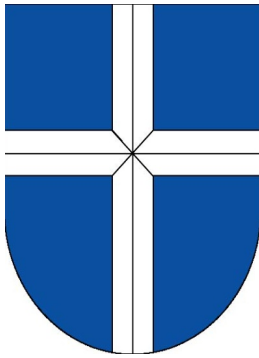


Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

(life during multiple societal transitions)

Craig Rhombs



Bishopric of Speyer



Rheinland-Pfalz



Alsace

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

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Revision History

- rev 00, September, 2021: first rough draft
- rev. 01, March, 2022: this draft includes details about Rhombs 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.”
- rev. 07, January, 2024: Added information from F. Faccia regarding the influence of the Fleckenstein barony on Alsace.

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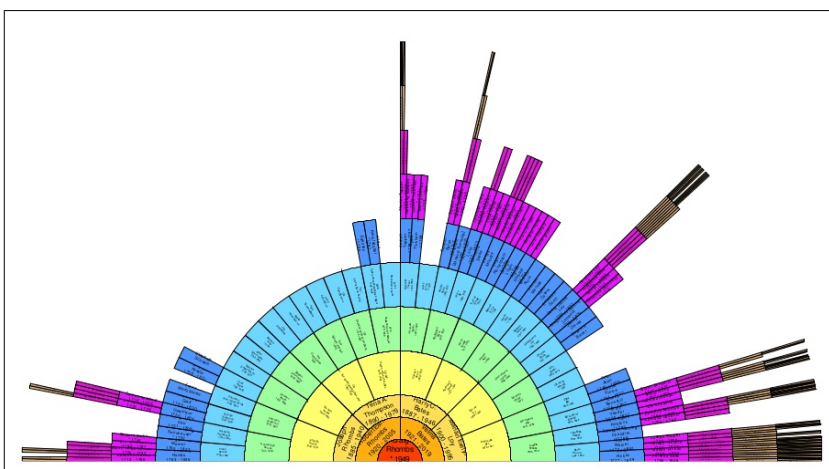
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Introduction

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 .

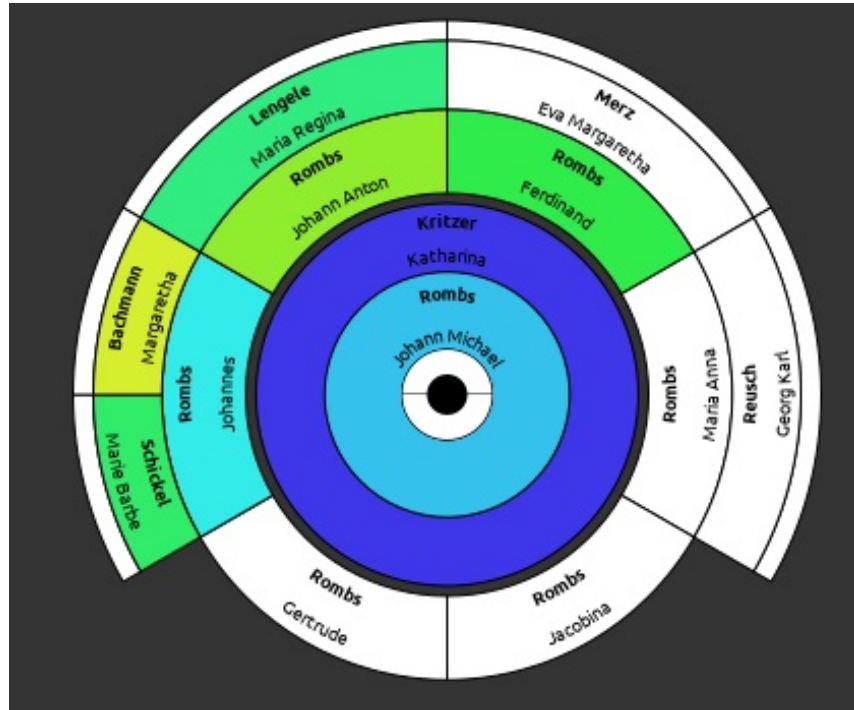
My purpose here is to summarize what I have found as I have explored records prior to the 1808 emigration from France. I have been fortunate to find surviving records in current-day Alsace, Baden, and Pfalz. These records make it clear that the men of the Rombs families specialized in teaching from just 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.

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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.

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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>

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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. A kind review and information about the Fleckenstein influence on Alsace from Franck Faccia.
- 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

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Harvard College Library, the Yale University Library, the St. Louis County (MO) Library, the 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 1200 JÄHRIGEN GESCHICHTE*, Eugen Hollerbach; Franz Gehrig; Kurt Fay, OCLC 236219696.
 - *Economic and Social Conditions in France During the Eighteenth Century*, Henri Sée, c.1968.

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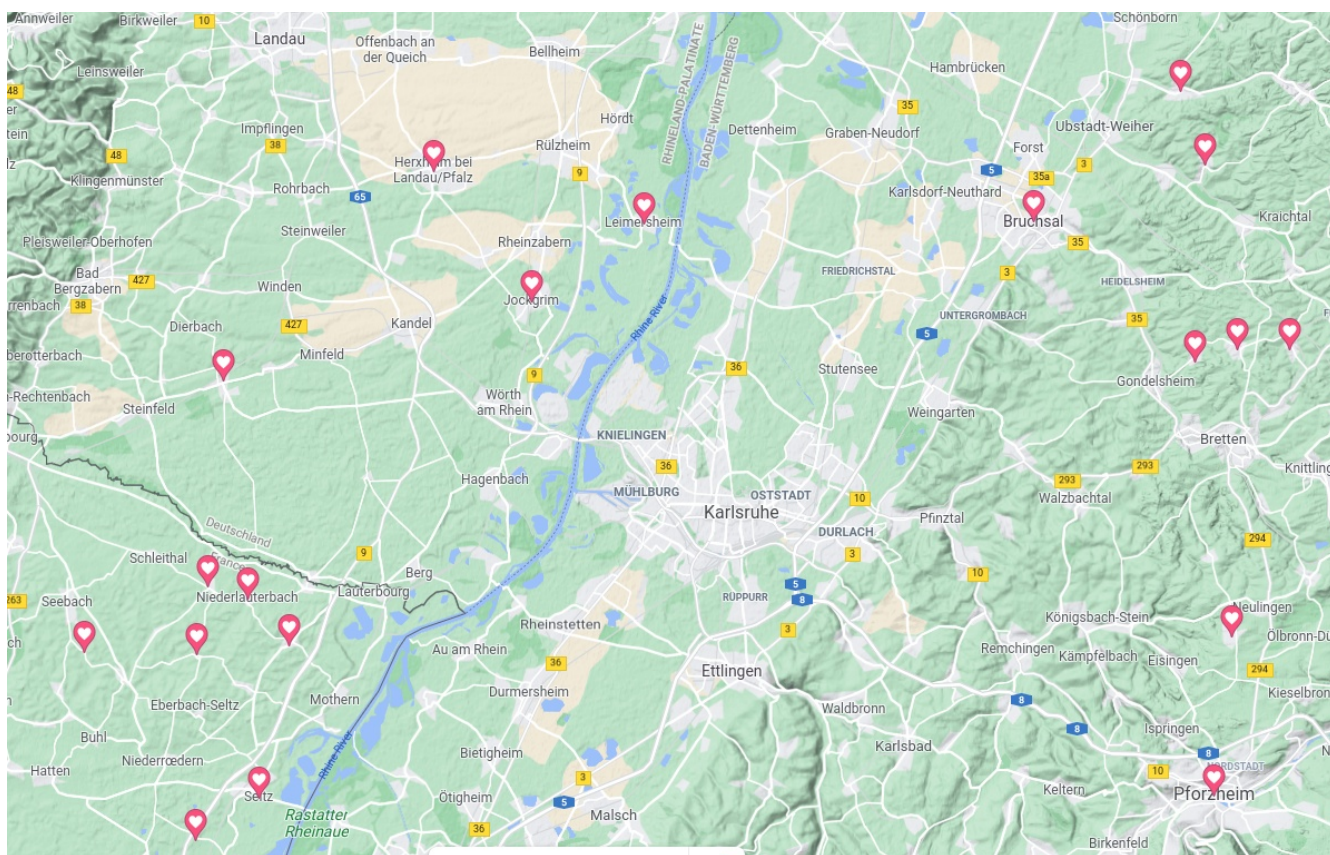
- *Germany in the Eighteenth Century The Social Background of the Literary Revival*, W. H. Bruford, c.1971.
- Books by Marc Forster – in particular: *The Counter-Reformation in the Villages – Religion and Reform in the Bishopric of Speyer, 1560-1720*, Marc R. Forster, Cornell University Press, Ithaca/London, 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.

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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

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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??

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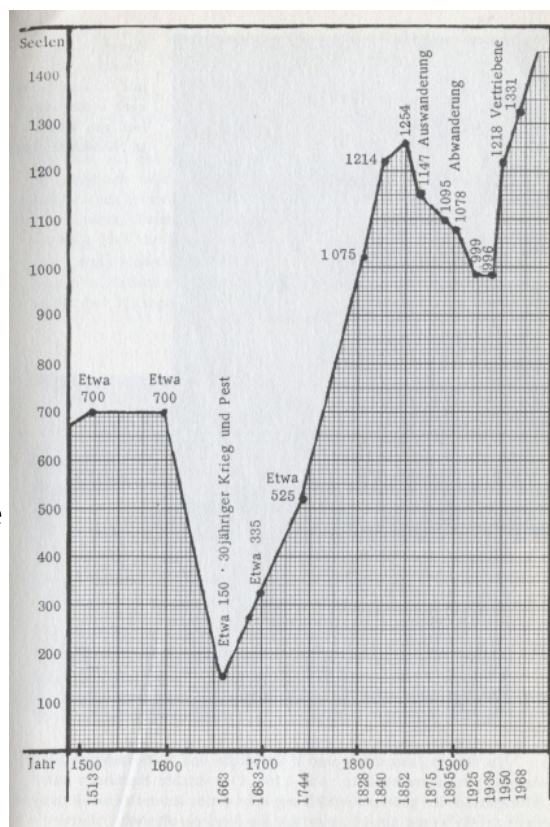
Following are brief, disconnected sections that describe some of the events and conditions that appear to be historically significant and that may have been felt by our ancestors that lived in this region and era.

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.



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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.

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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 -

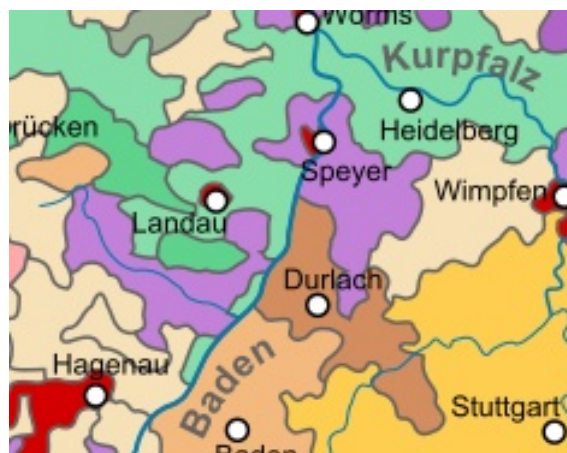
https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/ward_1912/germany_religious_1610.jpg .



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.)



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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.

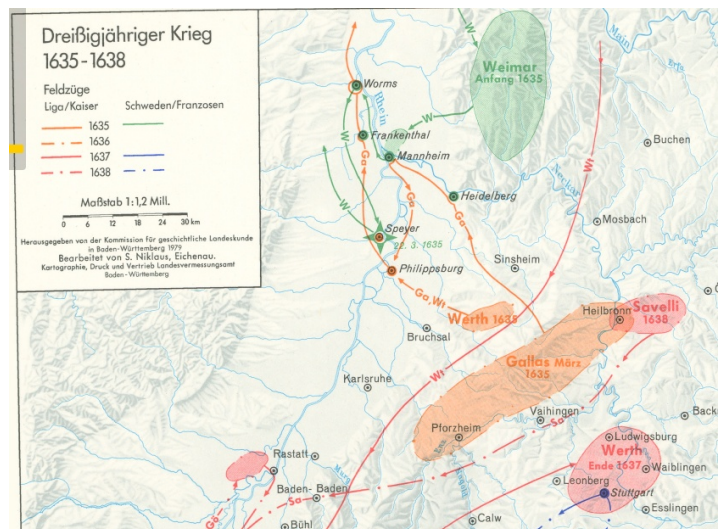
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Assorted maps of the war can be found here:

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 .

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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. . . .

eine verbrannte Hofstatt”

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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>

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- 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 .

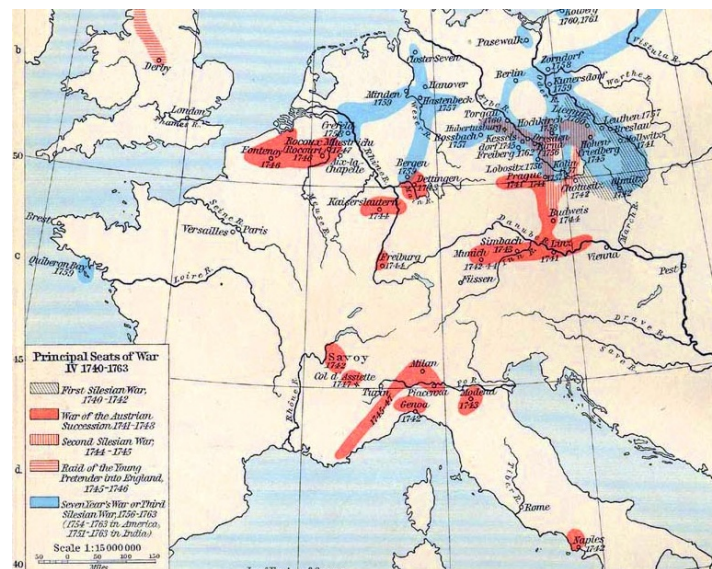
- 1688-1697 – Nine Years’ War – a war waged by Louis XIV that had an impact on the Rheinland (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nine_Years%27_War) The image depicts the siege of Philippsburg. From Wikimedia Commons. French troops work through the region of the diocese of Speyer and cause considerable damage.



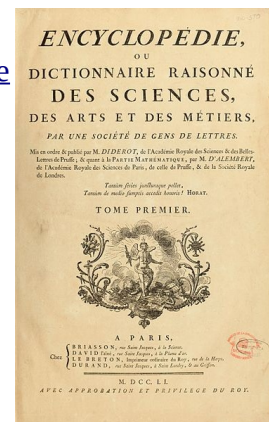
- 1701-1714 - War of the Spanish Succession – Triggered by the death of King Charles II (Spain) (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_the_Spanish_Succession#France)
- 1702-1715 – Camisard Rebellion – Reaction to Louis XIV’s edict making Protestantism illegal in France. For more about troubles for 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/> .

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- 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 .



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- 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

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- 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

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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 Anne Song 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 ^t de Cav ^l M ^r Witkowski 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 - Marchal			

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.

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- 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.



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- 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.)

A Note about the Barony of Fleckenstein

While many of my ancestors lived in times that were influenced by the Catholic Church in Speyer and the civil authority of the Palatinate in Heidelberg, when my fifth great grandfather Johannes moved to Oberlauterbach in the early 1740s, he move close to, if not into, an area that fell within the purvue of the Barony of Fleckenstein. If nothing else, he and his family were influenced by events associated with the Fleckenstein family. Franck Faccia has kindly called my attention to this fact and has provided some appropriate history of the area, which I paraphrase below. Franck's focus is on Seltz.

. . . Seltz, was a frontier zone The lands from which our ancestors originated were also and above all on the villages of the barony of FLeckenstein (Fleckenstein castle).

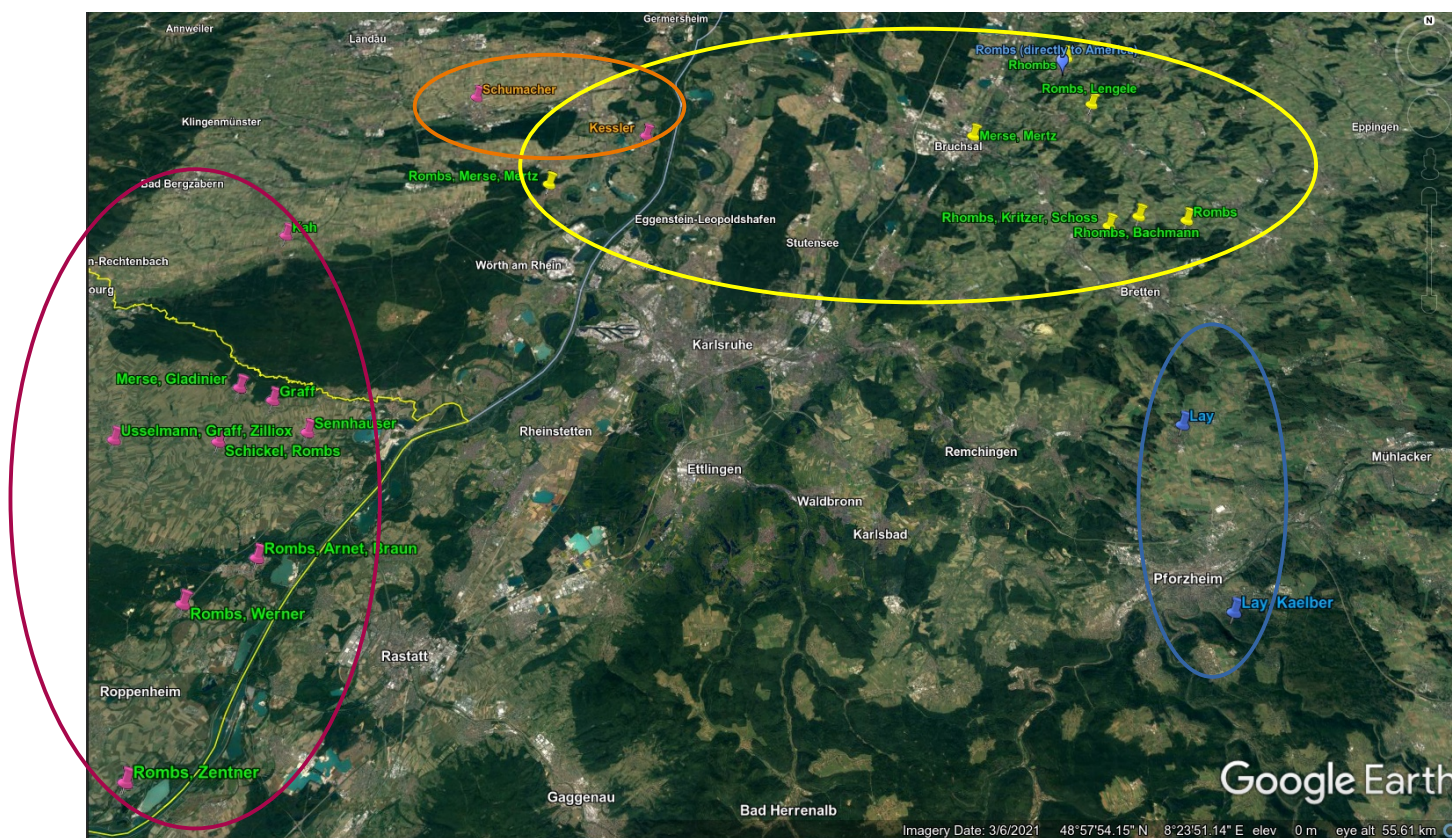
See <http://emig.free.fr/Als-B/Fleckenstein.html>

It should also be added that at the end of the 30 years war (1618-1648), Alsace was decimated!!

During the Thirty Years War (1618-1648), Seltz was taken by the Imperials, the Swedes and then the French, sometimes several times, and lost a large part of its inhabitants. In 1648, by the treaties of Westphalia the city was returned to the Palatinate, to be annexed to France in 1680. In 1684, the dragoons and the Jesuits obtained the conversion to Catholicism of the population.

The Duke of Deux-Ponts (ZweiBrücken), new Lord of Seltz in 1766, formally recognized French sovereignty in 1768. On October 13, 1793, the Austrians won the Battle of Seltz against the French Republicans. When the Republicans returned in December 1793, the Great Flight, an attack of collective fear, caused the exile of many Seltzers to the margraviate of Baden. On January 9, 1803, Napoleon Bonaparte, 1st Consul, summoned the assembly of the Canton to Seltz. The invitation to this meeting is kept in the archives of Seltz. 7 days after Waterloo, the French defeated at Seltz a corps made up of Germans and Austrians. The 19th century saw the regularization of the Rhine, the emigration of many Seltzers to America, Southern Russia and Algeria and the rural exodus to the big cities in the rest of France.

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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

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couple of surnames for ancestors of my great grandfather's wife, Barbara. These include the villages of Leimersheim and Herxheim.

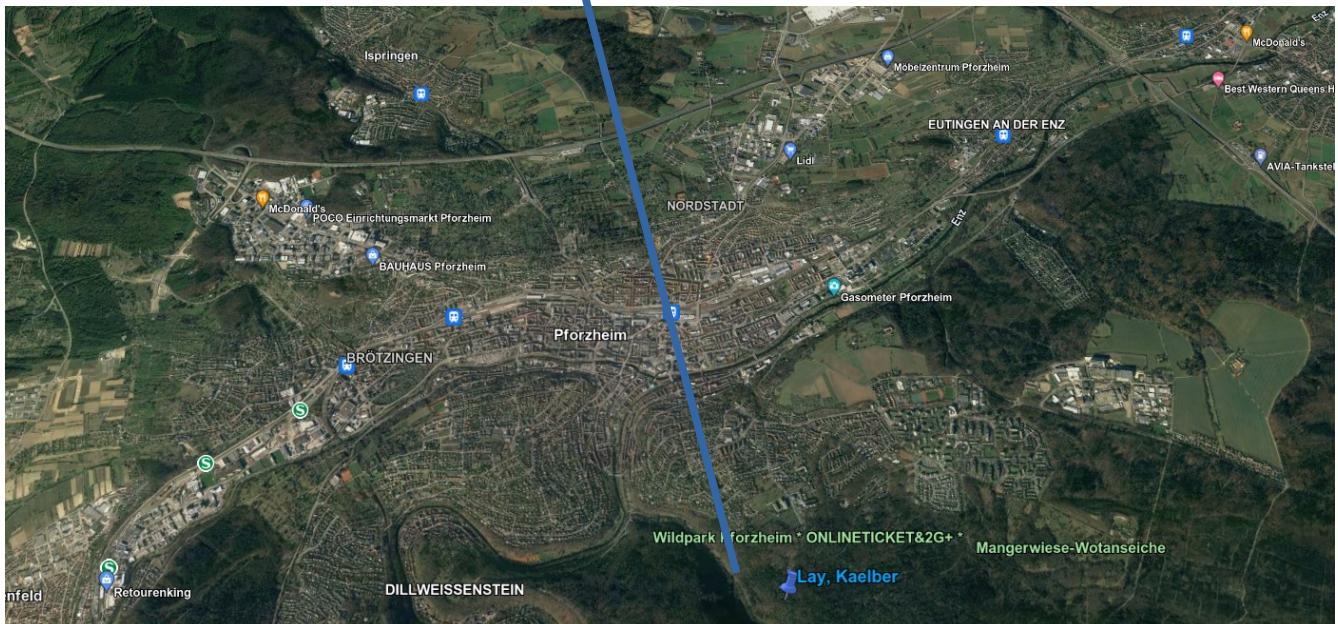
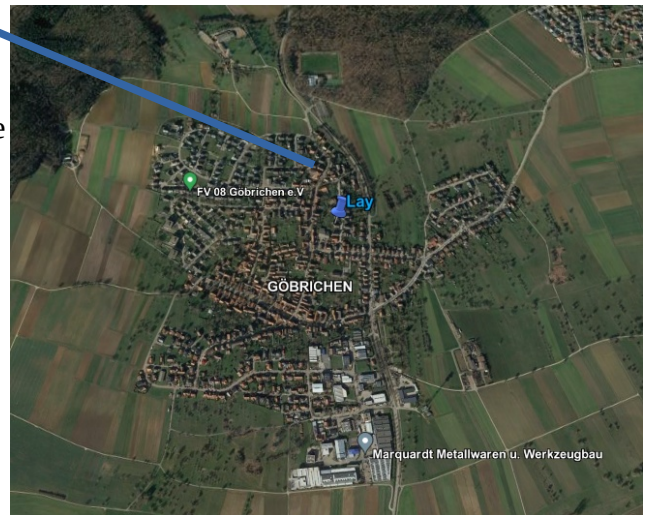
The two blue pins on the right above identify locations (Göbrichen and Würm) where some of my maternal ancestors happened to live at roughly the same time. They are unrelated to the Rhombs line, and I have included them only because their proximity may be of interest to some family members. These two 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> .



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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>

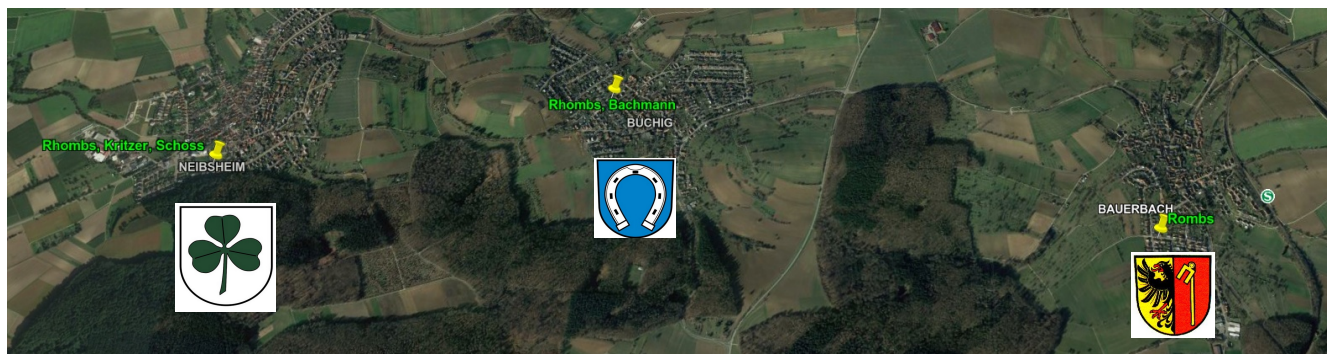
<https://www.bibliotheca-laureshamensis-digital.de/> ;

https://archivum-laureshamense-digital.de/view/saw_mainz72/0001/thumbs



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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	

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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.

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-----  
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 +  
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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.

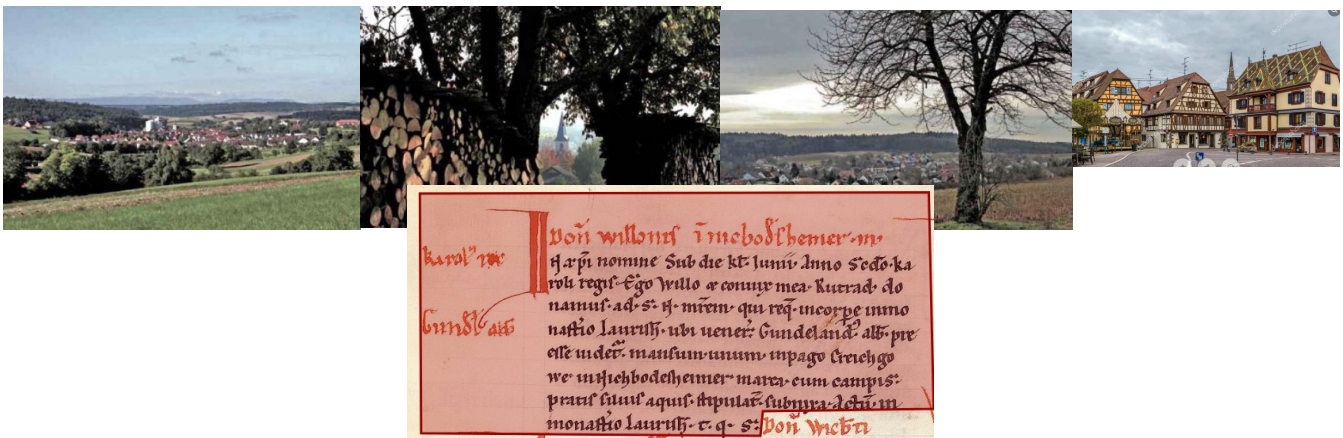
Details for Maria Anna are also missing, but more will be said regarding marriage to Karl Reusch in Neibsheim.

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



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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
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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*

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(<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,,,,,	♀ 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,,,,,
Mutter: ♀ Katharina KRITZER * 1670 † 02.09.1770 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

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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>
-----

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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

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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

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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,,,,, 

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Zeutern and Oberöwisheim Families

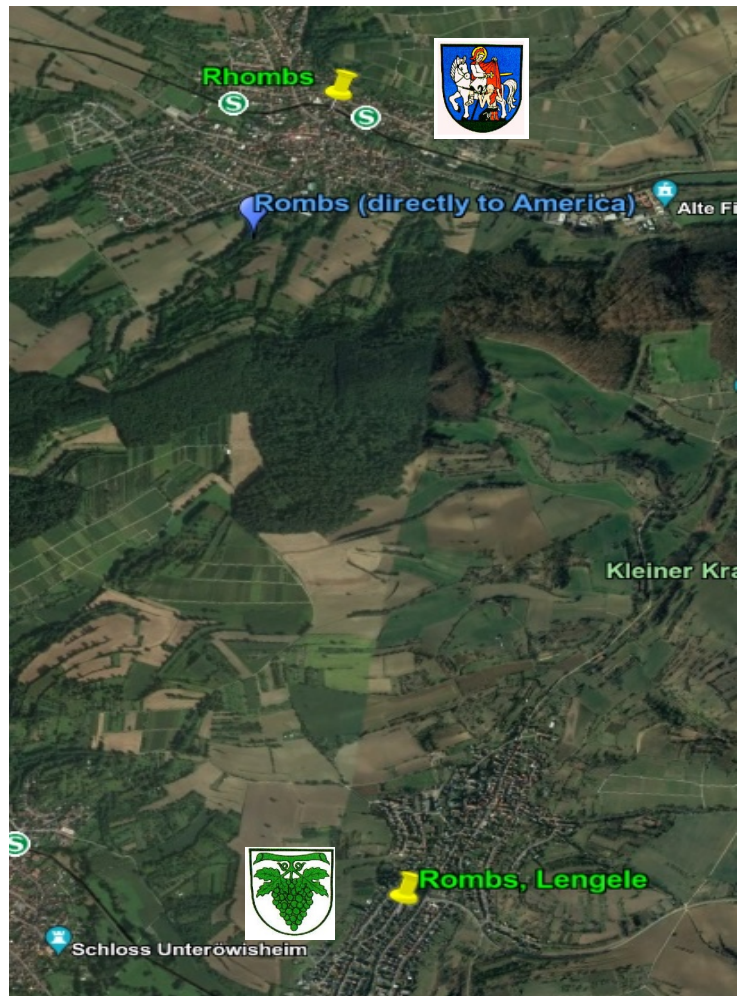
These towns form a loose cluster of towns just to the northwest of Neibsheim. Zeutern is about 20 km from Neibsheim by road.

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> .

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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>



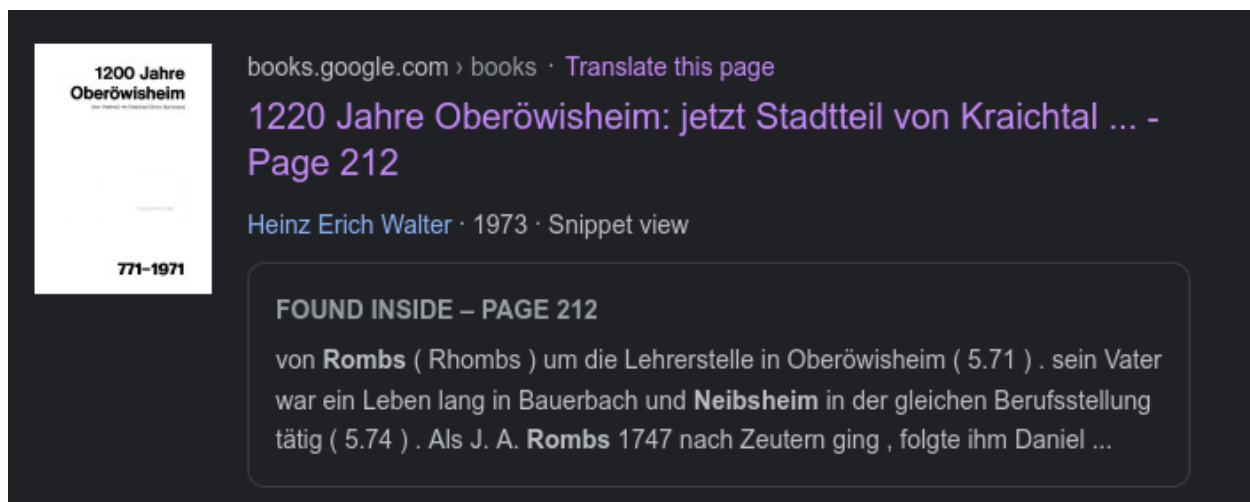
Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

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 small thumbnail of the book cover titled "1200 Jahre Oberöwisheim 771-1971". The main text of the snippet is in German and mentions "Rombs (Rhombs)" and "Neibsheim".

books.google.com › books · Translate this page

1220 Jahre Oberöwisheim: jetzt Stadtteil von Kraichtal ... - Page 212

Heinz Erich Walter · 1973 · Snippet view

FOUND INSIDE – PAGE 212

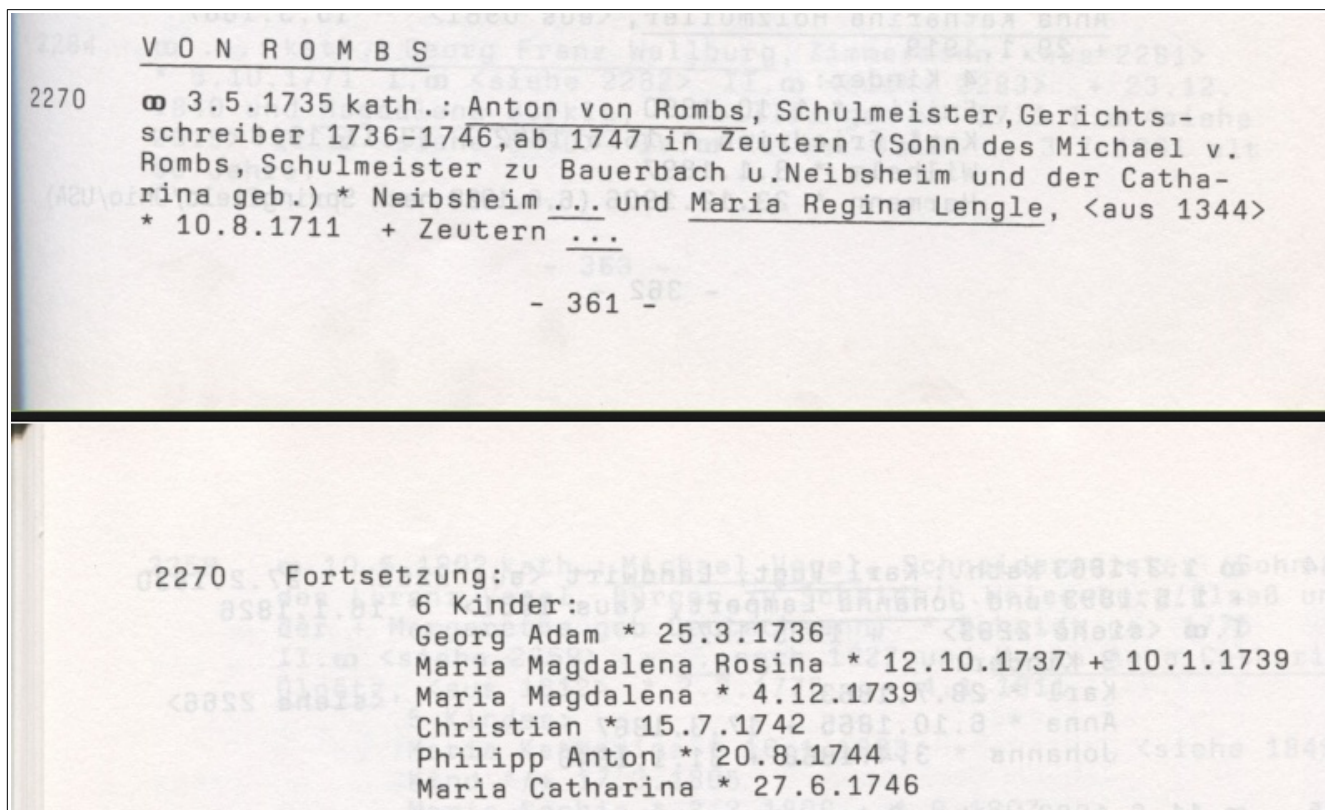
von **Rombs** (Rhombs) um die Lehrerstelle in Oberöwisheim (5.71) . sein Vater war ein Leben lang in Bauerbach und **Neibsheim** in der gleichen Berufsstellung tätig (5.74) . Als J. A. **Rombs** 1747 nach Zeutern ging , folgte ihm Daniel ...

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.

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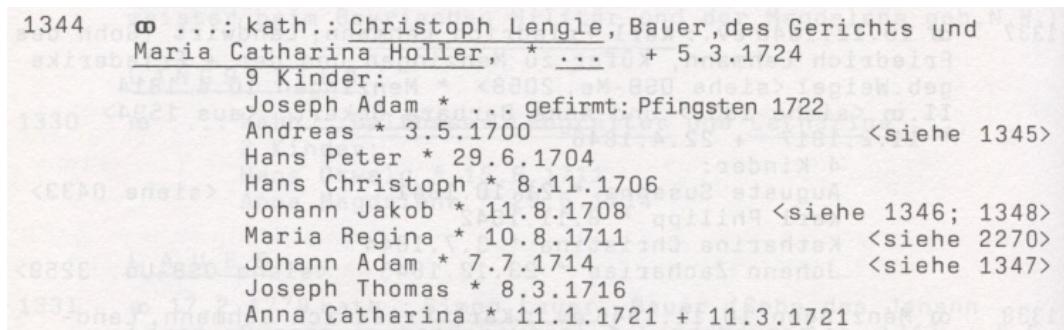
The somewhat newer OSB for Oberöwisheim holds the following entry for Anton and his family.



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.



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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
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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
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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.

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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 Lengle, 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)

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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

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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.

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- "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.

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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.>



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3920	∞	16.11.1848			
		Rombs, Johannes		Eltern: <3911>	
		* 17.06.1826	, S.86,28	+ 13.06.1888	, S.287,21
		damals „Von Rombs“			
		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.

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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/Stadtporrait.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>

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<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.

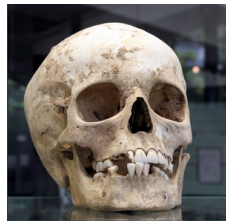
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jockgrim>

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/>



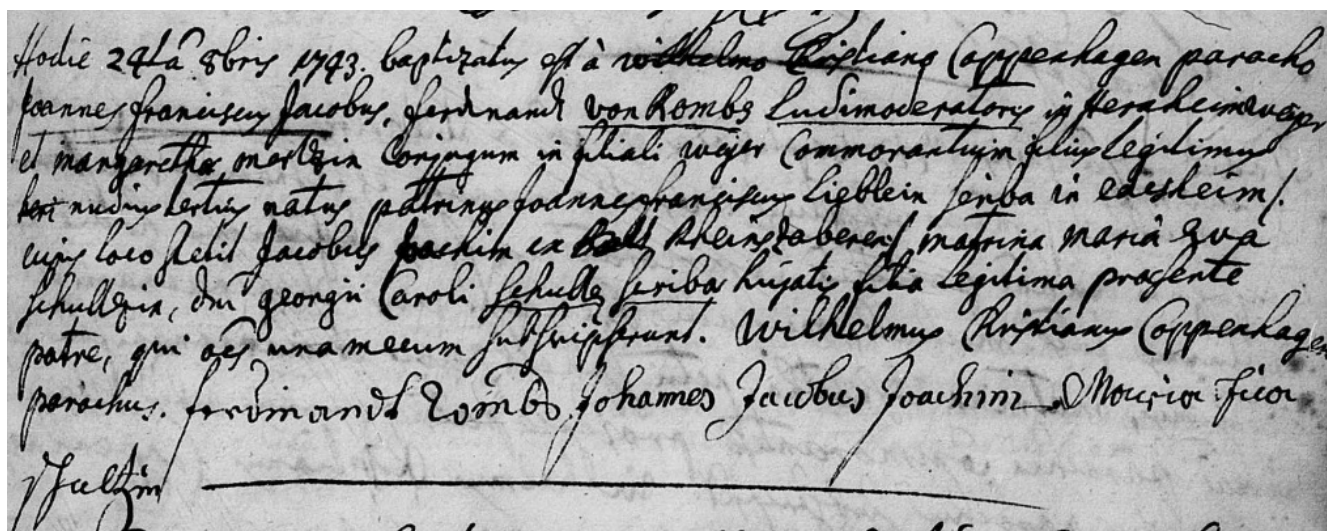
Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

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.

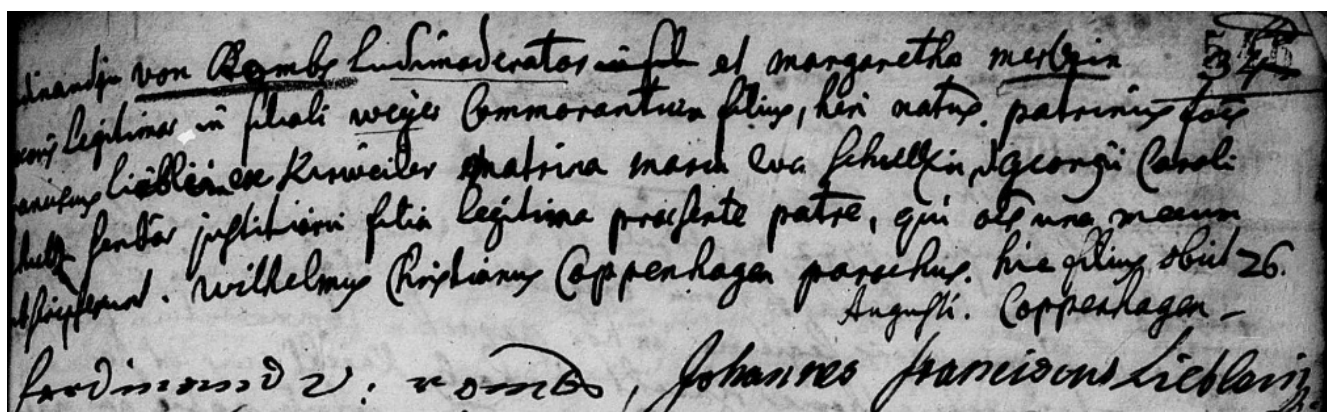
A church book from Herxheim records two births attributed to Ferdinand and Margaretha. First a son named Joseph (?) on 28-July1742 and then another son named Johann Franz Jacob on 24-October-1743. In the birth/baptismal records, Ferdinand (von Rombs) is described as a "ludimoderator," so he must have had teaching work there. Here is an example record regarding the second birth/baptism.



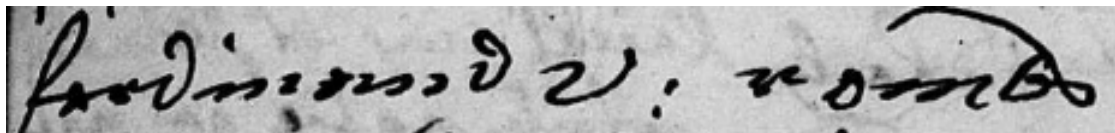
See image 352 in "Deutschland Geburten und Taufen, 1558-1898", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:ND43-D61> : 25 March 2020), Joannes Franciscus Jacobus von Rombs, 1743.

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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>"

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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

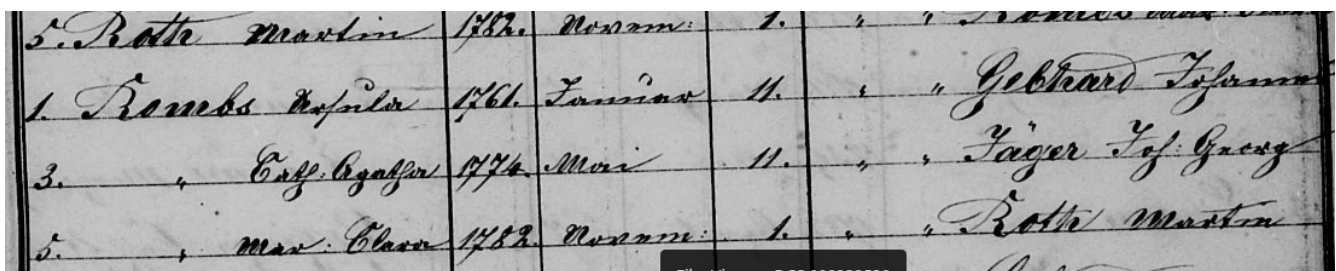
*/N on May 1st, 1722 in Bruchsal. Profession: Midwife, died on February 25th, 1794 (Wwe Ferd. Romps) in Jockgrim.”

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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.



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Next are the recorded births in Jockgrim. See pages 70-80.

No.	Name	Sex	Year			Month	Day	Place	Parents		Remarks
			Year	Month	Day				Father	Mother	
23.	Rombs	Mar.	1726	Novem.	1			Rombs	Margaretha		
17.			1727	Septem.	13.						
22.	Rombs	Maria	1729	Novem.	27.			Rombs	Margaretha		
10.		Bartholom.	1732	Aug.	30.						
24.		Christ. Kasper	1734	Novem.	30.						
21.		Max. Casp.	1737	Octob.	11.				Kurz		
19.		Bartholom.	1737	Septem.	25.						
31.		Margaretha	1741	Octob.							
7.		Bartholom.	1744	May	25.						

Then, are the deaths. See page 198.

No.	Name	Sex	Year			Month	Day	Place	Parents		Remarks
			Year	Month	Day				Father	Mother	
26.	Rombs	Mar.	1726	Novem.	1			Rombs	Margaretha		
3.			1727	Septem.	27.						
21.		Mar. Kasper	1729		3.						
23.		Bartholom.	1732	Aug.	30.						
9.		Bartholom.	1734	Novem.	30.						
16.		Max. Casp.	1737	Octob.	11.				Kurz		
19.		Margaretha	1737	Septem.	25.				Kurz		
4.		Bartholom.	1741	Octob.							
7.		Bartholom.	1744	May	25.						

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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.

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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.

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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)

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- 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)

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Thomas Rombs

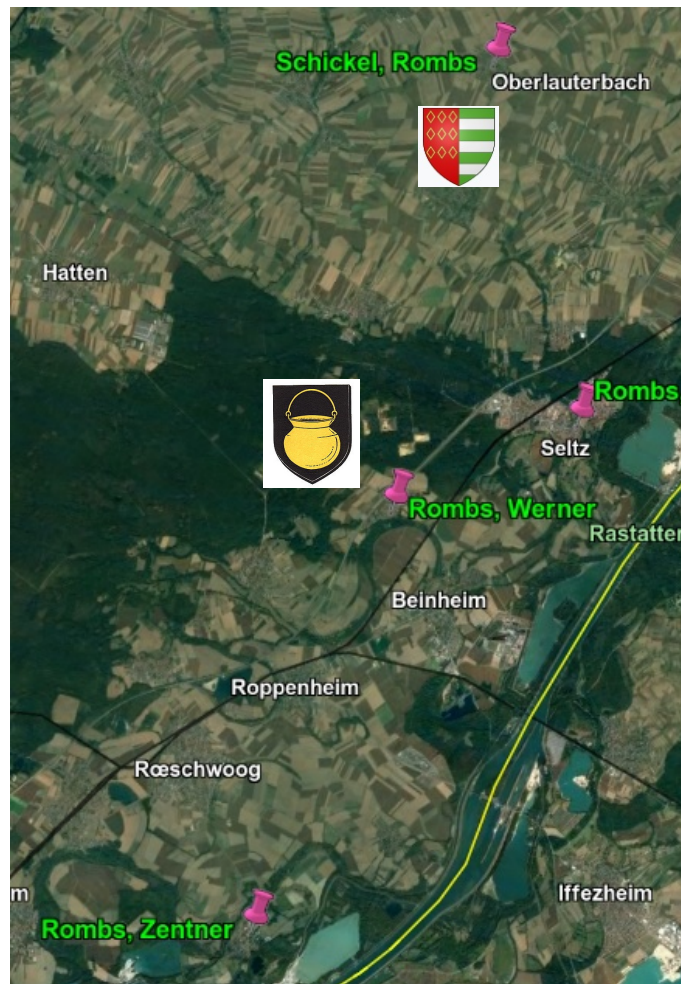
The Jockgrim OFB documents the existence of a person that I can not connect to a set of parents. His name is Thomas, born about 1750, and he married one Elizabeth Milz as shown below. He would conveniently fit into the family of Ferdinand and Margaretha, but I can not justify this. He does not fit into 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.

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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> .

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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 .

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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.



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The Family of Johannes Rombs and Barbara Schickel

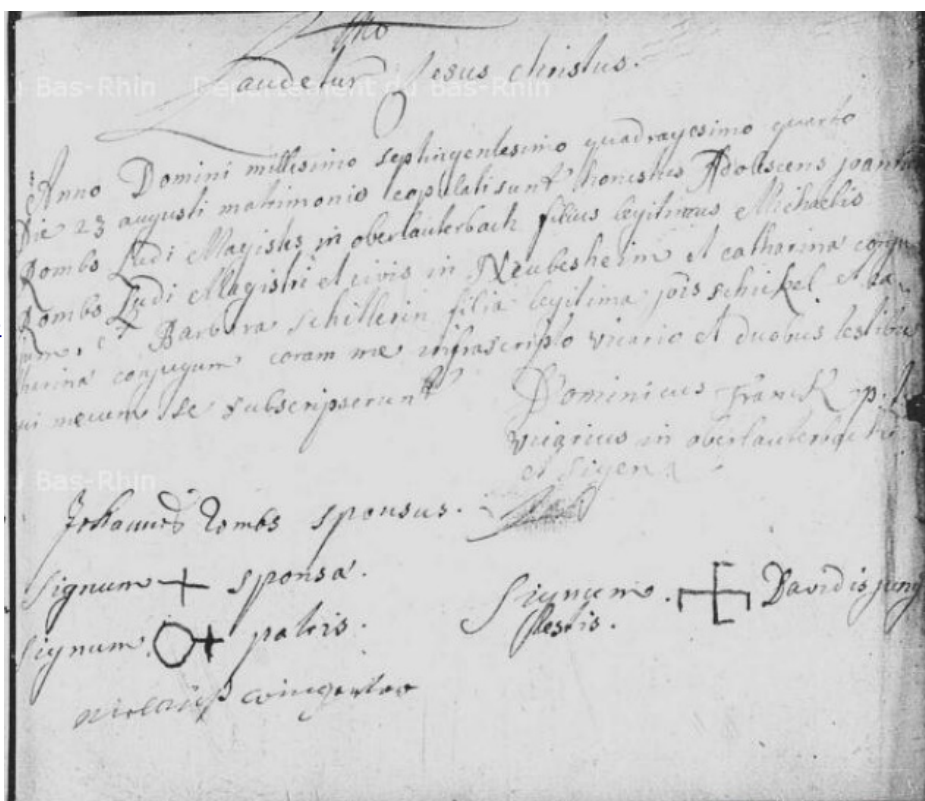
Johannes was the oldest of the three sons of Michael and Katharina, and as such some of life's common events happened to him before his brothers, Anton and Ferdinand. Johannes married first, and he took up teaching at Büchig at about the time of his marriage in 1732, approximately three years before 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-R207435-2321340>



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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.

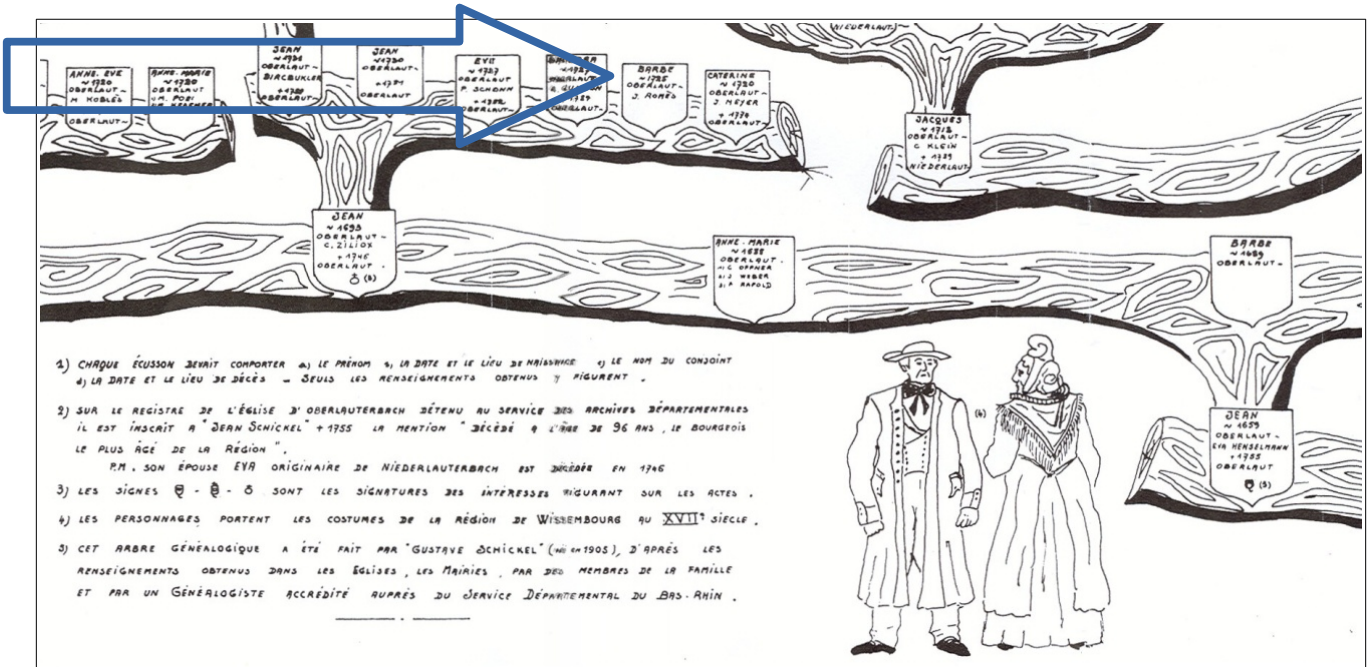
Family Group Report		
Husband: Schickel, Johann (I0337)		
Birth	est.	
	1689	
Death	1746-08-10	Oberlauterbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France
Father	Schickel, Jean (I3294)	
Mother	Hanselmann, Eve (I3295)	
Marriage (F0080):		
Marriage		
Wife: Zilliox Zilliox, Catherine (I0338)		
Birth	est. from death record	
	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

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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.

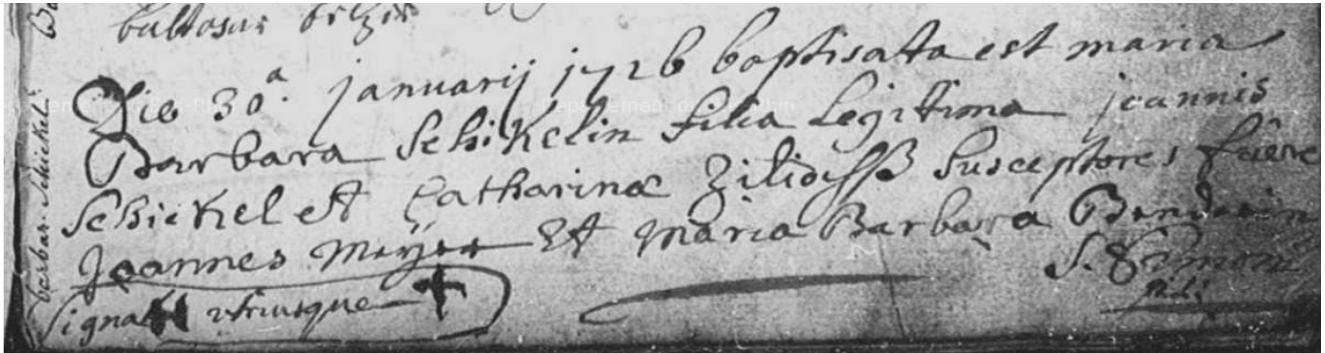


That part of the root of the tree that includes Barbara and her family follows.



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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.



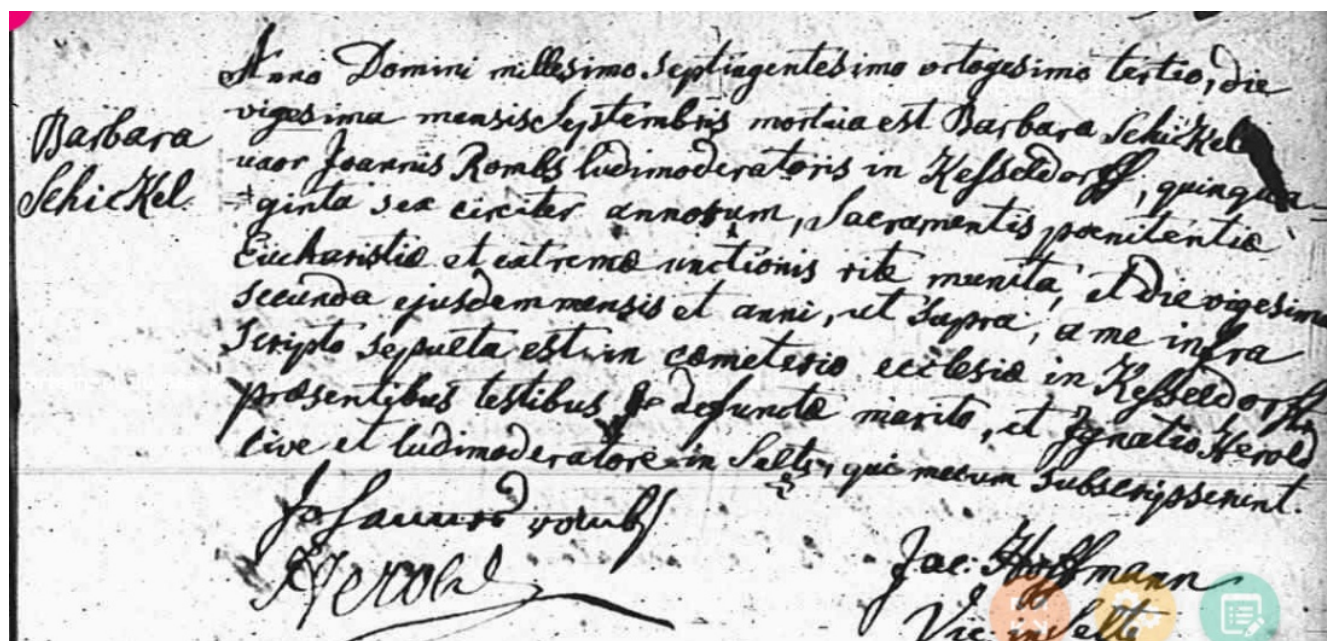
Existing records do not explicitly define a point of origin for Barbara's mother, Catherine Zilliox, but there are a number of people with the name of Zilliox that appear in the archives in the vicinity of Weyersheim and Betschdorf. I would be inclined to see if links to any of the families in these locales exist. Barbara's father, Jean/Johann, appears to be from the Oberlauterbach area.

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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>



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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.

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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

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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

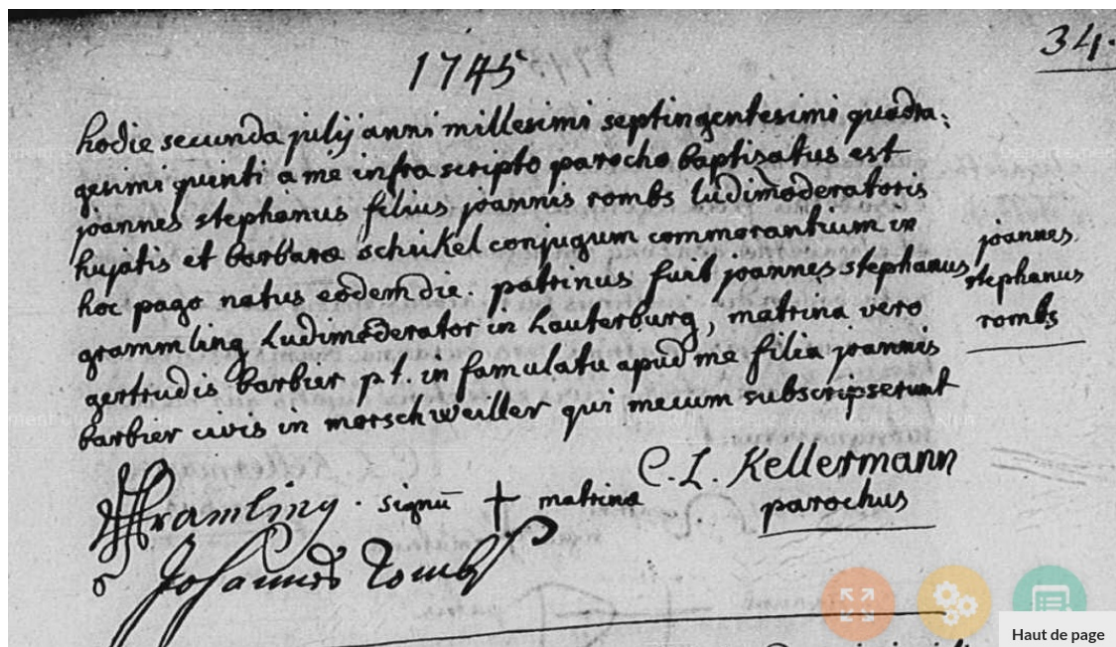
- sp. Schall, Johann (b. 1795, d. 1833), m. 1814
 - 4. Schall, Jacob (b. 1813, d. 1814)
 - 4. Schall, Marianna (b. 1815, d. 1815)
 - 4. Schall, Nicholas (b. 1828-10-27 - Selz, Russia, d. 1897-03-19 - McIntosh, North Dakota)
 - sp. Faehn, Marianna (b. 1826, d. 1897)
- 3. Rombs, Marianna (b. 1801 - Kesseldorf, 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.]



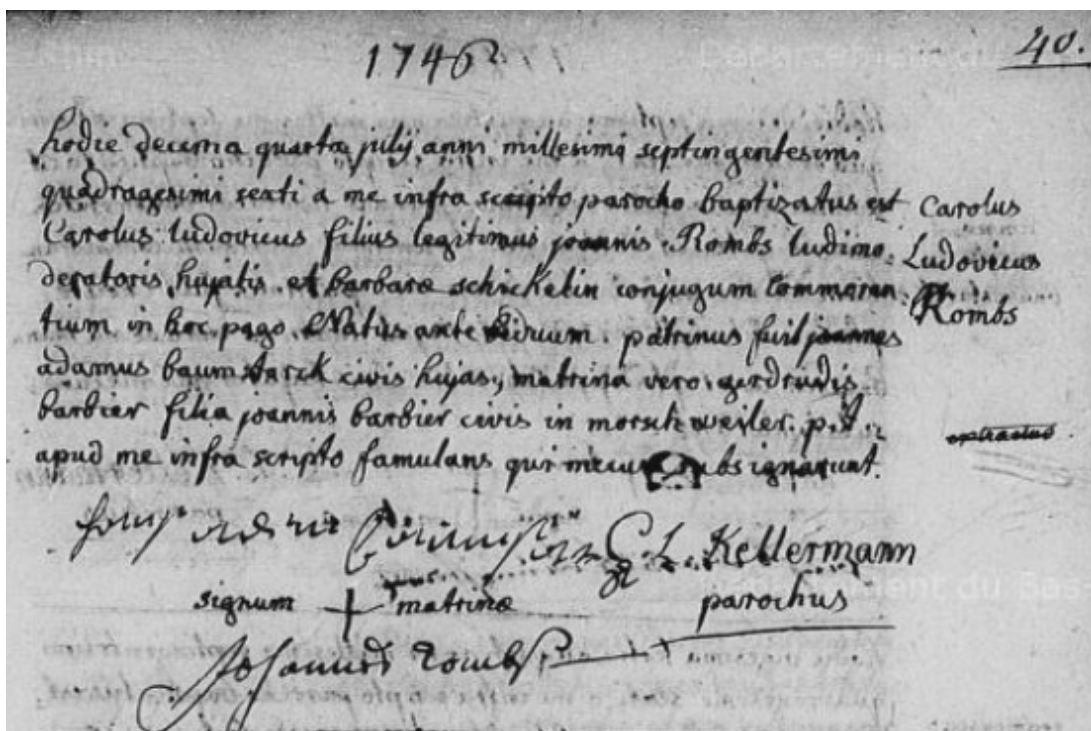
I have found no further record for Stephan. My assumption is that at some point he died and the record of that event has been lost or is undiscovered.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

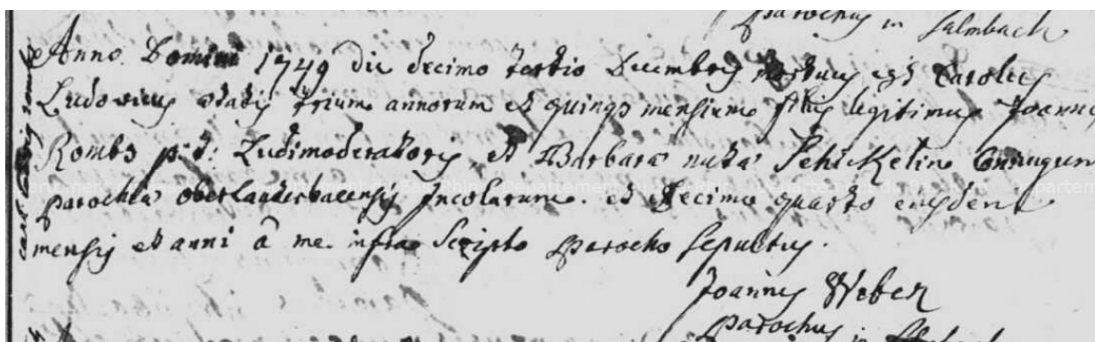
Charles Louis Rhombs (Karl Ludwig)

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>



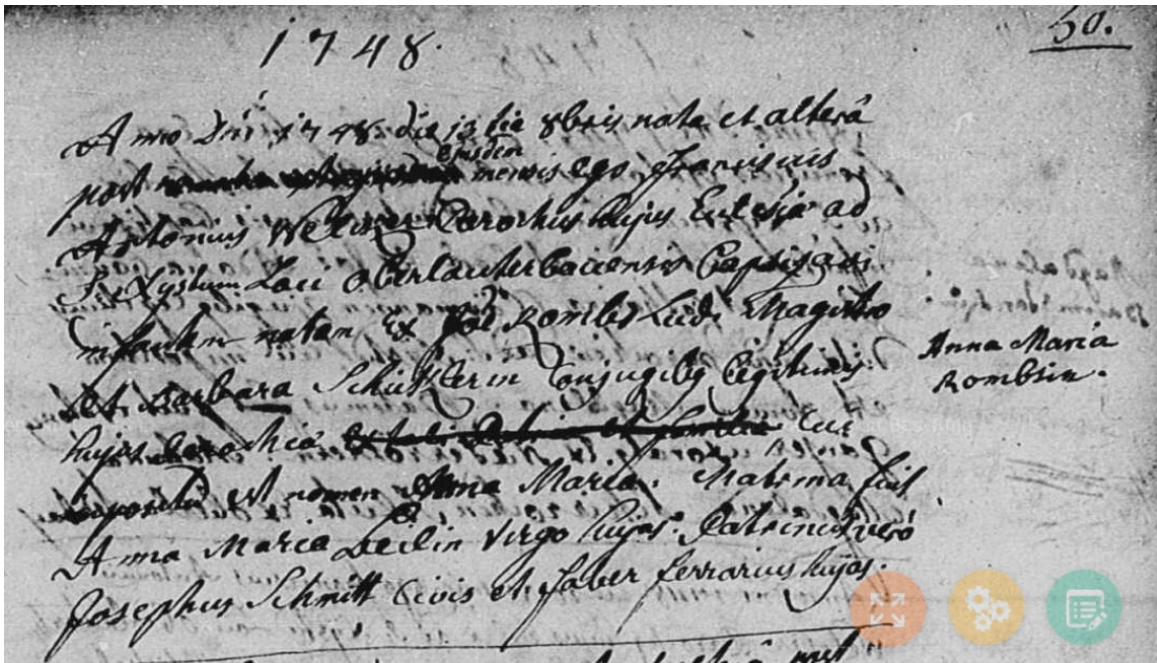
His death/burial record can be found using this url. <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207436#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207436-2321472>



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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.

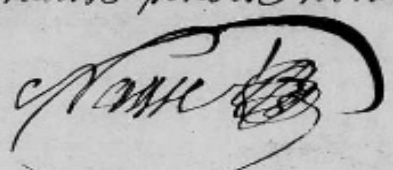
Francois is the son of Francois Joseph Nanse and Marie Anne Schwindenhammer. These parents are from Beinheim. Joseph is a procurator there.

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 eulenia et una in
 eulenia parochiali in Deindeim present nobis per
 literas testimoniales a Reverendo domino Breht
 parochio euleno parochiali in Deindeim die vigesima
 currentis ad nos datas et apud nos remanentes
 constitit audente dispensatione super
 omnia alia fauendis, nullo de iure impedimento
 praeiudice negotio mutuo consensu et in malis manij
 vinculo a me infra scripto in facie sua coniugatis
 Viro Francisci Xaverii Nause filias solutus
 domini Francisci Josephi Nause procuratoris domini
 Moni anno Schindelhammes coniugum civium
 in officio dieceps Basileensis a pluribus annis in parochia
 Deindeim Commorans, et Maria Barbara Rombs
 filia Joannis Rombs ludimoderatoris in Riefeldorff
 et Martine Schittel coniugum ad fides testes
 pater sponsae et maritus Meis civis in Deindeim
 Laurentius Graemer et Joannes Schutel civis in
 Oberlauterbach qui mecum subscriperunt exceptis
 Teste qui de lite interpellatus declaravit
 se necesse seribere notam suam fecit


 Ihuic iuravit vobis
 Johann Rombs
 Nause m. i. p.
 nota + testis
 Johann Schutel

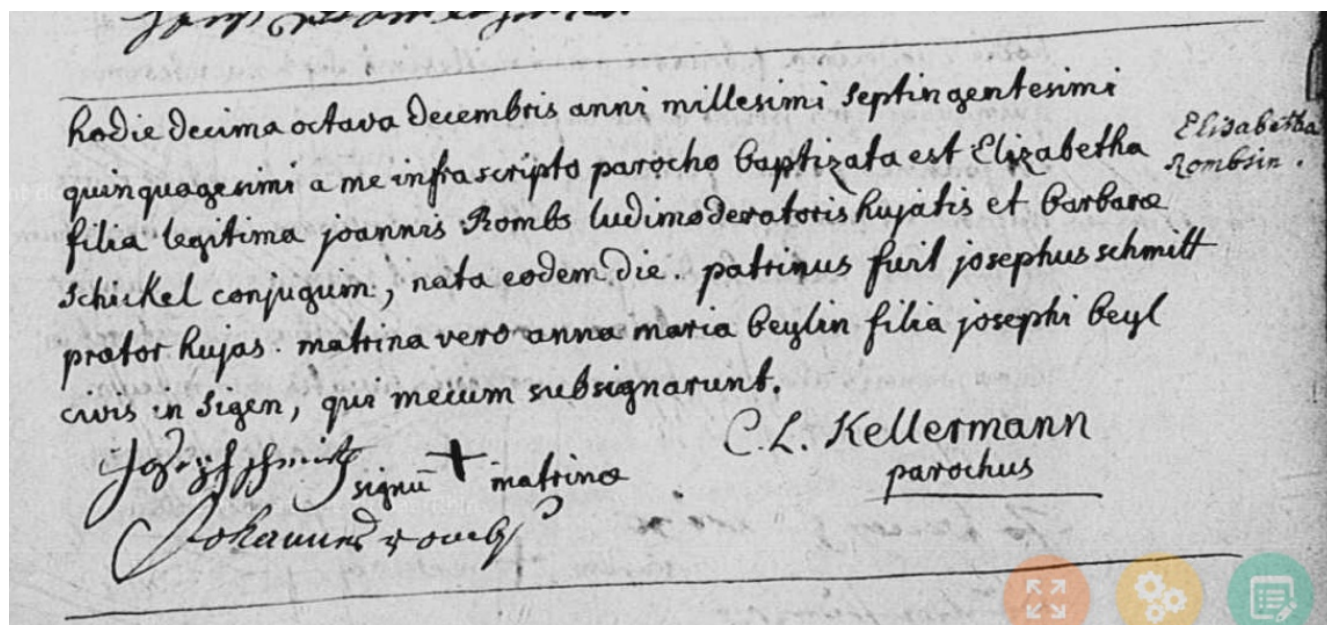
Johannus Bernauer
 parochus in telt

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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.

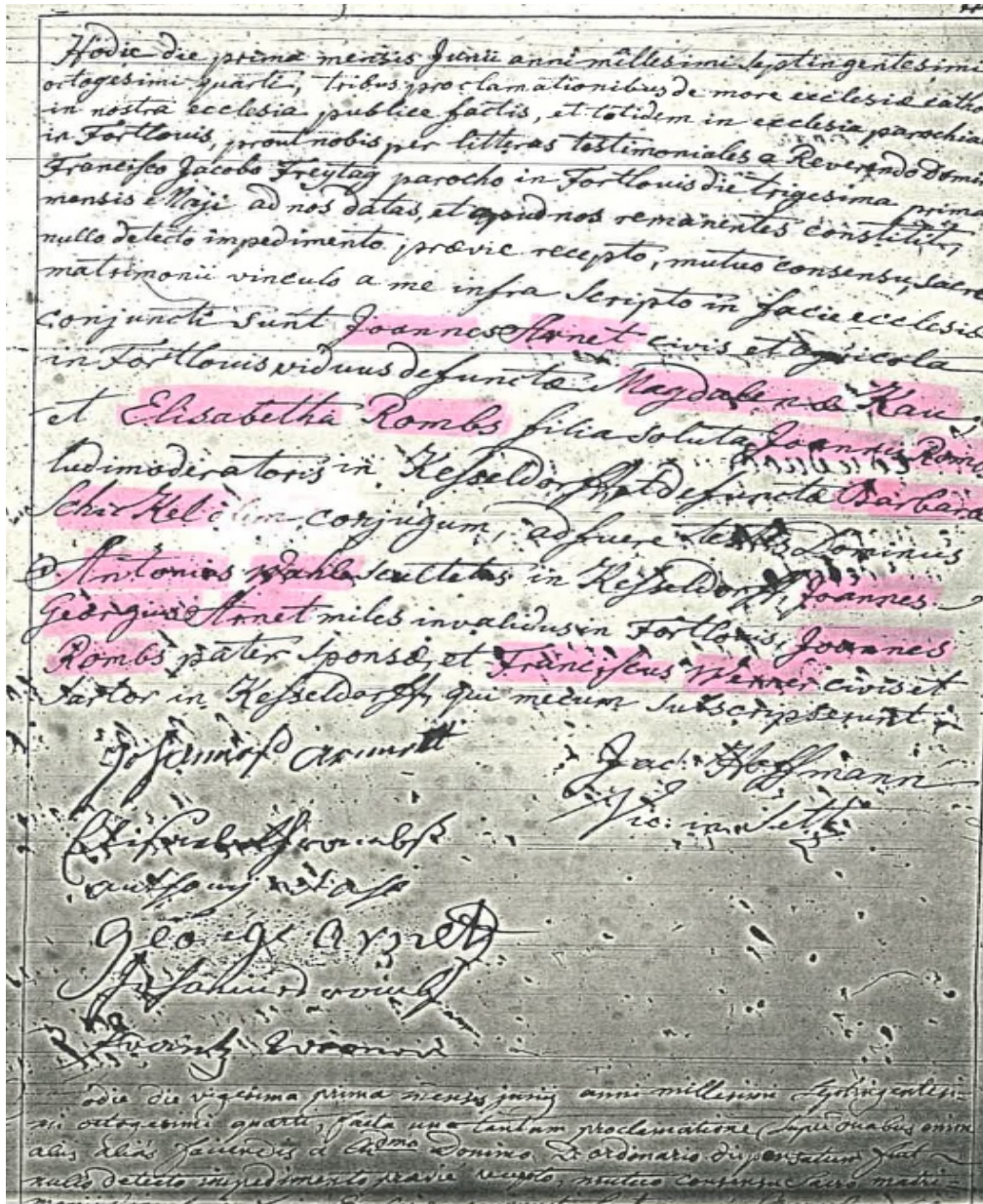
This url can take you to the baptismal record. <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432-2321190>



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.

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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.



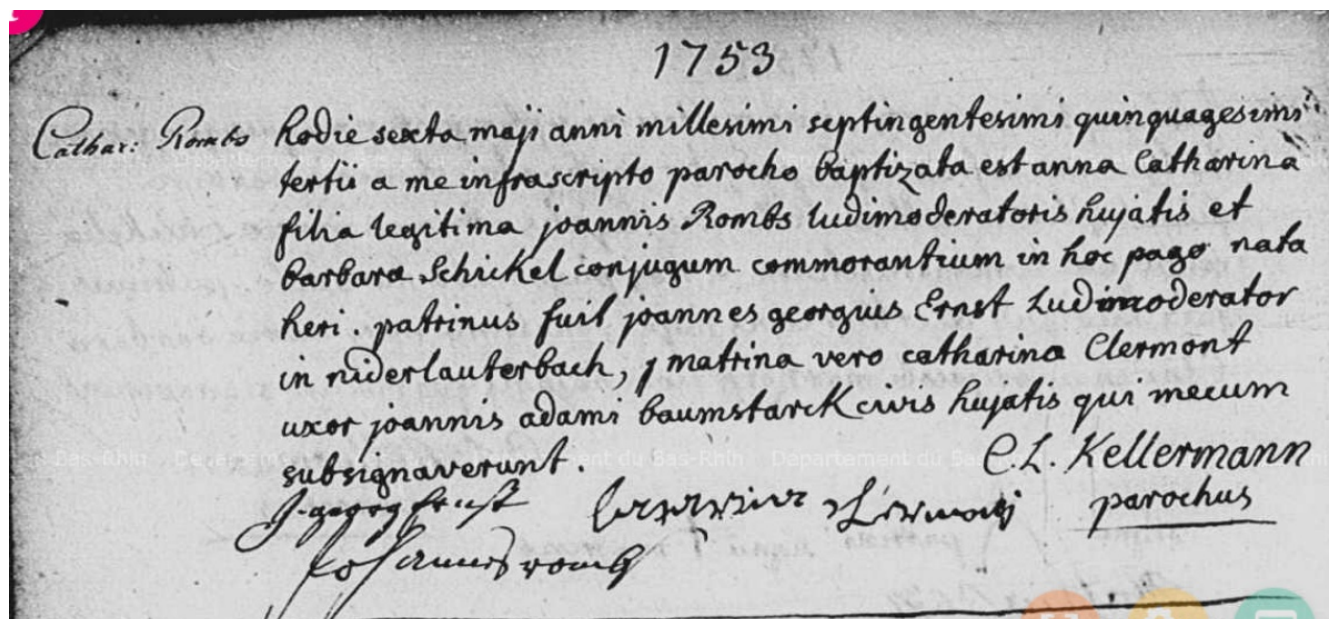
I have not found subsequent information about the Arnet family. Since this name is not apparent in the records of the Russian villages of the Kutschurgan district, a first guess would be that they stayed in Alsace.

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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>.



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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'AGAWE - 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];
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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

Anno domini millesimo ceteringentesimo octogesimo primo
die vigesima secunda mensis Junij mortuus
est infans urgente mortis necessitate baptizatus
et mihi filius Opanti Braun pater et operarius in
Selt et Catharina Romb conjugum in Selt
et die sequenti eadem mensis obitum ut supra
a me infra scripto sepultus fuit in cimiterio
Rulens parochialis in Selt presentibus testibus
patre defuncti et Ignatio herede legitimo
testatoris hujus qui mecum habuerunt
Joannes Braun
Herode
Johannes Bernauer
parochus in Selt

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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.

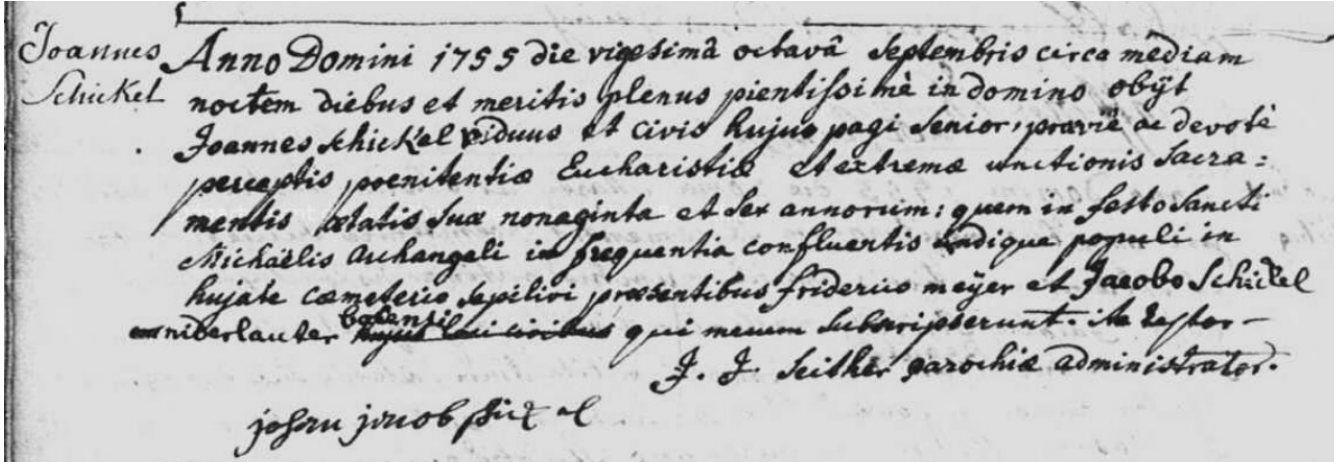
Anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo octagesimo secundo, die vigesima tertia mensis Augusti mortua est Catharina Rombs uxor Pauli Braun civis in Seltz, viginti quinque circiter annos nata, Sacramentis poenitentiae et contritionis tantum ob subitanam mortem rite monita, et die sequenti ejusdem mensis et anni, ut supra, a me infra scripto sepulta est in cimiterio parochialis in Seltz, presentibus testibus Simone Dypon, et Georgio Lehmann civibus in Seltz, qui mecum subscripserunt

Simon Lehmann
Jac: Hofmann
Guog Lafaveu
vic: in Seltz

Catharina Rombs

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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 devoti percipis poenitentia Eucharistia et extrema unctionis sacra: meritis aetatis suae 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 parochiae qui neminem subarijserunt. In testor J. J. Seither parochia administrator.

josru jacob spitz et

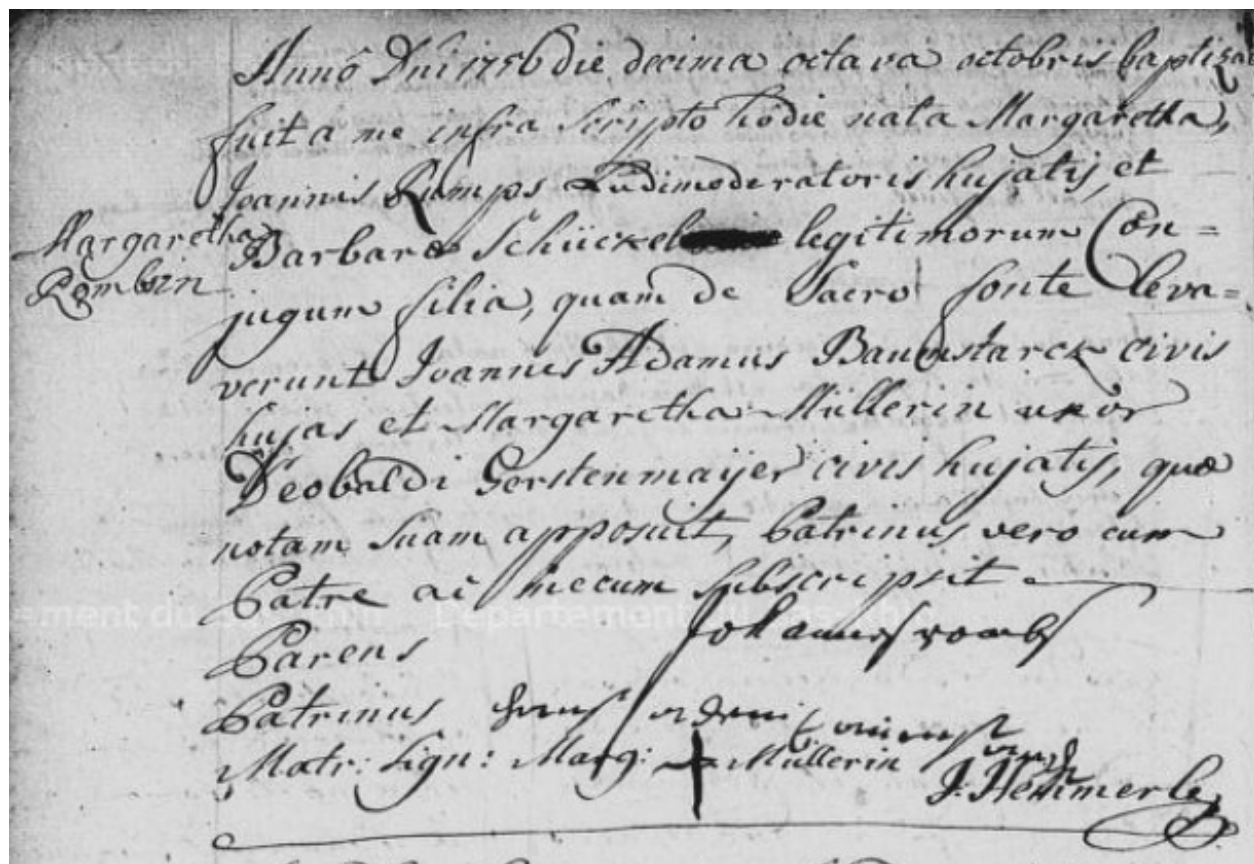
Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

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.

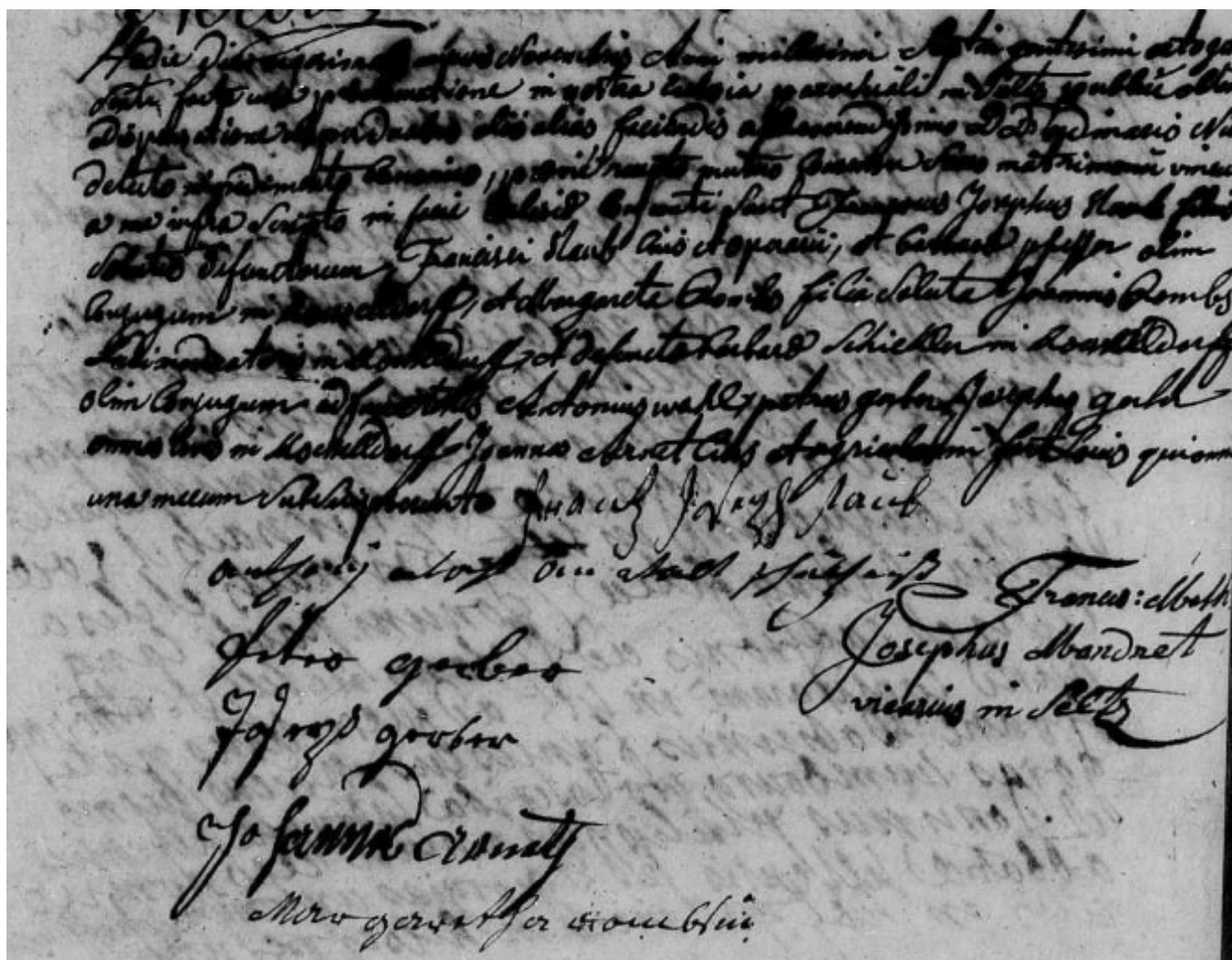
Here are the references.

Birth/baptismal record: <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C343-P3-R207432-2321210>



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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

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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.

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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>



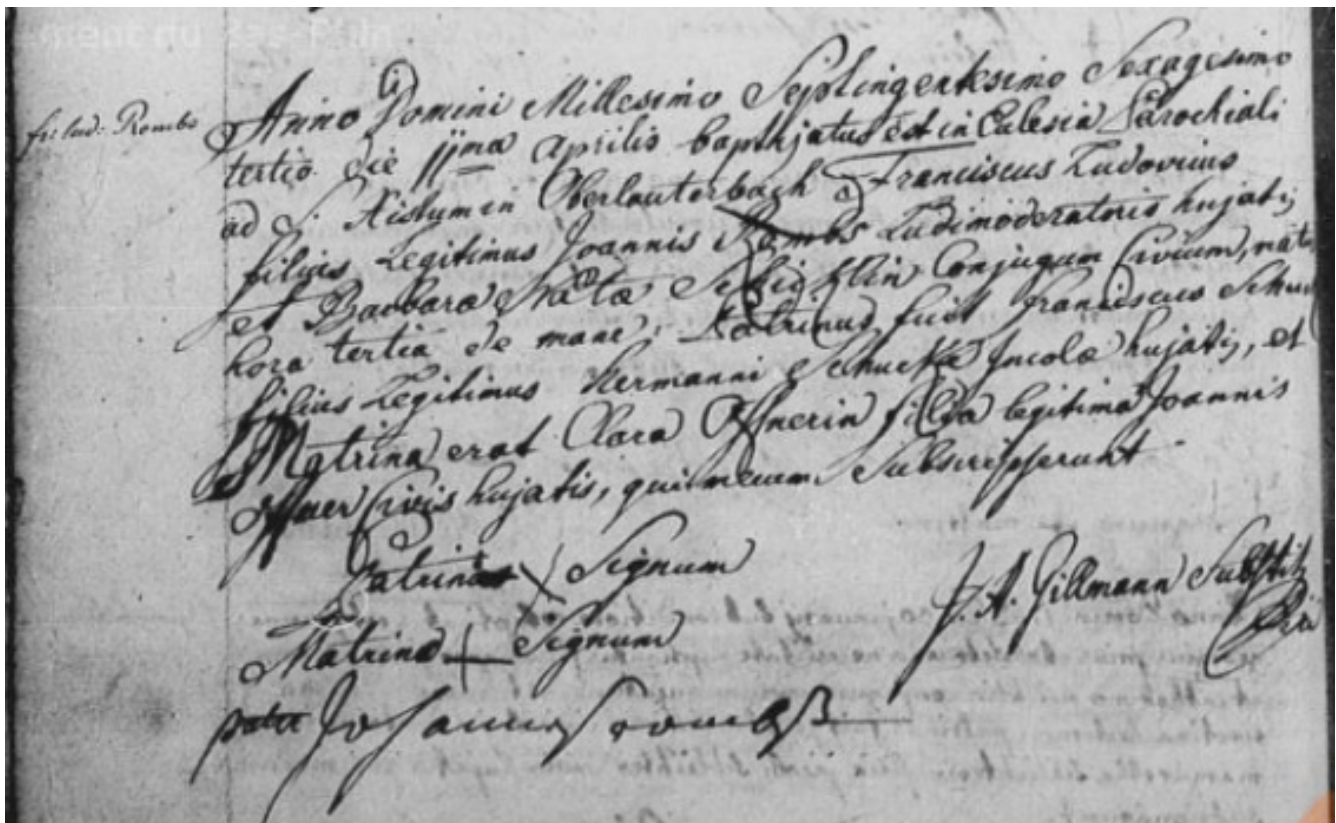
And, I have to note that the two births in the register prior to that for Johannes are for Schickel infants – Anne Marie (1759-1761), daughter of Jean Schickel and Julienne Buchner; Marie Barbara Schickel (1759-1825), daughter of Francois Georges Schickel and Anne Gunsohn. So, the Schickels of the village (who were cousins) were doing a good job of populating the village.

Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

Franz Ludwig Rombs

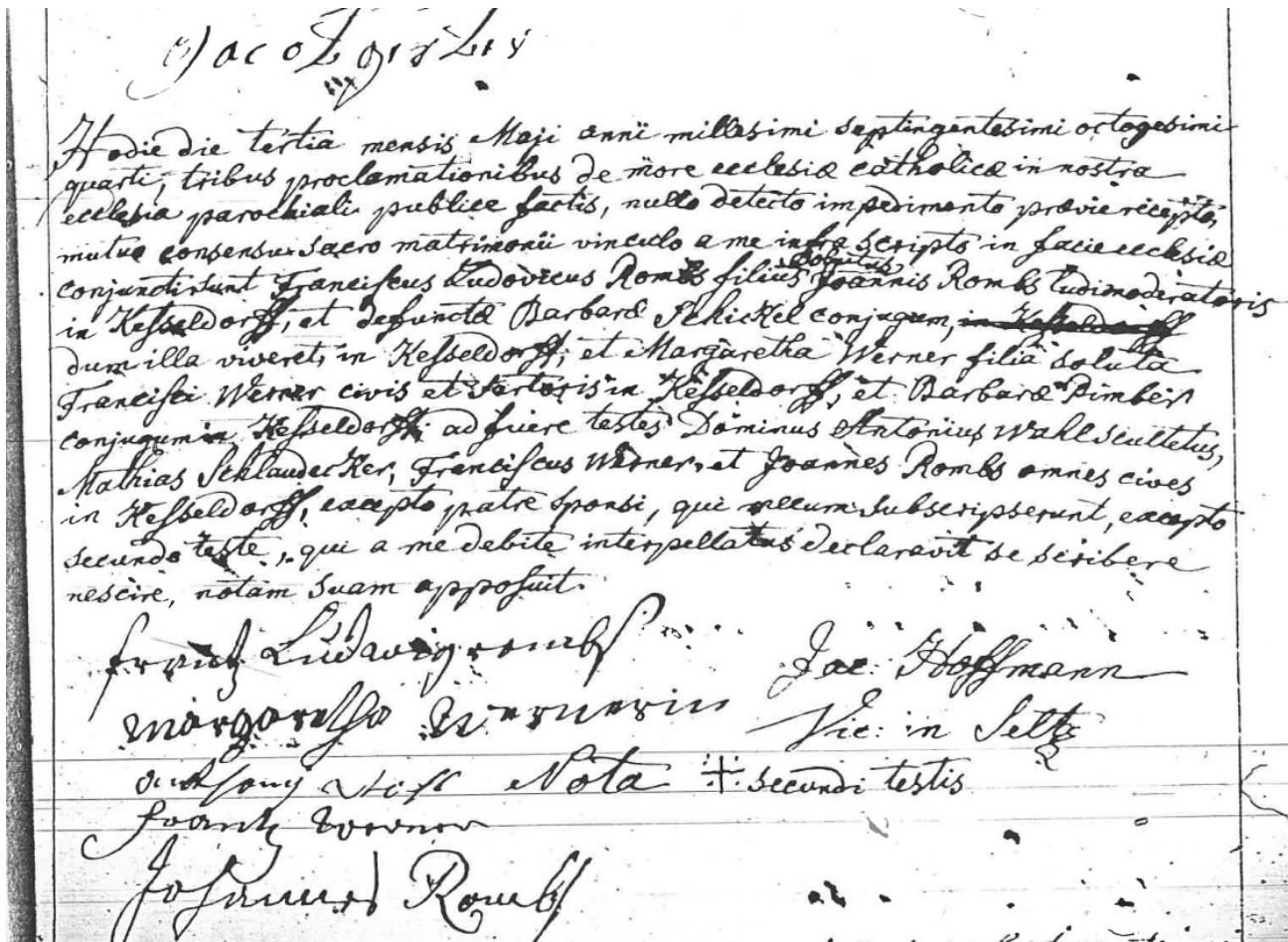
Franz Ludwig is my fourth great grandfather so I will provide a little extra information about him and his family. He carried on the tradition of teaching, and his family, along with others of his generation from the area, made the trip in 1808 to Russia. He married Margaretha Werner in May, 1784, probably 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>



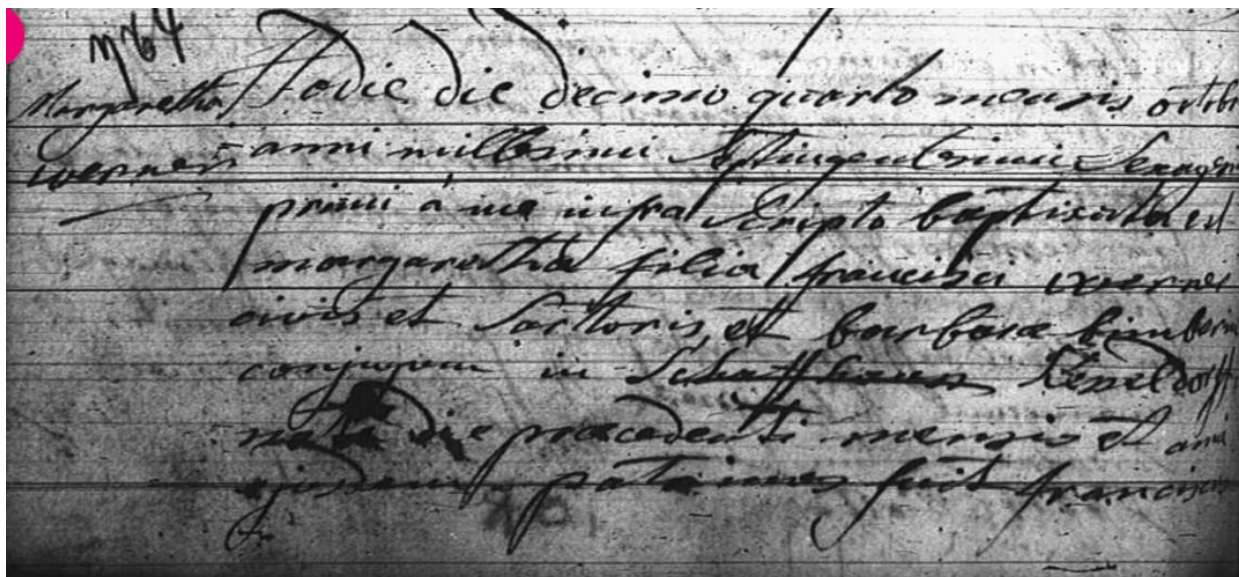
Teachers: Rombs Families 1648-1808

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

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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)

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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.

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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.

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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)

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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)

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- 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.

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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)

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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)

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- 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)

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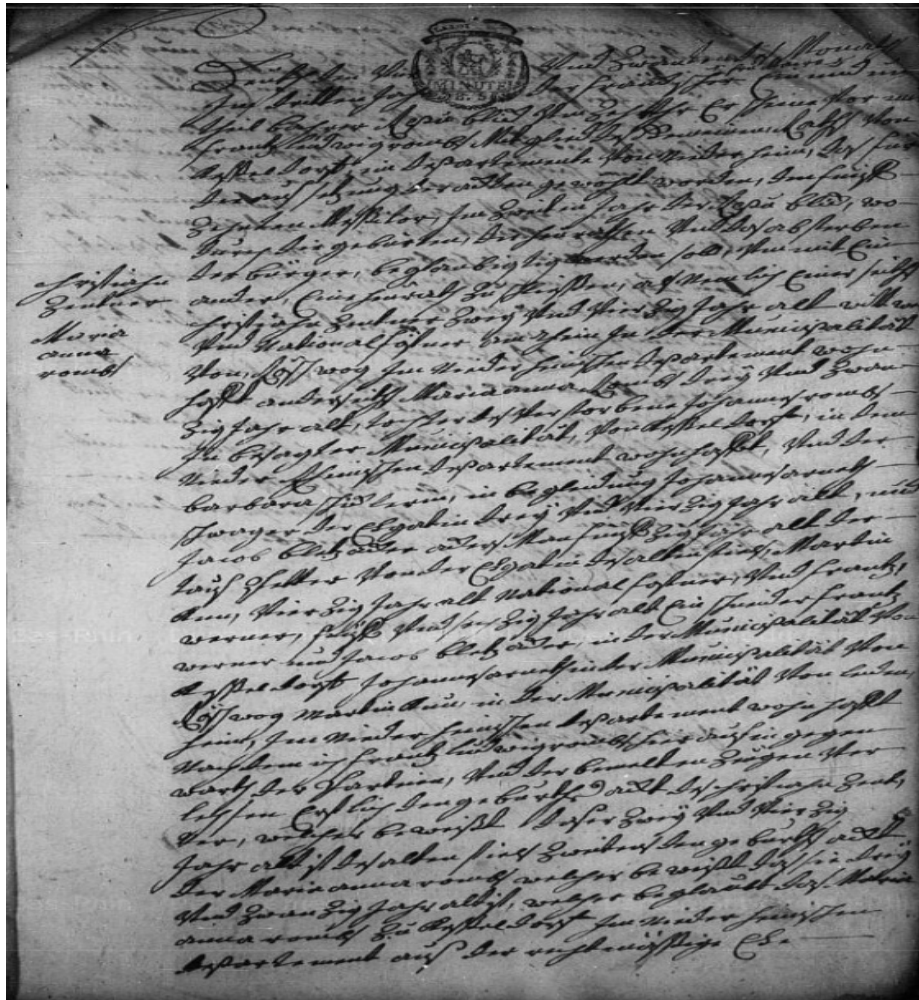
Marianna Rombs

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>.



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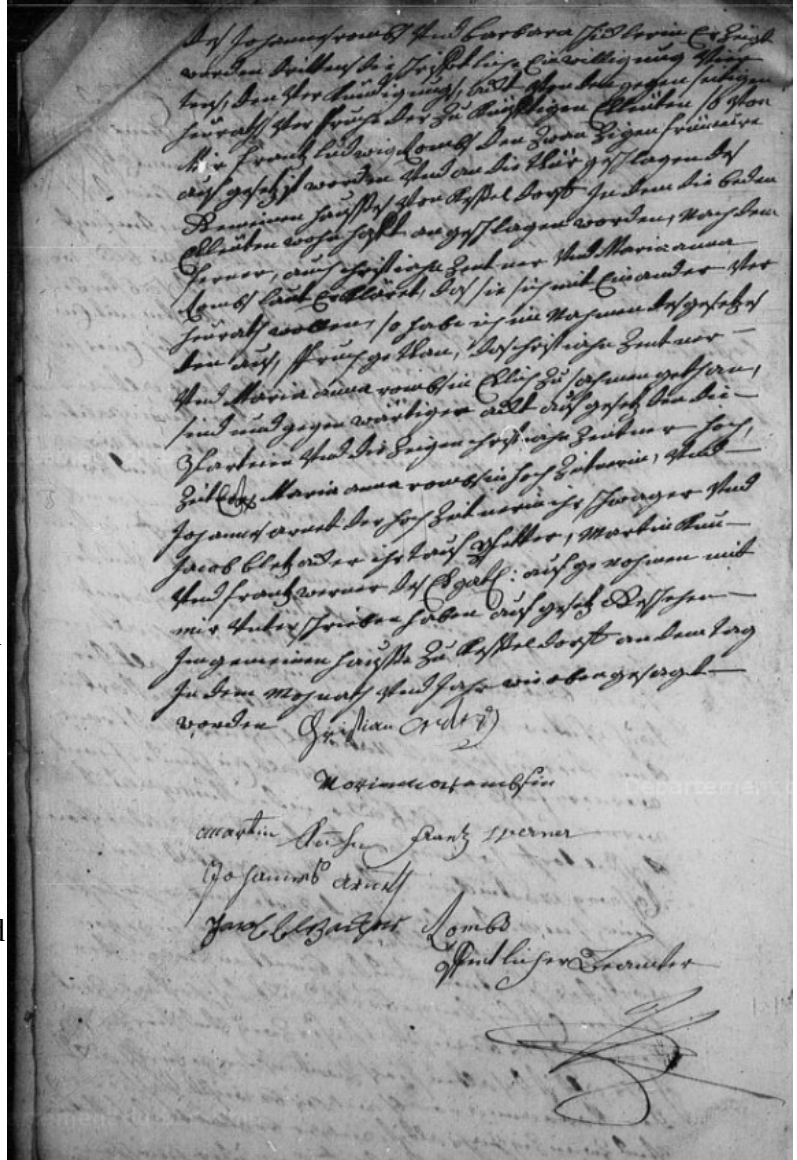
Marriage to Christian Zentner in 1794 is in a register from Kesseldorf, written in a style indicative of new recording requirements imposed after the Revolution. (e.g., dates are given using the Republican calendar.) Here is the record. <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C234-P1-R154198#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C234-P1-R154198-1575256> .



(continued)

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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.

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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

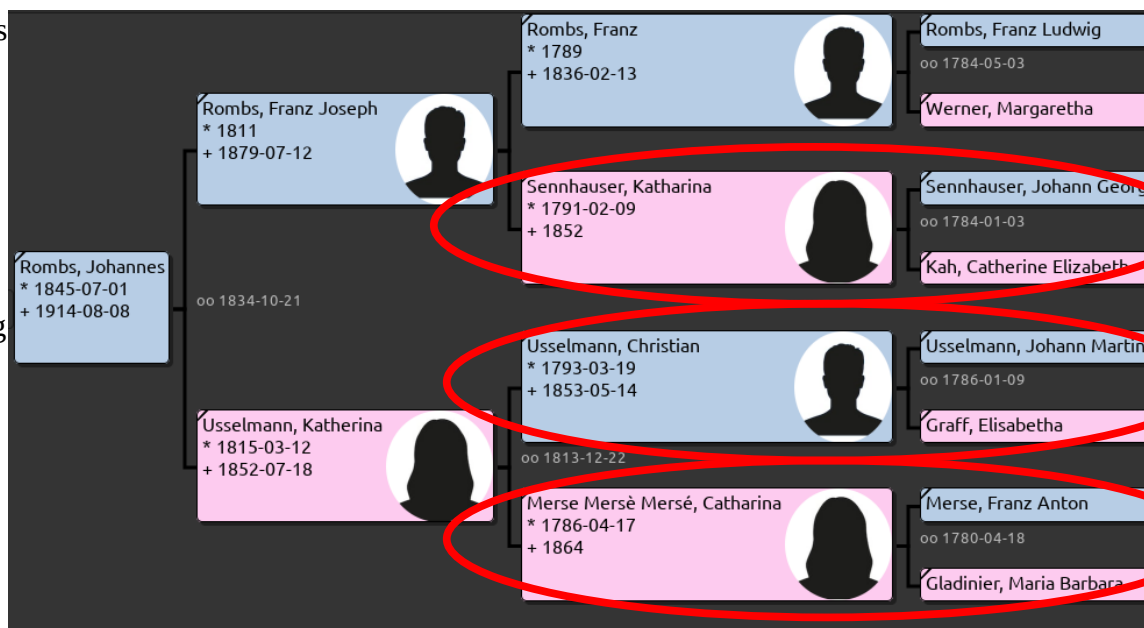
decade	Johannes	Anton	Ferdinand
1770	1771: In Kesseldorf; last child born there	1772: death of wife (Regina-age 61)	1771: death in Jockgrim (age 54)
1780	1783: death of wife in Kesseldorf (Barbara-age 57) 1786: death in Kesseldorf (age 64)		
1790			1794: death of wife (Eva Margaretha- age 72)

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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'oultre 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.



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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

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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]

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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)

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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 Usselman 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.

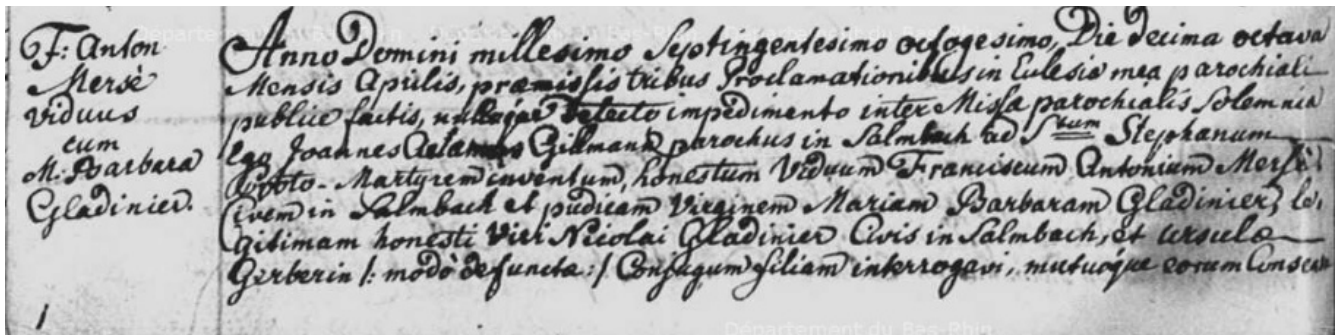
- To Peter Christ (in Salmbach, Bas-Rhin, 1808, with subsequent migration to Russia)
- To Peter Hulm (in Russia in about 1810 after death of Peter Christ after travel to Selz in 1808)
- to Christian Usselman (in Russia in about 1813 – date inferred from census information; after death of Peter Hulm in 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 . . .)

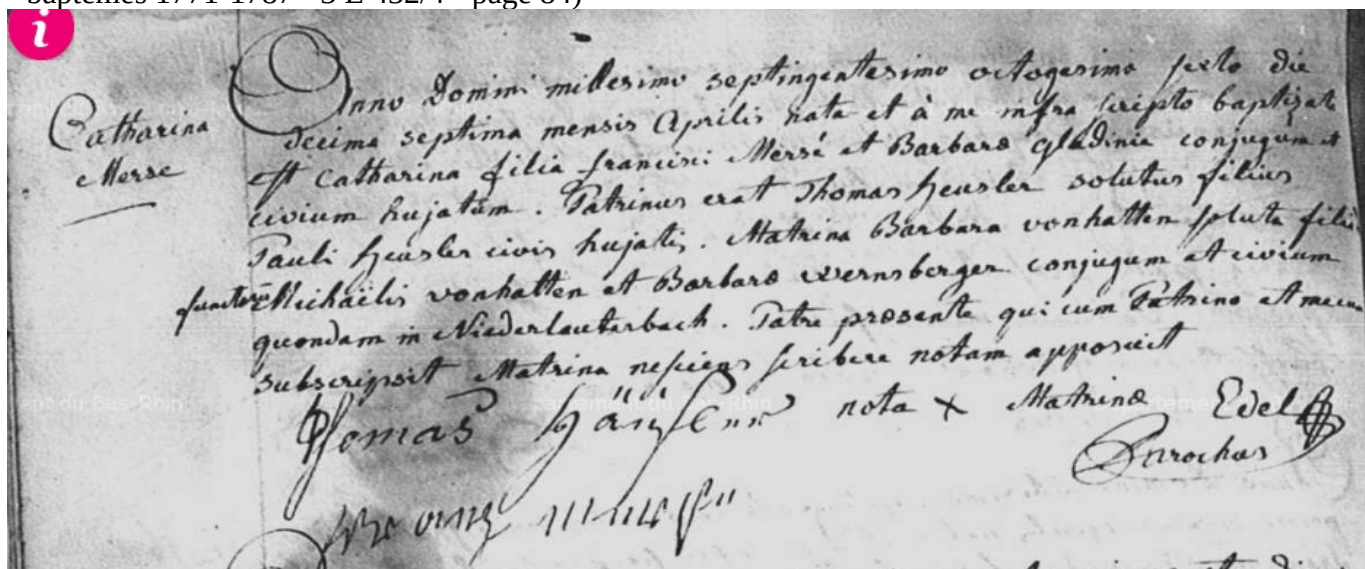
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Birth of Catharina

In Salmbach on 17 April 1786.

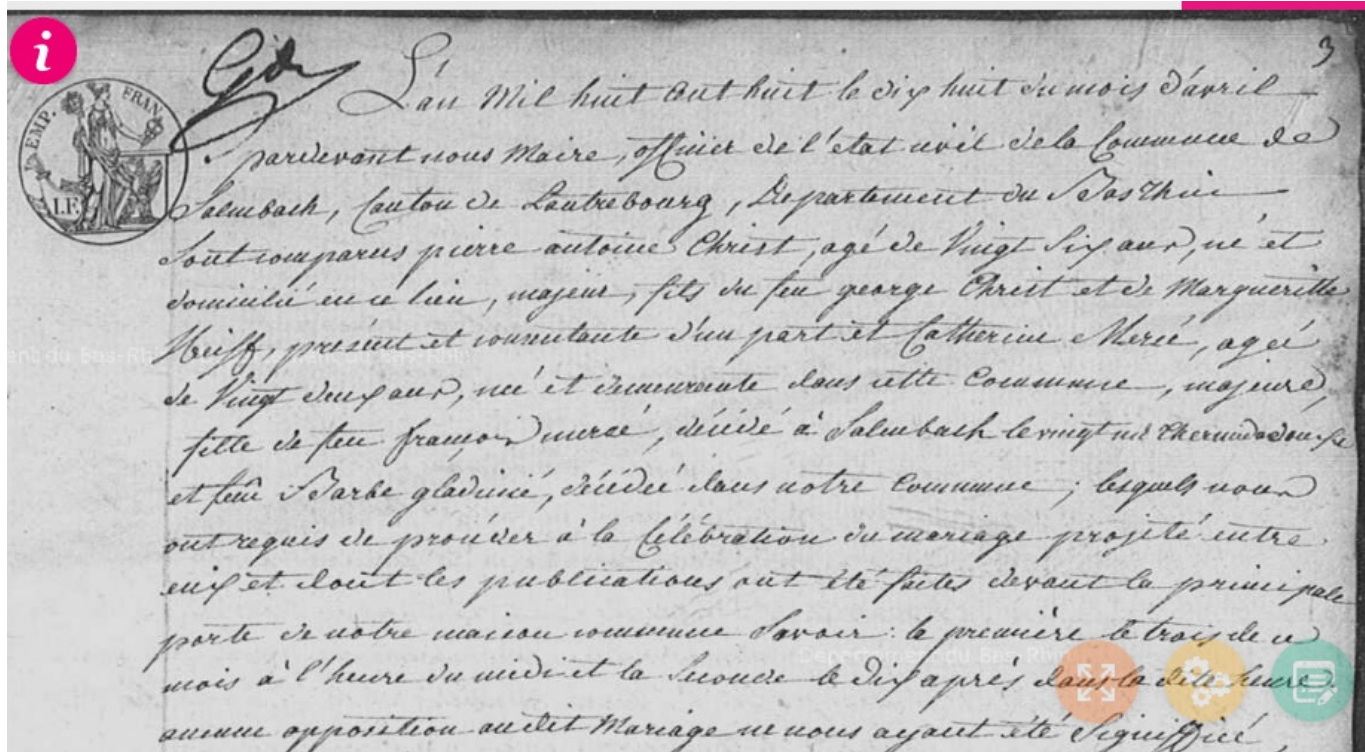
See <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C428-P3-R31847#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C428-P3-R31847-3014271> (Salmbach - Paroisse catholique (Avant 1793) - Registre de baptêmes 1771-1787 - 3 E 432/4 - page 84)



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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...)

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i aucun opposition au dit Mariage ne vous ayant été signifié, j'ai eu droit à leur Requisition après avoir donné Lecture de toutes les pièces ci-dessus mentionnées et du Chapitre six du Titre de la Code civil intitulé du mariage avons demandé au futur époux et à la future épouse, s'ils veulent se prouver pour mari et pour femme; Chacun d'eux ayant répondu se parument et affirmativement déclarons au vous de la loi, que pierre Antoinne Christ et Catherine Mersé sont unis par le Mariage. De quoi avons dressé acte en présence d'Antoine Heinrich, âgé de quarante ans; de Noudolph Gerber, âgé de soixante trois ans, de François Schirmer, âgé de trente quatre ans et de Jean Hoberer âgé de cinquante ans, tous habitants de Salzbach, dont le premier est l'écrit de prouff, les autres ne sont pas des parents, des parties, lesquels après qu'il leur en a été ainsi donné

i Lecture ont signé avec nous et l'époux. L'époux a déclaré ne savoir écrire et a fait son marque première.

Schirmer

Antoine antonij Esq. antonij Junij
 Catherine Mersé
 Jos. Reber
 Noudolph Gerber
 Jean Hoberer
 Klein
 Maire

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.

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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)

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	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

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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.



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Didivo67, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

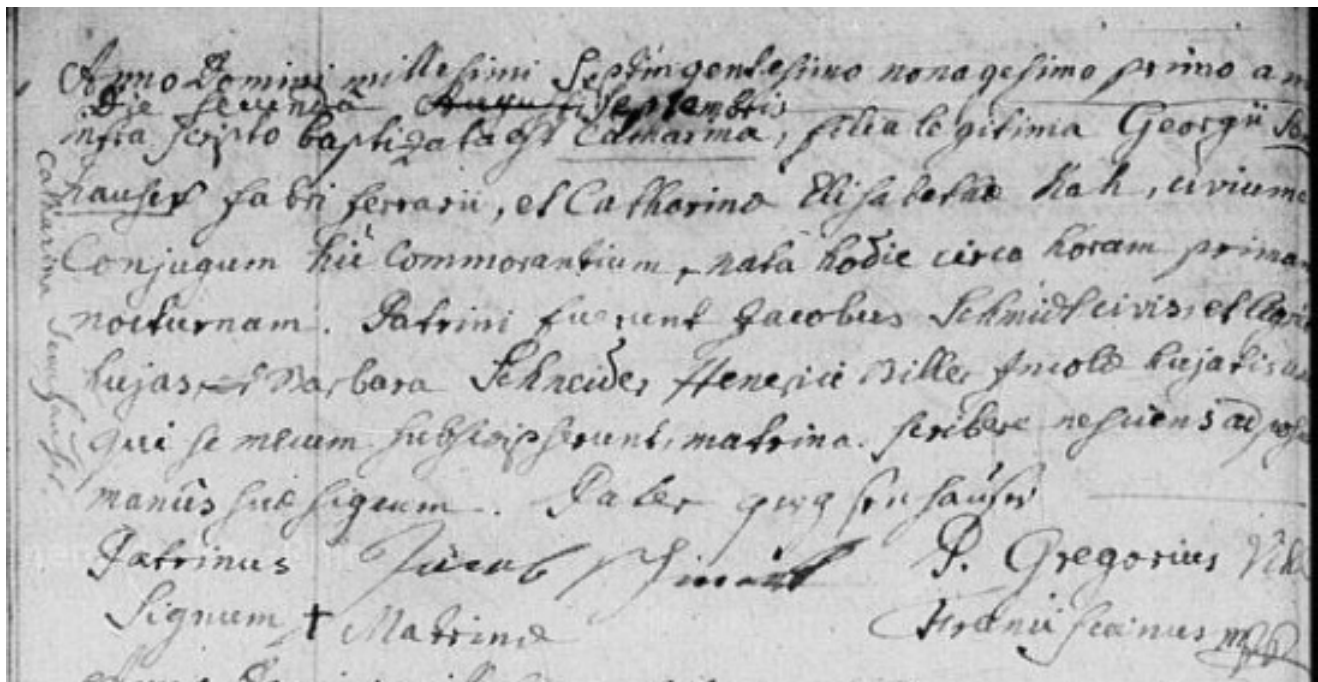


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There is one possible current-day echo from the past in Lauterbourg, where one Jean Michel Fetsch was the mayor until his recent death. The significance of this name will become clear below.

Catharina Sennhauser's birth record (from 2-September-1791) is shown below. (The recorder does not get high marks for penmanship.) See <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/detail-document/ETAT-CIVIL-C314-P3-R31366#visio/page:ETAT-CIVIL-C314-P3-R31366-2234262> Her father may have been a blacksmith if my reading of the record is correct.



Her parents were Johann Georg Sennhauser (from Neewiller) and Katharina Kah (from Schaidt in Pfalz). Her parents started life fairly distant from each other (about 16 km), and I am not sure how they encountered each other before their marriage in 1784.

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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.

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[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.

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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](#)

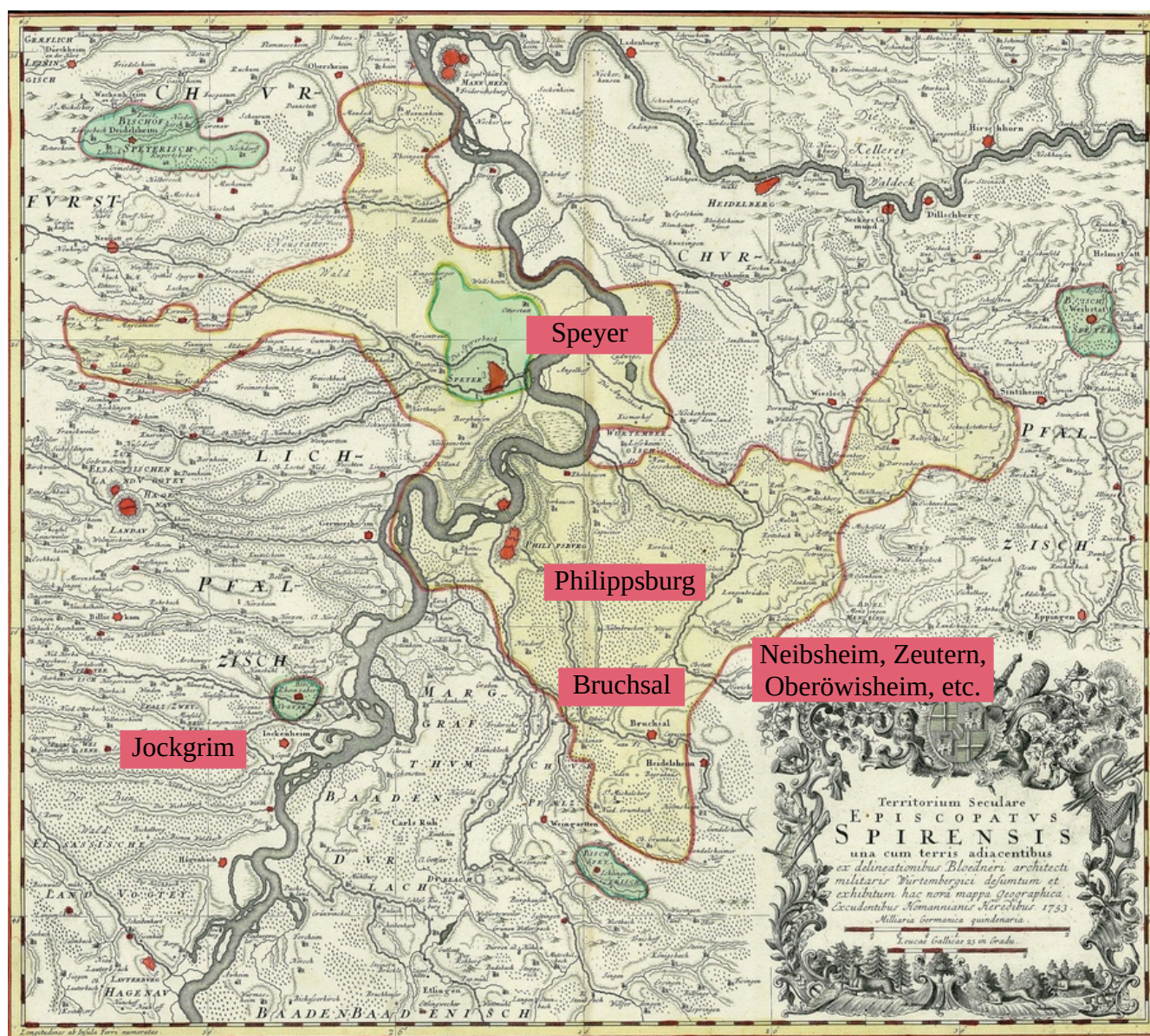
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speyer>

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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.

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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

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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 Couner-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> .

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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. "

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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

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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

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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.

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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

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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 verwitwete schulmeister" keine Steuer an die Gemeinde zu zahlen.”

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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 Kirchenvisitation 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.

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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

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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".

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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?](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)

[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)

Information about the Barony of Fleckenstein: <http://emig.free.fr/Als-B/Fleckenstein.html>

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



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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 Blaudart, Francois Philippi,
Francois Gihler, & Willeb. Birkhoff.

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 Rombs

Sex: Female

Christening Date: 18 Feb 1690

Christening Place: Anrath, Crefeld, Rhein, Preußen, Deutschland

Christening Place (Original): Anrath, Rheinland, Prussia

Father's Name: Merten Rombs

Father's Sex: Male

Mother's Name: Girtrudis

Mother's Sex: Female

Event Type: Christening

Household	Role	Sex	Age	Birthplace
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Merten Rombs	Father	M		
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Girtrudis	Mother	F		
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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 Rombs, 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
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Joannis Rombs	Father	M		
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Mariae Elisabethae	Mother	F		
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Joannem Faller	Husband	M		
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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
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Elisabetham Rombs	Daughter	F		
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Mariae Elisabethae	Wife	F		
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Joannem Faller		M		
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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

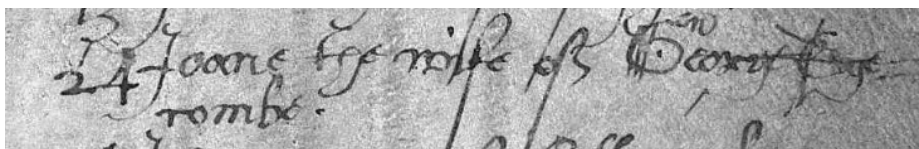
Death or Burial Date: 1614

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



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