/Carl, Ludwig/Louis, Anna/Anne. I also tend to refer to males by their “rurname” or middle name to most of us today. (See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_name .)

Johann Stephan Rombs

The first child of Johannes and Barbara that I have found is Stephan. His record of baptism in Oberlauterbach is copied below and can be found at <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432-2321166> . [Very belated thanks to Father Kellermann for writing so clearly.]



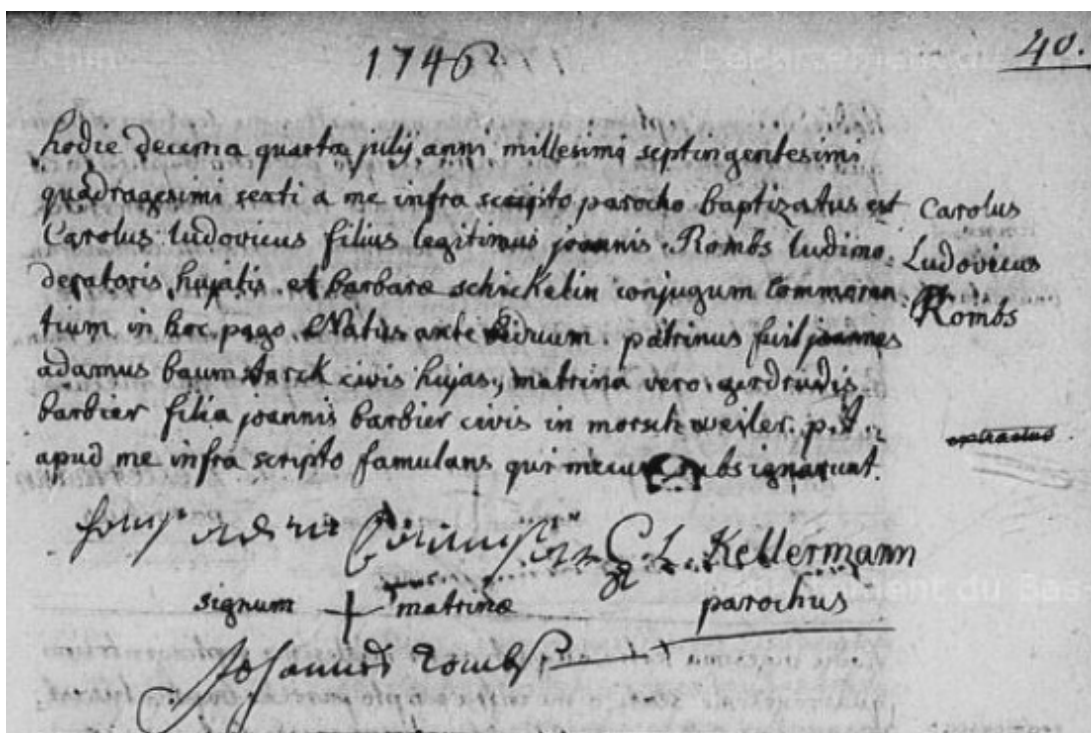
I have found no further record for Stephan. My assumption is that at some point he died and the record of that event has been lost or is undiscovered.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

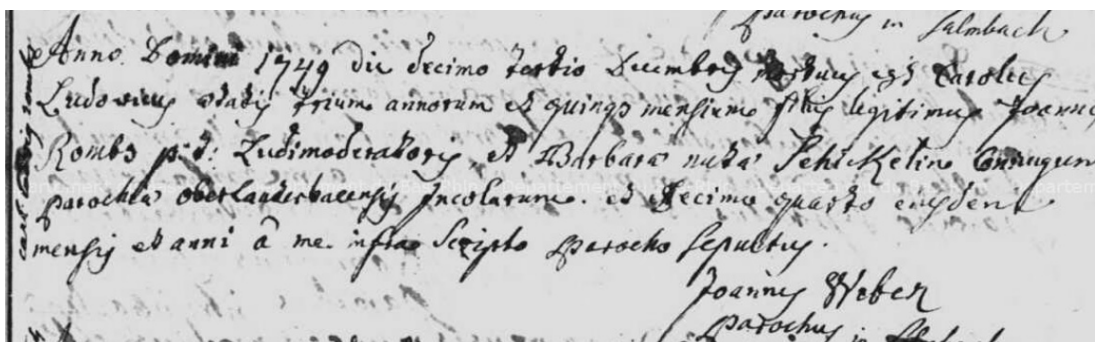
Charles Louis Rhombs (Karl Ludwig)

In the case of Louis/Ludwig, there are records of both his birth in the summer of 1746 and his death in December of 1749, both in Oberlauterbach. See this url for the baptismal record that follows.

<https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432-2321172>



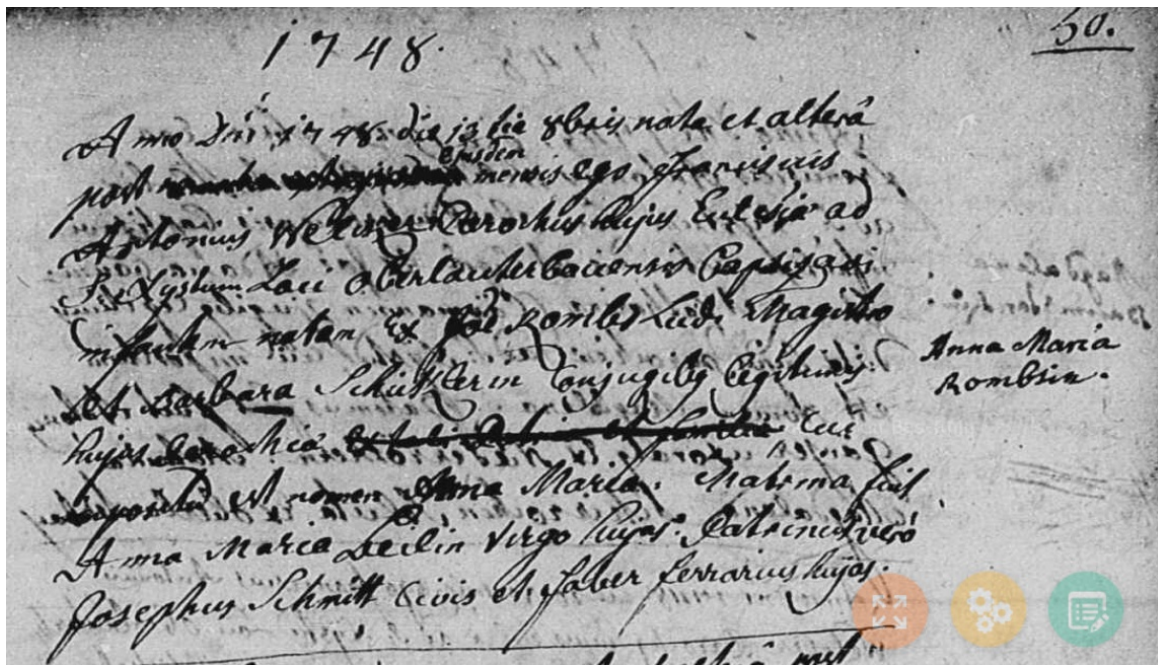
His death/burial record can be found using this url. <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207436#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207436-2321472>



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Anne Marie Rombs

I have found the birth/baptismal record for Marie on 10-October-1748 in Oberlauterbach. See the following url. <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432-2321182>



On 20-November-1775 Anne Marie was married to one Francois Xavier Nanse/Nansè. The marriage record is from the church in Seltz. It is interesting in that it has signatures of both her father and one other Rombs family member (her brother?), whose first name I can not make out.

Francois is the son of Francois Joseph Nanse and Marie Anne Schwindenhammer. These parents are from Beinheim. Joseph is a procurator there.

I have not followed the family of Xavier and Marie Nanse farther than this.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Here is the marriage record from <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSRY-Z1ZQ?cc=4116416> .

Hodie die vigesima mensis novembris anni millesimi
septingentesimi septuagesimi quinti facta una
proclamatione in nostra elesia et una in
elesia parochiali in Deinsheim prout nobis per
litteras testimoniales a Reverendo domino Breht
parrocho eulano parochialis in Deinsheim die vigesima
currentis ad nos datas et apud nos remanentes
constitit. auctoritate dispensatione super
omnibus aliis fauendis, nullo de iure impedimento
preiudice negotio mutuo contentum esse maxime
periculo et me infra scripto in facie duobus coniugatis
Viri Franciscus Xaverius Nause filius solutus
domini Francisci Josephi Nause procuratoris domini
Mons. Iohann. Schindelhammel coniugum civium
in offitio dieceps Basiliensis a pluribus annis in parochia
Deinsheim Commorans, et Maria Barbara Rombs
filia Joannis Rombs ludimoderatoris in Riefeldorff
et Martine Schittel coniugum adfuerunt testes
pater sponsae et maritus eius in Deinsheim
Laurentius Graemer et Joannes Schittel eius in
Oberlauterbach qui mecum subscripserunt exceptis
Iesho teste qui de lite interpellatus declaravit
se necesse seribere notam suam fecit

Nause

Franciscus Xaverius Nause
Iohannes Rombs
Marschall
nota + testis
Iohannes Schittel

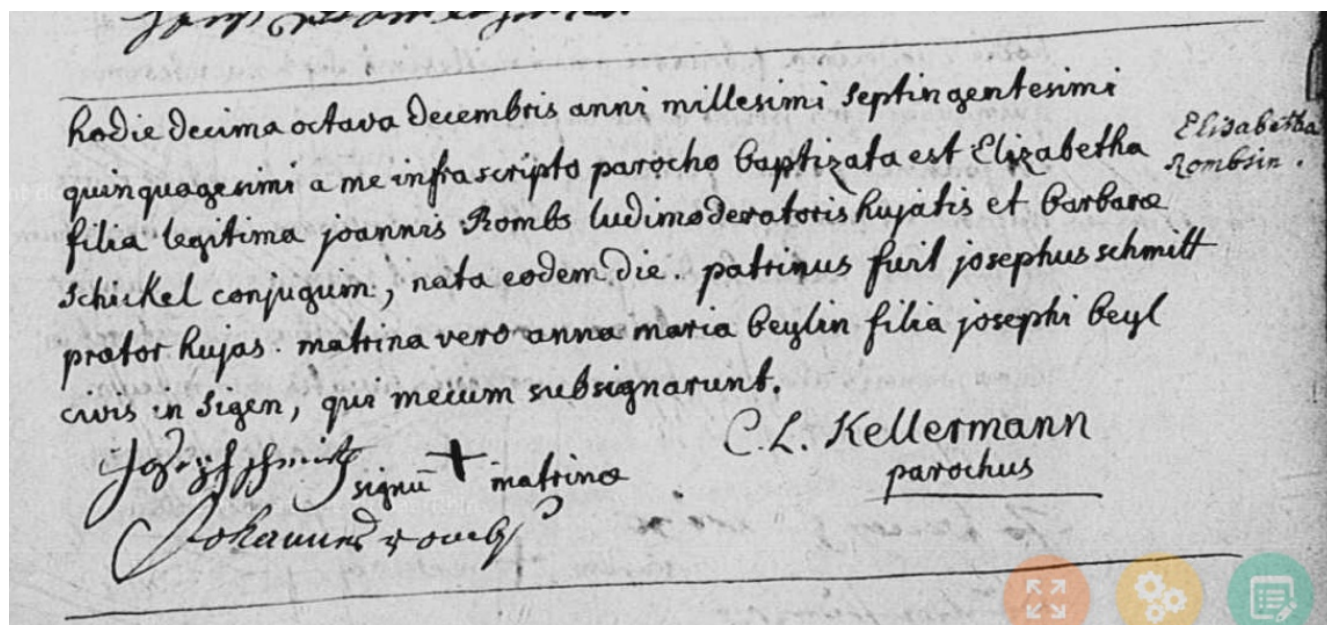
Johannus Bernauer
parochus in telt

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Elisabeth Rombs

Records for Elisabeth appear in both Oberlauterbach and Seltz. Her birth/baptism is recorded in Oberlauterbach in 1750, and her marriage to Jean Arnet is recorded in Seltz in 1784.

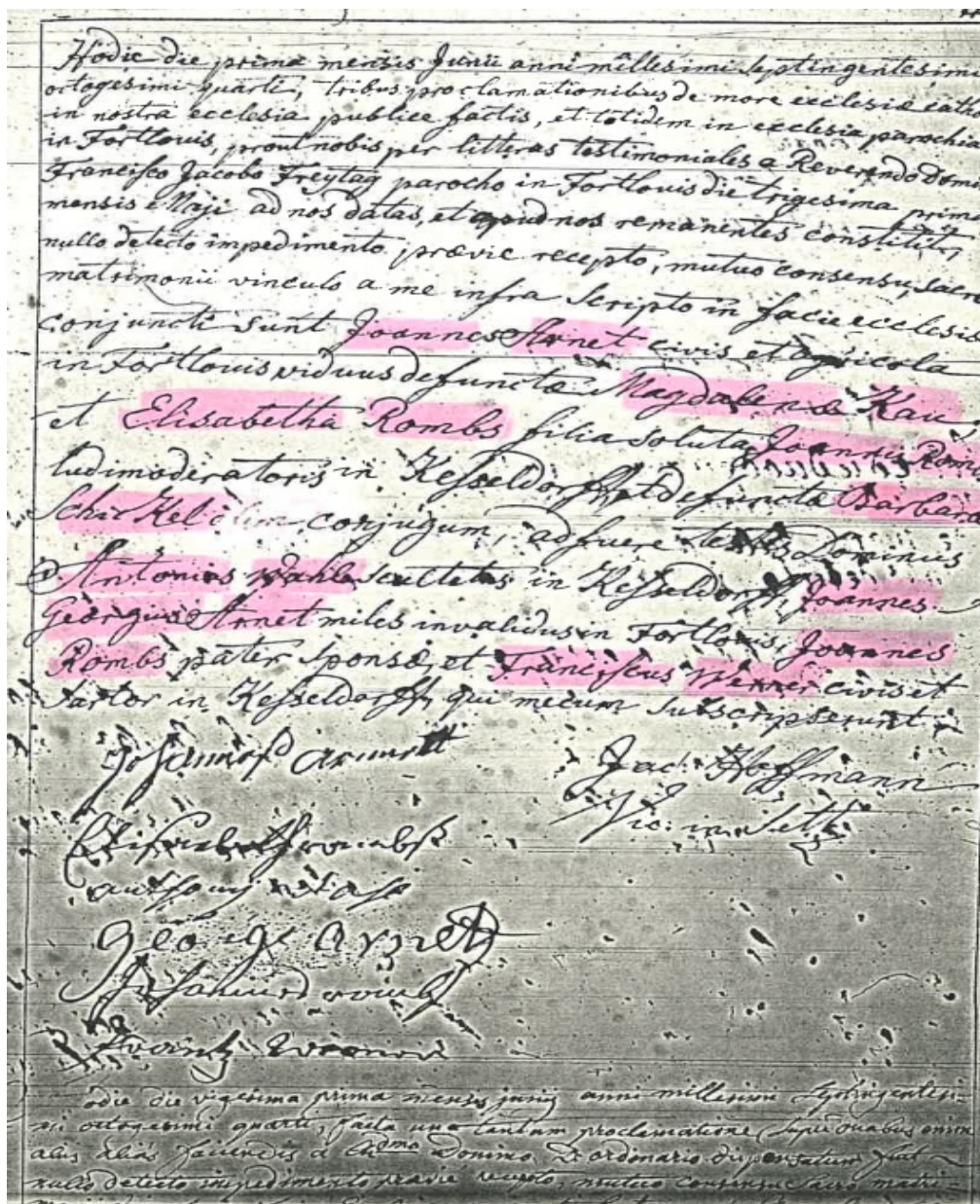
This url can take you to the baptismal record. <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432-2321190>



The next url can take you to evidence of her marriage record as found by Gilbert Martzloff of the AGAWE organization. <https://gw.geneanet.org/gmartzloff?lang=en&iz=0&p=jean&n=arnet> . It can also be located using this reference information - "France, Bas-Rhin, Parish and Civil Registration, 1525-1912", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6XFY-HRYD> : 29 March 2022), Elisabetha Rombs in entry for Joannes Stonet, 1784.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Following is a copy of the marriage record that I believe is from Fort Louis. The source for this is the Ned Schall Collection held by the GRHS organization in Bismarck, ND.



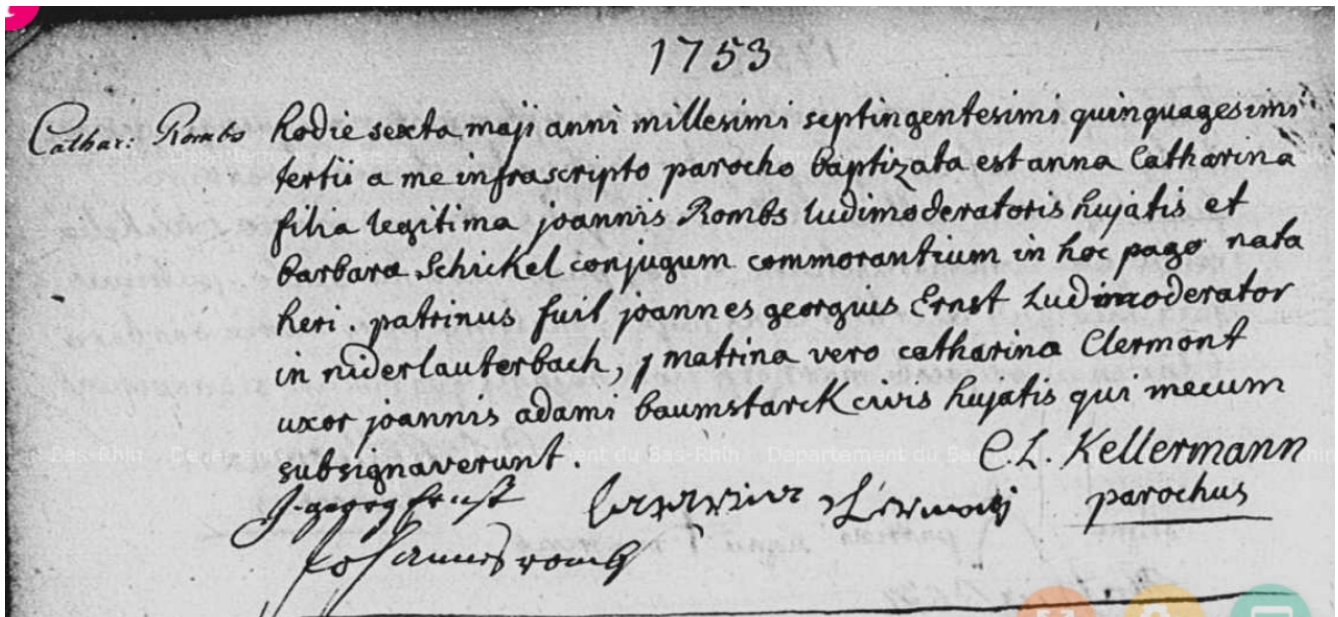
I have not found subsequent information about the Arnet family. Since this name is not apparent in the records of the Russian villages of the Kutschurgan district, a first guess would be that they stayed in Alsace.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Catherine Rombs

Existing records for Catharine record her baptism in 1753 in Oberlauterbach, her marriage to Paul Braun in 1780 in Seltz, and her death in 1782 in Seltz.

The birth record can be found at <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432-2321199>.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Her marriage record has been found by Gilbert Marzloff. See <https://gw.geneanet.org/gmartzloff?n=rombs&oc=&p=catherine> .

♀ **Catherine ROMBS**

Parents

- Jean ROMBS, Maître d'école
Married to
- Barbe SCHICKEL, deceased before 3 May 1784

Spouses and children

- Married 22 May 1780, Seltz, 67463, Bas Rhin, Alsace, France, to Paul BRAUN, born between 1761 and 1763, deceased between 1821 and 1823, Agriculteur, Echevin (Parents : ♂ Adam BRAUN & ♀ Catherine DEININGER) with
 - ♂ André BRAUN 1786..1788-
 - ♂ Joseph BRAUN 1804..1806-

Siblings

- ♂ François Louis ROMBS Married 3 May 1784, Seltz, 67463, Bas Rhin, Alsace, France, to Marguerite WERNER
- ♀ Elisabeth ROMBS Married 1 June 1784, Seltz, 67463, Bas Rhin, Alsace, France, to Jean ARNET

Sources

- Spouse: Bibliothèque de l'AGAWÉ - Seltz, Mariages catholiques, 1694-1792, page 89

➤ Search the original records

Family Tree Preview

➤ Ancestry Chart ➤ Descendancy Chart ➤ Printable Family Tree

```
graph TD; Jean[Jean ROMBS] --- Barbe[Barbe SCHICKEL †1784]; Barbe --- Catherine[Catherine ROMBS];
```



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Further evidence for the marriage can be found in a death record for a child in June(?), 1781, found at <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C459-P3-R248692#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C459-P3-R248692-1374210>.

infans
Braun

Annus domini millesimo centesimo octogesimo primo
die vigesima secunda mensis Junij mortuus
est infans urgente mortis receptus a baptizato
Domini filius Opauli Braun pueri et operarii in
Selt et Catharina Rombs conjugum in Selt
et die sequenti eadem mensis obiit ut constat
a me infra scripto sepultus fuit in cimiterio
Rulens parochialis in Selt presentibus testibus
patre defuncti et Ignatio herede huiusmodi
testatoris hujusmodi qui mecum habuerunt
Joannes Braun
Herode
Johannes Bernauer
parochus in Selt

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Catherine's death record from August, 1782, can be found at <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C459-P3-R248692#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C459-P3-R248692-1374218>.

This record makes me think that some of the information shown above from Geneanet about children is inaccurate. If I interpret the record correctly, Catherine's age is listed as 25 years, somewhat off from the 29 years that her birth in 1753 would imply.

By the way, other records indicate that Paul Braun remarried in November, 1782, to Theresa Eisen in Seltz. This reinforces the death of Catherine in 1782, but probably more research would clarify what is shown at Geneanet.

Anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo octagesimo secundo, die vigesima tertia mensis Augusti mortua est Catharina Rombs uxor Pauli Braun civis in Seltz, viginti quinque circiter annos nata, Sacramentis poenitentiae et eorum unctiois tantum ob subitanam mortem rite monita, et die sequenti ejusdem mensis et anni, ut supra, a me infra scripto sepulta est in cimiterio suburbano parochialis in Seltz, presentibus testibus Simone Dypon, et Georgio Lehmann civibus in Seltz, qui mecum subscripserunt.

Catharina Rombs

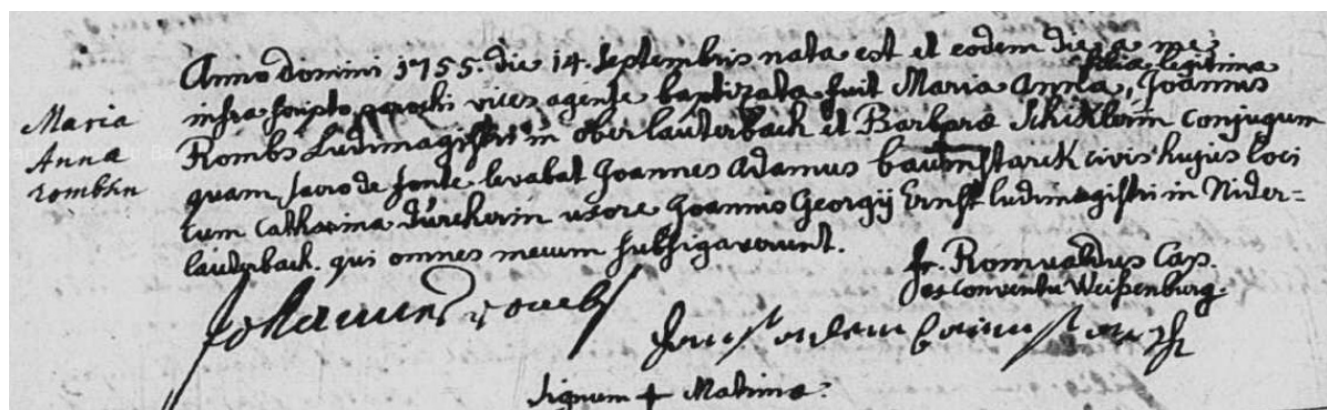
Simon Lehmann
Jac: Hofmann
Gros Lafaveu
vic: in Seltz

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

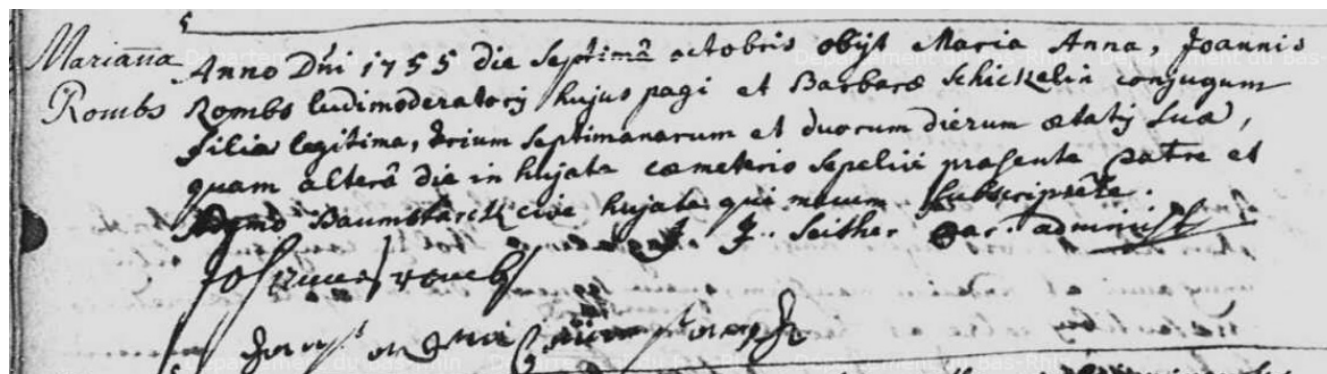
Marie Anne (Maria Anna)

This child unfortunately appears to have had a very short life of about 3 weeks. Records show her birth in Oberlauterbach in September, 1755 and her death in early October of the same year.

Birth/baptismal record: <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432-2321206>

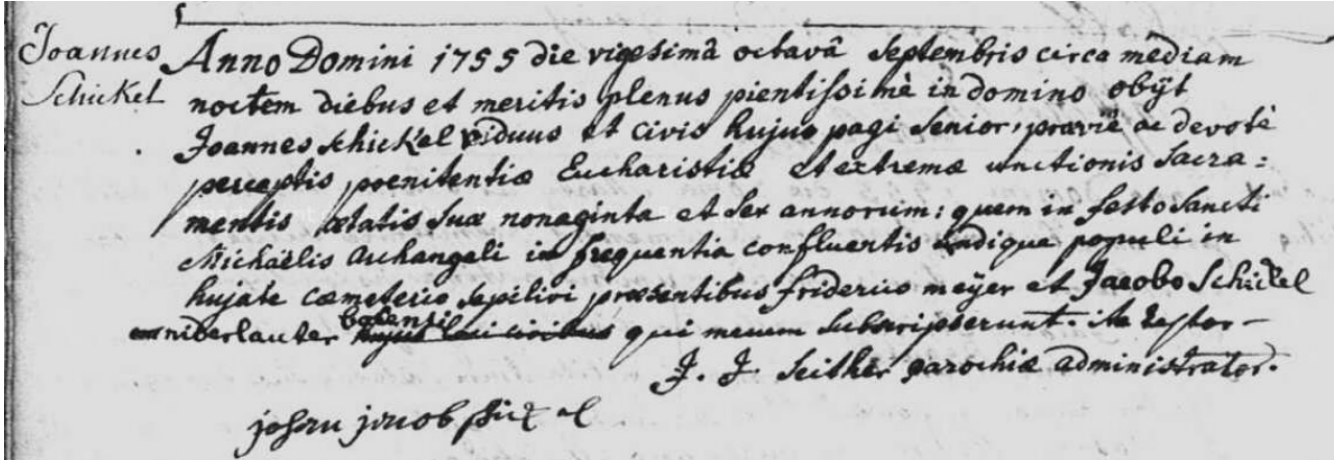


Death record: <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207436#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207436-2321483>



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

And, I have to note that the entry in the registry book just prior to this is for Barbara's paternal grandfather, who was in his 90s. This was a sad time because of the deaths that happened so close to each other.



Joannes Schickel Anno Domini 1755 die vigesima octava Septembris circa mediam noctem diebus et meritis plenus piensq; in domino obiit. Joannes Schickel viduus et civis hujus pagi senior, graviter ac devotè percipis poenitentia Eucharistia et extrema unctionis sacra: meritis ætatis suæ nonaginta et sex annorum: quem in festo sancti Michaelis Archangeli in frequentia confluentis hujusmodi populi in hujate cemeterio sepeliri presentibus friderico meyer et Jacobo Schickel considerantibus ^{capitulis} hujus loci iuribus qui neminem subarijserunt. In testor J. J. Seithel parochia administrator.

josru jmoob pbit et

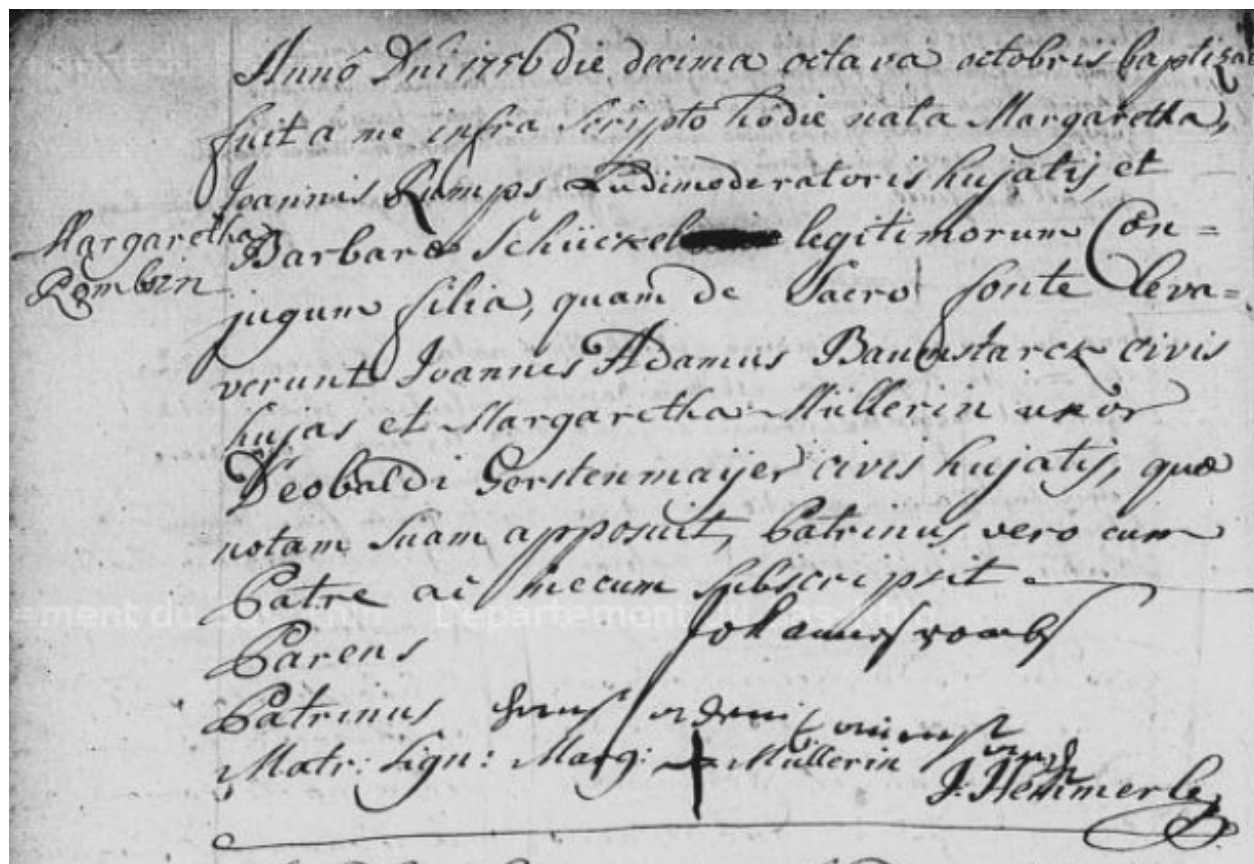
Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Margaretha Rombs

The life of Margaretha is poorly known by me. It is clear that she was born in October, 1756, in Oberlauterbach. I have also found a record of her death in Kesseldorf in May, 1812, and I have found a marriage record for her. It seems that she stayed behind in Kesseldorf when other members of her family went to Russia in 1808.

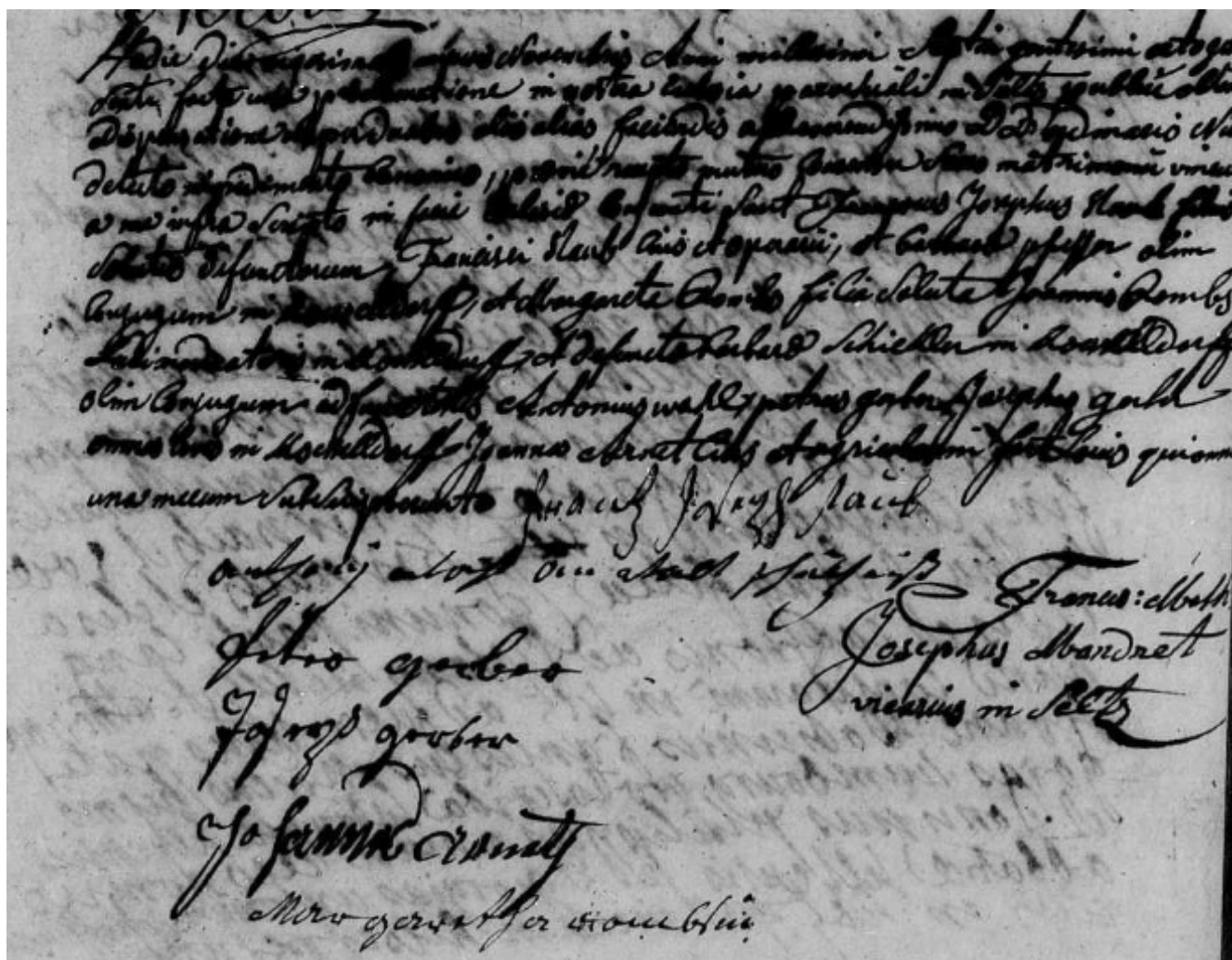
Here are the references.

Birth/baptismal record: <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432-2321210>



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Her marriage to Francois Joseph Staub took place on 20-November-1786 according to a record that can be found here. "France, Bas-Rhin, Parish and Civil Registration, 1525-1912", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6XFT-5D5Y> : 29 March 2022), Margarita Rombs in entry for Franciscus Josephus Staub, 1786.



Joseph and Marguerite must have had at least one child, also named Marguerite, in about 1787. daughter Marguerite was married to Christophe Gerber on 14-May-1804. The record has been transcribed by the AGAWE organization – see page 31 of *Les mariage del'Etat-Civil de 1794 à 1892* (Kesseldorf). Christophe and Marguerite Gerber had at least four children.

This record shows that Christophe was 23 years old and the son of Joseph (now dead) and Marie (Wahl) Staub of Kesseldorf. Marguerite is the daughter of Francois Joseph Staub and Marguerite

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Rombs of Kesseldorf. One Pierre Gerber of Kesseldorf was a witness, and he was probably the father of Christophe. See for example <https://gw.geneanet.org/dommoster?lang=en&iz=0&p=anne+marie&n=wahl&oc=2> .

♀ Anne Marie WAHL Print Family Tree

Bland : 241

- Born 24 July 1750 - Kesseldorf, 67235, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France
- Deceased 20 October 1829 - Kesseldorf, 67235, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France, aged 79 years old

Parents

- Christopher WAHL 1705-1784
- Marguerite SCHAEFFER †1784/

Spouses and children

- Married to **Pierre GERBER** 1758-1838 with
 - ♂ Christophe GERBER 1779-1822
 - ♂ Joseph GERBER 1791-1874

Siblings

- ♀ Marie-Anne WAHL 1754-1811

Notes

Birth
Siblings F Marie Marguerite WAHL 1741-1770 H David WAHL 1744- H Francois Antoine WAHL 1747- Marie-Anne Wahl 1748-1811 Married, Kesseldorf, to Joseph Gerber 1753-1815

Family Note

Marriage with Pierre GERBER
children including F Catherine GERBER 1779- F Aurélie Gerber 1782-1833 Married 20 January 1805, Kesseldorf, to Joseph Oesterlé 1786-1817 F Catherine GERBER 1785- H Jean GERBER 1787- H Joseph Gerber 1791 1838 Married, Kesseldorf, to Madeleine Stoll 1789-1829 H Louis GERBER 1794-1831

Sources

- Individual: *généanet Pierre Paul WILHELM (pierrepaulwi)/ Louis STREISSEL (Istreissel)*
- Birth: *AD Bas-Rhin _Seltz_Baptisms_1737-1754_Net view 146*
- Death: *AD Bas-Rhin _Kesseldorf_Decease_1829_Net view 4*

Marguerite Rhombs' death occurred May 8, 1812, in Kesseldorf according the AGAWE publication entitled *Les décès EC de l'An III à 1892*. See <http://agawe-genealogie.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Publications-AGAWE-3.pdf> . I have found no on-line records for this year and place in the Bas-Rhin Archives.

Informants on the record are Joseph Gerber (28 years old) and Christophe Gerber (30 years old), her son in law.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Johannes Rombs

Johannes is another child whose fate I have been unable to discover. He was born in Oberlauterbach in May, 1759, but subsequent documentation is undiscovered or non-existent.

Birth/baptismal record: <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432-2321223>



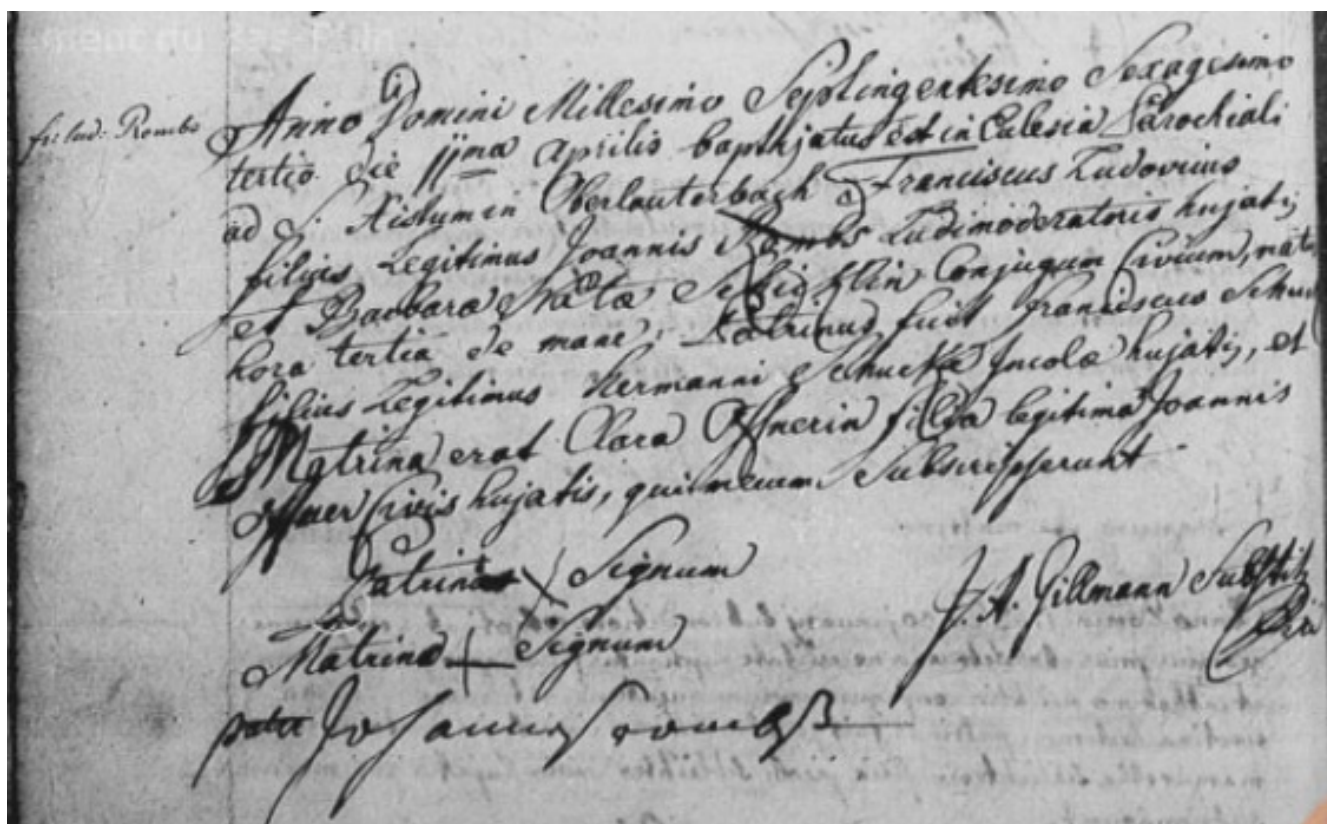
And, I have to note that the two births in the register prior to that for Johannes are for Schickel infants – Anne Marie (1759-1761), daughter of Jean Schickel and Julienne Buchner; Marie Barbara Schickel (1759-1825), daughter of Francois Georges Schickel and Anne Gunsohn. So, the Schickels of the village (who were cousins) were doing a good job of populating the village.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Franz Ludwig Rombs

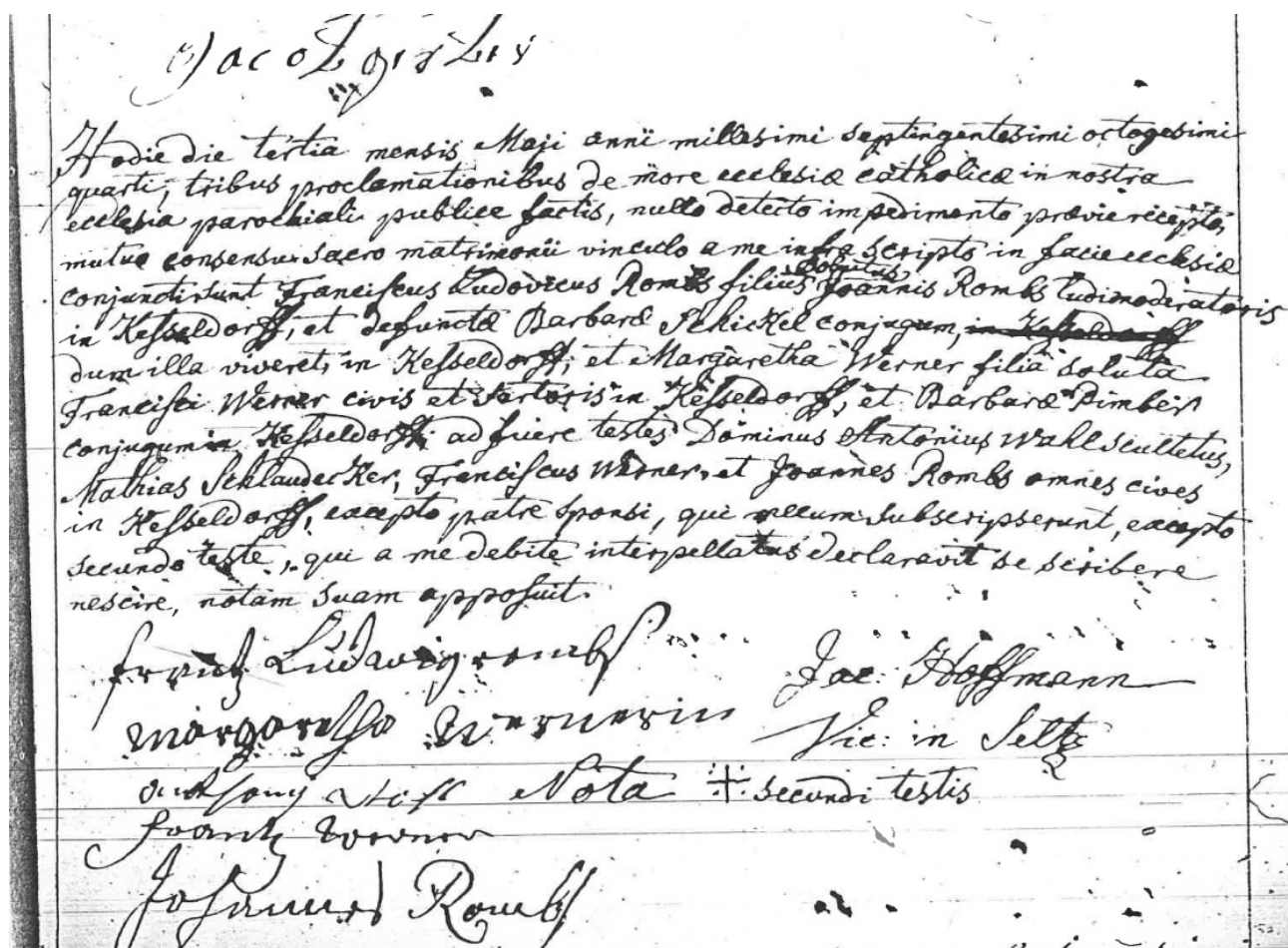
Franz Ludwig is my fourth great grandfather so I will provide a little extra information about him and his family. He carried on the tradition of teaching, and his family, along with others of his generation from the area, made the trip in 1808 to Russia. He married Margaretha Werner in May, 1784, probably in Kesseldorf, after his family had made the move from Oberlauterbach. His signature appears in various Kesseldorf records, including civil records, into 1808 (the year when the family relocated to Russia).

Birth record (11-April-1763) for Franz Ludwig: <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432-2321241>



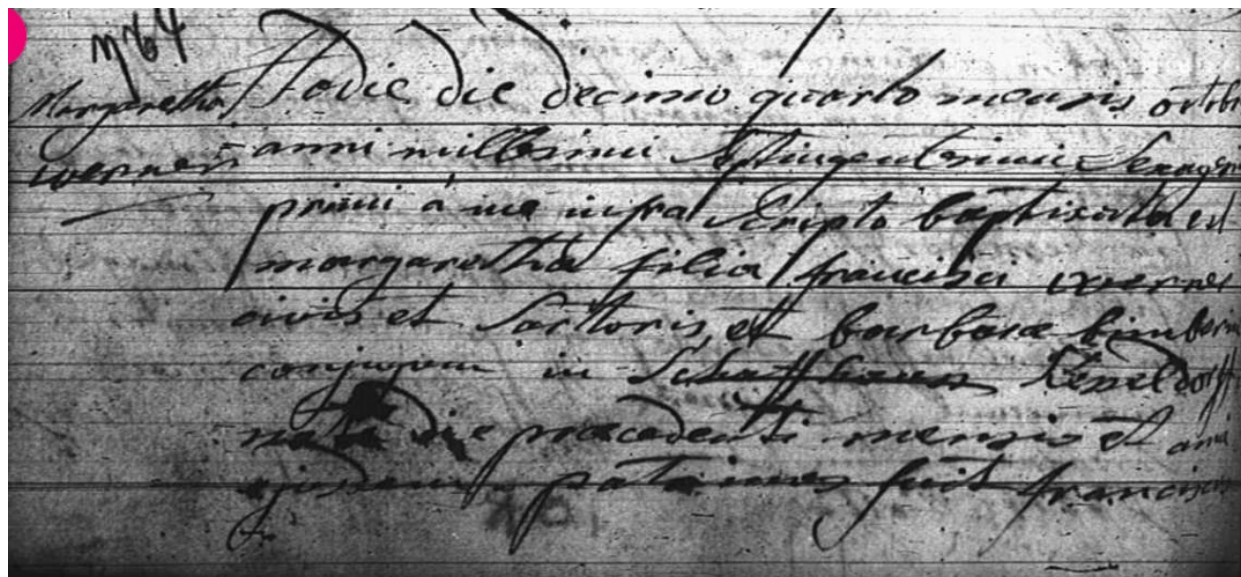
Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

His marriage (03-May-1784) to Margaretha Werner is recorded in the following image provided by a distant cousin, Niko Heinz, and present in the Ned Schall collection held by the GRHS in Bismarck, ND. The image can also be found at familysearch.org - <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6XFT-13G2> .



Margaretha is the daughter of Franz Werner and Barbara Bimber. Witnesses were Anton Wahl and Matthew Schlauderker. Johannes Rombs was present as well. Note that the Wahl name was associated with the mother of the witnesses for the death of Franz Ludwig's sister, Margaretha, in the preceding section. Margaretha Werner's birth in Kesseldorf was recorded in Seltz. She apparently was born in Kesseldorf in October, 1761, and she died in Selz (Russia) in March, 1823, about thirteen years before Franz Ludwig. The 1823 death date comes from the www.blackseagr.org site. Margaretha's birth record (shown below) can be found here <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C459-P3-R248690#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C459-P3-R248690-1373924> on image 116.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808



As an aside, Margaretha’s brother, Bernhard, and his wife (surname Voeller/Foeller from Oberlauterbach) were part of the migration to Russia in 1808. They can be found in household 84 in the 1813 census for Selz (Russia). Franz Ludwig and Margaretha can be found in household 45. In Russia, Bernhard functioned as an assessor and mayor for the village of Selz. (Refer to *Paradise on the Steppe* by Joseph S. Height, p. 62.)

Here is a transcript of the death record (22-April-1836) for Franz Ludwig: from the GRHS Saratov Archives purchased from <https://www.grhs.org/pages/home>

Fond 1166 Op. 1 D. 77

Page	Village	Name of Deceased	Entry #	Death Date	Age	Deceased	Parent, Spouse, Age	Burial
23	Selz	Franz Ludwig ROMBS	37	22	76	In the year of our Lord, 1836, April 22nd, in the colony of Selz, fortified by the Holy Sacraments, there died a widower, Franz Ludwig ROMBS	at the age of 66 years, colonist of Selz Church, Selz Parish, leaving behind three daughters	His body was laid to rest on the 3rd day after death, in the current month by the Curate of the Selz Church, Benedikt Zarenba in the place where he lived



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Overview of the Family of Franz Ludwig Rombs and Margaretha Werner

Here is a description of the family of Franz Ludwig and Margaretha. It shows their family plus one generation in Russia to help illustrate the unions made there and pave the way for showing how they relate back to Alsace.

1. Rombs, Franz Ludwig (b. 1763-04-11 - Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France, d. 1836-04-22 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Werner, Margaretha (b. 1761-10-14 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, France, d. 1823-03-16), m. 1784-05-03 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, France
 2. Rombs, Maria Josepha (b. 1783, d. 1840-11-01 - Strassburg, Russia)
sp. Baumgartner, Georg (b. 1774-10-08 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, Germany, d. 1853 - Strassburg, Russia)
 3. Baumgartner, Franz (b. 1810 - Strassburg, Russia, d. 1840 - Strassburg, Russia)
 3. Baumgartner, Marianna (b. 1811-10-18 - Strassburg, Russia)
 3. Baumgartner, Rosina (b. 1814 - Strassburg, Russia, d. 1816 - Strassburg, Russia)
 3. Baumgartner, Barbara (b. 1816)
 3. Baumgartner, Johannes
 3. Baumgartner, Anton (b. 1821)
 3. Baumgartner, Maria Anna
 3. Baumgartner, Catharina
 2. Rombs, Franz (b. 1789 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, Germany, d. 1836-02-13 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Sennhauser, Katharina (b. 1791-02-09 - Neewiller, Alsace, d. 1852 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Rombs, Franz Joseph (b. 1811 - Selz, Russia, d. 1879-07-12 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Usselmann, Katherina (b. 1815-03-12 - Selz, Russia, d. 1852-07-18 - Selz, Russia), m. 1834-10-21 - Selz, Russia
sp. Hirsch, Barbara (b. 1833 - Selz, Russia), m. 1853-10-12 - Selz, Russia
sp. Goldade, Elisabetha (b. 1817), m. 1877-04-24 - Selz, Russia
 3. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1812 - Selz, Russia, d. 1834-09-11 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Fetsch, Johann (b. 1812), m. 1833-11-05
 3. Rombs, Elisabetha (b. 1814 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Rombs, Margaretha (b. 1815-09-25 - Selz, Russia, d. 1879-12-29 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Fetsch, Franz Georg (b. 1813 - Selz, Russia), m. 1838-11-06 - Selz, Russia
 3. Rombs, Stefan (b. 1819 - Selz, Russia, d. 1891 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Hulm, Karolina (b. 1822, d. 1864 - Selz, Russia), m. 1838-11-06 - Selz, Russia
 3. Rombs, Paul (b. 1825 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Goldade, Magdalena (b. 1827 - Selz, Russia), m. 1847-10-12
 3. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1826 - Selz, Russia, d. 1913-12-29)
sp. Eisenzimmer, Franziska (b. 1837 - Selz, Russia), m. 1858-10-06 - Selz, Russia
sp. Volk, Agnesia (b. 1828 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1858-05-09 - Selz, Russia), m. 1845-09-16 - Selz, Russia
sp. Schaefer, Katharina
sp. Dettling, Agnes
 3. Rombs, Georg (b. 1832-02-02 - Selz, Russia, d. 1833-09-03 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Rombs, Elisabetha (b. 1834-04-25 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Volk, Mathias (b. 1833 - Selz, Russia), m. 1855-01-17 - Selz, Russia
 2. Rombs, Katherina (b. 1791, d. 1836-07-28 - Baden, Kutschurgan)
sp. Mitzel, Franz Karl (b. 1783-10-12 - Beinheim, Alsace, France, d. 1827 - Strassburg, Russia), m. 1811 - Strassburg, Russia
 3. Mitzel, Joseph (b. 1812, d. 1831)
 3. Mitzel, Anton (b. 1814 - Strassburg, Russia, d. 1880 - Strassburg, Russia)
 3. Mitzel, Marianna (b. 1816, d. 1901-01-14)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

3. Mitzel, Christian (b. 1820, d. 1912)
3. Mitzel, Katharina (b. 1822, d. 1904)
3. Mitzel, Regina (b. 1825, d. 1841)
3. Mitzel, Franz (b. 1827, d. 1867)
- sp. Halter, Anton (b. 1789, d. 1855), m. 1830-02-17 - Baden, Kutschurgan
 3. Halter, Magdalena (b. 1831-11-04 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1908)
sp. Burghardt, Andreas, m. 1850
 3. Halter, Catharina (b. 1833-05-28 - Baden, Kutschurgan)
sp. Hunecker, Sebastian (b. 1830 - Baden, Kutschurgan), m. 1853
 3. Halter, Margaretha (b. 1836-07-28 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1836-07-31 - Baden, Kutschurgan)
2. Rombs, Maria Elisabetha (b. 1795-09-30 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, Germany, d. 1831 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Schall, Johann (b. 1795, d. 1833), m. 1814
 3. Schall, Jacob (b. 1813, d. 1814)
 3. Schall, Marianna (b. 1815, d. 1815)
 3. Schall, Nicholas (b. 1828-10-27 - Selz, Russia, d. 1897-03-19 - McIntosh, North Dakota)
sp. Faehn, Marianna (b. 1826, d. 1897)
2. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1801 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, Germany)
 - sp. Usselmann, Jakob (b. 1799, d. 1862 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Adam (b. 1823 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Arth, Magaretha (b. 1825, d. 1862 - Selz, Russia), m. 1845 - Selz, Russia
sp. Eisenzimmer, Helen (b. 1843 - Selz, Russia), m. 1862 - Selz, Russia
 3. Usselmann, Lorenz (b. 1825 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Hopfinger, Lugwiga (b. 1825), m. 1848 - Selz, Russia
 3. Usselmann, Kasimir (b. 1827 - Selz, Russia, d. 1857 - Selz, Russia)
sp. unknown, Johanna (b. 1831)
 3. Usselmann, Georg (b. 1832 - Selz, Russia, d. 1835 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Marianna (b. 1835)
 3. Usselmann, Johann (b. 1837 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Margaretha (b. 1840 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Martin (b. 1842 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Elisabetha (d. 1848 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. unknown
 3. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1833-11-10 - Selz, Russia, d. 1833-11-19 - Selz, Russia)

The children of Franz Ludwig and Margaretha

In this section, I provide the information that has led to the birth dates for the children, all of whom were born in Alsace during a period when parish baptismal records are non-existent and civil records were dictated by the Republic. (The earliest birth records available on-line from the Bas-Rhin archives are from 1793.) Their children represent the first generation born in Russia, and, in all cases but one, birth dates come from Russian records.

Maria Josefa

Sorting out Josefa's life has been a challenge because of the existence of few records. The most useful one comes from the following record of her death in 1840 in Russia.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Fond 1166 Op. 1 D. 119

Page	Village	Name of Deceased	Entry #	Death Date	Age	Deceased	Parent, Spouse, Age	Burial
30R	Strassburg	Maria Josepha BAUMGÄRTNER née ROMBS	148	1	57	In the year of our Lord, 1840, November 1st, in the colony of Strassburg, fortified by the Holy Sacraments, there died a woman by the name of Maria Josepha BAUMGÄRTNER née ROMBS	at the age of 57 years, a colonist of Selz Church, Selz Parish leaving behind her husband, two sons Johannes and Anton and two daughters Maria Anna and Catharina	Her body was laid to rest on the 3rd day after death, in the current month by the Curate of the Selz Church, Benedikt Zarenba in the place where she lived

This record implies a birth in 1783 as well as a marriage, which is confirmed by the existence of household 49 in the 1813 Strassburg census. This shows that she is married to Georg Baumgartner with two children – Franz (b.~1808) and Marianna (b.~1811). Presumably they were married shortly before or after arrival in Russia. Their family has been difficult to sort out, but I believe that it is accurately described below. I have some concern that some of the children may in fact not properly assigned. More research is warranted.

1. Rombs, Maria Josepha (b. 1783, d. 1840-11-01 - Strassburg, Russia)
sp. Baumgartner, Georg (b. 1774-10-08 - Jockgrim, Pfalz, d. 1853 - Strassburg, Russia)
 2. Baumgartner, Franz (b. 1810 - Strassburg, Russia, d. 1840 - Strassburg, Russia)
 2. Baumgartner, Marianna (b. 1811-10-18 - Strassburg, Russia)
 2. Baumgartner, Rosina (b. 1814 - Strassburg, Russia, d. 1816 - Strassburg, Russia)
 2. Baumgartner, Barbara (b. 1816)
 2. Baumgartner, Anton (b. 1821) – suspected to belong based on the 1852 census -

Franz

Franz is my third great grandfather. I suspect that he married Catharina Sennhauser (of Neewiller in Alsace) shortly after arrival in Russia. He would have been about 20 at the time and she would have been a couple of years younger. The 1813 and 1816 census documents and his death record indicate a birth during or shortly after 1789, and, based on the location of his parents at the time, he was likely born in Kesseldorf. Here is a copy of the registry entry for his death in 1836. He happens to have died just about two months prior to his father, Franz Ludwig.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Fond 1166 Op. 1 D. 77

Page	Village	Name of Deceased	Entry #	Death Date	Age	Deceased	Parent, Spouse, Age	Burial
21R	Selz	Franz ROMBS	15	13	47	In the year of our Lord, 1836, February 13th, in the colony of Selz, fortified by the Holy Sacraments, there died Franz ROMBS	at the age of 47 years, colonist of Selz Church, Selz Parish, leaving behind his wife, four sons, and two daughters	His body was laid to rest on the 3rd day after death, in the current month by the Curate of the Selz Church, Benedikt Zarenba in the place where he lived

Following is a description of the family headed by Franz and Catharina. It shows children and grandchildren. My great grandparents are highlighted in yellow. They represent the first generation of people to emigrate from Russia. Other descendants of Franz stayed in Russia, and their lives played out quite different (usually sad) stories.

1. Rombs, Franz (b. 1789 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, d. 1836-02-13 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Sennhauser, Katharina (b. 1791-02-09 - Neewiller, Alsace, d. 1852 - Selz, Russia)
 2. Rombs, Franz Joseph (b. 1811 - Selz, Russia, d. 1879-07-12 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Usselmann, Katherina (b. 1815-03-12 - Selz, Russia, d. 1852-07-18 - Selz, Russia), m. 1834-10-21 - Selz, Russia
 3. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1835-09-17 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Fetsch, Josef (b. 1831), m. 1854-10-18
 3. Rombs, Magdalena (b. 1837-03-18 - Selz, Russia, d. 1839-06-17 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Rombs, Katharina (b. 1838-09-23 - Selz, Russia, d. 1869-04-22 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Hirsch, Andreas (b. 1836 - Selz, Russia), m. 1858-10-13 - Selz, Russia
 3. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1840-02-08 - Selz, Russia, d. 1840-12-04 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Rombs, Franz Josef (b. 1842-03-19 - Selz, Russia, d. 1865-12-10 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Weigel, Barbara (b. 1843 - Selz, Russia), m. 1864-10-19 - Selz, Russia
 3. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1845-07-01 - Selz, Russia, d. 1914-08-08 - South Dakota, USA)
sp. Kessler, Barbara (b. 1848-06-26 - Selz, Russia, d. 1896-03-10 - Wecota, Faulk, South Dakota, USA), m. 1866-11-07 - Selz, Russia
 3. Rombs, Magdalena (b. 1848-02-17 - Selz, Russia, d. 1853-10-15 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Rombs, Franz (b. 1849-08-16 - Selz, Russia, d. 1880-12-07 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Klein, Margaretha (b. 1854 - Selz, Russia), m. 1874-10-27 - Selz, Russia
 3. Rombs, Severin (b. 1852-05-21 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Hirsch, Barbara (b. 1833 - Selz, Russia), m. 1853-10-12 - Selz, Russia
 3. Rombs, Margaretha (b. 1856-11-28 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Rombs, Wendelin (b. 1858-02-23 - Selz, Russia)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

3. Rombs, Georg (b. 1859-09-16 - Selz, Russia, d. 1859-10-14 - Selz, Russia)
3. Rombs, Magdalena (b. 1860-11-19 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. unknown, unknown husband of Magdalena Rombs, m. 1880 - Selz, Russia
 - sp. Senger, Xaveri (b. 1858-11-19 - Strassburg, Russia), m. 1880-02-24 - Selz, Russia
3. Rombs, Margaretha (b. 1862-06-14 - Selz, Russia)
3. Rombs, Wendelin (b. 1863-09-18 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Goldade, Elisabetha (b. 1817), m. 1877-04-24 - Selz, Russia
2. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1812 - Selz, Russia, d. 1834-09-11 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Fetsch, Johann (b. 1812), m. 1833-11-05
 3. Fetsch, Marianna (b. 1833-11-14 - Selz, Russia, d. 1833)
 3. Fetsch, Johannes (b. 1834-09-03 - Selz, Russia)
2. Rombs, Elisabetha (b. 1814 - Selz, Russia)
2. Rombs, Margaretha (b. 1815-09-25 - Selz, Russia, d. 1879-12-29 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Fetsch, Franz Georg (b. 1813 - Selz, Russia), m. 1838-11-06 - Selz, Russia
 3. Fetsch, Johann (b. 1839)
 3. Fetsch, Katharina (b. 1842-05-24 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Fetsch, Thomas (b. 1844-12-21 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Wagner, Marianna (b. 1848), m. 1866-11-07
 3. Fetsch, Julianna (b. 1847-05-03 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Fetsch, Franz (b. 1850 - Selz, Russia, d. 1911-04-25 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Fetsch, Elizabetha (b. 1852 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Fetsch, Anna (b. 1854-03-27 - Selz, Russia)
2. Rombs, Stefan (b. 1819 - Selz, Russia, d. 1891 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Hulm, Karolina (b. 1822, d. 1864 - Selz, Russia), m. 1838-11-06 - Selz, Russia
 3. Rombs, Franz (b. 1839, d. 1840)
 3. Rombs, Anton (b. 1840)
 - sp. Jung, Julianna (b. 1845)
 3. Rombs, Georg (b. 1843 - Selz, Russia, d. 1916 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Weigel, Franziska (b. 1844-10-24 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Rombs, Andreas (b. 1845, d. 1845)
 3. Rombs, Rosina (b. 1846)
 - sp. Baumstark, Adam (b. 1843)
 3. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1848 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Rombs, Katharina (b. 1850)
 3. Rombs, Helena (b. 1852 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Rombs, Magdalena (b. 1854)
 - sp. MÜLLER Miller, Johannes or Valentin, m. 1879
 3. Rombs, Elisabetha (b. 1857)
 3. Rombs, Thaddeus (b. 1859)
 3. Rombs, Balthazar (b. 1860)
 3. Rombs, Thaddeus (b. 1863)
2. Rombs, Paul (b. 1825 - Selz, Russia)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

- sp. Goldade, Magdalena (b. 1827 - Selz, Russia), m. 1847-10-12
 - 3. Rombs, Katharina (b. 1849 - Selz, Russia, d. 1850-05-08 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Johann (b. 1851 - Selz, Russia, d. 1863 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Georg (d. 1858 - Selz, Russia)
- 2. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1826 - Selz, Russia, d. 1913-12-29)
 - sp. Eisenzimmer, Franziska (b. 1837 - Selz, Russia), m. 1858-10-06 - Selz, Russia
 - 3. Rombs, Magdalena (b. 1859-11-07 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Elizabeth (b. 1861-12-03 - Selz, Russia, d. 1945 - Blumenfeld, Ukraine)
 - sp. Kiefel, Eugen (b. 1854 - Franzfeld, Russia, d. 1929 - Blumenfeld, Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Michael (b. 1864-04-20 - Blumenfeld, Russia, d. 1920 - Neu-Petersburg, Russia)
 - sp. Hatzenbuehler, Barbara (b. 1871-09-11 - Neu-Baden, Russia, d. 1933-12-20 - Neu-Petersburg, Russia), m. 1891
 - 3. Rombs, Christina (b. 1866-04-28 - Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Dorothea (b. 1868-07-10 - Russia)
 - sp. Volk, Agnesia (b. 1828 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1858-05-09 - Selz, Russia), m. 1845-09-16 - Selz, Russia
 - 3. Rombs, Katharina (b. 1846 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1850-02-01 - Selz, Russia, d. 1852-12-26 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Balthazar R. (b. 1853-05-23 - Selz, Russia, d. 1926-05-11)
 - sp. Wagner, Helena (Halaline) (b. 1854-05-28 - Franzfeld, Russia, d. 1932-09-14)
 - 3. Rombs, Helena (b. 1855-04-22 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Wendelin (b. 1856-09-02 - Selz, Russia, d. 1856-09-10 - Selz, Russia)
 - 3. Rombs, Anton (b. 1858-04-20 - Selz, Russia, d. 1858-08-14 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Schaefer, Katharina
 - 3. Rombs, Franz (b. 1870)
 - sp. Dettling, Agnes
 - 3. Rombs, Albina (b. 1877-04-06)
 - 2. Rombs, Georg (b. 1832-02-02 - Selz, Russia, d. 1833-09-03 - Selz, Russia)
 - 2. Rombs, Elisabetha (b. 1834-04-25 - Selz, Russia)
 - sp. Volk, Mathias (b. 1833 - Selz, Russia), m. 1855-01-17 - Selz, Russia

Katherina

Once again, the best estimate for a birth date comes from a Russian death record. Here is what is entered for the death of Katharina. Note that she died in the summer of the same year as her father and brother, Franz. The information here implies a birth in 1791, and again I assume the location is Kesseldorf.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Fond 1166 Op. 1 D. 77

Page	Village	Name of Deceased	Entry #	Death Date	Age	Deceased	Parent, Spouse, Age	Burial
24R	Baden	Catharina HALTER née ROMBS	56	28	45	In the year of our Lord, 1836, July 28th, in the colony of Baden, without Holy Sacraments, there died Catharina HALTER née ROMBS	at the age of 45 years, colonist of Selz Church, Selz Parish, leaving behind her husband and two sons and four daughters	Her body was laid to rest on the 3rd day after death, in the current month by the Curate of the Selz Church, Benedikt Zarenba in the place where she lived

wife of
Anton
Halter

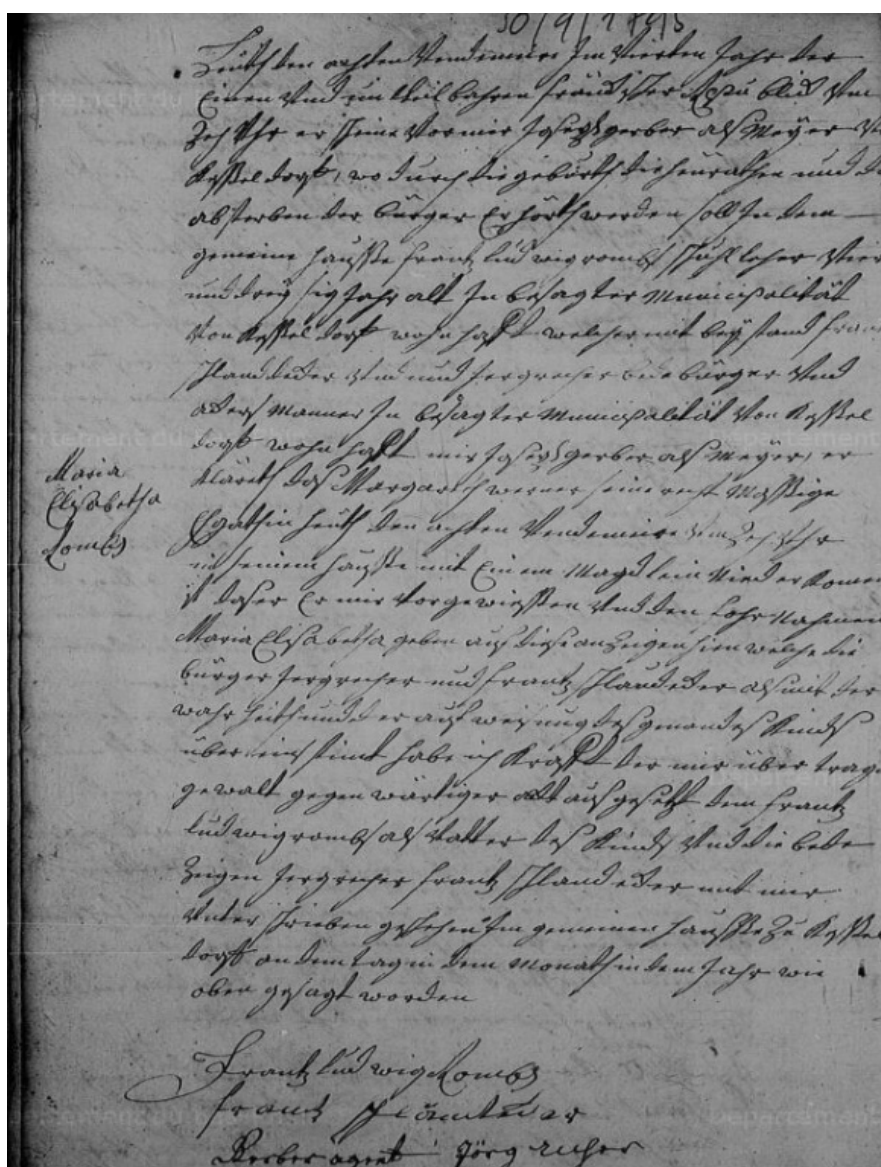
The best information that I have indicates that she was married twice – once to Franz Karl Mitzel (in 1811 in Russia) and then to Anton Halter (in 1830 in Russia). There were children from both marriages as shown in the report below. Her first marriage must have happened in about the first three years of the arrival of her family in Selz (Russia). Her first husband (Franz) may have been from Beinheim (Alsace), but he may also have been from just across the Rhein River in a village called Plittersdorf (near Rastatt). They lived in Strassburg (Russia) until after his death in 1827, when Katharina remarried to Anton Halter in 1830 and she moved to Baden (Russia).

1. Rombs, Katherina (b. 1791, d. 1836-07-28 - Baden, Kutschurgan)
 - sp. Mitzel, Franz Karl (b. 1783-10-12 - Beinheim, Alsace, France, Alsace, d. 1827 - Strassburg, Russia), m. 1811 - Strassburg, Russia
 2. Mitzel, Joseph (b. 1812, d. 1831)
 2. Mitzel, Anton (b. 1814 - Strassburg, Russia, d. 1880 - Strassburg, Russia)
 2. Mitzel, Marianna (b. 1816, d. 1901-01-14)
 2. Mitzel, Christian (b. 1820, d. 1912)
 2. Mitzel, Katharina (b. 1822, d. 1904)
 2. Mitzel, Regina (b. 1825, d. 1841)
 2. Mitzel, Franz (b. 1827, d. 1867)
 - sp. Halter, Anton (b. 1789, d. 1855), m. 1830-02-17 - Baden, Kutschurgan
 2. Halter, Magdalena (b. 1831-11-04 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1908)
 - sp. Burghardt, Andreas, m. 1850
 2. Halter, Catharina (b. 1833-05-28 - Baden, Kutschurgan)
 - sp. Hunecker, Sebastian (b. 1830 - Baden, Kutschurgan), m. 1853
 2. Halter, Margaretha (b. 1836-07-28 - Baden, Kutschurgan, d. 1836-07-31 - Baden, Kutschurgan)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Maria Elisabetha

According to the transcription provided by the AGAWE organization, Elisabetha was born on 30-September-1795. (See *Les naissances de 'Etat-Civil de 1794 à 1892*, page 40, 2021. She is the only child for whom I have found a birth record in Kesseldorf. Here is a link to the Bas-Rhin registry entry for her birth. <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C234-P1-R154088#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C234-P1-R154088-1575251> (Kesseldorf - Etat civil - Registre de naissances 1793-An IV - 4 E 234/1 - page 7) Note that the entry is signed by her father, and he is listed as “instituteur” (i.e., teacher).



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Elisabeth's marriage to Johann Schall (b.1795) in Russia in 1814 is the intersection of the Rombs and Schall families. I believe that the Schall family emigrated from Kaidenburg (Alsace), not far from Oberlauterbach.

A descendant from this Schall line is Ned Schall, who has been mentioned before. He was an exceptional researcher, who left his research materials with the GRHS organization. I have had the pleasure of meeting Ned and his wife in Minnesota.

Johann appears in the 1813 Selz census in household 16 with his father (Jakob) and sister (Apolonia). He and Elisabeth are in household 28 in the 1816 census. What I believe is an accurate representation of their family is shown below.

1. Rombs, Maria Elisabetha (b. 1795-09-30 - Kesseldorf, Alsace, Germany, d. 1831 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Schall, Johann (b. 1795, d. 1833), m. 1814
 2. Schall, Jacob (b. 1813, d. 1814)
 2. Schall, Marianna (b. 1815, d. 1815)
 2. Schall, Nicholas (b. 1828-10-27 - Selz, Russia, d. 1897-03-19 - McIntosh, North Dakota)
sp. Faehn, Marianna (b. 1826, d. 1897)
 3. Schall, Wendelin (b. 1862, d. 1950)
sp. Tuchscherer, Phillipina (b. 1877, d. 1966), m. 1894

Marianna

Marianna's start in life is based on estimates from the 1811, 1813, 1816, and 1852 census lists which suggest a birth date of 1800-1802, again presumably in Kesseldorf (Alsace). So far her date of death is unknown to me. Her marriage was to Jakob Usselmann. Jakob was the son of Martin Usselmann and Elisabeth Graff, of Niederseebach (Alsace). In 1852 Marianna and Jakob were in household 28 in Selz (Russia) according to the census taken in that year. Marianna may have had a short-lived illegitimate child in 1833. The list that follows summarizes what I have discovered about her descendants.

1. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1801 - Kesseldorf, Alsace)
sp. Usselmann, Jakob (b. 1799, d. 1862 - Selz, Russia)
 2. Usselmann, Adam (b. 1823 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Arth, Magaretha (b. 1825, d. 1862 - Selz, Russia), m. 1845 - Selz, Russia
 3. Usselmann, Anton (b. 1847 - Selz, Russia, d. 1849)
 3. Usselmann, Marianna (b. 1850 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Helena (b. 1852 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Elisabetha (b. 1855 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Magdalena (b. 1858 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Katharina (b. 1860 - Selz, Russia)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

3. Usselmann, Silvester (b. 1862 - Selz, Russia)
- sp. Eisenzimmer, Helen (b. 1843 - Selz, Russia), m. 1862 - Selz, Russia
 3. Usselmann, Sylvester John (b. 1868-06-28 - Selz, Russia, d. 1937 - Edmunds, South Dakota, USA)
sp. Dosch, Regina (b. 1868-09-29 - Kandel, Russia), m. 1890-11-18
 3. Usselmann, Anna Maria (b. 1869 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Eva (b. 1870 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Marianna (b. 1874 - Selz, Russia)
 3. Usselmann, Margaretha (b. 1877 - Selz, Russia)
2. Usselmann, Lorenz (b. 1825 - Selz, Russia)
sp. Hopfinger, Lugwiga (b. 1825), m. 1848 - Selz, Russia
 3. Usselmann, Martin (b. 1849)
 3. Usselmann, Katharina (b. 1851)
 3. Usselmann, Magdalena (b. 1860 - Selz, Russia, d. 1941-05-19 - Cass, North Dakota)
2. Usselmann, Kasimir (b. 1827 - Selz, Russia, d. 1857 - Selz, Russia)
sp. unknown, Johanna (b. 1831)
 3. Usselmann, Joseph (b. 1851)
2. Usselmann, Georg (b. 1832 - Selz, Russia, d. 1835 - Selz, Russia)
2. Usselmann, Marianna (b. 1835)
2. Usselmann, Johann (b. 1837 - Selz, Russia)
2. Usselmann, Margaretha (b. 1840 - Selz, Russia)
2. Usselmann, Martin (b. 1842 - Selz, Russia)
2. Usselmann, Elisabetha (d. 1848 - Selz, Russia)
- sp. unknown
 2. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1833-11-10 - Selz, Russia, d. 1833-11-19 - Selz, Russia)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

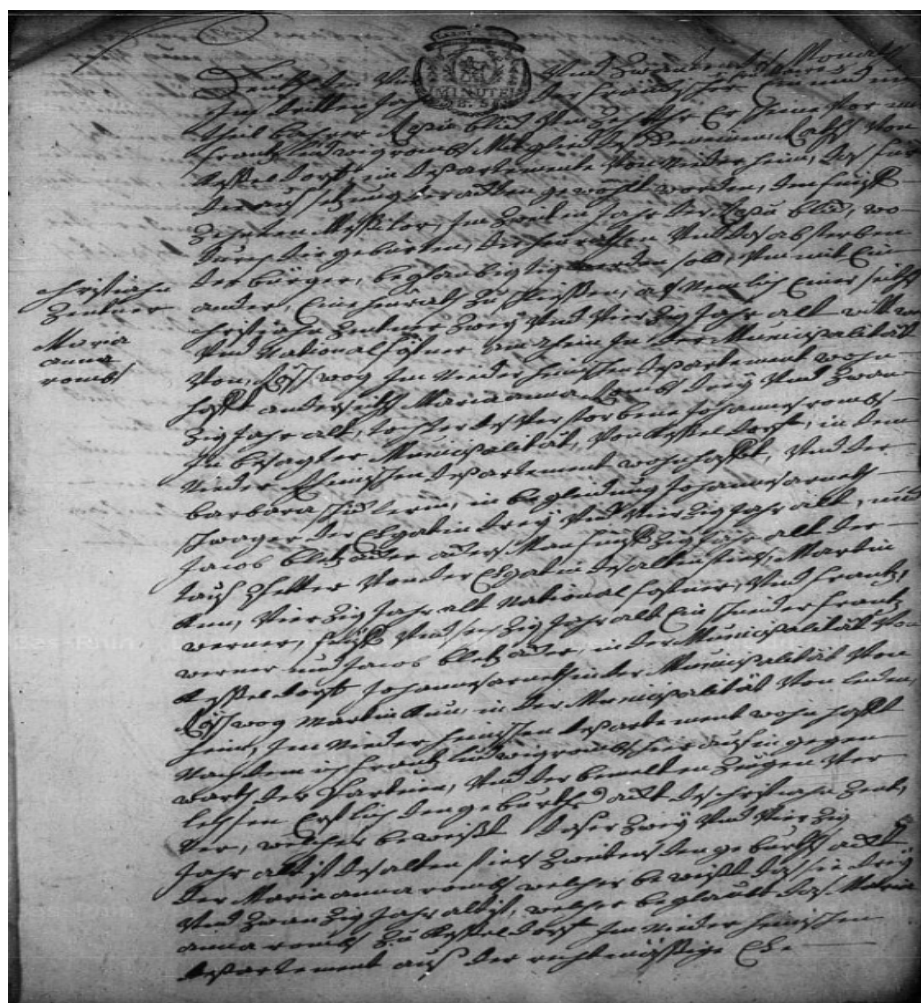
Marianna Rombs

I believe that Marianna is the last child of Franz Ludwig and Barbara. She appears in Russia with her husband, Christian Zentner. (Refer to household 85 of the 1813 census.) Marianna's baptismal record (27-July-1771) can be found on image 24 of the Seltz church records as shown below. See <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C459-P3-R248691#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C459-P3-R248691-1374299>.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

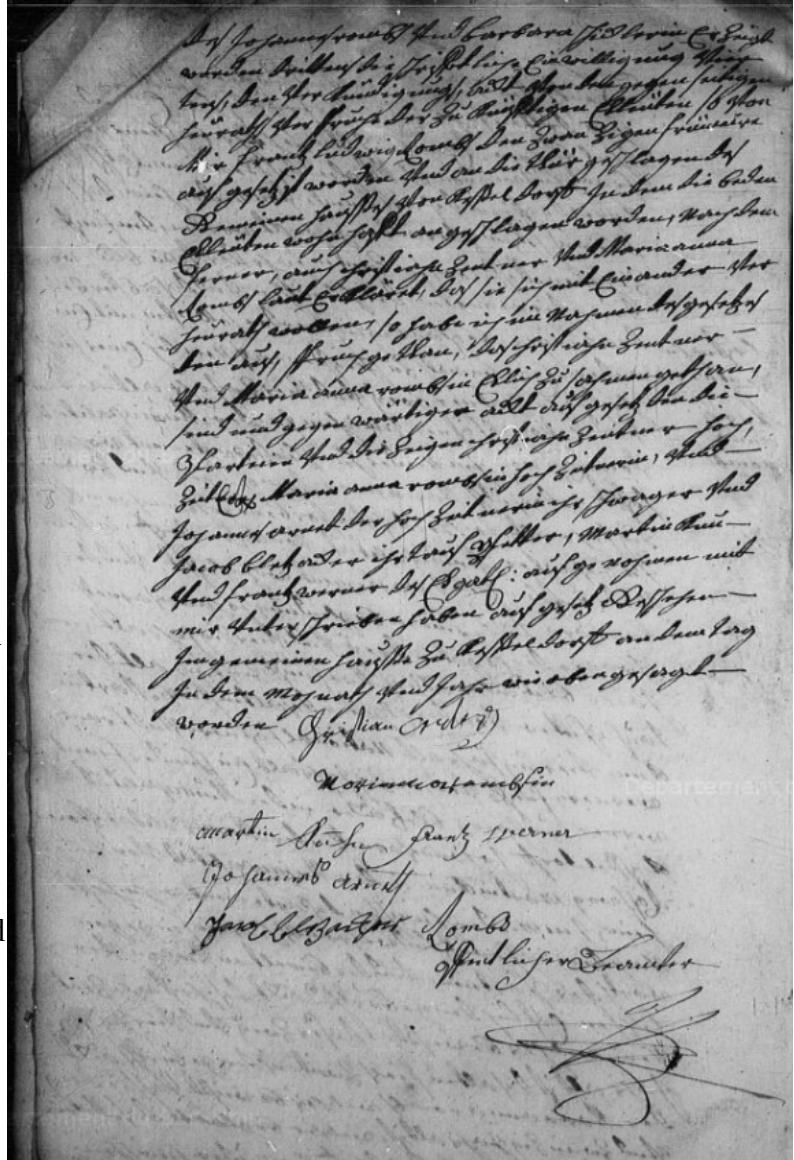
Marriage to Christian Zentner in 1794 is in a register from Kesseldorf, written in a style indicative of new recording requirements imposed after the Revolution. (e.g., dates are given using the Republican calendar.) Here is the record. <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C234-P1-R154198#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C234-P1-R154198-1575256> .



(continued)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The AGAWE organization has provided a translation indicating that this records the event as taking place on 12-December-1794 (Gregorian version of 14 frimaire an 3). It is a marriage between Christian Zentner, age 43 of Roeschwoog, and Marie Anne Rombs, age 23, daughter of Jean Rombs and Barbe Schickel (both dead) of Kesseldorf. Witnesses include her brother, the groom's Godfather, a "national ranger" named Martin Rinn, and Francois Werner (father in-law) of her brother. See page 25 of *Kesseldorf, Les Mariages de;Etat-Civil de 1794 à 1892*, published in 2022.



They traveled to Russia, probably with Christian's son from a previous marriage (Matthias). Christian and Marianna appear to have had just one child (Maria) in Russia. Marianna can be found in Selz in the 1813 census as mentioned above. Matthias is found in Strassburg (Russia) at that time.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Summary Timeline for the Three Brothers

In an effort to wrap the lives of all three brothers from the family of Michael and Catharina (von) Rombs into a comprehensible whole, here is a timeline that incorporates some major events for all. On the surface, it appears that the decade of the 1740s was one of very significant events and relocation events for each brother. When compared this way, it is apparent that no brother was long lived, but this is particularly so for Anton, who died at about age 38 in the same year (1752) as the death of his last daughter. This is in spite of the fact that their parents lived much longer lives – 80 years for father Michael and 100 years(!) for mother Catherina.

decade	Johannes	Anton	Ferdinand
1710	1712: born	1714: born	1717: born
1720	living in Neibsheim	living in Neibsheim	living in Neibsheim
1730	1732: marriage in Neibsheim (M. Bachmann)	1735: marriage in Oberöwisheim (R. Lengle)	living in Neibsheim
1740	1740: Maria & son die. Migrates to Oberlauterbach. 1744: marriage in Oberl. (B. Schickel)	1747: relocate to Zeutern	1741: marriage in Bruchsal (E.M. Merz) 1742: in Herxheim 1745: in Neibsheim 1747: in Jockgrim
1750	living in Oberlauterbach	1752: last child born 1752: death in Zeutern (age 38)	living in Jockgrim
1760	living in Oberlauterbach, then moves to Kesseldorf (1764-1765)		1764: birth of last child (Jockgrim)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

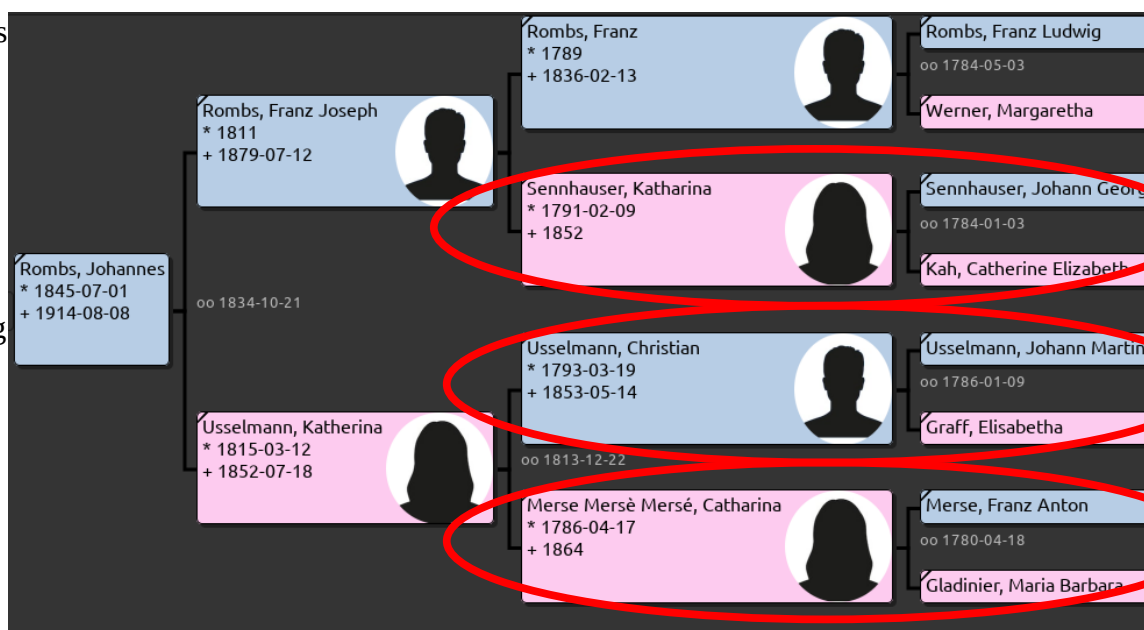
decade	Johannes	Anton	Ferdinand
1770	1771: In Kesseldorf; last child born there	1772: death of wife (Regina-age 61)	1771: death in Jockgrim (age 54)
1780	1783: death of wife in Kesseldorf (Barbara-age 57) 1786: death in Kesseldorf (age 64)		
1790			1794: death of wife (Eva Margaretha- age 72)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Salmbach, Niederlauterbach, Niederseebach, Neewiller Families

This section is devoted to families that are connected with the main Rombs line later in Russia (in the early part of the 19th century). The surnames represented here are those of great grandparents of my paternal great grandparent, Johannes Rhombs, i.e., fourth great grandparents to me. The purpose of this is to provide some additional information to bridge between Russia and (mainly) Alsace in areas where people from whom I descend lived.

Shown here is a chart that displays the names of the people involved. Note that Franz Ludwig Rombs and Margaretha Werner have been discussed earlier in this document.



Following is a map showing associated locations. See <https://goo.gl/maps/ew7zo16NpoRvYFzx6>. Pink pins mark villages where people with these names (Sennhauser, Kah, Usselmann, Graff, Merse, Gladinier) lived.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Usselmann / Merse Lines

This section explores the roots of Christian Usselmann and Catharina Merse, third great grandparents of mine who were married in 1813 in Selz (Russia). Their lives began in Alsace and ended in Russia and included overcoming considerable difficulties.

The Usselmann line from which my great grandfather descends is mainly associated with the area around Niederseebach. This area lies just to the west of Oberlauterbach, and the small village is near Trimbach, where some of the relevant church records originated. This is a largely agrarian area, which administratively is associated with Wissembourg to the northwest about 12 km. Obviously, the village is close to the village of Seebach, which today appears to house the main administrative functions for the immediate area.

You can learn a little more about current-day Seebach/Niederseebach by visiting <https://www.seebach.alsace/>. The history of Seebach and Niederseebach is described in *Seebach : la vie d'un village de l'outre forêt*, Strasbourg : Editions Coprur, 2nd edition, 1985



I suspect that the Usselmann families in the area of Niederseebach are related to the Usselmann families located in and around Salmbach, which is only about 9 km to the northeast of Niederseebach. Further research may reveal the details of the relationship(s) between these groups of Usselmann families.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The Merse family line to which I am related can be found in the vicinity of Salmbach in the 18th century. Salmbach is between Wissembourg and Lauterbach, each of which probably provided some administrative and court functions for Salmbach in the 18th century. It is just south of the border with the Rheinland-Palatinate, which in this area is defined by the Lauter River that flows into the Rhein near the village of Lauterbourg to the southeast. The image of part of Salmbach is from . . . Badener, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons.



A small amount of additional information about Salmbach can be found at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salmbach> . A two volume set of books in French that gives significantly more information also exists – *Salmbach, L'héritage de deux cultures*, copyright 1989 by Editions Coprur, ISBN 2-903297-29-0. The latter reference provides considerable historical information and explains the influence of two cultures (French and Palatine) on the village.



Gerd Eichmann, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Birth Family of Christian Usselmann

Heading this family are fourth great-grandparents of mine (i.e., Martin Usselmann and Elizabeth Graff). Some of the family members became part of the migration to Russia. The family is summarized in the report below.

Husband: Usselmann, Johann Martin (I0317)		
Birth	1756-01-02	Niederseebach, Weissburg, Elsass, Germany
Death	1804-03-02	Niederseebach, Weissburg, Elsass, Germany
Father	Usselmann, Pierre (I0318)	
Mother	Adolff, Catherine (I0321)	
Marriage (F0075):		
Marriage	1786-01-09	Niederseebach, Bas Rhin, Alsace, France
Wife: Graff, Elisabetha (I0322)		
Birth	1763-01-06	Niederlauterbach, Alsace, France
Death	from D. Roth email	
	1810	Selz, Russia
Father	Graff, Andre (I3403)	
Mother	Schneider, Marie Barbara (I3404)	

Children		
1M	Usselmann, Pierre (I0533)	
	Birth	1789
	Death	1843
	Spouse	Bund, Anne Marie (I3405) (F0731)
2F	Usselmann, Marie Catherine (I3526)	
	Birth	1791-07-00 Niederseebach, Bas Rhin, Alsace, France
	Death	1791-09-01 Niederseebach, Bas Rhin, Alsace, France
3M	Usselmann, Christian (I0316)	
	Birth	1793-03-19 Niederseebach, Weissburg, Elsass, Germany
	Death	1853-05-14 Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Merse Mersè Mersé, Catharina (I0325) (F0076)
	Marriage	1813-12-22
4M	Usselmann, Jakob (I0415)	
	Birth	1799
	Death	1862 Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Rombs, Marianna (I0281) (F0108)
5M	Usselmann, Michel (I3527)	
	Birth	1800
	Death	1804-02-18 Niederseebach, Bas Rhin, Alsace, France
6M	Usselmann, Martin (I0324)	
	Birth	1803-02-11
	Death	? Suspect in Russia

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The 1786 marriage record for Martin and Elizabeth as transcribed in the AGAWE publication entitled *Trimbach Niederseebach Les mariages catholiques de 1731 a 1810*, page 50, indicates that Martin worked as a carpenter in Niederseebach and that Elizabeth was from Oberseebach. Witnesses included Nicolas Usselmann (probably an uncle) from Trimbach and Michel Usselmann (probably another uncle) from Niederseebach. Other witnesses had surnames of Fischer, Bonnewitz, and Boeshertz.

Unfortunately, Martin died early in life in 1804 (age 47), preceded by his son Michel by only a few days. This left Martin's wife, Elizabeth with four surviving sons, two that were quite young – Pierre (17), Christian (15), Jakob (5), and Martin (newborn). Records in the Bas-Rhin archives show that Pierre worked as weaver and married Anne Marie Bund in 1811 in Oberseebach, where he also died at an early age (54).

Elizabeth married Ludwig (Louis) Strauss on 20-Jan-1807 in Niederseebach. See the AGAWE publication noted above – page 68. Ludwig's line appears to track back to Forstheim (Bas-Rhin). In 1809 she and Ludwig and three of her four sons made the trip to South Russia (the Kutschurgan Colonies), arriving in the fall. Unfortunately, Elizabeth did not survive long there. She died in roughly 1809-10, after which Ludwig married the widow (Elisabeth Buchel) of one Johann Müller.

Thus, early after the arrival in Russia, the three sons of Martin Usselmann and Elisabeth Graff become complete orphans, dependent on themselves and the kindness of those around them. Ludwig Strauss seems to have continued to provide housing for a while. In what follows I present the most reasonable account that fits the facts preserved in the Selz (Russia) censuses of 1811, 1813, and 1816, the well-known book by Karl Stumpp entitled *The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the years 1763 to 1862*, and a clarifying email from Dennis Roth.

Ludwig Strauss and his new wife named Elisabeth have the following people in their residence in Selz in 1811.

- Elizabeth [Buchel] (36) and Ludwig Strauss (40)
- Jakob Usselmann (15) [son of Elizabeth Graff]
- Children of Johann Miller and Elisabeth [Buchel] follow.
 - Thomas Miller/Mueller/Müller (14) [son of Johann Miller and his first wife named Martha]
 - Michael Miller/Mueller/Müller (16) [son of Johann Miller and his first wife named Martha]
 - Markus Miller/Mueller/Müller (14) [son of Johann Miller and his first wife named Martha]
 - Salome Miller/Mueller/Müller (10) [daughter of Johann Miller and his first wife named Martha]
 - Apolonia Miller/Mueller/Müller (2) [daughter of Johann Miller and his first wife named Martha]

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The 1816 census information for this family is consistent with the 1811 census, with the addition of Martin Usselmann (12) and an infant named Genoveva. So, my interpretation is that Ludwig is now sheltering his previous wife's two sons (Martin and Jakob), and he has a new daughter by Elisabeth Buchel. The five Miller/Mueller/Müller children are still present.

Here are summaries of the paths that I believe the three Usselmann sons took. The over-riding theme appears to be that of families helping care for other families as they all cope with losses of key family members at the time that the colonies were just being founded.

- Christian (His daughter, Katharina, becomes my 2nd great grandmother by marriage to Franz Joseph Rombs.)
 - 1809: age 16, emigration to Kandel (Russia) [in the same assembly of people as the Strauss/Graff family?]
 - 1811: in Kandel (Russia)
 - 1813: with wife Catherina Merse in Selz (Russia) (More about Catherina Merse follows.)
 - 1816: with wife Catherina Merse in Selz (Russia)
- Jakob (He married Marianna Rombs, daughter of Franz Ludwig Rombs.)
 - 1809: age, 13, emigration to Selz (Russia) with the Strauss/Graff family
 - 1811: with the Strauss family in Selz (Russia)
 - 1813: ?
 - 1816: with the Strauss family in Selz (Russia)
- Martin (He may have moved from the immediate vicinity of Selz to form a family of his own.)
 - 1809: at the age of 5 years, he must have emigrated with the Strauss/Graff family to Selz (Russia)
 - 1811: with the Feder/Vetter family in Selz (Russia)
 - 1813: with the Feder/Vetter family in Selz (Russia)
 - 1816: with the Strauss family in Selz (Russia)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Birth Family of Catharina Merse

Catharina Merse's story is a suitably complicated one as well. In some ways it seems fitting that orphaned Christian Usselmann should eventually associate himself with someone else who had traveled a somewhat rough road.

Information from Russian sources indicates that Catharina was married three times, roughly as follows. See the census documents for Selz (Kutschurgan), Russia for 1811, 1813, and 1816 as well as the references shown below.

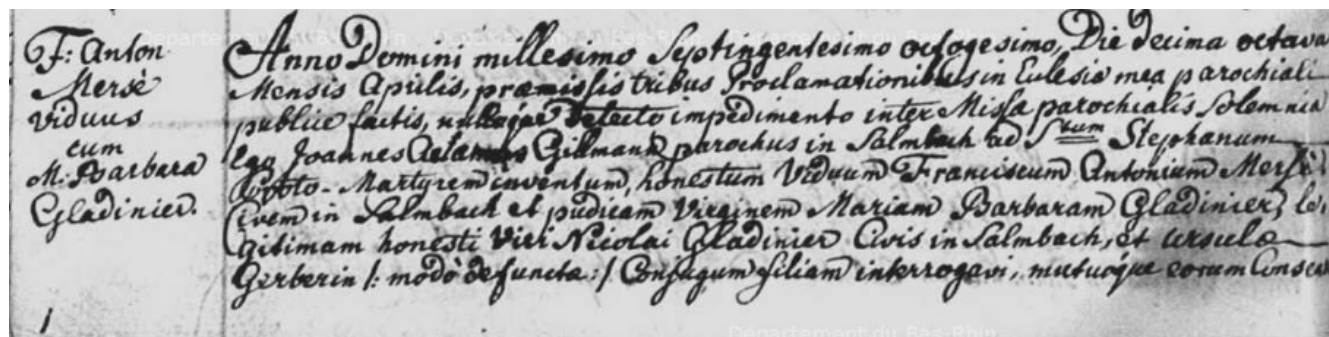
- To Peter Christ (in Salmbach, Bas-Rhin, 1808, with subsequent migration to Russia)
- To Peter Hulm (in Russia in about 1810 after death of Peter Christ after travel to Selz in 1808)
- to Christian Usselmann (in Russia in about 1813 – date inferred from census information; after death of Peter Hulm in 1812)

Some time after her marriage to Peter Christ, they moved to Selz (Russia). Here is what has been found from French sources before the move to Russia.

Marriage of Catharina's Parents

Her parents, Franz Anton Merse (sometimes Mersè or Mersé) and Maria Barbara Gladinier (or Gladin), were married on 8 April 1780 in Salmbach. See

<https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C428-P3-R31853#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C428-P3-R31853-3014306> (Salmbach - Registre de mariages 1771-1792 - 3 E 432/7 - page 25)



(continued . . .)

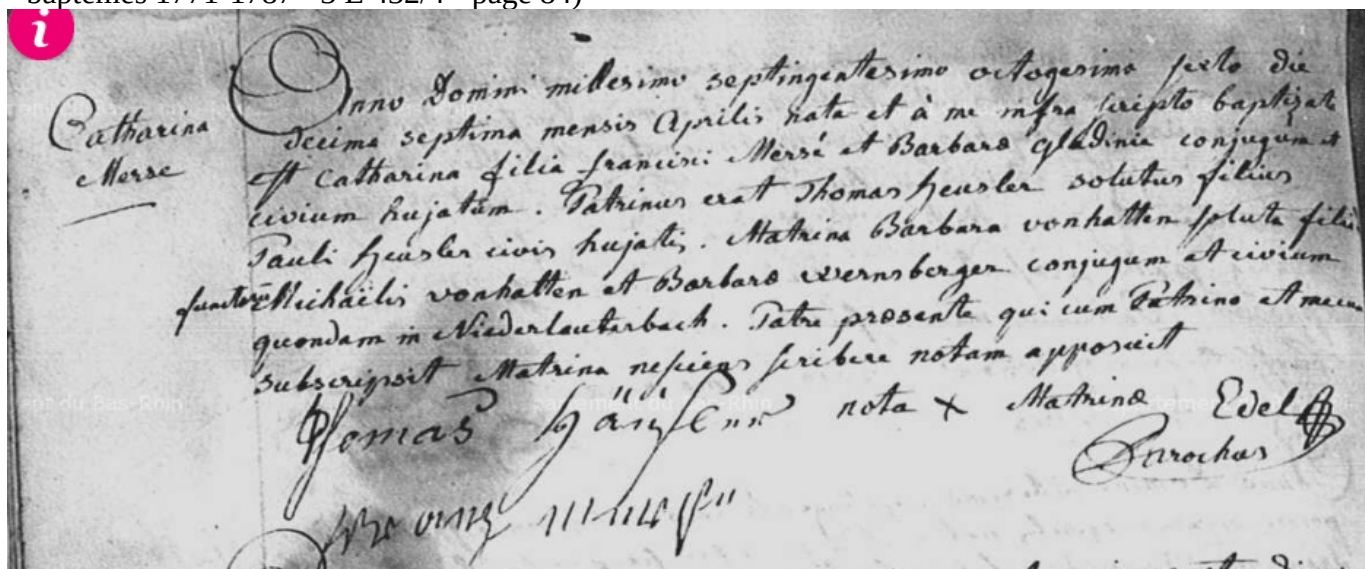
Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808



Birth of Catharina

In Salmbach on 17 April 1786.

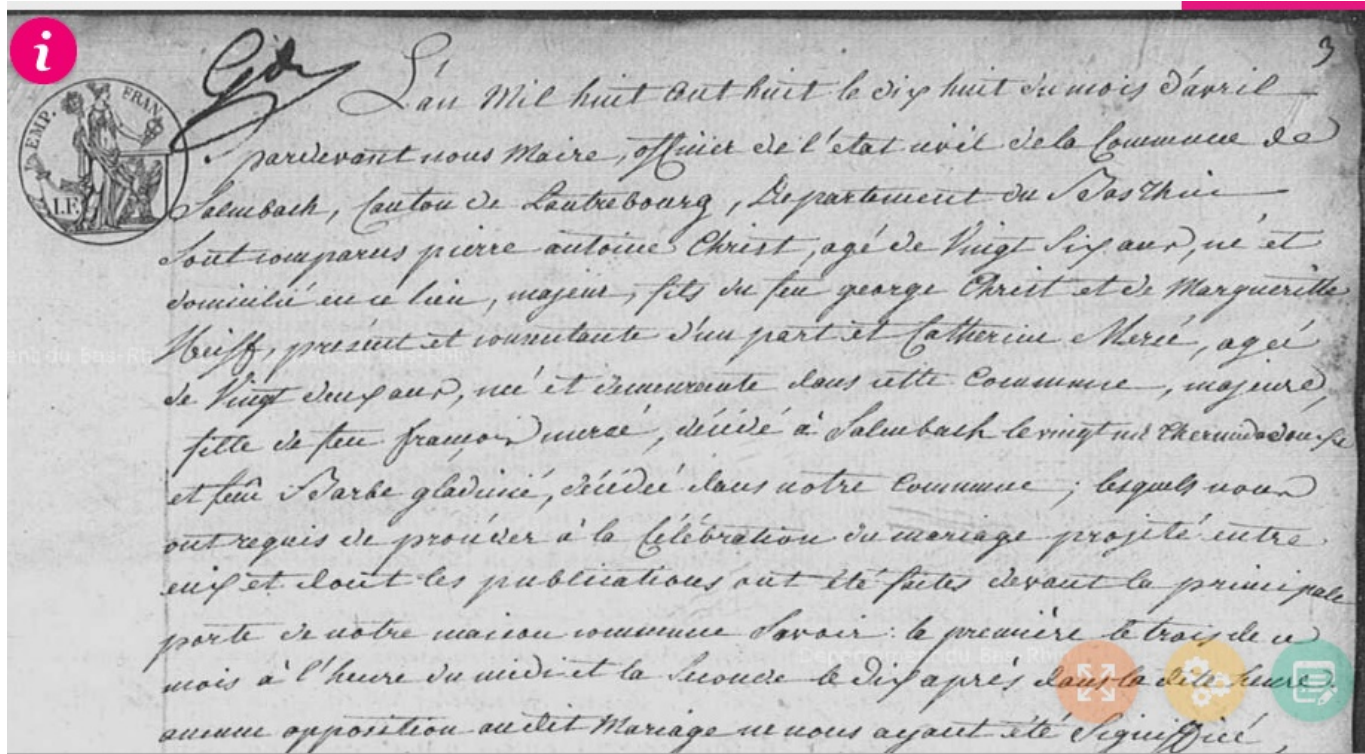
See <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C428-P3-R31847#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C428-P3-R31847-3014271> (Salmbach - Paroisse catholique (Avant 1793) - Registre de baptêmes 1771-1787 - 3 E 432/4 - page 84)



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

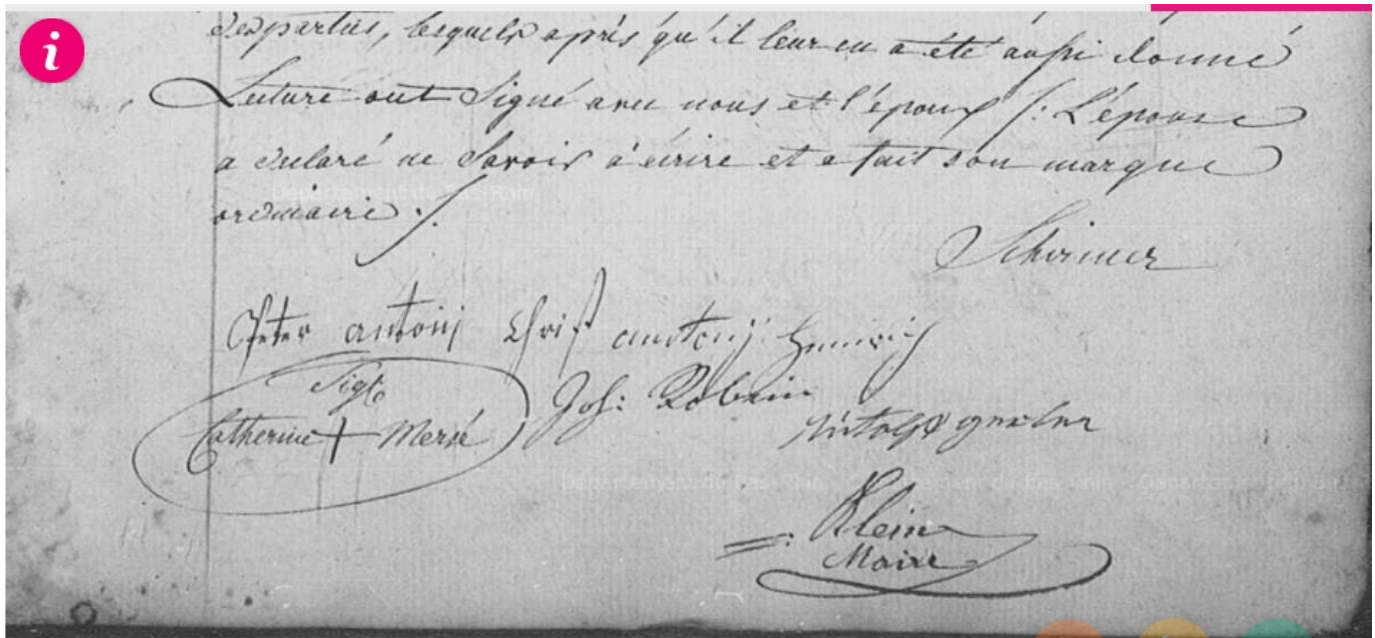
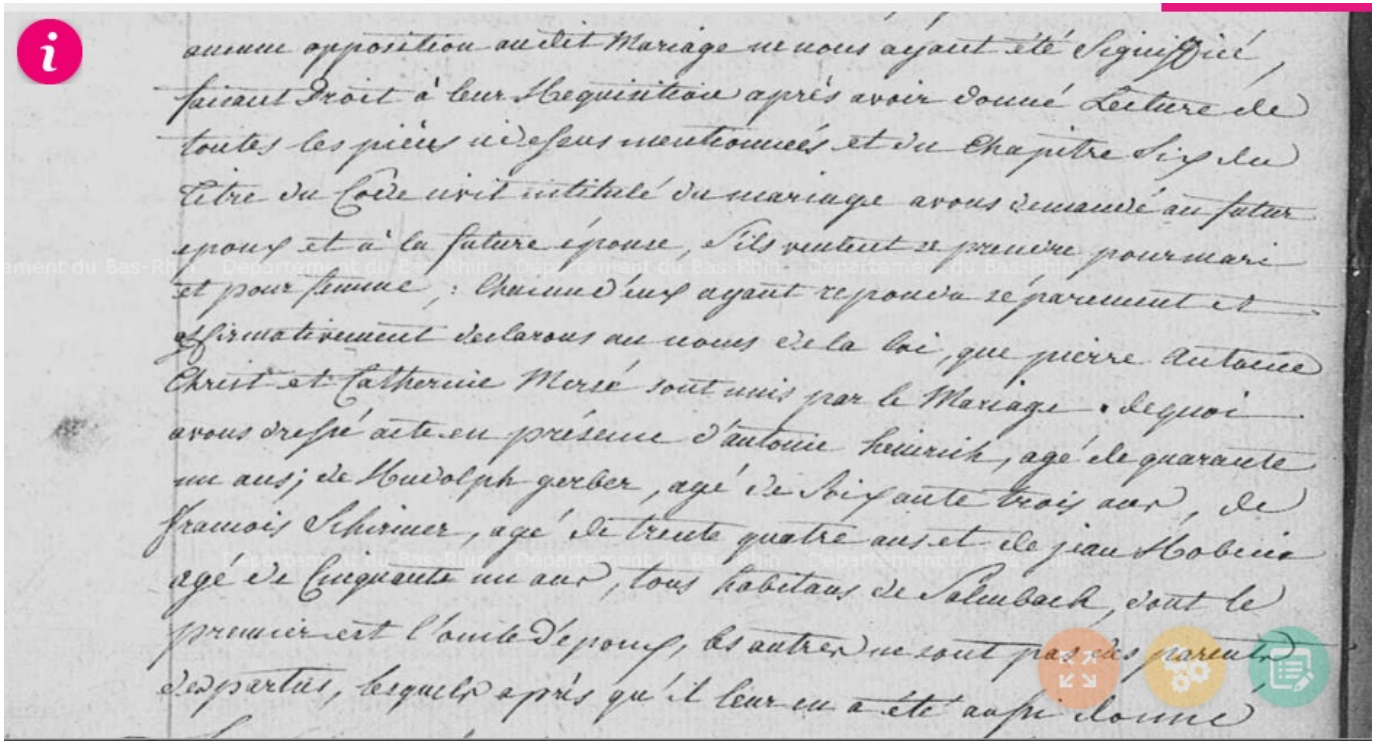
Marriage of Catharina to Peter Christ

See <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C428-P1-R32012#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C428-P1-R32012-3014987> (Salmbach - Etat civil - Registre de mariages 1808 - 4 E 432/5 - page 4).



(continued...)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808



It was with Peter Christ that Katharina migrated to Russia. Peter died there in about 1809, and Katharina became the wife of Peter Hulm, who died in about 1812. It was after these two rather brief marriages that she married Christian Usselman in 1813.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The Family of Christian Usselman and Catharina Merse

Here is a summary the family that was headed by Christian and Catharina. Theirs was one of the first new families in the new colony/village of Selz. They were two people, who at an early point in their lives had already experienced considerable diversity.

Husband: Usselman, Christian (I0316)		
Birth	1813 census	
	1793-03-19	Niederseebach, Weissburg, Elsass, Germany
Death	1853-05-14	Selz, Russia
Father	Usselman, Johann Martin (I0317)	
Mother	Graff, Elisabetha (I0322)	
Marriage (F0076):		
Marriage	Kutschurgan	
	1813-12-22	
Wife: Merse Mersè Mersé, Catharina (I0325)		
Birth	Salmbach	
	1786-04-17	Salmbach, Alsace
Death	1864	Selz, Russia
Father	Merse, Franz Anton (I3044)	
Mother	Gladinier, Maria Barbara (I3408)	

Children		
1M	Usselman, Christian (I0326)	
	Birth	1814
	Death	
	Spouse	Baumstarck, Eva Maria (I0536) (F0134)
	Marriage	1835-11-17 Selz, Russia
2F	Usselman, Katherina (I0270)	
	Birth	1815-03-12 Selz, Russia
	Death	1852-07-18 Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Rombs, Franz Joseph (I0269) (F0062)
	Marriage	1834-10-21 Selz, Russia
3M	Usselman, Johannes (I0327)	
	Birth	1817 Selz, Russia
	Death	
	Spouse	Sahli, Margaretha (I3063) (F0664)
	Marriage	1837 Selz, Russia
4M	Usselman, Franz (I0329)	
	Birth	1819 Selz, Russia
	Death	1858 Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Demelet, Maria Anna (I3125) (F0676)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

	Marriage	1840	Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Zerr, Katharina (I3164) (F0678)	
	Marriage	1852	Selz, Russia
5F	Usselmann, Anna Maria (I3029)		
	Birth	1821	Selz, Russia
	Death	1863	Kandel, Russia
	Spouse	Scherr, Paul (I3045) (F0660)	
	Marriage	1840-11-10	Selz, Russia
6M	Usselmann, Joseph (I0328)		
	Birth	1822	Selz, Russia
	Death		
	Spouse	Deibert, Margaretha (I2360) (F0533)	
	Marriage	1841	Selz, Russia
7F	Usselmann, Marianna (I3030)		
	Birth	1824	Selz, Russia
	Death		
	Spouse	Fetsch, Anton (I2711) (F0593)	
	Marriage	1843-10-24	Selz, Russia
8M	Usselmann, Peter (I3131)		
	Birth	1828	Selz, Russia
	Death	1838-02-24	Selz, Russia
9M	Usselmann, Michael (I3129)		
	Birth	1830-05-10	Selz, Russia
	Death	1831	Selz, Russia
10M	Usselmann, Michael (I3130)		
	Birth	1832-03-31	Selz, Russia
	Death	1835	Selz, Russia

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Sennhauser Line

In Russia, Franz Rombs (son of Franz Ludwig Rombs and Margaretha Werner) married a lady named Katharina/Catharina Sennhauser. This section explains a few details about the Sennhauser line that intersected with the Rombs line in 1809-1810.

Catharina was from Neewiller, which is known as Neewiller-près-Lauterbourg today. This is another small village in the northeast corner of Alsace, about 5 km from Lauterbourg and 6 km from Oberlauterbach. The current population is about 700 souls, and the area is largely agricultural. (The Lauter, a small river that defines much of the border between France and Germany today, figures in many of the village names in the area.) It has some of the traditional architecture of the area as shown below. There is an old chapel as well as a Catholic church there.



Gerd Eichmann, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons



Didivo67, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons



Rauenstein, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The family into which Katharina was born is summarized below.

Husband: Sennhauser, Johann Georg (I0397)		
Birth	Neewiller, Lauterburg, Bas Rhin, Alsace, Frankreich	
	1757-05-24	Neewiller, Alsace
Death	1794-10-31	Neewiller, Alsace
Father	Sennhauser, Franz Joseph (I3435)	
Mother	Schehr Scherr, Margaretha (I3436)	
Marriage (F0090):		
Marriage	1784-01-30	Neewiller, Alsace
Wife: Kah, Catherine Elizabeth (I0410)		
Birth	July, 1758?	
	1758	Schaidt, Pfalz, Germany
Death	1806-11-14	Neewiller, Alsace
Father	Kah, Jean Adam (I3443)	
Mother	Eckert, Madeleine (I3444)	

Children		
1F	Sennhauser, Helene (I3434)	
	Birth	1784-10-20 Neewiller, Alsace
	Death	1832-03-17 Neewiller, Alsace
2F	Sennhauser, Christine (I3433)	
	Birth	1786-07-30 Neewiller, Alsace
	Death	
3F	Sennhauser, Marguerite (I3432)	
	Birth	1789-01-23 Neewiller, Alsace
	Death	1809 Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Fetsch, Michael (I2673) (F0743)
	Marriage	1807-01-19 Neewiller, Alsace
4F	Sennhauser, Katharina (I0273)	
	Birth	1791-09-02 Neewiller, Alsace
	Death	1852 Selz, Russia
	Spouse	Rombs, Franz (I0272) (F0063)

Georg Sennhauser died in 1794 at 37, leaving a young family.

Note that both Katharina and her sister Marguerite ended life in Russia. Marguerite married Michel Fetsch (Jean Michel Fetsch), a carpenter from Niederlauterbach, in 1807 in Neewiller at about age 18. They migrated to Russia in 1808 (possibly with an infant), and I assume that Katharina (about age 17 and unmarried) traveled with them. It seems possible that Marguerite wanted help from her sister on the journey. Unfortunately, Marguerite did not survive long in Russia. She had one more child there and died in about 1809. Her husband Michael Fetsch, who was the first mayor of the village of Seltz, remarried.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

[As an aside, it is worth noting that it may be no coincidence that Marguerite's husband's surname is the same as that of the current mayor of Lauterbourg, which is 6 km away from Margurite's husband's birth location. This is the echo from the past that was mentioned earlier.]

Katharina, meanwhile married Franz Rombs in approximately 1810, thus becoming a young third great grandmother of mine. She was marrying the son of the teacher, Franz Ludwig Rombs, mentioned above. It is tempting to imagine a 47 year old teacher, whose son is marrying a 19 year old, who has some connection to the young (26 year old) village mayor, who he probably also knew well in a new land where they are struggling to establish a viable community. Thus began life in Russia.

As an end note . . . Franz Rombs died in 1836, leaving Katherina widowed with an infant daughter and other older children. In 1840, Katherina married Simon/Simeon Weber (about 20 years her junior), and they may have had other children of their own. Katherina died in 1870 in Selz.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

18th Century Education & Life in These Regions

Generalities

So far a pattern has emerged for the male descendants of Johann Michael Rombs. The pattern is that each son took a teaching position in a village near to Neibsheim (i.e., Büchig, Bruchsal, Oberöwisheim), married a local woman, and then moved on to a teaching position in another location (i.e., Oberlauterbach, Jockgrim, Zeutern). Each was a teacher and/or schoolmaster in a Catholic setting in a relatively small village. Johann Michael was no different than his sons in this regard, except that evidence only places him in one location (Neibsheim).

In addition to the duties of a teacher in a Catholic school, each man assisted his village by completing and witnessing assorted civil and religious events. Consequently, I believe that each served two masters – the local priest and the local village council. Income may have flowed from the village to the teacher or from village to church to teacher or via both paths.

This section presents some information about the nature of the era in which these men worked. Where possible, I have included some quotes about my/our actual ancestors in order to provide better insight into their lives.

Speyer

First, it seems important to explore the general area. Since there is every indication that they were Catholic and lived in villages with significant Catholic populations, I start with information about a likely seat of power that affected them – the headquarters of the prince-bishop of Speyer (located variously in Speyer, Philippsburg, and Bruchsal). My suspicion is that, subject to village approval, their jobs were offered to them through the offices of the prince-bishop.



above: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speyer_Cathedral

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Speyer_dom_11.jpg

left: © [Roman Eisele](#) / [Wikimedia Commons](#) / [CC BY-SA 4.0](#)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speyer>

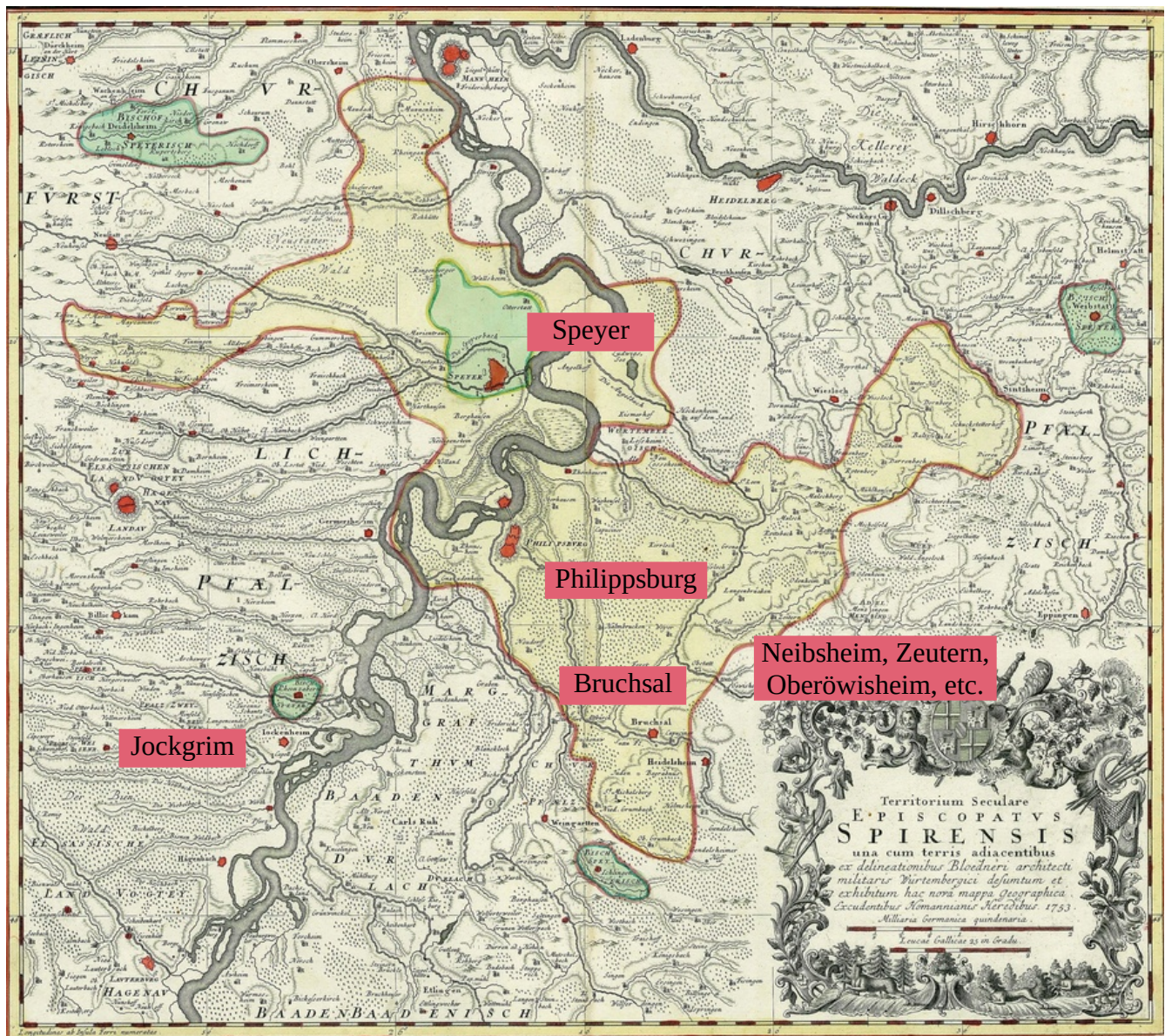
Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

A prince-bishop was established in Speyer in medieval times, and he and his fellow administrators “governed” an area roughly centered on the Rhein River, near Speyer. However, typical of the times, oversight of the area was shared with the head of the Electorate of the Palatinate, a “state” within the Holy Roman Empire whose seat was in Heidelberg. The prince-bishop was responsible from an ecclesiastical point of view for the diocese consisting of about 600 parishes at its height before the Reformation. However, he also had rights to income from an assortment of land over an extent (called a [Hochstift](#)) that did not coincide exactly with the diocese. And, the villages and towns within his purview had considerable latitude in terms of conducting their affairs. In general the villages were more resistant to change than the prince-bishop, and they expected the Church to cater to their local needs.

Catholic Church personnel (meaning the prince-bishop and his immediate subordinates) were very imperious in terms of its leadership, and parish priests and church leaders were often not stellar examples of morality – drunkenness, fighting, not performing expected rituals, keeping concubines, etc. were commonly recorded behaviors. This made the Catholic Church ripe for the forces of change started by Martin Luther in the early 16th century. Consequently, by the time of the Rombs family members for which we have a record, the scope of the prince-bishop had been severely reduced (by about 2/3 to fewer than 200 parishes). The map that follows, illustrates the extent of the secular area of influence (Hockstift) in about 1753. (reference https://www.reddit.com/r/oldmaps/comments/cy1smf/1735_map_of_the_princebishopric_of_speyer_sp/ires/) Catholic parish areas lie inside and outside of this area and include such places as Speyer, Philippsburg, Bruchsal, Neibsheim, Oberöwisheim, Jockgrim, Lauterbach, and an assortment of villages and towns, some of which are in present-day Alsace.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808



During the Reformation more than half of the citizens of the Palatinate, including the area originally under the supervision of the prince-bishop converted to one of two forms of Protestantism – Lutheranism or Calvinism, the latter being the more”extreme.” (The Elector of the Palatinate was one such convert.) This accounts for the diminished extent of the influence of the prince-bishop in the map above. However, a core of Catholicism still persisted, mainly in agricultural/rural areas, and there were numerous efforts on all sides to live peacefully together for many decades. Ultimately these efforts broke down, and the entire area was unfortunately devastated by the 30 Years War (1618-1648). The

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

time of rebuilding after the war saw a resurgence of Catholicism (Counter-Reformation), again mostly in rural areas outside larger population centers. The level of inter-denominational cooperation after the war seems to have been less than before the war.

This time of Counter-Reformation was spurred on to some extent from Catholic leadership, which tried to educate parishioners on the new catechism (i.e, the Tridentine Catechism) according to the Council of Trent (1545-1563). These efforts at reform after the 30 Years War took effect slowly for a number of reasons: further war in the region, a stubborn conservatism among the rural population, heavy-handed efforts by Jesuits brought into the area. An influx of more competent/moral/trained parish priests aided acceptance of reforms, however.

After the 30 Years War, there was an increase in the influence of France and an influx of people from other Catholic, Germanic regions, many from Franconia. It may be that one of the Rombs families that have been described above were part of this influx. This would fit with the records from Jockgrim about Nikolas Rombs, father of Johann Michael Rombs. Coupled with the desire to strengthen and educate parishioners in the Catholic faith, this may have set the stage for a family like the Johann Michael Rombs family to take up teaching in Catholic villages in the area.

The preceding information is based on references like those that are listed below. Much more information about the Prince-Bishopric of Speyer and the times before and after the 30 Years War is available.

- Wikipedia article: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince-Bishopric_of_Speyer
- Books by Marc Forster – for example: *The Counter-Reformation in the Villages – Religion and Reform in the Bishopric of Speyer, 1560-1720*, Marc R. Forster, Cornell University Press, Ithaca/London, c.1992 by Cornell University, ISBN 0-8014-2566-2. The introduction is particularly useful, and there are numerous descriptions of events that affected the villages of concern here (e.g., Bruchsal, Neibsheim, Oberöwisheim, Jockgrim).
- Another book is quite instructive, but it is in French and less accessible to native English speakers. It focuses on the area in northern Alsace known as l’Outre-Fort. As such it provides insights into many of the locales occupied by Franz Ludwig Rombs and his family. - *Naître vivre et mourir dans l’Outre forêt 1648-1848 alsace*, Peter Daniel. To Be Born, Live and Die in the “Beyond the Forest” 1648-1848. See <https://fr.shopping.rakuten.com/offer/buy/5013375073/naitre-vivre-et-mourir-dans-l-outre-foret-1648-1848-alsace-livre-daniel-peter-format-broche.html> and <https://www.worldcat.org/title/naitre-vivre-et-mourir-dans-loutre-foret-1648-1848/oclc/490243137> .



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Having established the flavor of the times in which the Rombs teaching families operated, the next sections are devoted to some more-specific records and articles relevant to their activities.

Neibsheim

The village of Neibsheim is a vital community today, and a church dating from 1790 is still in operation. The description at <https://www.kath-bretten.de/gemeinden/neibsheim/> reads as follows. It confirms the Catholic nature of the village, the influence of the Bishop of Speyer, and Franconian history.

St. Mauritius in Neibsheim . . .

Neibsheim is first mentioned in 770 in the Lorsch Codex and its origins go back to a Franconian foundation around the year 500. The patronage of Saint Mauritius is mentioned for the first time in 1340. Neibsheim has belonged to the Bishop of Speyer as a fief since 1370, which is why it remained Catholic during the Reformation. In 1803 Neibsheim came to Baden.

Today's church was built in 1790/91 and last renovated in 1981. In 2006 the installation of a new organ was made possible by the great willingness of the community to donate. The church houses numerous baroque jewels - the figure of St. Catherine is particularly worth mentioning. The new vicarage was built in 1961.



(Photo: wikimediacommons)

It is fortunate that records survive from the time of the residence of the Rombs family in Neibsheim in the early 18th century. They provide further insight into the village, its school, and the tenure of Johann Michael Rombs as schoolmaster. Following is a translation of pp. 176-179 of *Das Heimatbuch von Neibsheim* by Willi Hartmann and Heinz Erich Walter, 1970, Walter-Verlag GmbH – Ludwigsburg.

The School and the Schoolmaster in the Old Days

In an old church book, the pastor, Hans Jorg Jacob Rappert, writes: "In the year 1672, Schoolmaster Hann's beloved wife gave birth to four lively children." Thus we discover the occasion of the birth of quadruplets, previously very rare, of the first schoolmaster of Neibsheim, named Hans Braun.

In the same record we read: "On the 9th of May, 1683, Bernhartt Streit of my parish was appointed church warden (sacristan), through me the Pastor, along with right reverend Thomas Muntz Anwaltt, Hans Casper Conrat Schaffner, and Leluhartt Bachman, with the approval of the Bishop of Speyer. "

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Bernard Streit was, as most schoolmasters of his time, also teacher, churchwarden and timekeeper. This Bernard Streit, teacher, was included in the great survey of parish, church and school in the year 1683. It said of him: "satisfactory in his position." He was employed by the cathedral chapter (administration) and received an allowance of five measures of corn (wheat), five measures of spelz and four measures of oats. From each of the burghers residing in Neibsheim he received a loaf of bread. For a funeral, he received a loaf of bread and a beaker of wine, for each burial he did not attend, "what is customary elsewhere." In Bauerbach, for example, the teacher was entitled to receive a cake, two breakfast rolls, a piece of meat and a measure of wine for every wedding; in Sickingen, an entire meal. In other places, the teacher would be invited to a public banquet and would therefore provide a song or poem to honor the bride and groom. In Neibsheim, the school relations at this time was better than in Büchig. After the 30 Years' War, there were only 13 families still there, no teacher and no school. The pastor attempted to instruct, however, no one would come. It was said to his face, that he commanded nothing. Also, there was drinking and playing in the tavern during holy services; many abuses prevailed there and very many superstitions. These were the consequences of the terrible and long confusion of war. In Neibsheim also there was no proper schoolhouse until the year 1812. A room in the town hall served as the schoolroom. The children went only 20 weeks, and there were only ten weeks of school in the two winter quarters. Everyone had to bring a piece of wood daily to heat the schoolroom. This was a result of war time, where in most places instruction had generally ceased. Winter school lasted from All Saints' Day to Easter.

In 1687 we find a Hans Peter Moliter as schoolmaster in Neibsheim. At this time there were no institutes or schools for the training of teachers. Whoever could read, write and calculate, and those were very few, "satisfied his position." However, there generally were capable men who were self-taught and further improved themselves.

A wonderful letter has made us familiar with the fourth teacher, Johann Michael von Rhombs. We find his letter in old legal documents, because he was the court clerk at the same time. He was also obliged to "play the organ." The congregation had purchased an organ in the year 1722; Von Rhombs, however, could not play it, so he had to engage a tutor (preceptor) and pay him 12 gulden and feed him at his own expense. For special services in the church, for example, for anniversaries, the teacher would be specially paid. Thus he would receive 30 kreuzer when a composition was sung in the choir on St. Wenelin's Day. He also received yearly a small coin from the congregation for the erection of the May statue in the church. Johann Michael von Rhombs was "ludimagister et aeditus ecclesiae" for 47 years, that is, schoolmaster and church assistant. He died February 19, 1756 at about the age of 80. His widow Katharine (born Kritzer) was 100 years old when she died in 1770. A Johann von Rhombs was also engaged as "ludimoderator" in Büchig, married in 1732 to Margaretha Bachmann in Neibsheim. He was evidently the son of the Neibsheim schoolmaster, one of the ancestors of a

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

flourishing generation of teachers. His tutor in the year 1732 was a certain Koch (unmarried) from Franconia.

In the the last years of his life, the old von Rhombs received as helper and later successor Joseph Strobel, born in 1726 in Neibsheim. His father was Joseph Strobel and his grandfather was Johann Strobel von Bauerbach. His mother, Anna Magdalena (born Leichtle) died in 1775. Josef Strobel was married to Maria Barbara Leichte, the daughter of Christian Leichtle, apparently in the year in which he acquired the teaching position in Neibsheim. He died in 1790. Under him, the first "Free Winter and Summer School For All Special School Children " was organized in 1775, "so that every burgher can send school children suitable for teaching to the school free and without obligation"; and so many, both rich and poor, were able to attend ...making the same agreement with the common people, that annually the schoolmaster would receive 4 cords of wood and brush wood for the school and 66 gulden would be paid." The following were established: (1) Only the burghers' children did not have to pay for the school. (2) No one could send children under 6 years of age to the school. (3) Only the children who were old enough or satisfactorily educated were free from instruction in the school. (4) The allowance of 66 gulden would be paid on the basis of the school enrollment of 100 children.

The introduction without delay of summer and winter school appears to have gone well in Neibsheim, while in other places, for example, in Bauerbach and Unteröwisheim, it must only have been possible with harsh punishment. Thereafter, summer school lasted from the Sunday after Easter until St. Michael's Day; the winter school from November 1 until Holy Week. In between, there were only 14 days of planting/harvesting holidays. The children were divided into three age groups. The summer school was held from 7 to 9 o'clock, in winter from 8 to 11 o'clock and from 1 to 4 o'clock. Thursday afternoon was free; it was for recess. Children were required to attend school from 6 to 16 years of age. For each year, unexcused absences were punished with a 2 kreuzer (farthing) penalty. For the lazy or dull students, they customarily endured wearing the donkey's ears or straw crowns. Insults, hair-pulling, ear-twisting and blows with the fist were the order of the day. Instead of blows of the horse-whip, the cane or rope would be used when needed, in any case the switch could be used, and to be sure, with vigor. Much more, the pride or ambition of the student could be stirred up. Every year prizes were given for the twelve best readings and drawings. On examination day these would be presented in the presence of the examination officials to the three or four best students of each class. First the pastor would give a speech. The names of the prize-winners would be announced from the pulpit and posted up until the next exam.

The view of the teacher's standing at this time had become important. During the hundred years before when Bernhard Streit helped with the drudgery, he himself gathered the fruits of his labor, in that he served somewhat nearby; this became unworthy extra work for the teacher, therefore an occupation, like a business, to be prohibited. His pay was therefore increased; yearly bonuses were given for good

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

teachers. The pastor supervised the teachers. The desire for further intellectual education of the people was always very slight, a consequence of incessant warfare. Although the school was now free of charge, that meant no more to the children than earlier when each week they had to bring a kreuzer of school-money; there were always fines for school absences and necessary warnings to the parents. Teaching and its results were now better understood. Less often than in the old documents does one find in place of a signature the words: "Signed with a symbol because of ignorance of writing."

The text includes an image of the cornerstone of the First and Second Public School Buildings. The partial history of the school buildings themselves contains one reference to von Rhombs as follows. -
Teacher von Rhombs appears to have lived in the school house. His two successors Strobel and Elfner occupied comfortable individual houses.

What a wealth of information! The following points are of special significance to the genealogy of the Rombs family.

1. The text confirms that the Bishop of Speyer approved teaching appointments. Employment was through the Speyer administration (the cathedral chapter), which supplied a salary in the form of food. However, there were other payments by the local community in the form of additional food stuffs.
2. Duties were varied and included more than teaching.
3. After the 30 Years War, community members were very independent (as noted in Marc Forster's book). They showed disrespect for the local priest. Superstition was persistent. However, as time progressed into the late 1700s, respect for the teacher and priest increased.
4. The school activities were housed in a room of the village hall. School took place for about 20 weeks in the winter (approx. October – April). Students attending for free are limited to children of citizens. Children must be over 6 years old, and they can attend until they are "old enough" (16?) or have received "sufficient" instruction. There were about 100 children in the late 1700s.
5. Johann Michael was the fourth recorded teacher. He had exceptionally fine writing skills, and he served as the town clerk as well as schoolmaster and church warden. He was required to play the church organ.
6. Son Johann was teacher in Büchig and married Margaretha Bachman. Other brothers held similar positions.
7. Johann Michael acquired an assistant named Josef Strobel, who became his successor.
8. Johann Michael and his family lived on the school premises.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Zeutern and Oberöwisheim

Luckily there are some extant records describing the work of Anton Rombs, son of Johann Michael Rombs. First those relating to Oberöwisheim.

From the book 1200 Jahre Oberöwisheim, 1973 Walter-Verlag GmbH - Ludwigsburg, by Boer, Buehn, Liebrich, Rogele, Scheinder, Utry, Zumbach, etc.

from pp 211-212 -

In September 1734 Johann Anton von Rombs (Rhombs) applied for the teaching position in Oberöwisheim. His father lived all his life in Bauerbach and Neibsheim in the same job. In 1747, J. A. Rombs went to Zeutern and was followed by Daniel Cramer.

This is not much, but it does confirm Anton's presence in Oberöwisheim.

From the book *Zeutern in Seiner 1200jährigen Geschichte* by Eugen Hollerbach (1970), pages 172-177, we get a sense of the troubles surrounding the employment of Anton Rombs. -

“Im Jahr 1749 antwortet die Gemeinde auf ein Schreiben von Mainz: „Vor Zeiten ist durch den Krieg der Mesner (die Mesnerstelle) abgegangen. Da war das St.- Germanstift froh, daß der Schulmeister auch den Mesnerdienst versah. Da war alles recht und angenehm, beim Stift, bis sich der Keller Metz beschwerte und einen Verwandten aus Odenheim in den Schuldienst bringen wollte. « Der Streit wurde in Mainz mit folgendem Urteilsspruch entschieden: „Das Stift St. German besetzt die Stelle im Einvernehmen mit der Gemeinde.“ Das Stift erhielt also den Haupteinfluß, es mußte sich aber jeweils um Verständigung mit der Gemeinde mühen. Im Jahr zuvor hatte das Stift endlich den Schulmeister Johann Antony von Rombs anerkannt, den die Gemeinde schon lange als Schulmeister verlangte. Die Gemeinde zahlte viele Prozeßkosten und erhielt 100 Gulden Strafe. Pfarrer Körber bat 1750 um Erlaß der Strafe.

Da in ältester Zeit nur im Winterhalbjahr Unterricht erteilt wurde, konnte der Schulmeister sich im Sommer in Garten und Feld zusätzlichen Verdienst erwerben. Als die Unterrichtszeit immer mehr ausgedehnt wurde, mußte er besser besoldet werden; außerdem stieg der allgemeine „Lebensstandard“, wie wir heute sagen. Mitunter brachte die Erwerbung des Zehnten Meinungsverschiedenheiten. Diese Streitigkeiten haben das Gute, daß wir so mehr über jene Zeiten erfahren.”

Rough translation: In 1749, the community responded to a letter from Mainz: "A long time ago, the sacristan (the sacristan position) was lost due to the war. So the St. Germanstift was glad that the schoolmaster also did the sacristan service. Everything was fine there, at the monastery, until Keller Metz complained and wanted to get a relative from Odenheim to teach. « The dispute was decided in Mainz with the following verdict: "The St. German monastery

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

filled the position in agreement with the community." The monastery thus received the main influence, but it always had to make an effort to reach an understanding with the community. The year before the monastery had finally recognized the schoolmaster Johann Anton von Rombs, whom the community had long wanted as a schoolmaster. The municipality paid many legal costs and received a fine of 100 guilders. In 1750, Pastor Körber asked for the punishment to be waived.

Since lessons were only given in the winter half-year in the oldest of times, the schoolmaster was able to earn additional income in the garden and field in the summer. As the teaching time grew longer and longer, he had to be better paid; moreover, the general "standard of living", as we call it today, increased. Sometimes the acquisition of tithes brought about differences of opinion. The good thing about these disputes is that we learn more about those times.

“Ein armes Schulmeisterlein war Johann Antony Rombs. Er hatte im Jahr 1755 keine „Bürgernahrung zu versteuern“, da er ein armer, verwitweter Schulmeister war. ”

Rough translation: A poor schoolmaster was Johann Antony Rombs. He had no "citizen food tax" in 1755, being a poor, widowed schoolmaster.

On page 178, we learn about the school building(s). -

“Zunächst ist einmal klarzustellen, daß es in der Gemeinde 2 Schulhäuser gab, 1719 im Rathaus eingerichtet und 1777 in der Kirchgasse gebaut. Man sprach von einem oberen und unteren Schulhaus. Diesen Zustand hat auch der Bau des neuen Schulhauses im Jahre 1907 nicht geändert. Wir haben heute im Jahre 1970 noch ein oberes und unteres Schulhaus. Das obere Schulhaus hat 4 Schulsäle und im unteren Schulhaus, genannt Rathaus-Schulhaus, sind 2 Schulsäle und die Kochschule (bis 1967). Seit 1965 ist im Pfarrhaussaal der Handarbeitsunterricht.”

Roughly translated: First of all, it should be made clear that there were 2 schoolhouses in the community, set up in 1719 in the town hall and built in 1777 in Kirchgasse. There was talk of an upper and lower school building. The construction of the new school building in 1907 did not change this situation. Today in 1970 we still have an upper and lower school building. The upper schoolhouse has 4 classrooms and the lower schoolhouse, called the town hall schoolhouse, has 2 classrooms and the cooking school (until 1967). Handicrafts lessons have been held in the vicarage hall since 1965.

On page 179 is found the following text pertaining to Anton.

“Johann Anton von Rombs, 1747 von der Gemeinde eingesetzt, in Oberöwisheim. 1748 durch das Stift St. German anerkannt. Er war zuvor 13 Jahre Schulmeister on Oberowisheim. Im Jahr 1755 braucht er als "armer verwitwetre schulmeister" keine Steuer an die Gemeinde zu zahlen.”

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Roughly translated: *Johann Anton von Rombs, appointed by the community in 1747, in Oberöwisheim. Recognized in 1748 by the St. German monastery. Before that he was a schoolmaster in Oberowisheim for 13 years. In 1755, as a "poor widowed schoolmaster", he did not have to pay any taxes to the community.*

And as a parting note about how tithes were collected in Zeutern - From the Zeutern 1200 Jahre book, page 97, text reveals how the church tithing was handled. This does not have direct bearing on Anton or his work, but it provides insight into how “fees” were collected to pay the local priest (and potentially the teacher).

“Vom großen und kleinen Zehnt

Über die frühesten Zehntverhältnisse in Zeutern wird einiges im Kapitel über die Pfarrei gesagt. Da die Pfarrei dem Stift Sankt German einverleibt war, bezog dieses Stift bis zu Beginn des 19. Jahrhunderts den großen Zehnt ganz und überließ dem Pfarrer als Besoldung den kleinen Zehnt. Laut Kirchensitation des Jahres 1683 betrug damals der große Zehnt beinahe 150 Malter Früchte, der Weinzehnt 15 Fuder Wein.

Aus anderen Notizen wird ersichtlich, was darunter zu verstehen ist:

1. der große Zehnt: Fruchtzehnt der ganzen Gemarkung von Korn, Weizen, Gerste, Spelz, Haber, Einkorn und Heidekorn.

2, der kleine Zehnt: aus gewissen Distrikten Hanf, Flachs, Magsamen, Reys, Dotter, Welschkorn, Erbsen, Linsen, Wicken, Wickenfutter, Esparsette, blauer und ordinärer Klee, Kraut, Grundbirnen, Tabak, Dickrüben, Stuprüben, Baurüben und Saubohnen.

Dann gab es den Kleezehnt, den Hopfenzehnt und den Weinzehnt.

Manche Bauern lieferten ein Gemisch oder Surrogat ab. Das wurde versteigert und der Erlös dem Zehntempfänger zugestellt.

Für den Morgen Hopfen wurden 2 Gulden Zehntertrag bezahlt.”

Roughly translated: Of the large and small tithe

Some things are said about the earliest tithes in Zeutern in the chapter on the parish. Since the parish was incorporated into the Sankt German monastery, this monastery received the large tithe in its entirety until the beginning of the 19th century and left the small tithe to the pastor as a salary. According to a church visitation in 1683, the big tithe was almost 150 malters of fruit, and the wine tithe was 15 barrels of wine.

Other notes show what is meant by this:

1. the large tithe: fruit tithes of the entire district of grain, wheat, barley, spelled, haber, einkorn and heather grain.

2, the small tithe: from certain districts hemp, flax, magseed, reys, yolk, corn, peas, lentils, vetches, vetches, sainfoin, blue and common clover, cabbage, ground pears, tobacco, turnips, turnips, turnips, and broad beans.

Then there was the clover tithe, the hop tithe and the wine tithe.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Some farmers delivered a mixture or surrogate. This was auctioned and the proceeds delivered to the tithe recipient.

For the morning hops, 2 guilders were paid as a tithe.

Jockgrim

The only text relevant to the teaching activities of Ferdinand Rombs that I have found comes from his family entry (2571) in the OSB for Jockgrim. The note there reads roughly as follows.

In a letter dated February 1746, the Jockgrim pastor Christoph Breun asked the bishop's spiritual council in Bruchsal to grant Ferdinand Rombs, who had been requested by the Jockgrim community, the appointment as a school teacher. In 1746 he became the successor to Franz Welzenbach.

So, again we find that the community actively sought an individual and successfully convinced the Bishop's people (now in Bruchsal) to agree to the assignment to their community. Thus Ferdinand made the move to Jockgrim. Unfortunately we have no description of the situation during his tenure there.

Alsace

The third brother, Johannes Rhombs, has been mentioned above. He started out as a teacher in Büchig, from which he relocated after a series of personal tragedies. He next took a teaching position in Oberlauterbach and then moved to Kesseldorf. I assume that these moves were directed or facilitated by the offices of the Bishop in Speyer. I have found no specific text about his work in these locations. "All" that we have is the significant number of documents that he signed in both places. There is, however, a relative abundance of information about education in France that relates directly to the experiences. And, I am fortunate that Claude Paul Schmitt has summarized the information in a document, a translation of which follows.

The village schoolmaster in the 18th century in Alsace
by Claude Paul SCHMITT
July 2021

Before the year 1600, the majority of the villages of Alsace already had their primary school (Reuss). The wars of the 17th century, and in particular the Thirty Years' War, led to the ruin and abandonment of education in the countryside. The popular school did not really resume until the beginning of the 18th century.

Recruitment

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The mayor (Heimbürger) and aldermen (Schöffe) of the village decided on the hiring and salary of the schoolmaster. But it was the villagers, who after a religious service and after consultation with the parish priest (or pastor), chose the candidate for this post. It was enough to know roughly how to read, write and count a fair bit to get the job. The most credible candidates, however, had completed an apprenticeship with another schoolmaster.

Remuneration

The school teacher was bound by a contract indicating the length of employment, the period of schooling and the remuneration. Teaching was usually only done a few months out of the year, leaving the children free for the period of work in the fields. In 1724, Louis XV recommended a sum of 150 pounds per year for the masters and 100 pounds for the mistresses. Part of this salary was paid by the municipality and the rest by parents who sent children to school. Subscriber students paid an annual fee and non-subscribers an amount per month of attendance. Children of poor parents could attend school for free. A list of poor relatives was drawn up each year by the parish priest. This remuneration, however, varied greatly from one village to another and often included a part in kind (rye or firewood, for example). In order to supplement his meager income, the schoolmaster generally had a second profession, such as secretary, sacristan (Messner), organist, barber or even shoemaker. In addition to the school house, the municipality often also made a small plot of land for cultivation available to the teacher. One would think that these schoolmasters (Schulmeister), who had the knowledge, must have been among the notables of the village. It wasn't. On the contrary, by working only a few hours a day and a few months a year, they were considered lazy. In addition, teaching was not considered real work. It was therefore normal that they were poorly paid and that they lived in poverty.

In 1726, a worker (laborer, day laborer, servant) earned between 100 and 300 pounds per year, at the rate of 200 working days per year. A priest earned 300 pounds a year. A skilled worker earned 300 to 1,000 pounds per year. Source: The Income Scale. Jean Sgard.

Purpose of teaching.

The purpose of popular education was to provide Christian education. Little difference in this respect between Lutheran and Catholic formulations. The Hanau-Lichtenberg school ordinance recalls that the teacher is called to transmit "the pure doctrine contained in the prophetic and apostolic writings, taken up in the Augsburg confession and the formula of Concord".

The "Royal Declaration of May 4, 1724, summarizes the French royal policy: "Let us want it to be established, as far as possible, of teachers and mistresses of schools, in all the parishes where there are none, to instruct all the children of one or the other. other sex of the main mysteries of the Catholic, Apostolic and Roman Religion, lead them to Mass every working day, give them the instructions they need on this subject and ensure that they attend the divine service on Sundays and holidays as also to teach there to read and even to write, with those which will be able to need it".

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The language of instruction.

The majority of Alsatian village schools were German schools or "deutsche Schulen". The language of instruction was German. The Primer, the small reading books, the writing model books were in German, as were the Sunday school, the Bible readings, the hymn books, and of course the Bible. Not all schools had all of these books, however. Some, the poorest, were even completely devoid of it.

Subjects taught.

The teachers were to teach religion, reading, writing and arithmetic. Much of the space was reserved for religious education, which included the study of catechism, prayers and the recitation of the rosary. Before learning to write, you had to know how to read and before learning to count you had to know how to read and write. But it was not until the end of the 18th century that we really began to concern ourselves with the teaching of arithmetic. In these respects, Alsace is one of the most advanced provinces of the kingdom. With their mistress, the girls also received some notions of sewing, knitting and cooking. Half of the children could write when they left school in the well-known Protestant villages, and a quarter in the Catholic villages.

School premises.

The school was generally held at the teacher's home, with a single class comprising all levels. During the second half of the 18th century, there was a boom in school buildings in the villages. They were financed through recourse to the main resource of the communities, namely the cutting of communal timber.

Inspection

The parish priest (or pastor) was a judge within the competence of the schoolmaster, and his inspector. The schoolmaster being an assistant to the parish priest (or pastor), he had to attend religious services, ensure the training of altar servers and cantors and lead the schoolchildren to mass.

Sources:

- School in Alsace. DHIA.
[https://dhialsace.bnu.fr/wiki/%C3%89cole_\(en_Alsace\)#Inspect.C3.A9_par_cur.C3.A9s_et_pasteurs](https://dhialsace.bnu.fr/wiki/%C3%89cole_(en_Alsace)#Inspect.C3.A9_par_cur.C3.A9s_et_pasteurs)
- Schools in the 17th and 18th centuries by Vincent Civilliers. http://www.crdp-strasbourg.fr/data/histoire/ecole_ancien-regime/XVII-XVIIIe.php?parent=14
- The time of teachers. <http://www.le-temps-des-instituteurs.fr/hist-ancien-regime.html>
corrected . . . <http://www.le-temps-des-instituteurs.fr/hist-ancien-regime.html>

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Further Analysis & References

<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winkelschule>

<http://www.zeno.org/Adelung-1793/A/Klippschule,+die>

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludwig_von_Friedeburg

The Counter-Reformation in the Villages : Religion and Reform in the Bishopric of Speyer, 1560-1720,
by Marc R. Forster.

<https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.7591/9781501734632-010/pdf>

<https://primo.lib.umn.edu/primo-explore/fulldisplay?>

[docid=UMN_ALMA21353797670001701&context=L&vid=TWINCITIES&lang=en_US&search_scope=default_scope&adaptor=Local+Search+Engine&tab=default_tab&query=any%2Cexact%2C24694557](https://primo.lib.umn.edu/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=UMN_ALMA21353797670001701&context=L&vid=TWINCITIES&lang=en_US&search_scope=default_scope&adaptor=Local+Search+Engine&tab=default_tab&query=any%2Cexact%2C24694557)



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Summary and Future Work

It is my hope that the preceding sections have adequately described my paternal line ancestors, who engaged in educational work from just after the 30 Years War through Napoleonic times. For this time period, there are extant records that provide some insight into their lives. However, it appears that pushing the family history farther back in time may be more difficult for an assortment of reasons. Having said this, there are some intriguing clues that point the way to future research. The following sections explain where I believe evidence indicates that research should be considered. As I review these clues, I am struck that they tend to point to locations further downstream on the Rhein River – into Upper Franconia. It may be that this ancestral line is ultimately Frankish in nature, but that remains to be proven.

The first four research topics that follow are focused on information from Neibsheim and Jockgrim sources noted above. The remaining hints are from assorted additional sources. The hints are summarized in the map and table that follow. The map identifies the locations from the table using the date of the source record. The earliest date is associated with a geographic area very near to the locations associated with activities from just after the 30 Years War until Napoleonic times. Later dates are associated with downstream locations and even England. Perhaps this points to earlier origins downstream along the Rhein.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

date	location	surname(s)	event
1590	Frankenthal (Pfalz)	Rombs, Philipp	marriage (Evangelisch) of Gertrude Rombs & Abraham Philipp
1614	Devon	Rombs	Death of Joane Rombs
1647	Cöln (Rheinland-Pfalz)	Rombs & Kurth	baptism (Katholisch) at Cologne – Leonard, son of Agneta Rombs & Johann Kurth
1656	Vilich (Rheinland-Pfalz)	Rums	baptism (Katholisch) at Vilich – father Philipp Rums
1690	Anrath (Rheinland-Pfalz)	Rumbs	Baptism of daughter Adelheid Rumbs – father Mertin Rumbs, mother Gertrude
1732	Cöln (Rheinland-Pfalz)	Rumbs & Breidenbach	Baptism of daughter, Catharina
1751	Gemersheim (Pfalz)	Rumbs & Faller	Marriage of daughter Elisabetha Rumbs to Johann Faller
1775	Koblenz (Rheinland)	Rums & Dupuis	Baptism of son Johann Heinrich Dupuis
1819	Elmet (Yorkshire)	Rumbs	Baptism of daughter Sarah Rumbs



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Nickolas Rombs

Research Nikolas Rombs in more depth. For information about Franconia, start here. -



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Franconia#Emergence_of_the_Franconian_Circle and

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Franconia>

Maybe Nikolas was forced to Jockgrim during the 30 Years War from an area down-river on the Rhein.

Agatha Schloss

Research Agatha Schloss in more depth. Start with the OFB for Jockgrim.

Katharina Gritzer

Research Katharina Gritzer in more depth. (Neibsheim)

Thomas Rombs

Try to determine his origin. Does he provide a link to an extended family that has so far been undiscovered? (Jockgrim)

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Hint from 1590 in Frankenthal, Pfalz

How might this record be important (or not)? Is there any significance of the name of the place to the Jockgrim record about Nikolas Rombs?

Name: Geertruydt Rombs

Sex: F

Household	Role	Sex	Age	Birthplace
Abraham Philippi	Husband	M		

Digital Folder Number: 102333040

Microfilm Number: 488246

Originating System: ODM

Indexing Batch: M98429-1

Citing this Record

"Deutschland Heiraten, 1558-1929", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:J4YT-DXG> : 27 October 2021), Geertruydt Rombs in entry for Abraham Philippi, 1590.



Note that this image is of an Evangelisch record. See image 176 (Jan. (9), 1590)

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSC9-TJ4G?i=175&cc=3015626> ...

Abraham Philippi & Geertruydt Rombs. W. Jan. 9.
Drauf. T. Walrave Blanchart, Francois Philippi,
Francois Gihler, & Willeh Bischoff.

More information about the village of Frankenthal: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frankenthal>

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Hint from 1647 in the Rheinland-Pfalz (Cöln)

Name: Agneta Rombs

Sex: F

Household	Role	Sex	Age	Birthplace
Joannes Kurth	Husband	M		
Leonardus Kurth	Son	M		

Record Type: Katholisch

Digital Folder Number: 8097120

Microfilm Number: 187130

Originating System: ODM

Indexing Batch: C96953-1



Citing this Record

"Deutschland Geburten und Taufen, 1558-1898", database, *FamilySearch*

(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NRYG-TMJ> : 25 March 2020), Agneta Rombs in entry for Leonardus Kurth, 1647.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Hint from 1656 in Vilich (Rheinland)

Related record?? -

Name: Rums

Sex: Male

Christening Date: 21 Mar 1656

Christening Place: Vilich, Bonn, Rhein, Preußen, Deutschland

Christening Place (Original): Vilich, Rheinland, Prussia

Father's Name: Phillip Rums

Father's Sex: Male

Mother's Name: Sib.

Mother's Sex: Female

Event Type: Christening

Household	Role	Sex	Age	Birthplace
Phillipp Rums	Father	M		
Sib.	Mother	F		

Record Type: Katholisch

Microfilm Number: 187228

Originating System: ODM

Indexing Batch: J98117-3

Citing this Record

"Deutschland Geburten und Taufen, 1558-1898", database, *FamilySearch*

(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N8TQ-5LP> : 25 March 2020), Rums, 1656.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Hint from 1690 in Anrath, Rheinland-Pfalz

Name: Adelheidis Rumbs

Sex: Female

Christening Date: 18 Feb 1690

Christening Place: Anrath, Crefeld, Rhein, Preußen, Deutschland

Christening Place (Original): Anrath, Rheinland, Prussia

Father's Name: Merten Rumbs

Father's Sex: Male

Mother's Name: Girtrudis

Mother's Sex: Female

Event Type: Christening

Household	Role	Sex	Age	Birthplace
-----------	------	-----	-----	------------

Merten Rumbs	Father	M		
--------------	--------	---	--	--

Girtrudis	Mother	F		
-----------	--------	---	--	--

Record Type: Katholisch

Microfilm Number: 1050502

Originating System: ODM

Indexing Batch: C98567-1

Citing this Record

"Deutschland Geburten und Taufen, 1558-1898", database, *FamilySearch*

(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NV9T-CLB> : 25 February 2020), Adelheidis Rumbs, 1690.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Hint from 1732 in the Rheinland (Cöln)

Name: Catharina Rumbs

Sex: F

Household	Role	Sex	Age	Birthplace
Adamus Fridericus Breidenbach	Husband	M		
Wilhelmus Breidenbach	Son	M		

Record Type: Katholisch

Digital Folder Number: 8097120

Microfilm Number: 187130

Originating System: ODM

Indexing Batch: C96953-2

Citing this Record

"Deutschland Geburten und Taufen, 1558-1898", database, *FamilySearch*

(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N8R3-S47> : 25 March 2020), Catharina Rumbs in entry for Wilhelmus Breidenbach, 1732.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Hint from 1751 in Gemersheim, Pfalz

Name: Elisabetham Rombs

Sex: F

Household	Role	Sex	Age	Birthplace
Joannis Rombs	Father	M		
Mariae Elisabethae	Mother	F		
Joannem Faller	Husband	M		

Microfilm Number: 367499

Originating System: ODM

Indexing Batch: M97338-4

Citing this Record

"Deutschland Heiraten, 1558-1929", database, *FamilySearch*

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:J4B1-ZD4> : 13 July 2021), Elisabetham Rombs in entry for Joannem Faller, 1751.

AND . . .

Name: Joannis Rombs

Sex: M

Household	Role	Sex	Age	Birthplace
Elisabetham Rombs	Daughter	F		
Mariae Elisabethae	Wife	F		
Joannem Faller		M		

Microfilm Number: 367499

Originating System: ODM

Indexing Batch: M97338-4

Citing this Record

"Deutschland Heiraten, 1558-1929", database, *FamilySearch*

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:J4B1-ZDH> : 13 July 2021), Joannis Rombs in entry for Joannem Faller, 1751.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Hint from 1775 in Koblenz

Name: Barbarae Rums

Sex: F

Household	Role	Sex	Age	Birthplace
Petro Doupuis	Husband	M		
Joannes Henricus Doupuis	Son	M		

Record Type: Katholisch

Digital Folder Number: 7946529

Microfilm Number: 585885

Originating System: ODM

Indexing Batch: C97097-5

Citing this Record

"Deutschland Geburten und Taufen, 1558-1898", database, *FamilySearch*

(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N6H3-S95> : 25 March 2020), Barbarae Rums in entry for Joannes Henricus Doupuis, 1775.



Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Hints from 1614 & 1819 in Devon and York (England!)

How and when did the Rombs surname make it to England? Did it actually originate in England?! Note that Y-DNA results currently point to commonalities with people in England, but time-frames are not well-defined.

Name: Sarah Stir Rumbs

Sex: Female

Christening Date: 28 Apr 1819

Christening Place: Sherburn in Elmet, Yorkshire, England, United Kingdom

Christening Place (Original): Sherburn in Elmet, York, England

Mother's Name: Hannah Rumbs

Mother's Sex: Female

Event Type: Christening

Household	Role	Sex	Age	Birthplace
Hannah Rumbs	Mother	F		

Digital Folder Number: 007588554

Microfilm Number: 990931

Originating System: ODM

Indexing Batch: C01883-2

Citing this Record

"England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975", database, *FamilySearch*

(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:J9QG-N5T> : 19 September 2020), Sarah Stir Rumbs, 1819.

AND . . .

Name: Joane Rombs

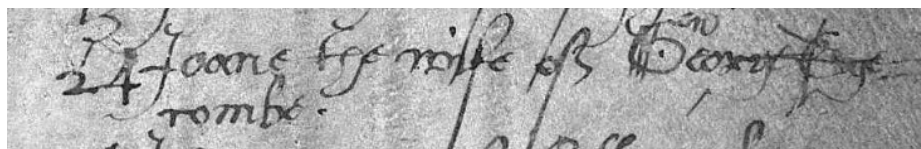
Death or Burial Date: 1614

Death or Burial Place: Devon,
England

Death or Burial Place (Original): Devon

Event Type: Burial

Affiliate Image Path: 004635103/004635103_00112



Digital Folder Number: 004635103

Image Number: 00112

Citing this Record

"England, Devon, Parish Registers, 1538-1912", database with images, *FamilySearch*

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KCSJ-61Y> : 29 July 2021), Joane Rombs, 1614.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

The Apocryphal Story

There has been a persistent family story, never substantiated, that my great grandfather, Johannes, who was the grandson of Franz Ludwig Rombs and Margaretha Werner, was multilingual and once served tea (or wine depending on which version of the story is being told) to the Tsar. After looking over the family history, I want to suggest that maybe the story has some truth to it, but I think that it most likely pertains to Franz Ludwig, not to his grandson. Franz Ludwig must have been familiar with a number of languages (German/Alsacien, French, Latin), and after moving to Russia he was a school teacher there and knew the mayor of the town (Selz). Perhaps, because of his language skills and his contacts, he was called on to help with a visit from the Tsar.

I believe that there were at least two visits by a Tsar Alexander I to South Russia in the period between 1808 and 1836 (the years when Franz Ludwig lived there). After Alexander's death in 1825, perhaps his successor, Nickolas I, visited as well. So, there are two candidates for the visitor – Alexander I and Nicholas I, Alexander's younger brother. See

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Russian_monarchs . The image here of Alexander I (the person that I think is the most likely candidate) is from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_I_of_Russia .



Perhaps future research could reveal if there is any substance to this speculation. It may be that there really is a story here! Places to start are the various biographies of Alexander I, books by Joseph Height (e.g., *Memories of the Black Sea Germans*), and perhaps as yet untranslated documents from the Kutschurgan colonies. The book by J. Height refers to two visits: April, 1821; 1825, a visit that ends in his death (which has been disputed!). Speculation about the reality of Alexander's death can be found in *Imperial Legend: the Mysterious Disappearance of Tsar Alexander I* by Alexis S. Troubetzkoy.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808



FINIS



